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Scotland's most romantic locations

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*Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

For the love of Scotland



by Sean Cairney

his month as we approach Valentine's Day our world is vastly different to just a year ago. So many have endured such hardship, grief and loss of connection. The international Scottish community however continues to do incredible things at keeping our traditions alive with virtual events and plans are being made for gatherings to again begin once it is safe. These all reflect our shared love of Scotland and the incredible culture that Scots have formed internationally. Whilst Covid-19 has played havoc on so much; it has not diminished peoples love of Scotland. Traditionally, whether you are in a large city or regional area, the sights and sounds of Scotland can be found, bringing people together to enjoy a part of Scottish culture and tradition.

Scotland is such an historic nation which draws so many to its shores. People often ask me what it is I love so much about Scotland and are sometimes surprised to not get an instant well scripted answer of my favourite things about the country. For me it is more complex than a simple answer as it is such a layered response. It says something significant about a country when its enduring icons are woven in tartan, some of the most incredible landscapes, historic cities and towns, the sound of trad music and the pipes and drums, a whisky that is as complex as it is universally admired and, of course, the people. It confirms that Scotland is no ordinary place but, instead, a magical destination with a full and unique flavour, brimming with rich experiences.

The nearness of the past that permeates the whole Scottish experience

Wherever you travel in Scotland, from the cities to the remotest corners, the country's unusually

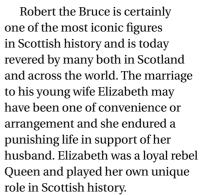
dramatic history lies waiting to be discovered just beneath the surface of the present. Dating back to 2000 BC, the standing stones at Callanish hint at early appreciation of astrology. Every New Year's Day, the ball game of Ba' rages through the streets of Kirkwall in the Orkneys as it has for countless centuries. And Cawdor Castle, where Macbeth carried out his bloody ambitions in the 11th century, remains one of the most romantic and best-preserved fortresses.

No visit to Edinburgh is complete without a stroll through the polished halls of Holyrood Palace, where Mary Queen of Scots witnessed the murder of her trusted secretary by her jealous husband Lord Darnley in 1556. Nearby, the Writer's Museum displays the desk at which Robert Burns wrote his evocative poetry, and the pipe smoked by Walter Scott as he brought Ivanhoe to life. The Golf Museum at St. Andrews gives context to the game once outlawed in the 17th century because its popularity was causing soldiers to neglect archery practice. At another royal retreat, Balmoral, Queen Victoria grieved the loss of her husband Albert, walking the heathertinted Highlands in the company of her groom, Mr. Brown.

The nearness of the past that permeates the whole Scottish experience is perhaps best summarised by the Stone of Destiny. In 1292, the Scots' coronation emblem was taken from Scone Abbey by the invading Edward I of England and held in Westminster Abbey in London. After 700 years of effort, it was finally returned in 1996. Three years later, in 1999, the Scottish Parliament was re-established in Edinburgh, 292 years after it was abolished by Earl of Seafield on May 1, 1707. Now plans are under way to bring this historic artifact "home" to Perth, the original capital of Scotland.

In this issue

Keeping with the Valentine's theme we look at just some of Scotland's many romantic places, of course this list is very subjective, and many will have their favourite spot -why not share yours with us? This is what happens when you have a stunningly beautiful and varied countryside, ranging from craggy coasts to dramatic Highlands, from mirror-still lochs to softly meandering rivers and cities which merge the old and new worlds.



Many Scottish castles now stand in solitude, often on hilltops that accentuate their apparent isolation. The freestanding tower is, after all, a recognisable icon of Scotland. Recent research, however, challenges this notion - with few exceptions, these towers were just one part of a bustling castle complex whose traces vanished over time. We look at the myth of the lonely tower as it has been thoroughly debunked, and what it means for how we talk about Scotland's castles today.

The spirit of Scotland

The prospect of visiting Scotland just now to enjoy all its amazing sights and culture is not possible. But that does and will not stop all the lovers of Scotland appreciating this unique and forward-thinking ancient land. Scotland is brimming with a wealth of stories, history and landscapes that, over time, have been woven together to create traditions and a spirit of Scotland. This spirit is celebrated around the world and is in fact the reason *the Scottish Banner* was created and still exists today.

We would love to hear from our readers as to what they love about Scotland and her spirit. Perhaps that question for you brings with it an answer with as many layers as I have, and maybe *that* is what we all love so much about Scotland...

What do you love about Scotland or do you have a favourite place you have fallen in love with? 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

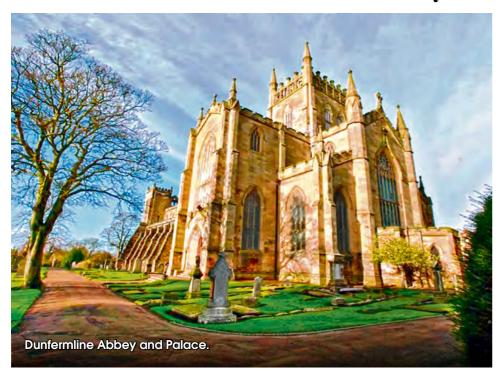
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Gracing our front cover: Sweetheart Abbey, one of Scotland's romantic locations. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

Secrets of Dunfermline Abbey uncoverd ahead of 200th anniversary



unique research project has uncovered evidence of the original layout of the choir of Scotland's historic Dunfermline Abbey – home of the final resting place of Robert the Bruce – for the first time. Led by University of Stirling historian Dr. Michael Penman, the three-year partnership project with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) used a series of ground-penetrating radar surveys to study the Abbey, with the results allowing the team to create a speculative plan of the lost medieval choir – an area left ruinous following the Protestant Reformation in 1560.

The surveys provided evidence of more than 15 potential elite burials. These were focused on the Abbey's 14th century Lady Chapel and aisle, as well as around the east end pilgrimage shrine erected c.1250 for royal saint Margaret, queen of Malcolm III (d.1093). The surveys also found radar and archival evidence for the lost high altar settings of the Abbey choir and a formerly unnoticed southern transept chapel and aisle dedicated to St John the Baptist. Radar and archival evidence were also uncovered raising questions about the true grave site of Bruce, Robert I King of Scots (1306-29).

Royal mausoleum

Richard Strachan, Head of Cultural Resources at HES said: "This project has been very significant in reinforcing the importance of the role of the Abbey church as a royal mausoleum. The royal burials are a key aspect of the history of the Abbey so obtaining a better understanding of this greatly aids our management, conservation and presentation of the wider areas of the site, as well as bringing an enhanced level of academic rigour to our knowledge of the mausoleum. This research, using state of the art techniques and expertise, has provided a stronger foundation for understanding the development of this aspect of the site's history and will inform how we present and interpret the site in the future."

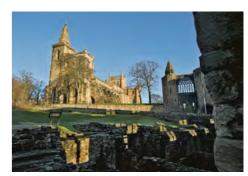
Dr Penman said: "In 1818, architect William Burn uncovered a grave and a lead-encased skeleton, which was generally accepted as being Bruce's remains. However, combining our radar evidence with measurements taken by local historian Ebenezer Henderson in 1854, it raises the likelihood that the position of this original grave site was too close to the screened high altar for it to have been the original burial suit – in this position, it would have impeded the chancel steps, liturgy of the mass and been obscured to visitors in the aisles. One possibility is that this site was a 'rescue' burial by monks who reportedly stayed on at Dunfermline until around 1580, in defiance of the Reformation, and who perhaps saved these remains after a box tomb was destroyed.

That would explain why this skeleton was found covered in a late 16th or 17th century 'anthropomorphic' lead shroud in quite a shallow, crude grave slot. Through this study, we also found potential evidence of the existence of double tombs, and it could also have been the case that Bruce was originally buried within the northern central presbytery of the choir, together with his Queen, Elizabeth de Burgh."

Important cultural site

The radar surveys, led by Erica Carrick Utsi of EMC Radar Consulting, took in a mixture of interior and exterior areas of the Abbey Church. Using two frequencies the scans probed down to a depth of two metres in search of medieval features.

Dunfermline's Benedictine Abbey, founded by King David I c.1128, is one of Scotland's most important cultural sites and has received more of Scotland's royal dead than any other place in the kingdom, excepting Iona. In 2021, the 'new' Abbey Church, which was built atop the medieval choir ruins and opened for public worship in 1821, will celebrate its bicentennial year in 2021.



Scots men lose weight with the help of fictional characters



group of Scottish men has lost weight thanks to a project which sent them text messages from fictional characters. Over 100 men took part in the 'Game of Stones' study which explored whether digital storytelling and financial incentives could have a positive impact on their health. The digital storytelling intervention was designed and written by Dr Mark Grindle, a digital health researcher at the University of the Highlands and Islands Dr Grindle, a former film and TV writer and producer who worked on programmes including *Dr Finlay* and *Take the High* Road, devised a set of characters who texted participants over a twelve-month period. The story centred around Slim, an overweight man who overcomes the negative influences in his life to lose weight and gain confidence.

The digital narrative work was conducted as part of the 'Game of Stones' feasibility study led by Professor Pat Hoddinott from the University of Stirling. The research also explored the use of financial incentives. Participants were given £400 and could keep the money

if they lost weight. Researchers found that greater weight loss occurred for participants who received both the text messages and incentives. The study, which was funded by the National Institute for Health Research, reported that participants lost an average of 3% of their body weight over the course of the trial.

Dr Grindle said: "Storytelling has been used to change human behaviour for millennia. Now we use digital technologies to tell stories and this engages participants at ever deeper emotional levels. It was amazing how many participants texted Slim back as if he were a real person. They shared their own experiences of losing weight with him. This told us that the approach was working. Participants picked up on the power and potential of the underlying health behaviour change approach. It is about emotional and often non-conscious engagement."

The Game of Stones concept will now be trialled on a larger scale. If it continues to provide positive results it is hoped the service could be rolled out across the UK.



SCOT POURR

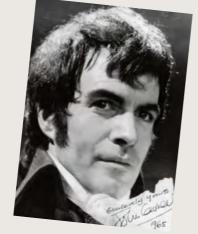
Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

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?

Scots inspire Scots

I have been reading the very informative January issue, as interesting as ever. You ask for Burns experiences, and I thought I would tell you about the Robert Burns Masonic Lodge here in Toowoomba. Each year, in January, as close to the birthday as possible, they have a Burns Luncheon, complete with Address to the Haggis, and an Immortal Memory speech. For many years, both of these functions were carried out by the Chieftain of the Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Burns Club, who was Scottish, and also one of their Brethren. After his passing, the role was taken over by a Scottish doctor who was a member and Patron of the Darling Downs Branch of the Society of St Andrew. He also sadly passed, and the role passed on to another member of the Society. Luckily, he is still alive, but decided that I would like to take the job on. So, for the 5th year running, I will be attending their event, to Address the Haggis and give the Immortal Memory speech.

It is an honour to be asked back year after year, but as you can understand, it is a difficult job to come up with



I was preparing the speech for this year, had a theme, and it was all coming together nicely, except for a final touch. Then, hooray, the Banner arrived! I have now included the words of *There was a* man called Robert Burns in the speech (with due reference to John Cairney), and it is complete. Scots inspire Scots. Malcolm Leslie Commissioner Clan Leslie Patron Darling Downs Branch, Society of St Andrew of Scotland (Queensland)

something new for the speech each time.

Australia & New Zealand

Australia

Auld Lang Syne

Sing us a song afore wi' gang Forever o'er the sea Nae mair tae look on Scotia's shores For fightin' tae be free

Nae mair tae see the red deer Drinking on Lomond's shore The Clan has been disbanded Tae rise again nae more

The heady days o' Glenfinnan When freedom raised its heid Collapsed in the rout o' Culloden Leaving hundreds o' clansmen deid

The Prince fled back tae Europe Deserting clans who answered his call Leaving Scotland raped and pillaged Better he never landed at all

Banning the tartan and Gaelic tongue Anglish compulsory where hymns are sung Pogroms against the Highland clans Exiling thousands to foreign lands

Sing us a sang afore w' gang Straun close whatever the pain Pride sweat and tears an' we'll succeed To rise as a nation again.

Davidson Harris From the Barony of Gorbals

Fae Tap tae Tae. Bonnet & Boot history of Ayrshire

I am contacting you about the virtual tours I offer of Ayrshire in Scotland. The tours highlight its fascinating history, featuring significant characters from its past and include quality local food and drink. Of course, during COVID 19 I have been unable to conduct tours as normal. I have teamed up with Noreen, a blue badge guide of Lyon Tours Scotland to provide a virtual tour of Ayrshire. The virtual platform means we are able to reach those interested in Scottish and Ayrshire history without actually travelling to Scotland. The Bonnet & Boots virtual tour visits Maybole in South Ayrshire which in the past had an extraordinary boot and shoe industry. We also visit Stewarton, in East Ayrshire known as 'Ayrshire's Bonnet Toun' to hear of the bonnet production there which is known to date back to the 15th century. Maybole in Ayrshire had a mass migration when 2000 of it's population moved to Canada after the Ladywell boot factory closed in 1907.

It would be great to be able to make contact with some relatives of the folk that made the move from Scotland to Canada or elsewhere!

The Virtual presentation is called 'Fae Tap tae Tae' which is Ayrshire vernacular meaning 'From Top to Toe'. It is an enjoyable and informative look at the Bonnet and Boot production in Ayrshire.

The virtual presentation is 90 minutes long and includes a chance to interact and ask questions. It takes place over Zoom and costs £5.50 British pounds which is \$7.50 American Dollars.

Starting Feb 4th at 7pm UK time, this is a start time of 2pm in Ottawa, Canada and New York USA.

For details see: https://buytickets.at/ tastinghistoryscotland/468361 Ianet Martin

Tasting History Ayrshire Tours Scotland

Robert Burns

I love the little quip that Robert Burns was 'your uncle'—the innocence of childhood-- but of course John Cairney was very well known and popular. My father John Newlands was an authority on Burns and at home he had every Burns book available -about his poetry, his life, his amorous connections etc.

Every year he would do Address to the Haggis - and more - at the local bowling club in which he was a founder member in 1935. Anyway, I was too young to see this, but we did have a sneaky peek in the windows. He also did recitals at quite a few other venues, including, I believe, the Strathclyde Police. He and my mum visited us in Australia in the early 1980s for a special bowling event in Frankston.

After that we all went up to visit my dad's cousin in Ballarat. She was very involved in the Scottish society there and handmade the kilts for the ladies pipe band. We went to a 'do' one night and my dad was asked to do a Burn's recital. Certainly-love to-- and he did come prepared. He started reciting-To a Mouse "Wee sleekit, cowrin,tim'ros beastie" at which point he retrieved a 'mouse' from his trouser pocket and you should have heard the screams and squeals in the room. Hilarious, although, of course it was a stuffed mouse. He continued his Burn's suppers until he was 90 years old after which he decided to give it up as he was afraid of 'losing his lines'. He was a perfectionist, an amazing man. In an OP shop a few years I found a very

large old book Land of Burns — I couldn't resist it. It is pretty tatty in parts but the print is very readable. It was printed in Glasgow in 1841. Maybe it needs a new home now? All the best to you all in 2021, Anne Koomen

Victoria, Australia

The McLennan Arch

Graham McTavish



Thank you for a great interview with one of my favourite actors, Graham McTavish. I really wish we had more of him in Outlander as he did such a brilliant job playing Dougal. I have since followed his career and on social media and he appears to be a very nice chap, whose love affair with Scotland still goes strong. I am so excited for Men in Kilts to come out and I have just ordered the new Clanlands book.

