



the Scottish Banner



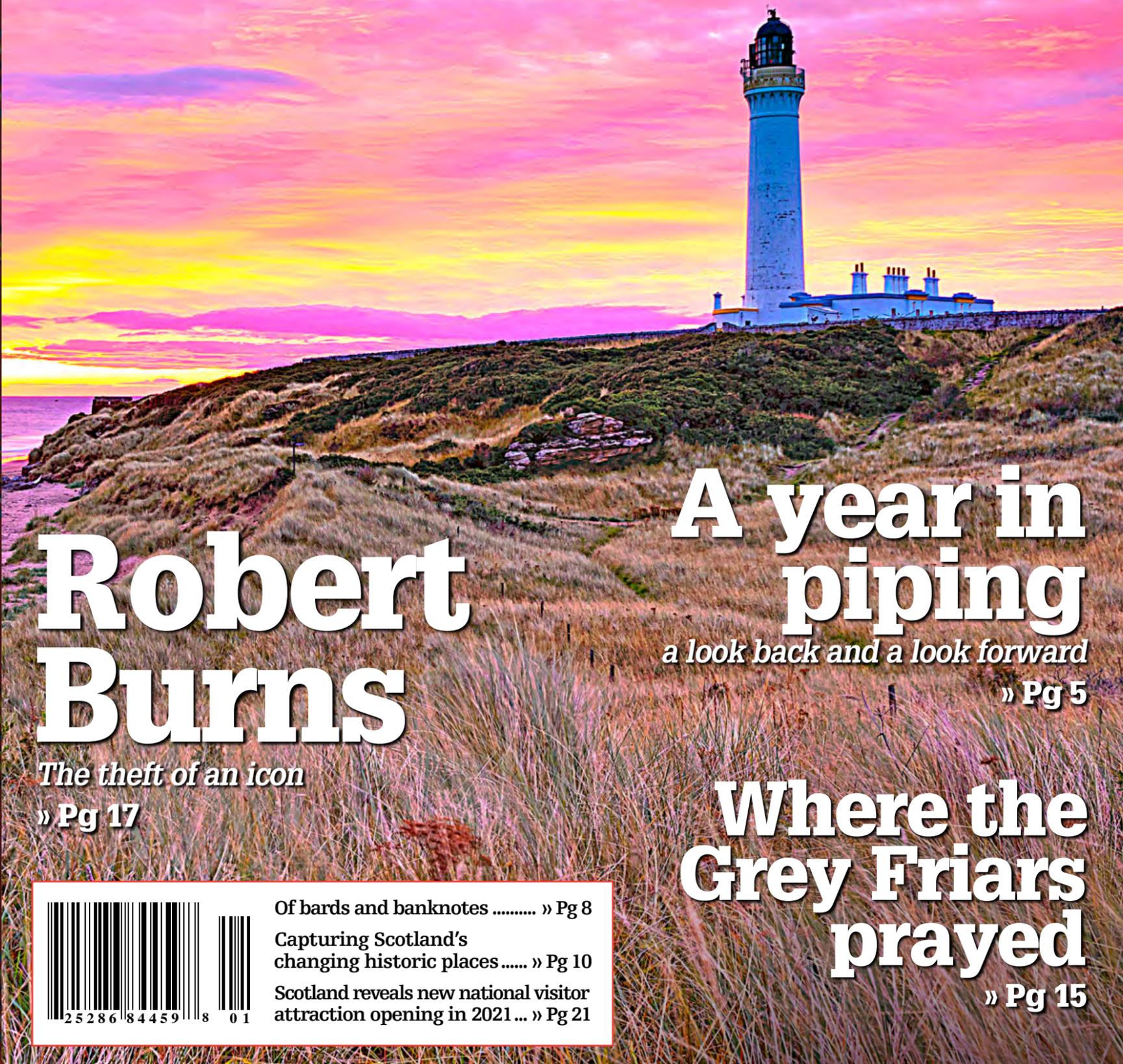
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A' Bhratach Albannach

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the Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

That's my Uncle!



by Sean Cairney

For nearly twenty years I spent each January in Scotland. It may not have been the warmest month and I certainly missed out on the long evenings of light but it for me was always a special time to see the country. I visited many parts of Scotland on its coldest and darkest days and loved it. The nation may have been quieter in terms of tourists and some attractions are not open but sharing Scotland with locals was always enjoyable. I do however have a memory of taking a cruise on Loch Ness and wondering if I would lose extremities to the cold coming off the beautiful waters.

John Cairney

Of course, part of being there in January was celebrating Burns Night. I have managed to attend several Burns Nights around the world and realise how lucky the Scottish community is to have this opportunity to celebrate not only Burns, but Scottish culture and tradition in the midst (for many) of winter. There are many great aspects people enjoy of a Burns Night from hearing poetry, music and connecting with friends. However, for me Burns Night and suppers will always bring back memories of family. The obvious for me is my Uncle, John Cairney, who has been so well known to audiences around both Scotland and the world through his one man shows about Burns and has

been considered one of the leading interpreters of the works of the Bard for many years. Uncle John came often to Canada where he would perform to audiences at sell out nights hosted by our family. From a young age I helped at these events, it could be clearing plates or setting up chairs and at times, much to my great embarrassment, being dragged up on stage by my Uncle to hold the haggis as he recited an *Address To A Haggis*.

I remember being asked by a lady at a Highland Games if I knew who Robert Burns was. I quite quickly and surely answered: "That's my Uncle!"

When I was much younger I did blur the lines of Burns and my Uncle. I remember being asked by a lady at a Highland Games if I knew who Robert Burns was. I quite quickly and surely answered: "That's my Uncle!"

Of course, Uncle John was not Robert Burns, he in fact is a celebrated actor who in addition to connecting many to the works of Burns appeared in feature films such as *Cleopatra* and *Jason and the Argonauts*. Uncle John also became an author of several books and has exhibited his artwork as a painter. For me though he remains my Uncle and someone I look forward to seeing, regardless of the month of visit, on my next trip to Scotland.

In this issue

This year many Burns Night's are not going ahead sadly. However, this month we are still highlighting one of Scotland's great sons. 1796 was a long time ago, however since the death of Robert Burns he has inspired many people across the globe. From writers to politicians and musicians Robert Burns legacy has left a global footprint.

That footprint was even left on money, as Burns wrote a poem on a Bank of Scotland guinea note. Amazingly nearly 40 years after his death the skull of Robert Burns was taken from his crypt by phrenologists (those who believe the bumps on your head can explain your personality and character).

This month is Greyfriars Bobby Day. The story of the loyal dog has been woven into Edinburgh folklore for years and the Skye Terrier's statue is one of the most popular in the city. The statue sits just outside Greyfriars Kirkyard, a place that has been called 'the world's most haunted graveyard' -surely that is saying something! The burial ground has quite an illustrious history and is well worth a visit, if you dare.

The pipe band movement has no doubt had a tough year. With band practices and competitions not possible for many. The fraternity of the pipe band movement is without question one of many members with bands all coming together in both competition and friendship. It is good to see new ways bands across the world are both innovating and looking forward to 2021.

45

As we ring in 2021, I hope the year ahead will be much kinder to the world. I also hope our events can get back on track for 2021 and most importantly we all keep safe. I will of course not be visiting Scotland this month and I look forward to the next time I can look out the airplane window to catch the first glimpses of either Glasgow or Edinburgh and know- I am back. One thing that this year will bring (in July) is the 45th anniversary of *the Scottish Banner*, a huge milestone for sure and one that was never expected. So, thank you to our amazing readers, advertisers and supporters and I wish you and yours the very best for the year ahead. 🍀

How will celebrate Burns Night or what would you normally do for it? 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



John Cairney performing in Canada.



Gracing our front cover: A dawning of a new year at Covesea Lighthouse, Moray Coast Trail. Photo: VisitScotland.

Celtic Connections 2021

Digital first festival



Celtic Connections has announced the first list of artists who will perform as part of their digital-first festival this January. Across 19 days, the festival will present online performances every night between Friday 15th January - Tuesday 2nd February 2021. World class performances will be available to view online with some of the biggest names on the Scottish music scene and beyond appearing on screens across the world as part of the winter festival.

The festival is creating unique digital content from specially commissioned projects and performances filmed across many of Glasgow's much-loved venues. In doing so the festival will support and encourage the creative industries to help protect Scotland's rich musical legacy. Celtic Connections also welcomes BBC ALBA as a broadcast partner with exclusive performances and a new series of Seirm@Celtic Connections.

The initial line-up has been announced with some of the most well-known and best-loved acts who have traditionally graced the festival stages confirmed to take part in this digital-first event. Celtic Connections prides itself on its international relations and every year it showcases artists from across the world. Organisers have ensured that a number of international acts who have filmed their performances remotely are also included in the line-up alongside a host of incredible homegrown talent.



A love of music with its roots in Scotland

Annually welcoming over 100,000 attendees to Glasgow, a UNESCO City of Music, organisers hope the festival's digital-first programme will appeal to the wide international audience they traditionally see attending the festival. With the festival's global audiences in mind, they have allowed for all shows to be available for a week after they are first streamed to alleviate any restrictions for different time zones enjoying the range of content.

Donald Shaw, Creative Producer for Celtic Connections, said: "It has been a challenging but exciting process pulling this year's digital festival together. I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the musicians who have contributed both at home and abroad, it has been brilliant to see them all get behind the concept and support our vision. We can't wait to bring all of this great music into people's homes this January!"

Councillor David McDonald, Chair of Glasgow Life and Depute Leader of Glasgow City Council said: "The announcement of the programme for Celtic Connections is always an exciting moment giving a glimpse of the outstanding performances to look forward to in January. This year, more than ever, the festival will connect people around the world through a love of music with its roots in Scotland. It will be a major showcase for some incredible talent and will be a reminder of the hope we all have of being back in venues in the near future to enjoy live performances."

Celtic Connections began in 1994, when its 66 events centred around one venue, the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, and welcomed 27,000 attendees. Since those early days Celtic Connections has become more adventurous, more experimental and more diverse and now annually welcomes over 100,000 attendees and over 300 artists to Glasgow for over 2000 events. The diverse programme has traditionally included world-class concerts and one-off musical collaborations alongside talks, workshops, film screenings, theatre productions, ceilidhs, exhibitions, free events and late-night sessions.

A huge range of musical genres are showcased across the festival, as well as genre-busting performances that defy any attempt at categorisation. This, alongside a host of special commissions and creative collaborations, have made the festival both distinctive and internationally acclaimed.

For information on ticketing and programming see: www.celticconnections.com

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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?

Clan remote outreach



Hello! Ciamar a tha thu! I am reaching out to connect with any folks worldwide/ throughout the Airts that are Chief's Officers or leaders of their (mostly Scotland-based) Clan Associations/ Societies. This writer is a Member of Council of the worldwide Clan Chattan Association in Scotland. CCA Council had a Zoom Meeting yesterday discussing 2021 CCA AGM and beyond. In our conversation we were wondering what other clan entities in Scotland were doing towards producing remote live events and Clan gatherings. We noted how well the Clan Farquharson Association did with its recent wonderful remote Gathering. If you are in the leadership group of your clan, I would

like to touch base with you to get an overview of best practises that you are doing in your remote outreach, digital clan events, etc. I will then present this to my own Council to noodle as we all chart a course heading and a way forward to connect with clans folk around the world and to keep the clan strong in these concerning and challenging times. Feel free to Facebook message me.
*Tapadh Leat,
William Shaw of Easter Lair
Scotland*
Ed note: Thanks for your note William. We encourage Clan groups and leaders from across the world to share ideas, collaborate and get through the pandemic.

Scottishness in Modern South Australia

South Australia currently has the second highest percentage of Scots born in Australia and probably the highest rate of descendants. It has well over 100 listed Scottish organisations and many more bodies that have significant Scottish connections.

A four year academic research program conducted by academic and former senior executive, Ron Layton of Adelaide, has resulted in a report being provided for the Scottish Government as part of its provision of significant Culture Strategy for a country that regards culture as of major importance. Mr Layton has previously submitted recommendations and these have been included in the Government's 'A Culture Strategy for Scotland' that serves as the blueprint for development over the next period.

The research has also seen the publishing, in September, of the book: *Scottishness in Modern South Australia*. It has been designed to show that the Scottish development in the State was different to other parts of Australia, possibly leading to a similarly variant in current representation today. It has also shown that the 'Scottish' culture in a region where Scots have settled over the centuries is only loosely linked to the home country, Scotland. Indeed each region develops in its own manner, a function of the overall regional cultural context. Thus, what we find in SA is different from any other

part of Australia, although much of the expected key identifying elements, such as piping and dancing are similar.

Cognisant of how important culture in all its forms is to Scotland there has been increasing recognition that the immense diaspora needs to be drawn into any strategy. This relates to the wide range of what might be regarded as culture. At the same time there has been criticism of what has been seen by some as the oversimplicity and nostalgia orientation of Scottish related bodies overseas: 'Scotland is much, much more than just bagpipes, dancing and Burns!'

The study sought to explore this contention in some depth. It found, for example that most of the consideration of things Scottish was outside of the organisations, many of which are small, narrowly focused and struggling to appeal and engage people of Scottish descent or others with related interests. Whether this is a problem or not is also explored on the basis that these bodies are only a part of Scottishness within any region. However, there was some indication that there would be considerable value in at least some Scottish organisations to far better take on board the more broad cultural components.

The book is well worth examination. Copies are available through Matilda Books in Stirling, South Australia.
*Ron Layton
Crafers, South Australia
Email: slayt6@bigpond.com*

FamilyTreeDNA Forbes Surname Group



Please welcome an additional Administrator of the FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA) Y-DNA Forbes Surname Group, Philip Stead. Philip is currently a postgraduate student at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, in the MSc Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies Programme. His goals for the Forbes surname group are (1) helping members with understanding of their DNA results; (2) advising members on upgrade options if they wish to advance their research; (3) developing the results page with clusters of appropriate genetic groupings; (4) assisting members to create genetic links to the House of Forbes; and (5) supporting other genealogical aspects of research.
Learn more at:
www.clan-forbes.org/post/new-ftdna-admin
*Clan Forbes Society, Inc.
USA*

SS Frisia



After years of searching for the boat that my great grandfather sailed on to come to the U. S. sometime during the mid-1870's. I came across this while I was online searching for pictures of ships of the 1870's. The reason it took me so long to find the ship was because I had the name of the ship spelled wrong.

*Jon Evans
USA*

Placing a marker for James Fleming, Highland Games Champion, at his unmarked grave in Melbourne, Australia

As I am in Campbelltown in Scotland it's a wee bit difficult to oversee the placement of a plaque or a gravestone in Melbourne's General Cemetery, Victoria, Australia. This would be for James Fleming, 1840-1887, a Highland Games competitor. He lies in an unmarked grave which is doubly unfortunate as he was one of the Highland Gatherings best sportsmen.

If I were in Melbourne, I would be able to undertake this easily enough. Could you possibly inform me if interest could be raised to put some mark of recognition in place as this is something that I'd dearly love to make possible?
Thank you very much,
*Martin Campbell
Campbeltown, Scotland
E-mail: martin.campbell@hotmail.co.uk*

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



Loch Alvie



Mirror, mirror on the wall...#LochAlvie and #AlvieChurch looking stunning in autumn colours. I really love this time of year.
*A View From My Camera
Scotland*

Loch Ard



Loch Ard, you've got to love autumn.
*Robert Gibb
Scotland*

Tigh Mor, Trossachs



Beautiful autumn day Tigh Mor, Trossachs, Scotland.
*GN Photography
Scotland*

The National Wallace Monument



The Wallace Monument all lit up in the colours of the rainbow.
*Charles McGuigan
Scotland*

Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Please keep letters under 300 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters can be emailed to info@scottishbanner.com or online at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us, alternatively you may post your letters to us (items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned). Please ensure you include your full contact details should you require a reply. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part!

By: The National Piping Centre, Glasgow

A year in piping – A look back and a look forward



With 2020 being the year that none of us expected in piping, we thought we would take this opportunity to look back at 2020 for the great things that did happen and that brought us closer, as well as those that we missed, then look forward into 2021 to see what light might be at the end of the COVID tunnel in piping across the world. In January 2020, The National Piping Centre had its year pretty well mapped out. Like piping organisations across the world, it had its plan of competitions, schools, festivals and events. This plan all started off well, with the annual Junior Piping Championships in February and the Competition League for Amateur Solo Pipers (CLASP) all going ahead. Our schools in Bruggen and Homburg also took place. Then the day before the Duncan Johnstone Memorial Competition, for professional B & C graded pipers, the pandemic took effect and everything was cancelled.

