

the Scottish Banner

45th



Celebrating 45 years of publishing!

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**the
Scottish Banner**

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The Banner Says...

Here's tae us!



by Sean Cairney

When I see the cover of this edition it takes me a few moments to process it. As *the Scottish Banner* enters its 45th year of publishing I cannot quite believe it. I have gone from growing up and seeing *the Banner* on our dining room table each month and it always being around me as a child, to making my living being a part of this family business and now being responsible for making sure each issue gets out on time.

For so many years I would hear my mother Valerie speak of press time and I never fully appreciated all the various things that must happen to get this publication out to readers. Working with our writers, advertisers, printers, layout production and distributors, to turn around a monthly publication for thousands of people to I hope not only enjoy but feel a part of, can be quite a task.

The early days

For many years I was simply too young to have interest or care about what it took to create each issue of *the Scottish Banner*. I am still likely unable to fully grasp how those early issues even came together. I remember being a child and driving to the printers with my mother with large flats of the pages to be printed and figured somehow it all just happened.

Some may well remember the days before computers, yes they did not always exist, and I cannot help but wonder today how did we get to press each month? Newspaper publishing was vastly different in

the 1970s and 80s, and I would often be in the office of *the Banner* and see cardboard page flats resting on large stands which were reviewed by standing as the tables were so high, this along with rolls of chemically treated typesetting paper and photos which were hot waxed onto the flats and then cut with sharp knives to create columns and make each page come to life. Just writing this I can nearly again smell the warm wax rolling across the front cover...

As the Scottish Banner enters its 45th year of publishing I cannot quite believe it.

In our modern world of email and instant everything, as with any business, there are still many challenges in running *the Scottish Banner*, but I do not quite know just how I would have coped with our 1970s business model. To be reaching 45 years of publishing in the current conditions of the last 18 months is down to our incredible readers and advertisers, I thank everyone who has helped us stay viable as we have lost so much of our revenue from both events and advertising.

In this issue

The term Clydebuilt always stood for quality and referred to the once thriving shipbuilding industry on the River Clyde. The Ship Yard Trust is planning to create an attraction telling the story of the Clyde's iconic shipbuilding heritage. The plans are out for public consultation, and they are also looking for stories and memories of working in the yards as apparently the records were all incinerated. Perhaps you or someone in your family has a tale to share and add to the heritage and identity of Glasgow?

Not a day goes by where negative news is not heard on the radio, in print, on TV or across social media. This has of course been heightened with the pandemic as all our lives have taken a turn we did not see coming. It is therefore refreshing to read some positive news in this issue about some of the optimistic things that are taking place in Scotland this year. Our writer David C Weinczok is opposite to nearly all our readers as a new immigrant to Scotland rather than from, giving a unique perspective and reminding us that some things in the world are heading in the right direction.

For when we can next visit Scotland again there is now another unique way to hit the high road.

The Kintyre 66 (K66) is a new driving route to join the popular North East 250 (NE250), the South West Coastal 300 (SWC300) and of course the North Coast 500 (NC500). The K66 highlights 6 areas in Kintyre: Southend & Machrihanish, Campbeltown, East Kintyre, West Kintyre, Gigha and Tarbert. It may be a cliché but driving along listening to Sir Paul McCartney's *Mull of Kintyre* is optional, but likely will be what I will do when I get to drive it.

Celebrated all our love of Scotland

The dream of *the Scottish Banner* came from my parents, Valerie and Jim Cairney, who understood what it was like to miss home and wanted to both have a business but also find a way to connect and relate to others like them abroad. At that time, they ran a successful Scottish restaurant called The Highlander Steakhouse and it was above this restaurant that *the Scottish Banner* was born. It gave my mother the opportunity to work more regular hours, with three young boys, than a restaurant could offer.

The legacy they created they could never have known then, and is one I thank them for today. For many years *the Scottish Banner* was the link to home for many, it has played its part in promoting Scottish events and businesses, connected people from across the world, told Scotland's story and inspired countless thousands of people to visit, and with the over 500 editions created has celebrated all our common love of Scotland, regardless of where we now live. And whilst I may not be surrounded by hot wax and typesetting paper in our office but rather computers and social media posts, the vision of *the Scottish Banner* remains the same and thank you for being part of our incredible journey. 🌟

How have you enjoyed the Scottish Banner over the years? Share your story with us! 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:
Happy birthday tae us!
Edinburgh Castle.
Photo: VisitScotland.