The stories in the Scottish Banner each month are very unique and informative. There is so much to read and often requires the kettle to be on, and me sat in my favourite chair, as I get transported back to the land of my ancestors each month-thank you! Susan Elliot Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA







The McLennan Arch at Glasgow Green. Donald S Horne Scotland

Outlander scene



Any #Outlander fans out there might recognise this setting. Aye Spy Photography Scotland @AyeSpyPhotos



Stag, Glencoe, Scotland. If you have visited Glencoe, you may have bumped into this fellow at The Kings House Hotel. The Kilted Photographer Scotland

Midhope Castle



Even if you've never watched #Outlander you won't regret a visit to beautiful Midhope Castle, even on a cloudy rainy day it shines. **ShutterBugShots** @ShotsBug 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@scottishbsanner.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!



reetings from Scotland where we veer between thick snow and heavy rain. It is no matter. The chief wheels in wood from the shed to feed the log-burners. The kitchen stove stays hot all day. We put on extra layers and hunker down. Then with these lockdown rules, there is little choice but to stay at home. I do not know where you are, but our laws during the pandemic are some of the strictest.

Apart from getting essential food and medical supplies, our shops, restaurants, garden centres, sporting venues – you name it, all is closed. We cannot go into other people's houses. Meetings must be done virtually. At least we live in the countryside. Which means we can walk without meeting other people...

Sadly, the number of Covid cases is rising. Scotland is a nervous place. But looking on the bright side, it is also somewhere that is preparing to wake from its slumbers. Because the snowdrops are showing. Tiny tips of green peeping out from frozen ground. They are the earliest and the bravest little bulbs and they always lifts spirits.

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

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.

If little useful can be done outside, plans can still be made. Because the question is: when we are allowed to, do we let folk in to view our borders and beds?

Scotland's Gardens Scheme

2021 is a big anniversary for one of our garden charities. Ninety years ago, women in stately homes and castles got together to raise money for the Queen's Nurses, a nursing charity that started in the Victorian age.

The aristocrats were made of stern stuff and their aim was to fund-raise by opening their gardens to the public. But one place would create particular interest and it was the Countess of Mar who wrote to her Aberdeenshire neighbour to ask him if he might consider doing the same with his. The lady was in luck. 'He' happened to be the British king and his residence was Balmoral Castle. George V said he would be delighted to let people stroll his avenues and scrutinise his rose beds. And thus, in 1931, 'Scotland's Gardens Scheme' was born...

The charity grew and today all manner of places, big and small, throw wide their gates to raise money for good causes. I know this because last autumn, a time when we were allowed to venture out with a camera, I filmed some as part of a TV series. From a Galloway castle garden - complete with fantastic fernery - to a

wild and wonderful waterside patch in the Moffat hills. From a heavenly heather bed in the Scottish Borders - to an arboretum planted two hundred years ago.

More than three hundred places take part annually in Scotland's Gardens Scheme. It might be a grand estate. It could be a much smaller town plot - or even an allotment. Anyone with at least twenty minutes of interest in their garden can take part and raise money for their own local charities.

And so, it was that whilst we were filming with the scheme's organiser, she asked if we would like to open our own garden. Which got me excited. I came home, looked - and thought, maybe. Then I looked again and thought, maybe not...

Because our plot is a work in progress. Especially the flower beds, one of which was planted with potatoes when we arrived here. I can now report that the tatties grow in the vegetable patch and the borders are filled with young shrubs. In a few years all may come to fruition and that will be the time to show them off.

Hairy hounds

In the meantime, our loss at being grounded is another's gain. The MacNaughties are delighted that no-one is going anywhere. And whereas we once had two hairy hounds round our feet, we now appear to have three...

When lockdown loomed, our daughter came home - bringing her Chinese fur ball baby with her. Delilah the Chow is a Chinese breed. This endearing puppy has really grown on us. And now this lion-like ball of fluff has a big birthday.

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

Delilah is a year old. And to inject some joy into worrying days we put on a small party. Pate and ham are placed on a piece of toast. A candle adorns the top. *Happy Birthday* is sung, and the three dogs are on tenterhooks. They can smell something good. But there is a slight problem...

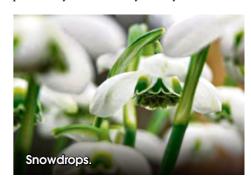
As soon as the candle is removed from the 'cake', Delilah rushes forward.

She grabs the thing and swallows it whole.

Much to the dismay of the other two.

As they say, never work with animals or children...

It is all very silly. Then we have been locked up for some time. Maybe the picture will raise a smile. Wherever you are, pleasestay safe - and try to stay sane...





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 are courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans (SRT).

esigned to celebrate the NASA Apollo 11 spaceflight and the first moon landing by the Apollo Lunar Module 'Eagle' on the 20th July, 1969. It also celebrates the first humans to walk on the moon, Commander Neil Armstrong and Module Pilot Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin on the 21St July, 1969. 'Columbia' Command Module Pilot Michael Collins flew in lunar orbit for over 21 hours until the return of his fellow astronauts when they then safely returned to Earth on the 24th July 1969. Over 50 years on and NASA still reaches for the stars with an ever increasing inclusion and diversity of astronauts, command and support staff. This tartan (SRT reference: 12437) was designed by Mr Robert Pool and registered in March 2019.



SCOTSPEAK

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

"This is a very important discovery for the city and, once the work on site has been completed, all the samples and artefacts recovered are analysed."

Inverness Council archaeologist Kirsty Cameron said as workers have discovered Brone Age artifacts during construction work in the city centre. The build was paused for further inspection.



"Tunnocks are an iconic Glasgow institution and many of us grew up eating their Tea Cakes. They're a comforting treat, and when we were looking for inspiration for our new Biscuit Tin series of beers, they were one of the first to be suggested."

Rob MacKay, creative and marketing director at Drygate, said as Glasgow's Drygate Brewery released 'Biscuit Tin' a

7.5% Chocolate Mallow Stout inspired by Tunnock's Chocolate Mallow Teacakes. The iconic Scottish chocolate treat has inspired east-end craft brewers, Drygate, to create a chocolatey biscuit base for this beer, who then upped the ante with a deluge of marshmallow. Lactose adds yet more thick, creamy flavour into the final brew and helps to emulate that classic treat.

"Compared to the immensity of 'deep time', a phrase coined by the geologist James Hutton, 400 years is the mere blinking of an eye. Hutton is one of the many enlightenment figures associated with Greyfriars Kirk and his memorial is in the graveyard. That being said, these last 400 years have seen the world transformed

more radically than any period during human history. The reformers who founded Greyfriars were deeply committed to universal education, especially for those whose lives were blighted by poverty. To this day our congregation continues the tradition of anti-poverty advocacy through our partnership with the Grassmarket Community Project and our commitment to issues around social justice."

Rev. Dr Richard Frazer, of Edinburgh's historic Greyfriars Kirk, said as the church celebrated its 400th anniversary on December 25th. Today Greyfriars Kirk is a place of worship, a space to celebrate the arts and a historical landmark for the ages.



"Edinburgh is the home of Hogmanay and this year's digital celebrations will continue, albeit very differently. This is a fantastic and innovative way to pay tribute to all of our front-line workers – both in Scotland and across the globe-that have done so much to support us and keep us safe throughout this year. To our NHS staff and key workers – for those in the labs working on vaccines, those in food preparation and delivery, for our refuse collectors, postal workers, supermarket workers, police and so many more – we

thank you all from the bottom of our hearts and hope that 2021 brings with it positive change as we battle to suppress and eradicate this virus."

City of Edinburgh Council Leader, Councillor Adam McVey, said as Edinburgh's Hogmanay kicked off the celebrations with a heartfelt thank you from Scotland's capital city to NHS staff and key workers throughout the country.

"Not only are our seas fundamental to our way of life, they provide habitats for a hugely diverse range of marine wildlife and it is vital that we ensure appropriate protection for them. Scotland's waters are home to many unique species and these designations ensure our MPA network is fully representative of our marine diversity, exceeding the proposed international target to achieve 30% of global MPA coverage by 2030."

Scotland's Natural Environment Minister Mairi Gougeon said that four new sites have been designated as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to give extra security to some of Scotland's most vulnerable species and habitats. It gives additional protection to much-loved marine species including basking shark, minke whale and Risso's dolphin as well as 31 species of marine birds such as great northern diver, Slavonian grebe, long-tailed duck, Arctic tern and kittiwake, bringing the coverage of the Scottish MPA network to 37%.

"The stonemasons worked through the winter which meant dealing with cold and some inclement weather, but no midges! The Broch Project team worked hard to deliver this project for the local community and visitors, and we hope that people will enjoy the new trail and spruced up broch for many, many years to come."

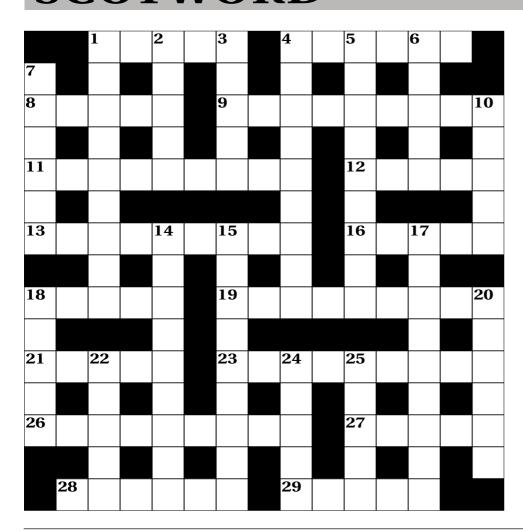
Robin Herrick, Caithness Broch Project, chairman and project manager for the Ousdale Broch project, said that a £180,000 conservation project in Caithness has saved a prehistoric monument from ruin. Ousdsale Broch, an ancient circular drystone tower dating back to the Iron Age and was considered one of the best surviving brochs, had been eroding over time. Brochs are ancient, circular drystone towers dating back to 2000 years ago to the Iron Age and are thought to have been used as dwellings for local chieftains.



"Public service announcement.
Our majestic clock which runs 3
minutes fast is only correct on December
31. However, for the first time in 118
years, it will remain on Balmoral
Standard Time (BST) as we would gladly
have three minutes less of 2020 and be
the first to bring in 2021."

The Balmoral Hotel, owned by Rocco Forte Hotels, posted on social media as the hotel decided to run 3 minutes fast this past New Year's Eve. The famous Edinburgh clock traditionally runs three minutes fast to help people catch their train on time at nearby Waverley Station.

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 16!

CLUES ACROSS:

- 1) Island below South Uist (5).
- 4) Strikes in Scotland (6)
- 8) With water it refreohes (5).
- 9) Throw them down for contest (9).
- 11) Scotland's gigantic valley (5,4)
- 12) Fruity colour (5).
- 13) Tusician way out in front (4, 5).
- 16) Joint below the oxter (5).
- 18) A scar wound in Scots (5).
- 19) They're needed at St Andrews (5, 4)
- 21) There are many on the West Coast (5).
- 23) A Scots double room! (3,3,5).
- 26) A reaper (9).
- 27) The deepest loch in Scotland (5).
- 28) They house 14 Down (6).
- 29) Try this composition (5).

CLUES DOWN:

- 1) Island between N and S Uist (9).
- 2) Correct in Scotland (5).
- 3) A high messenger! (5).
- 4) Disgusted with the Scots! (9).
- 5) Big guns! (9)
- 6) A measure of gas (5).
- 7) Put on a show (6).
- 10) Tendon (5).
- 14) Clergymen (9).
- 15) Followers of James II (9).
- 17) A colourful Scottish fruit (9).
- 18) One and the other to Scots (5).
- 20) Solar skill in Lochaber area! (6).
- 22) Animal's immature state (5).
- 24) Protected the Highlander (5).25) Loses the power (5).

Rare ancient Roman burial urn rediscovered in National Museums Scotland's Collections

n ancient Roman burial urn made of Egyptian stone has been rediscovered in National Museums Scotland's collections. A very rare example of such an urn found in northern Europe, it would have once held the remains of a powerful Roman at Camelon, just north of the Antonine Wall. It has been in National Museums' care since the 1850s, but its significance has only recently been understood.

Roman workmanship

Camelon was a major Roman military base facing the unconquered northern tribes. When a railway line was constructed across it in 1849, the navvies' pickaxes uncovered and broke the urn and scattered the bones it once held. The whereabouts of the bones and smaller pieces of the urn are unknown, but the largest two fragments entered the collections of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, which later became part of National Museums Scotland.

Early antiquarians were amazed by the urn, and it was on display for decades. However, in a 1901 article the then *Keeper of the Museum*, Joseph Anderson, wrote that it "presents no features which suggest Roman workmanship". It was dismissed as more modern and put into storage, where it remained for over a century. The fragments were recently re-examined

by Dr Fraser Hunter, Principal Curator, Iron Age & Roman collections at National Museums Scotland. He found that they were made from Egyptian travertine, a popular choice for Roman burial urns because of both its beauty and the Romans' fascination with Egyptian beliefs about death and the afterlife.

Significant and unusual

The blocks of raw stone were quarried in Egypt and shipped to Rome, where they were carved into funerary urns and bought

The Romans planned carefully for death, so travelling with one's own funerary urn was commonplace among the wealthy and powerful.

by the Roman elite, including emperors and their households. While only the base and bowl of the urn survive, a very similar, perfectly-preserved urn in the National Museum in Rome shows how it would have looked, with an ornate lid and paired handles. While similar urns have been discovered in southern Europe, only two others have been identified from the northern frontier of the Roman empire.



It is likely that it was brought to Scotland by a member of the Roman elite – probably the commander of this powerful Roman outpost, or one of his close family. The Romans planned carefully for death, so travelling with one's own funerary urn was commonplace among the wealthy and powerful.

The urn is now back on display in the National Museum of Scotland as part of New Collecting, New Thinking, a display highlighting new acquisitions and new ideas.

Dr Fraser Hunter, Principal Curator of Iron Age & Roman collections at National Museums Scotland said: "Rediscovering this object and working out how significant and unusual it is, has been an exciting process.
Luxurious stone urns are very much a Mediterranean habit, with barely any coming from the cold northern edges of the Roman world, so this one is a rare migrant indeed. That a powerful person travelled such a distance with this object offers a tantalising glimpse into the practices and values of ancient Romans. I am delighted that it is now back on display for visitors to enjoy, over a century after it was last seen."

Did you know?

The Antonine Wall - the last linear Roman frontier

- The Antonine Wall is one of Scotland's World Heritage Sites, which runs across Central Scotland. It was the most northerly frontier of the Roman Empire nearly 2,000 years ago.
- The Antonine Wall was around 37 miles long. Running from Old Kilpatrick on the west coast to near Bo'ness in the east, the Antonine Wall was around 37 miles (60km) long and crosses five modern local authorities. It would take you around 12 hours to walk the whole length of the wall!
- It wasn't what you'd think of as a
 "wall". Unlike its stone-built southern
 neighbour, Hadrian's Wall, the
 Antonine Wall was mostly built out of
 turf, laid on top of a stone foundation
 and fronted by a wide and deep ditch.
- There's a deep ditch for good defence.
 The Antonine Wall's main ditch is a monumental earthwork dug to the north of the rampart and berm.
 The ditch width ranges from a narrow 4m to as wide as 20m!
 You can find the best surviving stretch of ditch at Watling Lodge, Falkirk.
- You have to watch where you step.
 At Rough Castle, you can see a unique
 feature of the Wall: a type of mantrap known as lilia. These large oval
 pits to the north of the ditch and

- the outer mound may have been the first line of defence for threats coming from the north. Julius Caesar's men referred to pits like this as lilia or lilies, because of their shape.
- 7,000 Roman soldiers were stationed on the Antonine Wall.
 Soldiers came from countries as far away as modern Syria, Spain and Algeria. But was only occupied for about a generation before being abandoned in the AD 160s.
- Communal living also meant communal cooking. The soldiers probably took it in turns to cook their daily rations. Sewage from the communal latrines at Bearsden (above) has revealed a surprisingly wide-ranging but largely vegetarian diet: wheat, barley, beans, figs, dill, coriander, raspberries, brambles, strawberries, blueberries and nuts.





