



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 44 Number 6 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper December 2020

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Distributed monthly in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. ISSN 2209-8364

Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806

Published monthly by Scottish Banner Publications
PO Box 6220, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204, Australia

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The Banner Says...

For Auld Lang Syne



by Sean Cairney

As the sunsets on 2020 I am sure many readers will be happy to see this year put to pasture. This year has seen so much physical connection lost between people, with many yearning for Auld Lang Syne. Globally Scottish events have had to be cancelled- everything from large Highland Games and Scottish festivals, Military Tattoo's (not only in Edinburgh, but around the world), concerts, pipe band events, Clan gatherings and so much more. In the first half of the year I witnessed the cancellation of hundreds of events across the world and we spent many hours updating our website as each cancellation came in. Though it may not be as apparent today, the Scottish Banner hosts the largest international Scottish events listing in the world and keeping this resource up to date was important for many members of the Scottish community.

I am seeing events slowly coming back on our website and I hope we can soon bring our events page back to each edition of the Banner as I know many miss it. I think many of us will attend their first event with a sense of great happiness and our connection to Scotland, and each other, will only grow stronger. Things may well open at different stages in different regions but when it is safe to do so near you, make it one of your New Year resolutions to attend a Scottish event or function, our community needs the support to bounce back.

I have heard from numerous people who had plans to travel to Scotland in 2020, all who have been

forced to cancel their trips. I too was meant to be over this year and know so many had planned to visit family, friends, attend events and simply take in the country we all love so much. Scotland will of course wait for us and be there when it is safe to travel and be just as stunning as it was in 2020. As someone who travelled to Scotland annually without even thinking about it for many years, I know my next visit will be a special one and one I cherish.

In this issue

Herring Girls were the hard-working women who worked in Scotland's fishing industry. These women worked long hours in physically demanding jobs. The women, who often worked away from home, learned a variety of unique sewing and knitting methods that would be handed down through the generations. Now a company on the Isle of Barra is bringing this Hebridean tradition back to life and using these unique historical patterns and creating a business for the 21st century.

This year has seen so much physical connection lost between people, with many yearning for Auld Lang Syne.

Four Scottish students created worldwide headlines and certainly a media storm on Christmas Day in 1950 when they broke into London's Westminster Abbey and reclaimed the Stone of Scone, also known as the Stone of Destiny, from beneath the British Throne. The Stone of Destiny had been used in the coronations of the Scottish kings until the end of the 13th century. One of the key figures from that historic day, Ian Hamilton, has been a long-time supporter of the Scottish Banner and we are lucky enough to call him a previous contributor to our pages.

One of Scotland's worst tragedies was the Glen Cinema tragedy, which took place on 31 December

1929 in Paisley. Sadly, a smoking film canister caused a panic during a packed matinee screening of a children's film where more than 600 kids were present. Tragically the exit doors were blocked causing a crush where 71 children died, and more than 30 were injured.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot

Across the world this Hogmanay people will again sing Robert Burns' most famous poem *Auld Lang Syne*. The 1788 Scots poem is one of the poet's greatest legacies and has helped millions of people start their new year with those famous lines of 'Should auld acquaintance be forgot...' The phrase 'auld lang syne' literally translates to 'old long since' or 'days gone by' and has been recorded in Scottish song dating as far back as the 1500s.

During World War 1 *Auld Lang Syne* also united enemies as troops on the frontlines during Christmas would hold a ceasefire and sing songs with each other, including the Burns standard.

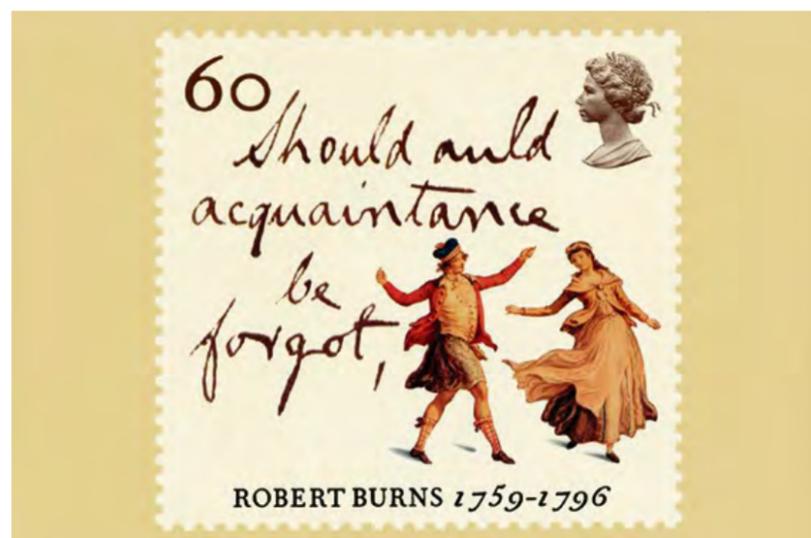
As we wave goodbye to another year, and very much look to start a new one with hope and reconnection, *Auld Lang Syne* this year feels more relevant than ever as it calls us to remember past great times and reminds us to keep old friendships in mind. Soon we will be able to reunite with our family, friends and the wider Scottish community at events across the world.

So, no matter where you find yourself this Hogmanay, I hope you find time for some reflection, nostalgia and hope-just as Mr Burns would have wanted.

All of us involved with the Scottish Banner wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas and Hogmanay and may 2021 be one of health and happiness. *And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne.*

Will you be getting back to Scotland or a Scottish event when things are safe? Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at: www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

#ScottishBanner, #TheBanner Covid-19 is having a major impact on many of our regular advertisers, with events being cancelled and businesses suffering. The Scottish Banner is more reliant than ever on our readers helping us to provide you with our unique content by buying a copy of our publication, regardless if by print or digital subscription or at a retail outlet. We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



Gracing our cover: Isle of Barra based Herring Girl Knitwear. Photo: Stephen Kearney/Little Day Productions.

By: Dr. Geoffrey Scott Carroll
and Mr. Peter Morris OBE

Remembering Sir Sean Connery



Dressed To Kilt

Just before the first show that we had in April of 2003, we were told by everyone here in New York City that nobody would pay good money to see great looking Scottish blokes in kilts. We would joke about this and we were prepared to throw the whole thing in the bin bag after the first show but on the night of the event there were lines around the block and it was a massive success.

The largest and most prestigious Scottish fashion show in the world

Over the years we together turned this show into the largest and most prestigious Scottish fashion show in the world and a major stop on the international fashion circuit. We have also raised millions of dollars for charities on both sides of the Atlantic. We all used to talk about how fashion becomes hollow without the enrichment of diverse cultures, and boy did we create a unique and great cultural foundation for our Dressed to Kilt event. Our board of directors has agreed to honour Sir Sean and his family with our next show and the new date is April 10th 2021.

Iconic star

Sir Sean was indeed an iconic film legend, an international star of unparalleled stature and he never tired of telling us that he was voted the "Sexiest Man of the 20th Century" by *People Magazine*.

He was probably best known for his role as the British superspy James Bond. He was the first Bond and he acted in a total of seven Bond films. Though there were numerous 007s after Sir Sean, to many of us he was the only one true James Bond. We would also argue that he had one of the most recognizable voices in the world.

People all across the globe remember those unforgettable words, "The name is Bond – James Bond". As his voice was so distinctive, at one DTK event Sir Sean agreed to auction off his voice for a telephone answering machine. "Hello this is Sean Connery speaking and Jane Doe is not at home so please leave your name and message and I will tell Jane to call you upon her return". The bidding on this item was fast and furious and as we recall it was the most expensive auction item that year. Those of us who worked with him on DTK saw a different side of the man. We saw a charitable man, a man who loved his family, a man who loved his country of birth and a generosity that helped an untold number of young Scots and Scottish companies.

Tartan Day

The date of the next DTK show has been delayed until Saturday evening April 10th 2021. It will be held at the Mill Neck Manor Estate on the Gold Coast of Long Island, New York. We will be linking this show with Tartan Day here in the US which is the date when we first started our show in 2003.

In addition to being one of the highest profile fashion shows in the US with regard to press & media generation, the DTK event also typically represents about 95% of the press and media generation around every Tartan Day. The show has generated more than one billion impressions with each of the last 6-7 shows. Sir Sean also really liked the idea of promoting Tartan Day with our show.

For details on Dressed to Kilt see: www.dressedtokilt.com



Sir Sean & Lady Connery.

As if 2020 wasn't bad enough, we awoke on the morning of October 31 to learn that our friend and colleague, Sir Sean Connery, had passed away the previous evening in his sleep. Sir Sean was one of the co-founders of the Dressed to Kilt (DTK) fashion show in 2003 with Dr. Geoffrey Scott Carroll. Without his personal support and involvement throughout the years the show would not have achieved the enormous success that it has.

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship 2020



Stuart Liddell.



Jack Lee.



Willie McCollum.

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship 2020 concluded its online only event for 2020 on October 31st and the overall winner was Stuart Liddell, Inveraray. The event, organised by The National Piping Centre with funding from the William Grant Foundation, was held behind closed doors, with only competitors, judges and skeleton crew at Blair Castle for the 47th edition of this prestigious event. Rigorous health and safety processes were put in place to ensure that the event was as COVID-safe as possible.

As all but one of the qualifying events were cancelled this year, the organisers used a list of past champions who are still competing and second overall placings to make up the 10 pipers.

The event instead was broadcast online around the world through The National Piping Centre's website, with over 1,000 ticket buyers registering to watch the event.

The prize lists were as follows:

Ceòl Mòr

1. Jack Lee, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada – *Lament for Colin Roy MacKenzie*
2. Stuart Liddell, Inveraray, Scotland – *In Praise of Morag*

3. Finlay Johnston, Glasgow, Scotland – *Rory MacLoude's Lament*
 4. Roddy MacLeod MBE, Moodiesburn, Scotland – *The Battle of Auldearn, #2*
 5. Angus MacColl, Benderloch, Scotland – *The Unjust Incarceration*
- Judges – Jack Taylor, Iain MacFadyen and Willie Morrison.

MSR (twice through each tune)

1. Willie MacCallum, Bearsden, Scotland – *Angus Campbell's Farewell to Stirling, Shepherd's Crook, Bessie McIntyre*
2. Stuart Liddell – *Duke of Roxburgh's Farewell to the Blackmount Forest, Cat Lodge, Drumlithie*
3. Roddy MacLeod MBE – *The Marchioness of Tullibardine, Piper's Bonnet, The Grey Bob*
4. Bruce Gandy, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada – *Leaving Lunga, Ewe wi' the Crookit Horn, Stornoway Castle*
5. Iain Speirs, Edinburgh, Scotland – *The Royal Scottish Pipers' Society, Tulloch Gorm, John McKechnie*

Judges: Walter Cowan, Colin MacLellan and Ian McLellan BEM.

Overall

1. Stuart Liddell
2. Jack Lee
3. Roddy MacLeod MBE

SCOT POURRI

Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history?

Remembering Valerie Cairney

As soon as I opened the paper and saw the beautiful photo of Valerie- I guessed that this was a farewell. What an amazing lady she was- so inspirational, such energy and dedication to keeping all Scots in touch and fully informed of all things Scottish worldwide. What a vision she had in starting this wonderful and much-loved paper!

Val, my pal, the times we shared at Ringwood Highland Games were so special. Val invited me to come and stay and visit the Highland Games with her in the States. Sadly, I didn't manage to do this.

Val will always be remembered for her amazing ability to set up and continue publishing *the Scottish Banner* for so many years. With sincerest sympathy, Sue Macleod OAM North Ringwood, Victoria Australia

Ed note: Thank you Sue for your kind note and to the many letters, emails and messages received from readers across the world. We simply cannot publish each one due to the volume received. We are so thankful to our kind readers for such an incredible outpouring of support.



Scotland's first oil rush

As a member of the St. Andrew's Society of Montréal, I have to privilege of reading your magazine which I enjoy very much.

Nick Drainey did a fine article (*Scotland's first oil boom, the Scottish Banner*, November, 2020) on the Scottish oil boom near West Calder which caught my eye. As it turns out, my recent family research led me to the mining community of Oat Bank, which no longer exists. It turns out that my Grandmother Esther Martin was born there in 1888, her father William being a shale oil miner. The family moved to Paisley later, perhaps because of a market downturn. Esther and my grandfather David Gold McAuslan immigrated to Montréal in 1920.

Coincidentally my brother David Alexander McAuslan did his PhD in Geology at the University of Edinburgh. He had teaching responsibilities for undergraduates and they visited the West Lothian mining sites on occasion. They 'skied' down the bings in work boots. My brother had no idea of his family connection to the area, but did tell me that the miners were no ordinary grunts, but highly skilled professionals. Yours aye, Peter McAuslan Sutton, Quebec Canada

Heaven's Stairs

Steps seemed to have no risers and each was easy to mount, yet as each step was discovered my eyes would cast about.

Sound of the cast of heaven was ringing in my ears, and the angels playing the harp was smoothing all my fears.

Yet still my mind was turning backwards to the sound that pibroch made, as my earthly self was lowered slowly to my grave.

The stairs reached a turning a shelter for the forlorn, I took to standing waving to the country I was from.

Heaven lay before me as the angels sang their songs, my soul still called for the heaven, that country where I was born.... Scotland

Kit Duddy facebook.com/kitspoems

Scottish comfort



First up to all the Cairney family and relatives I wish to pass on my deepest sympathies on the passing of Valerie, she made it possible for all of us Scots to keep in touch with our homeland no matter where in the world we were. R.I.P Valerie Cairney.

I proudly wish to send to you photographs of a comforter that a very close friend of mine, painstakingly and with a lot of patience and love, handmade. Shari is a young boilermaker/welder by trade and I once came across her in the workshop where we work and she was actually marking the cover on the floor in order to be able to have the exact measurements, she informed me that she was fabricating a steel frame for a job at work and because when I saw the initial diagram on the floor she had only just completed the rectangle and the diagonals I did not give it a second thought.

Then on my 60th birthday about 3 months later Shari presented me with the best present ever, to say the least, I was shocked when I uncovered the Scottish flag which is on one side whilst on the underside there is the Scottish thistles. Since then every time I put it on my bed, I remember my homeland and my parents who made a courageous decision to emigrate to Australia in 1970 with their 7 children.

Our family at the time was the largest family to emigrate and live in Whyalla, South Australia, since then my parents have passed away and myself and my brothers and sisters are scattered all over Australia, resulting in having free accommodation practically in every state in Australia (the Scotsman in me likes this).

I would love to see my the photos of my comforter if possible in *the Scottish Banner*, which in one way would thank my friend for her awesome present and as you can tell I am very proud to be Scottish born.

Willie Rouse Mandurah, Western Australia

Ring of Brodgar



On our recent visit to the wonderful Ring of Brodgar my husband and I were transported back in time, imagining the scene when ancient people gathered there! I looked up and saw a woman wearing an AFL St. Kilda beanie. You are never too far from home!

Win Johnston Australia

Kings, Castles & "Durty" Wee Rascals

Your article reminded me of my days living in Pollok our family moved from the Gorbals (Errol St) to Meiklerig Crescent. It was great having front/back garden, I worked at Pollok Post Office as a telegram boy and got to know most of the area, including Cornalee Rd. I'm glad we moved to Pollok I got married to the girl next door 65 years ago and still going strong!!!

Anyway Jim a big thank you for bringing back some memories I enjoy reading *the Scottish Banner*, just your page is a wee bit special !!

Charlie Milligan Mt Martha, Victoria Australia

Bagpipes

Hello, I am an illustrator from Madrid. Óscar Cañero Madrid, Spain



Clan help

Greeting from Central Illinois USA. I am looking for any information in regards to a Clan for the surname(s) of the following: Waugh, Wauchope, Waughe, Walge, Wach, Walcht. From what I have found out on the internet the Waugh's are from the Roxburghshire area. I appreciate any information that can be passed along. My email address is waugh@gcctv.com Charlie Waugh Illinois, USA

Clan MacDonald

I did a DNA test and I have origins from Scotland (Argyll & Bute and Orkney), Ireland and Norway (I think it corresponds to Orkney), then from my research I discovered DNA matches with McDonald's with the same origins as me, there is one with whom I share 10 DNA segments in total 50cM.

The only thing I know is that it comes from the maternal side, I never knew my maternal family.

Does that mean I'm a descendant of the MacDonald clan?

Regards, Vanessa Itey

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



The Act of Proscription



In 1782, The Act of Proscription, is repealed and the kilt and wearing of tartans comes into more general use and ends the 35 year ban that resulted in countless Scots being sent to the colonies. *The Society of John De Graeme Scotland*

Stirling Castle



A fine view from Stirling Castle. Robert Gibb Scotland

Angus twilight



The summer sky alive in #Angus. Garry Chapman at GTC Photography Scotland

The Kelpies



Show your support for the NHS. #nhsheroes #clapforNHS #clapforcarers and indeed #clapforallfrontlineworkers #clapforessentialworkers. *A View From My Camera Scotland*

Remembering Paisley's 'Black Hogmanay'

The Glen Cinema tragedy took place on 31 December 1929 when a smoking film canister caused a panic during a packed children's matinee where more than 600 children were present. As a result of the crush that followed 70 children died and more than 30 children were injured. "I remember I didn't want to go that day," said Emily Brown, 95, one of hundreds of children who attended Paisley's Glen Cinema 91 years ago for a packed matinee performance that ended in tragedy - forever remembered by survivors as Paisley's 'Black Hogmanay'.