Get your kicks on Scotland's K66

All photos: Raymond Hosie.



Westport Beach.



Kintyre.

An epic 66-mile circular route has opened in Kintyre and spans 66 miles, across six stunning regions, coastlines, white sandy beaches and breathtaking views – and has been designed to encourage visitors to slow down and enjoy the ride. Scotland's answer to Route 66 has now launched – and it's only a few hours from Glasgow and Edinburgh. The new Kintyre 66, or K66, is a 66-mile circular loop around one of Scotland's most scenic regions, taking in both the west and east coast of the unspoilt peninsula in Argyll, from the top at Kennacraig to the bottom at Campbeltown. Covering the region made famous by Sir Paul McCartney's 1978 Christmas Number One *Mull of Kintyre*, the route has been developed to showcase the incredible location on the west coast of Scotland – which is swept by the warmth of the Gulf Stream and enjoys views across to Northern Ireland on a clear day.

Inspired by Route 66 in the US, the K66 journey can be taken by bike, foot or car, with the aim of encouraging tourists to slow down following a stressful year, explore the area at their leisure and enjoy an unforgettable staycation on Scottish soil. Covering six key regions of West Kintyre, Gigha, Machrihanish & Southend, Campbeltown, East Kintyre and Tarbert & Skipness, a new map will provide options

to start from any part of the route, whilst also pinpointing trails, places to explore, natural heritage sites, wildlife watching spots and local food and drink to enjoy along the way.

Hidden gem on the west coast

Niall Macalister Hall, Chair of the Kintyre and Gigha Marketing Group, said:

"Kintyre is a hidden gem on the west coast, with beaches that would rival the Caribbean on a good day, a pristine marine environment helped by the warmth of the Gulf Stream, and so many unspoiled places to discover. With a record staycation summer expected this year, K66 has been developed to encourage visitors to explore the whole of Kintyre – slowly and at their leisure – with plenty of open spaces and places of interest branching off the main route. There's also the option of taking a short Calmac ferry to the beautiful islands of Gigha, Islay and Jura to the west and Arran to the east and turning the trip into a longer break. After a long and stressful 12-months for everyone, it's a good feeling to be able to launch the route, and we look forward to welcoming travellers to our friendly community in the months to come."

Only three hours from Glasgow and four from Edinburgh, highlights on the route include Ballochroy Standing Stones, Saddell Castles, Keil Caves, no fewer than SIX golf courses, beautiful harbours, Beinn An Tuirc Distillery and inviting beaches including Westport - famed for its Atlantic waves that attract world-class surfers from across the globe. Six spur roads offer a deeper venture to Tarbert, Claonaig, Carradale, Southend and Machrihanish with the Isle of Gigha just a short ferry ride from the core route.

The K66 map and downloadable visitors guide is available at: www.explorekintyre.co.uk



Gigha Ferry.

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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?

The Piper's Requiem



The Piper stood at Heaven's gates, his bagpipes by his side,
But hesitant to enter, although they were open wide.
An angel chancing to pass by, paused, and made this demand,
"Are those a weapon of some kind that you hold in your hand?"
The Piper groaned, "A Sassenach!" As it became quite clear
That they were present everywhere, they even had them here!

"They were regarded as such, long ago", he then replied,
"But always made such harmonies that ever will abide
With images of heather clad hillsides with rippling burns,
Which every native Scotsman in his heart secretly yearns".
And gently coaxing out a melody his fingers wove
A highland air so exquisite, a song of peace and love.

And as he played, it seemed there was an echo distantly,
Until he was aware of other pipes in harmony,
And into view came Highland pipers playing, by the score;
He recognised his old comrades, and then, so many more
That he had played a farewell for so many years long gone,
Who came, prepared to welcome him, his race now finally run.

For though their mortal span is over, pipers will transcend
This life, their spirit wings to where we cannot comprehend,
A place reserved for them somewhere in heaven's paradise,
Where chanters play quite easily, and drones are so precise.
Where reeds are perfect at all times and neither flat nor sharp,
And in this part of heaven, you will NEVER hear a harp.