Scotland the Brave

In those first few weeks of lockdown, a nice ritual began in the UK – the #ClapforCarers – where at 8pm on Thursdays, people gathered on their front doorsteps to show their appreciation for the National Health Service and all the key workers. For the second week of this national movement, The National Piping Centre organized and mobilized pipers from across the world into action to show their gratitude in the only way we know how – by playing. At 8pm UK time worldwide, *Scotland the Brave* rang out with over 2000 pipers and drummers inspired to play with just a few days' notice.

With most of the piping year grinding to a halt, it became obvious that we needed to find a new way of working. The CLASP was one of the events at the forefront of this, staging some of the first online

events, leading the way in how to run a competition online well. Other online competitions across the globe, for all ages and piping stages have followed, all with their own creative way of making these events happen, giving pipers something to work towards, to practice for and as a way of staging in touch with each other.

Online events

Piping and drumming schools also transitioned well into online events, with Piping Hot Summer Drummer and The National Piping Centre's own Adult Gatherings successfully happening online. One unexpectedly great outcome was the ability to have people from across the world join the schools. The TNPC schools saw pipers and drummers from around 10 countries join in, leading to 2 time zones for lessons being introduced.

The major season in the UK was cancelled, right up to the World Pipe Band Championships, but with the first wave ending, the team behind Piping Live! brought the festival online. With just a few events that gave the flavour of the in-person festival, they delivered 6 events across the week. The Big Rab Show and others across the world held virtual World's parties to mark what should have been the highlight of the pipe band calendar.

As the summer moved on, piping organisations planned more online events, with junior competitions running successfully for Shotts, Turriff and District and so many more, helping to inspire young players to keep piping and drumming.

Being able to take piping music online has helped bring people together at a time when they needed it most.

Then moving into October, the Glenfiddich went online. With only the 10 competitors and a few support staff of techy folk and organisers, the Glenfiddich Piping Championship went online from Blair Castle on 31st October. It was a "best of the best" year with still competing champions and second places invited to take part to keep the 10 piper format. This fantastic day of piping saw over 700 people tune in to see two second places give a third overall win of this prestigious competition to Stuart Liddell, P/M of the 2019 World Champions Inveraray and District Pipe Band. Willie McCallum took home the MSR trophy and Jack Lee won

the Piobaireachd event. More events have moved online since to great success, with the Piobaireachd Society providing a great night of music at the end of November.

Looking ahead to 2021

So much of 2020 was lost, but with the move to online competition, events moving online to give fans across the world great events to tune into, as well as news of the vaccine across the world, are giving us hope for 2021. The NPC Junior Competition has moved online, along with plans for more Adult Gatherings. There have been two successful pipe band events in New Zealand and Australia in November 2020, giving us cautious optimism for the summer ahead. The 2021 New Zealand Pipe Band Championships have been confirmed for Hawkes Bay on 19th and 20th March 2021. The North American Pipe Band Championships are scheduled to take place in Maxville, Ontario July 30th and 31st and the World Pipe Band Championships are scheduled for August 13th and 14th at Glasgow Green.

So much has been learned and gained, as well as lost, in 2020. Being able to take piping music online has helped bring people together at a time when they needed it most. But we know that what online can't replace is the gathering together. We look forward to 2021 and hope that we can all gather together again to enjoy the music that we love.

The National Piping Centre is a charity, registered in Scotland. It has had a very tough year, and if you would like to help support the work it does in promoting the history and study of this great instrument and more, please go to www.thepipingcentre.co.uk and donate now through PayPal.



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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.



"We are extremely pleased to be working with Urras nan Tursachan on this exciting new project. The landscape holds so many fascinating secrets that we hope can be addressed through a combination of geophysical remote sensing and boots-on-the-ground with the local community volunteers."

Dr Richard Bates of the University of St Andrews said as funding has been made available to discover the secrets of hidden stone circles on the Isle of Lewis. The new project will allow the team and community to extend the investigations to the other stone sites and importantly to map the Neolithic landscape buried beneath the peat and submerged offshore. Community volunteers helped to survey one of the satellite stone circle sites close to Calanais and the team of experts was able to create images of the buried stone circle and also discover that a major lightning strike had occurred at the centre of the stone circle.

"The Scottish Government has made the right decision in this particular instance. It underlines the importance of maintaining the integrity of the battlefield and its surroundings for future generations. This decision will be welcomed nationally and internationally, underlining the importance of Culloden in world history, and I hope this is indicative of the stance that the Scottish Government take

regarding future applications in and around the battlefield conservation area."

Councillor Ken Gowans said after plans to build a house on the historic Culloden Battlefield was rejected by Scottish Government ministers. Culloden Battlefield was the scene of major fighting during the battle in April 1746 between the Jacobites and British forces.



"The Kingston Bridge has become an iconic landmark in Glasgow, so I'm pleased to see its 50 years of operation being recognised in this way. The crossing played its part in taking a significant amount of traffic off the city centre streets and paved the way for the pedestrianisation of Sauchiehall Street, Buchanan Street and Argyle Street. It has also courted some controversy over the past half century, but there is no doubt it continues to play a vital role today. The work that's been carried out to ensure it continues to do this job in the future has won civil engineering awards, so having the Kingston Bridge formally listed is a fitting way to mark its impact over the past 50 years."

Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, said as Glasgow's Kingston Bridge has been recognised with listing status at Category C for its special architectural and historic interest.

Through listing, the bridge has been recognised as a significant – albeit controversial – infrastructure project which transformed the city of Glasgow. Forming part of the M8, Scotland's first motorway, its construction reflected the social and economic changes taking place in Scotland's cities in the mid-20th century, as private car ownership rapidly rose.

"I am pleased to announce that the vaccine is now in Scotland and being stored safely in order for vaccinations to begin. Science has given us hope and we are starting on a journey which will eventually allow us to escape this terrible virus. Following clinical advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, we will begin with those groups which have been prioritised to address 99% of preventable deaths associated with Covid-19. These include the elderly, care home residents and staff, and frontline health and social care workers."

Scotland's Health Secretary Jeane Freeman said as Scotland received its first delivery of the new coronavirus vaccine in December. It is the largest immunisation programme in NHS history.



Behind the scenes of The Crown at Ardverrick Estate. Photo: Netflix.

"The Crown makes a welcome return to Netflix and we look forward to seeing the dramatic landscapes and estates of the

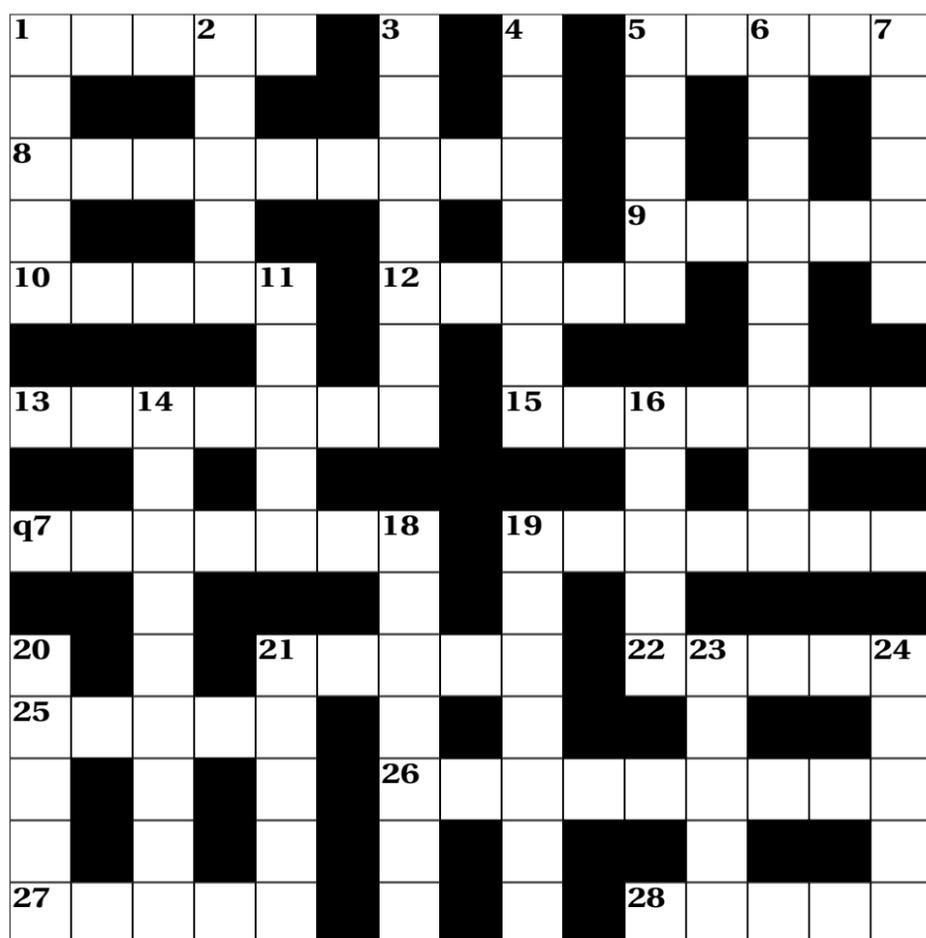
Highlands recreating pivotal royal moments from the past. The impact of film and TV goes far beyond the production spend, with research finding that one in five visitors are inspired to plan a trip to Scotland after seeing it on-screen. The streaming platform's ability to engage with a huge worldwide audience will help strengthen our on-screen presence and keep the Highlands, and Scotland, front of mind for potential visitors in the future."

Chris Taylor, Regional Leadership Director at VisitScotland, said as Caithness, Inverness-shire and the Cairngorms take on starring roles in award-winning Netflix series, *The Crown*, as it recently returned to screens for a fourth series. The Highlands is one of around 90 different UK locations which features in the series posing as royal residences and even places further afield. More than 70 million households worldwide have watched the royal drama since it began in 2016, according to Netflix.

"Getting to 560,000 is a huge success – it's a gangbuster. We want all our courses to be as representative as possible and the course now has recorded audio from 17 speakers from across the Highlands, Islands and Lowlands of Scotland."

UK manager of language learning app Duolingo, Colin Watkins, said over 560,000 people around the world have signed up to learn Gaelic – nearly ten times the official number of native speakers. The Gaelic app launched in 2019 and has nearly one third of participants hailing from Scotland, an additional third from the USA and the remainder from the rest from across the world.

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) Village west of Golspie (5).
- 5) Scots bonnet (5).
- 8) Grey Mare's Tail is one (9).
- 9) Peaceful branch (5).
- 10) Razor cut (5).
- 12) Stony landmark (5).
- 13) Dribble in Scots (7).
- 15) Bridge near Inverness (7).
- 17) Bookkeeper (7).
- 19) Old Scots shoe (7).
- 21) Town east of Dumfries (5).
- 22) Clarsachs (5).
- 25) Art supporter (5).
- 26) Birds nests (9).
- 27) Wader! (5).
- 28) England - the auld . . . (5).

CLUES DOWN:

- 1) Largest Hebridean island (5).
- 2) Smokes in Scotland (5).
- 3) Old transport (7).
- 4 and 19 Down) Border delicacy (7, 7).
- 5) Port north of Ayr (5).
- 6) Scot to keep you dry! (9).
- 7) Peasant (5).
- 11) Nun gets used to it! (5).
- 14) Town east of Nairn (9).
- 16) Scots street gutter (5).
- 18) Town west of Glasgow (7).
- 19) See 4 Down.
- 20) Town south-east of Elgin (5).
- 21) Central water (5).
- 23) Front of kilt (5).
- 24) Killed Scot isn't this! (5).

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor on a climb.

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.



Greetings from Scotland. Still a mild place for this time of year. But whilst it may not be cold, it is wet. Which is perhaps not the best conditions to go up into the hills. Then, as they say, if you wait for a good day in Scotland, you'll never do any climbing...

The Fox of Glencoe

One man who scaled an awful lot of heights in his time was the legendary Dr Hamish MacInnes. A great character, nicely eccentric and driven to conquer the most demanding peaks, he was said to be Scotland's greatest mountaineer. I say 'was' because Dr MacInnes has just died. Yet his legacy lives on. This intrepid Scotsman invented a rescue stretcher. He designed a revolutionary metal ice axe and wrote numerous mountaineering books. He led some twenty climbing expeditions, including ones to Everest. Back at home he set up local mountain rescue teams and was an advisor on Hollywood films that involved climbs. Born in the south, in the Galloway hills, Dr MacInnes went to live in the Highlands – and there in the shadow of Glencoe could surround himself with ever more towering peaks.

Hauling yourself up a sheer rock face is not for the faint hearted, but the 'Fox of Glencoe', so-called because of his cunning in the high hills, was a great survivor. He was ninety when he passed away.

Munros

The urge to climb is in many a Scotsman's blood. The Cairngorm Club, based in Aberdeen, was founded in the late Victorian age. Then came the Scottish Mountaineering Club which was started in Glasgow. Among the founders of the latter was Sir Hugh Munro; born in England, but with a family estate in Scotland.

The urge to climb is in many a Scotsman's blood.

And it was he who compiled the list of Scottish peaks over three thousand feet. They were called 'Munros', and there were 282 of them, the highest being Ben Nevis at nearly four and a half thousand feet. If you climb them all – or go 'Munro bagging', as it is cheekily known – you will be eligible to join the exclusive Munro Society.

Then Scottish women, too, have made their mark in this area. The Ladies Scottish Climbing Club was formed in Perthshire in 1908, its members photographed in fetching tweed jackets and britches. Such attire would have been rather daring. Earlier photos from the Victorian age show female mountaineers in long skirts. How they ever got to the top is a mystery. As you can see from the picture, the young MacGregor also did his share of climbs in his day. They are usually in search of that elusive photograph. One time he was not heard from for three days and I phoned a Highland police station in a panic. Of course, he turned up later that day safe and sound.

Delilah

Someone else who can easily disappear is young Delilah. You may recall she's our daughter's dog. Delilah is a Chow Chow and has a habit of going missing, but the latest escape really took the biscuit. I got home from work to find the house in chaos. Because someone, it seemed, had left a door open. Dusk was falling and we set off in various directions. Calling in the rain. Returning soaked and empty-handed. 'She'll come back,' the chief said, sounding more cheerful than he looked. 'Why, ninety-five percent of dogs that go missing turn up...'

Eventually we went to bed. Back and front doors were left open with a bowl of food at either end. The rain continued. Wind rattled the windows. And Delilah, not yet a year old, was out alone in this?! Twice the chief went to check, but no sign. We got up early, and when it was light enough started another search. Through the woodland and out into the fields. By now the police had been rung. It was all over the community pages. Someone texted to say they could put a drone up to help with the search. Another reported suspicious drivers, possibly pet snatchers, being seen in the locality.

Then our cleaner arrived. 'Have you checked right through the house?' this wonderful woman asked. I assured her that the place had been searched from top to bottom. She took the Hoover upstairs. A shriek followed as a door was opened and Delilah staggered out from a little-used bedroom. She had eaten some of the carpet, but other than looking a bit indignant, appeared none the worse for wear for her sixteen-hour ordeal.

The strange thing is that she never barked once. When the room was checked she must have been sleeping soundly under the bed. Tawny and lion-like, she's an adorable creature, but she'd be no good on a climb, lazy thing that she is...

Canadian Kilt Skates continue with "Home Edition"



For the past six years, the Scottish Society of Ottawa (SSO) has helped Canadian cities celebrate Scottish heritage in a unique way: by taking to the ice in kilts. This winter, with

COVID protocols restricting the number of people at gatherings, they've found an innovative way to keep the tradition strong for the Seventh Annual Great Canadian Kilt Skate: the "Home Edition."

Skating can be an individual pursuit. It can be a small family outing. It's well suited to social distancing. So SSO is encouraging kilt skaters across Canada to stay safe. Skate on your own. Get out with your family. Follow the rules. Have a good time this winter. Oh, and send pictures to #kiltskate.

Many cities have made tentative plans for their usual events this winter. The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary, for example, has been invited to include its kilt skate as part of the city's first ever Chinook Blast winter festival. In Alexandria, Ontario, the Glengarry Sports Palace has already booked so the two-time winner of the "Kilt Skate Capital of Canada" will defend its title.