The main exit doors had a metal gate that had been pulled shut stopping it from opening leading to a crush where 71 children died, and more than 30 children were injured. Louisa Mahon, Head of Marketing, Communications and Events at Renfrewshire Council, said: "The Glen Cinema disaster is a real tragic point in Paisley's history with deeply traumatic consequences for so many families."

Panic

Robert Pope, 97, had got up that morning and asked his mother for some jars to exchange for money so he could go to the pictures with seven of his friends. Like so many children at the time, Robert and Emily were sent out the house to the cinema on Hogmanay to allow their parents to get the house cleaned and ready for the new year. They took their seats in the crowded theatre, sang their song and settled down to watch the new cowboy movie *Dude Desperado*. During the picture

a film canister was placed on a heated surface and started to smoke up - leading to the panic and stampede which followed.

Robert said: "I was there with my older sister Jean (10) and younger sister May (3) - we heard someone shout 'fire' and started to head for the exit. There was screaming and shouting, and people were pushing and trampling you and you were trampling on others trying to get out. I remember some people jumped over the balcony or onto the stage to try to get out. I was separated from my sisters in the panic - I remember someone smashed a window and a fireman helped get me out."

Emily's aunt later found her wandering down Glasgow Road and took her home to her mother in Hunter Street. Her sisters Jean and May were already there and had managed to stay together during the chaos. "I think my mother gave us all an extra cuddle that night," said Emily. "I don't remember much about it," said Robert. "I think my guardian angel watched out for me that day. When the panic started, I just remember something came over me and I stayed in my seat and didn't move. I don't remember much else until later when a fireman was clearing the hall, he asked me what I was doing. I told him I was waiting for the picture to come back on and he told me to head home to my mother and that the film wouldn't be coming back on. My friends saw that I never came out and had told my mother I was still there, and she was getting ready to go up to the hospital to try and find me. As she opened the door, I was walking up the stairs and I remember the look of relief on her face. I think that

saved her from the traumatic experience of seeing the children who had been killed and injured in the cinema at the hospital."

One of Scotland's worst human tragedies

Robert's friend, William Spiers, who had sat beside him and fled during the panic did not survive the crush that day. When news of the disaster spread through the town the entire community went to the Glen Cinema to try and help get the children out. Emily's mother was one of those who pulled children from the cinema and loaded the injured onto trams for the hospital - not knowing if her children were safe or injured or worse. Emily's mother was the only resident from Hunter Street who didn't lose someone that day.

The funerals of all 71 children took place in early January of 1930. The town came to a standstill to pay their respects to those who died - everyone turned out including the hospital staff who treated victims and survivors and the Boys Brigade - who walked

in the funeral procession. The children were laid to rest in Hawkhead Cemetery where a memorial still stands to remember all the victims of the Glen Cinema disaster. News of the disaster was far-reaching with letters of condolence being sent to the town from people across the globe. The impacts were global as well - as the Cinematograph Act 1909 was then amended to ensure all cinemas had more exits, that doors opened outwards and were fitted with push bars. A limitation was also placed on the capacity of cinemas and a requirement for an appropriate number of adult attendants to be present to ensure the safety of children.

The Glen Cinema survivors and their families continue to commemorate the disaster every Hogmanay alongside members of the local community. They gather at 11am at the Cenotaph in Paisley town centre where they lay a wreath for those who lost their lives that day.

The Glen Cinema disaster of 1929 is considered one of Scotland's worst human tragedies.



Photo: Paisley is.



- It is not known exactly where the word comes from, although it is believed to come from the French word 'hoginane' meaning 'gala day'.
- First footing is a Scots traditional part of Hogmanay celebrations. First footing is when you visit friends or family immediately after midnight in order to become the first person to visit them and go into their house in the new year. Your very first foot - the first person to visit you in the new year - should traditionally be a tall, dark-haired man. That is said to date back to the Viking invasions, as Vikings were typically fairer haired, so the arrival of a blonde man could have meant imminent danger!
- In Shetland, where the Viking influence remains strongest, New Year is still called Yules, deriving from the Scandinavian word for the midwinter festival of Yule.
- Redding the house, rather than a Spring clean, the Scots have a New Year's clean to welcome in the New Year. Starting the New Year with a dirty house is bad luck.
- The Highland custom of saining (or blessing) the house and livestock goes far back in time, but is still practised today in some households. The ritual involves the drinking of water believed to be magic - this is sourced from a river ford that's said to be crossed by both the living and the dead.
- For nearly 400 years Christmas was not celebrated (until 1958) in Scotland due to the Protestant Reformation. For Scots the big celebration would be at the Winter Solstice holiday which became Hogmanay.
- Another Hogmanay Scottish custom was paying off all outstanding debts before the stroke of midnight and starting the new year without debt.
- The residents of Burghead in Moray don't celebrate their New Year on 31 December. Instead, they ignore the Gregorian calendar introduced in the 1750s and continue to celebrate 'old Hogmanay' on 11 January instead.

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SCOTSPEAK

Scotspeak is a selection of quotes which made headlines in Scotland last month on a variety of current Scottish affairs.

"The skull and bones were placed under a large boulder at the bottom of scree. It was obvious from the start they were pretty old. The stone dykers were pretty realistic about the find. They just said they had found a pile of bones. They were probably placed there all those thousands of years ago. There is quite a lot of archaeology in the area, a quern stone (a stone tool for hand-grinding a wide variety of materials) believed to be from the same period has also been found."

Andrew Adamson, estate manager for Wildland Ltd in Sutherland, said as a skull dating back 2500 years was discovered by dykers (a Scots term for a stone wall builder). The Iron Age remains have been sent away for analysis and a team of professional archaeologists will now explore the area's ancient history.



"We are delighted to launch our anthology. It is a beautifully presented book and a wonderful gift of time and personal contribution to the University of Dundee Botanic Garden. The individual and community efforts shared within its pages highlight the special place of the garden in the hearts of those who know and are touched by its work, who enjoy its spirit of place, benefit from its wellbeing gift of space and support its critical conservation and educational work. I can't think of a better way to raise awareness of the role plants and green spaces play in people's lives today. It is an excellent way to open this anniversary year."

Dr Mark McGilchrist, Chair, Friends of the University Botanic Garden, said as the Dundee Botanic Garden launched a new book celebrating 50 years. The Garden was opened in 1971 and usually attracts more than 80,000 visitors each year. The garden boasts a wide range of plants, with fine collections of conifers and broad-leaved trees and shrubs, tropical and temperate glasshouses, as well as water and herb gardens. Located in 9.5 hectares of south facing, gently sloping land near the banks of the River Tay, the garden features many species of indigenous British plants as well as representative collections of important plants from all the continents of the world.

"People ask me what I'm going to do with a PhD at 85-years-old but I have plenty of other projects to keep me occupied. It is the culmination of many years of research on a subject that has fascinated me since childhood. I love the countryside and for years spent most of my weekends visiting sites, photographing them, and taking notes – through summer, winter, snow, and sunshine."

85 year-old Stirling resident Alastair Maxwell-Irving said as he was awarded a PhD at Glasgow Caledonian University. Mr Maxwell-Irving is the oldest person in Scotland to be awarded a PhD after becoming a doctor of philosophy via Zoom.



"We can't thank enough everyone who's donated to our plight to rescue Miss Pick Up from Loch Ness. The response has been overwhelming and has really buoyed our team on to continue on with the work."

"It has been absolutely incredible. These will then be transferred over to the replacement engine before it is lifted into place on the aircraft. Hopefully, we will put the whole aircraft onto the loch and then we should be on our way home. We will get her back home before winter very soon."

Matt Dearden of Plane Sailing said as a WW2 Catalina flying boat, named *Miss Pick Up*, was forced to land on Loch Ness when engine troubles occurred. The owners set up a Go Fund Me page to get the classic plane back to its base in Duxford, Cambridge. The page had surpassed the goal of £29,400 needed to get *Miss Pick Me Up* home at time of press.



"It's hit me. It has been tougher than I expected. Normally with the diving suit – when I have done marathons and things – you manage to get some momentum going, but with so many steps it hasn't been like that – it's almost like doing 10,000 step-ups. Probably the worst part for me is getting up at six o'clock in the morning and having to put on a soaking wet, freezing cold, deep-sea diving suit. That wasn't something I was looking forward to."

Fundraiser Lloyd Scot said as he took on the feat to complete the 3 Peaks Challenge, dressed in a deep-sea diving suit weighing 130 lbs. Mr Scott took on Scotland's highest mountain Ben Nevis as well as Scafell Pike (England) and Mount Snowdon (Wales). He is raising money

for The Lord's Taverners, a youth cricket and disability sports charity, of which he has been a member for 15 years.

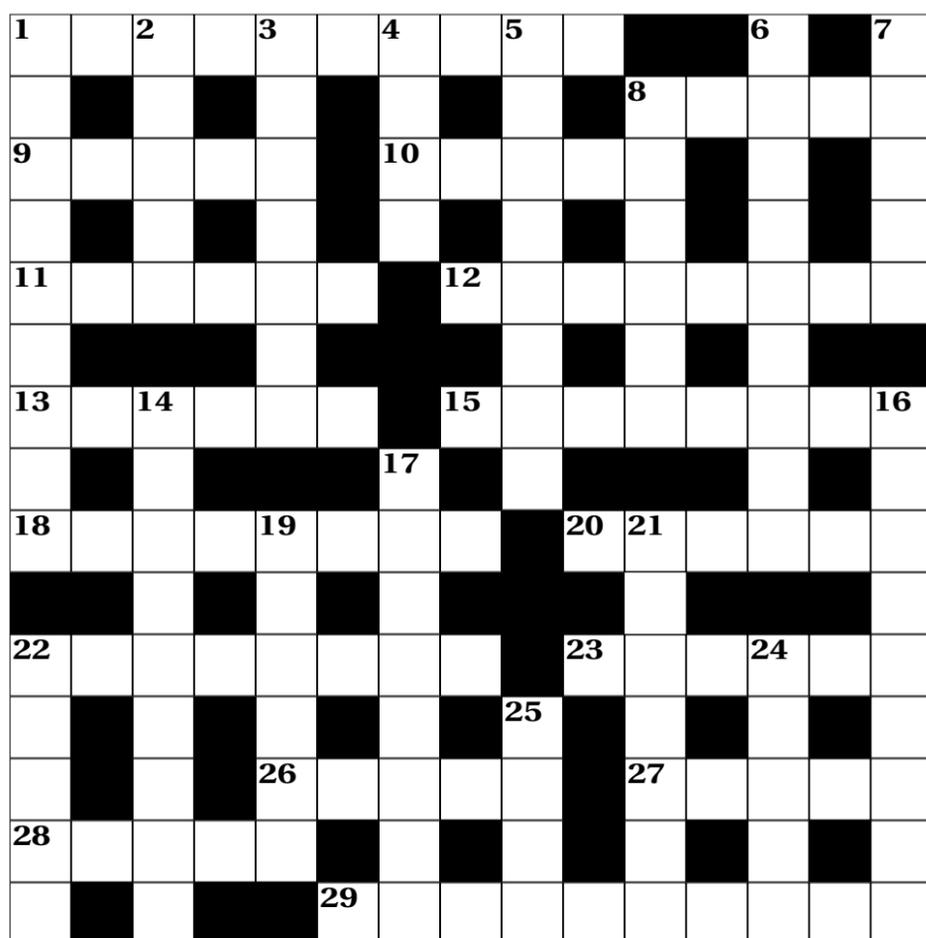
"He had dementia and it took it's toll on him. He got his final wish to slip away without any fuss. It was no life for him. He was not able to express himself latterly. At least he died in his sleep and it was just so peaceful. I was with him all the time and he just slipped away. It was what he wanted. He was gorgeous and we had a wonderful life together. He was a model of a man. It is going to be very hard without him, I know that. But it could not last forever and he went peacefully."

Widow of Sir Sean Connery, Micheline Roquebrune, said after the Scots actor died on October 31st in the Bahamas. The Hollywood star, from Fountainbridge, Edinburgh and former milkman, was best known for his portrayal of James Bond. He was the first actor to bring the role to the big screen, debuting as 007 in 1962's *Dr. No*.

"Ancrum Old Bridge now has a 14th century date. In Scotland, there is not a standing bridge that is earlier than the 15th century. In those times, during flood or highwater, the Ancrum Bridge may have been the only place to cross the Teviot between Hawick and Berwick, making it one of the most important structures in medieval Scotland."

Geoff Parkhouse, from the Ancrum and District Heritage Society, said the Ancrum Old Bridge has been rediscovered under the River Teviot. It is considered one of the most important structures of medieval Scotland. The bridge has been hidden beneath a Scottish Borders river for centuries and carbon-dating has confirmed it dates back to the mid-1300s.

SCOTWORD



Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 21!

CLUES ACROSS:

- 1) Borders woollen town (10).
- 8) Top male voice (5).
- 9) Kirk office bearer (5).
- 10) Additional part! (5).
- 11) Heraldic plumes (6).
- 12) Scattered the bed frame! (8).
- 13) A salad plant (6).
- 15) Highland gardens (8).
- 18) Vied with (8).
- 20) Stopped work in Scotland (6).
- 22) Found in Skye & Lothian Region (8).
- 23) S/he prepares issues (6).
- 26) A running knot (5).
- 27) Drive out (5).
- 28) A wee dram! (5).
- 29) A low wall in Fife! (10).

CLUES DOWN:

- 1) Village east of Perth (9).
- 2) A serving scoop (5).
- 3) Scottish valleys (7).
- 4) On the rocks! (4).
- 5) Capital regions (8).
- 6) Highland capital (9).
- 7) Doublet edging (5).
- 8) Scot's potato (6).
- 14) Bandleader up front (4, 5)
- 16) Carpet town near Johnstone (9).
- 17) Congratulatory steak! (4, 4).
- 19) Fervent (6).
- 21) Up to Hogmanay (3, 4)
- 22) A knight's wage increase! (5).
- 24) Feeling after 28 Across (5).
- 25) Auld Nick! (4).

Six Scottish waterfall paradises

Exploring Scotland can be a delight and when it is next possible consider getting even wetter when there. Nothing feels more adventurous than stumbling upon a roaring waterfall while the sun beats down. Even if the weather can't always be guaranteed, the beauty and drama of Scottish waterfalls will certainly not disappoint. Pack a picnic, grab your camera, get out your wellies and make it a trip to remember...

1. Grey Mare's Tail Nature Reserve, Dumfries & Galloway



It's not difficult to see how this spectacular white waterfall earned the name Grey Mare's Tail. You'll most definitely be impressed with the breathtaking views of mountain water plunging down the slopes into the Moffat Water Valley. Continue the climb up to Loch Skeen, the waterfall's source, to fully appreciate the stunning views and take in the tranquil splendour. The climb is definitely tough but the results are worth it – that's a promise! The waterfall is located in a nature reserve bursting with wildlife, and you may spot ospreys, ring ouzels and feral goats, as well as watch peregrine falcons via the National Trust for Scotland's live nest camera.

2. Dollar Glen, Clackmannanshire



The perfect getaway from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, Dollar Glen can be found just east of Stirling, set against the backdrop of the Ochil Hills. Unspoiled nature is everywhere for visitors to enjoy, whether it's carpets of bluebells or the twisting burns just visible through leafy, green trees. As you walk along the narrow paths, enjoy views of the double waterfall tumbling down the glen. Fancy a challenge? See how many different types of lichen you can find. Scientists have declared the glen a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its diverse habitats and geology.

3. Linn of Tummel, Perthshire



Serene woodland surrounds the place where the rivers Garry and Tummel meet. As the rivers combine, they tumble into Loch Faskally over a series of falls. A circular path means you can make the most of the views. An animal lover's paradise, Linn of Tummel is home to red squirrels, otters, kingfishers and even pine martens. Near Pitlochry, this is

Perthshire at its finest and a prime example of why this region is renowned for its gorgeous landscapes. It's also not far from the National Trust for Scotland property at Killiecrankie, where nature and heritage combine – learn about the 17th-century battle of Killiecrankie, one of the goriest events in Scottish history.