So never fear, good Piper, you may now lay down and rest,
In knowledge that your friends considered you the very best
Example of what any man in this life can attain,
And truthfully will say that they won't see your like again,
You leave a space in people's lives but will forever be
One of God's heavenly pipers in celestial harmony.

*Tony Church
Southampton, England*

Ed note: *Thank you Tony for these great words of the power of the pipes.*

A culture strategy for Scotland

Many years in the making the Scottish Government released its much anticipated "A Culture Strategy for Scotland" in 2020. This followed a raft of extensive consultations, research, a comprehensive reported analysis and, interestingly, a detailed report on comparisons between Scotland and Ireland as to the place of the diaspora in the scheme of things. Following its release, the Government also set up a National Partnership for Culture body to monitor introduction progress and provide advice as to how the Strategy could be further improved. All of this was designed to reflect that the subject of Culture and the Strategy is of considerable importance to the country and its people: that there is much still to be learned and that the latter would be subject to change.

The document proposes a vision of: "Scotland is a place where culture is valued, protected and nurtured. Culture is woven through everyday life, shapes and is shaped by society, and its transformative potential is experienced by everyone. Scotland's rich cultural heritage and creativity of today is inspired by people and place, enlivens every community and is celebrated around the world."

Ten Aims are also set out including "Strengthening Culture", "Transforming Through Culture", and, "Empowering Through Culture." Guiding Principles are similarly outlined.

It goes without saying that Scotland has elements of having a very distinctive culture, acknowledged as such throughout the world. The Government and many of the country's citizens also note its importance in maintaining its well-being particularly through its tourism and economics.

Important and valuable as is the Strategy, it is disappointing to some, particularly from outside of the country. The notion of Culture

adopted seems to be narrow, focusing mainly on high end aspects such as the creative arts, theatre and modern literature, and bringing these to the citizens as well as the outside world. The latter appears to be around 'what you can do for us on our terms'. In some quarters it is thought that a more complete understanding of the country's culture can be better seen from outside, or at least, a combination of both.

From inside, difficult as it is to capture, culture is often so much a matter of everyday life that it is taken as for granted. Yet, from outside it might also be distorted, simplified, often a matter of externalised and manufactured mystique. Both sides together, however, can be seen to be better able to come to grips with more of that which could be regarded as the country's culture. Even then there is profit in better understanding what is a country's culture, particularly for a nation like Scotland that seems to be wanting put its own on a much higher symbolic platform.

All of this propels one to consider just what is culture and what it is that should be taken into account in putting forward such a Strategy. As it stands, it is only just a strategy, but there is enough in it to suggest that something more is sought. The question is, what? In its more extensive definitional form the culture of a country is regarded as all that which socially outlines how a country operates and how it defines itself, both as a social whole and in its individual aspects. It is the same for every country and indeed every group within a country.

The concept is quite slippery, but to do justice, one must pick out all of those aspects which sets out the particular social nature of the subject country and its people. In this case it should be about what sets Scotland aside, as considered by its people, both in actuality and aspiration, and because of its national history, also leaning heavily on what now call its diaspora.

So, the Strategy must extend to a whole raft of matters beyond the 'high end' and include, for example, how the country regards the many aspects of its landscape and geography; its portrayal of history and

matters of today; to planning and welfare; how it treats its citizens, diaspora and visitors; and, above all, its uniqueness in the broadest possible way.

Some of the above might appear negative, but to counter this readers are encouraged to peruse the several documents relating to the Strategy. These are available through the Government's website at www.gov.scot. Feedback is a must.

*Ron Layton
Crafers, South Australia*

Summertime in Scotland

This Scots poem is by an unknown author, hopefully it might bring back memories to readers of times past.

Summertime in Scotland

It's summer-time in Scotland,
An' though I'm far awa',
In thocht I wander o'er her hills
An' by her lochs sae braw;

Aince mair, I'm jist a bairnie
Wi' ither bairns at play,
Aye lauchin' an' chaffin,
Through the bonnie summer day.

This land is a fine land,
That I'll no' deny,
But aye I think on Scotland
Wil mony a lang-drawn sigh.
Oh, wae's me, I'm trauchled
Wi' langin's for my hame,
I'm comin back, auld Scotland,
Sae welcome hame yer ain.