The kilt skate phenomenon

Last year, these kinds of events were organized in: Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Fergus, Winnipeg, Saskatoon,

Lethbridge, as well as Calgary and Glengarry Township. The kilt skate phenomenon also went international with events in New York City and Dublin.

But organizers are well aware that public health measures may restrict their ability to host such events this winter, and so the "Great Canadian Kilt Skate – Home Edition" will encourage skaters to create their private events in their backyard rinks, the local community rinks, the frozen creeks and ponds, or anywhere they can enjoy the skate and maintain the public health protocols. Our faces may be masked, but our knees will be bare.

Individuals and families are encouraged to post photos and video on social media of their mini-event. The Scottish Society of Ottawa hopes to compile a video from the submissions, and the partner organizations will use these postings to make the case for their city as the 2021 Kilt Skate Capital of Canada.

The "Home Edition" may well propel kilt skating to new popularity in Canada. SSO is hoping to see posts from communities large and small right across the country.

In supporting the Canadian kilt skates this year, the SSO has once again partnered with the Scottish Government, which uses the events to promote its #ScotlandIsNow campaign that highlights Scotland as a dynamic, forward-looking nation that is a good place in which to live, work, study, and invest.

Information on the kilt skates can be found on the website of the Scottish Society of Ottawa www.ottscot.ca and at www.kiltskate.com



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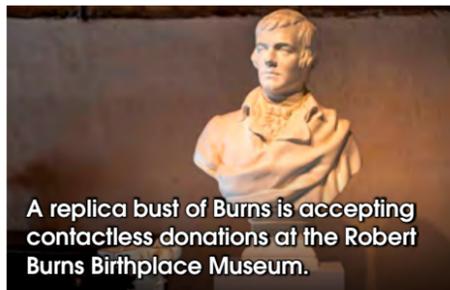
**Scottish, Irish,
Welsh Tartans**



Of bards and banknotes

By: Siân Yates, Bank of Scotland archivist

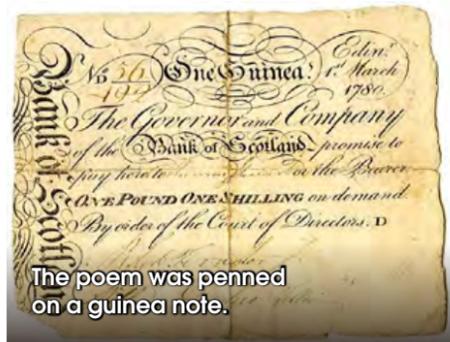
Siân Yates, archivist at Bank of Scotland, tells us about some historical links between Robert Burns and Scotland's oldest bank.



A replica bust of Burns is accepting contactless donations at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum.

The National Trust of Scotland recently launched a partnership with Bank of Scotland and Visa: 'Tap the Past to Preserve the Future'. This exciting initiative allows supporters to make contactless donations. Re-creations of two unique Scottish artefacts were unveiled at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway and Fyvie Castle in Aberdeenshire, acting as contactless donation points.

Siân Yates, archivist at Bank of Scotland, said: "Did you know Scotland's national bard once wrote a poem, quite literally, on a banknote?"



The poem was penned on a guinea note.

Lines written on a banknote

In 1786, Burns scrawled the following lines on the back of a Bank of Scotland guinea note:

*Wae worth thy pow'r, thou cursed leaf!
Fell source o' a' my woe and grief!
For lake o' thee I've lost my lass!
For lake o' thee I scrimp my glass!
I see the children of Affliction
Unaided, thro' thy curst restriction:
I've seen the Oppressor's cruel smile
Amid his hapless victim's spoil;
And for thy potence vainly wish'd,
To crush the Villain in the dust:
For lake o' thee I leave this much-lov'd shore,
Never perhaps, to greet old Scotland more!*

The banknote, with the original verse penned in Burns' hand, is in the collection today at the National Trust of Scotland's Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway. Lines written on a banknote was drafted at a difficult time in the poet's life. Still a young man and yet to prove himself as a writer, Burns was in financial doldrums. The farm he and his brother Gilbert leased was failing. Plans to marry his sweetheart, Jean Armour, had been thwarted by his penurious state. Oh 'cursed leaf' indeed. In despair, Burns was planning to leave 'this much-lov'd shore' to seek his fortune in Jamaica.

But within a few months everything had changed. Burns' first collection, *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*,

was published in Kilmarnock – and was a huge success. Rather than voyaging to the West Indies, Burns travelled to Edinburgh, where he was welcomed by the capital's literati. The rest, as they say, is history.

Links with the Bank of Scotland

Apart from writing a poem on one of its notes, what further links did Robert Burns have with Bank of Scotland? He certainly had personal connections with several officials of the Bank in various capacities. For a number of years in the late 1780s, Burns leased a farm at Ellisland near Dumfries from Patrick Miller of Dalswinton. Miller was a director of the Bank, and later Deputy Governor. Though Burns' tenure at Ellisland was not a very fruitful one (he gave it up in 1790), his friendship with Miller endured.

After leaving Ellisland, Burns moved to the town of Dumfries itself. Here he befriended David Staig, the town's Provost and agent (manager) of the Bank of Scotland branch there. A number of letters between Burns and Staig survive. And after Burns' death in 1796, Staig played a prominent role in raising funds for the Dumfries Burns Mausoleum. He was also a founder member of the Dumfries Burns Club.

Was Burns a customer of the Dumfries branch? It is a tantalising possibility, but unfortunately we cannot say for certain. Ledgers for the period 1788–95 have not survived. But later records do show that

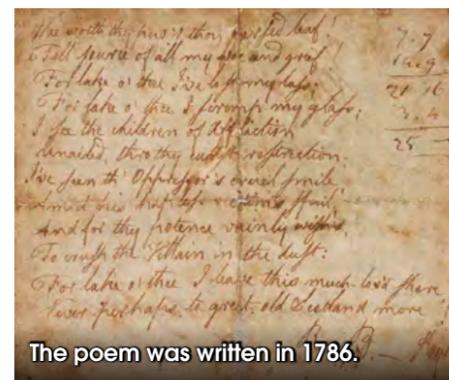


Robert Burns had planned to leave Scotland.

Burns' brother, Gilbert, had an account there, as well as the long-suffering Jean Armour – identified as 'Mrs Robert Burns'.

Examples of Bank of Scotland notes stretching back to 1716, and displays about notable customers (including Mrs Burns), can be found at Museum on the Mound located at Bank of Scotland's head office in Edinburgh.

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



The poem was written in 1786.

2021 Great Scot Recipient-Brian Cox

Brian Denis Cox CBE is a Scottish actor who works in film, television, and theatre. Cox was born in Dundee, the youngest of five children. From a working class family, he joined the Dundee Repertory Theatre at the age of 14. He then went to drama school at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. In 1965 Cox joined the Lyceum company in Edinburgh, followed, during the 1960s and 1970s, with various theatre and television performances. His first film appearance was as Leon Trotsky in *Nicholas and Alexandra* in 1971. Cox is an accomplished Shakespearean actor, spending seasons in the 1980s and

1990s with both the Royal Shakespeare Company, where he gained recognition for his portrayal of King Lear, and at the National Theatre. His most famous appearances include *Rob Roy*, *Braveheart*, *The Ring*, *X2*, *Troy*, and *The Bourne Supremacy*. He is also known for appearing in *Super Troopers*, *The Bourne Identity*, *Rushmore*, and *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, and many other film and theatre performances. Cox currently stars as media magnate Logan Roy on HBO's *Succession*. An Olivier Award, Emmy Award, and Golden Globe winner, Cox has also been nominated for a BAFTA and three Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Proud member of the National Trust for Scotland

Cox is a patron of the Scottish Youth Theatre, Scotland's national theatre "for and by" young people. Their building in Glasgow, The Old Sheriff Court, is named the Brian Cox Studio Theatre in his honor. He is also a patron of The Space, a training facility for actors and dancers in his native Dundee, and an ambassador for the Screen Academy Scotland as well as a patron of The Old Rep Theatre in Birmingham, one of the first Repertory Theatres to be built in the UK. In 2010, Cox was elected as the 12th Rector of the University of Dundee by students of the institution. He was re-elected in 2013. He holds an honorary doctorate from Napier University in Edinburgh, awarded in 2008. In April 2010, Cox appeared gratis in a series of TV advertisements to support Age UK, the charity formed from the merger of Age Concern and Help the Aged. On 14 April 2012, Cox was the 10th grand marshal of the New York City Tartan Day Parade. On 31 December 2002, Cox was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours List. Said Mr. Cox in an interview for a recent National Trust for Scotland magazine, "I'm a proud member of the National Trust for Scotland. As its name suggests, it puts the nation in trust – protecting our country's heritage. If lockdown has taught us anything, it's how precious our land is; we take it for

granted at our peril. We must continue to support and honour the Trust's vital work to ensure our natural and built heritage flourishes for years to come."

The Great Scot Award will be presented to Brian Cox at "A Virtual Celebration of Scotland's Treasures" on April 22, 2021.

The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA is the American friends group of Scotland's largest conservation charity, for details see: www.ntsusa.org

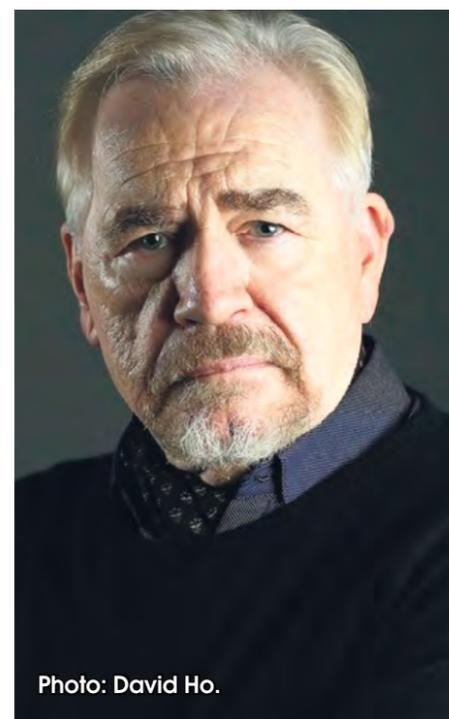


Photo: David Ho.

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The Resilient Scots are Celebrating “Scottawa” in January - Virtually!

The Scottish Society of Ottawa (SSO) will be celebrating virtually this OttScot 2021 Festival season. Upcoming events include the traditional Hogmanay celebration of New Year's Eve on December 31, the Great Canadian Kilt Skate Ottawa edition on January 16, and on to a celebrity-packed Burns Supper on January 23, and a dozen smaller events round out the Festival to help ward off the long days of January in the Capital.

The OttScot 2021 Festival will be bigger than ever, with lots of activities for all ages. The SSO kicked off the festival with a successful St. Andrew's Day Whisky Tasting on November 30th. The event sold out in three days, proving the popularity and reach of virtual events.

Hogman-eh!

A Fiery and Bold Hogman-eh! on December 31st will include a ticketed event to attend a drive-in production



from 6 to 7pm. Hosted by Graham Richardson, ticket holders can expect a spectacular evening, with musical and dance performances on the big screen by the Red Hot Chili Pipers, the American Rogues, Coig, Beth Malcolm, Natalie McMaster, Donnell Leahy, and Family, the RCMP Pipes and Drums, and the Campbell Trio, Change of Step dancing, RCMP Dancers, and the Ottawa Highland Dance Association.

A count-down to midnight will happen at 7:00 pm (midnight in Scotland)! A virtual edition of the production can also be enjoyed from home from 6 to 7 pm, or 11 pm to midnight, or at your convenience. We will have incredible OttScot Celebration boxes for purchase to help you feel the Scottish warmth and tradition of the evening. The exciting Hogman-eh! production will also be broadcast on Rogers TV and will be posted to the SSO YouTube channel. Links will be found on our website and social media.

The Great Canadian Kilt Skate Home Edition will unite Canadians across the country as people pull on their kilts and skates and take to ponds, lakes, and backyard rinks. The SSO is coordinating the participation of Scottish organizations across Canada (and beyond) and encouraging participants to video themselves skating in their own social bubbles and submit for a compilation video. In Ottawa, people can skate at home, or register to skate in limited numbers at Lansdowne on January 16 from 10 am – noon.

OttScot 2021 Festival

The Gala Burns Supper will be held on January 23rd with the delivery of a gourmet dinner to your home in the National Capital Region. You will also receive (or can purchase separately) a link to the virtual traditional celebration. The line-up includes celebrity guests Graham McTavish who will deliver the *Immortal Memory*, Donnell Leahy presenting the *Toast to the Lassies*, and Natalie McMaster giving the response. The Pipes and Drums of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke of Edinburgh's Own), the Ottawa Highland Dance Association, and a variety of entertainments will be featured, and the Ode to the Haggis will all be part of this virtual event.

A dozen events (or more) during the month will round out the OttScot 2021 Festival including dancing, cooking, cartooning, and Gaelic language lessons, travelogues, a book launch, storytelling, trivia and more.

The Scottish Society of Ottawa has a mission to “promote an awareness and appreciation of Scottish culture, and its significant contribution to the fabric of Canadian society and identity through widespread public engagement among as many Canadians of all backgrounds as possible.” Events are the prime way the Society shares the promotion and awareness, and the volunteers are working overtime during this pandemic to produce the best possible events that can be appreciated by as many as possible.

Just a hint – for ticketed events, buy your tickets early! Scottish Society of

Ottawa paid members get a head-start on access as well as a discounted price, so a canny Scot might consider purchasing the membership. Tickets make great Christmas gifts, and can be purchased on-line with no contact necessary. You will have to keep checking in to keep up with the everchanging logistics, but you can expect magic!

More information and ticket information can be found at www.ottscot.ca or on social media.



There was a man called Robert Burns

I enclose a Burns song which ended quite a few of my Burns performances. It was lustily sung by audiences after the show and some people did say it even sounded like a Scottish anthem. It was written for children to sing as they didn't like the old-fashioned Victorian lines of the original *The Star o' Robbie Burns* song. The adults picked up on it and it went on from there and must be sung lustily.

John Cairney
Glasgow, Scotland



There was a man called Robert Burns

Words by John Cairney
(to the tune of *The Star o' Robbie Burns*)

There was a man called Robert Burns
Was born nearby auld Ayr,
He made the songs that Scotland sings,
For all the world to share.

The songs that we all sing today
Sprung from his ready pen,
He gave us hope, he gave us pride,
And so, we sing again.

Chorus:
*Let Scotland as a nation rise,
The Lion Rampant roar,
A poet spoke for all of us,
And will for evermore.*

Though he was born a poor man's son
And lived a life of toil
He put sweet words upon the page
That time will never spoil.

He reaches out to every heart,
And touches every soul,
In every place in every land
He's known from pole to pole.

Chorus

His life among us here was short
Just thirty-seven years,
Yet in that time he gave the world
The answer to its fears.

That man to man are brother's a',
Beneath the shining sun
Where peace and love and harmony
Will make us all as one.

Chorus

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Capturing Scotland's changing historic places

Climate Change Scientist David Harkin explores six stunning images of Scotland's historic environment and the climate change stories behind them.

From towering lighthouses to quaint coastal cottages, photography has captured many beautiful moments across Scotland's historic environment.

But, taken over time, photography can also show how the changing climate is impacting Scotland's heritage. Because it's happening gradually, the effects of climate change can be difficult to show in a snapshot. And imagining how things will change even more in the future can be a challenge. With that in mind, Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) Climate Change Scientist David Harkin explores six stunning images of Scotland's historic environment and the climate change stories behind them.

buildings like this. In fact, our historic environment can be 'old' but still play a crucial role in society today, like this operational lighthouse.

Eilean Glas Lighthouse can be found on the island of Scalpay in the Outer Hebrides. It was first lit on 10 October 1789, and the site has continued to operate to the present day.

Sadly, coastal sites like this are often more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. They're at risk from changes to the marine and land environments, like coastal erosion, more extreme weather events and changing patterns in decay in their building fabric.

country, they have been built with their turbulent climates in mind – there is a pattern of dwellings being built with their gable-end to the sea. There are many reasons for this but one linked to climate resilience is that a gable-end is the strongest face of a building, and most resilient against incoming wind and rain. Cleverly positioning buildings like these has worked well in the past, but the changes we are seeing in our climate now may put them at risk. This is particularly true for changes in weather extremes.