4. The Hermitage, Perthshire



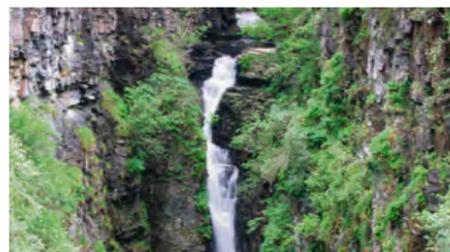
Just an hour from Edinburgh and Glasgow, you can really discover Scotland's wild landscapes. This patch of Perthshire forest once belonged to the 18th-century Dukes of Atholl. One of the slightly easier suggestions on this list, the Hermitage is a woodland paradise and perfect for a summer stroll to reinvigorate yourself. Red squirrels, salmon leaping out of the water, maybe even beavers if you're lucky... the opportunities to discover Scottish wildlife are endless. Tucked deep in the forest is the picturesque folly known as Ossian's Hall – this is a great spot to admire the roaring Black Linn waterfall.

5. Corrieshalloch Gorge National Nature Reserve, Ross-shire



Near Ullapool, this is the perfect place for a family summer day out. It can be reached by a short steep walk from the car park (which is accessible for wheelchair users), leading to a Victorian suspension bridge that overlooks a series of waterfalls emerging from the woodland. The viewpoint further down from the bridge doesn't take long to reach and gives you the perfect view of the crashing Falls of Measach. Complete the full circuit to get the best views of the whole gorge.

6. Falls of Glomach, Ross-shire



This waterfall is truly for the thrill-seekers among you, with a 6-hour hike being the only way to reach the 113m thundering falls. The trek offers the perfect opportunity to take in the gorgeous landscapes and immerse yourself in nature. One of the highest and most isolated waterfalls in Britain, adventurers will relish the chance to appreciate the Highland views – make sure to bring a picnic and stop to enjoy lunch in this most spectacular setting. Reaching this waterfall is definitely strenuous but the results are unbelievably rewarding.

Text and images are courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland. For more information on the Trust or to help them protect Scotland's heritage see: www.nts.org.uk

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KINGS CASTLES AND “DURTY” WEE RASCALS

Australian Jim Stoddart was born in a Glasgow Tenement and raised in a Glasgow Housing Scheme 1943-1965. Jim will be taking readers on a trip down memory lane, of a time and place that will never be the same again, and hopes even if only a few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.



The Milk Boy

Nellie McSwiggen got tossed out o' the jiggin, For liftin her leg too high.

All of a sudden a big black puddin, came flyin through the air - And hit her in the eye.

Once went with another little boy around our neighbours' houses and tried to sell some miserable little bundles of kindling made up of a few skinny sticks and green branches off people's privet hedges. I must only have been about five or six years old, but that first business enterprise came to an abrupt end when Mrs Kelly, our downstairs neighbour, let my mother know what we were up to. Apart from the odd half-crown received from Mr McCreath for a week's hard work down on Ardwell Farm, when I was about eight or nine, or some sales of old comics from makeshift pavement shops, my next paid employment was for delivering home baked cakes for a neighbour of my mum and dad when I was aged nine or ten.

My first real job was again delivering things, but this time as a milk boy.

Delivering milk for the Co-operative was a job that most adolescent boys in Glasgow strived for. I put my name down at the Co-op office when I was thirteen during the summer school holidays when the weather was fine and warm and when sunrise was early in the mornings. I finally got the nod when it was winter, cold, wet, dreich and pitch black outside and when sunrise was very late in the morning. I started when someone wiser than me had decided to call it quits. I had to start about five o'clock in the morning and for the first time in my life I was up in the morning with my father getting ready for his trek on the bus back to the shipyards in Govan. It felt like real work being up and about with him and getting a proper pay packet at the end of the week.

Tips

I was one of a team of three. Ian, the milkman, drove the electric milk float whilst Tommy and I ran up and down the tenement stairs and paths of the houses collecting the empties, the milk money and delivering the milk. Tommy was a little older than me, and since at first he was showing me the ropes, he was able to control and direct me to particular flats and houses. There was no rhyme nor reason to his choice of which houses he or I went to and I quickly caught on that I was being sent to the homes of the 'meanies', the ones who never left a tip for the milk boy on a Friday night. He was monopolising the generous customers and keeping all the tips to himself. Of course, one of the great attractions of being a milk

delivery boy was the potential for making tips. With Christmas coming up and the extra tips that implied, I knew that I needed to re-negotiate my work arrangements with Tommy as quickly as possible.

There he was standing on the tenement stairs in a big oversized jacket, a balaclava on his head and a long woollen scarf criss-crossed over his chest and pinned at the back just like the way mothers of infants sent them to school in the mornings. Of course, you didn't have to worry how you looked at five o'clock in the morning on a cold winter's day on the Pollok housing scheme. "Look here, Tommy. Why don't you go up the stairs and do the doors on the right hand side and I'll go up and do the left hand ones. You're right-handed and I'm left-handed. It'll be just a little bit easier to take the bottles in and out of the crates that way and we'll save some time." He looked puggled. I had either blinded him with science and logic or he simply realised I had caught on to his scam. "Aye okay, then." From then on in we had an equal opportunity to get a fair share of the tips.

The spell of silence

The part I really liked about the milk run was when it snowed. That wasn't a delight shared by Ian, our boss, the driver of the electric milk float. Fresh snow, however, brought a dramatic cotton-wooled silence to an already quiet, and subdued early morning scene. It muffled what little remained of the sounds of early morning life and the amber light from the street lamps reflected magically upon this new monochromatic world of

clean, crisp new snow. Even stray dogs hadn't yet had an opportunity to coat the snow under the lamp posts with their yellow markings. I liked the idea that we were just about the only creatures up and about at that time in the morning. Glasgow might belong to the Saturday night drunks but Pollok belonged to us, the milkboys, in the early mornings. The spell of silence was broken only by a soft hum from the electric motors of the milk float as it quietly pressed upon the soft snow, the clink and chink of bottles in the metal crates and the occasional shout to each other as we went about our business of delivering the milk.

Sometimes there was a need to push the milk float when its wheels struggled uphill on layers of black ice or frozen slush. But when the sun rose late in the morning upon a fine crisp day and bathed the snow crystals and the frost to make them sparkle, I felt okay about heading back home to get ready for the school day ahead. Our milk run covered the streets closest to my home and the Co-op depot was only a short distance away near the old Haugh Farm, where the police station was later built. The work helped me raise some pocket money for a Boy Scout trip to Norway in the coming summer and that's when I had to give the job away. Milk boys weren't supposed to take holidays and there was always somebody else waiting and keen to take your place.

And I suppose with hindsight my parents were also happy for me to concentrate on my school work rather than the poetry and beauty of early mornings at sunrise in Pollok.

Capital Collections online exhibition 'ReDrawing Edinburgh' marks centenary of Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act 1920

A new online exhibition has launched to commemorate 100 years of Edinburgh as the city we know today. November 5th marked 100 years since the Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act 1920 came into being, which incorporated the outlying communities around Edinburgh (the Burgh of Leith and the Midlothian parishes of Corstorphine, Colinton, Cramond, and Liberton) within the newly expanded boundary of the City of Edinburgh. On that day the city grew 17 square miles in size to 53 square miles and the capital's population grew by nearly a third from 320,000 to 425,000.

The story of Edinburgh

ReDrawing Edinburgh is a project designed to commemorate the centennial of this momentous event. It provides an opportunity for everyone to understand how the city has grown and for communities to reaffirm their own identities and heritage. The online exhibition showcases images from the Council's heritage collections as well as from partner community organisations and gives a glimpse into what life was like in 1920 Edinburgh and the difference in character of the various areas affected. The online exhibition precedes a planned physical exhibition next year in Central Library as the project continues to adapt to the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Lord Provost, Frank Ross said: "Our original plans were for the city to come together to mark this important anniversary with a series of events throughout the capital, and while we continue to plan for 2021, for now as with many other areas of our lives, we can join in virtually through this new exhibition created by the ReDrawing Edinburgh team. I believe that the story of Edinburgh has many strands to it. It is both Auld Reekie and the Athens of the North; Scotland's capital and a global festival city. Some strands are well known and rightly famous around the world, but others are known only to us locals and expatriates. The importance of community history is that it keeps these lesser-known strands alive and passes them from one generation to the next."

The most significant single expansion

The Lord Provost continued: "The city is fortunate to have both council services and a network of local history and community organisations that are dedicated to these community histories. It is thanks to them that ReDrawing Edinburgh, has been brought together to explain the importance and impact of the boundary extension and to celebrate the histories of each area. This exhibition on Capital Collections tells the story of the 1920 extension and the communities that joined the city. It is important we mark the anniversary of this important



date in our city's history. It remains the most significant single expansion and I would encourage everyone to check out the virtual programme and I look forward to announcing more information about our plan in the upcoming months."

Original plans to mark the centenary included both a civic event in central Edinburgh hosted by the Lord Provost and local commemorations and events in the communities who joined in 1920, with a Central Library exhibition of photographs and objects relating to the boundary extension and the communities. Planning continues on arrangements to mark the event next year. Several local history videos have also been created and shared on the Council's social media channels for the City Archives,

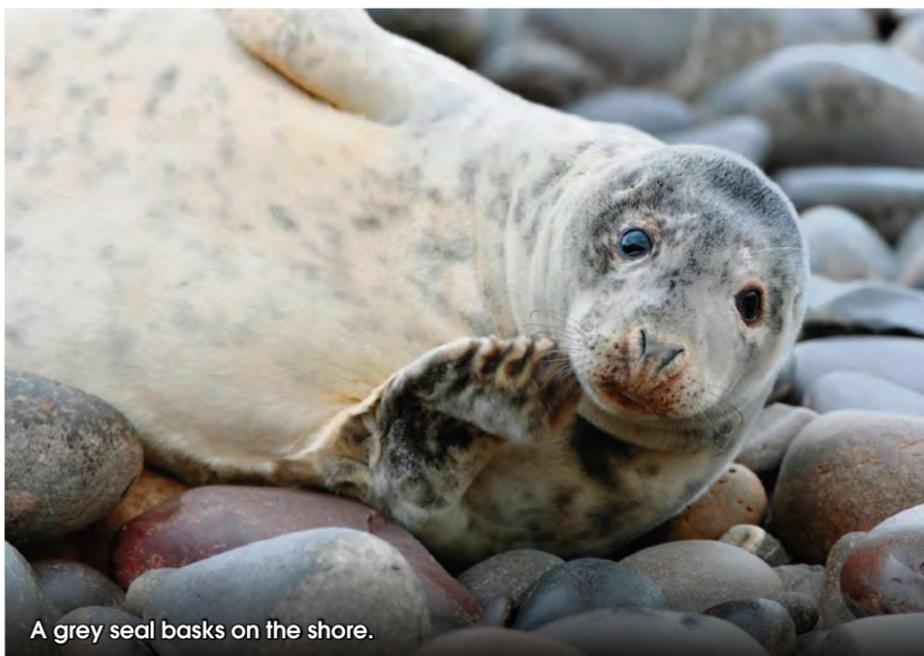
Libraries, and Museums and Galleries services under the ReDrawing Edinburgh banner. New videos are planned for each month until spring next year.

Residents can find out more about the project through a series of online talks via the Edinburgh City Archives Facebook Page and Redrawing Edinburgh YouTube playlist.

To visit the online exhibition see:
www.capitalcollections.org.uk



Where to spot seals in Scotland



A grey seal basks on the shore.

They are one of Scotland's best-loved animals and one of the nation's wildlife 'Big Five' – but where are the best places to spot seals? Two species of seal bask in and around Scotland's waters: the larger grey seal and its smaller cousin, the endangered harbour seal. The latter is counted among our wildlife 'Big 5', alongside the red squirrel, red deer, golden eagle and otter. Seals inspire joy and wonder in many, with their playful bobbing about in the water and their cute, dog-like faces. Yet they also feature prominently in traditional Scottish myths and legends.

The autumn months are really a last chance to see them in large numbers, before winter starts to bite. Walking along a windswept beach, you may be surprised by one of their haunting, plaintive cries. This perhaps explains why they were the inspiration for Scotland's mythical 'selkies' – creatures who take the form of a seal in water and a person on land.

So, where are the best places to spot seals? Emily Wilkins, the National Trust for Scotland ranger working at Iona, Burg and Staffa, is fortunate enough to call many of them 'neighbours'. Mull and Iona are two particular hot spots, where you can

see them all year round. Emily says: "Staffa has a few grey seal pups in October, which late-season visitors on the tour boats can watch snoozing on the beaches with mum never too far away in the water and coming up to suckle regularly. Later, it's fun to see the pups learning to swim in some of the sheltered inlets, where they can be seen from the clifftops."

Seal-watching

Susan Bain, the National Trust for Scotland's Western Isles Manager, continues: "We also have a large grey seal haul-out on Mingulay, but they tend to haul out in the winter months when the island isn't accessible. However, there are always a few in the water as you approach the bay at any time of year. They're always fun to watch as they do seem to be very curious and will swim in parallel with you as you walk along the beach. Their calling in the evening and at night can be quite eerie if you don't know what it is!"

One of the Trust's best grey seal haul-out sites is at St Abb's Head, and Kintail is another great place for seal spotting. At Culzean Country Park, one 'bob of seals' has made Port Carrick beach their home. If you get there early in the day, before the dog walkers arrive and when the tide is low, you'll most likely find them basking on the rocks.

Autumn is a key season for seals. Food is in plentiful supply, the water is – for the seals at least! – a little warmer, and the seals are putting on bulk and storing their energy for the hard months ahead.

It's vital that seal spotters always take care to follow the Marine Wildlife Watching Code, which urges you to be aware, take responsibility for your actions, and have respect for wildlife, the environment and others. The smallest of intrusions – the bark of a dog or the noise of a drone – can have fatal consequences for young pups.

Susan Bain, Western Isles Manager said: "Anyone getting too close, whether that's on foot or with a drone, can startle them and cause them to go back into the water. The results can lead to abandoned pups and exhausted individuals, so please watch from a safe distance. I'd always urge caution when seal-watching. Adult seals come ashore to rest, to raise their young and occasionally to get away from predators."

Text and images are courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland. For more information on the Trust or to help them protect Scotland's heritage see: www.nts.org.uk



A grey seal.

Seabird declines may be slowing



Guillemots at Fowlsheugh ©Lorne Gill SNH.

The decline in Scotland's breeding seabird numbers may be slowing down, a new report suggests.

The latest biodiversity indicator published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) uses data largely collected by volunteers to look at numbers of 11 species of breeding seabird. The results show that, having declined by more than 30% from 1986 to 2011, population levels have since remained fairly stable. Overall numbers have declined by an average of 32% since 1986. Only two of the species have maintained or increased in breeding numbers over the period (common gull and common tern).

Arctic skua, whose breeding stronghold is the Northern Isles, has experienced the largest decline of 78%. Their decline has been linked to changes in the availability of sandeels, which has also affected Northern Isles populations of kittiwakes and terns. Declines are also apparent for herring gull and great-black backed gulls across Scotland. While below earlier levels, there are signs of some populations such as guillemot and black-legged kittiwake

stabilising, with some colonies showing increases. Common tern and Arctic tern numbers increased since the last report. Terns are known to be highly variable in breeding numbers and it is too early to say if this trend is going to continue.

Seabirds are not only vulnerable to changes in the seas around Scotland, many migrate across the Atlantic and technology is beginning to improve our understanding of their movements. Rats and American mink are predators to breeding seabirds and removing these from seabird colonies is a crucial step in securing Scotland's seabirds for the future. Increases have been recorded at colonies where rats have been removed, such as the Shiant and Canna.

Simon Foster, SNH's Trends & Indicator Analyst, said: "Seabirds are long-lived, for example the oldest guillemot in Scotland (and the rest of the UK) was recaptured on the Isle of Canna last summer being at least 41 years old. In Wales a razorbill was recorded at 42 years old, while a Manx shearwater has been found more than 50 years old. Clearly we need long-term data to really understand what is happening to different species, and the fantastic work by volunteers undertaking monitoring at colonies around Scotland is invaluable in providing us with a unique picture on these changes."

A UK wide seabird census is also currently underway and the results from this will help to provide an overview on all of the species of seabirds breeding around Scotland.

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Scotland's Crown-ing Glory



The Crown S4. Behind the scenes on location in the Highlands with Prince Charles (Josh O'Connor). Photo: Netflix.

Award-winning Netflix series, *The Crown*, has returned to screens for a star-studded fourth series featuring some of the most dramatic backdrops and locations in Scotland. Featuring roughly 90 different locations across the UK including some grand estates and locations across the famous North Coast 500 driving route, the series heavily features the Highlands posing as royal residences and even places further afield. Cosying up to watch *The Crown* is the perfect opportunity to enjoy rugged and wild Scotland from the comfort and warmth of one's home and may even provide some inspiration for fans

to explore other Royal links around Scotland when the timing's right. *The Crown* follows the story of Queen Elizabeth II, played by Oscar-winning actor Olivia Colman (a role previously held by Claire Foy) from her wedding to present day with season four focusing particularly on the late 1970s through to 1990. This series sees many poignant shifts in monarchy and society with Margaret Thatcher (played by Gillian Anderson) elected as the first female Prime Minister and the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer (played by Josh O'Connor and Emma Corrin). It is sure to be a binge-worthy watch and also takes in some of Scotland's amazing scenery.