*Chris Ferguson
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada*

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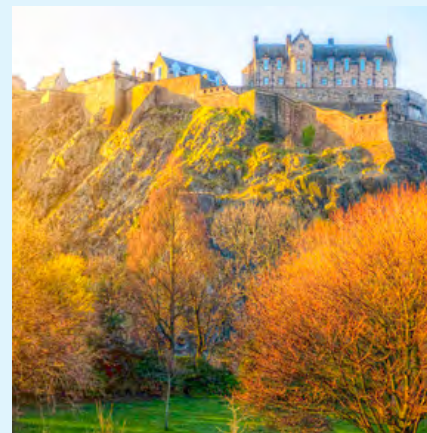


Glencoe



"Black Mount" an icy start to the day in Glencoe.
*Ronald Stokes
Scotland*

Edinburgh Castle



Is there a more beautiful sight than
Edinburgh Castle.
*Aye Spy Photography
Scotland
<http://ayespyp photography.co.uk>*

Highland Coo



Don't mind me...
*The Kilted Photographer
Scotland*

Highland locals



Meeting the locals at Glen Etive.
*Tommy Hamilton Photography
Scotland*



Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

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



Greetings from Scotland where we've been having something of a mini heatwave. It's probably not the sort of temperatures you're used to if you're Downunder, or across the pond there in Florida. Yet for us this is good news! This dry weather is certainly keeping the farmers busy. All around us great machines are busy in the fields. They're making hay while the sun shines.

The Royal Highland Show

And I've been learning a lot about rural life recently. Because this year I am the President of the Royal Highland Show (RHS). This is Scotland's biggest outdoor event – and the country's premier agricultural occasion – so it is, indeed, a great honour to have the role. The first RHS took place nearly two hundred years ago. It was held in Edinburgh on a site that's now home to the Scottish Parliament. Then over the years it moved round to various parts of the country, until 1960 when it found a permanent home at Inverclyde just by Edinburgh Airport.

The show takes place in June and over a busy four days, you get a real taste of the best of Scottish farming, food and rural life. Here pedigree cattle and sheep vie

for prizes; sleek horses put on spectacular displays whilst the latest state of the art tractors are turning heads. Green wellies are very much in evidence at a Royal Highland Show. Folk can try a spot of fly-fishing on offer, or admire the arts and crafts, whilst in Scotland's Larder it's a chance to taste the best of locally produced food with artisan breads and farmhouses cheeses and ice-cream among the most popular stands. The Royal Highland Show attracts nearly two hundred thousand people and it's not just a great day out. In 2019 this event contributed some sixty million pounds to the economy. Three quarters of our total land area is under agricultural production, so no wonder that Scotland's farmers are key to the country's prosperity.

Last year there was no money raised. Because the pandemic meant the event was cancelled. This year there will again be no crowds at Inverclyde. But there has been judging of livestock and food and drink – and all this has been filmed and is being aired on a 'virtual' show. Indeed, by the time you read this, you may have caught a bit of the action from the 'Royal Highland Showcase'. Because an online show is allowing it to go 'global', with farmers from Wyoming to New South Wales now able to get a glimpse of what the Scottish agricultural community has to offer.

Dumfries and Galloway

And so, to my role. Each year the RHS has a 'host' region. This time it is the turn of Dumfries and Galloway, and as I live in this beautiful part of Scotland, they asked me to be the honorary President. We have seized the chance to introduce audiences to just how much south-west Scotland has to offer. With luck, it will help us rebuild and reconnect after covid. So, let me sing the praises of Dumfries and Galloway. Here, we are the heartland of the Scottish milk industry. We are renowned for our quality beef and are at the forefront of genetic research into making cows 'greener' while improving yields. Our famous Galloway cattle will grace any plate – and our iconic Galloway Belties are sure head turners. Here we grow slow-fattened hill and salt marsh lamb. We produce a third of Scotland's timber and our many miles of coast bring in tonnes of shellfish. Why we even have a festival to celebrate the oyster!

And if this region has always been closely entwined with farming, it is also rich with culture and history. It was just outside Dumfries that the poet ploughman, Rabbie Burns, penned great works like *Auld Lang Syne*. Today, we're home to Scotland's National Book Town of Wigtown. We have Scotland's wedding capital of Gretna Green. We have the food town of Castle Douglas and the artists' town of Kirkcudbright.