Slate is great



Beautiful Easdale

As a geologist, this image speaks to me! It's an aerial shot of Easdale, a small island off the west coast. Once the centre of the slate industry in Scotland, material extracted here has roofed buildings around the world. In this photo, you can see the old quarries now filled with water quite clearly. Here we can see how many coastal communities can be vulnerable to impacts from sea-level rise and more frequent coastal flooding. In saying this, it is often the case that coastal communities are the most resilient to these changes as they have evolved and adapted to what can already be a harsh climate.

Historic landscapes

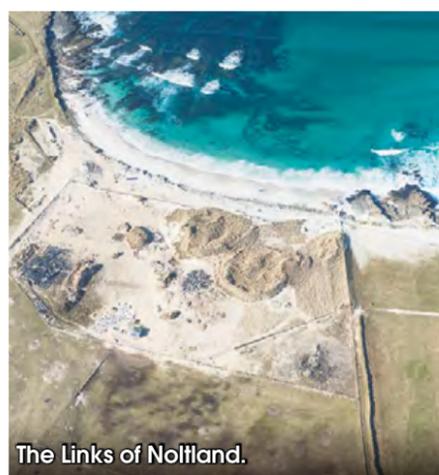


The Culzean Castle Walled Garden.

Scotland's historic environment stretches far beyond buildings – historic landscapes also reveal incredible stories about how people once lived. The Culzean Castle Walled Garden is part of beautifully designed and curated historic landscape, including the castle itself. This was once one of the most innovative gardens in Scotland.

Many parks and historic gardens like this were laid out intentionally for artistic effect. Tree and plant species were often carefully selected, but changes in our climate mean in the future they may no longer be suitable, and new (sometimes invasive species) may take hold changing the look and character of these landscapes.

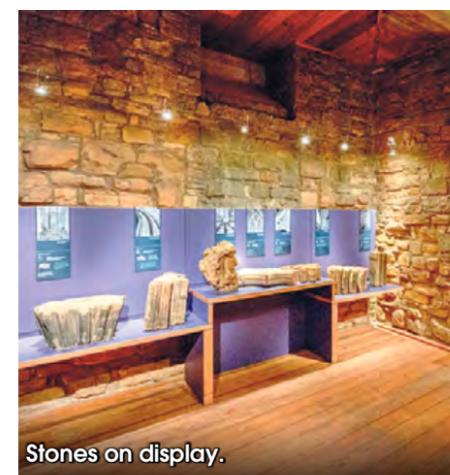
Beneath the surface



The Links of Noltland.

Links of Noltland is an extensive Neolithic farming settlement, and home to Orkney's largest Bronze Age settlement. Over the past few years emergency excavations have been taking place here as a result of the dune system that protected the site for thousands of years breaking down, exposing vulnerable archaeological deposits. The impacts of climate change can exacerbate processes such as those experienced at this site and speed up the loss of vulnerable buried remains that give us unique insight into how prehistoric people lived.

Objects from the past



Stones on display.

For many years, the carved stones of Elgin Cathedral lay buried amidst the ruins. In the 1800s, Elgin shoemaker John Shanks became the first keeper and watchman of the cathedral. When clearing rubble, he discovered many beautiful, intricate carvings. These objects that trace our history are vital in telling Scotland's stories from the past. Changes in our climate can have adverse effects on the preservation of objects like these stones. Warming temperatures and changing rainfall patterns can make it increasingly difficult to control internal temperatures and humidity levels, which in turn can damage vulnerable objects.

Historic Environment Scotland is the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment. For more details see: www.historicenvironment.scot

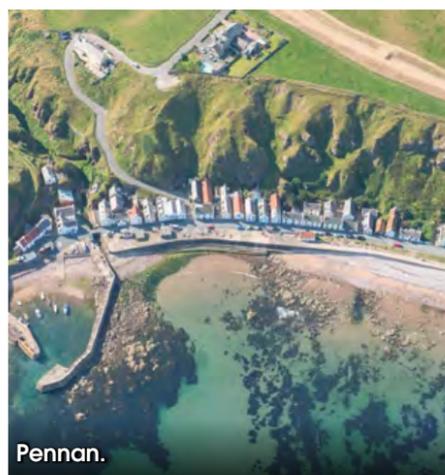
Turning tides



Eilean Glas Lighthouse.

Although Scotland's historic environment does boast fascinating palaces and castles, it's made up of many other incredible

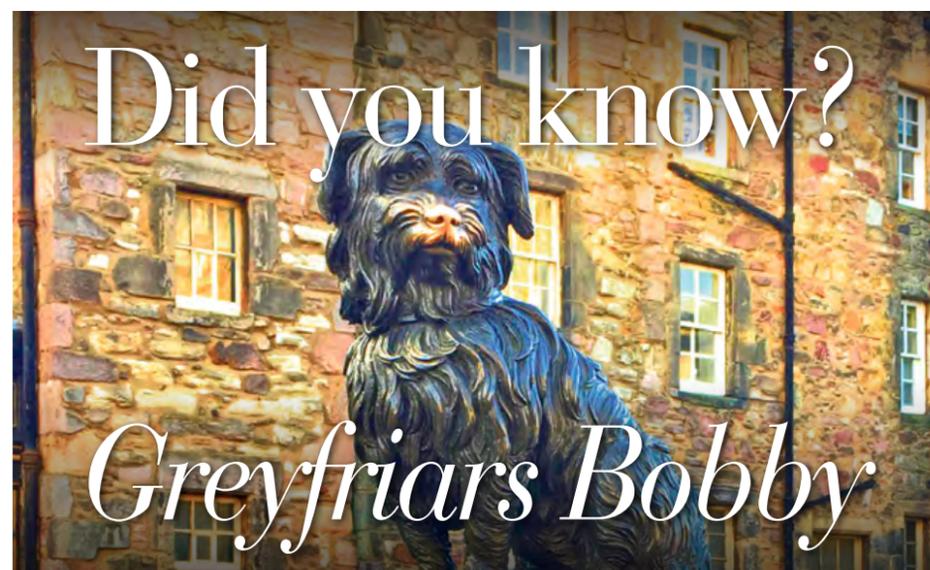
Gable-end to the sea Pennan.



Pennan.

Pennan in Aberdeenshire is an 18th century fishing village. Like many historic coastal settlements found across the

Text and images courtesy of Historic Environment Scotland.



- The Skye Terrier Greyfriars Bobby and his owner, an Edinburgh watchman named John Gray, patrolled Edinburgh on their nightly rounds.
- After his death in 1858, John Gray was buried in Greyfriars Courtyard, where Bobby would continue to visit daily and watch over his grave for 14 years until his own death in 1872.
- After the death of Bobby's owner, the then Lord Provost, Sir William Chambers, ensured the dog's freedom by buying a licence and dog collar, allowing him to roam the graveyard.
- Bobby's statue was erected a year after his death in 1872 by the Ladies Committee of the RSPCA. It is today one of Edinburgh's most famous landmarks and is also Edinburgh's smallest listed building, Category A.

- Edinburgh is the only city to have a dog on the list of citizens who have been given the prestigious Freedom of the City award. That dog is Greyfriars Bobby.
- Bobby was buried just inside the gates of the kirkyard. His grave is marked by a small pink granite stone.
- Bobby's collar and bowl are displayed in the Museum of Edinburgh.
- The story of Greyfriars Bobby has inspired three feature films - including a 1961 Disney version - and several books.
- Edinburgh Council are today trying to protect Greyfriars Bobby and save his nose which is gradually being worn away by visitors who wrongfully think rubbing it brings them luck. Please do not do this.
- January 14th is Greyfriars Bobby Day and his headstone reads "Greyfriars Bobby – died 14th January 1872 – aged 16 years – Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all".

Canada-Scotland Friendship Group relaunches on Parliament Hill

The Canada-Scotland Friendship Group has been reconstituted on Parliament Hill. Originally founded in 2011 and relaunched on October 27th, 2020, the group is a nonpartisan committee consisting of over 40 Members of Parliament and Senators, chaired by MP John Barlow (CPC), with executive committee members represented by MP John McKay (Lib), MP Marie-France Lalonde (Lib), MP Daniel Blaikie (NDP), MP Xavier Barsalou-Duval (Bloc), MP James Cumming (CPC), and Senator David Wells.

At the first meeting, members brought forward important topics of discussions for the group on which to focus. The topics include the upcoming election in Scotland, partnerships between Universities, agriculture, trade and economic partnerships as well as learning more about how Scottish Parliament functions.

John Barlow, Member of Parliament for Foothills, Friendship Chair (2020) said: "Canada and Scotland share a profound relationship joined together by family links, strong business and trade relationships as well as shared values, culture and history. Through meaningful work and discussions, the Canada-Scotland Friendship Group will embark on strengthening the bond between our proud countries.

During challenging times, friends support one another. This could not be more true than it is today and is certainly symbolized through the reconstitution of the Canada-Scotland Friendship group in 2020. It underpins our deep and meaningful friendship between our two countries, and continued support during the most trying of times."

Canada and Scotland share a profound relationship joined together by family links, strong business and trade relationships as well as shared values, culture and history.

Hon. Kirsty Duncan, Member of Parliament for Etobicoke North, inaugural Friendship Group Chair (2011) added: "As a proud Canadian with strong Scottish roots, I am delighted that the Canada-Scotland (Parliamentary) Friendship Group will support our enduring friendship, shared cultural history and values, with a strong commitment to forging new relationships. I am looking forward to being part of this effort and welcome it as new

beginnings of a wonderful opportunity that will allow Canadian and Scottish parliamentarians to work together"

Scotland and Canada are proudly and inextricably linked

Mike Russell, Scottish Government External Affairs Minister continued: "During these uncertain times, it is more important than ever to be able to rely on long established international friendships. Scotland and Canada are proudly and inextricably linked. It is wonderful that 40 MPs and Senators from across Canada and the political spectrum, have come together to recognise the importance of re-establishing this partnership. Our enduring friendship through this Group allows both countries to look at our modern-day relationship and identify opportunities of mutual benefit, including how we build back better."

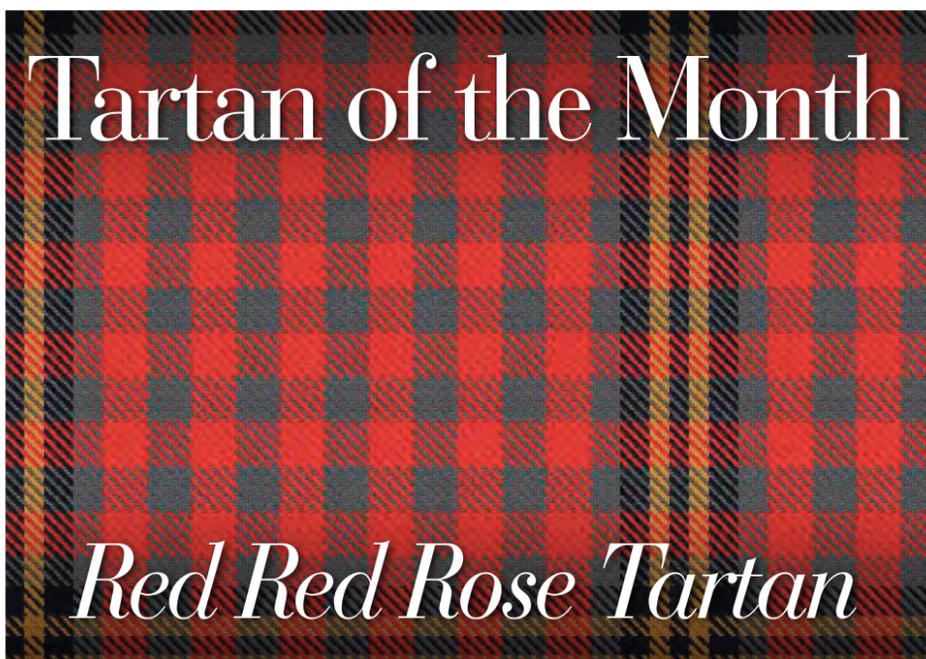
Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament concluded: "The setting up this Group between our two parliaments is such good news. The friendships between our countries and our parliaments is real and deep. Indeed, when this Parliament was set up in 1999 we looked at how other legislatures across the world work so there is a little bit of Ottawa's procedures and practices here in Edinburgh. I very much

look forward to meeting with the Group members at the earliest opportunity."

At the end of the meeting, the friendship group reiterated the importance of further advancing the ties between Canada and Scotland, and strengthening our shared values through the work of this committee.



John Barlow, Member of Parliament for Foothills.



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).

Designed in celebration of Chinese New Year and Burns Night both on the 25th of January. Chinese New Year is the most important and widely celebrated festival in the Chinese calendar, whilst Robert Burns Night commemorates Scotland's renowned poet. Festivities take place across the globe to mark both these occasions. The Burns Check, named after Scotland's National Bard, is woven in a new red colourway - a symbolic colour representing joy and happiness in Chinese culture. The Red Red Rose tartan (STA ref: 12659) brings both together to celebrate the historical moment in 2020 when Chinese New Year and Burns Night coincided, the next occasion being the year 2096. This tartan was designed by Lochcarron of Scotland and registered in October, 2019.

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Burns at both ends

Robert Burns published his Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect in July, 1786, to universal acclaim. Later that year, he set out for Edinburgh to print a second edition. In this excerpt from the newly released historical novella, The Riotous Passions of Robbie Burns, John Ivison imagines the welcome that awaited the young poet in the seat of the Scottish Enlightenment.



An etching of Burns' Jolly Beggars.
By R. Bryden of Ayr.

From the distance of nearly three decades, I can reminisce about Burns with great fondness. He took me under his wing, taught me how to bend Cupid's bow and held me in the grip of his charming sorcery. He was a bewitching figure — someone once said of him that when you shook hands, it was as if he burnt you. Yet there were occasions where he behaved damnably and persuaded me to be complicit in many of his deceptions. His belief that poets should be governed by different rules of conduct than everyone else inflicted scars that took many years to heal.

It was scarcely surprising that the man inspired mixed emotions — he was a mass of contradictions: capable of beauty and baseness, sensitive to the promise of life but also its many pitfalls, gifted with confidence and accomplishment while crippled with self-doubt. He possessed a rare kindness but cruelty, too. Being in his orbit was exhilarating and exhausting.



Author John Ivison.

The coffin

The night we met was a typical grey Edinburgh evening. I wandered into Johnnie Dowie's tavern and headed to the narrow little room at the back, ominously named "The Coffin." I looked in to see Richmond, Nicol and a third man — part peasant, part dandy — clad in a coat the russet brown colour of dead leaves, his brown hair tied back in a way that was not yet fashionable and with no trace of powder. He had eyes that were clear and strong and probing. The group sat eating oysters and drinking porter while the stranger held court. My friends did not see me, so I let him continue with his story before entering.

"We ranged around a bowl until the good-fellow hour of six and then went out to pay our devotions to the glorious lamp of day," he said. "We saddled up and spent the day passing the bottle as we rode. But then a Highlandman came past us at a gallop on a tolerably good horse that had never known the ornament of iron or leather. We scorned to be out-galloped by a Highlandman, so off we started, whip and spur. My companions fell astern, but my old mare was not called Rocinante for naught. She was as fleet as Don Quixote's horse and strained past the Highlandman in spite of all his efforts with the hair halter. Just as I was passing, Donald wheeled his horse, as if to cross before me to mar my progress. But ere he could, down came his horse and threw his rider's breechless arse into a hedge. Then down came Rocinante and my bardship between her and the Highlandman's horse. Neither horses nor riders came off as badly as might have been expected — just a few cuts and bruises and a thorough resolution to be the pattern of sobriety in the future."

With that he raised his bumper and winked at me as the others howled in laughter.

I entered somewhat red of face for having eaves-dropped, but I need not have worried. When Richmond and Nicol saw me, they rose and ushered me to take a seat.

"Rab, this is the newest recruit to our band of revelry, John Bruce. John, meet the poet laureate and bard-in-chief over the districts and counties of Kyle, Cunningham and Carrick, Robert Burns."

"Too kind, too kind, sir. Mr. Bruce come and join us for some homely fare," the man introduced as Robert Burns said to me.

"Mr. Burns, pleased to make your acquaintance," I said back. "I'd heard you were bound for Jamaica?"

Kilmarnock Edition

"Well my chest of belongings was already on the road to a ship harboured in Greenock when I received word that Dr. Thomas Blacklock, the esteemed blind poet and scholar, held my *Kilmarnock Edition* in some regard, and that roused my poetic ambition. His idea that I would meet with every encouragement in the capital for a second edition fired me so much that I posted to Edinburgh without a single acquaintance, bar our mutual friend, John Richmond, and not a single letter of introduction in my pocket."