Archives shine a spotlight on Scotland's coasts

Archive images have gone on display at the Shetland Museum and Archives as part of the Year of Coasts and Waters.

An exhibition on Scotland's coasts featuring photographs and illustrations from Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) archives has gone on display at the Shetland Museum and Archives as part of the Year of Coasts and Waters. The exhibition explores the Viking era, fishing and oil industries, 19th century seaside holiday makers, coastal castles, industrial heritage and lighthouses. The archives span pre-historic times to the modern day and gives visitors an insight into how important the coast has been to life in Scotland. The exhibition features architect's drawings, Edwardian holiday snaps and unique images taken by HES's survey photographers.

The National Record of the Historic Environment spans a vast range of buildings, archaeological monuments and industrial maritime sites to give an unparalleled view of Scotland's past and is maintained by HES.

How the coast has shaped Scotland's story

Jane Thomas, Research and Exhibitions Manager at HES, said: "For 5,000 years we have lived, worked and played along the coast, and Scotland's Coasts exhibition celebrates this. From the inventiveness and resilience of Scotland's early settlers to imaginative solutions for living with a changing climate, our close relationship to our coasts and waters is evident throughout the exhibition. As part of the Year of Coasts

and Waters, we are encouraging everyone to explore the National Record of the Historic Environment to find out more about how the coast has shaped Scotland's story."

Dr Ian Tait, curator of Shetland Museum and Archives, said: "This is a great opportunity for people to see this rigorously researched and attractive touring exhibition that's come to us through the Year of Coasts and Waters. We have a lot of coastline here, and life has depended on it for thousands of years. Come and see the show to discover how we fit into the bigger picture."



A group of workers pose for a photograph during the construction of the Forth Bridge.



Archive photograph showing a large gathering of rowing boats at the seafront of a Scottish town.

Explore the Scottish locations featuring in *The Crown* season four:

Ardverikie Estate-Kinloch Laggan, Newtonmore, Inverness-shire



Ardverikie Estate.

Scenes set in the majestic Royal residency and the monarch's favoured summer retreat, Balmoral Castle, are shot at Ardverikie Estate near Newtonmore. Originally made famous in BBC's *Monarch of Glen* as the fictional Glenbogle Estate, the 19th century home is built in the same Scottish baronial style as Balmoral castle, making it the perfect, lavish backdrop for the series.

Rothiemurchus Estate-Rothiemurchus Centre, Aviemore

The famous Braemar Gathering, a traditional Highland Games, is recreated in series four slightly further north at Rothiemurchus Estate in Aviemore. Traditionally, the Braemar Gathering takes place annually on the first Saturday of September in Braemar and has been part of the Royal calendar since 1832. In 2020, the Braemar Gathering went virtual for the first time ever.

Lybster Harbour and Langwell Estate-Caithness

Further north and situated on the famous North Coast 500 driving route, the Caithness and Wick areas are portrayed as many different locations in the series. Lybster Harbour and Langwell Estate are depicted as Leith Harbour and Grytviken in South Georgia, a British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic that was secured by the British during the Falklands war in 1982.

Dunbeath Estate-Dunbeath, Caithness



Dunbeath Estate in Caithness.

Dunbeath Estate in Caithness, close to the North Coast 500 route, is shot as the River Hofsa in Iceland. The thrilling cliff edges and roaring waves make for a dramatic backdrop to depict the land of fire and ice. The 17th century Dunbeath Castle is a private residence, so not open to the public, however the gardens are open by appointment all year round.

Keiss Harbour & Ackergill Tower-Wick, Caithness



Keiss Harbour.

Keiss Harbour and Ackergill Tower, also situated on the North Coast 500 route, play a role a bit closer to home as they are depicted as Classiebawn Castle and Mullaghmore in Ireland.

Scotland's royal heritage

Whilst they may not feature as film locations in the upcoming season of *The Crown*, you can explore much more of Scotland's royal heritage at:

Balmoral Castle-Aberdeenshire

Located in Royal Deeside, Aberdeenshire, Balmoral Castle has been the Scottish home to the Royal Family since 1852 and is frequently visited by The Queen and other members of the Royal family. Originally purchased by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, the well-loved royal residence and surrounding estate is open to visitors every year between April and July.

Edinburgh Castle-Edinburgh

Set in the heart of Scotland's capital and overlooking the city from a huge rock, Edinburgh Castle has been named one of the most exciting historic sites in Western Europe and has a long, rich history. The castle is the perfect place to discover the exciting stories of its time as a fortress, royal residence and as a prison of war. Today the castle is open as a world-famous visitor attraction with virtual tours on offer for those who wish to explore from home.

The Palace of Holyroodhouse-Edinburgh

Standing at the end of Edinburgh's famous Royal Mile and open throughout the year, The Palace of Holyroodhouse is the Queen's official Edinburgh residence. Former home to some of Scotland's most iconic royal figures such as Bonnie Prince Charlie and Mary Queen of Scots, it is the perfect place to discover more about Scotland's royal history.

The Royal Yacht Britannia-Edinburgh

Docked in Edinburgh's Ocean Terminal, The Royal Yacht Britannia, a former royal yacht, was in service for over 44 years. Travelling more than a million nautical miles, the ship provided the perfect residence for state visits, official receptions, family holidays and even Prince Charles and Lady Diana's Royal honeymoon. Today the Royal Yacht is open for tours and private functions and even has a sister ship, Fingal, that operates a luxury floating hotel.

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



Lady Fiona with the Skeoch.

Lady MacGregor of MacGregor – otherwise known as British writer and broadcaster Fiona Armstrong - works for ITV news and current affairs. Fiona's husband is the Chief of Clan Gregor, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor. She is an active member of Clan Armstrong, so their lives are interwoven with all things tartan. The couple live in the Scottish Borderlands, although filming and writing takes Fiona all over Scotland.



The Skeoch

And so, I have been making a film about a Men's Shed. This is a social movement that originated some decades ago in Australia. It came to Scotland earlier this century and has really taken off. Sheds have opened up the length and breadth of the land. Places where men, many of them retired, can go to be busy and find company. They might learn to do wood or metalwork. They could be taught how to repair bicycles, or they may be helping the local community. Whatever work they are engaged in the aim is to improve physical and mental health.

During the pandemic, of course, most sheds have had to close. But in south-west Scotland, they have been keeping members connected with an ambitious car restoration project. The 'Skeoch' first appeared at the Scottish Motor Show in 1921. Built in Dalbeattie by James Skeoch, it was one of the early affordable cars. This contraption was a dinky wee thing; built for two rather thin people and selling for £180.00.

It should have been a rip-roaring success. Yet a fire at the company workshop left the designer's dream in ruins. In the event only a handful of vehicles were ever sold and the Skeoch was consigned to history.

Three years ago, though, Men's Shed members decided to recreate one, using some original parts and working from early drawings. For the mechanically minded, the Skeoch has a wooden chassis, and metal sides to stiffen it up. There's a 350-cc single two-stroke engine and a two-speed gear box. It goes forward but if you want to reverse you have to get out and turn it manually.

Because, as you well know, the Scots have been nothing if not inventive over the years.

At this difficult time for voluntary groups, trying to keep the camaraderie going is vital and this fun classic has certainly kept spirits up during lockdown. The plan now is to paint her a shade of red and unveil her next year, exactly a century after she was first shown to the world.

Inventive

Scotland has been famous for engineering and shipbuilding. And to that list we should add car production. Back in the 1890s the Arrol Johnstone factory at Glasgow produced one of the earliest automobiles, a six-seater dog

cart, complete with pistons. In 1900, meanwhile, another firm produced a vehicle powered by an eight horse-power engine. The Albion Motor Company went on to produce trucks and buses. The Argyll Motors firm built cars whilst the Albion Car Company came with the motto: 'Sure as the Sunrise.'

Then there was the Scottish inventor of the pneumatic tyre. Or should we say inventors. In 1845 Robert Thomson from north-east Scotland came up with the first 'aerial wheel'. Four decades later John Boyd Dunlop from Ayrshire produced the first practical or inflatable tyre. Because, as you well know, the Scots have been nothing if not inventive over the years. Television, telephone, fridge, bicycle, toaster, golf... You name it they've come up with the idea.

Scots have also been key in the medical field. Sir James Young Simpson was among the first to pioneer the use of chloroform. Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin. Sir William Leishman developed a typhoid vaccine - and so the list goes on...

I do not know if Scots are among those working to find a serum to fight the dreaded covid. I would imagine our scientists must be in there somewhere. Keep at it, all you clever folk - we need you...



The Scottish Banner is pleased to be offering the Tartan of the Month series highlighting a variety of different, unique and colourful tartans from around the world which are registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans in Edinburgh. The Scottish Register of Tartans was established by an act of the Scottish Parliament in November 2008 and promotes and preserves information about historic and contemporary tartans from Scotland and throughout the world. Text and image use is courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans (SRT).

The official Chieftain of the Mey Highland Games is HRH Prince Charles and this design is based on the Rothesay Hunting tartan - one of the tartans worn by the Prince

when in Scotland where his title is the Duke of Rothesay. The light blue blocks comprise 50 threads to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Games which were founded in 1970 at the suggestion of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother whose much-loved Scottish home was the nearby Castle of Mey. In her memory, the castle stonework is represented by the rust coloured marl. The Mey Games were the first ever to inaugurate Highland events for para athletes and wounded armed forces from around the world - here represented on behalf of all such organisations by the navy blue, air force blue and red of the Help for Heroes charity. This tartan (SRT ref: 12748) was registered in February 2020 and designed by Brian Wilton.

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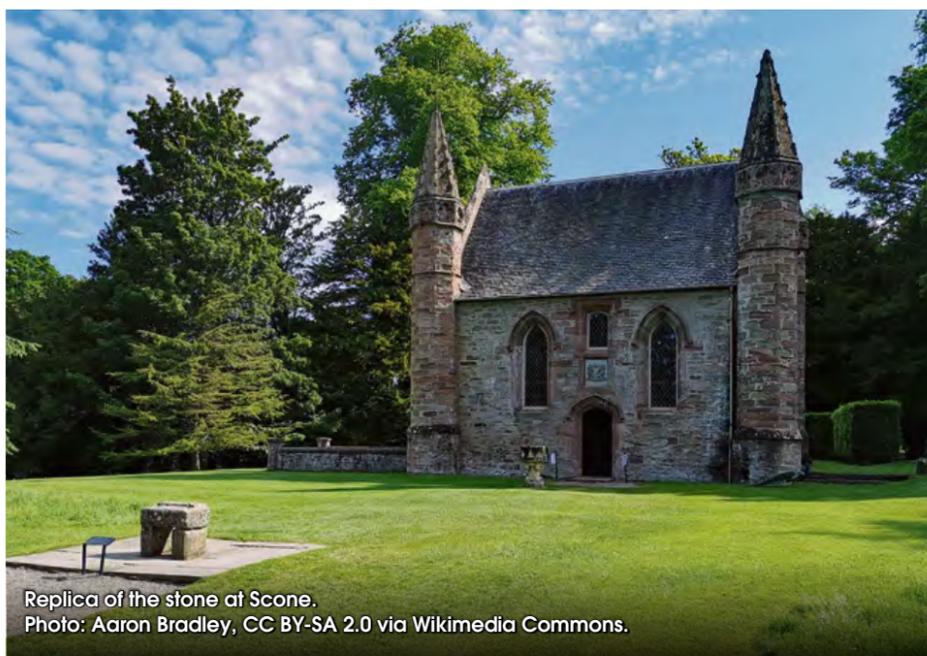
Scottish, Irish, Welsh Tartans

By: Nick
Drainey

The Stone of Destiny

An infamous Christmas repatriation

December 25 is the 70th anniversary of the Stone of Destiny being taken from Westminster Abbey in 1950 by four Glasgow students. The Stone of Destiny, a symbolic block of sandstone that for centuries had been used in the coronation of Scottish monarchs, was taken from Scone Abbey in 1296 by the English King Edward I and the unlikely band of thieves eventually left it on the altar of Arbroath Abbey. It was taken back to London but returned to Scotland in 1996 and is today kept at Edinburgh Castle. The Scottish Government however are considering returning the stone to Perth, close to where it was first used at Scone as Nick Drainey explains.



Replica of the stone at Scone.
Photo: Aaron Bradley, CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons.



The Stone of Destiny.
Photo: Historic Environment Scotland.

The Stone of Destiny is an ancient icon of Scotland, used for centuries at the coronation of monarchs and fought over with England. Its name alone sounds like something from the *Game of Thrones* and some say the block of red sandstone was brought from Ireland at the end of the 4th century, others that it dates back to Biblical times and was a pillow used by Jacob.

What we do know is that it was used in the inauguration of the early kings of Dalriada and taken to Scone Abbey by King Kenneth MacAlpin in the 9th century – the reason it is sometimes called the Stone of Scone. In 1296 it was seized by English king Edward I who had it installed in a Coronation Chair at Westminster Abbey.

Return the stone to Scotland

Perhaps the most astonishing events took place on Christmas Day 1950 when four Scottish students carried out an audacious theft of the stone from Westminster Abbey in London. Their subsequent success in smuggling it back to Scotland has taken on a legendary status, despite it being a relatively recent series of events.

Ian Hamilton and Gavin Vernon hatched the plan, with the financial backing of Glasgow businessman Robert Gray, who was also a city councillor. They called in Kay Matheson and Alan Stuart and set off to London in two Ford Anglia cars, a journey that took them 18 hours.

Their aim was to return the stone to Scotland with the hope that it would promote their call for Home Rule but it nearly fell at the first hurdle when Hamilton was caught hiding in the abbey by a night watchman.

He talked his way out of trouble and returned late on Christmas Eve with the other three conspirators. The story goes that when they managed to get into the chapel where the Coronation Chair stands and pulled out the stone, it promptly broke into two pieces.

Undeterred they dragged the smaller piece outside to one of the waiting cars. But before they could return for the larger piece a policeman was spotted – Hamilton and Matheson engaged in an embrace to make the officer think they were lovers, and even ended up smoking cigarettes together. Finally, they went back for the larger piece of stone and dragged it out to the second car. The larger piece was buried in a field in Kent while the smaller one was left in the car which had been driven to the English Midlands.

When the theft was revealed, amid suspicion that nationalists were behind it, the border between Scotland and England was closed for the first time in 400 years. A few weeks later, the conspirators brought the two pieces back to Glasgow and hired a sympathetic stonemason to repair it.

Scottish nationhood

In April 1951 the stone was left on the altar at Arbroath Abbey, where the Declaration of Arbroath – defining the idea of Scotland as a nation – was signed in 1320. Despite the symbolism, however, the authorities returned the stone to Westminster Abbey the next year (1952).

All four students were questioned by police, but it is widely thought the politically sensitive nature of the incident meant charges were never brought. A spokesperson from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) said that since then the



Replica of stone at Scone Abbey.
Photo: PAULT (Gunther Tschuch), CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons.

stone “has become something of a talisman for Scottish nationhood, its symbolism becoming more significant in recent years than it perhaps was at the time it was taken in 1296 by King Edward I.

“The Stone of Destiny is a priceless national icon for Scots. It is representative of the ancient kingdom of Scotland, prior to the prolonged and bloody Wars of Independence with England that began in 1296, when the Stone was removed (some would say ‘stolen’) by Edward I of England, ‘Hammer of the Scots’. Arguably its symbolism has increased significantly in recent years as it has come to be viewed as a symbolic of Scotland’s independence.”

The Stone of Destiny is an ancient icon of Scotland, used for centuries at the coronation of monarchs and fought over with England.

But the spokesperson for HES also said that “by dint of its use in the coronations of sovereigns of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, (the stone) is a national icon for the people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as a whole.”

The stone remained at Westminster Abbey until then Prime Minister John Major announced the Queen had consented to the Stone of Destiny being returned to Scotland, on condition that it “be taken to Westminster Abbey to play its traditional role in the coronation ceremonies of future sovereigns of the United Kingdom”.

Long-term conservation care

In November 1996 the stone was transported north to Scotland under almost as much secrecy as when it had made the journey in 1951. A team of conservators from Scotland were escorted by armed police to wait covertly in a side street until Westminster Abbey had closed to visitors.

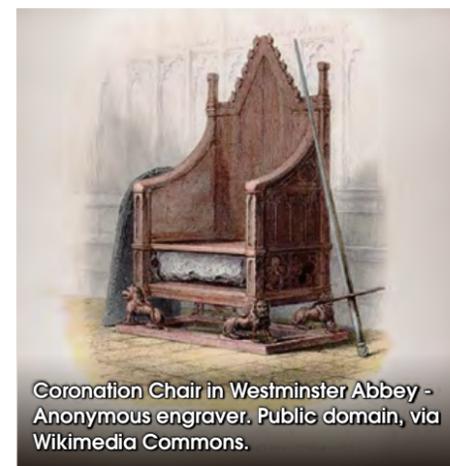
A specially designed scaffold was erected over the Coronation Chair and the stone was winched into a purpose-built wooden hand barrow, modelled on those used by medieval stonemasons. The operation had been repeatedly rehearsed at Edinburgh Castle,

in a bid to avoid any damage. After six hours the stone was ready to be driven to a secret location in Edinburgh, under police escort.