Tenement Tale's

Canadian Brian Diamond has developed a collection of short humorous stories which were written to create a book that he could give to his 13 grandchildren. The stories are 100% true and accurately portray his childhood growing up in a tenement in the industrial suburb of Springburn in Glasgow in the 1940's and 50's.



nother tenement tale, and once again I have to assure our readers these stories are being told as observations on reflections of my youth growing up in Springburn, the tale is written with no malice and a pure heart. I was raised three stairs up in Keppochhill Rd, and for the residents who live on this lofty landing, this is a blessing. All the noise from the houses above travels downwards, so with no one living above you, tranquillity reigns on the top landing, or so it would appear. My family lived in the centre room and kitchen with an inside toilet, a luxury for some, but a terrifying inconvenience for my mother as she was always afraid that any one of her three kids would cause the toilet to back up and flood the notorious "Mrs G" who lived directly below us.

The nicest front door

Mrs G was a very interesting woman, a toffee-nosed lady whom I suspect married below her class, at least that was the image that was portrayed in everything that she done. Mrs G had without a doubt the nicest front door in the close, it was one of those front doors that was finished in a such a high gloss varnish that you could see your face in it. The door also had a beautiful grained finish as it had been combed with one of those artistic metal combs to create a series of extremely exquisite designs of scrolls, circles and squiggles. To top it off she had adorned her door with more brass than you would find on two coffins and a five star USA General combined, all polished to perfection every day.

To say that Mrs G was house proud is the master of understatements, not that this is a bad thing, she was the queen of clean and everyone had to know it. Now as any good Springburnite will acknowledge, a door like this was like a magnet to the street urchins that lived in the close, and up the stairs. God forbid you ever went near her door, hellfire and brimstone if you touched it and left a fingerprint. Mrs G just seemed to spend her days polishing her door and lurking behind it waiting to

open it if you happened to be breathing heavily as you passed it. She never needed CSI to check for fingerprints, she knew all the culprits by name. Mr G worked in the railways, and every evening when he came home from work he performed the same ritual. He would scrub his boots or shoes on the outside doormat, then sit on the stairs and remove them, and then enter the house, it was rumoured that Mrs G could spot and catch fly droppings in mid-air on a shovel before they landed on her rug. Now with this as a background here is the tale, oh by the way, I should tell you that Mrs G was Free Presbyterian and my family was Roman Catholic. That being said, I have to assure our readers that this has nothing to do with the event that happened, but it plays a large part in the paralysis that I caused my parents. This catastrophe was so embarrassing that my mother and father were mortified at what transpired, isn't mortified a great word.

Live and let live

Mrs G should have never been living up a close, especially in a house where people lived above her as her hearing was much too sensitive, she could hear things that only dogs can hear. As a result of this hearing impediment, Mrs G was constantly hammering her broom on her ceiling, "knocking up" at the three kids in the family above, namely me, my brother and sister. Our parents made allowances for Mrs G's eccentricity, "live and let live", they would say. They always made us take off our shoes at home, and kids rough house games were never permitted when they were around. The radio and TV were on limited volume control, so all in all I would have to say that my parents were very considerate neighbours under the circumstances. My father maintained that Mrs G could hear a ten bob note fall on our rug and she would start hammering up, on reflection that may well have been true as our rugs were pretty threadbare and paper thin. One day she complained to my dad that his kids were noisy that day, only to

find that no one had been home except the cat, and it was only a kitten. She would run up two flights of stairs, hammer on our door, run back down before the door was answered, and call out her grievance from the stair landing below. At this point dear readers, I would not want you to think that my family was singled out for this victimisation, Mrs G was very fair, she hammered north, south, east and west. She even resorted to calling the police who paid no attention, as apparently they knew her from the numerous complaints of the previous tenants of our house. So when my parents were home, all was quiet on the western front, but when my mom and dad went to the Princess to see a movie, leaving me, and the older brother in charge, all bets were off. We did not try to annoy her, we were just kids playing at home, but the very minute that Mrs G knocked up, I would promptly reply using the families handy dandy brass poker, the same one that every family had if your dad worked at the Caley, Cowlairs or NB Locomotive, what a great wee tool it was. Mrs G and I would play Jingle Bells, she would go bump, bump, I would reply with bump, bump, and she would respond with bump, bump, bump, bump, bump, at least that's what it sounded like to me. As I reflect on these actions, it occurs to me that I was not perhaps the cherubic angel that my mother wanted in a son and I clearly thought myself to be. Regardless of my shortcomings, I can honestly say that what happened was an accident, a horrible accident that earned me a thick ear at the time, and much laughter from my parents as I recalled it for them in the years to follow.

The green paint

I was perhaps about nine years old, and one Friday night my parents took us to the Kelvin Hall for rides on the shows and a visit to the circus, a special treat in those days. I remember sitting in the circus watching this clown swinging a bucket of water by the handle, round and round, over his head, and then throwing the water at his intended victim, only to miss and soak some other unsuspecting individual, all great fun for a kid.

Well the following day, Saturday, my parents were painting the house and they were running out of paint, so my father sends me out to pick up another can as he gets on with the painting. I had to walk all the way down Keppochhill Rd, and on Springburn Rd, just round the corner from RS McColls, on the same side as Hoeys was a small store that sold everything in the known modern world at that time. It was a magical store, I can't remember it name, but it always smelled of paraffin when you went in, and if that wee store failed to have what you wanted it was never available to begin with. This was my second trip to the store that day, the first time I bought white paint for the doors and woodwork, what a good boy I was. So, I get to the store and buy the can of green paint that I was sent out to pick up, and start to make my way home.

I think that my dad was painting our house in coal closet and coal bunker with this green paint, like an inside of a coal bunker, it wasn't a thing of beauty in your home. As I pass Springburn Public Hall, I remember how the clown was swinging the bucket of water at the circus the night before and I emulate what he was doing.

I swing the paint can around and around, over my head, and by now our more astute reader can probably see where this is going, a disaster in the making, an accident just waiting to happen. I am totally thrilled that I can do this, and continue with it all the way home, in the close, up two flights of stairs, still swinging, right until I get to Mrs G's door. I am only one short flight of stairs from safety and home, so I give the can one last big swing around, and at that precise moment, the wire handle decides to separate itself from the can. I watch in total horror in slow motion as the detached can on the big upswing takes off and hits the ceiling above me, crikey!!

Liberally splattered

I am now trying desperately to get out of its way in case it hits me on the head on its way down. I step back, miss my step and roll down the stairs clutching the detached wire handle in my fist as though it will save me, nothing could save me now. I hear a crash, get myself up and run back up the stairs keen to attach the wire handle to the paint can and no one will ever know.

The can had burst open when it hit the ground and Mrs G's beautiful door was liberally splattered in green paint.

The paint was all over the landing and running everywhere, how am I ever going to explain this? I wait with baited breath for the tongue lashing that I am sure to be getting from Mrs G, I have already managed to squeeze a sympathy tear from my eyes at the enormity of my crime, and at this moment I would have given anything to be somewhere else, even hell was looking good. I wait a few more seconds, it's a miracle, nothing happened, she's not in, I'm safe, oh god's looking after his good wee boy today. I run up the stair to tell my parents what had happened. I am reciting the accident to my dad, definitely the soft touch of the two, when my mother catches the tail end of the story, "AHHHHHHHH, NOOOOOOOOO" she screams, green paint on Mrs G's door and in the same breath delivers a slap to my ear that rings bells. My parents of course cleaned up the mess before Mrs G. returned home, at which point they took me downstairs to apologise for my misdemeanour. Mrs G could see by the broken plaster in the ceiling that this was indeed an accident and nothing of malicious intent. I think my parents had to pay to re-varnish Mrs G's door as the turpentine paint thinner used in the clean-up had taken its toll on the high gloss finish. It was a few years later before I discovered out the significance of sectarian colours, and at that time I fully understood the rationale and urgency of my mother's cry of "OH!, NO THE GREEN PAINT!"

Roddy McLeod, MBE, to teach at Balmoral's February Workshop





he Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming has advised the guest instructor Robert Mathieson will be unable to teach at the Winter Workshop session, and will be replaced by Roddy MacLeod, MBE. Though Balmoral will miss Robert, they are very excited to have Roddy teach at Balmoral for the first time.

Roddy MacLeod, MBE, of Glasgow, Scotland, served as Principal of The National Piping Centre in Scotland from 1996 -2020. In 2003, he was made a Member of the British Empire by the Queen in recognition of his services to piping and, in 2004, was awarded the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Award for Music. In 2012 he was inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Awards Hall of Fame.

In 2019 MacLeod was honored by the City of Glasgow and awarded the Lord Provost's award for services to music. MacLeod won his first Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting in 1986, the Argyllshire Gathering Gold Medal in 1988. He is a 10-time winner of the Piobaireachd at the Glenfiddich Solo Piping Championship and has won the overall title five times. While Pipe Major of the Scottish Power Pipe Band, he led it to over 45 Grade 1 Championship prizes including the Cowal Championships and All Ireland Championships.

Winter Workshop guest instructors

Our two other Winter Workshop guest instructors will be Bruce Gandy (Canada), and Andrew Carlisle (Northern Ireland/Pittsburgh). A resident of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Bruce Gandy was a member of the 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band when they were the first non-Scottish pipe band to win the World Pipe Band Championships in 1987. His solo awards include the Canadian Gold Medal. Gold Medal at the

Northern Meeting, Gold Medal at Oban, and Bratach Gorm. He is a 3-time winner of the MacCrimmon Memorial Cairn for Piobaireachd and is a Vancouver Indoor 6-Time Metro Cup Winner.

Originally from Northern Ireland, now a resident of Pittsburgh, Andrew Carlisle has won numerous top awards: A Grade Strathspey and Reel at Oban, the A Grade Piobaireachd & Overall at The Cowal Highland Gathering, US Gold Medals for both Light Music & Piobaireachd, and three All-Ireland titles at Senior level. He's 3-time winner of the Macallan Trophy at Lorient, Brittany, France. Andrew holds the prestigious positions of Professor of Music and Director of Piping at Carnegie Mellon University.

Balmoral's Winter Workshop drumming instructor and head of Balmoral's drumming program, Gordon Bell, a EUSPBA Overall Champion from 1979-1987, has over 30 years experience instructing drummers. Bell is a veteran of many top Grade One Pipe Bands.

As with 2020 events, the Winter Workshop will be a remote-learning workshop. The cost for Pipers and Drummers is \$275 USD. Students who refer new students to us will receive \$50 off the price of the workshop for every new student referred.

For more information on the Balmoral Winter Workshop 2021 see: www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org



New, Isle of Skye flag to be taken on Cross-Atlantic Rowing Challenge



The newly-launched flag celebrating the Isle of Skye is to be taken across the Atlantic Ocean, by a rowing team. Force Genesis, a mixed rowing quad, taking on

the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, are 'flying the flag' for the Isle of Skye, with the flag emblazoned on the back of the team's

rowing boat as they prepare to journey from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to the finish line in Antigua in 2021.

The flag was unveiled recently, as reported in *the Scottish Banner*. The flag was taken on by Force Genesis following the success of its first journey, around the Isle of Skye, by another Atlantic rowing team, The Bristol Gulls, in August. It is believed it will be the first time the flag has been taken across the Atlantic.



Visiting Scotland in film

ou may not be able to visit Scotland at the moment, but you can dream about the land, stories and gorgeous scenery all you like! If you're needing some inspiration for your dreaming and a way to pass the time whilst working from home, then look no further. VisitScotland have come up with a list of a few of their favourite feel good films set and shot in Scotland. So, sit back, embrace these Scottish scenes and escape to the movies with us.

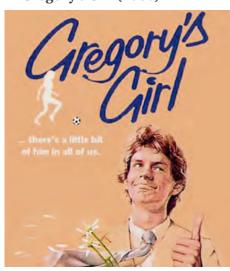
1- Local Hero (1983)



No list of Scottish films would be complete unless this classic was included - a favourite amongst those at VisitScotland. Local Hero directed by Bill Forsyth, sees a Texan oil company send Mac to negotiate the rights of buying a remote and beautiful seaside village in the north of Scotland in order to build a refinery. Mac teams up with Danny, a quirky Scotsman, to seal the deal, but the longer the negotiating takes, the more attached they become to the village's unique way of life.

If your dreams of Scotland include ceilidhs, incredible landscapes and interesting (quirky!) people, then this classic is the perfect antidote and escape for you right now. Filming locations include the Aberdeenshire village of Pennan, and a truly stunning beach on the west coast of the Highlands -Camusdarach beach, near Morar.

2- Gregory's Girl (1980)



Another film based in Scotland which captures the hearts of us Scots is also by Bill Forsyth. *Gregory's Girl* is set in Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire, and the coming-of-age tale centres around Gregory, an awkward teenager. Gregory is infatuated with Dorothy, his classmate who has made it onto the school football team, and his attempts at wooing Dorothy win the hearts of the audience. Maybe, just maybe, Gregory will win the affection the girl he fancies.

The cityscape scenery may not be just as beautiful as it is in Local Hero, but the characters are just as loveable. 3- Salmon Fishing in the Yeman (2011)



As the title may suggest, it is indeed set in Yemen. But this tale about building a salmon fishery in the heart of the desert begins its upstream journey in Scotland, with the need for a very Scottish product: salmon. In this tale, a wealthy businessman (Sheikh) wants to take his favourite past time (fishing) from Scotland to his homeland in Yemen. He enlists the help of a fisheries expert (Fred) who believes this plan is absurd, but Sheikh's determination and belief in the project are endearing and Fred has to pursue the challenge. Ardverikie Estate features in this story, a lochside house located near the Cairngorms which will play on your heart strings and make you long for a Scottish adventure. This tale flows swiftly into a story of believing in the impossible, keeping the faith and staying true to yourself in times of impossibility and strife.

4-What We Did on Our Holiday (2014)



Set in rural Scotland, on Red Point Beach in Wester Ross, this lovely story is based around a family reunion. It's grandad's 75th birthday and his family have travelled from London to celebrate with him. However, the family have brought secrets with them including a separation. Set amongst the most gorgeous landscapes of the Highlands, this film will help you remember what's important in life and let you dream about the Scottish beaches and beautiful scenes you're yet to take in. What We Did on Our Holiday is another favourite of VisitScotland's and stars Sir Billy Connolly and David Tennent. Something to do with the beautiful beaches, we think!

5-Brave (2012)



We think you'll agree with us on this one. We couldn't leave Brave off our list, especially if we're hoping to inspire you to indulge in and relax with movies set

in Scotland. Merida is a princess who is determined to make her own path in life and is willing to defy tradition and honour to do so. This film is pure Disney/ Pixar magic, and includes everything we love about Scotland: ginger hair, tales of magic, quirky clansmen, stunning scenery and a message about family and love. The Calanais Standing Stones on the Isle of Lewis were one of the inspirations for this mythical tale. It's both magical and charming and will leave you feeling warm and fuzzy.