Indeed, Dumfries and Galloway has more artists per head than any other place in Scotland – and one of the highlights of this year's Showcase is a giant wicker Beltie bull, hand-woven by Trevor Leat, a local artist. Even the 150 engraved crystal bowls to be given as awards at the Showcase (for everything from heavy horse classes and sheep shearing to best Aberdeen Angus or Blackface Sheep) are being made by our local company, Galloway Glass. So, I hope you might pay us a visit one of these days. And I hope you have been able to catch something of the Royal Highland Showcase online.

In the meantime, wherever you're farming, may it go well. I now appreciate much more all that you do to keep us fed – and to protect and enhance our rural life...



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Most bag styles also include a handy inside key/coin zip pouch.



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



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



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



Highland Cow Jute Bag

This shopper includes a iconic Highland cow design-including a wee black cow! Green bag with black ribbed handles.

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



Tartan Scottie Jute Bag

This draw 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



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.

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Multi Scottie Jute 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



Thistle Jute 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



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

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SCOTSPEAK

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

"Historic battlefields are often extensive areas in multiple ownership, which can make them more challenging to conserve. We think introducing management plans for these important sites – as has been done in England and in other countries – could be the way to secure them for the future. In the case of Culloden, a largely intact battlefield and a turning point in Scottish history, it could also be deserving of the accolade of world heritage site status. This would bring additional protection and a more sustainable approach to the site's development."

Diarmid Hearn, the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) head of public policy, said as the NTS is calling on politicians to support the bid for the Culloden Battlefield to become a world heritage site. Culloden, near Inverness, was the site of the final battle of the Jacobite Rising, where Charles Edward Stuart's army was defeated by a British government force under William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland.



"The Baird family feels extremely honoured that The Royal Mint has chosen to recognise my grandfather's contributions in this way. He was involved in both the technology and the progress

of television broadcasting and the coin design illustrates his dual role as a pioneer in the scientific world as well as in a brand-new medium of communication."

Ian Baird said, grandson of Scottish inventor John Logie Baird. Logie Baird, inventor of the first working television, is being celebrated on a new Royal Mint 50p coin. Mr Logie Baird achieved renown after managing to relay a static image in 1924, and in 1928 he demonstrated the first transatlantic TV transmission from London to New York. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the death of the "Father of Television", who lived from 1888 to 1946.

"Now that Doric is something that's being celebrated again, I wanted to be a part of promoting our heritage. Heritage is also a huge part of crafting, whether you learn your craft sitting on your mam's knee or are self-taught, the skills have been passed on from somewhere, just like the dialect. When you weave or knit something, you're telling a story. Each craft piece in the installation tells a story about the people who made it, and together with the audio, it is a celebration of the people who speak the language and the traditions that they've grown up with."

University of Dundee student Kate Wilson said as a graduate exhibition launched. At the heart of her project is the Doric dialect, a branch of Scots language as spoken in the North-East of the country. Doric is widely used within Aberdeenshire but was relatively unheard-of outside the county until recent years. It was brought to global audiences in 2012 with Pixar's animated movie *Brave*, sparking a new interest in the dialect.



"NYCOS is the organisation dedicated to encouraging singing for young people the length and breadth of Scotland. It has been incredibly hard to not be able to truly nurture the talent that exists here in Scotland over this past 14 months, and to see the effect that not being able to meet and sing has had on our wonderful singers/ musical family. Being part of NYCOS and being able to sing with their peers from across the country is an incredibly important part of their young lives, with all the health, development and wellbeing benefits that singing brings. It is a huge relief and delight to be back together making music here this morning on Calton Hill and we look forward to popping up across Scotland in outdoor locations for rehearsals with the various regional choirs in Aberdeen, Highland, Dumfries, Glasgow and here in Edinburgh. Hopefully those passing by will get a wonderful surprise!"

Christopher Bell, founder and Artistic Director of the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCOS) said as the choir recently gathered on Calton Hill in Edinburgh for the first to sing in Scotland this year. Singing face to face has not been possible since March 2020 which is when the choir last met and performed together. 2021 marks

the 25th anniversary as a single choir of young singers aged 16 – 24, it has expanded to become 7 National Choirs, a network 15 Regional Choirs across the country and an extensive creative learning programme.



