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Volume 44 - Number 12

## \* Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

## The spirit of home



by Sean Cairney

hroughout the last year and a half, I have heard from so many readers across the world on how they were just about to visit or were planning a trip to Scotland, and then the pandemic hit. Millions of people across the globe have had their travel plans thrown into chaos and this has had a devastating impact on the international tourism industry, including of course across Scotland. I too was meant to be in Scotland in 2020 and my plans though in the wings, will happen when it is both practical and safe to do so.

Some have missed births, deaths, marriages, milestones, events and perhaps even their last chance to ever visit Scotland again. I do hope readers of *the Scottish Banner* have been able to keep their passion and love of Scotland strong by reading our pages, whilst I realise it is not like being there, reading about this incredible country can allow you to dream until you can next book that trip to bonnie Scotland.

## **Visiting Scotland**

Visiting Scotland, and of course anywhere, really can also have such a positive impact to your own wellbeing, this is the benefit of the spirit of travel. I have been an avid traveller my whole life and perhaps it was instilled in me by my parents who made sure we got back to Scotland as a family and also travelled to places near and far for Highland Games and a variety of Scottish events. A quiet life at home was never going to be on the cards for us. During my high school days, a trip was allowed to Scotland by myself with just friends, we landed on a summers morning in Glasgow and that was where the travel bug took hold.

We spent weeks navigating the country, meeting so many people and creating memories of a lifetime. Recently Scotland's national tourism agency VisitScotland released a paper on the emotional benefits of a holiday in Scotland, which included how it fosters resilience, alleviates stress, increases creativity, boosts confidence and encourages empathy.

Whilst most readers of the Scottish Banner will of course not be venturing far this year as vaccinations still take place globally a small step forward is taking place with Scotland slowly opening up to a largely domestic visitor this summer. This month traditionally would see the summer tourist season beginning to kick in with international tourists coming for those incredible long Highland evenings, the array of events and festivals and of course the incredible Scottish scenery bursting with summer life. The value of tourism to Scotland's economy is estimated at £1.4 billion per year, creating 39,000 jobs and about 5% of total Scottish GDP. This is an industry that will need our support once borders open and we all just may find some personal benefits from taking a well-deserved vacation when able.

## In this issue

Robert the Bruce is without doubt one of Scotland's most famous historical characters. Numerous films, books and historical studies have focused on the man who became to be known as the Outlaw King. June is the anniversary of not only his death (June 7, 1329) but also his most famous battle, The Battle of Bannockburn on 23 and 24 June 1314. This month we look at his life and the legacy he has left for not only Scotland, but Scots around the world.

Another notable Scot who may not be quite as recognizable at Robert the Bruce is David Douglas. David was a botanist and born on June 25, 1799 at Scone, near Perth. He died in Hawaii in 1834, on his final expedition, with causes of his passing still unknown. Douglas was passionate about plants and trees and identified hundreds of plants during his lifetime, including

his namesake the Douglas fir tree (being just one of over 80 plant species that bear his name).

Robert Fergusson was born in Edinburgh in 1750 and went on to be one of Scotland's most prolific poets. Fergusson, who often wrote in Scots, inspired Scotland's most famous poet Robert Burns. Sadly, Fergusson died in 1774 at just aged 24 and is buried in Edinburgh's Canongate Kirkyard. In 1787, Robert Burns erected a monument at his grave, commemorating Fergusson as 'Scotia's Poet'.

## **Scottish connection**

Many people I speak to often tell me a visit to Scotland is not a once only event and they return for several visits. Many speak of an instant connection or feeling they get as soon as they land on Scottish soil. For a small country there is also a great deal of variety and you can return time and time again and still have new experiences.

Previous qualitative research carried out by VisitScotland found that visitors to Scotland imagine that a holiday there would be an intense experience with the potential to profoundly move them emotionally. They found visitors expected to feel an emotional connection with Scotland and re-centred in their own lives and de-stressing and escapism are viewed as some of the key benefits of a Scottish holiday.

For me it really is a place I am connected within my being, and while I do not live there, it is the land of my ancestors and is always familiar, it is in my psyche and runs through my blood. Like so many, I likely can't get back to Scotland until at least 2022, but when I do return, I know I will be home.

Perhaps you have been moved whilst visiting Scotland or have a profound emotional connection to Scotland, its people, culture and history?
We would love to hear from our readers as to what it is that has captivated them about Scotland. Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at: www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner

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





Gracing our front cover: A Robert the Bruce reenactor. Photo courtesy of: VisitScotland.

## Trawl through Gaelic archive thrills film fans



rchive recordings collected by Edinburgh researchers are at the heart of a new film that pays homage to a language and culture in peril. A wealth of material recorded by ethnographers in the 1950s and 60s underpins this remarkable work, which is the first feature-length cinematic documentary in Scottish Gaelic. Iorram (Boat Song) is a stirring portrait of the changing fishing communities of the Outer Hebrides that fuses archive voices and songs with images of island life today. Director Alastair Cole accessed clips from the School of Scottish Studies archive while making the film, which premiered at Glasgow Film Festival to widespread acclaim.

## Scotland's rich oral heritage

The University of Edinburgh researchers who travelled the Hebrides with newly available portable recording devices captured the sounds of a culture that was dying out. Playing catch-up with centuries of tradition, they saved stories, songs and speech that would otherwise have been lost. Over the past decade, these precious clips have been painstakingly digitised. Now this epic, groundbreaking work runs as a continuing thread through Iorram, which saw Cole spend three years filming around the islands while also scouring 30,000 archive entries. Many of those recordings were catalogued by the Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o Riches Project
– a unique online record of Scotland's
rich oral heritage.

Iorra's makers combed the archive for voices that were vivid, dramatic and emotional – sometimes even playful – to bring to life the intimate, perilous relationship between fishing crews and the stormy Atlantic.

In *Iorram*, these voices are translated with English subtitles for the first time, so that they can be understood, enjoyed and appreciated by non-Gaelic audiences. Present-day inhabitants of the islands are observed on land and at sea, while the ghostly voices of their forebears tell stories and sing songs about life at the mercy of the waves.

## **Ancient language**

The film's co-producer Magnus Course, a senior lecturer in social anthropology at Edinburgh, says those voices have an added poignancy as the Gaelic fishing community faces the grave challenges posed by Brexit, globalisation and climate change. The project stemmed from the lecturer's study of the living, breathing relationship between the Gaelic language and fishing. Some 75 per cent of fisherman in the Western Isles speak the language, compared with 50 per cent of the population. The inshore fishing industry is one of the few working environments in Scotland where Gaelic is habitually used.

Dr Course says the film is also a love song to a language and culture at risk of extinction. Once spoken across most of Scotland, Gaelic has shrunk to just 11,000 habitual speakers, Yet, at the same time, interest in the lyrical beauty and cultural value of Scottish Gaelic is booming, with Gaelic schools flourishing in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and more than 560,000 registered learners worldwide. The makers of *Iorram* hope the film will bring something of that beauty and power to a wider audience, and show that losing this ancient language and culture will impoverish us all. The film features an original score by award-winning fiddle player and composer Aidan O'Rourke of the popular folk trio, Lau, Having premiered at the Festival on Sunday 28 February, Iorram will now go on virtual theatrical release.



- Edinburgh was the first city in the world to have its own fire brigade.
- The world's only knighted penguin lives at Edinburgh Zoo. Brigadier Sir Nils Olav III is a king penguin is the mascot and colonelin-chief of the Norwegian King's Guard.
- The famous Royal Mile connects two royal residences (Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyrood House). It is actually 1 mile and 107 yards in length (approx. 1.7kms).
- Edinburgh is said to be the most haunted city in the world. The ancient, narrow streets of the city's old town provide the perfect setting for some of the haunted stories around the city.

- Edinburgh Castle sits on Castle Rock, a 700 million year old extinct volcano.
- Edinburgh New Town design was based on the Union Jack flag, this however was later changed to a more practical grid pattern.
- 75% of the Edinburgh's buildings are listed. With over 4,500 building listed it only comes second to London for historic structures in the UK.
- Edinburgh's nickname "Auld Reekie" comes from the term "Old Smokey".
   Old Smokey was a common name back when Edinburgh ran on coal and trains going in and out of the city covered the air in thick smoke.

## MELBOURNE TARTAN FESTIVAL 10th - 24th July, 2021 MELBOURNE TARTAN

- Kirkin 'O The Tartan The Scots Church
- Whisky Dinner
- Caledonian Castaways
- Piping Championships
- Virtual Lecture Series
- Scottish Themed City Tours
   'Legacy' Concert Hawthorn Pipe Band
- . 'A Scot in the Pacific' Judy Turner and Neil Adam
- Concert of Traditional Scottish Song
- Fiona Ross and Shane O'Mara
- Gaelic Language Immersion Classes
- Author Talks:
- "Hell Ship"; Early Scottish Settlement
- · Highland Hustle Come & Try
- Highland Dancers
- Scottish Country Dancers
- Pipe Bands
- Genealogy

## GALA DINNER & CONCERT Melbourne Town Hall Saturday 24th July

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## SCOT POURRI

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

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

## A bright young thing from Clarkston, Glasgow

Jim Stoddart's amazing *The People of Plantation* (the Scottish Banner, Kings, Castles & "Durty" Wee Rascals, March, 2021) brings back memories of Govan. I was born at 162 Randolph Dr, Clarkston on November 23, 1937 with a relative 'spoon in my mooth' being a Clarkston, Renfrewshire babe. What's the Govan connection? It is multifaceted, my father was simple John Clark, but not so simple. He elevated himself to the Chief Engineer in Nigeria after WW 2 and the service manager of the biggest garage in Glasgow on City Rd at the end of Maryhill Rd.

His proud boast was he was born in the toughest street in the Gorbals, West Street, and his family all lived in Tormore St, Drumoyne, an adjacent suburb to Govan. I was not a working-class boy from Govan like Jim, but a bright young thing from Clarkston, lucky enough to gain entry to the High School of Glasgow (which readers may or may not know is the oldest school in the UK). Whilst there kicking a ball around other future rebel soccer players of some note also played: Bobby Clark (Aberdeen), Charlie Gilmour (Queen's Park) and Alan Small (Govan Amateurs). Alan and I went on to Glasgow University and later had a trial with Govan and was later signed up with Queen's Park and was soon playing alongside a very notable Govanite, Sir Alex Ferguson.

Jim Stoddart seems a fascinating writer and should say he comes from up the Garscube, an even worse place than Plantation and where I began my GP experience a long time ago!

Dr Ian Clark

Elanora, Queensland Australia

Ed note: Thank you Dr Clark for sharing some of your fascinating memories of your time in Glasgow, alongside some very notable Scots, with us.

Allan/Damon

Hi there,

I would appreciate your assistance. Are you aware of any Clan Groups for descendants of: 1) Allan and 2) Damon?

I'm a Dean by birth so have recently joined the Davidson group. Thank you, Pam Damon pam@pamdamon.com

## **Culloden Moor**



Regarding the April edition of *the Scottish Banner* asking who has been to Culloden Moor and your feelings of being there.

I think most of us that have been, it is a dark place (for me). On my visit it had been misty and cool of course, so much pain there, but very much a place to go. If I might add Rosslyn Chapel, offers a completely different feeling, but is another must see.

Regarding in the same issue Mr Robert Bradshaw's letter (*The Walker family*, *Scotpourri*, April, 2021), what a small world. My father, his brother and sister worked in there dairy and house kitchen before and after school. Aunt Peggy (Margaret) worked there for some years. Lady Walker made sure the children of Troon got their morning porridge. Very likely Mr Bradsahw's paternal grandfather knew the Hutton family as Troon was not a big town all those years ago. *Derek Hutton Mt Beauty, Victoria Australia* 

## The Cannongate



I just read the March issue on the Cannongate and boy did bring back memories it took me back to 1956 when I had the good luck to be working in what is called Moroco land this is the stretch of buildings from Mary St to Bible land. It is so called, as one of the stories go, a boy stowed away on a ship then jumped ship at Leith and made his way to Edinburgh a fat distance in those days to this day there is a bust of a Morocon boy on front of the first building and underneath are coins of the realm which was added to when the building was under renovations.

The one clear memory I have was the sandstone arches along the front of the building each measured app 2 feet square (bloody heavy) they were built 1 at a time and on this occasion i was one of the apprentice joiners who was selected to take the wooden frame holding the stones. However due to unforeseen circumstance the lot decided to come down on top of us but to this day I say the good Lord was on our side as for some unknown reasons the lot jumbled saving a tragedy and out of all the stones that fell only one was chipped, that was the very bottom base stone which was a slight shade lighter to this day. I still thank God for being with us that day should point out when we got clear the rest came down AH! the memories we live to tell another tale. Andy Duff

## The Battle of Culloden



Thank you for a wonderful April issue and reminding so many about the important 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Culloden. The story is such a tragic one and I have visited Culloden Moor and left with a deep sense of sadness and grief. Keeping our history alive is so important as it that way we can learn for the future. When travel is allowed again, I will certainly be going back to Scotland and no doubt have another emotional day at Culloden.

I really enjoy each issue of *the Scottish Banner*, there is nothing else like and Scots across the world are fortunate to have such a great resource available to us. *K Ferguson Ottawa, Ontario* 

## Discovered the Scottish Banner

I have suddenly discovered *the Scottish Banner.* I came to Australia in 1962 but still regard Scotland as my natural home. The home in which I was brought up was Achaban House, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull, Argyll. My mother was Gaelic speaking, Annabel MacCormick. My father, an east coast doctor who spent most of his career in India in the Indian Medical Service. At the age of 99, by the time you get this, I may be joining my family on our family graveyard overlooking Loch Potee. *John Harpea-Nelson* 

Carnarvon, Western Australia

## Scottish distilleries

I am a regular reader of your paper and have enjoyed your latest edition as regards article on Scottish Whisky. One distillery which I think could be mentioned is Strathisla Distillery in Keith, Banffshire and one of the oldest since 1786. It is the home of Chivas Regal. I grew up and was educated in Keith and have always admired the beautiful buildings of the Strathisla Distillery. A new distillery Glen Keith now sits near the old distillery, but the setting of the old distillery is certainly worth a visit should one be on holiday in the area.

Certainly pleased when a copy of your paper was given to me and so now look forward to buying every new edition each month.
Regards,

Ena Laing Ettalong Beach, NSW Australia

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA Send us your photos or letters via social media



## **Dunderave Castle**

Canada



Early morning light on this iconic castle, outside Inveraray. Ronald Stokes Scotland

## **Edinburgh**



Feels like we could all do with a ray of light right about now.

Aye Spy Photography

ayespyphotography.co.uk

## Islay road trip



We're on the road to.....The Jura paps sit beautifully as a backdrop for the island of Islay. Tommy Hamilton Photography Scotland

## **Robert the Bruce**



A stunning shot of Robert The Bruce at Bannockburn. Fraser J MacDonald IG: thecanonkid 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!

## Here comes the Dun: Major project for House of Dun



ork has been underway at House of Dun, near Montrose, on one of the National Trust for Scotland's (NTS) most significant projects of the year. The NTS are creating a heritage park that will encompass hundreds of years of history and tell the stories of the landscape and its people. Central to the re-imagining of House of Dun will be the creation of a new home for the Angus Folk Museum collection, which was amassed by Lady Maitland of Burnside in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup>century. Her granddaughter, Caroline Graham-Watson, swung the first sledgehammer to join together some of the courtyard buildings, where the collection will be housed.

## The Culzean of the east

House of Dun was designed by William Adam for David Erskine,  $13^{\mbox{th}}$  Laird of Dun and a judge of the Court of Session. It was built in 1743 to replace the medieval tower house which had been home to the Erskine family since 1375. The house is surrounded by gardens, which were laid out by Lady Augusta FitzClarence, daughter of William IV and the wife of the Hon. John Kennedy Erskine. A large estate encompasses the house, gardens, policies and farmland, as well as the old Dun kirk (visited by John Knox in the 1550s), the Erskine family mausoleum, the Montrose Basin Nature Reserve and a 2-mile stretch of the River Esk. House of Dun has been in the care of the Trust since 1980 and was opened to the public in 1989. We're hoping that the new presentation of the 320ha estate will make it 'the Culzean of the east'!