Following a national service at St Giles Cathedral on St Andrew’s Day 1996, it was ceremoniously carried up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle, where it was placed in the Crown Room beside the Honours of Scotland.

The spokesperson for HES added: “Historic Environment Scotland continues to look after the Stone of Destiny by ensuring that is safeguarded and preserved for future generations through the application of best curatorial care. This includes the security, research, interpretation and long-term conservation care of the stone by curatorial and conservation professionals.”

Edinburgh Castle was deemed the most suitable location as it is historic, secure, and accessible to large numbers of visitors. However, the Scottish Government is currently considering a bid to move the stone to Perth, close to where it once crowned kings of Scotland at Scone. Perth and Kinross Council said the city’s museum would undergo a major revamp to hold the stone in a purpose-built pavilion which would form the centrepiece of a permanent exhibition.



Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey - Anonymous engraver. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



17th century portrait of Kenneth MacAlpin by Jacob Jacobsz de Wei II. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

Photos: Stephen Kearney/Little Day Productions.



Celebrating Hebridean history

Hebridean clothing range seeks to protect the legacy of the Herring Girls



Margaret Anne Elder.

A small Hebridean clothing company whose workforce is made up of skilled knitters and craftspeople is ensuring that an age-old tradition, which was starting to fade into the mists of time, is kept alive. Isle-of-Barra based Herring Girl Knitwear, which is marking one year since its launch, is using the unique patterns and styles first developed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries by the formidable band of women known as 'Herring Girls', who followed the shoals of herring around the British coast. The women were employed in the gruelling work of gutting and curing the fish for the merchants. They came from all over the country and often spent months away from home.

Standard bearers for the culture and traditions of their communities

Despite the hard work and poor living conditions, these women were standard bearers for the culture and traditions of their communities. Their time off would be spent talking, singing and knitting.

Their knitting would use skills and patterns handed down over generations and learned as they grew up. Very often their completed garments would be sent home for family members to wear. The patterns would often include designs such as anchors, ship's wheels, hearts or marriage lines – each with a distinct connection to their own home islands and the fishing industry. The pattern unique to the Barra fishermen's guernsey (jumper) is the True Lovers Knot.

The Herring Girl knitwear range is inspired by these hardworking women and is using the official fishing port registrations to signify which community the patterns relate to. The first Herring Girl range has used the 'CY' mark, which represents the fishing port of Castlebay on Barra. They are also currently crafting garments under the registrations of 'SY' for Sornoway on the Isle of Lewis and 'BRD' for Broadford on the Isle of Skye. Another unique quirk of Herring Girl brand is that the knitters are not known to the purchaser by their name – instead each knitter chooses the name and registration number of a fishing boat which is historically linked to that community.

The history of patterns

Herring Girl founder and designer, Margaret Anne Elder – known as 'CY Grian nan Oir' to her customers - said: "I watched my grandmother knitting every moment of the day. Often, when she walked from her home village to the shop or post office she could knit one sock there and one on the way back. Anyone who remembers her will always talk of her knitting. For many years I've been determined to bring the story of the Herring Girls to life in some way, to honour those brave girls and women who



Long Anchor scarf.



Waistcoat with sail pattern

remain true to the colours used by our forebears with the traditional, greens, blues and browns forming the basis of the range."

Margaret Anne added: "At the moment, I have five experienced knitters supplying quality garments for Herring Girl. However, I am very keen to make sure these skills and patterns are handed on, just as they were to me. I will be looking to recruit more younger knitters who are willing to learn the craft and history so it can be passed on to the next generation of knitters. And in these times, knitting is a therapeutic pastime which can provide a calming distraction to all that is going on around us. In island culture, the herring girl is viewed as a hardworking, strong woman who was not scared of hard graft. I hope, through the Herring Girl Collection, we can pay tribute to their resilience and thank them for keeping these unique traditions alive for us to take on."

One of Herring Girl Collection's band of knitters known as 'CY42 Venus' added: "My granny taught us to knit when we were young, she was always knitting. It was a skill that she was determined we would grow up with just as she had and I'm incredibly proud that I am able to keep the tradition going. She is my inspiration every time I pick up my knitting needles."

For further details see: www.herringgirlcollection.com



Barra fishermen's guernsey, the True Lovers Knot.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown announces he is to stand down as an MP at the next general election after 32 years. **2014**

1 - The first volume of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was published in Edinburgh, edited by William Smellie. **1768**



1 - First lighthouse in Scotland opened (at Kinnaird Head, Fraserburgh). It was built by Thomas Smith and Robert Stevenson. **1787**

1 - Report of discovery of fossilised dinosaur footprints on the Isle of Skye. **2015**

2 - Mary Slessor, West African missionary, born in Aberdeen. Slessor was adopted by an African tribe, who called her "ma". **1848**

3 - Robert Louis Stevenson died in Samoa. The Edinburgh born author penned classics such as *Treasure Island* (1883), *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886) and *Kidnapped* (1886). **1894**



3 - His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen opened and soon became the city's leading centre of entertainment. **1906**

4 - King William I (Lion) died at Stirling and was succeeded by his son Alexander II. **1214**

4 - Treaty of London, releasing James I from his 18 years captivity in England. **1423**

4 - Essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle, best known for his *History of the French Revolution* born in Ecclefechan. **1795**

4 - Cartoon character Desperate Dan first appeared in the *Dandy* comic. **1937**

5 - King Francis II of France, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, died. **1560**

5 - Death of Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the Brechin-born inventor of radar. **1973**

6 - King Alexander II crowned at Scone. **1214**

6 - Charles Edward Stewart's entry into Derby. A reluctant Charles and his Jacobite army was forced to withdraw from Derby only two days later. **1745**

6 - The Battle of Dryfe Sands took place near Lockerbie, Scottish Borders, resulting in many casualties, it was a battle between the clans of Clan Maxwell and Clan Johnstone. Many were wounded by downward sword strokes known as "Lockerbie Licks". **1593**



6 - The last 12 permanent residents leave the Island of Stroma. **1962**

7 - The birth of Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, the Anglo-Scottish aristocrat and second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary married Henry, her first cousin, on the 29 July 1565, to be the uncrowned "King Henry". Darnley was the second husband of Mary and father of King James VI of Scotland and James I of England. He was assassinated in February 1567 by person unknown, although Mary's third husband James, Lord Bothwell, was seriously implicated in the murder. **1545**

8 - Mary, Queen of Scots, born Linlithgow Palace. The only surviving child of James V and Mary of Guise, Mary ascended to the Scottish throne following her father's death when she was only six days old. Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England for her complicity in a plot to murder Queen Elizabeth I at the age of 44 years. **1542**

9 - King Malcolm IV, King of Scotland, died at Jedburgh Castle. **1165**

10 - King Edward VIII abdicated and King George VI acceded to the throne. **1936**

10 - The death of Duncan Forbes of Culloden, the Lord President of the Court of Session. As a prominent Whig, like many Scots Forbes supported the Hanoverian cause and used his influence to dissuade a number of clans from joining the Jacobites. **1747**



10 - Designer and architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. Known for his 'Glasgow style' with works such as the House for an Art Lover, the Scotland Street School, and the Glasgow School of Art. **1928**

11 - David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope born. **1781**

11 - Architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. **1928**

12 - Anne of Denmark, wife of King James VI, born. **1574**

13 - William Drummond, poet, born. Drummond was one of the first notable Scots poets to write exclusively in English after the Union of the Crowns in 1603. **1585**

13 - The death of Thomas Glover, an industrial pioneer in Japan. Born in Fraserburgh, he is considered a national hero in Japan. Fraser brought the first steam train to Japan, and created the shipyard in Nagasaki which would eventually form the Mitsubishi Corporation. **1911**

14 - James V died at Falkland Palace. Mary Queen of Scots succeeded him. **1542**



14 - Glasgow District Underground opened, powered by electricity, it is the third oldest underground system in the world. **1896**

14 - Will Fyfe, comedian, died. **1947**

14 - University of Stirling instituted by Royal charter. **1967**

15 - The Zoological Society of Glasgow was founded on this day. **1936**

16 - Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland. Cromwell was the only invader of Scotland to conquer the whole country. **1653**

16 - Thomas Blake Glover, founding father of Japan's industrialisation (including Mitsubishi) and Japanese Navy, born Fraserburgh. **1838**

17 - Marriage contract between James IV and Margaret Tudor signed by King James. **1502**

17 - Lord Kelvin, scientist and inventor, died. **1907**

17 - Petrol rationing was imposed following the Suez crisis and the closure of the canal. **1956**

18 - Many Scottish historical records were lost when the ship Elizabeth of Burmtisland sank off the English coast. The records had been taken to London by Oliver Cromwell and were being returned to Edinburgh. **1661**

18 - Society of Antiquaries founded. **1780**

18 - Death penalty for murder was formally abolished in Britain. **1969**

19 - *The Scotsman* newspaper moves to new offices at North Bridge in Edinburgh, remaining there until 1999. **1904**

20 - First General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. **1560**

20 - Entertainer Andy Stewart was born in Glasgow. Stewart is perhaps best known for his STV show, *The White Heather Club*, which began in 1960, and his songs *Ye Canna Shuv Yer Granny Off A Bus* and *Donald Where's Yer Troosers*. He died in 1993. **1933**

20 - Aberdeen beat European Cup Winners Hamburg 2-0 to become the first Scottish club to win the UEFA Super Cup. **1983**

21 - Robert Liston, who was born in Linlithgow in 1794, performed the first operation in a British hospital using anaesthetic (ether). **1846**

21 - Pan Am 747 blew up and crashed at Lockerbie, Dumfries, killing 243 passengers, 16 crew and 11 Lockerbie residents. The Pan American jumbo jet bound for New York was blown out of the sky by a terrorist bomb and crashes onto the Scottish town of Lockerbie killing all 259 passengers and 11 people on the ground. **1988**

22 - James Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, son of James II, the deposed Catholic King of England, arrived at Peterhead in north-east Scotland to lead a Jacobite rebellion. **1715**

22 - Pop star Madonna married movie-producer Guy Ritchie at Skibo Castle, putting Dornoch into the media spotlight. The couple has since divorced but helped create a Scottish wedding boom. **2000**

23 - Major outbreak of cholera in Scotland. **1831**



23 - Fife born accordionist Jimmy Shand died. Shand's recordings are famous throughout the world due to his distinctive playing style on the button accordion, and later on the BBC with *The White Heather Club*. **2000**

24 - King William I (Lion) crowned at Scone. **1165**

24 - Edinburgh Castle surrendered to Oliver Cromwell. **1650**

24 - General George Wade was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British army in Scotland after he had reported on the need for military roads in the country. **1724**

24 - Writer and geologist Hugh Miller died. **1856**

25 - Stone of Destiny removed from Westminster Abbey. Used as the coronation stone of the Scottish kings from the 10th century, the stone was removed by four Scottish university students whose story became a book and movie. The ringleader Ian Hamilton is a former contributor to *the Scottish Banner*. **1950**



25 - Christmas Day becomes a public holiday in Scotland. It was abolished in 1640. **1958**

25 - The Jacobite army reached Glasgow. The military campaign to return a Catholic Stewart king to the throne in place of the Hanoverian Protestant King William III. **1745**

26 - Alexander III, the King of Scots, was married to Margaret, the daughter of Henry III, King of England, in York. **1251**

27 - King Charles I, imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle, reached an agreement with the Scots who offered military aid in exchange for a promise to establish Presbyterianism in England (but only for three years). **1647**

27 - Premiere of J M Barrie's play *Peter Pan* at the Duke of York Theatre, London. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir in 1860. **1904**

28 - The Tay Bridge disaster occurred. 75 passengers were killed when the structure collapsed under a train during a storm. **1879**

28 - Scotland's famous outlaw, Rob "Roy" MacGregor, died. He was immortalised in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Rob Roy*. **1734**

28 - James IV who liked to gamble played 'byllis' (similar to billiards) with a man described in records as "John Anderson that wantis the feit and handies". There's also a note mentioning that the king gave Anderson 14 shilling. **1501**

29 - Charles Macintosh, who patented waterproof fabric, born in Glasgow. **1766**

29 - William Ewart Gladstone, UK Prime Minister on four occasions, born 1809. **1809**

30 - Rangers' first match at their new Ibrox Stadium, with capacity of 75,000. It was a 3-1 victory over Hearts in the Inter-City League. **1899**

30 - The Albion Motor Company was established. At first the firm made motor cars and commercial vehicles, but from 1913 concentrated on the latter. **1899**

31 - Prince Charles Edward Stewart, The Young Pretender, was born in Rome. Known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie", after the Gaelic pronunciation of his name, he led the 1745 Jacobite attempt to overthrow the Hanoverian monarchy. Bonnie Prince Charlie or the Young Pretender, was the son of James, the Old Pretender. **1720**

31 - 72 killed at Glen Cinema Fire, Paisley. **1929**



31 - The farthing coin (a quarter of an old penny) ceased to be legal tender. **1960**



Tis the season to be jolly! If you're celebrating Christmas or Hogmanay with a Scottish twist, there are lots of seasonal Scottish traditions that you can take part in – some of them old, some of them new. There's plenty to do in Scotland in the winter, and many Scots love getting in the festive spirit. But did you know that Christmas was banned here for almost four centuries?

Before the Reformation in 1560, Christmas in Scotland had been a religious feasting day. Then, with the powerful Kirk frowning upon anything related to Roman Catholicism, the Scottish Parliament passed a law in 1640 that made celebrating 'Yule vacations' illegal. Even after Charles II was restored to the throne, celebrating Christmas was frowned upon in Scotland for a long time – it wasn't until 1958 that 25 December became a Scottish public holiday.

Scottish Christmas traditions

Working on Christmas Day is now a distant memory for lots of Scots, but there are other old traditions that people still hold onto. For example, some folk like to bake unleavened Yule bread for each person in their family. Whoever finds a trinket in their loaf will be blessed with good luck for the year!



Other traditions include burning a rowan twig as a way to get rid of any bad feelings between friends or family, and the 'first-footer', a special name given to the first person to arrive on Christmas Day (this tradition is now more commonly associated with New Year's Day). To bless their guests, first-footers come with gifts such as coal, whisky, salt and bread. Black buns are also a popular first-footing gift – they're made with raisins, currants, almonds, citrus peel, allspice, ginger and cinnamon, and topped with pastry.

Modern Scottish Christmas traditions are similar to those of other western countries. People sing carols (wassailing) and decorate their houses with lights, putting a Christmas tree in the window and a wreath on the door. Children write letters to Santa Claus, and on Christmas Eve leave something for him to eat (like a mince pie) and drink (like sherry or whisky) when he visits in the night.

On Christmas Eve some families like to attend midnight mass, and on Christmas Day give presents before gathering around the table for a hearty lunch. People pull crackers, tell (bad) jokes, make toasts and then relax for the rest of the day, often in front of the television to watch the annual Queen's speech or a festive film.

Hogmanay in Scotland

New Year's Eve in Scotland is called Hogmanay. This joyful gathering was especially celebrated in the years when Christmas was 'banned', and celebrations could last for days. Edinburgh now hosts one of the world's biggest and most famous Hogmanay street parties, with an amazing fireworks display. All over the country, Scottish people brighten up the dark winter with music, poetry and bonfires.

There are plenty of Scottish Hogmanay traditions, some dating back centuries and some only a few decades old. Certainly the most famous is the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*, which was written by the iconic Scottish poet Robert Burns and sees people gathering together and linking arms to sing in unison. This became a popular convention by the mid-20th century.



There are other poems and songs by writers like Robert Louis Stevenson that celebrate Hogmanay and the passing of the year, but nothing holds a haggis to Burns's classic song.

Scotland also has some weird and wonderful Hogmanay events. The Stonehaven Fireballs Festival (unfortunately cancelled in 2020) has its roots in pagan traditions – for nearly a century, residents of this Aberdeenshire town have paraded along the streets on Hogmanay, swinging giant fireballs to drive evil spirits away and purge the old year.

In Orkney you'll need to fight for a view of the Kirkwall Ba' on New Year's Day, which sees almost the entire town turned into a football pitch for a chaotic and competitive kickabout. In Burghead in Moray, the 'burning of the clavie' involves carrying a flaming tar-filled barrel through the streets on 11 January (the Gaelic New Year's Eve, dating back to the time before the Gregorian calendar was adopted).