6-The Three Lives of Thomasina (1963)



This film set in Scotland can only really be described as cute and quirky. Shot in Inveraray, Argyll, and set in the year 1912, The Three Lives of Thomasina is a lovely story about a wee girl and her ginger cat, Thomasina. The film is set amongst a Highland backdrop and characters include a cat, a cute wee girl, her struggling father and even a suspected witch! This lesser-known Disney film is one for all the family and will inspire some research into the beautiful Scottish region of Argyll & The Isles.

7- Skyfall (2012)



Arguably, any James Bond film should be added to our infinite lists of films to watch whilst we're in lockdown. They're classics. And of course, VisitScotland's favourite has to be Skyfall, possibly for the Scottish scenery, but we also love the gripping storyline and slick spy drama. Bond flees to Scotland (where he spent some of his childhood) to escape the bad guy in this film. This section of the movie is filmed in Glen Coe, one of Scotland's many incredible landscapes. At the moment, we may not be able to venture to Glen Coe, an incredible glacial valley loved by walkers and photographers alike, but we can certainly enjoy watching the scenery unfold before our eyes in Skyfall.

It's so important that we look after each other even more than usual. And during these times, this must be done at home. However, not all is lost. We can all still embrace our love of Scotland. We hope these movies will offer you a mindful escape to Scotland, as well as allow a few hours to yourself to rest and relax.

Do you have a favourite feel good film set and filmed in Scotland? Share your story with us at: www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

Andrew Carnegie's "Fairy Glen" acquired by Woodland Trust Scotland



oodland Trust Scotland has purchased a favourite summer picnic spot of Andrew Carnegie. The millionaire industrialist and philanthropist bought the Skibo Estate, and its Ledmore and Migdale woods in 1897 and would return with his family to spend summer holidays until the outbreak of the First World War. The Carnegies named their favourite woodland walk and picnic spot "The Fairy Glen" and in 1907 opened it to the public.

A carved stone marking the occasion was uncovered by Woodland Trust Scotland volunteers Jim and Saddhavati Monahan, and site manager Ross Watson last week. It had become overgrown with moss and grass. The stone reads:

"FAIRY GLEN Opened by Mr, Mrs and Miss Carnegie 10th September 1907"

A beautiful little glen

The Glen has a path through it today, but once had a more elaborate route through including nine wooden footbridges across the burn.

Woodland Trust Scotland purchased Ledmore and Migdale in 1993. At nearly 700 hectares it is one of the Trust's largest sites, and its most northerly wood in the UK. The 2.5ha Fairy Glen remained in private ownership however, until this week's completed purchase.

Woodland Trust Scotland site manager Ross Watson said: "This is a beautiful little glen with a charming burn tumbling through oakwoods dripping with mosses and ferns. It would be a lovely addition to Ledmore and Migdale on its woodland merits alone, but the Carnegie connection makes it all the more fitting. We are extremely grateful for the support of The Carman Family Foundation which enabled us to acquire this site."

Established in 1972, the Woodland Trust now has over 1,200 sites in its care across the UK, covering approximately 29,000 hectares. Access to its woods is free so everyone can benefit from woods and trees.



Iona-Beyond the boundary

From the 20th century remains of rusting machinery at the marble quarry to flakes of flint from Mesolithic hunter-gatherers, there's more to Iona's past than just the abbey.



By: Derek Alexander, Head of Archaeological Services, the National Trust for Scotland

ince Columba arrived on Iona with his followers in AD563, the site of the abbey has formed the focal point of the island. Columba's monastic settlement would have been built of timber and earth, with a number of carved stone crosses, and it continued in use despite intermittent Viking raids from AD795 onwards. The stone church you see today was part of the Benedictine abbey of 1200. This fell into ruins after the Reformation, but was rebuilt in the first half of the 20th century as part of a major conservation project. During these rebuilding works a wide range of archaeological investigations were carried out around the abbey.

Professor Charles Thomas carried out one of the largest programmes of investigation from 1953–63, when around 100 small trenches were excavated. The results of this work have recently been pulled together by archaeologists from Glasgow University and form an incredible overview of the site. Perhaps the most significant revelation from this work was the new radiocarbon dates from the remains of a wicker hut on Torr an Abba, which confirmed it belonged to the 6th century and could have been Columba's cell!

Geophysical survey

Over the last 15 years, the National Trust for Scotland has been undertaking small-scale investigations outside the immediate confines of the abbey ruins. Using a grant from Historic Environment Scotland, we commissioned a geophysical survey of the fields to the north and south of the abbey, which revealed the lines of multiple ditches. These ditches would have

formed the *vallum* (a ditch and bank), which would have delimited the sacred space around the monastic complex. On Trust land, an earlier trench across the *vallum* ditch to the west of the abbey was re-excavated by the Glasgow University team, as was a trench across a rectilinear enclosure visible on the geophysical survey results, close to the ruins of St Mary's Chapel. The enclosure proved to be post-medieval in date and sat on the east side of the road that approached the abbey in the 18th century.

Archaeological work on Iona over the years has started to unravel the history of human activity on the island beyond the confines of the early monastery.

As part of a National Trust for Scotland Thistle Camp, volunteers and participants excavated 10 test pits in an area proposed for a community ground source heat system to evaluate it for archaeological remains. Although no structural remains were encountered, we recovered quite a large collection of artefacts including over 100 sherds of post-medieval craggan ware, highlighting that the area was occupied even when the abbey was in ruins.

To the south of the village, we found a wide range of archaeological deposits through geophysical survey and excavation, including a concentration of flints within and below the deep ploughsoil close to the Village Hall. When examined, these flints showed at least two phases of activity: the first in the late Mesolithic around 7,000 years ago, and the second in

the Early Neolithic from 5–6,000 years ago. The former is the earliest evidence for human activity on Iona and the flints would have been used by mobile hunter-gatherer groups, perhaps making seasonal use of the island's varied resources.

Further south, in Martyr's Bay, an area of disturbed ground appeared on the geophysical survey. Here, Thistle Camp participants excavated trenches and found a mixed range of artefacts including a copper-alloy coin of Charles I (1625-46), pottery and flint. An area of intercutting, rectangular spade-dug pits looked like they might have been graves but no human remains were identified. Two copper-alloy pins were also found and one dates to the 10th or 11th century AD. This is one of a number of Hiberno-Norse pins that have been found on Iona in the last few years, and evidence that the island continued to attract people even after the Viking raids of the late 8th and early 9th centuries.

The archaeological features were cut into a layer of hazel charcoal, from which a sample was submitted for radiocarbon dating, and this gave us perhaps the biggest surprise in this excavation.

The results came back as AD428–600, which covers the period that Columba came to the island, and is one of the few dates from this period from outside the focus of the monastic complex.

Scotland's cultural and natural heritage

In addition to targeted research, Trust archaeologists also have to respond to chance finds - like the discovery of a 3,000-year-old rubbish pit eroding out of the sandy bank of a burn on the west side of the island. Within the dark soil were lots of limpet and whelk shells, burnt and unburnt animal bones, sherds of pottery, flint and large cobble stone tools. The animal bones are mostly sheep or goat, but one large chunk appears to be a scapula of a grey seal and must either have been hunted or collected after washing up on the beach. Two pieces of red deer antler were found in the vicinity several years ago by the farmer and these display obvious signs of cutting. The results of radiocarbon dating a sample of birch charcoal confirmed that the pit dated to between 930-810 BC, in the Late Bronze Age.

Over the years, volunteers have helped to conserve and repair some of the archaeological sites on Iona, in particular helping to conserve the machinery of the

marble quarry at the southern end of the island. Preservation of the iron machinery in such an exposed location close to the sea has always been difficult, but over the years maintenance has at least reduced the rate of decay. The quarry is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and detailed advice and consent had to be obtained from Historic Environment Scotland for the work on this important industrial archaeological site. Work included the cleaning of the gas generator tank, the removal of corrosion, and the application of multiple coats of zinc phosphate primer before the final painting of a black gloss paint. Although Iona marble was probably quarried in medieval times, and the Duke of Argyll also authorised work in the late 18th century, the remains on the site today date to the work undertaken by the Iona Marble Company which was in operation from 1907-13. A new interpretation panel for this site has recently been prepared by Trust ranger Emily Wilkins.

The Trust's aims are to protect, promote and provide experiences of Scotland's cultural and natural heritage. Our archaeological work on Iona over the years has started to unravel the history of human activity on the island beyond the confines of the early monastery. While these investigations have allowed people to visit the island and participate in archaeological fieldwork, we have also involved local primary school pupils (from Iona and Bunessan). It's through working in partnership with the local community and research institutions that we will gain a better understanding of the history and archaeology of this very special island.

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









Valentine's Day in Scotland

Looking for some inspiration for Valentine's Day? Here are some great ideas for romantic Scottish getaways and days out for when it is next possible to visit Scotland.



epending on where you're from, and how far back through history you look, you might enjoy all sorts of Valentine's Day traditions. In England it was once said that if you put bay leaves at each corner of your pillow, you would have sweet dreams and visions of your future spouse. In Wales, at the end of January, they also celebrate St Dwynwen's Day, when they give each other intricately carved wooden 'lovespoons'. The most popular date for getting married in the Philippines is 14 February – every year mass weddings take place across the country, with hundreds of couples tying the knot simultaneously (and hopefully being careful where they throw the bouquet!). Scotland tends to celebrate Valentine's Day in a more

traditional way, with flowers, cards and chocolates. Of course, people are always looking for new ways to celebrate the life romantic, and here are some great getaway ideas for your next visit to Scotland.

Romantic places in Scotland





We're not short on romantic scenery here in Scotland, but what about those places you might not think of (and which might be a little less crowded than Edinburgh or Glasgow city centre)? Few places compare to Iona - an island steeped in spiritual history - for a sense of tranquillity and romantic atmosphere, plus a trip here can include a quest to find the Well of Eternal Youth. Further south, in Dumfries & Galloway, Rockcliffe is part of a National Scenic Area. It has some of the prettiest coastal landscapes anywhere in Scotland, and we've even got a wonderful holiday cottage here too, so you can stay the night.

For anyone in Aberdeenshire, or for those who fancy venturing north from Edinburgh and Glasgow, Craigievar Castle feels like a magical fairytale tower, not just because of its pink hue but also because the interiors are free from artificial lighting. Then there's The Pineapple near Stirling, a unique historic building bringing a touch of the exotic to a chilly February day.

Romantic walks



To make your Valentine's Day a memorable one, why not bag a Munro? A short drive north from Glasgow will bring you to the foot of Ben Lomond, Scotland's most southerly Munro, and you can reach the peak with a 5-hour 'couple's climb' (we're going to make it a thing). From there you'll enjoy soaring, soul-stirring views over Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

There are more Munros at Mar Lodge Estate National Nature Reserve – 15 of them, in fact – as well as a vast number of treks and hikes that take in the spectacular pinewoods and heather-clad moorland. Pack a picnic and stay out for the whole day, just like Queen Victoria used to do.

Of course, it's not only our countryside properties that are great for walks – our castles all come complete with beautiful grounds, each filled with loads of things to see and do. Among the woods, beaches and parkland of Culzean Castle & Country Park you'll find hidden caves, glasshouses and the stunning Swan Pond, while at Kellie Castle you can meander your way through an exquisitely colourful and rose-scented Arts & Crafts garden.

Scotland's snowdrops



Did you know that in Denmark people often send pressed snowdrops to their beloved instead of roses? We have lots of places where you can see snowdrops in bloom, with some of them taking part in the Scottish Snowdrop Festival At Branklyn Garden near Perth you'll find some stunning snowdrops with unique heart markings, while at Threave Garden the spectacular snowdrop displays are accompanied by hellebores that provide an extra pop of complimentary colour. At House of Dun & Montrose Basin Nature Reserve the floor of the ancient woodlands are carpeted with snowdrops as far as the eye can see.

Outlander spots



Claire and Jamie's epic love story has had audiences all aflutter since 2014. You can spend Valentine's Day tracing their footsteps at one of the Outlander linked places and re-enacting their fiery timetravelling romance.

Keen fans of the show might recognise the Royal Burgh of Culross from certain scenes, and both the inside of Culross Palace and the palace garden were used in the series. The winding, cobbled streets of this authentic 17th and 18th century burgh are wonderfully atmospheric, and it's one of the easiest places to get to for anyone staying in and around Edinburgh. You could even squeeze two *Outlander* sites into one day with a visit to tranquil Preston Mill in East Lothian, which was used both as a mill on the Fraser estate and as a court for a witchcraft trial.

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



- Built by Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, Glasgow Queen Street station was opened in February, 1842 and eventually became part of North British Railway.
- The station's distinctive, category A listed roof didn't complete until more than three decades after Queen Street opened. The station opened in 1842 but the glass roof wasn't finished until 1878.
- Before 1909, trains approaching the station via the Cowlairs tunnel incline had to be pulled by a machine operated rope.
- The station was last re-developed between 1969 and 1973 and it involved the demolition of station buildings dating back to the mid-19th century. The current redevelopment is its first major upgrade for almost 50 years.

- The closure of Buchanan Street station resulted in a growth in passenger numbers at Glasgow Queen Street from 1966.
- The striking new glass façade on the West George Street side of the station is made up of 310 glass panes installed across a 21-metre-high structure. It covers 734m2 and weighs 33,030kg.
- The station provides access from Glasgow to northern and eastern Scotland. The travel time from Glasgow to Edinburgh is approximately 45min.
- The number of people using Glasgow Queen Street is set to increase by 40% to reach 28 million by 2030. It is currently Scotland's third busiest railway station.

Scotland's most romantic locations

From the Isle of Staffa to Sweetheart Abbey – in celebration of Valentine's Day, we're looking at just some of the locations in Scotland that are synonymous with love.

alentine's Day is here – a day when lovers, young and old, come together and show each other their true feelings in varying degrees of showmanship. Whether you go in for the flamboyant gifts of roses, chocolates and giant teddy bears, or you just give your significant other a little squeeze and let them know you love them, Valentine's Day has captured the imaginations of couples – and wannabe couples – for many years.

Of course, love is always in the air in Scotland, and whether it is where you live or are just planning on paying a visit, it's easy to find yourself swept up in the beauty and majesty of our stunning scenery and landmarks. So, to celebrate Valentine's Day this year, we wanted to take a little time to showcase locations in Scotland that are synonymous with love – enjoy!

Saint Valentine's relics



What better place to start than with a relic of the man himself! Yes, it might surprise you to know that a relic of St Valentine doesn't lie in The Vatican City, or in Jerusalem, but in a humble church in Glasgow. The forearm bone of St Valentine was brought to Glasgow by Franciscan monks, first being taken to St Francis' Church in 1868, before being moved to the former St Luke's Church in 1993.

Today, the relic is housed in a 3ft-wide decorative casket in the Church of Blessed St John Duns Scotus and attracts pilgrims and lovers from all over the world. The church has also become a popular spot for young lovers to propose to their other half. The presence of the relic even earned Glasgow the title 'The City of Love'.

Isle of Staffa



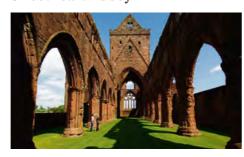
You might not think a hunk of basalt rock off Scotland's west coast would be romantic, but you'd be wrong. The Isle of Staffa, which consists of columns of hexagonal rock – some rising 40 metres above sea level –, is a wondrous sight; picture waves licking into dark caves and puffins flying past in summer months.