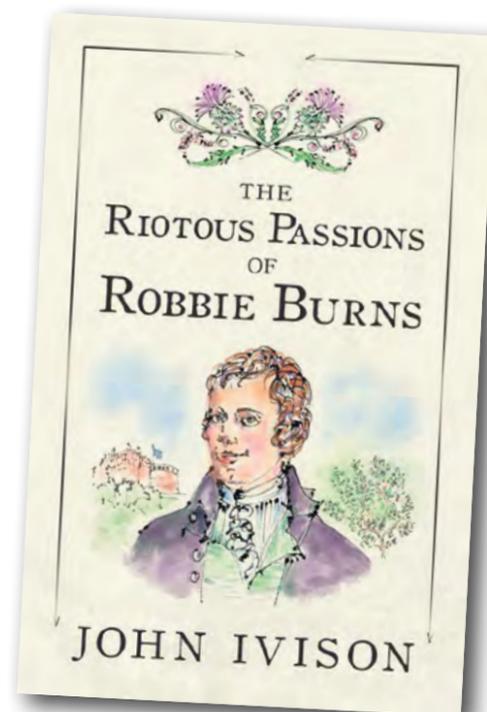
"So, what's next for you?" I asked.

"What's next, my boy, is a trip to Dawnie Douglas' tavern to introduce Mr. Burns to the Crochallan Fencibles," interrupted Nicol.

I'd heard about this club, ostensibly a band of citizens formed as 'fencible men' or volunteers against the dangers arising from invasion. But this was no ordinary fencible club. It was a social gathering, with mock military pretensions, of some of Edinburgh's most eminent citizens, named after an old Gaelic song the proprietor was in the habit of singing to his guests — The Cattle of Colin or Chrochallan.

When the happy triumvirate I had joined had finished eating and drinking, we made our way to a neighbouring close, where a sign read "Anchor Tavern Howff," with a scale stair leading down.

We descended and found a group of men arranged around a long table with three older gentlemen at the head. Nicol was hailed on his entrance to the Crown Room at the back of the tavern by the foremost man, who seemed to be in charge. He returned the greeting. "Colonel Dunbar," said Nicol, "I have brought you two new recruits, including the poet whose star is blazing across our skies, Mr. Robert Burns. Jock Richmond I think you have met, and may I present my kinsman from Annandale, John Bruce."



The Crochallan Fencibles

"Gentlemen, come in and take a seat. Welcome to the Crochallan Fencibles, a body of men who can scarcely discern between right hand or left for drunkenness. I'm William Dunbar, WS. Our military rank is as ludicrous as the threat to our security from the Americas. But we like to add a degree of formality to our revels. To my left is Mr. Charles Hay, our muster-master general, who is charged with drilling the recruits. To my right is our esteemed founder and sergeant-at-arms, Mr. William Smellie," he said, pointing to a man in mid-life who, having apparently grown careless of his costume and appearance, had a shabby coat, grisly growth on his chin and uncombed locks.

"You will meet the other members in due course: Mr. Cleghorn, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Masterton, Mr. Hill and Mr. Gordon. But a question first, Mr. Burns — are you a lover of the ladies?"

Burns stepped forward into the light and thought for a minute. "Sir, I am the greatest fool when woman is the presiding star. So much so that I am honouring my king by begetting him loyal subjects," he said to a murmur of general satisfaction from the membership.

"Well said, sir," replied Dunbar. "Then you will join us in saving the ladies. The rules to the game are simple. Each man has to propose his own girl as the loveliest of her sex, drink to her glory and vow to die in her defence. The one who drinks most and falls prone last is the victor."

At this point bumpers were raised, toasts made and Smellie rose unsteadily to his feet before launching into a chorus:

"Come rede me, dame, come tell me, dame, My dame come tell me truly,

What length o' graith, when weel ca'd hame, Will sair a woman duly?"

The carlin clew her wanton tail, Her wanton tail sae ready,

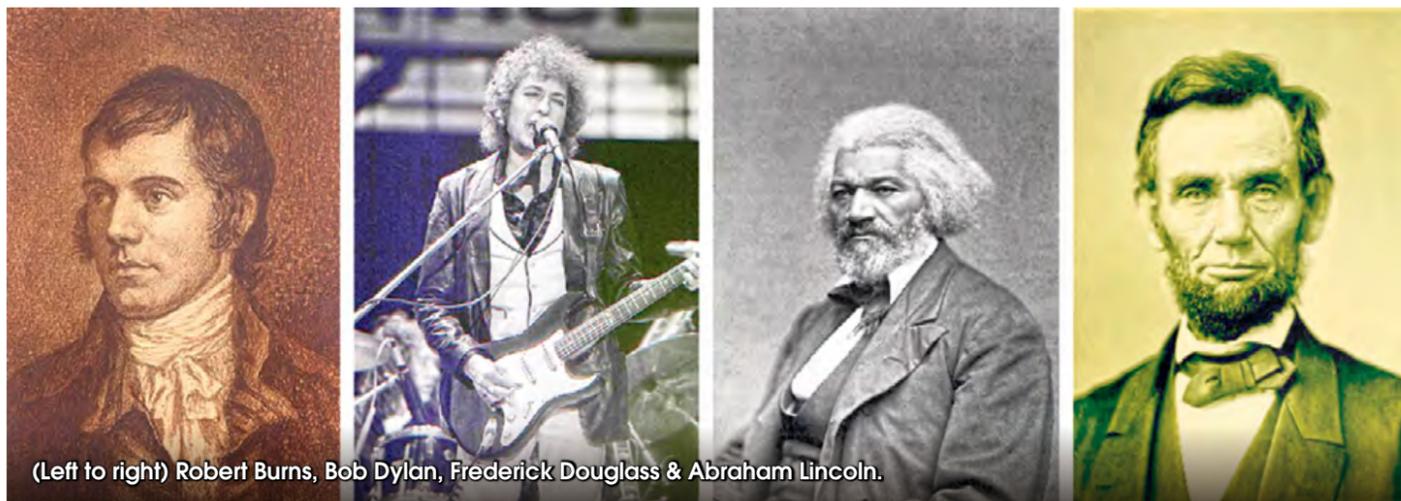
I learn'd a sang in Annandale
Nine inch will please a lady."

The Crochallan Fencibles had been called to arms.

Reprinted by permission of Ottawa Press and Publishing. The Riotous Passions of Robbie Burns is available in bookstores now and online now at: www.ottawapressandpublishing.com

Robert Burns then and now: *Inspiring creative minds for centuries*

Text and images courtesy of Scotland.org



(Left to right) Robert Burns, Bob Dylan, Frederick Douglass & Abraham Lincoln.

The legacy of Robert Burns is unlike any other and, hundreds of years later, his work is still inspiring the current generation of creatives in ways he never could have imagined. The awareness and popularity of Robert Burns on a global scale is so huge that you'd be forgiven for thinking of him as a mythical creature – such is his unmatched legacy. While the world has been blessed with some truly great writers and poets, few are celebrated in the same way as Scotland's national bard. Not even the great William Shakespeare has an entire day dedicated to him, but our Rabbin does!

While not everyone will know that he's responsible for its creation, you'll be hard pushed to find anyone who hasn't sung a few lines of *Auld Lang Syne*, his ode to eternal friendship, with the song even featuring in some of Hollywood's biggest movies. Yes, like a fine wine – or in our case, a fine whisky – Robert Burns seems only to get better with age.

For a' that

Since his death in 1796, Burns has maintained a firm grip on the consciousness of creative minds both within Scotland and further afield. Regarded as a pioneer of the 'Romantic movement', Burns' emotionally charged verses that centred on the natural world inspired greats like Wordsworth, Coleridge and Sir Walter Scott. Fast forward to the modern era and his impact is still keenly felt in the works of artists like Bob Dylan, who famously stated that Burns' *A Red, Red Rose* was his greatest creative inspiration.

As well as this, Burns was also very politically minded. True to the ideals that Scotland holds just as strongly today through some of our world-leading initiatives, Burns' *Is There for Honest*

Poverty, is famous for its strong views on equality for everyone. It's this firm belief that led to him becoming a great source of inspiration for both slavery abolitionist, Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln. Douglass frequently quoted Burns as he campaigned for the abolition of slavery, and Lincoln was known to be able to recite entire Burns poems from heart.

For a man so in touch with his emotions and his own sense of right and wrong, it's easy to see why Burns is so highly regarded – that he had quite the way with words is just the icing on the cake. It's understandable then, that the current generation of Scots are still influenced by Burns' work, creating completely new and exciting products.

Bringing Robert Burns' words to life in a new way

Based in Gourock, just 50 miles north of Burns' hometown, Craig Black is a world-renowned designer, lettering artist and typographer. Known for his bespoke and innovative murals and installations, Craig's work has been displayed everywhere from London to Sydney, Barcelona and Dubai. When he isn't developing jaw-dropping works of art, Craig is also co-founder and Creative Director of Creative Inverclyde, a social enterprise dedicated to using the creative industries to foster positive social change across Scotland.

Recently, Craig was asked to turn his considerable skills to the subject of Robert Burns, creating a striking mural celebrating Burns' cultural legacy which is now proudly displayed in his home region of Ayrshire. Craig was keen to use his own unique style to encapsulate Burns' iconic creative genius, but what was it about Burns specifically that helped inspire his stunning design?

Craig said: "When creating the mural, I wanted to make sure it was eye-catching from a distance as well as capturing intriguing little details that you need to inspect closely, such as the wee mouse on top of the letter 'T'. This makes the viewer engage more deeply into the work, very much like Robert Burns did with his poetry".

Craig also points out that, as a fellow Scot, just getting to follow in the footsteps of Burns is incredibly inspiring in and of itself. He is amazed by Burns' legacy in Scotland, and the rest of the world, and hopes one day that his own incredible work will leave an impact on Scotland in a way similar to the poet.

Like the legendary figures of Douglass and Lincoln before him, Craig admits that *Is There for Honest Poverty* is one of his favourite Burns poems; mainly because it represents his own belief that people need to come together to create a better world. This shared philosophy is evident in the amazing work that Craig and the team do at Creative Inverclyde – using the arts to drive positive social change. Craig is also very quick to appreciate why Burns was so inspired by the land around him, pointing out that it is hard not to be moved by Scotland's natural beauty.

He said: "I've been very fortunate to be able to travel the world and see some truly incredible places but nothing beats the beauty of Scotland. The lands and views are truly stunning and what I love most is how accessible it is from cities to beautiful rural places across our country. My home studio is literally 100 yards from the water and every morning I wake up and see the beautiful views, it's honestly breath-taking".

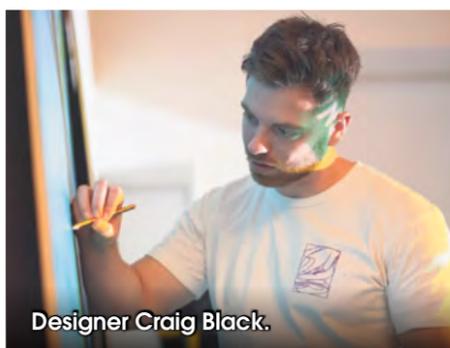
Home of the official Robert Burns Whisky

The Isle of Arran Distillers are an independently owned and operated whisky company on, you guessed it, the Isle of Arran. Perfectly described by those who visit it as 'Scotland in miniature' Arran sits on Scotland's west coast, just a short ferry trip from the mainland. It's here, at their Lochranza distillery in the north of the island, that the world's only officially endorsed Robert Burns Malt Whisky is produced.

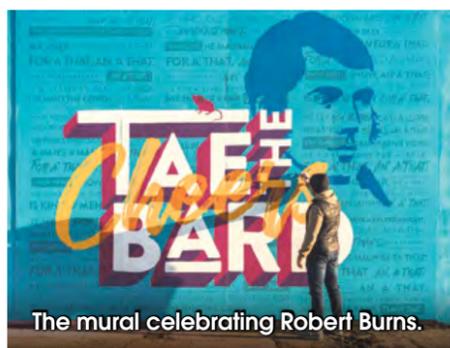
The distillery also acts as a patron of the Robert Burns World Federation, which plays a large role in ensuring that the works of Scotland's national poet are remembered and enjoyed around the globe. Founded in 1885, the federation is the oldest national literary association in Scotland. Today, the federation boasts more than 250 member clubs from countries all around the world and continues its mission to bring the life and works of Burns to as many people as possible.

So, what was it about Burns that inspired the Isle of Arran Distillers to create their very own range of whiskies dedicated to the great man? Simply put, they were inspired by how fondly Burns spoke of the land around him, and wanted to use the ingredients from the same land to create a whisky that even the man himself would have been proud to taste.

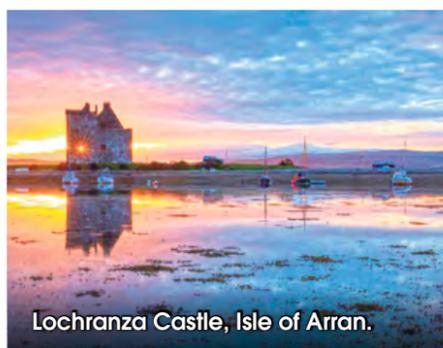
A representative from Arran Distillers said: "As the distillery closest to where Robert Burns was born, we were a natural partner for the Robert Burns World Federation and we've worked together since 1998. Burns worked as a customs officer in the region and probably would have been familiar with the illicit whisky stills on the Isle of Arran back in his time. We like to think he would have enjoyed seeing our company bring legal whisky production back to his region. We have always been very proud of being an independently owned Scottish company that puts quality right at the forefront of everything we do. Burns' creativity and enthusiasm for the country of his birth really resonates with us and we are in the fortunate position to be able to take our product worldwide to spread the knowledge of not just our whisky but also our heritage and Burns himself".



Designer Craig Black.



The mural celebrating Robert Burns.



Lochranza Castle, Isle of Arran.



Robert Burns Single Malt Scotch Whisky.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - King James V married Magdalene of France. **1537**

1 - Charles II crowned at Scone, the last coronation on Scottish soil. **1651**

1 - James Stewart the "Old Pretender" died. **1766**

1 - First celebration of New Year in Scotland on this date (was March 25th till then). **1600**

1 - The Beatles opened a 5-day tour of Scotland to promote their first single *Love Me Do*. **1963**

1 - The constitution is drafted for the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, making it the oldest in Britain. **1783**



2 - The Traverse Theatre opens in Edinburgh. The Traverse has embraced a spirit of innovation and risk-taking that has launched the careers of many of Scotland's best-known writers. **1963**

2 - Ibrox Park disaster, 66 supporters killed on stairway 13. The disaster led to the rebuilding of Ibrox Park as an all seater stadium. **1971**

3 - O H Mavor (James Bridie) physician and prolific playwright, born in Glasgow. **1888**

3 - Poet and critic Edwin Muir died. **1959**

4 - The death of George Cathcart. Cathcart was a doctor from Edinburgh who instigated the annual series of concerts now known as the Proms, short for promenade concert. **1951**

5 - 89,000-tonne Liberian-registered Braer oil tanker, carrying 84,500 tonnes of crude oil, hit rocks on Shetland Isles in heavy seas. **1993**

6 - A.J. Cronin, author of *Keys of the Kingdom* and creator of the British television series *Dr Finlay's Casebook* died. **1981**



7 - Glasgow University founded at the request of James II and Bishop Turnbull. **1451**

8 - The first newspaper in Scotland was published. *Mercurius Caledonius* offered coverage of "the Affairs now in Agitation in Scotland, with a Survey of Foreign Intelligence." It ceased publication on 28 March after only nine issues. **1661**

8 - King Alexander I crowned. **1107**

8 - Earl of Stair, held responsible for the massacre of Glencoe, died. **1707**

8 - Rationing of sugar, bacon and butter introduced. **1940**

9 - The Diocese of Glasgow was elevated to an Archdiocese by Pope Innocent VII. **1492**

9 - Income tax introduced for the first time. **1799**

9 - The first women's golf tournament took place in Scotland, at Musselburgh. **1811**

9 - Liner Queen Elizabeth I, launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank, in 1938, caught fire and sank in Hong Kong where it was to serve as a floating marine university. **1972**

9 - Author and *Scottish Banner* columnist Nigel Tranter died. Tranter published more than 130 novels and biographies during his 60-year-long career, most covering famous Scots and their place in the country's history. **2000**