Some Scots like to encourage good luck in the new year by doing a spot of 'redding' and cleaning their house from top to bottom (a good one for getting the children involved) on Hogmanay. It's also meant to be bad luck to clean or do laundry on New Year's Day – in case you sweep or wash away the good luck! So instead of cleaning, the more thick-skinned of us may take part in the Loony Dook – a modern tradition where people take a dip in the Firth of Forth on New Year's Day.

Text and images are courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland.

For more information on the Trust or to help them protect Scotland's heritage see: www.nts.org.uk

Event programs may have changed/ been cancelled this year due to covid.



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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



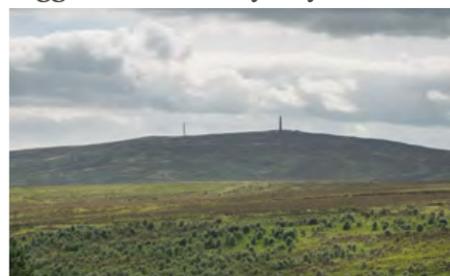
Raise the Roof fundraising campaign at St Machar's Cathedral

A historic church is hosting a £100,000 fundraiser to help accommodate its £1.8m restoration project. St Machar's Cathedral in Aberdeen was built between 1380 to 1520 and is Aberdeen's oldest building to still be in active use, attracting over 27,000 visitors a year. It is a huge part of Aberdonian history, with some of the remains of William Wallace being held in one of its twin towers. The church also has a 500-year old oak ceiling, 48 heraldic shields among many other important historic features and relics. However, after long-term neglect, the building is going into disrepair.

Professor David Hewitt who is behind the rescue campaign said: "People are finally realising that this is one of the major buildings in Scotland and not just in historical terms – it's a really spectacular building to look at. We're renovating the roof, which was last done in 1867, and it was done well but now, in a big wind, the cathedral's slates come off. They certainly won't after this. We're also restoring and cleaning all of the stained-glass windows, among them windows by Daniel Cottier and Douglas Strachan, two of the most significant figures to work in stained glass in the 19th and 20th centuries. The ceiling at St Machar's was erected in 1520 and it's a flat ceiling. There's no other flat ceiling we know of erected in the British Isles which dates from this period. And it also has its 48 heraldic shields. It's incredible. Here in Aberdeen, on the extremities of Christendom, is this church with its flat ceiling and heraldic shields arranged in three lines – one for James V and the nobles of Scotland, one for the kings and queens of Europe, and a church line headed by the Pope. St Machar's has been a Protestant church since 1560 but you still have the heraldic arms of the Pope up there."

For more information and to donate to the cause go to: www.justgiving.com/campaign/StMacharRaiseTheRoof

Community's "impossible dream" set to come true with success for South of Scotland's biggest community buyout



The South of Scotland's largest community buyout is set to go ahead following one of the most ambitious community fundraising campaigns ever seen – with the community of Langholm in Dumfries and Galloway raising the final funds needed in the nick of time. A landmark community buyout agreement of £3.8 million for over 5,000 acres of land has been reached between The Langholm Initiative charity and Buccleuch – paving the way for the creation of a huge new nature reserve to help tackle climate change, restore nature, and support community regeneration.

Margaret Pool, Chair of The Langholm Initiative, said: "This is an amazing result for Langholm which will live long in the memory. Our community has a strong cultural connection to this land, which has never been sold before, and securing it for generations to come means so much to so many. Huge thanks to Buccleuch for their positive engagement."

The purchase – to be finalised by January 2021 – will lead to the creation of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, with globally important peatlands and ancient woods restored, native woodlands established, and a haven ensured for wildlife including rare hen harriers. The project will also support community regeneration, including through plans for the community to capitalise on new nature-based tourism opportunities.

The Langholm Initiative had until 31 October to raise the funds for a deal, to avoid the Scottish Land Fund withdrawing their £1 million offer – a proviso that

left the community with just months to raise millions of pounds. At times during the summer, the project appeared to be seriously at risk. In the run-up to the deadline, Buccleuch Estates and The Langholm Initiative agreed a revised £3.8 million price for the purchase. The community buyout is set to go ahead as the South of Scotland's biggest community buyout in land value and area so far.

Scotland first part of UK to ban smacking of children

Smacking a child is now illegal in Scotland, making it the first part of the UK to bring in such a ban. If a parent or carer physically punishes or disciplines their child, they can be prosecuted with assault. Under the current law, depending on what happened, the defence of 'reasonable chastisement' may be available to them. Physical punishment or physical discipline can take many forms, including smacking, skelping, spanking and slapping. This means that all forms of physical punishment of children will be against the law in Scotland, and children will have with the same legal protection from assault as adults. Wales is expected to follow Scotland's lead with a similar ban set to take place in 2022.

Work begins on Scotland's first vertical distillery



Work has begun on a new £12 million Scotch whisky distillery which is set to become a tourist landmark for Scotland's capital. Foundations have just been laid for The Port of Leith Distillery which will rise 40 metres above the quayside a stone's throw from the Royal Yacht Britannia.

The flagship distillery, due to open in 2022, will feature a top floor double height whisky bar, with views to Edinburgh Castle, two copper stills and the capacity to produce up to million bottles of single malt a year.

The project is the brainchild of boyhood friends and distillery co-founders Patrick Fletcher and Ian Stirling. "We have always been passionate about whisky and it's been a long-held dream for us to create an amazing, modern Scotch whisky distillery in our home city. It began ten years ago as a mad idea over a dram when we were working together in London and it grew from there. Our ambition is to create an outstanding new style of Scotch using a modern approach, based on years of research we have already undertaken – and building on the remarkable heritage of the historic whisky district of Leith." Ian said.

The distillery will stand 131ft (40m) above the quayside, with views to Edinburgh Castle from its top floor whisky bar.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh cabinet sells for £250,000



An important work by Charles Rennie Mackintosh made a sensational £250,000 during a live online auction. The bedside cabinet, the pair to another in the collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum, proved the star lot in the highly anticipated Decorative Arts auction held over two days on November 2-3.

Last sold at auction in 1988, the piece was made in 1916 for the industrialist Wenman Joseph Bassett Lowke (1877-1953) whose house 78 Derngate, Northampton was remodelled and furnished in the modern taste. In the wake of his success in Glasgow, Mackintosh and his wife Margaret Macdonald had moved to Suffolk in 1914 with Bassett Lowke, founder of the tinsplate toy maker of the same name, becoming his main client. At 78 Derngate, Mackintosh's style evolved to focus on broad planes of polished and waxed timber enhanced by abalone inlay. His production methods changed too. Unable to supervise the manufacture of these pieces, Mackintosh provided drawings that were worked up by German craftspeople working on the Isle of Man.

With a guide of £10,000-15,000, the cabinet attracted bidders from around the world, eventually selling to a private British collector.

Mackintosh (1868-1928) was a pioneering Glaswegian architect, designer and artist known as one of the most creative figures of the 20th century and Glasgow is the only city in the world where you can view a concentration of his renowned work.

Sir Walter's Dryburgh

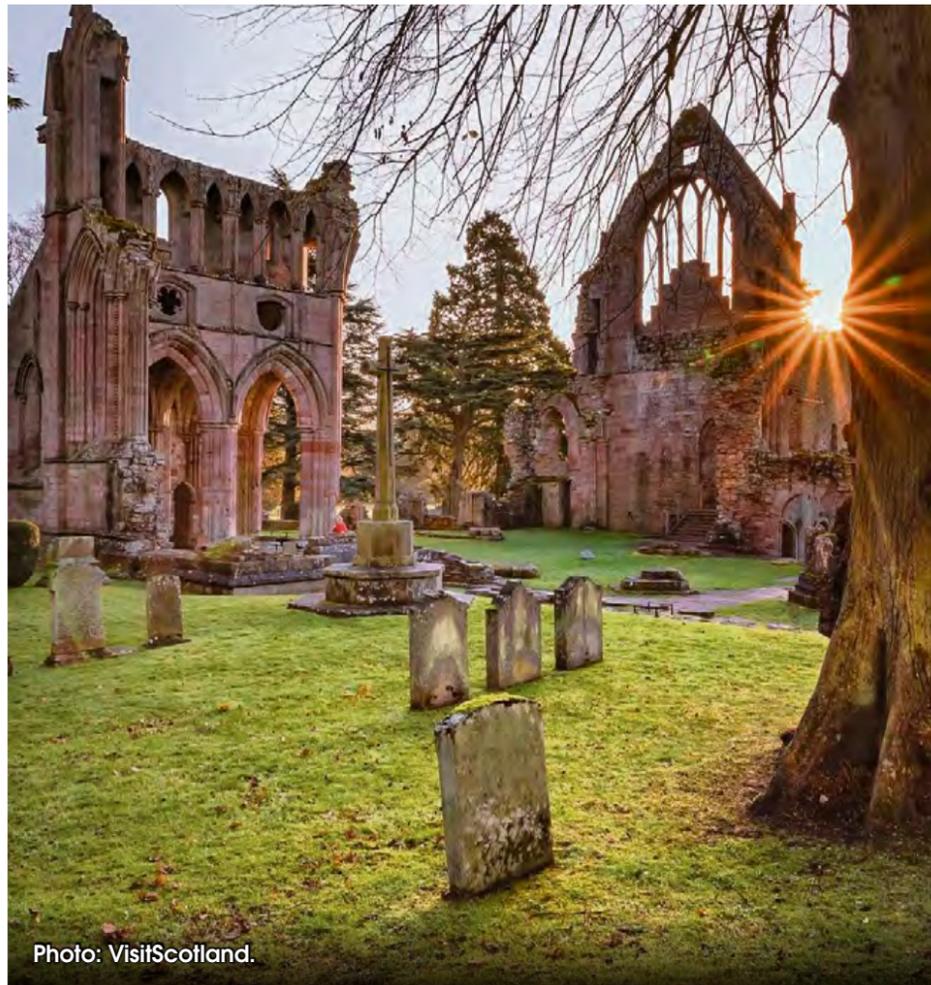


Photo: VisitScotland.



Dryburgh Abbey.

The Border Abbeys Way is a 64-mile circular walking route that loops through the Scottish Borders linking four of the region's monastic institutions. Their remains are significant tourist attractions; Jedburgh, Kelso, Melrose and Dryburgh.

Three of the Border abbeys are in bustling, thriving towns, but Dryburgh is not. It occupies a quietly wooded loop of the Tweed next to the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel and the small hamlet of Dryburgh itself.

The towns of St Boswells and Newton St Boswells are a short walk away, across the Tweed by footbridge over the Tweed, but you are not aware of their proximity when you're at the abbey. And the winding river means that both St Boswells are several miles from Dryburgh by road. Dryburgh Abbey was founded in the mid-12th century by Hugh de Moreville.

He was a friend of David I and was Lord of Lauderdale and the splendid-sounding title of Constable of Scotland. He invited some monks, or, rather, canons, from Alnwick in Northumberland to establish the abbey. These canons were of the Order of Premonstratensians. This is quite a mouthful, but it comes from the location of the first such foundation, Prémontré in France.

They were known as 'white canons' because of the colour of their habits. Canons, unlike ordinary monks, were ordained priests who lived in community according to their appropriate rule; the Premonstratensian rule was noted for its austerity. Eventually there would be six houses of the order in Scotland.

Temple of Caledonian Fame

The Dryburgh Abbey buildings whose ruins survive date partly from the 12th and 13th centuries, but major rebuilding

was carried out after 1385 when the abbey was destroyed by invading English troops under Richard II. The abbey was in serious decline by the 16th century, and it was sacked by the English again in 1544. At the Reformation, the surviving canons adopted the Protestant faith and were allowed to remain in situ.

In the 18th century the abbey remains, gloomy with ivy and trees, came into the ownership of David Erskine, Earl of Buchan. He was an antiquarian with a great interest in the Border abbeys and he set about clearing the site, planting trees and gardens, restoring the abbey and creating what he called a 'Temple of Caledonian Fame' featuring memorials to great Scottish figures. Some of his work was of questionable authenticity but at least he ensured that the abbey remains would survive. He died in 1829 and was interred in the abbey's sacristy, which became his family's burial vault.

Nature, history and location combine to make Dryburgh Abbey perhaps the most special of the Border abbeys and it must be a real joy to approach it on foot for those circling the Border Abbeys Way.

In an odd way, the abbey has become a temple of Caledonian fame. Three years after Buchan's death, the greatest Scot of his age, Sir Walter Scott, also died and was buried at the abbey. It's said that when Scott's funeral cortege reached the point where Scott would always stop to admire the spectacular view across to the Eildon Hills, his horses stopped as they were used to, and the cortege with them. 'Scott's View' remains a great tourist attraction today, and deservedly so; if you go by car to Dryburgh, be sure to stop there.

Scott was laid to rest in the Abbey not too far from the Earl of Buchan, whom he had criticised for his architectural meddling at the abbey. The graves next to Scott are of another famous Scotsman and his wife. Buried in Dryburgh nearly 100 years after Scott, Field Marshal Earl Douglas Haig of Bemerseyde was an even more controversial figure than Scott, which took some doing. He was the commander-in-chief of the British forces in France for most of the First World War, including the Battle of the Somme and the Third Battle of Ypres. His reputation is strongly contested, but here he lies, his grave marked by the same kind of simple stone as the hundreds of thousands of British and Commonwealth victims of the war.

Ancient stones among the trees

Since 1919 the abbey has been in state care and is now looked after by Historic Environment Scotland. The peacefulness of the site is perhaps the first thing that

strikes you, the imposing remains of the buildings the next. The abbey church, though only existing in fragments, is perhaps the most impressive survival; the North Transept is the most complete section and its form and surviving carvings hint at what has been lost. It is here that Scott and Haig are buried.

Elsewhere, the cloisters enclose an impressive square of open space, the cloister garth. In the time of the abbey there would perhaps have been formal gardens here, tended by lay brothers. The Earl of Buchan created new gardens here with a statue of the architect Inigo Jones in the centre.

The ground floor buildings on the east side of the cloister survive. The sacristy, as we have seen, is now the Buchan burial vault but the Chapter House, an imposing room with a soaring barrel-vaulted stone ceiling and the remains of original paintwork, is a must-see. It was a place of silence and muted discussion, yet the acoustics are astounding. You hope, though it was not normal practice in the Chapter House, that the canons occasionally could not help bursting into a hymn.

The south side of the cloister featured buildings that included the refectory where the canons dined. The most impressive survival is its rose window, glassless but glorious, on the west gable.

It is worth just taking a stroll in the wooded green grounds of the abbey, past occasional follies placed by Buchan, and trees that he planted. However, the most characterful of the trees can be found at the eastern edge of the site. Legend says that the Dryburgh Yew was planted here even before the abbey was founded. That is unlikely and difficult to prove but it almost certainly predates Buchan's tree-planting and is a soaring and impressive sight.

Nature, history and location combine to make Dryburgh Abbey perhaps the most special of the Border abbeys and it must be a real joy to approach it on foot for those circling the Border Abbeys Way. It is certainly the most difficult of access by car. Public transport is perhaps best; from Galashiels Railway Station take a bus to Newton St Boswells for that short walk with its crossing of the Tweed and the slow emergence of those ancient stones among the trees.



Scott's View.

Calling the Clans

Welcome to our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our office for full details. Our contacts are located on page 2. If you are contacting your Clan be sure to tell them you saw them in *the Scottish Banner* and please support these great community organisations.

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

Membership is open to those descended from Baird, Barde, Bard, Beard, Beaird, Brd, Bayard, Bardt, Barth and Biard or varied spellings of the name of Scottish origin.

In addition to the Society newsletter and the opportunity to associate with fellow clansman members may query the Society genealogist. **For information write:**

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President
3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565
Email: djbaird4@gmail.com

Regional Directors for Australia
David and Patricia Benfell
Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com
website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



Clan Cumming Society of the United States

www.clancumming.us
info@clancumming.us

c/o G. Allen Cummings
PO Box 6888
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469-6888

Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid
People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh "The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.

For information and membership application, contact Gordon Robertson
58/157 Marconi Rd. Bonnells Bay NSW 2264

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

Invites all Frasers and Fraser septs to join our clan society.

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts
Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com
Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/482236358590288>

CLAN BELL

Invites membership inquiries from persons named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Various resources available for genealogical research. Quarterly newsletter. Tents hosted at major Scottish games nationwide.

Website: www.ClanBell.org
Online membership: <https://clanbell.org/membership.html>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell>
Email: President@clanbell.org
Clan Bell North America
5284 Cross Creek Court
Acworth, GA 30102

Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

CHIEF: Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing one of these Names: Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day; Dye; Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dee; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dhaj; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagney; MacDhai; McKeddie. In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson.

Applications may be made online: clandavidsonaus@gmail.com or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P., P.O. Box 519 Baukhams Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

Membership invited to all who share the Sept names: Duncan, Robertson, Reid, etc.