Seeing Staffa for the first time is truly breath-taking; which is surely why creatives like German composer, Felix Mendelssohn chose to visit more than once. The island – and particularly the famous Fingal's Cave – inspired him to create compositions such as 'Hebrides Overture'.

However, it's the story of Staffa's ownership that really warrants its place on this list.

The island had several private owners until, in 1986, it caught the eye of notable New York advertising executive John Elliot Jnr. In an incredible show of love and philanthropy, Elliot charmingly bought and gifted Staffa to the National Trust for Scotland in honour of his wife's 60th birthday. He did so knowing the heritage organisation would help preserve the island for future generations, making this a truly eternal love story.

Sweetheart Abbey



As if the name didn't give it away, the ruins of this monastery hide a rather romantic — and heart breaking — love story. Located in the village of New Abbey in south Scotland, Sweetheart Abbey was built in 1275 by Dervorguilla of Galloway, the daughter of a local lord. She was determined to establish an abbey in memory of her late husband John de Balliol.

However, there's a deeper meaning to the 'sweetheart' name. It is said that, after her husband's death, Dervorguilla embalmed and carried Balliol's heart with her at all times in a silver casket. Her devotion endures to this day, and she is buried beside him in front of the high altar at the abbey.

Not only was the abbey built with loving foundations, but it was also crafted out of beautiful ruby-red local sandstone, making a visit to this place memorable in more ways than one.

Gretna Green



Synonymous with marriage in Scotland, Gretna Green is somewhat akin to Las Vegas – just without all the flashing lights! One of the first towns you reach after crossing the Scottish-English border, Gretna became a popular wedding destination in the late 1700s when laws in England and Wales prevented marriage under the age of 21. However, in Scotland, you could legally wed at a younger age — so couples from down south began crossing the border to marry their young lovers.

Gretna has of course changed in the centuries since — as have the marriage laws — yet the town remains a popular wedding destination. Today, it's estimated that around 5,000 couples still tie the knot in the area every year.

These lovers are all keen to make the most of the romance of this iconic location – and the good luck you're supposed to receive if you touch the famous Gretna anvil. It's also home to a five-star visitor attraction where you can pick up incredible Scottish food, drink and gifts for your beau.

Edinburgh



There are many love affairs — both successful and star-crossed — that we could showcase from Scotland's capital city! From the loyalty of Greyfriars Bobby to the unlucky-in-love Mary Queen of Scots, and the similarly-fated fictional characters of novels like *One Day*, Edinburgh is one charming metropolis. In fact, its romantic credentials are just one of the reasons why it's the second most visited city in the UK after London.

But the capital is also home to the Scottish Parliament, located at the foot of the Royal Mile, where in 2013 the legislation for same-sex marriage was introduced. Another positive step in Scotland's support of LGBT+ rights, the new law came into effect on 31 December 2014 — and what better night to celebrate than Hogmanay?

One of the first same-sex couples in Scotland to be married noted that this was "an amazing chapter in Scotland's history" and that they were "proud" to live in a country that is prioritising equality for all. Because love is love, wouldn't you agree?

Abbotsford House



What links the 19th century Romantic Movement to a handsome mansion in the Scottish Borders? The answer is Scottish author, playwright and poet Sir Walter Scott (1771–1832) – once one of the biggest-selling writers in the world.

As a boy, Scott became fascinated by the oral traditions of the Scottish Borders and was an obsessive collector of stories. At the age of 25, he began writing his own works, starting with poetry based on the ballads he heard in his youth. He soon found fame across Europe, with readers eager to enter his romanticised Scottish world of myth and legend.

As the money started rolling in, Scott decided he needed a home to reflect his newfound wealth, and began building Abbotsford House in the Borders. It's estimated that the building cost him more than £25,000 (£2.1 million in 2019), and the magnificent mansion soon became the toast of the literary world.

Now in the care of a trust, Abbotsford is open to the public, so why not pay a visit. Who knows, it might spark your own romantic story.

Dunfermline Abbev



The final resting place of medieval kings, queens – and even a saint – Dunfermline Abbey was founded in 1128. Back then, royalty rarely had a say in who they married, with partners chosen to further political, social or economic links. But not King Malcolm III and his princess, Margaret, who married each other for love.

Malcolm is said to have fallen in love with Margaret at first sight. He proposed, but she declined, as she wanted to become a nun. Rather than force her hand, Malcolm pursued her for two years until she said 'yes', and they were married at Dunfermline Abbey. Their marriage was a happy and loving one, and it is said the illiterate Malcolm would stare at and kiss Margaret's most prized books.

Years later, upon hearing Malcolm and their eldest son, Edward, had both fallen in battle, Margaret died from grief just two days later. In 1250, the year of her canonisation, hers and Malcolm's bodies were exhumed and placed in a new shrine in the Abbey - husband and wife united in death, as they had once been in life.

Today, romance is alive at well at the Abbey. Still a working church, it hosts weddings throughout the year.

Greyfriars Bobby



Last but by no means least, comes the story of the loveable Scottish dog known as Greyfriars Bobby. The saying goes that love and devotion come in all different shapes and sizes - well - this Edinburgh love story is certainly testament to this idea. When his master died and was buried in Edinburgh's historic Greyfriars Kirkyard, Bobby – a Skye terrier – sat by the grave for the rest of his life – guarding it for an incredible 14 years.

So taken by his loyalty, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh actually paid for Bobby's licence and gave him a special metal collar, which is now in the Museum of Edinburgh. As well as this, English philanthropist Lady Burdett-Coutts was so charmed by the story that she had a drinking fountain – topped with a statue of Bobby – erected outside the cemetery.

Today, Edinburgh – recently voted the most dog-friendly visitor destination in the UK – still welcomes thousands of animal lovers who want to walk in Bobby's paw prints. The story has also been recreated in countless books, TV shows and movies.

Do you have a favourite romantic part of Scotland? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at: www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Alexander Selkirk, a sailor from Lower Largo, Fife, rescued after four years on the island of Juan Fernandez, 400 miles off the coast of Chile; his story inspired Daniel Defoe to write Robinson Crusoe. 1708
- 1 Author Muriel Spark born. She is most well known as the author of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, written in 1961, a touching and funny portrait of an individual and eccentric Edinburgh teacher during the inter-war period, and the effect she has on her pupils. 1918
- $\boldsymbol{2}$ Feast and legal Quarter Day of Candlemass.
- 2 James I married Lady Jane Beaufort, daughter of the Earl of Somerset, in London. 1424
- 2 Battle of Inverlochy, one of the Duke of Montrose's victories over the Covenanters, killing 1,300. 1645
- ${f 2}$ Birth of James Chalmers in Arbroath he devised the adhesive postage stamp. ${f 1782}$
- 2 Novelist Alistair Maclean died. His books The Guns of Navarone, Ice Station Zebra and Where Eagles Dare were made into films. 1987
- 3 General Monck's regiment entered London, having marched from Coldstream in the borders. The regiment kept order during the period of the restoration of Charles II. It continued as a standing regiment of the British Army, becoming known as the Coldstream Guards. 1660
- 4 Charles II proclaimed king in Edinburgh but not in England. 1649
- 4 Prince James Francis Stuart, the Old Pretender, left Scotland after a stay of only three weeks, effectively bringing the first Jacobite Uprising to an end. 1716
- 4 Honours of Scotland put on display in Edinburgh Castle after being rediscovered by Sir Walter Scott. The jewels consist of a sword, crown and sceptre. The three items were first used together during the coronation of Mary, Queen of Scots and last used for the coronation of Charles II in 1651. During the Second World War, they were hidden in different parts of Edinburgh Castle in case of German invasion. 1818



- **5** *SS Politician* ran aground on Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides during gale worse winds, creating the basis for Sir Compton MacKenzie's novel *Whisky Galore*. **1941**
- 5 John Witherspoon, clergyman, writer, President of Princeton University 1768-94, signatory to American Declaration of Independence 1776, born in Gifford, East Lothian. 1723
- $\bf 5$ John Boyd Dunlop, who patented the first practical pneumatic tyre, born Ayrshire. $\bf 1846$
- 5 Writer and historian Thomas Carlyle died in London. 1881
- **6** Queen Anne, last of the Stuart monarchs, born. **1665**
- **6** King Charles II, the "merry monarch" died. His last words to his brother James were "Don't let poor Nellie starve" a reference to his favourite mistress, Nell Gwynne. **1685**
- **6** Representation of the people Act received Royal assent, granting votes to women over the age of 30. **1918**
- $\bf 6$ King George VI dies and Queen Elizabeth II becomes monarch. $\bf 1952$
- 7 Battle at Glenfruin when the MacGregors slaughtered a number of Colquhouns the origins of the banning of the MacGregor name. $1603\,$

- 7-12,000 players and spectators descended on the frozen Lake of Menteith for Scotland's only outdoor curling tournament, known as the Bonspiel or the Grand Match. 1979
- 7-The Old Pretender's Jacobite army disbanded at Aberdeen, ending the 1715 uprising. Thirty years later his son, Charles, would try again to recapture the throne for the Stuarts. 1716
- 8 Mary Queen of Scots beheaded at Fotheringay Castle after nearly 20 years of imprisonment. At the time of her death, Mary was 44 and had outlived three husbands. 1587
- $\bf 8$ A contingent of a thousand Scots, commanded by the brothers John and William Stuart, headed to the relief of the beleagured French garrison at Orleans. The expedition ended in disaster when the force was defeated by the English at Rouvray Saint Denis and both Stuarts were killed. $\bf 1429$
- 9 John Noble, co-founder of Loch Fyne Oysters and Loch Fyne Restaurants died. It began as an umbrella and a trestle table and then transferred to a cowshed. Soon the venture became a restaurant, and then evolved into a chain of oyster bars. 2002
- 9 Gordon McQueen, 25-year-old Scotland central defender, becomes Britain's first $\mathfrak{L}500,\!000$ footballer in a transfer from Leeds United to Manchester United. 1978
- 10 Robert the Bruce murdered John 'Red' Comyn in Dumfries. Bruce met Red Comyn at the old Greyfriars Church and killed him at the high altar and Bruce began his bid for the throne. 1306
- 10 Lord Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, assassinated. 1567
- 10 Death of Lord Joseph Lister, pioneer of surgery and antiseptic at the University of Glasgow and Glasgow and Edinburgh Royal Infirmaries. 1912
- $11\,\textsc{-}$ Tolls are removed from the Erskine Bridge, the Tay Road Bridge, and the Forth Road Bridge. These bridges were the last three remaining toll bridges in Scotland. $2008\,$
- 11 Coldest temperature ever recorded in Scotland, -27.2 (-16.96F) at Braemar. $1895\,$
- 11 Author and politician John Buchan died in Canada. 1940
- 12 Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the world-wide savings bank movement, died near Ruthwell. 1846
- 12 -George Heriot, goldsmith to King James VI and founder of Heriot's School, died. The school was originally founded as Heriot's Hospital, Edinburgh. He is thought to be the inspiration for the character, Georgie Heriot, in Sir Walter Scott's novel, Fortunes of Nigel. 1624
- $13 \hbox{ Kenneth MacAlpin, King of Dalriada} \\ and the Picts, died at Forteviot. \\ 858$
- 13 Massacre of 38 of the Clan Macdonald by government order at Glencoe. 1692



- 13 Scottish Youth Hostel Association formed. 1931
- 14 Mary Queen of Scots meets Lord Darnley for the first time. They married in July 1565. $1565\,$
- 14 Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone (Patent 174461). Two hours after it was lodged, his rival, Elisha Gray, applied for a similar patent. Bell's was granted. 1876



- 14 Dolly the sheep died. Dolly was a female domestic sheep, and the first cloned mammal (at the Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh) ever to be created from an adult cell, her birth was of huge excitement both to the scientific world and to the public. 2003
- 15 Decimal currency introduced, abandoning 12 pennies to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound. 1971
- 15 The Caledonian Railway company opened. The Caledonian Railway ran trains from London to Glasgow and was in fierce competition with the Edinburgh based North British Railway. 1848
- $16 \hbox{ Government forces under Lord} \\ \hbox{Louden attempted to capture Prince Charles} \\ \hbox{Edward Stewart at Moy Hall.} \\ 1746$
- 16 Scottish crime and science fiction writer Iain Banks was born in Dunfermline, Fife. He was named one of The 50 greatest British writers since 1945 and sadly Banks died from cancer on June 9, 2013. 1954



- 16 Scottish actor, author and artist John Cairney was born in Glasgow. Best known for his one-man shows on Robert Burns, Cairney also starred in BBC's *This Man Craig* and films *A Night to Remember, Cleopatra* and *Jason and the Argonauts*. 1930
- $17 \hbox{-} \hbox{King James V passed a law which} \\ \hbox{recognised Scotland's gipsies.} \\ 1540$
- 17 James Renwick, last Covenanter to be executed. 1688



- 18 Glasgow's Queen Street train station opened. Originally called Glasgow Dundas Street the station was built by Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway to link the thriving city of Glasgow to the nation's capital. The station and line took four years to build. A £120m redevelopment has been taking place to see the station into the future. 1842
- 19 James Douglas retook Roxburgh Castle and razed it to the ground. The Black Douglas, as he was known, and sixty men gained access to the castle by climbing the castle walls using hooked scaling ladders. 1314
- 20 King James I murdered in Perth by a group led by Sir Robert Graham. 1437
- 20 Orkney and Shetland annexed from Norway. 1472
- 20 Gordon Brown, former UK Prime Minister (2007–2010), born in Giffnock, Renfrewshire. $1951\,$

- $21\,\textsc{-}$ Intercity railway between Glasgow and Edinburgh opened by Queen Victoria. $1842\,$
- 21 Eric Liddell, $\it Chariots$ of $\it Fire$ athlete, winner of 1924 Olympics 400 metres, died in Japanese internment camp in China. 1945
- 22 David II died at Edinburgh Castle. 1371
- 22 King Robert II crowned. 1371
- 23 Battle of Roslin in which a Scots army of 8,000, led by Sir Simon Fraser, Sinclair of Rosslyn and the Red Comyn, surprised an English army of 30,000 led by Sir John Seagrave and defeated them. 1303
- 23 James Herriot (pen name of James Alfred Wight), author of *All Creatures Great and Small*, died aged 78. 1995



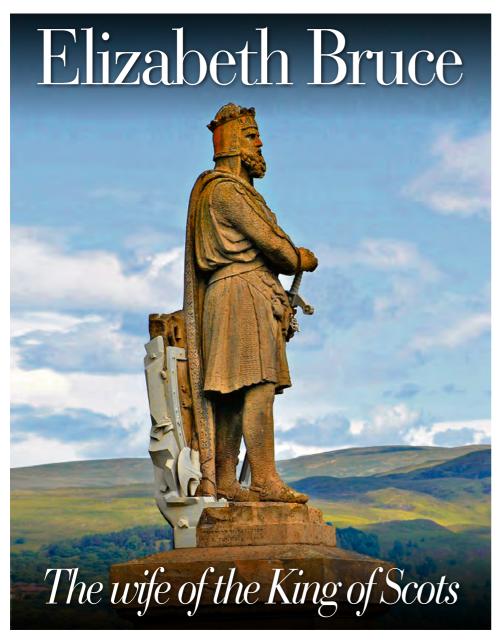
- 24 Steam train, the *Flying Scotsman* went into service with London and North Eastern Railway (LNER), on the London (King's Cross) to Edinburgh route. The train was the first and the first to reach speeds of 100 mph. 1923
- 24 Footballer Denis Law who played for Manchester United and Scotland, born. 1940
- 25 Bishop Henry Wardlaw established St Andrews as a university although it was not officially inaugurated until 4 1414 when a Bull of Foundation was promulgated by Pope Benedict XIII. 1412
- 26 Philip van der Straten, a Fleming, was granted Scots naturalisation and set up a factory in Kelso, thus starting the Border woollen industry. 1672
- $26 \hbox{ Robert Watson Watt demonstrated} \\ \text{ radar for the first time.} \\ 1935$