10 - Pop star Rod Stewart born. **1945**

11 - John A MacDonald, first Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada in 1867, born at 20 Brunswick Street in Glasgow. **1815**

11 - The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Association was created. This independently funded service was responsible for Scotland's blood and blood products. The National Blood Transfusion Service in England and Wales was not set up until the 26 September 1946. **1940**

12 - John Buchan, author (*39 Steps* etc) and diplomat (Governor General of Canada, 1935/1940) died. **1940**

13 - Death of St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow (and also known as St Kentigern) and is buried at his church in Clascu which later becomes Glasgow. **603**

13 - Mary Slessor, missionary in West Africa and known to many as "Ma", died in Calabar. **1915**

14 - Skye Terrier Greyfriars Bobby died after staying by his master's grave for 14 years. The terrier belonged to Edinburgh policeman John Gray who died of tuberculosis in 1858. His grave stone reads: "Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all". A statue of Bobby is now one of the most popular in Edinburgh. **1872**

14 - Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated his telephone to Queen Victoria. She made the first call in the British Isles from her residence on the Isle of Wight. **1878**

15 - Neil M Gunn, author of *The Silver Darlings* and many other books and short stories, died. **1973**

15 - The Great Glasgow storm leaves 20 dead across central Scotland including 9 in Glasgow. The hurricane was described as Central Scotland's worst natural disaster since records began and the worst gale in the United Kingdom. **1968**

15 - Strathclyde Regional Council applies for 250,000 summary warrants against residents refusing to pay the highly controversial "Poll Tax", introduced in Scotland in 1989. **1990**

16 - Retreating Jacobite army defeated Hanoverian forces at Battle of Falkirk. **1746**

16 - Treaty of Union of Scottish and Westminster Parliaments ratified. **1707**

17 - Duddingston Curling Society became formally organised, one of the earliest in the history of curling - though Kilsyth lays claim to a date of 1716. Curling dates back to the sixteenth century in Scotland, with Scots taking the sport across the world where it still flourishes. **1795**

17 - Author Compton Mackenzie (*Whisky Galore* etc) born. *Whisky Galore* is based on a real life true story. In the middle of war time rationing, the SS Politician ran aground with a cargo of 264,000 bottles of malt whisky. **1883**

18 - Death of Sir John Pringle, President of the Royal Society from 1772-1778 and physician to King George III. Sometimes called the "father of modern military medicine", the Scottish-born physician focused on the need to adopt a clean medical environment for the treatment of wounded soldiers. He also coined the term "influenza". **1782**

18 - The launch of the Scottish Labour Party. The inaugural meeting of the breakaway party was held in Glasgow. It was formed as a result of the dissatisfaction several Labour MPs felt with their party over its stance on devolution for Scotland. **1976**



18 - Raasay House on Raasay off Skye was badly damaged in a fire. The building was undergoing a £4m restoration project. The former stately home had been run as an activity centre since 1984 and was being restored for that purpose again. The sprawling 258-year-old mansion once belonged to the Clan MacLeod. **2009**

19 - A Scottish army under the Earl of Leven crossed the river Tweed into England. It remained in England for three years playing an important part in the Civil War. **1644**

19 - Birth of James Watt, mathematical instrument maker, developed the steam engine, invented the condenser and copying machine. **1736**

20 - Benny Lynch crowned world flyweight champion. Recognised as probably the greatest boxer Scotland has produced, Lynch enjoyed a meteoric rise to the top of the sport. **1937**

20 - The chemist Thomas Graham, was born. Graham is famous for discovering the diffusion rate of gasses, which is known as "Graham's Law". He is also called the "father of colloid chemistry", and was the author of, *Elements of Chemistry*. **1805**

21 - Sweetheart Abbey, near Dumfries, founded by Devorguilla, mother of John Balliol. **1290**

22 - Radio Forth begins broadcasting to the Edinburgh area. **1975**

22 - Poet George Gordon Byron (later Lord Byron) born. He moved to Aberdeen at the age of four and attended Aberdeen Grammar School. The title was inherited from an uncle. **1788**

23 - James Stewart, the Regent Moray on the abdication of Mary Queen of Scots, murdered in Linlithgow, triggering civil war. **1570**

23 - William Hamilton, the Scottish Labour politician, died. He was MP for Fife West, 1950-74, and Fife Central, 1974-87. He became a controversial public figure due to his outspoken advocacy of Scottish independence and his dislike of the Royal Family. **2000**

24 - Birth of Publius Aelius Hadrianus, who built Hadrian's Wall to cut off Scotland from the rest of Britain. **76**



24 - First train over Forth Rail Bridge. The bridge is considered as a symbol of Scotland, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **1890**

25 - Robert Burns born Alloway. Burns Night is celebrated around the world on this night. **1759**

25 - First Minister Alex Salmond launches a consultation on the SNP Government's proposals for a referendum on Scottish independence. The referendum on Scottish independence was held on 18 September 2014 saw Scotland vote to remain part of the United Kingdom, with 55% voting against the proposal for Scotland to become an independent country and 45% voting in favour. **2012**



26 - One o'clock gun fired for the first time from Edinburgh Castle. The gun was created to complement a time ball on Nelson's Monument which was not reliable during Edinburgh foggy days. **1861**

26 - The 1st Glasgow Scout troop was registered, the first to be formed. **1908**

26 - Kirkpatrick MacMillan, inventor of the bicycle, died. The thought of patenting his invention or trying to make any money out of it never crossed MacMillan's mind, but others saw its potential, and soon copies began to appear. However, Macmillan was quite unconcerned with the fuss his invention had prompted, preferring to enjoy the quiet country life he was used to. **1878**

27 - *Glasgow Herald* newspaper first published. It is the longest continuously published daily newspaper in Britain. Today the paper is simply called *The Herald*. **1783**

27 - First public demonstration of TV by John Logie Baird. **1926**

28 - William Burke, murderer and body snatcher of "Burke and Hare" fame, executed. The duo were accused of killing 16 people over the course of 12 months, in order to sell their cadavers as "subjects" for dissection. **1829**

29 - Earl Haig, Commander in Chief of British forces 1915-18, founder of the British Legion, died. **1928**

29 - The first adoption of GMT by Scotland. The subject has been the source of controversy ever since. **1848**

30 - King Charles I executed. His execution caused a change of sides by most of the Scots who had previously supported the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War as, for all his faults, Charles was still a Scottish Stuart king. **1649**

31 - Lachlan MacQuarie, "Father of Australia" born Ulva. Lachlan Macquarie was the governor of the colony of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821. **1761**

31 - Charles Edward Stewart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie" died in Rome. **1788**

31 - *Princess Victoria*, Stranraer-Larne ferry, sank in a storm with the loss of 133 lives; 44 were rescued. **1953**

31 - 270 Royal Navy servicemen were killed whilst on practice missions with other Royal Navy vessels in the Firth of Forth. **1918**

31 - The Scottish Court in the Netherlands convicts a Libyan and acquits another for their part in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 which crashed in Lockerbie in 1988. Lamin Khalifah Fhimah (aged 44) is cleared, but Abdelbaset al-Megrahi is found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment (in Scotland) with a recommended minimum term of twenty years. Megrahi was released from prison on compassionate grounds in 2009; as doctors reported he had terminal prostate cancer, and he died on 20 May 2012, aged sixty. **2001**

Text and photos by: David McVey

Where the Grey Friars prayed



Greyfriars Kirk.

Greyfriars Bobby is probably history's most famous Skye Terrier. His owner, an Edinburgh night watchman called John Gray, died in 1858 and was buried in Greyfriars Kirkyard. The dog is famously said to have guarded his master's grave for 14 years during which time he was cared for by the people of Edinburgh. When he died in 1872 he was buried near his master, and a statue (of the dog, not the master) commissioned and raised. Bobby's statue is still a popular tourist attraction. Where Candlemaker Row emerges onto George IV Bridge, across from Chambers Street (the home of the National Museum), he stands proudly, nose ever shiny from visitors who give it a rub for luck. A novelised version of his story was published in 1912 and there have been two film versions.

There are some who find the Greyfriars Bobby industry a bit over-sentimental and who wish we focused on more substantial aspects of our history. I see their point. And Greyfriars Kirkyard, the scene of the melodrama, deserves our attention for many other reasons.



Memorial to George Buchanan.

Grey Friars

The 'Grey Friars' name comes from the colour of the garments worn by the Franciscan order. A Franciscan community was based near here from the 1450s until the Reformation. None of its structures survive, but what is now the Kirkyard is believed to have been part of the community's gardens. After the defeat to the English at the Battle of Flodden in 1513, defensive wall was built, making use of earlier defences, to protect the city from the expected invasion. The invasion did not come but the defences became known as the Flodden Wall. The most impressive surviving portion of it runs through the Kirkyard. The Greyfriars monastery was just inside the wall.

The 'Grey Friars' name comes from the colour of the garments worn by the Franciscan order.

The use of the site as a burial ground dates from the late 1500s and predates the building of the present Greyfriars Kirk. The kirk was the first post-Reformation church to be built in Edinburgh; it took a while, work beginning in 1602 and not completed until 1620. The church has been much altered and added to since.

The 1630s and 1640s were a time of great political and ecclesiastical turmoil in Scotland and throughout the islands of Britain and Ireland. Charles I had tried to impose Episcopalian styles of worship on the Scottish church and the descent to civil war began in 1638 when those who opposed Charles' reforms signed the National Covenant. This signing took place in Greyfriars Kirk.

Decades on those later Covenanters who still resisted royal or government interference in church affairs would make an unwelcome return to Greyfriars. After many were captured following the 1679 Battle of Bothwell Bridge, the Kirkyard was used as their prison. The area signposted today as 'Covenanter's Prison' is speculative; probably a much larger area was necessary. Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh is remembered as a judge who dealt particularly harshly with any Covenanters who came before him. Ironically, after his death in 1691, he was interred in a mausoleum in Greyfriars Kirkyard. In later years there were stories that he was one of the many ghosts who haunted Greyfriars. Robert Louis Stevenson recalled how young boys dared each other to visit the tomb of 'Bloody Mackenzie' after dark. Mackenzie could not have been all bad; in 1680 he helped create the Library of the Faculty of Advocates - the forerunner of the National Library of Scotland.

At the opposite end of the Kirkyard from Mackenzie's now rather derelict mausoleum is the Covenanter Memorial. Erected in 1771, it commemorates those Covenanters who died in the reign of Charles II. Over the centuries, the Kirkyard has amassed a number of other remarkable burials, some of the most prominent being listed on a sign near the entrance. One of the first to be laid to rest here was George Buchanan (1506-82) a scholar, academic and Reformation figure who is perhaps best-known for being tutor to the young James VI. He once had to flee pre-Reformation Scotland after writing a satirical poem about the Franciscan order - yet now he lies in their former turf, though it is not certain where. The impressive memorial to him is a 19th century affair.

The world's most haunted graveyard

Two famous poets rest in Greyfriars; Duncan Ban Macintyre (1724-1812) is perhaps the most celebrated of all Scots Gaelic poets. He is particularly associated with his birthplace of Glenorchy, and the soaring peak of Beinn Dorain which he celebrated in verse. He lived in Edinburgh for much of his life, serving in the City Guard. Known as 'Fair Duncan of the Songs', he remained illiterate his entire life. A stone was raised to him in Greyfriars Kirkyard some years after he was buried there. He also has a monument near Dalmally.

The other poet buried in Greyfriars is better-known - William McGonagall. Famous as a resident of Dundee, McGonagall actually lived in Edinburgh for much of his life. At his death he was granted only a pauper's funeral and burial, but a memorial was raised in the Kirkyard in 1999. *Harry Potter* fans speculate that Edinburgh resident JK Rowling must have named her Professor McGonagall novel after seeing this memorial, but it wasn't in situ until after she had started publishing the books. However, the theory is fuelled by other lesser-known graves in the Kirkyard bearing names now familiar to Potter fans - there is even a Potter.



Monument to Duncan Ban Macintyre.

Whatever the truth, the Kirkyard is very much on the radar for Potter enthusiasts.

Of course, Greyfriars is in Edinburgh, a city once infamous for grave-robbers who provided research materials for the city's surgeons, Burke and Hare being the best-known. Near the Kirk you can see some graves with mortsafes - cages of iron over the burial places designed to prevent the occupants being removed. It is also said that the small building near the entrance - now known as Bobby's Bothy - was used by family members to guard new graves. The bothy is now the headquarters of a company that runs tours of haunted sites - including here.

Yes, Greyfriars Kirkyard has been called 'the world's most haunted graveyard', but I have never experienced anything unusual, so do not avoid it on that account. It is definitely haunted by religious and political history, battles and poetry, memory and loss. It is well worth a visit whether or not you're interested in Greyfriars Bobby.



Greyfriars Kirkyard.



Where Bobby Waited - the Memorial to John Gray.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



30% of Scotland's land to be protected for nature

Plans to protect at least 30% of Scotland's land for nature by 2030 – and to examine options to extend this further – have been announced by Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham. The proposals were published in a new 'Statement of Intent on Biodiversity' which sets out the Scottish Government's priorities for tackling biodiversity loss as part of a twin-crises approach to ending our contribution to climate change and ecological decline. Currently, 37% of Scotland's marine environment receives protection with 22.7% of terrestrial land protected for nature. The Statement commits to increasing protection on land to 30% by 2030 and examining options to extend this even further.

The announcement comes ahead of the publication of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan update very shortly, with nature-based solutions to climate challenge expected to form a key part of the update. Restoring peatland and woodland creation will be at the heart of the proposals and are supported by an additional £500 million of previously committed investment in our natural economy.

Ms Cunningham launched the Statement at a summit convened to discuss the enormous opportunities in restoring Scotland's peatland areas and how to make this happen at the scale required. Other commitments in the document include plans to support new, locally driven projects that aim to improve ecological connectivity, endorsing the 'Leaders' Pledge for Nature' presented at this year's United Nations General Assembly, and developing a new national strategy on biodiversity.

NatureScot Chief Executive Francesca Osowska said: "We need nature for

our survival – but our nature is in crisis. We have to work quickly and at a scale not seen before. These plans are an excellent step to transforming how we interact with, and care for, nature in every aspect of our lives."

Dame Judi Dench dedicates woodland in the north of Scotland



Dame Judi Dench has dedicated a grove at Woodland Trust's Ledmore and Migdale Wood in Sutherland: "for the people we love." A post marking the grove has recently been erected, after Dame Judi sent out cards last Christmas telling friends she was dedicating the acre of woodland to them. Dame Judi said: "For many years it has been my habit to plant trees marking occasions in family life. When I saw the Woodland Trust's dedication scheme it struck me as a marvellous way of gifting something rather beautiful and lasting to friends at Christmas. I looked at information and pictures of various beautiful woods before settling on Ledmore and Migdale. I have not visited personally. Perhaps I shall one day. As the trees grow in the years ahead it is certainly a nice thought that some of my friends might drop by. It does seem a magical spot."

Ledmore and Migdale offers an enriching and magical experience to

visitors looking for fantastic walks, a vast array of wildlife, tranquillity. The pandemic crisis delayed installation of a dedication post at the wood, but it is now in place. It reads: "These trees have been dedicated at Christmas 2019 for the people we love. Judi Dench and family."

One of Britain's most respected film, stage and television actresses, Dame Judi has worked for the National Theatre Company and the Royal Shakespeare Company and won no fewer than eight prestigious Olivier Awards. Known internationally for roles in films including *James Bond*, *Mrs Brown*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *Iris*, she is an ambassador of the Woodland Trust.

Woodland Trust Scotland site manager Ross Watson said: "This is a fantastic accolade for Ledmore and Migdale. I am thrilled and I am sure many in the local community will be delighted too. The grove comprises an open bog woodland with birch fringe, and spectacular views over to Migdale Rock. It will be a fantastic haven for wildlife as the area continues to develop in the years ahead."

Underwater tube link from Scotland to Northern Ireland being considered



Scotland and Northern Ireland could be linked with an innovative floating tube bridge, researchers at Heriot-Watt

University have said. The alternative to a land bridge would see traffic cross between the two islands around 50 metres below the water and differs from Prime Minister Boris Johnson's 20-mile bridge across the North Channel of the Irish Sea.

The submerged floating tube bridge concept "has the potential to transform how long-distance sea crossings are tackled", project member Eoin MacDonald has said. The £15bn tube tunnel would be anchored to the sea bed and attached to floating pontoons on the surface. The cost, practicality and demand for a bridge between Scotland and Northern Ireland is currently being considered by a UK government study.