The £714,000 project will convert under-utilised space in the house's courtyard area to create a new home for the Angus Folk Collection. This space will tell the wider stories of the Dun estate, the county of Angus and its impact on Scotland's history; explore the lives of rural communities; and celebrate the estate's important natural heritage. Work on the project was delayed due to the pandemic, but the NTS expect to open the house to the public in mid-June. The refreshed House of Dun will feature multi-sensory interpretations on subjects ranging from toys of the past and the Declaration of Arbroath to hidden Jacobite secrets and agricultural heritage, as well as costumed story-telling, new cafés and shops.

## Hidden gem

The National Trust for Scotland's Chief Executive, Phil Long said: "It is with enormous pleasure that we're finally able to begin work on House of Dun. In terms of scale and ambition it's the largest project that we're embarking on this year. I'm sure that, when we open the gates for the first time this summer, visitors from near and far will be impressed by what it has to offer."

Phil continued: "Its reopening will no doubt contribute to the growing interest in the east coast of Scotland as a destination for visitors created by other important cultural landmarks such as V&A Dundee, the newly expanded Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museum, and nearby Glamis Castle and Hospitalfield House. More than any

other property, it will bring together everything that the Trust does. House of Dun presents wealth and extravagance alongside agricultural toil, with both as important as the other to the story of Scotland. This place is as much about the manicured, ornamental gardens that surround the Georgian house as it is about Montrose Basin Nature Reserve and its abundance of wildlife. We love this place and we hope to shine a new light on a hidden gem."

Designed with Georgian pride and baroque extravagance the House of Dun is every bit the perfect 18<sup>th</sup> century laird's home set amid glorious gardens and woodland.

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

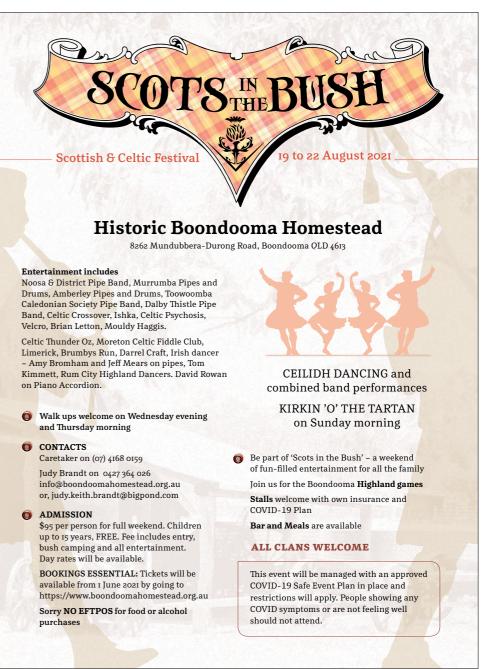




The Scottish Banner is pleased to be offering the Tartan of the Month series highlighting a variety of different, unique and colourful tartans from around the world which are registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans in Edinburgh. The Scottish Register of Tartans was established by an act of the 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).

he Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) tartan has been created to celebrate 100 years since the Australian Air Corps became the

Royal Australian Air Force, with HRH King George V approving the use of the word "Royal" in the name in June 1921, and to honour the service of all the men and woman who have served in the RAAF for the last 100 years and to those who continue to serve. The colours are intended to represent those associated with the RAAF: light blue represents the RAAF Ensign; dark blue represents the Australian National Flag and the blue roundel in which is located the red kangaroo, "in motion", facing forward to the front of the aircraft; white represents the seven pointed Commonwealth Star, the five white stars of the Southern Cross constellation and the central background of the roundel; red represents the British Union Jack and the securing & placement of the red kangaroo. This tartan (ref: 13136) was designed by Mrs Betty Johnston and registered in April, 2021.



## **SCOTSPEAK**

"Our Atlantic waters are blessed with spectacular native species including minke whales, basking sharks, killer whales, harbour porpoises, bottlenose dolphins and much more. Yet unfortunately these animals are facing many human-driven pressures such as warming seas, plastic pollution and net entanglement. So my race is an opportunity to give back to the conservation of these species and our precious oceans, by supporting the wonderful work of the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust. The Scottish isles are a beautiful place. The nature, wildlife and scenery are what make them incredibly special, and I want this race to be an opportunity to share the beauty of these islands and encourage all of us to connect with nature once again."

Endurance swimmer James Armour said after successfully completing an arduous swim from the Isle of Mull to Oban. James is raising funds for conservation charity the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust by becoming the first person ever to swim, run and cycle the length of the Outer Hebrides in one attempt.

"Our heritage sites are home to over 5,000 years of history and we can't wait to welcome visitors back once more, so they can once

again experience Scotland's history. As before, there will be measures in place to facilitate social distancing, as well as new innovations to the visitor experience including new audio tours and digital content. We know how much people enjoy being able to access heritage sites, and we've worked hard to provide a mix of sites across the country, with over 70% of our sites opening up and many others on a phased basis over the next few months."

Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of Historic Environment Scotland said as many sites across Scotland reopened as covid restrictions eased. This included some of Scotland's most iconic heritage sites including Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle, Linlithgow Palace, Urquhart Castle, St Andrews Castle, Melrose Abbey, and Skara Brae.



"Our new arrival is doing really well and is growing stronger and more confident every day. It has been great to be able to welcome our wonderful visitors back to the zoo and hope it won't be long before they can spot our little calf. Every visit helps care for our amazing animals, like our pygmy hippos, and protects threatened species in Scotland and across the world."

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

Jonny Appleyard, hoofstock team leader at Edinburgh Zoo, said that a tiny endangered pygmy hippo calf has been born at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's Edinburgh Zoo (RZSS) to visitor favourites Otto and Gloria. Pygmy hippos are native to West Africa where populations are declining rapidly due to habitat destruction caused by logging, farming and human settlement among other threats. RZSS support for the species includes publishing the first ever genomic study of pygmy hippos through work in the RZSS WildGenes laboratory.

"We are delighted to make the kirk session records available online for the very first time, bringing ScotlandsPeople users closer than ever to our past. This release has been eagerly anticipated by many who use our services. It is part of our ambitious and ongoing programme to use digital approaches to provide access to more of our historic records for the people of Scotland and indeed audiences across the world."

Paul Lowe, National Records of Scotland(NRS) Chief Executive and Keeper of the Records of Scotland, said that thousands of historical records are now avaialbel online for the first time ever. Images of more than a million pages from the kirk session and other court records of the Church of Scotland, containing details of key events in communities across the country between 1559 and 1900, have been added to ScotlandsPeople, NRS's online research service. These records offer remarkable insights into the everyday lives of ordinary Scots, recording important moments such as births, marriages and deaths. The church also adjudicated on paternity of children and provided basic education, as well as

disciplining parishioners for what could be called anti-social behaviour - drunkenness, cursing and breaking the Sabbath. The newly added records also include accounts of how people dealt with exceptional historical events such as wars, witchcraft trials, epidemics, crop failures and extreme weather.



"The Inverness Castle project is vital to the regeneration of our city centre and the wider tourism economy of the Highland region. It is exciting to see the progress towards the Inverness Castle becoming a 'must-see' attraction that will draw visitors to the Highlands."

Provost of Inverness and Area, Cllr Helen Carmichael, said as Highland Council has submitted a planning application to transform Inverness Castle into a tourist attraction which would include exhibition space, cafes and a roof terrace have been proposed for the hilltop landmark. Work could take up to five years to transform the castle and the grounds as part of the multi-million-pound project. The castle sits on a cliff overlooking the River Ness, it was built in 1836 on the site of the original fortress. It operated as a the city's Sheriff Court and a prison before that role was moved to the new Inverness Justice Centre last year.

## **SCOTWORD**

Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try! If you're stuck, answers can be found on page 23!

## **CLUES ACROSS**

- 8) Town west of Peebles (6).
- 9) Chief town on Bute (8)
- 10) Birthplace of David Livingstone (8).
- 11) Type of scone (6).
- 12) Top peak! (5).
- 14) Scots roll (3).
- 15) Scotland's renowned author (5).
- 18) Scotland's second city (7)
- 20) Admin region of southeast Scotland (7). 4) Top gathering village (7).
- 23) Castle near Perth (5).
- 24) Anger (3).

- 25) A dishonest card! (5).
- 29) Search out this animal (6).
- 31) Town southwest of Barrhead (8).
- 33) Town near Linlithgow (8).
- 34) Glasgow river (6).

## **CLUES DOWN**

- 1) Tayside castle of the Ogilvies (6).
- 2) Once more in Scots (4).
- 3) The Royal Scots (5)
- 5) Party animals! (5).
- 6) ---- of Hermiston (4).

- 7) Village on the River Dee (8).
- 13) Short measures! (3).
- 16) Mountain pass (3)
- 17) Scots farm animal (3).
- 19) Tayside expanse of water (4, 4).
- 21) Northeast river (3).
- 22) A capital street (7)
- 26) It's a fiddle! (6).
- 27) In winter it's an ermine! (5).
- 28) Highland daggers (5).
- 30) Gather in the harvest (4) 32) Farm silage store (4).



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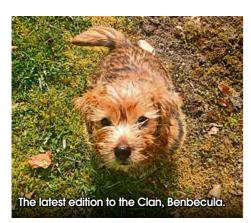
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By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

## 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.



reetings from Scotland where we are slowly beginning to open up again; restaurants and hotels starting to take customers, albeit with strict hygiene and social distancing rules. Our tourism will probably not recover for at least another year. Yet it's a start - and it is a huge relief to our hospitality industry which, like yours, has been hard hit by the pandemic. As I write, fingers crossed, the number of covid cases are falling and folk are steadily getting their vaccinations. A few weeks ago, the chief and I were summoned to the local town hall to get our first jab. Mine was administered by a podiatrist. His was given by a dentist. Anyone with a knowledge of health is being roped in to help.

The second dose has yet to be forthcoming, but I cannot imagine that we'll have to wait that long to receive it. You just feel so grateful to be partly protected. We were both a bit feverish a few hours after getting the injection, but that was only temporary. However, I don't know what it is about men and needles. The MacGregor may be a rufty-tufty Scotsman but show him a needle and he's nearly flat out on the floor! Perhaps your husband or partner is the same. Still, it has to be done. Especially if we want to be able to travel anywhere in the foreseeable future.

## The Great Grow

Meanwhile, the Great Grow is going great guns here. And this year it's not just courgettes that we're putting into the ground, but posh patty pan and squash. And this time it's not plain old cabbage that's finding a home in the raised beds, but fancy cavelo nero, too. For the uninitiated, cavelo nero is kale's tall, dark Italian relative

The jury is out on how it will thrive in these northern climes, but the Romans seemed to do alright all those centuries back. I've just made a film on these Mediterranean invaders – and their connection to Scotland. Two thousand years ago the legionnaires got quite far up into the country, into Caledonia, as it was then known.

The Centurians and their soldiers reached places like Glasgow and Edinburgh, erecting massive walls and forts along the way. One of those defensive sites was near Melrose in the south of Scotland. It was called Trimontium and when excavated in the last century a wealth of treasures was unearthed.

We've made a programme about some of the finds. Helmets, shoes, weapons, horse paraphernalia... It tells fascinating stories of how they lived and worked all those years ago.

## Benbecula

Over the last few weeks, I've filmed at Walter Scott's home at Abbotsford - and in an aviation museum. But it's not all been work. The other day the MacGregor and I were out in the courtyard for the first alfresco meal of the year. The barbie was brought out from the barn. The deckchairs were dusted off. Why, we even asked a neighbour over to sample a socially distanced sausage in the sun. It was another tiny taste of freedom - but it was short lived. Since then, temperatures have dipped, and the central heating is back on - in late May! Much to the MacGregor's disgust, because nothing hurts a Highland chief more than having to keep the house warm after April is past. It's all extra

expense and, as they say here in Scotland, 'a light purse makes a heavy heart.'
Yet hearts are lighter here because we now have a new MacNaughty in residence.

The Norfolk Terrier has been called a big dog in a small package. This is a loveable rogue. A brown bundle of fun that wants to rule the roost. Taking our new puppy to the vets for his own vaccination, I am tempted to ask if they have a cure for attitude. Our puppy is quite a handful and, following in the family tradition of naming dogs after Scottish islands, his name is Benbecula. 'Benny' is adorable, but he must be watched at all times. His arrival is having a different effect on the other two dogs. The Chow Chow has lost a bit of her laziness and is delighted to have a little playmate. The elderly Cocker Spaniel, on the other hand, remains a grumpy old man; growling and scowling at the noisy newcomer. All he asks for these days is a quiet life...

A quiet life. It's not much to ask for, is it?! As I write, the Chow is asleep on the sheepskin rug. The puppy is snoozing in his cage - and the spaniel has been taken to the dog salon to be washed and clipped. Peace reigns, but with the world opening up again, how long it will last, I do not know...

## Remembering Manning Valley Scottish history



e all know that Covid regulations prevented the presentation of many community and other events last year. One of those local events was the annual three-day Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival (BWSF). This year the Festival organizing committee has worked hard to present a one-day Festival event which will be the BWSF Festival Fair, to be held on Wingham's Central Park on Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 3pm. Complying with an approved Covid-19 Safety Plan, the Festival will be the spectacle it has always been – parade, stalls, pipes and drums, games, and heaps of family fun for all.

Because there will be only one BWSF major event this year, a group of community members have organised a separate event to support the Festival's Scottish heritage theme over the Festival June weekend. This will be a Commemoration Service Honouring the Scottish Presbyterian Early Settlers of the Manning Valley. The Service will be held at the Wingham Presbyterian War Memorial Church on Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 am, all welcome. This special service has been organized to reflect the BWSF Thanksgiving Service held every year early on the Sunday morning of the annual BWSF weekend at the Wingham Wharf, now severely flood damaged.

For further information contact Convenor, Mave Richardson: Phone (02) 6553 5412 or email:mave.eric@outlook.com



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New edition of this popular history of the Picts, an ancient nation who ruled most of northern and eastern Scotland during the Dark Ages. Despite their historical importance, they remain shrouded in myth. Absorbed by the kingdom of the Scots in the 9th century, they lost their unique identity, their language and their vibrar artistic culture. It pieces together the evidence to tell the story of this mysterious people from their emergence in Roman times to their eventual disappearance.

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## The Declaration of Arbroath 1320

PICTS

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Panama in the late 17th century is one of the most tragic moments of Scottish history. It was to create a major trading station between Europe and the East. Inadequate preparation and organization ensured it was a catastropheof the 3000 settlers who set sail in 1688 &1699, only a handful returned, the rest having succumbed to disease, and the financial loss was a key factor in ensuring union Price: \$29.95 Plus postage with England in 1707.