- 26 Entertainer and singer/song writer Sir Harry Lauder died. Lauder had become the highest-paid performer in the world, and was the first British artist to sell a million records. $1950\,$
- $\begin{tabular}{ll} \bf 27 Battle of Ancrum Moor in which Scottish forces, led by Earl of Douglas, defeated an English army twice their size. 1545 \end{tabular}$
- 28 Second National Covenant signed in Greyfriars Churchyard. The document was a direct response to Charles I's attempts to introduce a Book of Common Prayer across the whole of Britain, as Presbyterians were incensed that the General Assembly had not been consulted 1638
- 29 The famous Glasgow theatre, The Pavilion, celebrated its opening performance. $1904\,$
- 29 Patrick Hamilton was burned at St Andrews for the crime of heresy. Hamilton is regarded as the first Protestant martyr in Scotland. After studying in Europe, where he came into contact with the ideas of Martin Luther, Hamilton began to preach Protestant ideas in Scotland, leading to his arrest. Hamilton was sentenced to be burned at the stake but, horrifically, his inexperienced executioners underestimated how much kindling would be needed, and the fire petered out with Hamilton badly burned but alive. In all it took six hours for the flames to consume Hamilton. 1528

By: Nick Drainey





The story of Robert the Bruce and his wife Elizabeth is not one of love and romance. Elizabeth had an incredible life including being captured by the English and held prisoner for eight years. After her death her body was transported to Dunfermline Abbey, although it is said that her internal organs were removed during the embalming process and remained in Cullen parish church. Robert the Bruce was so grateful to the parishioners of Cullen for their treatment of Elizabeth's body that he arranged for an annual payment to be made to the church, a tradition that continues today, as Nick Drainey explains.

t was a gesture that was meant to last "for all eternity", bestowed by a grieving husband for a queen whose life during the turbulent years of the Scottish Wars of Independence had been far from easy.

When Elizabeth de Burgh, the wife of Bannockburn hero Robert the Bruce, died in 1327 after falling from her horse at Cullen on the Moray coast, preparations were made to transport her body to Dunfermline, the traditional burial place for Scottish monarchs.



For all eternity

But the community at Cullen were concerned that the more fragile parts of her body would not survive the medieval conditions of the 160-mile journey and made arrangements for her internal organs to be removed.

There is some dispute over whether they were buried at Cullen or taken separately to Fife but whatever their resting place was, the thoughtful act by the parishioners of Cullen so touched the mighty Bruce that he arranged for a bequest to be made "for all eternity" to what is now Cullen and Deskford church to say masses for her soul.

The king granted the church an annual stipend of five Scots pounds and, while it is not yet quite eternity, almost 700 years on, the gift is still paid every year albeit it is now £2.10 paid by Moray Council.

The annual occasion is marked by the church with a service for Elizabeth and for those in the local community who have died during the year, providing a poignant link between the past and present.

Political match

The match between Bruce and Elizabeth, however, was probably, initially at least, a political one rather than a love pairing.

Her father, Richard Óg de Burgh, 2nd Earl of Ulster, was a powerful Irish noble and a close friend and ally of Edward I of England, and the marriage may have been a way of repairing the Bruce family's relations with the English.

In 1297, the young Robert had defied his father and joined with the Scottish rebels against the English king who held sway in the country at the time. It was the time of William Wallace and the fight for Scotland to stand alone, free of the influence of its powerful neighbour, in a series of conflicts now known as the Scottish Wars of Independence. At the time, the English chronicler Walter of Guisborough has Bruce addressing his knights with the words: "No man holds his own flesh and blood in hatred, and I am no exception. I must join my own people and the nation in which I was born." But by the beginning of 1302 Bruce has submitted to Edward and it is later that year that he married Elizabeth.

Dr Michael Penman, a senior lecturer in history at the University of Stirling, explains: "Bruce was about 28 when they wed, a widower with a daughter, Elizabeth was 13. It is more likely a political match than a love one between the Bruce House of Carrick and the de Burgh of Ulster, neighbours across the Irish sea. Their fathers had had past dealings, so it may have originally been their idea and a way for Robert's father to repair Bruce relations with Edward I after Bruce's disloyalty in the early wars; or it was that king's idea and a way to try and tame Robert."

King and Queen of Scots

The couple may have met before at Edward I's court, where Bruce served as a young trainee knight and where Elizabeth may have been present as part of an Anglo-Norman family with a father serving in the English armies. But it is just as possible they were complete strangers when they were betrothed, and Elizabeth came to make her home in Scotland as the wife of a noble.

Four years later, Bruce had turned against Edward and begun his bid to make Scotland fully independent. The couple were crowned King and Queen of Scots at Scone in March 1306 and it was not long before Elizabeth discovered the perils of being a queen in a time of such upheaval. In June that year Bruce was defeated in battle and Elizabeth, Bruce's daughter Majorie from his first marriage and his sisters were sent to Kildrummy Castle with Bruce's brother Niall for protection. An English force arrived at the castle but by the time they gained entry, the Earl of Atholl had managed to spirit the women away and they fled to a sanctuary, only to be betrayed and handed over to the English. With Bruce in hiding with just a small band of loyal followers, these were dark days. Elizabeth spent eight years in imprisonment in England, being moved around the country in sparse conditions – she writes to complain about her captors' frugality, including a lack of bed linen.

Bannockburn

She was released in the wake of Bruce's victory in 1314 against the new English king Edward II at Bannockburn.
Dr Penman says it's hard to tell what

effect the imprisonment had on the couple's relationship. "She was then 17, he 32, and he may have doubted he would see her again or recover her or his own position. He does seem to have had mistresses, with several illegitimate children, perhaps from the period 1306-15.

"But once his bid for the Scottish kingship made progress, he knew he needed her release and return to ensure a family succession, so in a sense her release is one of the main aims of his war and battles like Bannockburn, perhaps even more practically important than forcing Edward II to recognise an independent Scotland. It is the key thing he negotiates for after Bannockburn in June 1314 and he secures her release, along with his daughter by his first marriage, and three of his sisters, by about February 1315."

She was, says Dr Penman, a significant Scottish figure, and not just because she provided Bruce with heirs – they had three children who survived to adulthood including the future king David II.

Dr Penman says: "Her return also enabled him to intervene in Ireland in 1315-18 and 1327-8, providing important links to Ulster. Their manor house at Cardross had a pier for their 'great ships' presumably for passage to Ireland. Scottish pressure on England in Ireland was an element in securing English concession of Scotland's independence."

Dutiful love

So, a successful dynastic match which fulfilled its purpose in that sense but there are signs that there was a personal bond between the couple? Dr Penman says: "It seems at least to have grown into love, with at least four children and a shared manor house residence by the Clyde at Cardross from 1326, shared church patronage and likely a joint burial - maybe even in a shared double tomb, at Dunfermline Abbey in Fife. But it may have remained more of an elite political match, a respectful and dutiful love but a reserve beyond that.

"I suspect her opinions on matters like intervention in Ireland and the Scottish succession were strongly put and not always comfortable for Robert.

Quite striking that their possibly twin sons are not born until around nine months after England and Scotland reach a long truce in 1323. At times, I have wondered if their relations cooled as they got older with Elizabeth perhaps withdrawing to a more religious life of her own, but the joint manor house accommodation tells against that and the possibility that she dies in 1327 aged 38 due to a last pregnancy."

Embalming and the removal of organs was usual practice for royalty at that time, as was separate burial sites for the heart, other organs and the body. "It often meant more than one tomb in different churches which meant more prayers for the individual's soul and an ability to associate with more than one church which they felt attachment to," says Dr Penman. But while the practice of removing organs might have been usual, the actions of Cullen's community were unusual enough to win the undying and (as yet) unending gratitude of one of the country's most famous kings.



cotland can lay claim to the birth of many popular sports, but as far as history goes it doesn't get any more fascinating than that of shinty. The origins of shinty date back to the $6^{\mbox{th}}$ century when the techniques used for play (a keen eye and deft throw) were used to train ancient warriors in preparation for battle.

The game might have been refined through the ages, but the determination to win is just as fierce. It's an exhilarating game to play - and watch - with league and cups fixtures running between spring and autumn.

Two of the fiercest rivals are Kingussie and Newtomore; villages that lie just three miles apart in the magnificent Cairngorms National Park. When these teams play, tournaments are always fully charged. In all senses of the word! Kingussie was named by the Guinness Book of World Records as the sport's most successful sporting team of all time.

What is Shinty?

Shinty is a fast, physical game where players have to score using a ball and stick. In men's shinty, there are 12 players on each team - including one goalkeeper. Each player uses a caman (a curved wooden stick) to hit the small leather ball used in play. A well-struck shinty ball can travel over speeds of 100 mph. Canadian favourite ice hockey began life when the Scottish immigrant population of Nova Scotia adapted the game of shinty to be played on ice!

Shinty Cups

First awarded in 1895, the Camanachd Cup is the most coveted of in the men's trophy events. For the women's teams, the Valerie Fraser Cup is the one to win. Finals for both cups take place in September each year.

Have you played shinty or are a fan of the sport? Tell us about your shinty story.

Shinty-Scotland's ancient sport Ken your country



How well do you know Scotland? To test your knowledge we have assembled ten fun questions on its geography, history and culture - but if you get stumped, the solutions can be found underneath. Good Luck!

- 1) What does the word "ceilidh" translate as?
- 2) Who wrote the words of Scots Wha Hae?
- 3) Which American park did the Scots conservationist John Muir found?
- If a Scot is said to be sprack, what is he?

- 5) Whose dying words were, "So little done. So much to do"?
- What physical characteristic is supposedly associated with the Clan Campbell?
- 7) How tong is the West Highland Way? a) 85 miles, b) 95 miles or c) 105 miles?
- Which much-derided Scottish King was known as Toom Tabard, or empty coat?
- 9) How did James I of Scotland (1394-1437) die?
- 10) What kind of weather is described in Scotland as smolt?

Ancient and modern side by side as new woodland takes root in Glasgow



new native woodland is set to take root in Glasgow with 20,000 trees to be planted on former pastureland on the southern edge of the city. Backed by Glasgow City Council and Green Action Trust, the £125k project will see nine different species of native broadleaf trees planted across 15 hectares next to the Cart and Kittoch Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest, near to Carmunnock.

Planted in line with the 45 hectares of ancient woodland that has been preserved and managed at Cart and Kittoch since before the 1750s, the new woodland will also spread towards the existing woods at the adjoining Cathkin Braes Country Park. Once the 20,000 trees begin to mature, it is intended that a network of paths will be installed within the deciduous woodland that will link neighbouring communities and these greenspaces. Work to prepare

the council-owned pastureland for planting is underway and fencing is being erected to keep deer away from saplings that can measure just 50cm in height. In time, however, the native trees being planted will grow up to 15metres tall and help to create a habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna, including bluebells, primrose and foxgloves to hedgehogs, badgers and birds. With the lifespan of the trees being planted anywhere between 60 and 100 years, it is anticipated that the new woodland will be able to regenerate and continue indefinitely with appropriate management.

Establishing the woodland, which will cover a space the size of 21 football pitches, will also create a store for carbon from the atmosphere and contribute to Glasgow's efforts to tackle the climate emergency.

Councillor Anna Richardson, City Convener for Sustainability and Carbon Reduction, expressed her hope the new woodland would provide a significant legacy for the local area but also for the city as a whole, "Our woodlands are a huge asset, providing space for recreation and a natural haven within the city environment. Throughout the Covid crisis, our open spaces have been greatly appreciated and so it is vitally important we cultivate these places for future generations to use as much as possible. As the woodland matures we hope it becomes somewhere that is treasured by the community."

Scotword answers from page 6

	1.0
Across:	Down:
1 Barra	1 Benbecula
4 Scarts	2 Right
8 Tonic	3 Angel
9 Gauntlets	4 Scunnered
11 Great Glen	5 Artillery
12 Lemon	6 Therm
13 Drum Major	7 Staged
16 Elbow	10 Sinew
18 Blain	14 Ministers
19 Caddy Cars	15 Jacobites
21 Isles	17 Blaeberry
23 But and Ben	18 Baith
26 Harvester	20 Sunart
27 Morar	22 Larva
28 Manses	24 Targe
29 Essay	25 Numbs

Ken Your Country answers:

- 1) A visit.
- 2) Robert Burns.
- 3) Yellowstone National Park.
- 4) Lively or alert.
- 5) Sir Walter Scott in Edinburgh.
- 6) Crooked mouths!
- 7) b) 95 miles long.
- 8) John Ballicol (1150-1313).
- 9) He was assassinated in a Perth privy.
- 10) Fair and calm with a blue sky.

Strathclyde draft Gaelic language consultation launched



s a leading international university with its heart in Scotland, Strathclyde University is committed to playing an active role in the future sustainability of the Gaelic language and culture. They are seeking views on our draft Gaelic Language Plan, which describes how the University will contribute to the future of the Gaelic language in Scotland. The University has a unique position in Scotland as the largest provider of initial teacher education and professional development for primary and secondary Gaelic teachers, as well as teachers working in Gaelic medium schools. The Gaelic Language Plan seeks to build on this tradition and support the aspirations and objectives set out in the National Plan for Gaelic and the Gaelic Language. The consultation is open until Thursday 18 February 2021.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Johnnie Walker launches vision to plant one million trees in Scotland

Johnnie Walker has launched a vision to plant one million trees across the four corners of Scotland before 2025. This comes as part of an ongoing commitment to reduce the brand's carbon footprint and restore the natural resources used to create the award-winning range of Scotch Whiskies. Julie Bramham, Global Brand Director for Johnnie Walker, said: "Scotland is our homeland. It is where our journey began 200 years ago and it's at the heart of everything that makes our whiskies so special. As we throw open the doors to the next 200 years of our journey, we want to take positive strides forward to nourish and protect the wild Scottish landscapes and pristine natural resources that have shaped our whiskies for generations."

To date, 389,000 of the one million trees have been planted near two of our distilleries in the Scottish Highlands. Over the lifetime of this project, these trees are anticipated to absorb over 69,000 tonnes of C02 - the equivalent of taking 10,500 flights around the world or driving almost half a million times from London to Edinburgh. At Ballygowan, near Oban distillery, the investment funded the planting of native birch, oak, wild cherry, willow and hazel trees and includes a new tree dedicated to every one of Diageo's 28,000 employees, in partnership with Lupi Moll, Environmental Entrepreneur and Owner of Inverlonan Estates. At Allt Ruadh, near Glen Ord distillery, Johnnie Walker has joined forces with Trees for Life to plant ancient and native trees which will serve as a vital wildlife corridor and increase habitat availability for species including black grouse, crossbills and red squirrels. Lupi Moll said: "Without the investment by Johnnie Walker in Ballygowan, the woodland would not have been possible and the broader public and ecological benefits undelivered. We look forward very much to working with Johnnie Walker over the next 100 years, delivering together a biodiverse-rich, sustainable woodland

of which everyone can be proud and helping them in their push to create the most sustainable whisky in the world."