Kickstart for video game to bring Medieval Aberdeen to life



A Kickstarter campaign to create a video game which will bring people face-to-face with life in the Middle Ages has been launched. The game, called *Strange Sickness*, is based on Aberdeen's world-recognised Burgh Records, which offer such a unique insight into the medieval town that they were awarded UNESCO status for their historical importance. Over recent years, historians from the University of Aberdeen have led projects to delve deeper than ever before into the documents, which cover the period 1398-1511.

This has led to finds such as the earliest reference in Scotland to a still for the production of aquavite, the spirit that became known as whisky, and created a digital transcription called the Aberdeen Registers Online: 1398-1511.

Medieval life in Europe has long influenced creative media from *Lord of the Rings* to *Game of Thrones* and the Burgh Records are also uniquely placed to offer insights into how the city's residents dealt with the threat of the plague.

Dr William Hepburn, a Historical Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen, who is leading the crowd-funding campaign for *Strange Sickness*, says understanding the fear our predecessors must have felt is one of the key aspects of the project.

"Video games are an amazing tool to help people imagine the past, and even become historians themselves by using original records," he said. "Even in times when there were not outbreaks of the plague in the town, fears about the disease arriving from elsewhere are clear to see in the many steps Aberdeen took to prevent infection. It's a parallel that we can all understand more readily in today's climate. The game allows players to immerse themselves in Aberdeen's history, interact with characters from medieval society and make decisions which will shape their own story."

By: Nick Drainey



Robert Burns

The theft of an icon



Interior Burns Mausoleum. Photo: Wikimedia Commons Author - Q8682.



Replica of Burns' skull. Photo: Rosser1954, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

outraged by the thought of it and the story of Burke and Hare and the hideous crimes they committed as grave-robbers (and murderers) was hot news.

Phrenology

But phrenology was also still popular and advocates of the pseudo-science were doing all they could, by fair means or foul, to secure access to the skulls of all of Scotland's interesting and important figures of history. Burns was a prime target. He had died of rheumatic heart disease at his home in Dumfries in July 1796, aged just 37. His funeral took place on the same day his fifth surviving child, Maxwell, was born (Burns had 12 children by four women - nine by his wife Jean Armour). He was buried in the far corner of St. Michael's Churchyard in Dumfries; a simple "slab of freestone" being all his wife, Jean Armour, could afford. But in the years that followed a fund-raising effort began and in 1815 his body was moved to a grand mausoleum in an area of the graveyard containing the last resting places of respected members of society.

Archaeologist Douglas Speirs takes up the story: "Phrenologist and the editor of the *Dumfries Courier* newspaper, John McDiarmid, had long lamented that the opportunity had not been seized in 1815, when Burns was exhumed and translated to his mausoleum, to make an examination of his skull (McDiarmid moved to Dumfries in 1817, had he been around in 1815, then no doubt he would have acted then). With Jean dead, there was a chance of getting to the Bard. Contemporary newspapers report that permission was given by Jean's brother, Robert Armour, to access the skull for research but it's deeply questionable what consent, if any, was really given. It's abundantly clear that what took place was essentially unconsented grave-robbing tidied up in the local newspaper with a bit of fake news."

The group was led on the night by Archibald Blacklock, aided by John McDiarmid and four others. The gang made their way secretly and separately to meet at 7pm at Burns' mausoleum. But when they got to the graveyard, there were

too many people about so they dispersed, agreeing to meet back at the tomb later that night at 9pm. Sunset was about 8.30pm so it had just got dark by the time they reconvened at the tomb with a ladder and a 'muffled lantern'. They were in possession of the keys to the gate of the mausoleum, having been given them the day before to assist with the burial of Jean Armour.

Mr Speirs says: "One of the gang kept a lookout whilst the rest opened the gate, entered the small mausoleum, lifted the floor slabs covering the vault below and descended into the vault using the ladder and lantern. The coffin casket was opened and Archibald Blacklock, the surgeon ring-leader and the team's 'man of science' and phrenologist, made an assessment of the skull in the vault, explaining the features to his companions."

Skull-cast

The details of what happened next are not reported but it's clear that the party quickly vacated the tomb with the skull in their possession, making their way to nearby Queensberry Street in Dumfries and the workshop of local plasterer, James Fraser.

At the time Burns' mausoleum was raided, grave robbing was the talk, and the scourge of Scotland.

At the workshop, the gang were joined by the plasterer and by senior figures from the town council including the Chief Magistrate and the Dean of Guild and rector of Dumfries Academy.

Mr Speirs says: "The party probably arrived at Fraser's workshop around 10pm. Blacklock states that they left at 1am in the morning. In the intervening time, they cleaned the skull, watched as Fraser formed a mould around it to make an imprint, then took a plaster cast from the mould. They also all marvelled at the great size of the skull. Of the ten men present, it is recorded by Blacklock that they all tried their hats on the poet's skull."

The skull-cast was sent the next day to the famous Edinburgh phrenologist, George Coombe. Archibald Blacklock records that the same day: "Having completed our intention, the skull, securely enclosed in a leaden case, was again committed to the earth precisely where we found it." But no details of when or how the skull was returned to the mausoleum are recorded.

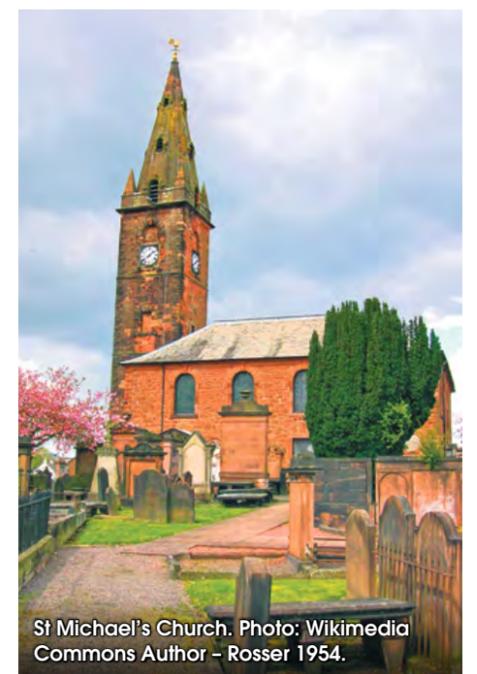
Coombe, a former lawyer, was delighted to receive the skull and within a month published his findings. He wrote: "The skull indicates the combination of strong animal passions, with equally powerful moral emotions....The combination... bespeaks a mind extremely subject to

contending emotions - capable of great good or great evil...No phrenologist can look upon this head, and consider the circumstances in which Burns was placed, without vivid feelings of regret. Burns must have walked the earth with a consciousness of great superiority over his associates in the station in which he was placed—of powers calculated for a far higher sphere than that which he was able to reach—and of passions which he could with difficulty restrain, and which it was fatal to indulge. If he had been placed from infancy in the higher ranks of life, liberally educated, and employed in pursuits corresponding to his powers, the inferior portion of his nature would have lost part of its energy, while his better qualities would have assumed a decided and permanent superiority."

Because of the apparent permission the gang had received and the secretive backing of the great and good, they were never arrested or charged. But copies of the cast of the skull were made and are still studied today.



Burns portrait. Photo: After Nasmyth, Engraved by G.Cook. 1881. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



St Michael's Church. Photo: Wikimedia Commons Author - Rosser 1954.

The great and the good had gathered in Dumfries for the funeral of Jean Armour, the beloved but sometimes harshly treated wife of national bard Robbie Burns. The 82-year-old had died nearly 40 years after her famous husband and was due to be laid to rest next to him in an ornate mausoleum at the historic St Michael's Kirkyard. But there was a group among the crowd who were not there to pay their respects to the venerated old lady, they had a far more sinister reason to be at the burial site.

Local surgeon Archibald Blacklock and five co-conspirators were there to break into the lair, remove Burns' head so that a plaster cast could be made and then return the stolen skull. The shocking events on the night of on the night of March 31, 1834 were carried out to further the study of phrenology, a discredited but still followed theory that the bumps of the skull reveal the character of the person. At the time Burns' mausoleum was raided, grave robbing was the talk, and the scourge of Scotland. The public was horrified and

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
330 S Middleton Drive Unit 203
Calabash, NC 28467

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; MacDagny; 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.

Celebrates those who trace their ancestry to Clan Cameron or are connected to the Clan through marriage or partnership or are from families acknowledged as Septs of Clan Cameron.

President: Alistair Cameron
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 the Clan Gregor Society Est 1822. If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative:

Frank McGregor
PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002
Email: clangregoraustalia@gmail.com
Web: www.clangregor.com
"Royal is our Race"

THE CLAN CAMPBELL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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; Turriff; 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: Denise Lagundzin
Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org
phone +1 519 507 4465

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

Scotland & Northern Ireland: Annie Le Roy-Lewis
SandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +44 7793 317 387

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 McPherson
NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +64 274 587 813

USA: Robert T McPherson
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 It 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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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

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA
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
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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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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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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
rthomnvrpcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Carole Maitland carole_maitland@yahoo.com.au
4230 Colac- Lavers Hill RoadWeeaprounah. 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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Clan Munro Association, U.S.A

We are the only national organization of Munro in the U.S.A. affiliated with the Clan Munro (Association) of Scotland.

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

Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

Valerie 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

Coil	MacCoul	MacCoul
Conacher	MacConacher	
Coyle	MacCoyle	
Dole	MacDole	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	MacDougal
Dougal	MacDougall	MacDougald
Dougle	MacDougle	MacDougal
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDugle
Dowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
MacDowell	MacDowell	MacDowell
Lulich	MacLulich	MacLulich
MacCulloch	MacCulloch	MacCullagh
MacClintock	MacClintock	MacClintock
MacHale	MacHoul	MacHoul
MacHowell	MacCowan	MacCowan
MacKichan	MacGowall	MacNameil
MacLucas	MacLugash	MacLuke

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
President: Wayne Sinclair 0417 146 174
Secretary: Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263
E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com
www.clansinclairaustralia.com

Scottish Associations and Societies



THE AMERICAN-SCOTTISH FOUNDATION, INC.

Through our platform of projects and events ASF helps share and strengthen the heritage and cultural message of Scotland's past and future. A bridge between the United States and Scotland.

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.stewartsociety.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

Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.



Paul D Ross, President
Virg Bumann, VP Membership
1015 Archer St, San Diego, CA, 92109
membership@clanross.org
info@clanross.org
www.clanross.org



Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated

Contact: M Hodgkinson
212 MacKenzie Street

Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559)
william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au
<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaustralia>
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

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 Ross of The United States

David Ross of Ross, Baron Balnagowan, Chief of the Clan invites all Ross', septs and their descendants to 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

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@scotsofaustralia.org.au
Website: <https://scotsofaustralia.org.au>
Facebook: facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria



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
- > Celebrates Scottish Culture
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For Membership Information contact:
Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973
Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au

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Established 1905

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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
www.victorianscottishunion.com



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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Share your Clan news, photos and events with us so we can share with our readers and online.

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www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us
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www.scottishbanner.com/events/submit-an-event

Scotland reveals new national visitor attraction opening in 2021 for the globally acclaimed Great Tapestry of Scotland



Through the Tapestry and other significant visiting exhibits, the new interactive centre will tell the inspirational true story of Scotland's history, heritage and culture.

A new visitor attraction housing the globally acclaimed Great Tapestry of Scotland will open in spring 2021 in Scotland's premier textile region, the Scottish Borders. The £6.7 million purpose-built facility and interactive exhibition space will bring the best of Scotland's world renowned storytelling to life through the Tapestry's wonderful textile artistry and a range of other significant visiting exhibits.

The vision of one of the world's most prolific and best-loved authors Alexander McCall Smith, designed by historian Alistair Moffat and artist Andrew Crummy, and championed by a team of 1,000 women from across Scotland, the Great Tapestry of Scotland tells the inspirational true story of the country's history, heritage and culture (from 8500 BC to present day). It is made up of 160 panels and 300 miles of wool (enough to lay the entire length of Scotland from the Border with England to the tip of the Shetland in the North Atlantic) - making it one of the largest tapestries ever created.

The work of the Scottish people

The Tapestry is truly the work of the Scottish people, as it was handstitched by thousands of women, men and children (age four to 92) in communities across Scotland and transported by land, sea and air to come together in the town of Galashiels, recently voted the happiest place to live in Scotland. It previously toured Scotland to great acclaim from visitors from every corner of the globe.



The new visitor attraction will be led by newly appointed Great Tapestry of Scotland Centre Director, entrepreneur Sandy Maxwell-Forbes. Sandy is part of Live Borders, a charity managing cultural and leisure attractions across the Scottish Borders and operators of this major addition to the Scottish tourism sector. Live Borders is working in partnership with Scottish Borders Council and the Tapestry Trustees to bring this new attraction to fruition.

“The Great Tapestry of Scotland will not only create a national destination visitor attraction and significant cultural facility in the Borders in 2021, it will also play a key role in the regeneration of Galashiels.”

Speaking on her appointment, Sandy Maxwell-Forbes, Great Tapestry of Scotland Centre Director said: “I'm absolutely delighted to be involved one of the most significant developments for Scottish tourism, heritage and culture in recent years. The Great Tapestry of Scotland is a phenomenal achievement - I was a great fan long before I was appointed. Through the intricate and detailed textile artistry by the creative talents of the army of 1,000 stitchers from across Scotland, this truly is the people's story of Scotland and a triumph of creativity, skill, community and passion. Through the amazing visual story-telling from 8500BC to present day, it makes Scotland's culture, history and heritage accessible to everyone. We frequently hear from those, who like me, have previously seen the Tapestry and long to come back and see it again, so we are delighted that we will be making it possible with our new permanent interactive space. I have also already started some exciting talks about potential visiting exhibits that will be displayed in the centre, and hope to reveal more about these soon.”

A story told with love

One of the Tapestry Trustees, historian Alistair Moffat added: “When I first saw all 160 panels of the tapestry hung together, I was stunned by its immense power as a work of art, its rich colours and narrative drive. I wept at its sheer beauty and majestic telling of the history of our beloved country. The Tapestry is a story told with love – and that is what gives it such power. It is also a story told by 1,000 women whose passion dedication and clever hands made this story so detailed, textured. With the tapestry, women created a new history of our country, very different from the stories previously told by men about men. That is what makes it more than appropriate that the Great Tapestry of Scotland should find its permanent home in Galashiels in the Scottish Borders, the home of our textile industries. It was at the clever hands of women that made the looms in the area rattle and clack. Galashiels and the Scottish Borders may also be seen as a gateway to Scotland, and as such, what could be more welcoming than this beautifully told story of our country that sings with passion and pride?”

The new Great Tapestry of Scotland building, which is currently being constructed by Scottish contractor Ogilvie Constriction, has been designed by one of Scotland's leading architectural practices, Page\Park. The contractors will also repurpose the adjacent former Post Office, a B-listed building with exterior carvings by the once world-renowned 19th century sculptor George Paterson Sutherland, who hailed from the town and later emigrated to Toronto. There will also be retail, café, educational and touring exhibition space, as well as an ongoing events and exhibitions programme.

Significant cultural facility

Experts predict that the centre – a short train ride from Scotland's capital city of Edinburgh on the Borders Railway - will attract over 50,000 visitors to Galashiels each year once opened. Almost £900,000 of extra spending per year is predicted for the local economy, providing 12,000 extra visits to complementary attractions.

Scottish Borders Council's Executive Member for Business and Economic Development, Councillor Mark Rowley said: “The Great Tapestry of Scotland will not only create a national destination visitor attraction and significant cultural facility in the Borders in 2021, it will also play a key role in the regeneration of Galashiels.”

The Great Tapestry of Scotland visitor attraction is central to plans to regenerate Galashiels, alongside a number of other projects which will provide a host of benefits for the town and the Scottish Borders.