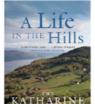
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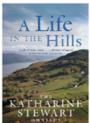
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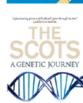








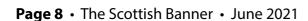


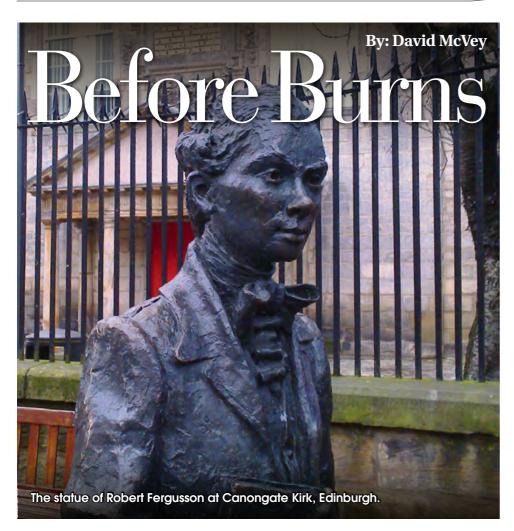












Robert Fergusson was a poet who inspired Robert Burns to take on the craft. Fergusson, who wrote mainly in Scots, is still considered one of Scotland's great poets and though he lived a short life his works still place him amongst some of the best Scottish literary figures as David McVey explains.

dinburgh is full of literary memorials and literary ghosts. Everyone knows about the vast Scott Monument in Princes
Street and the statue of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes in Picardy Place. Also well-known are the figures of Alan Breck Stewart and David Balfour, from Stevenson's *Kidnapped*, in Corstorphine. And there are many more. One of them, a statue of a lesser-known poet, is often come upon by accident.

In normal times, thousands of visitors walk the Royal Mile every year. Some head for the Canongate Kirk, attracted by its historical associations or its more recent role in the wedding of the Princess Royal's daughter Zara. Outside the kirk you'll often see tourists posing for selfies by a statue that seems more alive than most, a jaunty figure caught in mid-step.

## My elder brother in the Muse

This is Robert Fergusson (1750-1774). He predated Robert Burns, who called him '...my elder brother in the Muse...' but Fergusson might have gone on to eclipse the Bard had he lived to be older than 24. There's something more than a little modern about Fergusson, the poet as rock star, living fast, tasting excess, wrestling with the demons of mental illness and then dying young.

Fergusson was born in the wonderfullynamed Cap-and-Feather Close off the High Street in Edinburgh, a location that was swept away soon afterwards by the building of the North Bridge. His family had recently moved from Aberdeenshire. His father, a legal clerk, put away money for Robert's education; enough, anyway, to send him to the High School of Edinburgh. When his father got a better-paid job at the British Linen Bank, Robert was moved north across two firths to the highlyregarded Dundee Grammar School. Quite a disruption to the life of an 11-year-old who was already known to be prone to illness.

He spent two years in Dundee and then applied to go to St Andrews University-at 14! This was quite normal then. By all accounts the town and University of St Andrews were both rather run-down at the time; Samuel Johnson visited not long after Fergusson's time there and was saddened by the state of the place, writing of its '... silence and solitude of inactive indigence and gloomy depopulation.' Fergusson seemed to flourish, though, in the shabby quiet Fife university town.

One of his earliest surviving works is *Elegy*, on the Death of Mr David Gregory, a memorial to one of his tutors at the University. He was no older than 15 when it was written, in the 'Standard Habbie' stanzas that would be popularised by Burns. The poem is in Scots and the last line of this stanza is Scottish in every way:

Weel vers'd was he in architecture, An' kent the nature o' the sector, Upon baith globes he weel could lecture An gar's tak heed; Of geometry he was the Hector; But now he's deid.

Fergusson left St Andrews in 1768 without graduating, which was also normal and did not suggest failure. The suggestion is that by his later years there (and he was only 18 when he left) he had become a true bon viveur. He had even came close to being expelled (or 'extruded' which was the charming St Andrews University term) for his part in a riot that erupted after an essay-writing competition. I've been to a few writing competition events and they are much gentler affairs nowadays. Or perhaps I've been to the wrong ones.

Back in Edinburgh, Fergusson obtained work as a clerk and copyist in the Commissary Records Office, transcribing dull legal documents. It wasn't poetical work but it provided him with an income, allowed plenty of free time and in any case was located in the heart of the Old Town, ideal for a poet who enjoyed peoplewatching and liked a drink or two.

## **Auld Reikie**

Edinburgh then was beginning its period as the focus of European culture, the era of the Scottish Enlightenment. The city had begun expanding into the clean lines of the New Town, which enabled the wealthier residents to escape the lower orders alongside whom they had previously lived. Fergusson enjoyed mixing with and writing about all classes of people and his poems give a vivid picture of Edinburgh and its people at a time of great change. Those works he wrote in English tend to be imitative and stilted but there is a real fire and spark in his Scots language works that depict the city and its ways and often satirise its residents.

He published poems in magazines and it wasn't until 1773 that he published his first volume of poetry. By then he was working on a longer conception that he'd never finish, *Auld Reikie*, a vivid portrait of the Edinburgh of his time. It's not a rosetinted view of the city, either:

Near some lamp-post, wi dowy face, Wi heavy e'en and sour grimace, Stands she that beauty lang had kend. Whoredom her trade and vice her end.

The remnant of Auld Reikie was eventually published after his death but how much better he would be known if he had completed it. He never returned to his job after the end of 1773 and began a swift decline. He spent two months in Edinburgh's 'Bedlam', an institution for those we'd now recognise as having mental health problems. It was a ghastly place, by all accounts. He died there four weeks after turning 24 and was buried, in an unmarked grave, in Canongate Kirkyard.

Burns and Stevenson were among many Scottish literary figures who paid homage to Fergusson, but it was not until 2004 that David Annand's appealing and lively statue appeared outside Canongate Kirk. It was unveiled on the 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death and is a fitting tribute.

Once we have shrugged off the legacy of Covid-19 and you're back in Edinburgh, make sure you go to see the city's most vivid literary statue and then pay tribute to Robert Fergusson by seeking out some of his poetry. And the Scottish Poetry Library is just up the road.



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**By: Nick Drainey** 

## Saving Prestonpans Town Hall



East Lothian's Prestonpans Town Hall has been saved by The Battle of Prestonpans Trust to celebrate local history such as the Battle of Prestonpans and to permanently display the incredible Prestonpans and Scottish Diaspora Tapestries. The mothballed town hall will have a new life as plans are now underway to create a museum, exhibition space and activity centre for its local community as Nick Drainey explains.





e was a local man, his own house less than a mile away and within sight of where he was cut down on the field in one of Scotland's most famous battles. So, it is very fitting that Colonel James Gardiner, the colourful commander who was slain by a Highlander with a scythe in the 1745 Battle of Prestonpans, will be commemorated in a building originally paid for by the local community.

Prestonpans Town Hall was built by public subscription 126 years ago but has been mothballed in recent times. Now the surge of interest in Jacobite history has led



The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust's to take over the hall to create a museum, exhibition and activity hub, centred on the battle, and the people and places connected with it.

## The Battle of Prestonpans

The Battle of Prestonpans, the first major clash of the last Jacobite Rising, actually lasted less than 30 minutes, but has remained deeply ingrained in the Scots psyche and has left a huge cultural legacy. It took place on 21 September 1745, when the Jacobite army loyal to King James Francis Edward Stuart and led by his son Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) achieved a dramatic victory over the Redcoat army loyal to the Hanoverian king, George II, which was led by Sir John Cope.

Among the casualties on the Redcoat side was Gardiner, a man who had been a soldier for more than 40 years with a colourful career which included conversion from a foul-mouthed philanderer to a devout Christian who fined his men for swearing and took care that the army's horses were well cared for.

Gardiner, already wounded, was attempting to rally some foot soldiers, his own dragoons having fled in the face of the Jacobites, when he was dragged from his horse and hit with a scythe. His body was stripped to the waist by the enemy and he died the day after at nearby Tranent Church manse, where he had been taken by cart. He was the highest-ranking officer of more than 300 government troops who fell that day. His own home, Bankton House, was less than a mile away.

Gardiner will be one of the characters whose story will be told in the new museum. It is the latest development for the Trust which has worked to bring the story of the battle to a wider audience and to honour those who fought. In the last few years the Trust has installed new monuments to the fallen on the battlefield,



commissioned major tapestries, opened a micro-museum, and developed onsite and digital interpretation for the battlefield, whilst touring its exhibitions around the world. It has also refurbished a monument to Gardiner himself, an obelisk flanked by lions and paid for by admirers in 1853 after Gardiner's appearance in Walter Scott's novel *Waverley* (where he is described as "tall, handsome and active") led to a flurry of interest in the battle. The monument stands in front of Bankton House, which has now been converted into private flats.

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## **Tapestries**

Sections of the two tapestries commissioned by the Trust will also be on display; the Prestonpans Tapestry is made up of 105 panels, each one metre long, telling the story of the events before, during and after the battle. It was inspired by the 11<sup>th</sup> century Bayeux Tapestry which depicts the Norman invasion of England at the Battle of Hastings of 1066. Its success led to the creation of the 153m long Scottish Diaspora Tapestry crafted from 305 panels that were embroidered in 34 countries with Scottish connections, including the US, Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

A model of the battlefield will be refurbished for display and a dedicated children's "camp" will allow youngsters to try on replica 18<sup>th</sup> century clothing and explore specially created resources.

A community corner will provide space for small temporary displays and details of heritage projects or activities in the area.

The stage area will be upgraded and used for talks and performances.

The Town Hall project will help support the Trust's next scheme which is to create a living history centre and museum where a new village is being built at Blindwells on the edge of the battlefield site. The Trust has already entered into an agreement with Hargreaves, the building developer which is creating 1600 homes there, and the living history centre is scheduled to open in 2027.

Dr Gordon Prestoungrange, joint chair of the Trust, said: "The Trust has an excellent track record of delivering informative and engaging events, exhibitions and education programmes, and we look forward to using this to bring Prestonpans Town Hall back to life. We have demonstrated our ability to care for and enhance community assets through our battlefield interpretation initiatives, including the restoration of the Colonel Gardiner Monument, and the Viewpoint Pyramid. Our programme of activity and restoration at the Town Hall will leave the legacy of an improved space and strengthened community engagement. The Town Hall will become a hub for our ongoing activity, creating





exciting new volunteering and skills-building opportunities. We look forward to welcoming school groups, hosting talks, workshops and events - including Gaelic language activities – and showcasing some of our collection. Whilst the Trust's focus is the famous battle of 1745, we also plan to interpret the history of the Town Hall itself, and are committed to working with other heritage groups to ensure the facility serves as a valuable link to the wider historical story of Prestonpans. We look forward to the Community Council being able to

meet again in the refurbished Hall, just as the town's council did until 1975. All this will provide increased momentum as we work towards our living history centre at Blindwells."

Sharon Saunders, Head of Communities at East Lothian Council, added: "Generations of people have attended events and used facilities at Prestonpans Town Hall, a much-loved local building. It's an exciting time for the community and we wish the Heritage Trust every success in taking these plans forward."





ow 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 in Scotland was a Border reiver?
- 2) Where is Scotland's oldest inhabited castle?
- 3) Which Scottish regiment saw action at Mount Tumbledown in the Falklands?
- 4) Which pop star said she chose Scotland for her wedding because it was "dripping in atmosphere"?
- 5) How much did the sword wielded by Mel Gibson in Braveheart fetch in a charity auction?
- 6) When was the Bank of Scotland founded? a) 1695, b) 1697 or c) 1720?
- 7) Off which island would you find The Minch?

- 8) What is the largest stretch of fresh water in Britain?
- 9) What is the motto of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders?
- 10) How long is the Caledonian Canal? a) 50 miles, b) 60 miles or c) 68 miles?

## Answers

- 1) A cattle rustler.
- 2) Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye.
- 3) The Scots Guards.
- 4) Madonna.
- 5) £116,000.
- 6) a) 1695.
- 7) The Isle of Lewis.
- 8) Loch Lomond.
- 9) Without Fear.
- 10) b) 60 miles.





great many things have laid ruin to over 2,000 of Scotland's castles through the centuries, some more banal than others: the elements, neglect, redundancy, bankruptcy, urban sprawl and, of course, fire and sword. For that final and most dramatic factor, there are only a handful of individuals and wars responsible for most of the casualties. Cromwell's cannons levelled countless castles great and small; Edward I and III's numerous invasions were especially destructive, though he also strengthened and even built several; and the Jacobite Risings saw many castles, including the restored and now-iconic Eilean Donan, destroyed or rendered moot by more modern fortifications. Someone you likely did not expect to find on that list, however, is none other than Robert the Bruce.

## Slighting

Bruce's destruction, or 'slighting', of Scotland's castles was so thorough that the scholar Geoffrey Barrow dubbed it "one of the great military enterprises of British history." There is no certain figure for how many castles Bruce and his lieutenants,





most notably James Douglas, captured and slighted, but more than one hundred seems reasonable. Why did Bruce take aim at Scotland's castles, and what does it tell us about his approach to warfare? Edinburgh Castle is perhaps the most famous example. In March 1314 Bruce's nephew Thomas Randolph, a hero of the Wars of Independence in his own right, climbed Castle Rock by cover of night and wrested the castle from the English garrison. Such a major castle might seem like an invaluable asset, but for Bruce it posed a far greater threat intact than unusable. He knew all too well the past failings of his kingdom's great royal and baronial castles against English war machines, with all submitting to Edward I in that king's comprehensive invasion in 1296.

While Robert the Bruce is rightly remembered as a nearly peerless champion of Scotland, he undoubtedly ranks alongside some of Scottish history's wellworn villains in terms of his campaign of destruction against so many of the nation's castles.

More importantly, the Battle of Bannockburn was in the making. Only three months remained in the agreed upon time period for Edward II to march to the aid of Stirling Castle before it fell to the Scots. All eyes were on preparations at Stirling, and even the most modest functioning garrison for Edinburgh Castle would have drawn away more fighting men than Bruce could afford to lose. The English needed castles to control Scotland; Bruce did not. Only one option remained: to render the mighty royal stronghold no good to anyone. Bruce's efforts slighting the castle were so thorough that for two

decades afterward, cows regularly grazed atop Castle Rock. Another royal Lowland castle, Roxburgh, suffered a comparable, if similarly temporary, demise.

## Destroyed in anger

Other castles were destroyed in anger. In the desperate early years of Bruce's cause when his following sometimes numbered in mere dozens, two rival families proved just as dangerous as English patrols. In 1306 Bruce murdered John Comyn, one of the mightiest nobles in Scotland, prompting Bruce's immediate claiming of the Crown at Scone. This, needless to say, made enemies of the Comyns whose power base was in Badenoch and Buchan in the northeast, as well as the Comyns' powerful cousin John MacDougall, Lord of Lorn in the west. In 1308 Bruce waged campaigns of retribution against both. The fate that befell the Comyn and MacDougall castles respectively are instructive for understanding Bruce's mindset.

The devastation in Buchan was waged largely by Bruce's younger brother, Edward, and included all major and minor castles, notably Aberdeen, Dundarg, Fyvie, Slains, and Rattray, as well as countless homesteads and heads of livestock. It was nothing less than scorched earth, and the damage was remembered bitterly as the Herschip, or Harrying, of Buchan for generations afterward. The northeast of Scotland was unlikely to be a frontier against the English and the region's castles

By: David C Weinczok



served little military purpose to Bruce; still, he could not afford to risk having entrenched enemies behind his own lines. Thus, a policy of utter destruction was enacted, motivated not least by vengeance (though the Comyns would say the same about their efforts to undo him).

## Scotland's castles finally had some room to breathe and rebuild

The MacDougalls held many castles in the area around what is now Oban and the Firth of Lorn, prime among them being Dunstaffnage Castle. Following the defeat of the MacDougalls at the Battle of the Pass of Brander, Bruce captured Dunstaffnage. Rather than destroying it, however, he appointed a castellan and resupplied the castle, using it as a node of control from which to assert authority over the western waterways. The MacDougalls had been laid low enough for them to not warrant much concern, and the area was never going to be a front from which the English would approach; Bruce's desire for vengeance was overcome by practicality, and an eye to future consolidation spared Dunstaffnage the fate of so many other castles.

When Bruce did construct new castles or strengthen existing ones, they were usually in areas of the kingdom that were relatively secure and from which he sought to project the authority of the Crown. Tarbert Castle on the Kintyre Peninsula is a rare example of a castle that Bruce greatly strengthened rather than reduced. Following Bannockburn, Bruce's focus shifted to the more delicate act of statecraft, demonstrated by the consecration of St Andrews Cathedral in 1318, the drafting of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, and the peace treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton in 1328.