UK: London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands
Canada: Ontario * Western Canada
Australia: New South Wales * Victoria * Queensland * Western Australia
New Zealand: New Zealand
Europe: Spain
Africa: South Africa
USA: Arizona * Carolinas * Florida * Gulf Coast * Mid-Atlantic * New Mexico * Mid-West * Northeast * Northern California * Pacific Northwest * Rocky Mountains * South * Southern California * Texas * Upper Mid-West

Visit our website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, our History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you.

<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>
Facebook: [The Clan Donnachaidh Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheClanDonnachaidhSociety)
Email: ivc@donnachaidh.com

Clan Galbraith Society

Includes name variations such as Galbreath, Culbreath, Gilbraith etc.

DNA testing project, members only databases, Biennial gatherings, blog, Quarterly journal.

www.clangalbraith.org

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

Family of Bruce International, Inc., the only such organization recognized by the hereditary chief of the Name of Bruce, The Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, is a non-profit organization established to create kinship amongst its family members and promote interest in the Family of Bruce and its history. Membership is open to persons who qualify by surname, by descent, or by recognized septs: Carlisle, Carruthers, Crosby, Randolph and Stenhouse.

Membership inquiries should be directed to:
Donald E. Bruce Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary
President 5561 Earl Young Road
1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Bloomington, IN 47408
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 www.familyofbruceinternational.org

Clan Donald Australia

"under the patronage of the High Council of the Chiefs of Clan Donald"

High Commissioner Mr A. Neil Macdonald
State Commissioners
NSW Mr John Currie
Qld Mr A. Neil Macdonald
SA Ms Therese McCutcheon
Vic Mr Norman A Macdonald
WA Ms Pamela McDonald

secretary.donaldaustralia@gmail.com
There is no joy without Clan Donald

Edmonstone Clan Society

Invites membership to anyone of the surname or variations:- Edmiston/e, Edmondston, Edmanson, Edmeston, Edmonson, Edmondson, etc. Chieftain Sir Archibald Edmonstone Bt of Duntreath

Contact: Mal Edmiston
3 Laguna Ave
Kirwan, Qld, 4817
61 (0)7 4755 4370
m.edmiston@bigpond.com

Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland
Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balchidder,
24th Chief of Clan Gregor

Great Lakes, New England, Pacific North West, Western U.S. and Southeast Chapters
www.clangregor.com

For membership contact Keith MacGregor
P.O. Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876
kmac1@optonline.net
Peter Lawrie, Secretary
6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland



Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

President: Alistair Cameron
cameron490@ozemail.com.au
Secretary: Terry Cameron
secretaryclancameronnsw@gmail.com

www.clan-cameron.org.au

Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald
Ph: 0412 090990
Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.clandonaldqld.org
ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.
There is no joy without Clan Donald

Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

Bill Elliott-Clan President welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family.

Direct inquires to: Jim Dougherty
Treasurer/Membership Chair
Email: elliottcommia@gmail.com
Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com

Clan Gregor Society Australasia

All MacGregors and Septs of our Clan are invited to join one of the oldest Clan Societies in Scotland Est 1822. If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative in Australia;

Frank McGregor - Clan Gregor Society
PO Box 14
North Hobart TAS 7002
Email: clangregoraustalia@gmail.com
Web: www.clangregor.com
"Royal is my Race"



All Campbells or descendants of Campbells and members of Clan Septs are welcome to join the Society.

For State Branches contact the National Secretary Margaret Vallance
Email: libertyv93@gmail.com
www.clan-campbell.org.au

Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

Membership is open only to persons of the blood of Macdonald, however spelled or of the blood of a recognized associate family or is related by marriage or legal adoption to either of these write for more info and a complete Sept list.

William H. McDaniel
High Commissioner, CDUSA
bill-mcdaniel@att.net

Clan Farquharson Association Australia

Clan Chief: Captain A.A.C. Farquharson, MC of Invercauld

Membership inquiries are invited from descendants of Farquharson and descendants of Sept family names. Please contact the association by mail to:

The Secretary: Clan Farquharson Association Australia
PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777
or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com

American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909 Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

Gregor Grier MacAdams MacNish Magruder McGehee Gregory King Peter Fletcher Gregg Lecky Black and many others

Contacting our registrar, Jeanne P. Lehr
11 Ballas Crt.
St. Louis, MO 63131-3038
Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org
website: www.acgsus.org

CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

HEREDITARY CHIEF AND SOCIETY PATRON
Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains
Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers

Cordially invites all Carruthers and their descendants to join us in preserving our Clan and Family heritage.

Clan Carruthers Society - International
officially representing Carruthers worldwide
www.clancarrutherssociety.org
clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

Proudly affiliated with Clan Donald Australia, Victorian Scottish Union and Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group.
Represented at all major Highland gatherings in Victoria.

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA
President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald
Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com

Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE
Hon Chief: Mrs Christina Milne Wilson
Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

A hereditary clan society formed by the children of Norman Hume Macdonald and Johan McKenzie Macdonald (nee Munro) who departed Scotland in 1854.

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CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG

Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society.

Inquiries to be sent to:
Sheri Lambert, Treasurer
P.O. Box 5399
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
visit our website:
www.clanhamilton.org

Clan Hay

April Rich
28 Oxbow Drive
Willimantic, CT 06226
clanhaymembership@hotmail.com

The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Hays(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Arml;Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgatie; D' Ay(e); Dellah'ay; Errol(l); Garrad; Garrow; Gifford; Hawson; Haygood; Hayter; Hayward; Haywood; Haynie; Hayden; Hayfield; Hayne(s); Leask(e); Leith; Lester; MacGaradh; Peebles; Peeples; Peoples; Turrif; Tweeddale; Yester

www.clanhay.com

INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC.

The OFFICIAL Clan MacFarlane Society
Founded 1911 - Glasgow & London
Re-established- 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC

Loch Sloy! We welcome all descendants of Clan MacFarlane from around the world!

Michael R. MacFarlane - FSA Scot - President
Brian J.W. MacFarlane - Vice President
Richard G. Kilby, FSA Scot - Treasurer
John K. Manchester - Secretary

International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.
PO Box 398 Glenora, CA 91740 USA
info@macfarlane.org

MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling), and descendants. **Recognised Septs:**

Askey MacAndie MacClure
Beaton MacAskill MacCorkill MacWilliam
Bethune MacAulay MacCrimmon Norie
Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallum Norman
Harold MacCaig MacHaigh Tolmie
Lewis MacCaskey MacRaid Williamson

- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
- South Australia - Rachel Hopkins 0433 184 375
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334

• Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

Clan Macpherson Association

Clan Macpherson welcomes enquiries from Macphersons and members of our Associated families. For information about local activities visit our web site www.clan-macpherson.org/branches

Africa: Derek Macpherson African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +265 999 512 620

Canada: Ed Smith Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 519 802 8821

Europe: Will Tulling Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +31 655 774 425

Scotland & Northern Ireland: Rory Macpherson SandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7525 763 765

Australia: John L. Macpherson Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +61 409 122 141

England & Wales: William Macpherson EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7877 363 507

New Zealand: Tony Macpherson NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +64 274 587 813

USA: Robert T. Macpherson UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 360 701 8133

The **Clan Macpherson Museum** is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150, and is open from 1st April to 31st October. Ph +44 1540 673 332. See <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/>

Clan Henderson Society

The MacEanruigs, proud sons of Henry, invite you to join!

Purposes of the Society

- Foster Scottish culture and activities
- Promote Scottish festivals and games
- Assist in genealogical research
- Foster fellowship among kith and kin
- Promote the history of Scotland
- Promote charitable and educational activities via a scholarship fund
- Gather the Clan, as directed by our Chief, **Alistair of Fordell**

Contact: Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
0439 330 012

www.clanhendersonsociety.com

Clan MacInnes Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

Worldwide, we welcome descendants of all spelling variations, including (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis, (Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.

Scott McInnis, Member Services: scott@macinnes.org or visit www.macinnes.org

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FOR INFORMATION:
WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

A. L. MACLEOD
3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B
WEST VALLEY CITY, UT
84120-6880

The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

If your surname is MacRae, or you are descended from a person having the surname MacRae (any spelling) or that of a Sept of the Clan then you are eligible to join our Society.

Australian Contact:
Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: learn@vsr.com.au

NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: sue.treg1@gmail.com

Clan Hope of Craighall Society INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

President & Commissioner: Stephen J. Hope
president@clanhope.org
www.clanhopeaustralia.org

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope
highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org

Membership Chair: Cynthia Hope Henderson
membership@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org

CANADA
Commissioner: Scott Hale
commissioner@clanhope.ca
www.clanhope.ca

SCOTLAND
Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope
commissionerscotland@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClanHopeofCraighall>

Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.

Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

Contact: N Dennis, 61 Alma Street, East Malvern 3145 Ph 03 9569 5716

Visit our website
Check out your Tartan and Sept
www.clanmackenzie.org.au

Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide

Descendants and Septs of the CLAN MACNAUGHTON are invited to join our Worldwide Association to learn and share our MacNaughton and Scottish heritage. For more info go to: clanmacnaughton.net or contact Mary Nivison Burton, Membership Secretary at: membersec@clanmacnaughton.net

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Clan MacRae Society of North America

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www.macrae.org

Need more info? Contact:
Bruce McRae, President
303-670-9611
brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com

Clan Irwin Association

Clan Irwin Association Patron
Alexander Irvine of Drum
27th Baron of Drum & Chief of the Name.
Contact: Barbara Edelman, Chairman
65 Colonial Drive, Telford, PA 18969
215-721-3955 chairman@clanirwin.org

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Over 270 ways the name has been spelled since 325 A.D.

www.clanirwin.org

Clan MacLaren Clan Labhran

Clan MacLaren Society of Australia (includes New Zealand members)

www.clanmaclarenau.org
clanmaclarenau@gmail.com
0422 223 161

Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: John McNeil
21 Coopers Avenue
Leabrook, South Australia 5068
Phone: 08 833 33990 Email: kisimul@chariot.net.au

Clan Maitland Society

Chief: Ian Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale!
We are all related! Contact your local society

North America: Rosemary Maitland Thorn
rthomnvrprdcn@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Carole Maitland carole_maitland@yahoo.com.au
4230 Colac- Lavers Hill Road Weeaprounah. VIC. 3237

New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz
33 Disley Street, High bury, Wellington 6012. NZ

We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at: www.clanmaitland.org.uk

Clan MacAlpine Society

102 Rainbow Drive #48
Livingston, TX 77399-10020 USA
Earl Dale McAlpine - President
Email: earlmc Alpine@yahoo.com

Clan MacLaren

MacLaren MacLaurin Lawrence
Lawson Low[e]
Low[e]ry Law[e] Patterson
MacPatrick MacRory

Mark A. McLaren, President
President@clanmaclarenna.org

CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, to join us in celebrating our heritage!

website: ClanMacNeilUSA.us
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram
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We are the only national organization of Munro in the U.S.A. affiliated with the Clan Munro (Association) of Scotland.

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Web site: www.Clanmunrousa.org
Write: Heather Munro Daniel
4600 Lloydrownn Road
Mebane, NC 27302

Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

MacDougall VP Membership 505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON N5Z 3B2

Email: info@macdougall.org Home page: www.macdougall.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall

Names Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyll and Clan MacDowall of Galloway

Conul	MacCoul	MacDoual
Conacher	MacConacher	MacDoual
Coyle	MacCoyle	MacDoual
Dole	MacDole	MacDoual
Doual	MacDoual	MacDoual
Dougal	MacDougal	MacDoual
Dougle	MacDougle	MacDoual
Dugall	MacDugall	MacDoual
Dowall	MacDowall	MacDoual
MacDowell	MacDowell	MacDoual
Lulich	MacLulich	MacDoual
MacCulloch	MacCulloch	MacDoual
MacClintock	MacClintock	MacDoual
MacHale	MacHale	MacDoual
MacHowell	MacHowell	MacDoual
MacKhan	MacKhan	MacDoual
MacLucas	MacLucas	MacDoual
MacLugash	MacLugash	MacDoual
MacLuke	MacLuke	MacDoual

Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc

Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.
Treasurer
383 Ash Brook Lane
Sunnyvale, TX
75182-3250

Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of surname spelling to join in preserving our heritage. Various family names are MacLellan(d), McClellan(d), McLellan(d) and Gilliland.

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

Contact Ross Nicolson
10/377 North Rocks Rd.,
Carlingford NSW 2118
www.clanmacnicol.org

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A. D. Pollock, Jr.
PO Box 404
Greenville, KY 42345
e-mail: apollockis@comcast.net



Clan Sinclair Australia

Membership and inquiries from all Sinclairs, Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants.

For further info contact
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Secretary: Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263
E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com
www.clansinclairaustralia.com

Scottish Associations and Societies



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www.americanscottishfoundation.org



The American-Scottish Foundation

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcomed from all Australians of Scottish descent.

For information please contact
The Hon Secretary SAHC, Susan Cooke
Ph: 0411097724
Email: alfredhcooke@gmail.com



www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



Clan Ross in Australia

for information contact Commander Des Ross
(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowan)

We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest.

Contact: Commander Des Ross at
lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853
Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0409 322 374



The Stewart Society

Welcomes Stewarts, however spelt, by name, birth, or descent, from all over the world. Annual Gathering in historic, Stewart-related properties in Scotland. Newsletter. Annual magazine.

Please inquire: The Secretary
53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT,
Tel/Fax 0131 220 4512 www.stewartociety.org



Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

(The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a nonprofit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels.

Ruaraidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor)
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org
Web: www.ozgaelic.org
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

Scottish Gaelic

Language Classes:

Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm
during school terms

420-424 William Street, West Melbourne.

Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277

Email: scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com



Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

Founded in 1905

<https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com>

Clan Ross America

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Paul D Ross, President
Virg Bumann, VP Membership
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membership@clanross.org
info@clanross.org
www.clanross.org



Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated

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william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au
<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus>
Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia
For further details contact John: 0427 990 754
Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com
www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

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rachel.hay@inet.net.au



Clan Ross of The United States

David Ross of Ross, Baron Balnagowan, Chief of the Clan invites all Ross', septs and their descendants toto join in preserving our heritage.

www.theclanross.com
clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com
Contact L. Q. Ross
105 S. Graham Ave, Orlando, FL 32803



Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

The Society cordially invites membership of all Sutherlands (however the name is spelled) and of the associated families: Cheyne, Duffus, Gray, Frederith, Mowat and Oliphant.

Email: Secretary@ClanSutherland.org
Website: www.ClanSutherland.org



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in Newcastle, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas. Members and interested people are welcome to attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night, St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.

Web: hvscots.org Email: hunterscots@gmail.com
P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER



The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited
ABN 30 093 578 860

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association
The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC,
www.standrewsociety.com



Clan Scott Australia Group

Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch KT, K.B.E
Commissioner: Heather de Sylva

Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs:
Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.
E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com

Clan Young Australia



Ian J Young AM
Convenor

Membership inquiries:
Clan Young Australia
10 Cedric Street
Parkdale VIC 3195
membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au
www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.



- > Promotes interest in the works, life and milieu of the Scottish Poet Robert Burns
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For Membership Information contact:
Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973
Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au

Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

Scottish Resource Centre
Level 1, 420 - 424 William St.
West Melbourne VIC 3003

E-mail: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au
Website: <https://scotsofaus.org.au>
Facebook: facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria



Clan Shaw Society

Invites membership or inquires from all: Shaw, Ayson, Adamson, Esson, MacAy, MacHay, Shiach, Sheach, Sheath, Seith, Seth, Skaith, Scaith and Shay.

Secretary: Mike Shaw
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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Warrambool & District Caledonian Society
Warrambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society

Chief: Ms Ceilidh McKinna Robertson
President: Mr Douglas Pearce
Secretary: Mrs Jan Macdonald
T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930
E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
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Popular Pipes of Christmas Concert to return via the internet

“Festival of Advent” to showcase acclaimed Scots performers in beautiful and historic settings.



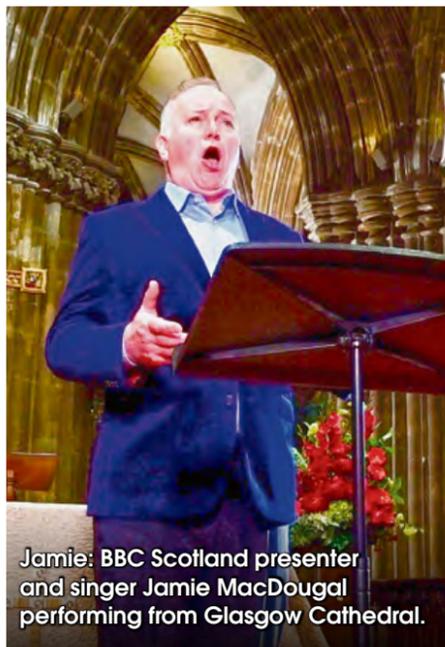
The Pipes of Christmas FESTIVAL OF ADVENT

Manhattan's annual Pipes of Christmas concert, a joyous celebration of Celtic music and poetry produced by the Learned Kindred of Currie, returns for a joyous 22nd year. Traditionally held in packed out venues, the 2020 production will instead bring this much-loved 'festival of the soul' to a worldwide audience in a new, unique and creative way.