The Johnnie Walker tree planting commitment follows the recent announcement of Diageo's Society 2030: Spirit of Progress sustainability plan, which includes ambitious environmental goals such as being net zero emissions from all direct operations by 2030 with all distilleries powered by 100% green energy by 2030.

The Stone of Destiny moving to Perth



The Stone of Destiny, one of Scotland's most iconic historical objects, is to become the centrepiece of Perth's new £26.5 million museum at City Hall. The decision has been made by the Commissioners for the Safeguarding of the Regalia and was announced by the First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, who is one of the four Commissioners, as the Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland. The other three commissioners are the Rt Hon the Lord Mackay of Clashfern KT, QC, the Lord Clerk Register; the Rt Hon James Wolffe QC, the Lord Advocate, and the Rt Hon Lady Dorrian QC, the Lord Justice Clerk.

The Stone of Destiny is to be moved to Perth from Edinburgh Castle, where it has been housed since 1996. The news has been widely welcomed as The Stone of Destiny's return to the Perth & Kinross region is expected to bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to the area, creating a significant boost for its tourism sector.

The story of The Stone of Destiny will be brought to life using cutting edge technology in a stunning, custom designed exhibition space. It will be free for all to see is expected to play a vital role in the renewal of tourism in the city and the wider region, providing a welcome boost to Scotland's tourist offering. Construction work on the new museum at City Hall is due to start in February and the museum is scheduled to open in 2024.

Welcoming the announcement, Councillor Murray Lyle, Leader of the Council, said: "I'm hugely proud and excited that The Stone of Destiny will be moving to Perth. Our new £26.5million, world-class museum is the perfect place to display this historically significant object, which represents both Perth's history as the original capital of Scotland and our future as a vibrant new city. Perth has a growing population and ambition - a place to live life well, where culture and heritage is accessible to all. As the centrepiece of our nationally recognised collection, The Stone of Destiny is a game-changer, firmly establishing Perth as the place to be."

Made from Old Red Sandstone, geological testing shows The Stone of Destiny was quarried at Scone, just outside Perth, and used for early Scottish Kingship ceremonies until it was taken by King Edward I to Westminster Abbey in 1296. It is still used to crown British monarchs.

The Stone of Destiny and the new museum are central to the story of Perth & Kinross's renewal after the Coronavirus pandemic. When it was built in the early 20th century, City Hall was a gathering place for the people of Perth and Scotland for generations and will now re-take its original place at the beating heart of the city. The space will showcase more than 10,000 objects and will tell how ancient Scotland emerged from the Kingdom of Alba and the preceding realms of the Picts, Scots and Gaels, highlighting the crucial part that Perth played in the shaping of Scotland.

World-famous author Alexander McCall Smith to receive 2020 Edinburgh Award



Internationally-admired Edinburgh-based author Alexander McCall Smith CBE has been chosen as this year's recipient of the prestigious Edinburgh Award. In recognition of his writing success, legal career and work within academia, Mr McCall Smith will be presented with an engraved Loving Cup from the Lord Provost and have his handprints set in stone at the City Chambers as soon as it can be arranged within the ongoing pandemic restrictions.

Emeritus Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh, Mr McCall Smith became a hugely successful novelist through his *The No. 1 Ladies'* Detective Agency, The Sunday Philosophy Club and 44 Scotland Street book series, the latter of which is set in the heart of Edinburgh's New Town. He is now one of the world's best-loved writers for both adults and children and his books are published in 47 languages.

He will become the 14th person to receive the award, following in the footsteps of last year's recipient Ann Budge (2019) and fellow writers Ian Rankin OBE (2007) and JK Rowling OBE (2008), as well as fellow academics Professor Peter Higgs (2011) and Sir Timothy O'Shea (2017). Writing four or five new books every year Mr McCall Smith's career continues to go from strength to strength. The Edinburgh Award will go some way towards recognising Alexander's celebrated and thriving writing career, through which he often shares his love of Scotland's capital city. Lord Provost Frank Ross said: "Through his wonderfully charming and engaging writing Alexander McCall Smith has done much to promote Edinburgh across the world. It therefore gives me great pleasure to announce him as the recipient of the 2020 Edinburgh Award. The Edinburgh Award enables citizens to pay a lasting tribute to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to our great city, and Mr McCall Smith has done exactly that through his truly impressive bibliography. He has written and contributed to more than 100 books including specialist academic titles, short story collections, and a number of immensely popular children's books, becoming one of the best-loved authors in the world. He is a true advocate for Edinburgh through his writing and legal career and is a highly deserving recipient of one of Edinburgh's most prestigious awards."

Alexander McCall Smith CBE said: "I am immensely honoured by this award. The people who really deserve it, though, are those who have helped me in my work: the publishers, editors, and bookshop staff who help get the printed word out about this wonderful city."

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 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 geneologist. 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**

Website: www.clancumming.us Email us: info@clancumming.us See us on Facebook



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

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



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



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; Dhai; 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: clandavi or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P, P.O. Box 519 Baulkham 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.

London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands Canada: Ontario * Western Canada

Australia: New South Wales * Victoria * Queensland * Western Australia New Zealand: New Zealand

Africa:

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, ou History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you. http://www.donnachaldh.com/ Facebook: The Clan Donnachaidh Society Email: ivc@donnachaidh.com



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

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

www.clangalbraith.org



5284 Cross Creek Court

Acworth, GA 30102

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 decent, or by recognized septs: Carlisle Carruthers, Crosby, Randolph and Stenhouse.

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce 1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Stillwater, Minnesota 55082

Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary 5561 Earl Young Road Bloomington, IN 47408 www.familyofbruceinternational.org Clan Donald

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

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Mr A. Neil Macdonald

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



Invites membership to anyone of the surname or variations:- Edmiston/e, Edmondston, Edmanson, Edmeston, Edmonson, Edmundson, 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



7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balqhidder 24th Chief of Clan Gregor Great Lakes, New England, Pacific North West, Western U.S.

and Southeast Chapters www.clangregor.com

r membership contact Keith MacGregor P.O Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876

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



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: elliotcommia@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: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com Web: www.clangregor.com

"Royal is our Race"



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

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



Clan Donald

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. Farguharson, MC of Invercauld

Membership inquiries are invited from descendants of Farguharson 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

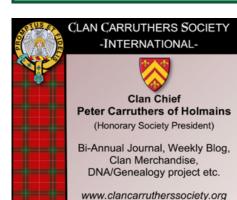
Est 1909

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 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: Mr Thomas R. Macdona Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

itary clan society formed by the children of Norman Hume Macdonald an 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

clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com



28 Oxbow Drive Willimantic, CT 06226 clanhavmembership@hotmail.co

The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Haye(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; ArmII; Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgatie; D' Ay(e); Dellah'aY; Errol(I); 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



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 John K. Manchester - Secretary International Clan MacFarlane Society Inc.

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MACFARLANE.ORG

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New Zealand. Tony McPhers

Australia. John L Macpherson

at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1st April to 31st Octobe Ph + 44 1540 673 332. See http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum.

The MacEanruigs, proud sons of Henry, invite you to join! **Clan Henderson Society**

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 Alistair of Fordell

Jeff Henderson jeffh@bigpond.com 0439 330 012



www.clanhendersonsociety.com





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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Societies of Australia Membership is open to MacLeods

and Septs (of any variant spelling),

and descendants. Recognised Sept

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• 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

Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallum Norman

MacCrimmon

MacWilliam

Williamson

Norie

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Harold MacCaig MacHaigh Lewis MacCaskey MacRaild

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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 Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.



Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

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

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



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 New Second Edition!

A History of the Clan Macnachtan

Paperback available through Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk, Amazon.ca



Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

We invite MacRaes of all spelling variations and their descendants to join our Clan MacRae Society. Learn your

Scottish MacRae history and family lineage!

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 IRWIN • IRVIN • IRVINE • IRVING • ERWIN • ERVIN Over 270 ways the name has been spelled since 325 A.D.

www.clanirwin.org



Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

https://clanmaclarenau.org/ clanmaclarenau@gmail.com



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

Society Chief: Ian Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale!

Clan Maitland

We are all related! Contact your local society North America: Rosemary Maitland Thorn rthomnvprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Carole Maitland carole_maitland@yahoo.com.au 4230 Colac- Lavers Hill RoadWeeaproinah. 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: earlmcalpine@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





website: ClanMacNeilUSA.us Find us on Facebook, Twiter, & Instagram @ClanMacNeilUSA











Clan Munro

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.

505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON N5Z 3B2

Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyl and Clan MacDowall of Galloway

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



Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

> **Contact Ross Nicolson** 10/377 North Rocks Rd., Carlingford NSW 2118

www.clanmacnicol.org

& FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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Among the most ancient families of Scotland. If you are a descendant of Pollock, Pollok, Pook, Polk, Polke, Paulk, Poalke, Poulk, Poolke, Pogue - you are cordially invited to contact:

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



(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowar

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

Welcomes Stewarts, however spelt, by name, Gathering in historic, Stewart-related properties in Scotland. Newsletter. Annual magazine.

53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT, Tel/Fax 0131 220 4512 www.stewartsociety.org

Scottish Associations and Societies



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

724
australianheritagecouncil.com.au Find us on Facebook

Ph: 0411097724

Scottish Gaelic

Language Classes:

Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm

during school terms

n Australia

for information contact Commander Des Ross

Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0409 322 374



Clan Sinclair Australia

Membership and inquiries from all Sinclairs,

Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants.

For further info contact

President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174

Secretary: Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263

E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com

www.clansinclairaustralia.com

The Stewart Society

birth, or descent, from all over the world. Annual

Please inquire: The Secretary



Comunn Gàidhlig

(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

Email:scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com **Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria**

420-424 William Street, West Melbourne.

Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277

Founded in 1905

https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com

Clan Ross America



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

Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia

Contact: M Hodgkinson 212 MacKenzie Street Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559) william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus



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



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.standrewsocietv.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



Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

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

E-mail: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au Website: https//scotsofaus.org.au

Facebook: facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria



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

Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs: Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.

E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com





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
- > Conducts Annual Burn Supper, Poetry Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

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

Victorian Scottish Union Inc Established 1905

Umbrella group representing the interest of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria. Affiliated Clans & Societies Balmoral Highland Dancing Society

Brunswick Scottish Society Clan Donald Victoria Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc Geelong Scottish Dance Glenbrae Celtic Dancers Kilmore Celtic Festival Maryborough Highland Society
Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society
Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Robert Burns Club of Camperdown

Chief: Mr Barry Grant President: Mr Norman Macdonald Secretary: Mrs Jan Macdonald T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930 E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com

Warrnambool & District Caledonian Society Warrnambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society



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

Worldwide organization for all Wardlaws or related families. We invite you to join us. Email: clanwardlaw@yahoo.com

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www.clanwardlaw.com Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457 Pinehurst, NC 28370

Welcomes membership of anyone interested in the exchange of people and ideas between Scotland and the United States.

Write or phone for our free brochure. www.scottishheritageusa.org email: shusa457@gmail.com (910) 295-4448

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

Please contact us at:

info@scottishbanner.com, www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us or add your upcoming events at: www.scottishbanner.com/events/ submit-an-event

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

The international Scottish event community worldwide has been greatly impacted by event postponements and cancellations due to restrictions related to COVID-19. Please check direct with event contacts for the most up to date information. You can also see our latest updates or add your event at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

Canada

FEBRUARY 2021

7, Calgary, AB

The Great Canadian Kilt Skate

Celebrate Scottish heritage with food, dance, and lacing up the skates at Calgary Olympic Plaza. Info: www.kiltskate.com

7, Fergus, ON

Great Canadian Kilt Skate

Celebrate Scottish heritage with food, dance, and lacing up the skates. This event will depend on public health protocols and may be cancelled. Info: www.kiltskate.com

27, Toronto, ON

Great Canadian Kilt Skate

Celebrate Scottish heritage with food, dance, and lacing up the skates. If the public health protocols permit, we will host a community kilt skate on February 27. Info: www.kiltskate.com

MARCH 2021

27, Virtual event West End Workshop and Tea Dance via Zoom

Plant some Spring into your step with splendid Teachers: Sue Porter (Oban, Scotland) and Fiona Miller (Lethbridge, Alberta) Tea Dance Musician: Don Bartlett Programme: Sign In at 12:15; Two Classes (attend one or both as desired): 1st class for Basic/Intermediate and 2nd class for Intermediate/Advanced, Tea Dance at 3:00 p.m and Socializing Time between events. Venue: Suitable space in your home. BYO tea & treats! Registration fee: \$5.00 per person Please register early as the number of device connections is limited.

Registration and other information at

dancescottish.ca under What's on Near.

APRIL 2021

6, Nationwide

Tartan Day

Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish heritage on April 6, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. Wear some tartan with pride today!

MAY 2021

15, Nationwide World Whisky Day

World Whisky Day is a global celebration of world whiskies. Info: www.WorldWhiskyDay.com

21-23, Regina, SK Saskatchewan Highland

Games and Celtic Festival Enjoy pipe band, Highland dancing, Scottish athletics and more at Victoria Park. Info: www.saskhighland.ca

USA

FEBRUARY 2021

6, Sarasota, FL **Sarasota Highland Games** and Celtic Festival

-THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED. The sound of the pipes, the beating of drums, dancing and athletic events reminds all Scots of our ancient and glorious heritage. Gather up your family and friends and come discover the rest of your clan. Info: www.sarasotahighlandgames.com

19-21, Virtual event **Balmoral Winter Workshop**

- Piping & Drumming

The Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming is offering a weekend-long Winter Workshop for Pipers and Drummers, February 19-21, 2021, for a fee of \$275 USD. Students who refer new students to us will receive \$50 off the price of the Workshop for every new student referred. Workshop attendees will receive instruction on the Great Highland pipes, Scottish smallpipes, and Scottish snare drum. Our guest piping instructors—Andrew Carlisle, Robert Mathieson and Bruce Gandy—have all won major awards and have incomparable records of teaching and promoting pipe music around the world.

A big part of the Balmoral experience is our community. Even in the days of social distancing, we plan to give our students the opportunity to network, as well as make friends who share a common interest in piping and drumming. Tech help available to those not familiar with Zoom. Info: www.bagpiping.org

27, Green Cove Springs, FL Northeast Florida Scottish **Highland Games & Festival**

Bringing a "Wee Bit o' Scotland" to the Northeast Florida area at Clay County Fairgrounds. Info: www.neflgames.com

MARCH 2021

6, Plantation, FL

Southeast Florida Scottish **Festival and Games**

A celebration of Scotland at Plantation Heritage Park, 1100 S. Fig Tree Lane. Info: www.sassf.org

13-14, St Augustine, FL 2021 St. Augustine Celtic **Music & Heritage Festival**

Romanza's Board of Directors has made the very difficult decision to cancel the 2021 St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival, the event will return in 2022. Info: www.celticstaugustine.com

13-14, Midland, TX **West Texas Celtic Fair**

A celebration of Celtic culture at the Horseshoe Pavilion. Info: www. westtexascelticfair.com

APRIL 2021

6, Nationwide

Tartan Day

Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish heritage on April 6, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. Wear some tartan with pride today!