Scotland's castles finally had some room to breathe and rebuild, though this would not last long as the country was once again swept across by English invasions in the 1330s during which only five castles successfully held out. Many of the major castles that Bruce laid waste to, including Inverness, Roxburgh and, of course, Edinburgh, were subsequently rebuilt, masking the damage Bruce wrought. Others, notably Inverlochy Castle in Fort William, never recovered. While Robert the Bruce is rightly remembered as a nearly peerless champion of Scotland, he undoubtedly ranks alongside some of Scottish history's well-worn villains in terms of his campaign of destruction against so many of the nation's castles.





In June 1314 the history of Scotland as a nation was about to change forever. At the Battle of Bannockburn Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, faced down the English army led by Edward II. Edward, keen to retain the stronghold of Stirling Castle, had led a huge army through Scotland to lift the Scots' siege of his garrison at the castle. Achieving this was vital to Edward's hopes of re-establishing his weakening grip on the country, but he was stopped short by the army of Robert Bruce. Over the two days of battle, 23-24 June, Edward's army was repeatedly thwarted by the Scots' stubborn resistance before finally finding itself trapped by the surrounding terrain with no room to manoeuvre their huge force. The result was an unprecedented rout of King Edward's army. Located near the historic city of Stirling, the site still evokes the landscape that would have been seen by medieval soldiers in 1314, when the area was a royal hunting park.

cotland's great warrior king, Robert I, more popularly known as Robert the Bruce, is a central character in the history of Scotland. Here we document his life from birth to death, including his rise to power, the defeat of Edward II's army at the Battle of Bannockburn, and the legacy he left behind. Robert the Bruce was born on 11 July 1274, but nobody knows where for sure. An educated guess would be Turnberry Castle in Ayrshire, where he was raised to speak three languages - Gaelic, Scots and Norman French - and to fight for his family's claim to the Scottish crown. On his father's side, the Bruce family had its roots in Normandy - a Robert de Brus had come to England with William the Conqueror's army. Robert's mother Marjorie was the Countess of Carrick and descended from an ancient Gaelic bloodline.

After the death of Alexander III in 1286 there was no direct heir to the throne in Scotland. King Edward I of England was asked to choose between the two main claimants – Robert's grandfather and John Balliol, who both claimed descent from David I. He gave the crown to John Balliol. Robert and his father refused to recognise Balliol as their king, and in 1296, when Edward I turned on Balliol and invaded Scotland, they gave their support to the English. Robert switched allegiance more than once in his life – showing that his actions were not always purely patriotic, and that he would do whatever it took to achieve his ambitions.



## **Outlaw King**

One of Robert's ambitions was to rule Scotland. Having seen Edward I install himself as king of Scotland following John Balliol's downfall, Robert then supported William Wallace's uprising against the English. When Wallace was defeated, Bruce became a Guardian of Scotland in 1298 alongside his great rival for the Scottish throne, John 'The Red' Comyn, Balliol's nephew.

The two men frequently quarrelled, and in 1306 they met at Greyfriars Kirk in Dumfries, where an argument took place and Bruce stabbed Comyn to death. This sacrilegious crime meant that Robert was in an extremely precarious position. The Comyns and their allies joined with Edward I to get revenge. Robert was hurriedly declared king on March 25 1306, and the poor start to his reign continued when his first rising at Methven ended in defeat.

Robert fled, possibly to Ireland, and the so-called 'outlaw king' began to plan his comeback. In 1307 he returned from exile, employing guerrilla tactics to wipe out Comyn's followers, establish control and even win his first battles against English forces. A granite boulder near Loch Trool is known as Bruce's Stone and commemorates one such victory. Edward I was infuriated by Bruce's growing success and reputation. He soon marched his army north to crush the rebellion but died just short of the Scottish border. His son, Edward II, was a very different character and didn't enjoy the support of his nobles. This gave Robert the chance to strengthen his position and hold his first parliament at St Andrews in 1309. In 1310 Edward mounted an invasion of Scotland, but was unable to find Robert and achieved little. By 1314, Robert and his men had seized most of Edward's Scottish strongholds only Berwick and Stirling held out.

## The Battle of Bannockburn and its aftermath

Capturing Stirling Castle was the key to controlling Scotland. Edward II mustered a huge army and marched north to invade Scotland.

Robert was also busy, training his men near Stirling, which would be the focus of the upcoming campaign. The Battle of Bannockburn took place on 23 and 24 June. Despite being vastly outnumbered, Robert chose his ground well and masterminded a tremendous victory over the English army. Over the two days of battle, Edward's army was repeatedly thwarted by the Scots' stubborn resistance, before finally finding themselves trapped by the surrounding terrain, with no room to manoeuvre their huge force. The result was an unprecedented rout of Edward's army.

However, the victory at Bannockburn did not secure peace and Edward II refused to recognise Robert as king of an independent Scotland. In 1320 Bruce organised for the Scottish nobles to write a letter to the Pope, now known as the Declaration of Arbroath, which made the case for Scottish independence. But it was ignored by the church and Bruce accepted a long-lasting truce with the English. In 1328, after Edward II was deposed, his son Edward III became king of England and his government finally recognised Robert as Robert I, King of Scots, and agreed to treat Scotland as an independent nation.

## Death and family

Just one year later, on 7 June 1329, Robert the Bruce died in Cardross, Dunbartonshire. His body was buried at Dunfermline Abbey, and after a failed attempt to take it to the Holy Land, Bruce's heart was buried at Melrose Abbey in the Scottish Borders, accompanied by an inscription: 'A noble hart may have nane ease. Gif freedom failye'.

Robert was married twice in his life. With his first wife, Isabella of Mar, he had a daughter Marjorie, from whom the Stewart dynasty was to trace its lineage. His second wife was Elizabeth de Burgh, with whom he had five children – Margaret, Matilda, David, John (who died in infancy) and Elizabeth. His eldest son succeeded his father as King David II of Scotland.

## Legacy

Robert the Bruce has been immortalised in all sorts of ways, from popular culture to national myth. There are commemorations of him across Scotland, including a statue set in the wall at Edinburgh Castle, one at Stirling Castle and the iconic statue of him on horseback at Bannockburn.

In 1995, the character of Robert the Bruce played a relatively small role in the epic (and epically inaccurate) Hollywood movie *Braveheart*. But the most memorable depiction of Bruce on screen was in the 2018 movie *Outlaw King*, which was supported by the National Trust for Scotland's very own Bannockburn specialist, working on the film as a lead historical advisor. In addition, the film *Robert the Bruce* was released in 2020 starring Scottish actor Angus McFadyen who reprised his role as the warrior king he originally played *Braveheart*.

It might be a while before we see a feature-length adaptation of the story of 'Robert the Bruce and the spider'. This Walter Scott-inspired legend has it that during his time as the outlaw king, Bruce was taking shelter in a cave and considering giving up, when he noticed a spider trying to build its web across the damp roof of the cave. The spider failed a number of times, but persevered and eventually succeeded, supposedly inspiring Bruce to try, try, and try again.

Text 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

## Did you know?



- Robert the Bruce's mother was a formidable character. She supposedly held Robert's father hostage on his return from Crusade, and refused to let him go until he had agreed to marry her!
- No-one knows exactly the size of the two armies at the Battle of Bannockburn. Edward II's army had about 2,000 cavalry and 16,000 foot soldiers, compared to Bruce's 500 horseman and 6,000 foot soldiers.
- After the local congregation generously took care of his wife Elizabeth's remains, Robert decreed to give the Auld Kirk in Cullen a total of five pounds every year ... and to this day it's still being paid.
- Robert the Bruce was Earl of Carrick from 1292 to 1313. This title is now held by Charles, the Prince of Wales.
- Although Robert lived at the same time as William Wallace, there is no evidence that the two ever met.
- Robert Burns visited Bannockburn in 1787 and later wrote his famous poem *Scots Wha Hae* about the battle.
- Bruce has adorned Scottish money for decades. In 1981, the Clydesdale Bank began issuing £1 notes with Bruce on them. Bruce held his position on that banknote until the Clydesdale Bank finished printing £1 notes in 1989. Bruce was moved onto their £20 notes instead.

## THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Dr Henry Faulds, who established the uniqueness of fingerprints, born in Beith, Ayrshire.  $1843\,$
- 1 First Tay Rail Bridge opens. It was to collapse 18 months later in the Tay Bridge Disaster.  $\bf 1878$



- 1 Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act of the Scottish Parliament establishes Bord na Gàidhlig to secure the status of Scottish Gaelic as an official language of Scotland.  $2005\,$
- 2 Prince Henry St Clair (Sinclair) reputed to have landed in Nova Scotia, having sailed from Orkney. 1398
- 2 James Douglas, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Morton, beheaded in Edinburgh Grassmarket, accused of the murder of Lord Darnley. **1581**
- 2 Clothes rationing introduced as a war-time measure. The British government needed to reduce production and consumption of civilian clothes to safeguard raw materials and release workers and factory space for war production. It was not lifted until 1949. 1941
- 3 James Hutton, founder of modern geology, born. 1726
- 3 Poet Robert Tannahill born in Paisley. 1774
- 3 The company formed by John Logie Baird televised the Epsom Derby which was then transmitted by the BBC.  $1931\,$
- 4 First recorded inter-club golf match between Edinburgh Burgess Golfing Society and Bruntsfield Links Golf Club. 1818
- 4 London's Wembley Stadium was vandalised by jubilant Scottish fans after a thrilling 2-1 victory over the Auld Enemy. Following the match, Scottish supporters invaded the pitch and caused an estimated £15,000 worth of damage.  $1977\,$
- $\bf 5$  An Act of the Scottish Parliament came into force "concerning the Office of Lyoun King of Armes and his brether Heraldis" creating the best regulated system of armorial bearings in Europe.  $\bf 1592$
- **5** Adam Smith, author of *The Wealth of Nations* born Kirkcaldy. **1723**
- 5 Referendum held on British Membership of the European Community. In Scotland the vote was "Yes" 1,332,286; "No" 948,039. Turnout was 61%. Only Shetland and Western Isles had majorities against. 1975
- 6 Thomas Blake Glover, founding father of Japan's industrialisation (including Mitsubishi) and Japanese Navy, born Fraserburgh. 1838
- **6** Sir John A MacDonald, the Scottish-born Canadian statesman, died. MacDonald was considered to be the architect of the Confederation of Canada and served twice as the first Prime Minister of the unified Dominion, between 1867-73 and 1878-91. **1891**
- 7 Robert the Bruce died, at Cardross Castle, Dumbarton, aged 54. Bruce's heart was then taken to Melrose Abbey, with his body having earlier being buried at Dunfermline Abbey.  $1329\,$
- 7 Sir James Young Simpson, pioneer of anaesthetics and chloroform, born.  $1811\,$
- 7 Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the celebrated architect, painter and designer, was born. Regarded as one of the foremost British figures in the art nouveau movement, and as the principal exponent of the "Glasgow Style", Mackintosh was born in the Townhead area of the city.  $\bf 1868$



- 8 Robert Stevenson, engineer, who constructed 18 lighthouses around Scotland, born Glasgow. 1772
- 8 -The Earl of Seaforth raised a regiment for the American War from the MacKenzies and MacRaes of Ross-shire and Sutherland.  $1778\,$

- 9 St Columba died on Iona. Columba founded a monastery on Iona which was to become one of the leading centres of Christianity in Western Europe, and the base from which Columba launched his successful mission to convert the Pictish nation. 597
- 9 First US troops (over 10,000 men) disembark from  $\it Queen\,Mary$  on the River Clyde. 1942
- 10 James Francis Stuart born. In honour of the "Old Pretender", this is known as "White Rose Day" in Jacobite circles.  $1688\,$
- $10\,\textsc{-}$  Battle of Glenshiel, Jacobites with Spanish assistance, and government forces clashed.  $1719\,$
- 10 Death of King George I and accession of George II.  $1727\,$
- 10 Construction of the Forth and Clyde canal started. It was to take 22 years to complete.  $1768\,$

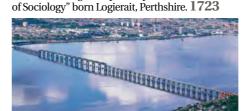


- 10 The floral clock in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, began operation initially driven by clockwork and with only an hour hand. But it was the first of its kind in the world.  $1903\,$
- $10\,\textsc{-}$  Sir Jackie Stewart, three-times world motor racing champion, born in Dunbartonshire.  $1939\,$
- 11 Marie of Guise, widow of King James V and Queen Regent of Scotland, died. 1560
- 11 Battle of Sauchieburn during which King James III died attempting to subdue a group of rebel barons.  $1488\,$
- $11 \hbox{ First oil pumped ashore from British} \\$  oilfields in the North Sea. 1975
- 12 Sir David Gill, Scottish astronomer, was born. Gill was noted for his measurements of solar and stellar parallaxes, which accurately revealed the distances of the Sun and other stars to Earth. He was also a pioneer in the use of photography to map the heavens.  $1843\,$
- 12 Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust acquires the island. The community ownership group manage the island which has just over 100 residents and it is the second largest of the Small Isles after Rum. 1997
- 13 Birth of James Clerk Maxwell, first Professor of Experimental Physics at Cambridge University. He created the electromagnetic theory of light.  $1831\,$
- 13 Rate of price inflation reached 25% in the UK. 1975
- 14 Queen Mary, Aquitania, Empress of Canada, and Empress of Britain arrive in the River Clyde with the first contingent of Australian and New Zealand troops. 1940
- $14\,\text{-}\,\text{John}$  Logie Baird, inventor of the first television, died.  $1946\,$
- 15  $\it Queen\,Mary\,leaves\,Greenock,$  taking nearly 15,000 GI's home to US. 1945
- $16 \hbox{ Siege of Dunbar Castle by the} \\ English was raised. 1338$
- 16 Henry McLeish, Scottish Labour politician, was born. McLeish began his working life as a footballer for East Fife, but soon entered the political arena, serving from 1987 as MP for Central Fife. His career reached its zenith with his appointment as First Minister of the Scottish Executive, succeeding Donald Dewar. 1948
- 16 'Old Tom Morris', one of golf's first professional players and 4 time Open Champion, was born in St Andrews. 1821
- $\begin{array}{c} 17 \text{ -} \text{Wolf of Badenoch burns} \\ \text{Elgin Cathedral.} \\ 1390 \end{array}$
- 17 Charles Macintosh patented the waterproof cloth he was using to make raincoats. 1823



17 - Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned at the island fortress of Loch Leven Castle. She eventually escaped, never to step foot in Scotland again.  $1567\,$ 

- 18 Pacification of Berwick, Charles I forced to withdraw from Scotland and recognise an independent Scottish Parliament. 1639
- 18 Flora MacDonald met Prince Charles Edward Stuart and persuaded him to wear women's clothes as part of the escape plan from the Outer Hebrides to Skye. 1746
- 19 Mary Queen of Scots gives birth to the future King James VI of Scotland and I of England.  $1566\,$
- $\begin{array}{c} 19 \text{ Coronation of King Charles} \\ \text{I at Holyrood.} \ 1633 \end{array}$
- 19 "Day of Public Thanksgiving" on Restoration of Charles II as king.  $1660\,$
- $\frac{19}{19} \text{Earl Haig, Commander in Chief of British forces} \\ 1915-18, founder of British Legion, born. \\ 1861$
- 19 Sir J M Barrie, author of *Peter Pan* died. 193720 Adam Ferguson, philosopher, historian, "Father



- 20 New Tay Rail Bridge opened, the longest in Britain.  $1887\,$
- $20\,\textsc{-}$  First announcement of the discovery of high-grade crude oil in the North Sea.  $1969\,$
- 21 Robert Napier, regarded as the "father of Clyde shipbuilding" was born. He died on 23 June, 1876.  $1791\,$
- $21\,\text{-}\,\text{Scottish}$  explorer Mungo Park reached the source of the river Niger in Africa.  $1796\,$
- 21- More than 50 German warships were scuttled at Scapa Flow, Orkney. It was the single greatest loss of warships in history, and the sailors killed that day were the last fatalities of World War One. 1919