"A unique combination of familiar objects, exotic materials and exceptional preservation makes the Galloway Hoard a fascinating find. Conservation work is allowing us to see these objects clearly for the first time, and our research so far is pointing to a new understanding of Scotland in the international context of the earliest Viking Age. This exhibition offers a rare 'snapshot', the chance to see real archaeological work in progress, both what we have learned so far and the work still to be done."

Dr Martin Goldberg, Principal Curator, Medieval Archaeology & History at National Museums Scotland said as one of the most important UK archaeological finds of the century, The Galloway Hoard, went display at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. The Galloway Hoard is the richest collection of rare and unique Viking-age objects ever found in Britain or Ireland. Buried around AD900, the Hoard brings together a stunning variety of objects and materials in one discovery.

SCOTWORD

Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try! If you're stuck, answers can be found on page 10!

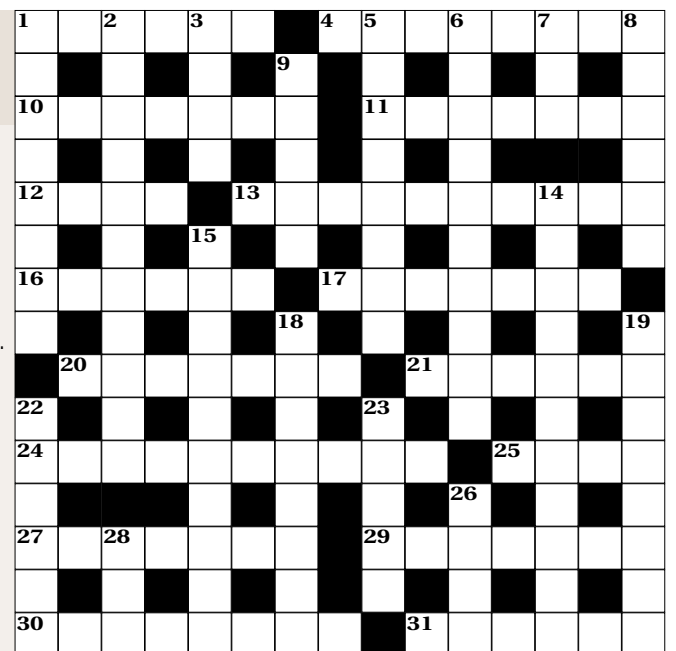
CLUES ACROSS

- 1) A short-billed duck (6).
- 4) She handles cows! (8).
- 10) It's a wrench in the US (7).
- 11) In Scotland they're glens (7).
- 12) Water flow (4).
- 13) Top Scots golfing hotel (10).
- 16) The kirk's second in command (6).
- 17) Town east of Bonar Bridge (7).
- 20) A starter for pipers (7).
- 21) A drop of water! (6).

- 24) District of Edinburgh (10).
- 25) Inner Hebridean island (4).
- 27) Put down in the sea (7).
- 29) Collectively named (7).
- 30) Close up for a punch up! (8).
- 31) Kirk office-bearer (6).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) They're found in steamiest (8).
- 2) Mountainous US games (11).
- 3) Possesses (4).
- 5) James Watt was one (8).
- 6) Town east of Irvine (10).
- 7) View this loch in wonder (3).
- 8) Leave off (6).
- 9) Row of plants! (5).
- 14) Waterway east of Glen Shiel (4, 7).
- 15) Fife new town (10).
- 18) Mary, Queen of Scots' fate (8).
- 19) Scottish get-togethers (8).
- 22) Made the Bruce try again (6).
- 23) Kirk congregation (5).
- 26) The true Highlander (4).



Scottish Banner - Price increase

From July, 2021 *the Scottish Banner* is implementing a subscription and retail price increase due to recent significant printing cost increases (digital subscription rates remain unchanged). This slight increase will help us to continue to produce *the Banner* each month as we continue to publish in extremely challenging conditions. We thank all our loyal customers for their understanding and remind all readers just how important it is they purchase their own copy of *the Scottish Banner*, either at a retail outlet or by subscription, as these monies go directly into producing our content monthly.