10, New York, NY

New York City Tartan Day Parade

Join hundreds of pipers, thousands of marchers and many more thousands cheering from the sidelines in a celebration of Scotland in New York City! Info: www.nyctartanweek.org

10, Long Island, NY **Dressed to Kilt**

The largest and most prestigious Scottish fashion show in the world honoring Sir Sean Connery at the Mill Neck Manor Estate on the Gold Coast of Long Island. Info: www.dressedtokilt.com

15-18, Norfolk, VA

Virginia International Tattoo

Join us as we reignite the Virginia International Tattoo Tradition in 2021 with an unforgettable Salute to the Greatest Generation at Scope Arena. Info: 757-282-2800 or www.vafest.org/tattoo

15-23, Los Angeles, CA ScotWeek

A festival that highlights both the proud history of Scottish culture as well as its special bond with the United States and its people moving forward into the future. ScotWeek will host events promoting Scottish heritage, contemporary culture and charity to provide opportunities for education and scholarship. Info: www.scotweek.org

24-25, Woodland, CA **Woodland Celtic Games & Festival**

This event has been cancelled due to Covid regulations, and back in 2022. Info: www.woodlandcelticgames.org

30-May 2, Decatur, TX The Texas Scottish Festival

The skirl of the Pipes, the cheers of encouragement for the Athletic events, and the swirling of the Highland Dancers reminds all Scots of our rich and glorious heritage at Wise County Fairgrounds. Info: www.texasscots.com

MAY 2021

1, Savannah, GA

Savannah Scottish Games

A grand celebration of Scottish Culture for the entire family, Music, dancing and athletic competition, children's activities, shopping, food, and fun for all! All set overlooking the Moon River at beautiful Bethesda Academy. Info: www.savannahscottishgames.com

15-16, Maryville, TN **Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games**

East TN's premier celebration of Scottish culture and heritage at Maryville College. Info: www.smokymountaingames.org

15, Nationwide

World Whisky Day

World Whisky Day is a global celebration of world whiskies. Info: www.WorldWhiskyDay.com

29-30, Costa Mesa, CA **Scottish Fest**

Southern California's largest Scottish Highland Games and Gathering. Annual Scottish and Celtic American Festival held every Memorial Day Weekend at OC Fair & Event Center, 88 Fair Dr. Info: www.scottishfest.com

29-30, Alma, MI

Alma Highland Festival and Games

Due to reasons involving the Covid pandemic this event has been cancelled for 2021. Info: www.almahighlandfestival.com/ www.facebook.com/almahighlandfestival

Canmore Highland Games are back for 2021



he Three Sisters Scottish Festival Society has announced it is initiating planning for a safe and memorable event in 2021. The $30^{\mbox{th}}$ Annual Canmore Highland Games will take place this September 4-5. The events will take place at Canmore's Centennial Park, the official venue for the Games since 1991. This popular event regularly attracts over 5,000 attendees to the beautiful mountain town of Canmore, Alberta.

President Sandy Bunch says: "This past year has not been easy on anyone - the return of our Games will bring positives to everyone touched by it: local hotels, restaurants, other local services and businesses, on-site Celtic Market stalls, food booths, pipe bands, highland dancers, sports participants, Celtic entertainers, attendees, and volunteers alike."

While detailed upcoming event information is still to come, plans will include but not be limited to the following: Highland Dance Competition, Heavy Sports Competition, Piping & Drumming Contest, British Car & Motorcycle Show, massed bands, Celtic Market, Celtic entertainment, food & beverage booths/trucks and special celebrations for the 30thAnniversary of the Games, all in the postcard setting of the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

Information will be posted as it becomes confirmed on the official Games website at: https://canmorehighlandgames.ca. Online ticket sales are slated to open July 1, 2021 or sooner, based on local and regional announcements around COVID restrictions concerning large gatherings.





IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Mushroom and spinach pancakes

Ingredients:

For the pancakes

125g/4½oz. plain flour or buckwheat flour
1 free-range egg
150ml/5fl oz. milk
olive oil, for frying
For the filling
1 tbsp. olive oil
1 small onion, chopped
handful mushrooms, sliced
2 handfuls baby spinach
2 tbsp. crème fraîche (optional)
few sprigs fresh parsley or
chives, chopped (optional)
salad leaves, to serve
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

For the pancakes, sift the flour with a pinch of salt into a mixing bowl, then crack in the egg and mix well. Add the milk and 150ml/5fl oz water, then beat well until smooth and well combined. Set aside while you make the filling.

For the filling, heat the oil in a frying pan and fry the onion until softened, then add the mushrooms to cook through. Season well with salt and pepper, add the baby spinach and cook for 2 minutes until it wilts, stirring frequently. Set aside while you cook the pancakes.

To cook the pancakes, heat a little olive oil in a large frying pan, pour in a ladleful of batter and swirl around until it thinly covers the base of the pan. Fry for about a minute until the underside is set and beginning to turn golden-brown. Turn over using a spatula and cook the other side.

While the pancake is still in the pan, spread half the crème fraîche over one side (if using), scatter over half of the mushroom and spinach mixture, and sprinkle with parsley and chives (if using). Fold the sides of the pancake over the filling and lift onto a serving plate.

Repeat with the remaining batter and filling to make another pancake (if you have any batter leftover, fry-up another pancake for dessert). Serve with salad leaves.

Hazelnut butter grilled scallops with salad

Ingredients:

For the scallops

1 tsp. olive oil
1 shallot, peeled, finely sliced
75g/2½oz. butter, softened
½ lemon, zest only
1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh chervil
1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh chives
45g/1½oz. hazelnuts, finely chopped
salt and freshly ground black pepper
6 scallops, cleaned

For the salad

½ tbsp. wholegrain mustard
½ tbsp. good quality white wine vinegar
½ tbsp. good quality rapeseed oil
1 Little Gem lettuce, leaves separated
1 punnet pea shoots

Method:

For the scallops, heat a frying pan until warm, add the olive oil and shallot and fry gently until softened but not coloured.

Place the butter into a bowl and add the cooked shallot, along with all the remaining scallop ingredients, except the scallops. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper and mix well.

Preheat the grill to high. Place the scallops onto a grill tray and top each scallop with a spoonful of the hazelnut butter. Place under the grill for 3-4 minutes, or until just cooked through. Remove from the grill and set aside to rest for one minute.

For the salad, whisk the mustard, vinegar and oil together in a bowl. Place the lettuce leaves and pea shoots into a bowl, drizzle over the dressing and stir to coat.

To serve, place three scallops onto each of 2 serving plates and serve with a pile of salad.

Fillet steak with a spiced herb butter and fondant potatoes Ingredients:

For the spiced herb butter:

200g/7oz. unsalted butter, softened 1 small shallot, finely chopped 1 garlic clove, finely chopped 2 tsp. capers, finely chopped 2 tsp. finely chopped gherkins 1 tsp. finely chopped anchovies 1 tsp. finely chopped chives 1 tsp. finely chopped chervil 1 tsp. finely chopped tarragon 1 tsp. finely chopped flatleaf parsley1 tsp. thyme leaves1 bay leaf2 tsp. curry powder

For the fondant potatoes:

4 medium Maris Piper potatoes, peeled 50g/1¾oz unsalted butter 300ml/10fl oz. fresh chicken stock For the glazed vegetables 150g/5½oz baby carrots 50g/1¾oz caster sugar 50ml/1¾fl oz. chicken stock 75g/2½oz. unsalted butter 150g/5½oz. sugar snap peas

For the steak:

2 tbsp. olive oil

4 x 140g-175g/5-6oz. fillet steaks

Method:

For the spiced herb butter, place all the ingredients in a large food processor and blend until smooth. Lay a piece of aluminium foil on the work surface and lay the blended butter in a line along the foil. Roll the butter in the foil into a cylinder, tighten at both ends and place in the fridge to set. For the fondant potatoes, trim both ends of the potatoes and use a peeler to shape them into a barrel shape. Heat a large frying pan and add the butter. Once melted, add the potatoes and fry until golden-brown.

Add the chicken stock and cook for 20-30 minutes until soft, but not falling apart - they need to hold together.

To make the glazed vegetables, place the carrots, sugar, chicken stock and butter in a saucepan over a medium heat and cook for 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and set aside.

Meanwhile, place a small saucepan on the heat and add water. Once boiling, add the sugar snaps. Cook for 4-5 minutes, drain and refresh in cold water before setting aside.

For the steak, place a large frying pan over a high heat. Once hot, add the oil and then cook the steak for two minutes on each side, or until cooked to your liking. Place a slice of the spiced herb butter on top of the steaks and place under the grill for 1-2 minutes, or until the butter has melted.

To serve, place a frying pan over a medium heat and add a little of the carrot cooking liquor. Add the carrots and sugar snap peas and cook for a couple of minutes, or until hot.

Place the vegetables at one side of each plate and a fondant potato at the opposite side. Place the steak in the middle and serve immediately.

Valentine cupcakes Ingredients:

For the cakes:

125g/4oz. unsalted butter, softened 125g/4oz. caster sugar 2 free-range eggs 125g/4oz. self-raising flour 150g/5oz. raspberries 6 passion fruit, sieved pulp only a little milk, to loosen the

mixture as necessary

For the icing:
500g/1lb 1½oz. icing sugar
160g/5½oz. butter
1 vanilla pod, seeds only
2-3 drops pink liquid food colouring
50ml/1¾oz. milk
hundreds and thousands



After all the food and fun of the holiday's one would think February is a quiet month, however with Valentine's Day (Feb. 14th) and Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday (Feb. 16th) it certainly is going to be a tasty month!

Method:

For the cakes, preheat the oven to 180C/350F/ Gas 4. Sit 12 paper cases in a muffin tray.

Beat the butter and sugar in a bowl until pale and creamy. Add the eggs, one at a time, and beat until well combined.

Fold the flour, raspberries and passion fruit pulp into the mixture until almost smooth. If the mixture looks too stiff, add a little milk, as necessary.

Divide the mixture among the paper cases then bake for 20 minutes. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool in the tin for 10 minutes. Turn the cakes out onto a wire rack and set aside until completely cooled.

For the icing, using an electric whisk, cream the icing sugar and butter together until light and fluffy. Whisk in the vanilla pod seeds and food colouring. Gradually whisk in enough milk to form a smooth paste.

Spoon the icing into a piping bag with a large star-shaped nozzle and pipe the icing over the cake. Sprinkle over the hundreds and thousands.

Orange cranachan



Ingredients:

4 blush or blood oranges 50g/2 oz. pinhead oatmeal or rolled oats 150ml/5fl oz. pot whipping cream 2 tbsp. whisky 150g/5oz. tub Greek yogurt 2 tbsp. clear honey Honey

Method:

Slice the top and bottom off each orange and sit them on a board. Using a sharp knife, cut down between the peel and flesh until all the peel and pith have been removed. Cut between each membrane to remove all the segments. Roughly chop and set aside. Heat a non-stick frying pan over a medium heat. Dry-fry the oatmeal, stirring often, for 3-5 mins. It should start to smell nutty, but don't let it burn. Tip the oatmeal onto a plate to cool. Whisk the cream and whisky together to soft peaks. Carefully fold in the yogurt, oatmeal and honey until just combined. Spoon half the mixture into 4 serving glasses and top with half the orange. Repeat layer with the remaining ingredients and serve drizzled with extra honey, if you like.



By: David C Weinczok



More broadly, this speaks to our habit of thinking of castles as bastions in which the medieval nobility could seal themselves off against the world. This framing was popular in the post-war period, as many castle studies scholars had fought in the World Wars and so, understandably, adopted a sort of 'fortress mentality'. Only in the latter part of the 20th century did the field begin to emphasise the economic and social function of Scotland's castles. Some even argued that the very definition of 'castle' - which has never been unanimously agreed on - should expand beyond the main walls to include the communities and landscapes that made the existence of castles tenable.

Smailholm Tower

Smailholm Tower in the Scottish Borders is another case in point. As an infant, Walter Scott was sent from Edinburgh to Sandyknowe Farmhouse, adjacent to the tower, to improve his faltering health. Scott later described the profound effect the tower had on his imagination, the sight of it "standing stark and upright like a warden" inspiring the way he approached writing about his beloved Scotland. By that time Smailholm Tower had been abandoned, appearing every inch the lonely ruin. What he did not see, therefore, was the kitchen, stable block, outer hall, and chapel that once populate the tower's immediate surroundings; nor would he have given much heed at that age to the wider environment, comprising pastures which supplied the economic lifeblood of the site. I suppose it's not exactly the stuff of capital 'R' Romance, to be fair!

The number of Scottish castles that truly stood alone, such as Borthwick in Midlothian, is miniscule and illustrate the exception rather than the rule. Even in such cases, they invariably depended on wider systems of trade, politics, and production in order to function as both defensive and domestic institutions. So, while the image of the wild, mist-shrouded tower has provided plenty of inspiration for beautiful works of art, it turns out that Scotland's supposedly solitary castles had plenty of company after all.

lose your eyes and imagine a castle. What do you see?
If everyone reading this were able to compare notes, the details might differ - an extra turret here, a drawbridge there - but I am willing to bet that most everyone imaged their castle standing alone, perhaps precipitously on a cliff's edge or capping a hill with fields all around.

The image of the solitary tower has been engrained in popular culture for centuries by everything from Walter Scott's Romantic novels to black and white horror films and modern television shows like *Game of Thrones*. In Scotland, it is easy to see why the idea endures. The vast majority of its castles do, indeed, stand lonely and ruinous, often in secluded areas with nary another soul nearby. Yet just as they were not always ruins, they were also almost never alone.

Threave Castle

Threave Castle in Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway, is the quintessential example. The castle, built by Archibald 'the Grim' Douglas in the





14th century, stands upon an island in the middle of the River Dee and is only accessible by boat. On arrival, the visitor is greeted by a hulking stone tower made all the more imposing by the lack of anything else of significant height nearby. Set in wetlands with no other sign of civilisation anywhere in sight, Threave is the kind of place that stirs up the imagination. The scare factor provided by the unexpected sight of a dummy staring back at you from the darkness of its dungeon is compounded by the fact that, aside from the castle's steward, you're often the only person around for some distance!

So, while the image of the wild, mist-shrouded tower has provided plenty of inspiration for beautiful works of art, it turns out that Scotland's supposedly solitary castles had plenty of company after all.

Archaeology, however, sheds some light on what the castle was actually like during the period that it was occupied. Excavations led by Chris Tabraham in the 1970s revealed a bustling settlement, complete with residences, workshops, stables, brewers, a harbour, and packed-earth roads packing the island to the brim. A modern visitor, however, would have no idea that any of this existed if not for a reconstruction illustration on an information panel.

For castle studies scholars, this was a paradigm shift. The example of Threave showed that the 'castle proper', being the tower that still stands today, was just one part of an interdependent community. One simply could not exist without the other, for the tower itself had nowhere near enough internal

space to allow for all of the productive activities required to sustain the household of a major noble family.

Crookston Castle

Another example of the illusion created by the loss of secondary structures is Crookston Castle in the south end of Glasgow. The castle was first built out of timber and earth in the 12th century, and by the fifteenth century it had become a stone castle of considerable sophistication befitting its Darnley Stewart lords. Today, the castle is surrounded by Glasgow's suburbs and plays the part of the solitary sentinel upon a hill perfectly.

Stroll its grounds, however, and you might trip over the odd dip or bump in the soil around it. These are the traces of stone structures, which once included a chapel, several apartments, a guard's chambers, and other building of indeterminate function, which together would have taken up more square footage than the main tower itself.

These structures' dismantling, largely by scavengers looking for easy sources of quality masonry following the castle's abandonment in the late 16th century, leaves the distinct, but false, impression that Crookston stood alone.





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