- 21 Riverside Museum in Glasgow opens to the public. The purpose-built Museum replaced the previous home for the city's transport collection, at the city's Kelvin Hall and is located on the banks of the River Clyde. 2011
- $22 \text{ Malt Riots, Glasgow against higher} \\ \text{taxes imposed on Scottish malt. } 1725$
- 22 -At the Battle of Bothwell, the Covenanters were defeated by royal troops led by the Duke of Monmouth near Glasgow. Ideological differences among the Covenanters factionalised them, and the resulting disorganisation contributed to the ease of the Royalists' victory. Although deaths on the field were few, 200 were killed later. Of the 1400 captured or surrendered, another 258 were shipwrecked while being transported in The Crown of London. The battle features in fictional form in Sir Walter Scott's novel *Old Mortality*. 1679
- 23 Charles II sailed into the estuary of the river Spey and signed the Covenant before going ashore.  $1650\,$
- 23 Singer Kenneth McKellar born. McKellar died of pancreatic cancer, at the age of 82 in 2010. 1927
- 24 The birth of Admiral Sir John Ross, Scottish Polar explorer. In 1818 he went in search of the Northwest Passage but turned back after exploring Baffin Bay. 1777
- 24 Robert the Bruce defeated Edward II at Battle of Bannockburn. The battle was one of the most famous events in the wars of independence. It saw the Scottish king, Robert the Bruce, win a key victory over the English forces of King Edward II, despite being outnumbered two-to-one and facing what was regarded as the finest army in the medieval world. 1314
- 25 David Douglas, explorer and botanist, born at Scone, Perthshire. In addition to the Douglas Fir, he brought back to Europe lupins, phlox, penstemmon, sunflowers, clarkia, Californian poppy, mimulus, flowering currant, rose of sharon and mahonia. 1799
- $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{25} \text{ Wallace statue unveiled at the Wallace} \\ \textbf{National Monument, Stirling. 1887} \end{array}$
- 25 Lord Boyd Orr, biologist and Nobel Prize Winner, died. 1971

- 25 Seven Scots, including John Stuart Forbes, were in the US  $7^{th}$  Cavalry with General Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. 1876
- 25 The first Sherlock Holmes story by Edinburgh-born author Arthur Conan Doyle was published in the *Strand* magazine. 1891
- 26 James IV crowned king at the age of 15 at Scone. He reigned until 1513 when he fell with the flower of Scotland's nobility at the Battle of Flodden Field. 1488
- 26 Darien Company formed to set up a Scottish colony in Panama. 1695
- 26 King George IV died, aged 67 (and William IV ascended the throne). George IV is reckoned to be Britain's fattest king. His favourite breakfast was two roast pigeons, three beefsteaks, a bottle of white wine, a glass of champagne, two of port and one brandy. 1830
- 27 King James VI (aged 8) escaped from Castle Ruthven.  $1583\,$
- 27- Robin Hall, Scottish folk singer and musician, was born. Hall achieved national fame in partnership with fellow Scot, Jimmie MacGregor, on the BBC TV show, Tonight. His hits included The Mingulay Boat Song and Ye Cannae Shove Yer Grannie Aff a Bus. 1937
- 27- The Royal Navy's new aircraft carrier leaves its home port for the first time. {\it HMS Queen Elizabeth} one of two new carriers built at Rosyth dockyard in Fife at a cost of more than £6bn began sea trials. The ship passed under the Forth Bridge just before midnight. It is the largest warship ever built for the Royal Navy. The flight deck alone is the size of three football pitches. The ship can operate with a crew of 1,000 and 40 aircraft. The 65,000 tonne warship was the Royal Navy's first aircraft carrier since {\it HMS Illustrious} was scrapped in 2014. 2017
- 28 Queen Victoria crowned at Westminster Abbey. 1838



- 28 The Forth and Clyde Canal opened. The 35 mile course from Bowling to Grangemouth is the longest of the Lowland canals. It was formally abandoned in 1962. Its re-opening in 2001 was part of the Millenium Link scheme, allowing waterway travel from Edinburgh to Glasgow by linking to the Union canal via the remarkable Falkirk Wheel boat lift. 1790
- 28 Flora MacDonald and Bonnie Prince Charlie set sail from Benbecula to Skye. After Culloden, the Prince had a high price on his head. He came to Benbecula, and Flora helped him escape to Skye by disguising him as her Irish maid, Betty Burke. 1746



- 28-29 Bannockburn Live celebrated in Stirling. Commemorating the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn and celebrating the best of Scottish folk music, food and drink attracted visitors from around the world and a key event of Homecoming 2014. 2014
- 29 Scottish actor Ian Bannen, was born. Bannen appeared in more than 60 British and American films. These include *The Flight of the Phoenix* (1965) for which he received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor. He died in 1999, aged 71. 1928
- 30 Start of trial for murder of Madeleine Smith who was eventually found "Not Proven". The daughter of a Glasgow architect, James Smith, this most eligible of society ladies was accused in 1857 of murdering her alleged former lover, Emile L'Angelier. 1857
- 30- James Loughran, Scottish conductor, was born in Glasgow. Loughran first came to notice when he won the Philharmonia Orchestra's Conducting Competition in 1961, and soon became principal conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. 1931

## The Douglas fir man

Dundee based writer Charlie Mill provided stories for the Scottish Banner for many years, touching on Scottish history, lifestyle and some of Scotland's truly unique characters. We recently opened the vault of Charlie's great work to share a collection of some of his favourites with readers today.



hroughout the grandeur of the Perthshire countryside there is an enormous assortment of wildlife living and growing freely, and catching the eye of all who pass with its raw beauty. Perhaps, then, if it weren't for the environment of his native Scone, David Douglas might not have gone on to become the most distinguished of all Scots explorer-botanists. Born in the picturesque Perthshire town in 1798, Douglas was educated at Kinnoull Parish School before embarking on an apprenticeship under William Beattie, the then head gardener at Scone Palace. The engagement presented him with an opportunity to fully examine and develop his two main interests, horticulture and reading, and he enrolled in classes in science and mathematics whilst researching wild plants throughout the summer months.

## Celebrated throughout the world of botany

Rapidly earning a reputation for himself in the field, he moved to the home of Sir Robert Preston at Valleyfield shortly after his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. The garden, famed for its store of rich exotic species, provided Douglas with a further chance to improve himself as well as

giving him the added opportunity of access to Sir Robert's vast botanical library.

Upon leaving Valleyfield he moved to Glasgow's illustrious Botanical Gardens where his exceptional research of Botanics brought him to the attention of Professor William J. Hooker, who selected the young Douglas to accompany him on collecting missions to the Highlands searching for rare and exotic plants. So impressed by his young assistant was Professor Hooker that in 1823 he recommended Douglas to the Horticultural Society of London for work as a botanical collector. Later that year he embarked on an expedition to the United States with the intention of introducing prime transatlantic specimens to their home collection.

In April 1825 Douglas again set off for the New World, wallowing in the opportunity to explore and discover new wildlife. During his time in the States he noted a range of new animals and discovered several species of pines. It was, however, his bringing back to these shores of the conifer which eventually became known as the Douglas fir that he was remembered and for which he became celebrated throughout the world of botany.

## The Perthshire lad

He continued to relish in the new surroundings of the American West.

"Not a day passed but brought something new or interesting either in botany or zoology," read his diary, the writings revealing the same sense of fascination that he first displayed during his Perthshire childhood. Douglas also explored South America and discovered many botanical resources below the Equator as well as shooting several previously-unknown species of birds, and bringing them back to Britain for further study along with an unbelievable collection of seeds and dried specimens.

The natives and trappers of the Columbia River were unanimous in their amusement of Douglas, relating his shy and intense manner and his desire to explore every inch of soil in the region. He is reported to have enjoyed friendly relations with both groups who assisted him in his desire to add to his collection. The expeditions of Douglas continued to attract much interest among the scientific fraternity at home, and his trip across the Rocky Mountains enroute to Hudson's Bay in 1827 resulted in Brewster's Edinburgh Journal publishing extracts from several of his letters. Despite receiving several offers to publish a definitive account of his travels, Douglas never completed the manuscript, and The Journal Kept by David Douglas During his Travels in North America, 1823-1827, did not appear in print until 1914. On returning home his labours assured him a place among the scholarly elite in London, and he was elected a Fellow of the Geological, Zoological and Linnaean Societies.

After spending the next two years in London, Douglas was once more struck by the passion to travel and explore, and set off on what was to prove to be his final scientific expedition. Following his departure for California in 1829 Douglas was greatly respected throughout Britain, and over the next few years was consulted on everything from his chosen field of botany to foreign policy, strongly arguing that the Columbia River formed the natural border between the United States and Canada. Even so, life in the public eye did not sit easily with Douglas, who became increasingly strained and difficult to work with. In 1834 he sailed to Honolulu never to be seen alive again.

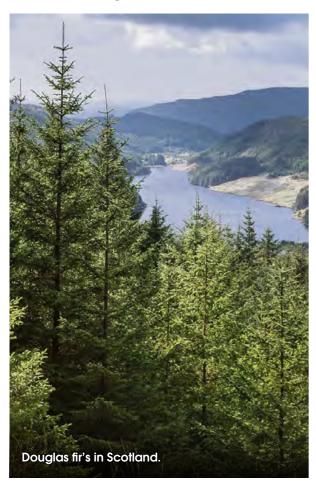
His mangled torso was found in a cattle trap on July 12<sup>th</sup> that year. The cause of death became a matter of speculation,

## Did you know?



- Douglas fir can live to be 500 years old.
- The Douglas fir can grow up to 60 metres in Scotland.
- It has soft needles with two grey bands underneath.
- One of the original firs David Douglas introduced was back in 1827 at the Duke of Buccleuch's Drumlanrig Estate (David's brother worked there).
- The oval shaped cones hang downwards with a three point bract - a special type of leaf - on every scale.
- Douglas fir's bark is a reddishbrown, fissured and corky.
- A fir at Dunkeld Cathedral in Perthshire boasts a girth of seven metres.
- The Douglas fir is the major timber species in its native North America, and its imported timber is sold as 'Oregon Pine'.
   It is used for construction work, plywood and veneers, as well as for furniture and panelling.

with some suggesting his short-sightedness had contributed to a tragic accident, while others suggested suicide or even murder! Although coming to a grisly end, the contribution made by Douglas to botany cannot be underestimated. He sent several thousand species back to Britain and single-handedly introduced 24 plants. The name of the Perthshire lad who went on to become a national figure through his thirst for scientific exploration and talent for discovery lives on through the Douglas fir.





## IN SCOTLAND TODAY

## **Scotland votes**



Scotland went to the polls in May and the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) will again form the next Holyrood government winning 64 seats, this was an increase of one seat and only one short of an overall majority. Led by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon the SNP won a fourth victory in the Scottish Parliament election and had the highest vote share of any party anywhere in the UK, in any election, since 1966. The other party results included: The Conservatives 31 MSPs (unchanged), Labour 22 (down two), Greens eight (up two) and the Lib Dems four (down one). A pre-election poll found 56% of respondents backed Scottish independence - in line with a number of recent polls showing similar support for 'Yes' - while only 23% are optimistic about Brexit. Should the SNP the Greens make any deals it would lead the way for a proindependence majority at Holyrood, which could then see legislation be brought forward to enable such a vote to happen. Nicola Sturgeon has said her immediate focus will be the pandemic but maintains the wishes of the Scottish people will continue to be what the party pushed for. The First Minister said after the results came in: "If we end up in court it would be because we have a UK government that refuses to accept Scottish democracy. I support independence and the UK Government does not, but the only people that have the right to answer that question are the people of Scotland."

Over 4.2 million people were registered to vote in Scottish elections as of 1<sup>St</sup> December 2020, representing an increase of 41,600 registered voters over the last year, according to statistics published by National Records of Scotland.

## World Pipe Band Championships 2021 cancelled



The World Pipe Band Championships 2021, due to take place at Glasgow Green in August has been cancelled. The event, which would normally attract around 200 bands from around the world to compete, is expected to return to Glasgow in 2022. The World Pipe Band Championships is delivered on behalf of The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association by the charity Glasgow Life and is supported by EventScotland, part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate. It is the second year the World Pipe Band Championships have been cancelled because of the impact of

the global Covid-19 pandemic. Before that it has been held in Glasgow every year since 1986. Kevin Reilly, Chairman of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association said: "The World Pipe Band Championships is the competition where bands, pipers and drummers want to test themselves against the very best. It is a showcase for the best bands in the world and it is evident getting bands ready to play the toughest competition in the world and get them to Glasgow is impossible this year. Everyone involved is naturally disappointed but we remain hopeful we can stage The Worlds as we know them in 2022."

Dr Bridget McConnell, Chief Executive of Glasgow Life said: "The World Pipe Band Championships is an event Glasgow always looks forward to hosting and in conjunction with the RSPBA and EventScotland we had hoped another memorable occasion on Glasgow Green would be possible. Having taken time to explore several delivery options together, it is clear to all involved that we can't stage anything like the World Championships people know and love. We hope to be able to welcome bands and supporters back to Glasgow Green next summer."

Glasgow first hosted the World Pipe Championships in 1948. In 2019 195 bands from 13 nations competed in front of around 35,000 people bringing people from around the world to play and spectate boosting the economy in Glasgow and Scotland.

## Historic Highlands castle goes up for sale



One of Highland Scotland's most iconic Castles has been put on the market, providing a world-class residential or commercial development opportunity. Carbisdale Castle is an impressive and imposing large mansion house built in the Scottish Baronial style on a precipitous site above the inner Kyle of Sutherland with outstanding views in all directions and has 64 rooms (including 19 bedrooms and bathrooms). Carbisdale Castle was built between 1905 and 1917 for Mary Caroline, Duchess of Sutherland, the second wife of George Sutherland-Leveson-Gower, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Sutherland, whom she married in 1889. Colonel Theodore Salvesen, a wealthy Scottish businessman of Norwegian extraction, bought the castle in 1933. He provided the castle as a safe refuge for King Haakon VII of Norway and Crown Prince Olav, who would become King Olav V, during the Nazi occupation of Norway in World War II. During that time, the castle was also used to hold important strategic meetings. King Haakon VII made an agreement at the Carbisdale Conference on 22 June 1941 that the Russian forces, should they enter Norwegian territory, would not stay there after the war. Three years later, on 25 October 1944, the Red Army entered Norway and captured 30

towns, but later withdrew according to the terms of the agreement. In 1945 the castle was gifted to the Scottish Youth Hostels Association (SYHA). The castle remained in the ownership of the SYHA until the costs of owning and maintaining the buildings and its contents became untenable and the castle was offered for sale. The six floor castle is also said to be haunted and is on the market for offers over £1,500,000.

## Bank of Scotland unveils new £50 polymer note design



The Bank of Scotland has unveiled the design of its new polymer £50 note which will enter circulation on the  $1^{\text{St}}$  of July 2021. Keen-eyed note holders will first notice the change in colour from traditional green to red. Evolving the existing "Bridge Series", a new image of the world's first and only rotating boat lift, the Falkirk Wheel, will be visible on the reverse. For the first time, the famous Falkirk structure will be joined by an image of the shape-shifting water spirits, The Kelpies. The two 300-tonne horses' heads have been added to the £50 note in celebration of the contribution of horses to the history of Scotland. Furthermore, a new UV feature depicts a horse pulling a canal barge, one of the ways horses shaped the geographical layout of the Falkirk area. Bank of Scotland's new £50 notes feature the poem Steam Barge, by William Muir. It was written after he saw the newlyinvented steam boat passing through Scotland's Grand Canal. The front of the new note portrays the Scottish novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott, alongside the image of The Mound in Edinburgh, as the current £50 note does today.