A “Festival of Advent”

This year, in light of Covid-19 restrictions, the Learned Kindred is proud to introduce their Video Advent Calendar – a festive series of video webcasts – a much needed helping of Christmas cheer in these difficult times. To complement the new format the production team commissioned a series of inspirational films from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, Nova Scotia and New York. The first webcast will air on the Kindred's YouTube channel on 29 November, the first Sunday in Advent, with further videos on following Sundays, culminating with a one-hour production on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

In this dreadful year, too many livelihoods have been severely impacted – the creative and performing industries have been particularly hard hit. With many traditional St Andrews Day, Christmas and other productions cancelled, lights have gone off in theatres and halls across the world. Robert Currie, President of the Currie Family Society, a not-for-profit organisation, said, “While the making of this new video production has brought badly needed employment to creative people who might not otherwise be working, the Learned Kindred wanted to do more. In 2020, we will use part of the proceeds from our Pipes of Christmas Festival of Advent to support the artists working in the beleaguered creative industries. This is in addition to our continued support of young people



Jamie: BBC Scotland presenter and singer Jamie MacDougal performing from Glasgow Cathedral.

in education in Scotland, Canada and the United States through scholarships and sponsorships. It's a small gesture, but during Advent, a time of hope and anticipation, it was important to us that we didn't sit this one out.”

Learned Kindred's only fundraiser

This annual concert is the Learned Kindred's only fundraiser, generating their operating budget for the year ahead. Losing the concert income is financially devastating to their outreach programmes which support young people in education in Scotland, Canada and the United States through scholarships and sponsorships.

Recipients of concert funds have included the Royal Conservatory of Scotland, the National Piping Centre, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Royal National Mod and the Gaelic College in Nova Scotia.

Currie added, “It is our hope that via a crowdfunding programme, our friends, family and followers will consider making a donation to help defray production costs and provide us with some funds to operate in 2021.” A minimum donation of 20 GBP (30 USD) is suggested but viewers may donate as much as they wish. The concert website will include a PayPal link and donations can be made and will be gratefully accepted at any time.

“The Pipes of Christmas has, over two decades, become a treasured part of our



Jennifer: Royal National Mod Gold Medalist Jennifer Port performs at Dornoch Cathedral in Golspie.

holiday season and despite the Covid-19 pandemic, I am delighted to see the innovative programme planned for 2020,” said Joni Smith, Counsellor for the Scottish Government USA and a former Honorary Chairman for the concert. “I applaud all the hard work that has gone into its production and wish it every success.”

The Reverend Canon Dr. Joseph J. Morrow, Lord Lyon King of Arms added, “The joy this concert is marking at the season of Advent will be something of a glimpse of God's Glory as well an anticipation of the coming of the surprise

of God in bringing heaven to earth on Christmas day. I applaud and celebrate all the hard work by the many individuals in making this event happen and I wish it every success.”

The first Pipes of Christmas concert was held in 1999 and since that date the event has grown considerably with a larger company and extended performance runs. The producers have frequently commissioned new music for bagpipe, clarsach and other instruments. Traditionally, part of the programme is conducted in Scots Gaelic. Money raised from the concerts has helped fund the Learned Kindred's outreach and charitable programme.

The Learned Kindred of Currie

The Curries/Currys, originally known as MacMhuirich were for centuries hereditary bards to the MacDonald Lords of the Isles and the Clan MacDonald of Clanranald. Professor Hugh Cheape of the National Centre for Gaelic Language on the Isle of Skye said of the MacMhuirichs, “This kindred as ‘bardic dynasty’ with such a remarkable history ought now to be recognised on the wider stage of Scottish culture as a family with an independent role at the centre of a widely connected and well-ordered culture that characterised Gaelic Scotland.”

For a complete schedule of broadcasts, visit the concert website at: www.pipesofchristmas.com

Spaces for People 20mph trial gets underway in the Scottish Borders

Five communities in the Scottish Borders have become the first to have 20mph signage installed as part of our Spaces for People trial. A 20mph speed limit is now in place in Coldingham, Eddleston, Newcastleton, Sprouston and Stow, with work to begin in more communities soon. A total of 91 villages and towns will see their streets move to a 20mph limit by the end of this year, as part of the 18-month pilot.

Councillor Gordon Edgar, Executive Member for Infrastructure, Travel and Transport said: “I am pleased that the Spaces for People 20mph trial is now underway and has been well received in the first communities to see the signage installed. We also understand some people may have some reservations but this is a trial which we believe has the potential to help our communities lead healthier lifestyles, which is why we wanted to work with Sustrans Scotland to try out these new measures. We will continue to provide advanced notification of when communities will see their signage changed to 20mph and are regularly updating our timetable. We will also be asking the public for feedback in 2021 once the signage is in place across all Borders communities.”

Once the trial is completed and assessed it will be decided if the speed changes are made permanent.



Flowers of the Forrest Chief of Clan Morrison



Vale-Dr. John Ru Morrison, Chief of the Clan and Name of Morrison, who has passed away. *The Scottish Banner* sends our condolences to his family and all members of Clan Morrison worldwide.

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
1 Galashiels	1 Glencarse
8 Tenor	2 Ladle
9 Elder	3 Straths
10 Extra	4 Iced
11 Crests	5 Lothians
12 Littered	6 Inverness
13 Radish	7 Braid
15 Inverewe	8 Tattie
18 Emulated	14 Drum Major
20 Lowsed	16 Elderslie
22 Armadale	17 Well done
23 Editor	19 Ardent
26 Noose	21 Old year
27 Expel	22 Arise
28 Short	24 Topsy
29 Cellardyke	25 Deil



Gillebride: Royal National Mod Gold Medalist singer, Gillebride MacMillan performs at Glencorse Old Kirk, the setting for Jamie and Clare's wedding in *Outlander*.



Gibb: Guitarist Steve Gibb, originally from Inverness, Scotland.

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Honey glazed ham

Ingredients:

For cooking the ham:

2kg/4lb 8oz unsmoked boneless ham/gammon joint, tied
2 onions, halved
2 carrots, unpeeled, cut into 5cm/2in pieces
2 celery stalks, cut into 5cm/2in pieces
4 bay leaves
12 black peppercorns
small handful cloves

For the glaze:

4 tbsp runny honey
4 tbsp English mustard or substitute

Method:

Place the gammon joint into a large lidded saucepan, cover with cold water and bring to the boil over a high heat. Drain the water from the saucepan, add fresh cold water, the onions, carrots, celery, bay and peppercorns and bring to the boil once more. Reduce the heat, cover with a lid and simmer the gammon and vegetables gently for 20 minutes per 500g/1lb 2oz. (If your pan is not quite large enough to cover the joint completely, turn the gammon over halfway through the cooking time.)

Remove the gammon from the water and set aside to cool for 15 minutes. (The cooking liquid can be strained and reserved for making soup for another time.)

Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6 and line a large roasting tin with kitchen foil.

Use a small knife to remove the rind from the gammon joint, leaving as much of the fat intact as possible. Score the fat in a diamond pattern, and push a clove into the centre of each 'X'.

Place the gammon into the foil-lined roasting tray, ensuring that the sides of the foil come halfway up the joint to contain any roasting juices.

For the glaze, mix the honey and mustard together and brush half of it evenly over the gammon, including one side of the joint. Roast in the centre of the oven for 10 minutes, then take the joint out and brush the top and remaining side with the rest of the glaze. Return the gammon to the oven for a further 10-15 minutes, rotating the tin so that the opposite side of the gammon faces the back of the oven.

The gammon is ready when the fat on top is glossy and golden brown. Cover loosely with foil if the top begins to look too brown. Remove the gammon from the oven and set aside to rest for 15 minutes before carving.

Pour any juices that have collected in the kitchen foil into a small pan, and warm through gently.

Carve the gammon, serve on a large platter and spoon over the warmed juices.

Festive roast potatoes



Ingredients:

10 large King Edward potatoes, peeled, cut into large chunks
50g/1¾oz. lard, dripping or vegetable oil
2 pinches sea salt

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.

Simmer the potatoes in a large pan of salted boiling water for 4-5 minutes, or until the outside of the potatoes are beginning to soften.

Thoroughly drain the potatoes and briefly shake them around in the colander or pan to roughen up the edges.

Melt the lard in a deep flameproof roasting tray on a high heat and fry the potatoes on each side until they begin to brown.

Sprinkle with salt, to taste, and roast for 30 minutes, or until starting to colour.

Turn the potatoes and return to the oven for a further 20-30 minutes, or until golden-brown and crisp.

Sage and onion stuffing

Ingredients:

1 onion, peeled and finely chopped
1 tbsp vegetable oil
1 tbsp fresh sage, finely chopped
80g/3oz fresh white breadcrumbs
salt and pepper
1 egg, beaten

Method:

Sweat the onion in the oil, until soft but not coloured

Mix together the onion, sage and breadcrumbs and season well.

Add enough of the beaten egg to bind the mixture together and use to stuff meat or poultry or to roll into individual stuffing balls.

If making stuffing balls, cook in a roasting tin for 30 minutes.

Christmas mince pies



Ingredients:

225g/9oz. plain flour
2 tsp ground cinnamon
140g/5oz. chilled butter, cut into cubes
55g/2oz. ground almonds
25g caster sugar
1 egg, yolk only
55g/2oz. golden marzipan
170g/6oz vegetarian mincemeat
2 tbsp sherry
caster sugar, for sprinkling
cream, custard, or brandy butter, to serve

Method:

Put the flour in a blender with the cinnamon. Add the butter and blitz to form fine breadcrumbs. Add the almonds, sugar, egg yolk and 2-3 tbsp of cold water and blitz to form a soft dough. Knead the dough briefly on a floured surface, then wrap in cling film and chill for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, chop the marzipan into small pieces. Stir into the mincemeat, along with the sherry.

Preheat the oven to 190C/170C Fan/Gas 5. Thinly roll out the pastry and cut out twelve 7.5cm/3in rounds. Place the rounds in a greased 12 hole tart tin. Divide the mincemeat between the pastry cases.

Cut out 12 stars and place one on top of each tart. Bake for 20 minutes until the pastry is golden and cooked through. Transfer to a wire rack and sprinkle with caster sugar. Serve with cream, custard or brandy butter.

Black Bun



Ingredients:

For the pastry:
300g/10½oz. plain flour
75g/3oz. lard, cubed
75g/3oz. butter, cubed
pinch salt
½ tsp baking powder
1 free-range egg, beaten, for glazing

For the filling:

200g/7oz. plain flour
300g/10½oz. raisins
300g/10½oz. currants
½ tsp. ground ginger
½ tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. ground allspice
½ tsp. mixed spice
¼ tsp. ground black pepper
100g/3½oz. dark muscovado sugar
100g/3½oz. mixed peel, chopped
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 tbsp. whisky
1 free-range egg
3 tbsp buttermilk



This month gather friends and family around and eat perhaps a bit more than you should, and celebrate Christmas and Hogmanay with a great range of food and drink. From our table to yours-Happy Holidays!

Method:

For the pastry, sift the flour into a bowl and rub in the lard and butter until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the salt, baking powder and four tablespoons of cold water and mix to a soft dough. Turn out and knead into a ball. Wrap in cling film and leave to chill in the fridge while you make the filling.

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4 (fan 160C).

For the filling, mix all the ingredients together in a large bowl.

Line a 900g/2lb loaf tin with baking parchment. On a lightly floured surface, roll out two thirds of the pastry to a rectangle large enough to line the tin. Drape into the tin and press up against the sides. Spoon the filling into the tin, pressing down to compress.

Roll out three quarters of the remaining pastry to a rectangle large enough to cover the tin. Dampen the edges of the pastry with water and press the pastry lid on top to seal. Trim the edges and crimp using the tines of a fork. Roll out the remaining pastry, along with any trimmings, and use to make a bow to decorate the top, then attach with a little water.

Glaze with beaten egg and bake for two hours. Remove from the oven and leave to cool in the tin before turning out.

Mulled wine

Ingredients:

1 large orange
3 lemons
12 cloves
2 satsumas or clementine's
2 x 750ml. bottles red wine
2 cinnamon sticks
150g/5½oz. caster sugar (optional)
brandy, to taste (optional)



Method:

Carefully peel the zest very thinly from the orange and lemons using a vegetable peeler. Squeeze out the juice and reserve.

Stick the cloves into the satsumas. Pour the wine, 1.2 litres/2 pints of cold water, and the citrus peel and juices into a large, heavy-based saucepan. Add the clove-studded satsumas and cinnamon sticks. Bring the mixture just to the boil, then reduce the heat until the mixture is simmering, cover the pan with the lid, and continue to simmer for about 1 hour. Stir in the sugar gradually during cooking, until the mulled wine is sweetened to your liking (you may not need all of the sugar).

Strain the mulled wine and serve hot in cups.

Text and photos courtesy of Historic Environment Scotland. All images: © Crown Copyright HES.

What was Christmas like

for Mary Queen of Scots?

'Mary' Christmas everybody! From spectacular festive parties to tragedy and imprisonment, drama was never far away during a Christmas with Mary Queen of Scots.



Queen Mary's Audience Chamber, Holyrood Palace.

Mary Queen of Scots lived in a time of contradictions, when Renaissance luxury was expected, but Protestant austerity was preached. What, in these changing times, did Christmas mean to Mary? Mary was born in the bitter winter of 1542. Deep snow lay over Linlithgow Palace on 8 December, transforming the wide peel into a world of white. Only six days later she became queen, when her father died in despair after his army was routed at the Battle of Solway Moss. Her first Christmas, or Yule, must have been a subdued affair, with the roads blocked, the infant queen weak, and the court mourning the death of the king.

Yuletide tragedy

Mary was to spend another Christmas in mourning. After a happy childhood in France, she experienced a personal tragedy in the weeks before Yule 1560. On 5 December, Mary's husband, Francis II of France, died. Her mother, who had been acting as regent of Scotland in Mary's absence, had passed away six months earlier. In these sad circumstances, Mary came of age, and decided to return to Scotland.

In Scotland, she kept Christmas according to the traditions of the time. The period of Yule was 12 days of entertainment, feasting, dancing and merriment – as well as attending church services and making offerings of devotion. Though Scotland was now officially Protestant, Mary adhered to her Catholic customs.

Holyrood hi-jinks

Her first adult Christmas in Scotland was spent at Holyrood Palace, with great mirth and mischief. On Twelfth Night, in accordance with tradition, a bean was baked into a 'Twelfth cake', and whoever found it in their slice became queen for the day. Mary Fleming – one of Mary's ladies-in-waiting – was duly crowned "Queen of the Bean" and seated in state on Mary's throne. Mary spent the next five Christmases at Holyrood.

In 1565 she was there with her second husband – Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley. The two were often at odds.

Darnley's capricious nature made him unpredictable and untrustworthy. While Mary enjoyed the Yule festivities, Darnley made a great show of piety. No doubt he aimed to show up the queen with his excessive devotions. Thomas Randolph, English ambassador to Mary's court, compared Mary and Darnley's differing experiences of Christmas:

"The Queen's husband never gave greater token of his religion than this last night [Christmas Eve]. He was at Matins and Mass in the morning, before day, and heard the High mass devoutly upon his knees, though she herself, the most part of the night, sat up at cards and went to bed when it was almost day."

Darnley was still sulking a year later, when he was conspicuously absent from one of the most spectacular events of Mary's reign.



Footsteps to Linlithgow Palace.

Just before Christmas 1566, Mary arranged a three-day celebration at Stirling Castle to follow the baptism of her son, the future James VI. There were masques – stylised theatrical performances – penned by George Buchanan. A pasteboard enchanted fortress was erected, which guests watched being attacked by Moors, centaurs and fiends. A grand feast was served from a mechanical moving stage, operated by centaurs and nymphs. Finally, fireworks lit the night sky and cannon fire proclaimed the end of the festival.

Christmas in captivity

By Christmas 1567, Mary was a captive in Lochleven Castle. Darnley had been assassinated, and Scottish nobles had forced her to abdicate in favour of her son.



Stirling Castle.

By: Sally Gall



Lochleven Castle as it would have appeared during Mary's captivity.

She was never to spend another Christmas as a free woman. The following year, Mary fled to England, seeking the protection of her cousin, Elizabeth I. Instead she was taken prisoner. In the years that followed, she was moved from castle to castle at the direction of her captors. Twice she was moved on Christmas Eve – first in the wintry weather of 1584 to the dark, damp Tutbury Castle, and second, while seriously ill, to Chartley Hall in 1585.

It was here that she was discovered in a plot to kill Elizabeth and take her throne. Mary was executed at Fotheringhay Castle on 8 February 1587. During her many cheerless Yuletides in England, Mary must have remembered her Christmases in Scotland with fond regret. The days spent playfully reversing roles and feasting with friends were among the freest of her life.

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