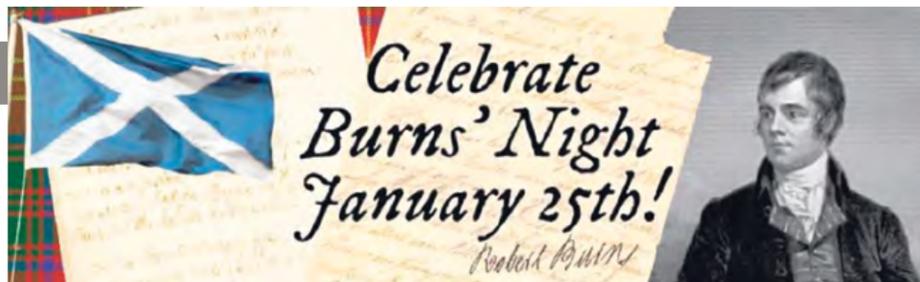
For more information visit www.liveborders.org.uk/gtos or follow @GreatTapestrySc on Facebook or Twitter, and @GreatTapestryScotland on Instagram

Did you know? Great Tapestry of Scotland

- The Great Tapestry of Scotland was the brainchild of one of the world's best-loved writers, Alexander McCall Smith. The 44 Scotland Street author, together with historian Alistair Moffat, and with the artistic talents of Andrew Crummy formed a team set to produce the world's longest tapestries through one of the biggest community arts projects ever to take place in Scotland.
- It is a unique project to stitch the entire story of Scotland from pre-history to modern times.
- It has been hand stitched by over 1000 people in communities across Scotland and transported by land, sea and air to come together in its final permanent home in Galashiels, the Scottish Borders.
- It took over 65,000 hours of stitching and over 300 miles of wool (enough to lay the entire length of Scotland from the Border with England to the tip of the Shetland Isles in the North Atlantic).
- It features 420 million years of Scottish history from 8500BC to present day.
- Through its wonderful textile artistry and visual storytelling, it makes Scotland's history, heritage and culture accessible to all.
- The project took over two years to complete and the finished tapestry toured Scotland from September 2013.
- The textile industry in the Borders stretches as far back as the 13th century. Visitors can learn more about the Borders textile history at Borders Textile Towerhouse, Hawick. Or by following the Textile Trail - a trail involving ten different textile companies in the Borders, celebrating the wonderful tweed and knitwear industry.

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
1 Lairg	1 Lewis
5 Tammy	2 Reeks
8 Waterfall	3 Tramcar
9 Olive	4 Selkirk
10 Slash	5 Troon
12 Cairn	6 Macintosh
13 Slabber	7 Yokel
15 Kessock	11 Habit
17 Auditor	14 Ardersier
19 Bauchle	16 Sough
21 Annan	18 Renfrew
22 Harps	19 Bannock
25 Easel	20 Keith
26 Rookeries	21 Allan
27 Heron	23 Apron
28 Enemy	24 Sissy



IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Cock-a-leekie soup

Ingredients:

1 x 1.5kg/3lb 5oz ready-to-cook chicken
 2 litres/3½ pints chicken stock (or water)
 3 bay leaves
 4 leeks, halved lengthways, thinly shredded
 2 carrots, peeled, halved lengthways, thinly sliced
 2 sticks celery, halved lengthways, sliced
 12 ready-to-eat dried prunes, shredded
 salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Sit the chicken in a large saucepan so it fits snugly and add the stock; you need enough to cover the chicken.
 Add the bay and season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil on a high heat. Cover and simmer for 1–1¼ hours, or until cooked through. Remove the chicken from the liquid and check the juices run clear with no trace of pink when the thickest part of the leg, between the drumstick and the thigh, is pierced with a skewer (if not, cook for a little longer). Pull it apart slightly so it cools quickly.
 Add the leeks, carrots, celery and prunes to the cooking liquid (if you used water, add a couple of chicken stock cubes at this stage).
 Bring to the boil, then cover and cook for 20 minutes, or until the vegetables are tender.
 Pull the meat from the chicken carcass into bite-sized pieces, discarding any skin and bone. Remove the bay leaves from the pan, add a little salt and pepper if needed, return the chicken to the pan and stir. Heat until piping hot. Serve in warmed bowls or mugs.

Bannock

Ingredients:

1 x 7g sachet fast-action yeast
 1 tsp caster sugar
 500g/1lb 2oz. strong white flour
 125g/4½oz. unsalted butter, melted
 250g/9oz. dried mixed fruit
 50g/2oz. light muscovado sugar
 beaten egg, for glazing

Method:

Mix together the yeast, caster sugar and 250ml/9fl oz lukewarm water in a large bowl. Leave to stand for 10 minutes until the mixture is frothy.
 Add the flour and butter and mix thoroughly. Tip onto a lightly floured surface and knead for about five minutes to form a smooth elastic dough.
 Place the dough into a clean, lightly oiled bowl and cover with a damp tea towel. Leave to prove in a warm place for about one hour or until doubled in size.
 When the dough has risen, remove the tea towel and punch the dough down. Tip onto a lightly floured surface and knead in the fruit and muscovado sugar until well combined.
 Shape the dough into a round shape and place on a lightly greased baking sheet. Cover again with a damp tea towel and leave to rise in a warm place again for 30 minutes or until it has doubled in size.
 Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
 Brush the bannock with a little beaten egg to glaze. Bake for 45-50 minutes until risen and a rich brown colour. If the bread is getting too dark, cover lightly with parchment paper or foil. When the bread is ready it should sound hollow when the underneath is tapped gently.
 Leave to cool slightly before slicing and serving warm with plenty of butter.

Burns Night Recipes

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
 Great chieftain o' the pudding-race!*

The Burns Supper on January 25th is an institution of Scottish life: a night to celebrate the life and works of the national Bard. Suppers can range from an informal gathering of friends to a huge, formal dinner full of pomp and circumstance, enjoy!

Haggis, neeps and tatties



Ingredients:

400g/15 oz. of haggis from a good quality butcher (preferably Scottish butcher)
 4 baking potatoes
 50g/2 oz. butter
 50g/2 oz. cream
 1 turnip
 8 shallots
 1 sprig of thyme
 3 cloves of garlic
 50g/2 oz. of sugar
 salt
 200ml/ 7 oz. of red wine
 80ml/3 oz. of port
 500ml/17 oz. of brown chicken stock
 10ml/.5 oz of whisky
 200ml/7 oz. of cream

Method:

Scrub the potatoes and bake them whole in the skins in the oven at 180 degrees until cooked. Remove from the oven and scoop out the flesh of the potatoes and pass through a fine sieve or potato ricer. Add in the cream and butter and mix.
 At the same time, peel and dice the turnip and cook in salted water then pass through a fine sieve or potato ricer. Follow the butcher's instructions for the haggis based on size. Use a round metal ring and layer with one third of haggis layer followed by a third of mashed turnip before adding the mashed potatoes to fill the ring.
 To heat put in a medium oven until warm. Make a stock from the port, red wine, sugar, garlic, thyme and salt. Simmer in a pan together with the shallots until tender. Remove the tough outside layer when cooked. Make a whisky sauce with the brown chicken stock and cream before adding the whisky at the end to taste.
 Serve the timbale of haggis with 2 shallots and the whisky sauce.

Shortbread



Ingredients:

125g/4oz butter
 55g/2oz caster sugar, plus extra to finish
 180g/6oz plain flour

Method:

Heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5. Beat the butter and the sugar together until smooth. Stir in the flour to get a smooth paste. Turn on to a work surface and gently roll out until the paste is 1cm/½in thick. Cut into rounds or fingers and place onto a baking tray. Sprinkle with caster sugar and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes. Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to cool on a wire rack.

Cranachan



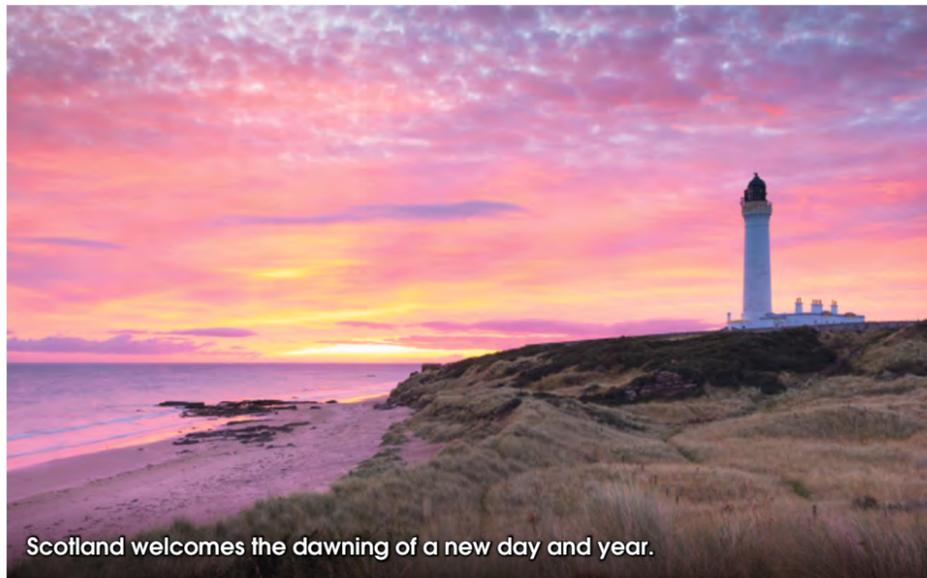
Ingredients:

570ml/1 pint double cream
 85g/3oz. porridge oats
 7 tbsp. whisky
 3 tbsp. honey
 450g/1lb. raspberries
 fresh mint, to garnish

Method:

Toast the oats in a frying pan, being careful not to burn them.
 Lightly whip the cream until it reaches the soft peak stage, then fold in the whisky, honey, oatmeal and raspberries.
 Serve in dessert glasses garnished with a few raspberries and mint.

Scotland looks ahead to 2021



Scotland welcomes the dawning of a new day and year.

Visiting Scotland in 2021 will continue to look a little different. As tourism businesses across Scotland began to reopen their doors from 15th July 2020, many were putting in place protocols to adhere to health and safety guidelines, as well as creating new products and job roles to ensure guests and staff felt comfortable in their surroundings. When travelling around Scotland, visitors should look out for the Good to Go logo which highlights the tourism businesses working hard to adhere to government and public health guidance in order to reopen safely. Now is the time to look ahead to 2021 and discover how Scottish tourism businesses are embracing life as we know it for their guests and the communities they belong to, whilst continuing to offer the warm welcome Scotland is renowned for.

Keep it clean- Scotland's distilleries were perhaps one of the first industries to make a change in the face of the pandemic when they switched up whisky and gin production to make hand sanitiser back in March. Their efforts can still be seen today as their sanitiser can be found in restaurants and bars around the country including from Port of Leith Distillery, Isle of Harris Distillers, Leith Distillery, Pickering's Gin and many more.

Pop-Up Pods- While outdoor dining became the trend of summer 2020, hospitality businesses in Scotland wouldn't let the notoriously unpredictable Scottish weather prevent their guests from tucking in al fresco. Dining pods and marquees have been popping up across the country to ensure guests stay warm, dry and feel safe whilst enjoying a meal with loved ones. Meldrum House in Aberdeenshire has launched the Under The Stars Experience, where guests can dine in atmospheric domes and enjoy a romantic evening admiring Scotland's dark skies. Fonab Castle in Perthshire also introduced Pod Dining with a series of Pods situated in the grounds of the estate with stunning views over Loch Faskally. Each pod provides a relaxing space for eating and drinking with friends and family.

Scotland has you covered- While exploring Scotland, it is essential to wear a face covering in public indoor spaces (e.g. shops, visitor attractions, public transport, restaurants unless seated at your table) to keep people safe. Why not make a fashion

statement by choosing a covering designed and produced by some of the talented Scottish textile businesses? Many are offering the latest must-have accessories in a range of fabrics and designs – from Harris Tweed to your family tartan.

Back to nature



Taking the plunge with Immerse Hebrides.

Clean air, stunning vistas and magical moments in nature – travellers are appreciating the health benefits of spending time in the Great Outdoors more than ever before. In Scotland, it could not be easier to follow the call of the wild...

Wild swimming – Why not take the plunge in Scotland? For a small country, Scotland boasts some of the wildest places to swim, from deep lochs to roaring waterfalls and vast sandy beaches. For beginners, guided wild swimming adventures can be a great option to get started (offered by a number of providers across the country, for example Soak Up Skye on the Isle of Skye, SwimWild in the Highlands and

Foraging – Scotland's natural larder is truly bountiful and delicious. From berries to wild mushrooms and coastal delights – visitors can find for themselves the ingredients inspiring the menus at some of Scotland's top restaurants by joining foraging experts for an unforgettable culinary adventure. Workshops can be booked with a number of providers, for example Galloway Wild Foods in Dumfries & Galloway and Wildwood Bushcraft in the Highlands.

Stargazing - While Scotland waits for its famous nightlife to return when the time is right, it's time to look to the skies as they put on a spectacular nightly show (weather permitting). Scotland boasts some of the darkest places in Europe, which makes it perfect for stargazing –wrap up warm, look up and enjoy!

Live like a local



Finnieston, Glasgow.

Everything has been a little different in 2020 and the year has been defined by embracing a new way of living. Perhaps 2021 is the year to embrace a new style of holiday and live like a local – either in Scotland's cities or the more rural parts of the country.

Agritourism has gone from strength to strength with holidaymakers looking to get their hands dirty down on the farm. Guests at Arnprior Farm near Stirling or Newton Farm Holidays in Angus can enjoy the freshest produce, from field to fork, experience farming life first-hand and, during lambing season, even help welcome the new arrivals – all while staying in luxurious, modern accommodation.

Equally in cities, 2021 is the year to discover the local favourites from quirky neighbourhoods like Stockbridge in Edinburgh and Finnieston in Glasgow, to stand-alone eateries and independently-owned boutiques in Dundee and Inverness. Now is the time to see the city from a local's perspective, be it the gardens perfect for a picnic in Aberdeen, the family-run record store in Perth or the go-to coffee shop for a morning flat white in Stirling.

2021 is also the year to discover new stories; from the BLM Mural Trail to the Invisible Cities Walking tours, Scotland's cities are showcasing voices that for too long have gone unheard. Art, history, culture, green spaces and mouth-watering food and drink, Scotland's seven cities offer the perfect city break package.

Responsible tourism



The Caledonian Forest.

2021 is the year of renewed tourism, as travellers embrace a new world view. Both visitors and locals love Scotland's stunning natural environments and want to preserve its beauty for generations to come. Everyone can enjoy Scotland responsibly, by spending more time in one destination, using public transport where possible, choosing to stay in environmentally friendly accommodation, visiting off-season and committing to one simple rule: "Leave no trace."

All those who actively seek to make a positive contribution to the environment while on holiday should consider a range of volunteering opportunities in Scotland. Trees for Life offer Conservation Weeks which allow participants to play their part in restoring the ancient Caledonian Forest. And working holidays with The National Trust for Scotland offer the chance to live and work in some of the most remote places of Scotland while making a real difference to the country's natural heritage.

Opening in 2021



Johnnie Walker Princes Street.

Following the bicentenary year of Johnnie Walker, Diageo continues its investment in whisky tourism in Scotland in 2021 with the opening of the flagship Johnnie Walker Princes Street in Edinburgh as well as revealing extensive renovations at brand homes including Glenkinchie Distillery in East Lothian.

The Great Tapestry of Scotland will get a new home in 2021 as the Great Tapestry of Scotland Visitor Centre opens its doors in Galashiels in the Scottish Borders. The new visitor attraction tells the story of Scotland through one of the world's largest tapestries, created by more than 1000 stitchers in communities across Scotland.

The relaunch of the David Livingstone Centre in South Lanarkshire in 2021 will re-interpret his life for a new generation, telling his story from multiple perspectives, from his humble beginnings as a Blantyre mill-worker to becoming a world-famous adventurer.

The team behind Scotland's carbon neutral gin and vodka will be opening their doors to visitors with the launch of The Arbikie Distillery Experience in Angus in 2021. Inspired by the legend of Jan de Groot, 8 Doors Distillery, mainland Scotland's most northerly distillery is set to open its doors in 2021 in John O'Groats. The Red Carnation Hotel Group is set to open its first hotel in Scotland with the renovation of 100 Princes Street in Edinburgh. Opening summer 2021.

Lanrick Treehouses in Perthshire opened their doors in October 2020 inviting guests to enjoy a tree-top escape in luxury eco-friendly lodging.

St James Quarter a new world-class retail-led, mixed use destination will open in spring 2021 transforming Edinburgh's East End into a vibrant destination for people to live, shop, experience and play.

Cameron House Hotel will reopen in April 2021 following a sensitive restoration project at the luxury five-star resort Cameron House on Loch Lomond.

Celebrations for Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters continue into 2021. From the country's beautiful natural features, including coasts, lochs and rivers to the industrial heritage of the canals and mills, Scotland's culture, stories and way of life have been shaped by its coasts and waters.

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