Philip Grant, Chairman of the Scottish Executive Committee, Bank of Scotland, said: "Bank of Scotland has issued bank notes showcasing our country's rich history for more than 320 years. Our new £50 note, with its images of the majestic Kelpies, the Falkirk Wheel and a poem by William Muir, celebrates the greatness of Scottish culture and engineering achievement. I am very proud to be a signatory on the note, in my role as Treasurer of Bank of Scotland."

## Freedom of Orkney bestowed on Royal Navy Northern Diving Group



The Freedom of Orkney has been bestowed on the Royal Navy Northern Diving Group, in recognition of their long association with commemorating those

lost in the sinking of HMS Royal Oak and in keeping the Orkney community safe through the safe disposal of modern and historic ordnance, including torpedoes and mines. Scotland based Royal Navy Clearance Divers have a long history with Orkney. Available records show that they have been visiting the Island for over 40 years, with the most poignant connection being HMS Royal Oak. It was the Northern Diving Group's predecessor unit, Scotland and Northern Ireland Clearance Diving Team, that recovered the Ship's Bell in 1982. Since then, as a mark of respect, Clearance Divers have taken on the responsibility to annually change the White Ensign; Northern Diving Group (NDG) has carried out this role since it was formed in 1995 and intend to continue to do so. Records also show that NDG and its predecessors have attended Orkney to support the Police and Coastguard on 145 occasions - as recently as 28 April this year - safely disposing of a range of modern and historic ordnance.

Councillor Stephen Clackson spoke at the meeting in support of the nomination, citing a personal connection: "My uncle, Ordinary Seaman Ronald George Clackson, was one of 835 men and boys who went down with HMS Royal Oak on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1939, shortly after his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. I have attended many of the memorial services held each year at Scapa on the anniversary of that fateful day, at which the Northern Diving Group plays a key part. Each year they inspect the wreck of the ship and replace the white ensign attached to her stern with a new one. The old ensign is presented, often to a family member of one of the sailors lost, at a reception hosted by the Kirkwall Royal British Legion, held after the service at Scapa, each year. I am sure I speak on behalf of all the 'Royal Oak families' in supporting this nomination to confer the Freedom of Orkney on the Royal Navy Northern Diving Group."

The team covers a coastline of over 12,000 miles and in 2020 they attended some 140 call outs across their area of responsibility, maintaining military aid to civil authorities even during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. When not on task, members of the Northern Diving Group are also involved in commemorating the lives lost during the sinking of *HMS Royal Oak*. The battleship was torpedoed by a German U-Boat at Scapa Flow on October 14, 1939. Tragically 833 sailors lost their lives in the attack with the wreck of the ship now a designated war grave.

Northern Diving Group's predecessor unit dived down to recover the ship's bell in 1982 and since then have annually dived to the wreck to replace the White Ensign in commemoration of the dead. There is also a memorial service each year where the ship's bell is rung to remember those who gave their lives. The Freedom of Orkney is today a ceremonial award issued by elected member of Orkney Islands Council. Its roots stretch back to the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century, when the county's ruling powers started granting traders permission to import and export goods into the county - with this 'freedom' usually conditional upon payment of an annual sum to the Royal Burgh of Kirkwall.

## Pioneering rewilding project aims to be first of its kind in Scotland



Imost 20 years after spearheading the reintroduction of the beaver to Scotland, Bamff Estate in Perthshire now aims to go further with a pioneering rewilding project to help tackle the nature and climate crises, while inspiring similar initiatives on other farms. Led by a mother and daughter team, the family-run upland farm aims to create Bamff Wildland by rewilding of 450 acres – with 12 fields, six woods and some of the UK's most impressive beaver territories transformed into a nature-rich connected area of land.

## First of its kind in Scotland

Sheep have been removed from the fields, and after a fallow year this land will be linked to the woods and beaver wetlands to form a single rewilding zone – the first of its kind in Scotland. Small numbers of native breeds of pigs, cattle and ponies as proxies for their wild ancestors, will be introduced to create a dynamic mosaic of diverse habitats through conservation grazing. Eventually the animals will be able to roam freely across the whole 450 acres, in an approach shown to be critical for nature to thrive.

A crowdfunder to make Bamff Wildland a reality aims to raise at least £24,000. Funds are needed to kickstart the project, including by creating a perimeter fence so the estate's internal fencing can eventually be removed. Although the work is all being done for public benefit, currently much of it is not eligible for government funding.

Sophie Ramsay of Bamff Wildland said: "As our climate destabilises and threatens human survival, and with heartbreaking accounts of wildlife numbers crashing internationally, farmers and landowners

have a responsibility to respond to these twin crises. Rewilding is a powerful way of restoring nature to boost wildlife, soak up carbon dioxide and tackle climate breakdown impacts such as flooding and drought. More ambition for large-scale rewilding on less productive farmland is needed now, across the countryside."

## Putting nature back in the driving seat

The initiative is inspired by Knepp Castle Estate in West Sussex, where – as described by Isabella Tree in her best-selling book Wilding – "putting nature back in the driving seat" has led to remarkable increases in wildlife, including nationally and internationally endangered species. Bamff Wildland's Crowdfunder, launched on April 1, has already met over 80% of the initial target attracting donations of all sizes and many supportive comments and shares on social media. Rewards for donations include the chance to "Adopt a Copse" or "Become a Founding Bamff Rewilder".



"Through a programme of careful monitoring, Bamff Wildland will show what rewilding can do for our diminishing wildlife and for climate action on a Scottish upland sheep farm. Bamff is an averaged sized landholding and could be an example for many similar farms," said Sophie, adding. "We will still grow food on other parts of the farm. We believe in more land given over for rewilding, and for connectivity of habitat but also in the importance of local food production. Our Crowdfunder is also helping to demonstrate how public support for rewilding is growing. We hope this will encourage the Scottish Government to support widespread rewilding on marginal land across Scotland, to help meet our climate and biodiversity targets in a cost-effective way. Every single

donation will make a difference. It's an opportunity for people to be part of a groundbreaking project to benefit nature, climate and people."

Future plans for Bamff Wildland include the creation of ponds, planting of native woodlands and wildflower areas, and erection of osprey platforms. The family is also interested in eventually reintroducing rare or locally extinct amphibian species such as the agile frog, pool frog, moor frog and great crested newt. New walking trails across the estate are being created this summer to add to existing access.

To support the appeal, visit crowdfunder.co.uk/bamff-wild-land.



## Scottish Heritage Week - Save the Dates

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council and the Celtic Council of Australia invite you to attend the Scottish / Celtic events from Friday 25th to Monday 28th June 2021.

Fri 25 June: Scottish/Celtic Bards Dinner.
Guest speaker: Alasdair Taylor, Education
Officer for the National Trust of Australia.
Entertainment to include the address to the
Haggis, Scottish/Irish dancers, poetry from
Wales/Ireland/Scotland/Brittany.

**Sat 26 June:** Inspection of Scotland Australian Cairn, Rawson Park, Mosman, followed by a BBQ lunch and family ceilidh.

**Sun 27 June:** Kirkin o' the Tartan at Hunter Baillie Memorial Presbyterian Church, Annandale. **Mon 28 June:** Tartan Day Parliamentary Lunch at NSW Parliament House.

Evening Lecture (via Zoom):

History Lecture by Dr Ben Wilkie,
Juris Doctor Deakin University,
2020-present; PhD, Monash University,
"Weaving the tartan: Culture, imperialism,
and Scottish identities in Australia 1788-1938".

Booking and information: www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au





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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. Email: gord7@bigpond.com

## **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/

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## **CLAN BELL**

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

Website: www.ClanBell.org Online membership: https://clanbell.org/membership.html Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell Email: President@clanbell.org

Clan Bell North America 4676 Emerald Willow Drive Acworth, GA 30101



## 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:clandavidsonaus@g 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

## 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' **High Commissioner** Mr A. Neil Macdonald

**State Commissioners** Qld SA Vic

Mr John Currie Mr A. Neil Macdonald Ms Therese McCutcheon Mr Norman A Macdonald Ms Pamela McDonald

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



Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor aronet of Lanrick and Balqhidde 24th Chief of Clan Gregor Great Lakes,

New England, Pacific North West, Western U.S. and Southeast Chapters

www.clangregor.org For membership contact Keith MacGregor P.O Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876 kmac1@optonline.net.

Peter Lawrie, Secretar 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



## **Gregor Society** Membership inquiries

**American Clan** 

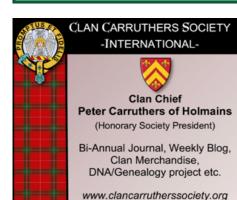
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Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org website: www.acgsus.org



## 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.



WEB www.Clan-Forbes.org @CLANFORBESSOCIETY

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#CLANFORBES

#CLANFORBESSOCIETY

CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG



## **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



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



www.clanhay.com





INTERNATIONAL

CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC

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

Clan MacDougall Society of



383 Ash Brook Lane Sunnyvale, TX 75182-3250

## Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

## Clan MacNicol

**Chief: John MacNeacail** of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

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

Clan Macpherson

Australia. John L Macpherson

New Zealand. Tony McPherson NewZealand.Chairman@clan-mac phone +64 274 587 813

S USA. Robert T McPherson

phone +1 360 701 8133

Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +61 409 122 141

England & Wales. William Macphersor EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.or phone +44 7877 363 507

## 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



missioner: Colin Douglas Hope www.clanhope.org

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

MMACIFAR LANE.OORG

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



MacWilliam Norie Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallum Norman Harold MacCaig MacHaigh **Tolmie** 

- MacCaskey MacRaild Williamson NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas David Dickie 03 9337 4384 South Australia - Rachel Hopkins 0433 184 375 Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334
  - Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

**MACLEODS** 

RICH IN HIGHLAND

TRADITIONS

FOR INFORMATION:

WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

A.L. MACLEOD

3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B

WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84120-6880



Africa. Derek Macpherson

phone +265 999 512 620

Canada. Denise Lagundzir Canada.Chair@clan-macph phone +1 519 507 4465

phone +44 7793 317 387

Scotland & Northern Ireland. Annie Le Roy-Lewi

Europe. Will Tulling

## The Clan MacRae **Society of Australia** and New Zealand

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

The Clan Macpherson Museum is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Ph + 44 1540 673 332. See http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/

## **Australian Contact:**

Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: learn@vsr.com.au NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: sue.treg1@gmail.com





## **Clan Irwin Association Clan Irwin Association Patron**

Alexander Irvine of Drum 27th Baron of Drum & Chief of the Name. Contact: Brian S. Ervin, Chairman 1103 Highview Dr. Lapeer, MI, 48446 Phone: 248-854-0798 brian.ervin@clanirwin.org IRWIN • IRVIN • IRVINE • IRVING • ERWIN • ERVIN

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

## **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!

**Clan Maitland** 

## www.macrae.org

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

Chief: Ian Maitland. The Earl of Lauderdale!

6/1 Hinemoa Ave. Normanhurst, NSW. 2076

We are all related! Contact your local society North America: Rosemary Maitland Thom

rthomnvprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz

33 Disley Street, Highbury, Wellington 6012. NZ

Australia: Amanda Maitland clanmaitland@yahoo.com.au

We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar

name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at:



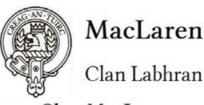
## **CLAN LESLIE** SOCIETY

of Australia and New Zealand

Clan Chief: Hon Alexander John Leslie Enquiries invited from Leslies around the world. as well as the Septs of Clan Leslie: Abernethy, Bartholomew, Cairney, Lang, Moore etc in all their spellings

117/303 Spring Street. Kearney's Spring, Qld, 4350, Australia. Phone: +61 418 986 876

Contact: Malcolm W. Leslie D.Ua. malncol@icr.com.au www.clanleslie.org



Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

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

Clan MacLaren



## **Clan MacNeil Association** of Australia

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: John McNeil

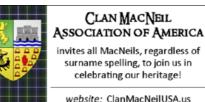
Phone: 08 833 33990 Email: kisimul@chariot.net.au

21 Coopers Avenue Leabrook, South Australia 5068

## CLAN MACNEIL celebrating our heritage!

MacLaren MacLaurin Lawrence Find us on Facebook, Twiter, & Instagram Lawson Low[e] Low[e]ry Law[e] Patterson MacPatrick MacRory

Mark A. McLaren, President President@clanmaclarenna.org







www.clanmaitland.org.uk

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

## **COME JOIN US!**

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



Commander. Michael T. McAlpin

DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!

Contact: Membership@MacAilpein.com Website: https://macailpein.com/



## **OLIPHANT CLAN** & FAMILY ASSOCIATION



The <u>only</u> home for all Clan Oliphant in the Americas.

Oliphant - Olyphant - Oliphint Olifant -Olifent and all descended

ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org

descendant of Pollock, Pollok, Pook, Polk, Polke, Paulk, Poalke,

Poulk, Poolke, Pogue - you are cordially invited to contact:

A. D. Pollock, Jr.

PO Box 404

Greenville, KY 42345

e-mail: apollockis@comcast.net



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 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



## Clan Wardlaw Association

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

## 'Wardlaw ivermair!'

www.clanwardlaw.com Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

**Scottish Associations and Societies** 



## 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



## **Scottish Gaelic Language Classes:**



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

420-424 William Street, West Melbourne. Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277 Email:scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

## **Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria**

https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com



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

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

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



## **The Stewart Society**

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

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



## **Caledonian Society**

**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.standrewsociety.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 Contact: M Hodgkinson

212 MacKenzie Street Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559) william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au

http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



## **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 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

## 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

## Víctorian Scottish Union Inc Established 1905

Umbrella group representing the interest of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria. Affiliated Clans & Societies

Brunswick Scottish Society Clan Donald Victoria
Clan Grant
Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc
Clan Mackenzie of Australia Clan Maclean Australia

Balmoral Highland Dancing Society

Geelong Scottish Dance Glenbrae Celtic Dancers Kilmore Celtic Festival
Maryborough Highland Society
Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Societ
Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Robert Burns Club of Camperdowi Warrnambool & District Caledonian Society Warrnambool Caledonian Highland Dal

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

## **Australia Group**

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

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

E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com



## Clan Young **Australia**

Invites membership from all those with the surname Young or with ancestral ties or connection to the surname.

Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot

10 Cedric Street, Parkdale VIC 3195 E: membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au

www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/

## **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, scaled down presentations and cancellations due to restrictions related to COVID-19. We are listing both events taking place and that have been cancelled/postponed. Please check direct with event contacts for the most up to date information. You can also see our latest updates (including events across Scotland and North America) or add your event at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

## Australia

## **JUNE 2021**

### Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival 5, Wingham, NSW

One day only in 2021. A free community event at Central Park, celebrate Scotland with music, dance, stalls and more. Info:https://bwsf.zyrosite.com/

### Commemoration Service Honouring the Scottish Presbyterian Early Settlers of the Manning Valley 6, Wingham, NSW

The Service will be held at the Wingham Presbyterian War Memorial Church, 32 Moon St at 11 am. All welcome. After the Service people may like to "car pool" and take a 10 minute drive to see the site of the original Ashlea Presbyterian Church at Dingo Creek, off Wherrol Flat Rd. Info: Mave Richardson: 02 6553 5412 or mave.eric@outlook.com

### Townsville Tartan Weekend 11-13, Townsville, QLD

Townsville's largest Scottish event with Heavy Games Competition, Scottish Music Workshop, Clansmen's Ceilidh and Townsville Tartan Day. Info: Marie Gibson 0413 456 542 or mlg7@optusnet.com.au

## Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular & **Fassifern Highland Gathering**

## 12-13, Boonah, QLD

The Fassifern Highland Gathering is part of the Scenic Rim Clydesdale Spectacular. Clydesdale events, other events include; grand parade, calling the clans, Scots cuisine, heavy events, workshops, history, along with pipe band, Highland dancing and Scottish music performances at Boonah Showgrounds. Info: www.facebook.com/clydiespectacular

## National Celtic Festival

## 11-14, Portarlington, VIC

Australia's largest and most diverse celebration of Celtic music, arts and culture. Info: www.nationalcelticfestival.com

## 25 - 30, Sydney, NSW

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council's Scottish week will be back this year. It will be a shorter but eventful and Covid safe celebration. It will include a Scottish/Celtic dinner with entertainment, online history talks and a visit to the Mosman Cairn with BBQ lunch. Keep checking the website for updates on events & details. Info: Nea 040 899 0413 or see: www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

### Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh 26, Inglewood, WA

All ages welcome. Music by the Heel n Toe Ceilidh Band. Come and enjoy a really fun night out at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beaufort St. Info: John: 0427 990 754 or www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

### **RSCDS Sydney Annual Ball** 26, Carlingford, NSW

Scottish Country Dance event at Don Moore Community Centre, North Rocks Rd & Farnell Ave. Music by Chris  $Duncan\,\&\,Catherine\,Strutt.\,Info:\,sydney@rscds.org.au$ 

### Tennents Tartan Day Tattoo: A Gathering of Clans 26, Wongawallan, OLD

On July 1, 1746 British made rule that tartans are banned and  $prison \ for \ anyone \ wearing \ one \ representing \ an \ uprising \ of$ the highlands. On this special occasion they celebrate what people sacrificed themselves for and that family and country always comes first. Brisbane City Pipe Band will perform on a massive scale over dinner at Fox & Hounds Country Inn. Info: 07 5665 7582 or www.foxandhounds.net.au

## **JULY 2021**

## International Tartan Day

1, Nationwide

Celebrated on July 1st, the anniversary of the Repeal Proclamation of 1782 annulling the Act of Proscription of 1747, which had made wearing tartan an offense punishable. Wear some tartan today with pride!

### The 2021 Camperdown Robert Burns Scottish Festival 2-4, Camperdown, VIC

The festival promotes the legacy of Robert Burns and the cultural heritage of Scots in south-west Victoria with lectures, music and more. Info:https://camperdownburnsfestival. com.au or www.facebook.com/robertburnsfestival

## **Aberdeen Highland Games**

## 3. Aberdeen, NSW

The Games begin with a parade of bands, clan representatives and others that leads into the Massed Band Salute and Chieftain's Address that officially opens the day. Throughout the day there will be fun for all the family - there will be Highland and Country Dancing, Pipe Band displays, Strong Man events with the Tartan Warriors to enjoy as well as tug-of-war, three-legged races, and the famed Kilted Dash to participate in. Info:www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com

## **Mackay Scottish Bluewater Fling**

## 10, Mackay, QLD

A great celebration of everything Pipes, Drums & Scottish on the banks of the beautiful Bluewater Pioneer River. All totally free to enjoy. Info:pipemajor@mackaypipeband.com.au

## Melbourne Scottish Festival

### 11 – 24, Melbourne, VIC

Celebrate Scottish culture at a variety of events in Melbourne, Gala Dinner & Concert, Tartan Day Massed Pipe Band Parade, Whisky Tasting and more. Info: www.melbournetartanfestival.com.au

### **Hunter Valley Scots Club Caledonian Night** 17, Teralba, NSW

Scottish fun and music at Teralba Community Hall, Cnr Margaret St & Anzac Pde. Info: www.hvsc.org.au

## RSCDS Adelaide Ball

### 17, Adelaide, SA

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society of Adelaide's premier event of the year. Open to spectators to enjoy the atmosphere and music. Open to dancers looking for a special evening. Info: www.rscdsadelaide.org.au

## International Tartan Day 2021

24, Brisbane, QLD PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED, BACK 2022. Info: www.facebook.

## com/AustralianScottishCommunity Caledonian Society of WA Xmas in July Ceilidh

31, Inglewood, WA All ages welcome. Music by the Heel n Toe Ceilidh Band. Come and enjoy a really fun night out at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beaufort St. Info: John: 0427990754 or www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

## **AUGUST 2021**

### **Learn Scottish Country Dancing** with Scots on The Rocks 9 - Sept 27, Sydney, NSW

This course is for new dancers who wish to learn steps and basic dance formations that are the building blocks of Scottish Country dancing. You will be introduced to Jigs and Reels and will learn a series of lively, beginner friendly dances. Fee \$100pp at Fort St School, Wentworth Park, Ultimo. Info: www.sotr.org.au/beginner

### Scots in the Bush

## 19-22, Boondooma OLD

A celebration of the contribution of the Scottish people in opening up much of Australia at Boondooma Home with great Celtic music. Camping on site. Info: 074168 0159 or www.boondoomahomestead.org.au

### Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh 28, Inglewood, WA

All ages welcome. Music by the Heel n Toe Ceilidh Band. Come and enjoy a really fun night out at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beaufort St. Info: John: 0427990754 or www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

## **New Zealand**

## **JUNE 2021**

## Scottish Celtic Music Group **7, Auckland**Monthly on the first Friday at St Luke's Church,

130 Remuera Rd. All instruments welcome to read through favourite Scottish tunes and dance sets. Info: www.freewebs.com/aucklandscottishfiddleclub

## The Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh 12, Wellington

A ceilidh is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month except January - in the City of Wellington Pipe Band Hall from 8.00pm - 12.00am. We are a very family oriented organisation and we encourage participation by all ages. All welcome. Info: www.wellingtongaelicclub.org.nz

### Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club Night 14. Auckland

St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd, Auckland 7.30pm - 10pm. Info: learnScotsfiddle@gmail.com

## City of Nelson Highland Pipe Band Ceilidh

Come along to the City of Nelson Highland Pipe Band Ceilidh and come dancing! Held at the Sun City Darts Club Hall, Guppy Park, Sovereign Street, Nelson. To purchase email: cityofnelsonband@gmail.com for a numbered ticket

### VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group-What weight did Atlas carry on his shoulders? 28. Wellington

## Stuart Hudson's lifelong passion has been, and is, climbing the hills of his native Scotland, New Zealand and elsewhere.

How the mountain Schiehallion played a major part in calculating the weight of the Earth is one of the fascinating stories he has to tell at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay (between Bunny and Whitmore Sts); entrance door  $from \ Bunny \ St. \ In fo: www.wellyscots.wordpress.com$ 

### **JULY 2021**

## International Tartan Day

## 1, Nationwide

Celebrated on July 1st, the anniversary of the Repeal Proclamation of 1782 annulling the Act of Proscription of 1747, which had made wearing tartan an offense punishable. Wear some tartan today with pride!

## Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club Night

## 9, Auckland

St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd, Auckland 7.30pm - 10pm. Info: learnScotsfiddle@gmail.com

## The Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh

## 10, Wellington

A ceilidh is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month except January - in the City of Wellington Pipe Band Hall from 8.00pm - 12.00am. We are a very family oriented organisation and we encourage participation by all ages. All welcome. Info: www.wellingtongaelicclub.org.nz

## **VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group-**The Pictish puzzle, Aberlemno and beyond - Alison Morris' home territory.

## 28, Wellington

The Picts are becoming better documented. Fortunately,  $% \left( \mathbf{r}\right) =\left( \mathbf{r}\right)$ ongoing discoveries on Pictish society continue to be published by archaeologists and academics. Alison Morris will attempt to give an update on some of the more recently available information, referring particularly to the family graveyard of her paternal grandmother in the Forfar area, and the enigmatic carved stones to be found there at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay (between Bunny and Whitmore Sts); entrance door from Bunny St. Info: www.wellyscots.wordpress.com

## **AUGUST 2021**

### Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club Night 13, Auckland

St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd, Auckland 7.30pm - 10pm. Info: learnScotsfiddle@gmail.com

## The Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh

## 14, Wellington

A ceilidh is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month except January - in the City of Wellington Pipe Band Hall from 8.00pm - 12.00am. We are a very family oriented organisation and we encourage participation by all ages. All welcome. Info: www.wellingtongaelicclub.org.nz

## VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group-The Scottish settlers of the barque Blenheim 28, Wellington

In December 1840 around 200 Scottish settlers, mostly from Lochaber and Skye, with a contingent from Paisley and Glasgow, landed at Kaiwharawhara (established the first Scottish settlement in New Zealand there) from where they spread throughout the country. For the 175th Anniversary (of the arrival in 2015) NZ writer Hugh McPhail (a descendant) researched the lives of these Blenheim people and will tell us some of their stories at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay (between Bunny and Whitmore Sts); entrance door from Bunny St. Info: www.wellyscots.wordpress.com

## Kapiti Highland Ball

## 28, Waikanae

Kapiti Caledonian Society holds an Annual Highland Ball every year for you all to come along and enjoy some great Scottish dancing, music and watch a display from the local pipe band at Waikanae Memorial Hall, 7 Pehi Kupa St. Info: www.kapitiscots. co.nz/caledonian or kapitiscots@outlook.com

## Sydney welcomes Scottish heritage celebrations

**¬**he first major Scottish event in Sydney in over a year will be presented by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council (SAHC) and The Celtic Council of Australia from Friday 25 June to Monday 28 June 2021. This is a great opportunity to wear your tartan again. We will welcome back clan folk, those of Scottish descent and everyone who wishes to celebrate Scottish Culture starting with the Celtic Bards' Dinner on Friday 25 June at Cellos Restaurant, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel from 6.30pm. The guest speaker is Alasdair Taylor, a graduate of Sydney University, and renowned for his work in Scotland through Earth for Life. He is now with the National Trust of Australia. Entertainment includes the Address to the Haggis, Highland and Irish dancing, poetry from the seven Celtic nations and a dram or two. Bookings are essential.

The annual inspection of the Scotland Australian Cairn ceremony, Rawson Park, Mosman is on Saturday 26 June at 11.00am with our piper leading the Clan march and the Australian Gaelic Choir singing. This is followed by

a BBQ lunch and a family Ceilidh in the Drill Hall with the Ceilidh Collective providing the music for singing, dance, etc. Sunday 27 June is the annual Kirkin o' the Tartan at Hunter Baillie Memorial Presbyterian Church, Annandale, at 9.30am - bring your tartan. Monday 28 June is the Annual Tartan Day lunch at NSW Parliament House at 12 noon. Bookings are essential. In the evening we will present a lecture with Ben Wilkie, Juris Doctor, Deakin University, PHD Monash University (via zoom). The topic is Weaving the tartan, Culture, Imperialism, and Scottish identities in Australia 1788 - 1938.



For all enquiries, please contact Nea MacCulloch at: 0408 990 413 or info@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au. Details are also on the SAHC's website: www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

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## IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



## Cream of carrot and coriander soup

## **Ingredients:**

2lb/1kg chopped carrots 1 medium-sized potato chopped into very small pieces 2 large chopped onions 3oz/75g sweet sherry 5fl oz./ 150ml chicken stock 2 tbsp. chopped fresh coriander Salt and pepper (to taste) 2 tbsp. cream Some fresh coriander, small amount of grated carrot and cream for decoration.

## Method:

Melt the butter in a saucepan. Add the onions. When soft, add the carrots and potato and mix with the butter. Cook very gently for a few minutes. Add the sherry, salt & pepper. Put lid on and cook gently for 15 minutes. Add the stock and simmer until potato and carrots are soft. Stir in the coriander, turn off heat. Cool slightly and liquidise the mixture. Add in the cream slowly and reheat until nice and hot to serve. Garnish with swirl of cream, some grated carrot and a couple of coriander leaves.

## Arbroath toasties

## **Ingredients:**

6 oz. /175g smoked haddock/ cod (or similar fish) 6 oz./175ml milk ½ ounce/15g plain (all purpose) flour 1 ounce/25g strong, hard, grated cheese One egg (separated into white and yolk) Salt, pepper, freshly ground black pepper, to taste 4 slices of buttered toast

## Method:

Heat the smoked haddock in quarter pint/150ml/two-thirds cup of the milk in a saucepan. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat, cover and cook for about five minutes or until the fish flakes easily with a fork. Remove the fish with a fish slice and flake. Mix the flower with the rest of the milk and then stir into the milk in the saucepan. Bring to the boil and cook for two minutes, stirring continuously until thick. Stir in the cheese, egg yolk and flaked fish. Season to taste with salt, pepper, freshly ground black pepper, then heat through. Whisk the egg white until it is stiff and fold in with a metal spoon. Put the toast on a grill rack and spoon the fish mixture onto each slice of toast. Place under a hot grill until it is lightly browned. Serve immediately.

## Scottish fish pie



## **Ingredients:**

For this recipe you will need a large ovenproof dish, about 2.5 litres/4 pints 7fl oz capacity. For the poaching stock 600ml/20fl oz fish stock 50ml/2fl oz anise-flavoured liqueur, such as Pernod 1 small onion, roughly chopped 1 small fennel bulb, roughly chopped 2 celery sticks, roughly chopped 1 bay leaf few sprigs fresh parsley

## For the filling:

500g/1lb 2oz haddock fillet (or other white fish of your choice), skinned and boned 250g/9oz salmon fillet, skinned and boned 250g/9oz smoked langoustines For the saffron mash: 1.5kg/3lb 5oz floury potatoes (such as King Edward), peeled and cut into large chunks salt and black pepper 100ml/31/2fl oz double cream pinch of saffron 50g/13/40z unsalted butter

## For the sauce:

40g/1½oz unsalted butter 40g/11/20z plain flour 300ml/101/2fl oz reserved poaching stock (from above) 100ml/31/2fl oz double cream 2 tbsp chopped fresh tarragon salt and black pepper

## Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. For the poaching stock, place all the ingredients in a large pan and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer. Add the haddock and salmon to the stock, pressing them down gently into the simmering liquid. Poach the fish for a few minutes, or until just cooked. Strain the mixture, reserving all the liquid. Pick out the stock vegetables and bay leaf and discard. Leave the fish to cool. Put the strained poaching liquid into a clean pan. Bring to the boil, and boil until the volume of liquid has reduced by half. You will need 300ml/101/2fl oz of the reduced liquid for

the sauce. Set aside. For the mash, put the potatoes in a large pan. Cover with cold water, add a little salt and bring to the boil. Cook for 15-20 minutes, or until tender. Meanwhile, to make the sauce, melt the butter in a pan. Stir in the flour to form a roux. Let this cook over a medium heat, stirring frequently, for 2–3 minutes. Take off the heat and gradually add the reduced poaching liquid, a ladle at a time, beating well after each addition to create a smooth sauce. Return to the heat and cook, stirring often, for about five minutes. Finish the sauce by adding the cream, tarragon and some salt and pepper. Drain the potatoes well and set aside. Heat the cream, saffron and butter gently in the potato pan, until the butter has melted, then take off the heat and pass the potatoes through a ricer into the pan (or just tip them in and mash). Season with salt and pepper to taste and stir to combine. Flake the cooked fish over the base of your ovenproof dish, taking care to remove any bones as you go. Scatter over the langoustines. Pour over the sauce. Top with the mash, smooth it down and then mark into a scallop pattern with the tip of a pallet knife, or the handle of a large spoon. Bake for 25–30 minutes, or until golden-brown on top and bubbling all the way through. If your assembled pie has cooled down, it may take longer. Serve with buttered peas.

## Forfar bridies



## **Ingredients:**

1½ lbs/700g boneless, lean rump steak. Lean minced beef can also be used. 2 oz. (2 rounded tablespoons) suet, butter or margarine 1 (or 2) onion, chopped finely 1 teaspoon dry mustard powder Quarter cup rich beef stock Salt and pepper to taste 1½ lbs/700g flaky pastry (homemade or from a pastry mix packet)

## Method:

Remove any fat or gristle from the meat and beat with a meat bat or rolling pin. Cut into half-inch (1cm) pieces and place in a medium bowl. Add the salt/pepper, mustard, chopped onion, suet (or butter/ margarine) and stock and mix well.

Prepare the pastry and divide the pastry and meat mixture into six equal portions. Roll each pastry portion into a circle about six inches in diameter and about quarter of an inch thick and place a portion of the mixture in the centre. Leave an edge of pastry showing all round. Brush the outer edge of half the pastry circle with water and fold over. Crimp the edges together well. The crimped edges should be at the top of each bridie. Make a small slit in the top (to let out any steam). Brush a 12 inch square (or equivalent area) baking tray with oil and place the bridies in this, ensuring that they are not touching. Place in a pre-heated oven at 450F/230C/gas mark 8 for 15 minutes then reduce the temperature to 350F/180C/

gas mark 4 and cook for another 45/55 minutes. They should be golden brown and if they are getting too dark, cover with greaseproof paper (vegetable parchment).

## Bannockburn tart

## **Ingredients:** For the pastry:

300g/10½oz. plain flour, plus extra for dusting 125g/4oz. cold unsalted butter, cut into cubes 30g/1oz. sugar 2 free-range eggs 2 tbsp. milk (optional)

## For the filling:

225g/8oz. unsalted butter, softened 225g/8oz. caster sugar 225g/8oz. ground almonds 3 free-range eggs 1 lemon, finely grated zest only 50g/2oz. plain flour 1 jar raspberry jam flaked almonds, for sprinkling

## Method:

For the pastry, place the flour, butter and sugar into a food processor and pulse until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add one of the eggs and pulse until the mixture comes together to form a rough dough. If the dough is too dry, add a bit of milk. Shape the dough into a ball and wrap in cling film. Chill in the fridge for 20 minutes.

Unwrap the dough and discard the cling film. Turn the dough out onto a floured work surface and roll out until large enough to line a 30x20cm/12x8in cake tin. Line the tin with the pastry, then place into the fridge to chill for a further 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Line the chilled tart case with a sheet of greaseproof paper and fill with baking beans. Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until the pastry is lightly golden-brown.

Remove the paper and beans and brush the pastry all over with the remaining beaten egg. Return the pastry to the oven for a further five minutes, until golden-brown. Remove the pastry from the oven and turn the oven temperature down to 180C/365F/Gas 4.

For the filling, beat the butter and sugar together in a bowl until pale and fluffy.

Mix in the ground almonds, then crack in the eggs one at a time, beating well between each addition until smooth and creamy. Fold in the lemon zest and the flour.

Spread some of the raspberry jam generously across the base of the pastry, leaving a 2.5cm/lin gap around the edge.

Spread the filling mixture over the jam and sprinkle over the flaked almonds.

Bake the tart for 20 minutes, or until the filling is set and golden-brown. Allow to cool in the tin before serving.

To serve, cut the tart into 5cm/2in squares.

## Bannockburn cocktail

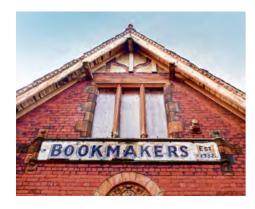
## **Ingredients:**

1 nip whisky (whiskey, bourbon) 1 dash Worcestershire sauce 1 dash tomato juice slice lemon

## Method:

Pour into a cocktail glass and garnish with a slice of lemon.

## Tenement Tales - The Bookmaker



## By: Brian Diamond

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.

s most of my readers will quickly acknowledge, Springburn was an industrial fun community populated by many diverse characters each larger than life and most of them with a heart of gold. Just cast your mind back, and think of how many OTT (over the top) people that you knew growing up, and of course somehow you always thought that you were the normal one!

## **Charlie Tuck**

I think that Charlie Tuck "The Bookmaker" is a likely candidate for a Springburn Diploma for Character. His reputation for good deeds well done for the retirees of Springburn are legend, and this is my recollection of his exquisite (this is a joke) establishment in Cowlairs Rd. I think that without exception, the alpha male in every Springburn family was prone to have a wee flutter on the dogs or horses, and my father was no exception. At an early age he taught me how to calculate the winnings on a three bob Comedy Bet, 4 x 3 penny doubles, 6 x 3 penny trebles, and a tanner roll up, no mean feat for a youngster. This was my precursor to mental arithmetic which I am still very good at today, much to the surprise of my kids.

Having mentioned the alpha male of the household, I have to say that Springburn also had more that it's fair share of alpha females, no shrinking violets these ladies, very few "Flowers of Scotland" to go around, yes it's you that I'm talking about Maggie! It was a either a very brave, or an incredibly simple man, who went home to one of these harridans on a Friday evening with an opened pay packet, alcohol on his breath, and romance on his mind. I digress, back to Charlie Tuck.

Every punter who went into Tuck's passed their betting slip through a grill across the counter with their own personal 'Nom De Plume'. Now how is that for a security system, in today's market we call it a secure password.

The fact is that the people behind the counter knew the face, name, and Nom De Plume of every customer, so rarely did anything ever go wrong, it is quite amazing when you stop to think about it. We all know that in those days betting was not a strictly a legal activity and one quickly learned the code of being street smart and anticipation of events about to unfold, especially on the rumour of a raid.

Everybody's a happy winner

So, one day on the way home from school, my father asked me to go into Tuck's to pick up his winnings from the weekend. As I walk in the door I am grabbed by the shoulder and hustled out of there as quick as possible and told not to come back today. I am quite confused by this turn of events and ask a man what is happening and why can't I go in to collect my father's winnings, "There's a raid due today" he said, "The Black Maria will be here soon son," and "The Bookie" does not want any of his regular punters lifted in the raid, your too young to be in there, get your money tomorrow.'

Fascinated by what is happening I ask my benefactor advisor, "How do you know that there is going to be a raid??", he says "Son, Charlie always knows when there is going to be a raid, he has inside information." So, thinking that I'm pretty smart, I say, "Well if he knows

this is going to happen, why are all those men still inside the shop, they are sure to get arrested."

My informant looks at me in total disbelief, "They are supposed to get arrested son" he says," you have a lot to learn about how things work around here." "How would it look if the Black Van turns up and nobody's in the shop, a dead giveaway that the fix was in" he says. "Mr. Tuck has padded his shop full with local old age pensioners, he gives them money to stick around and get arrested, this way his regular punters don't go through the hassle, now how is that for a free enterprise system?"

"Dae ye no get it son" he says to me,
"Everybody's a happy winner here, Mr
Tuck, protects his punters, the cops get a
van full, the pensioners get their money,
and the cops get a wee bung for the tip-off."
This was my first education in the free
world of commerce in the early days of my
youth in Springburn. Mr. Charlie Tuck had
a good reputation for generosity and was
well regarded in the local community.

This story appeared on a Springburn website a few years ago and I was very pleasantly surprised to receive an email from Mr Tucks son saying how much he enjoyed my story. He finished the email by saying that the week before Christmas, his home was like a police constable's convention as the local bobbies came to collect their annual bottle of scotch for tips given and favours received.

## Aberdeen Highland Games – 3rd July, 2021



ollowing a year of confusion and disruption, due to COVID, the Committee of the Aberdeen Highland Games are really looking forward to getting back running the annual event. It would appear that at this stage the event will run along similar lines to our usual Games but obviously there will be a few changes due to COVID regulations. The event is run as a typical Highland Gathering where the crowds can expect to see the massed pipes & drums, the Kilted Warriors with their feats of strength, highland and country dancing, novelty events for the kids and the numerous stalls. These stalls include various clan societies, those with various Scottish and Celtic products as well as a variety of food outlets. We have some fourteen (14) pipe bands booked in for the day; it will be a great spectacle. Further, we trust to have the ADF Precision Drill team with us on the day. Our Chieftain for the 2021 Games will be Ian McPhee, a past Commissioner of the clan in Australia. The Games will also be honoured with the presence of Air Marshal Melvin Hupfeld, AO, DSC the senior officer of the Royal Australian Air Force, in it's centenary year.

## Tickets are only available online

The Upper Hunter Tartan has produced a great deal of interest in the local community as well as from other areas. Products including, scarves, shawls, rugs, ties as well as other Games merchandise will be available on the ground on the day. Our kilt maker will be on the ground also and will be able to take any orders for those looking for a kilt in the new tartan as well as to supply the accessories to go with it. The traditional Ceilidh normally run following the Games will not be run this year due to COVID, but we believe there will be something in the evening. There will be a Quintet Competition for pipe bands, and this will be run at the Aberdeen RSL club, not far from the ground. This event is run under the banner of the NSW Pipe Band Association.

This year, in line with current COVID regulations, tickets are only available online and there will be no gate sales.





The 2021 Aberdeen Highland Games will take place on Saturday July 3rd in Aberdeen, NSW. Get your tickets early by visiting the website: www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com.

For further detail of the day please check the web site or go to the Games Facebook page, or for any general enquiries either go to the Scone Visitor Information & Horse Centre or email: inquiries@aberdeenhighlandgames.com

# SCOTS CORNER With David Keith On106.7 Phoenix FM Monday 2:30 to 4:30pm Traditional, Folk & Gaelic Music Scottish News Views & Blethers Live Streaming www.phoenixfm.org.au

### Scotword answers from page 6 Down: **Across:** 1 Airlie; 8 Biggar; 2 Agin; 9 Rothesay; 3 Greys; 10 Blantyre; 4 Braemar; 11Girdle; 5 Stags; 12 Nevis; 6 Weir; 14 Bap; 7 Ballater; 15 Scott; 13 Ins; 18 Glasgow; 16 Col; 17 Coo; 20 Borders; 19 Lochearn; 23 Scone; 21 Don; 24 Ire; 22 Princes; 25 Knave; 26 Violin; 29 Ferret; 27 Stoat; 31 Neilston; 28 Dirks; 33 Armadale; 30 Reap;

32 Silo.



34 Kelvin.

## Melbourne Tartan Festival



By: The Melbourne Tartan Festival organising committee



fter a difficult year for all, the Melbourne Tartan Festival is back! The skirl of pipes will be echoing through Melbourne from 10-24<sup>th</sup> of July during the Melbourne Tartan Festival. Pop up performances will surprise and entertain city shoppers during the Festival. You never know where one of our performances will be! Although we're reliably informed that Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July will be a good day to be in the City if you want to see pipers, dancers & all things Scottish. Throughout the Festival there will be a range of virtual and live events including a City CBD Scottish inspired walking tour, genealogy talks, virtual and

live Scottish history & arts lectures, whisky tastings and whisky dinner, music recitals, concerts and music gigs.

Visit the Old Treasury Building during one of our Melbourne Tartan Festival group private guided tours & 'Melbourne: Foundations of a City' exhibition on the 13<sup>th</sup>July, and our private guided tour & exhibition Yarra: Stories of Melbourne's River on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Join Kenneth Park, lecturer, curator, tour leader and presenter, as he takes you on a walking tour of Melbourne's CBD where he'll highlight Scottish settlers' significant contribution to the development of early Melbourne. The Scots' Church in Melbourne will hold the Kirkin 'O The Tartan service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>July, when Clans and Associations will be piped in procession carrying their clan tartans, with a reading in Scottish Gaelic and psalms sung by the Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria.

## Scottish music

Following the success of their 2019 *Taking Flight* concert, Hawthorn Pipe Band returns for a night of piping & drumming. *Legacy* is a special musical tribute to the band's long serving Drum Major and WW2 veteran, Bob Semple and features of mix of new and traditional pipe band music with folk inspirations. Hawthorn is one of Australia's top pipe bands and the *Legacy* concert will see the band at its' best. Special guests will include Ballarat Grammar and Scotch College.

The music keeps coming, with Judy Turner and Neil Adam, following wide acclaim from their successful 2019 Edinburgh fringe performances, will present *Robert Louis Stevenson – Sing Me a Song* at Kew Courthouse Theatre on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 2.30pm.

Don't miss internationally acclaimed traditional Scottish singer Fiona Ross, accompanied by guitar maestro Shane O'Mara, at Kew Courthouse on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July. Fiona & Shane will be performing a concert of Scots song, including songs from their recent album *Sunwise Turn* - winner of Best Folk Album in Music Victoria's 2020 awards.

## **Tradition**

The Caledonian Castaways is a group of ex-pat Scots from Melbourne's blues/roots scene singing amusing and heart-warming songs about Scots in Australia and back hame. They wowed a packed National Celtic Festival with their set of original songs and cheeky renditions of some traditional Scottish tunes - ska, rocksteady, funk, blues, country grooves. They've put lockdown to good use in the studio, recording new songs to bring you at Transit, Fed Square on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The Westin Whisky Dinner experience is back in 2021 with a five-course menu created by the Westin Melbourne's Executive chef, Michael Greenlaw, matched to five premium Single Malt Whiskies from some of the world's finest distilleries, hosted by Whisky Ambassador Andrew Buntine,

who will guide you through this exquisite whisky journey. Gather a group of friends and head down to Bell's Hotel, South Melbourne for a fun Whisky Tasting night on 22<sup>nd</sup> July with whisky ambassador Andy Bethune, Spirits Platform.

The Melbourne Tartan Festival Gala Dinner and Concert at Melbourne Town Hall on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July will close out the Festival. Although we've had to make a few Covid-safe tweaks, you'll experience a night that has become a yearly tradition for some families. You'll be piped up the red carpeted staircase of the iconic Melbourne Town Hall for a grand black tie/kilted evening. Be greeted with drinks and canapes on arrival, a traditional *Address to A Haggis*, a 3-course gourmet meal and drinks with outstanding traditional and contemporary concert style entertainment. Close the night out with internationally acclaimed Celtic rock band Claymore.

Throughout the Festival try a Highland Hustle introduction workout class, Gaelic language or sit back and relax in your own home while you immerse yourself in one of our Zoom Scottish Arts or History lectures or author talks. Details of additional events will be released over the coming weeks as we work our way through Covid safe event protocols. Your safety is our priority and we thank you for your patience and support.

The Melbourne Tartan Festival takes place 10-24th July, 2021. For full details and to book event tickets go to: www.melbournetartanfestival.com.au

## Being Scottish is Bags of Fun! Most bag styles also include a

## Ditch plastic-go Scottish! <



## Keep Calm and Wear Tartan Jute Bag

Show your Scottish pride with this eye-catching purple tartan design. Includes an interior key/coin purse and strong purple webbed handles.

H: 30cm, W: 30cm, D: 20cm



## **Scottish Dialect Canvas Bag**

The sturdy bag comes with a variety of 18 fun Scottish words. Includes a humorous word description, in case you did nae know! Quality cream canvas with black text and sturdy handles. H: 40cm. W: 35cm. D: 20cm



## The Multi Scottie Dog Canvas Bag

The sturdy canvas bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish Terrier Dogs. Includes an interior key/coin pouch and strong black webbed handles.

H: 30cm, W: 40cm, D: 15cm



## Multi Scottie Iute Bag

Jute is a strong plant fibre and this lovely bag features a pack of wee Scottie dogs, with red webbed handles and trim and black gusset. Also includes an inside key and coin zip pouch. H: 30cm, W: 30cm, D: 20cm



## Scottie Dog Single Canvas Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a classic pattern of a Scottish Terrier dog with sturdy handles.

H: 30cm, W: 40cm, D: 12cm



## Thistle Iute Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish thistles. With purple tartan gusset and purple webbed handle H: 30cm, W: 30cm, D: 20cm



## Highland Coo Jute Bag

This shopper includes a iconic Highland coo design-including a wee black coo! Green bag with black ribbed handles.
H: 30cm, W: 30cm, D: 20cm



## Westie Jute Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a colourful pattern of playful Westies, along with a solo Scottie pal.
With black webbed handles.
H: 20cm. W: 20cm. D: 14cm



## Tartan Scottie Jute Bag

This braw wee shopper includes a tartan Scottie dog design. Includes an internal zip key purse. With tartan gusset and handles. H: 30cm, W: 30cm, D: 20cm

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