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Visit *the Scottish Banner* online for up to date events, or to subscribe. Our new look site now features online articles and news, with new content added weekly.

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Exploring the East of Neuk

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.

All images: VisitScotland.



Crail.



Elie.

The corner of Fife known as the East Neuk has some of the most picturesque towns and villages to be found anywhere in Scotland. Situated along the east coast, close to St Andrews, it is an area steeped in history and renowned for its range of attractions which draw tourists from all over the world. It is extremely popular as a holiday resort partly because of its sandy beaches, rugged coastline and stunning sea views, and also because it offers a variety of quality accommodation at all levels.

The East Neuk draws day visitors as well as holidaymakers, keen to sample the variety of excellent restaurants, cafes and traditional pubs which are dotted along the coastline. The locals are well known for their friendliness, and the galas which are

put on throughout the summer are great crowd pullers, especially the Anstruther Lifeboat Gala and the popular Pittenweem Arts Festival. Here is just a wee selection of the treats in store for the tourist who has the chance to journey the East Neuk.

Crail-Over the years the scenic harbour at Crail has been sketched by many and in actual fact a print of Crail has hung in New York's JFK airport. The superb cleanliness of the water has earned the town a reputation for its exceptional lobster and crab. Golfers are also well catered for in the seaside town, with over 200 year old Crail Golfing Society's (established in February 1786) Balcomie and Craighead courses on the doorstep. Historians will be interested to know that the now disused airfield on the edge of Crail once housed Swordfish planes which Fleet Air Arm crews used to practise torpedo attack techniques during the Second World War.

Kilrenny-Four miles inland from Crail, the eye is caught by Kilrenny Church spire. An attractive rural village, Kilrenny supports a small and thriving community. The now unused churchyard has some ancient and interesting inscriptions on its tombstones.

Cellardyke-Nearby on the shore lies the once busy and prosperous fishing village of Cellardyke, where the Dutch Harbour now berths a variety of pleasure boats and enjoys conservation status.

Anstruther-Adjoining Cellardyke lies the town of Anstruther, with its large harbour berthing many pleasure and commercial fishing vessels. Sea angling trips to the May Isle are available during the season and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute lifeboat is a major attraction. The Scottish Fisheries Museum is also well worth a visit, as it recalls the once thriving fishing and boat building industry and relates the history of fishing methods. East and west Anstruther (or Ainster as its known by the locals) are divided by the Dreel burn, and the famous folk song tells how in ancient time local lass Maggie Lauder carried King James IV over to keep his feet dry.

Pittenweem- A 15-minute walk along the shore leads to bustling Pittenweem with its daily fish market auctioning white fish and shellfish. From the shore there are many wynds (narrow streets), one of which

is the location of St Fillan's Cave, which can be seen by appointment from the Gingerbread Horse shop in the High Street.

St Monans- St Monans is known for its Auld Kirk, which has a sailing ship suspended from the church ceiling. West of the village lies an old windmill, once used to extract salt from salt pans.

Elie- One of the best-known and oft visited parts of the East Neuk is Elie, with its gorgeous golden sands beach which attracts hordes of visitors whenever the sun shows its face. It also has an abundance of hotels and guest houses and a testing golf course which is open to the public. Regular cricket days take place on Elie's beach throughout the summer and recent visitors have included the world-famous Lashings Cricket Club.

Upper and Lower Largo-The Scotland's Larder nestles in Upper Largo, tempting visitors with its selection of Scottish food and its highly-acclaimed restaurant. Above the town is the 294 metre Largo Law, rumoured to have Celtic riches buried beneath. Lower Largo is known for its most famous resident, Alexander Selkirk, the seafarer who was the inspiration behind Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, and a statue of him gazes out to sea from the main street. Selkirk spent over four years on a deserted island off the coast of South America after falling out with his captain and asking to be set ashore. His story impressed Defoe so much that the legendary Crusoe was created.

Lundin Links- This East Neuk resort has a pretty beach and is well known for its golf course. It is a golfer's paradise, with two courses, and the town also sports a fine bowling green. Another reason to visit Lundin Links is the impressive standing stones cluster found on the Ladies golf course. Three huge monoliths dating from the 2nd millennium BC form a megalithic circle and are certainly worth a look.



Pittenweem.



St Monans.



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The Corries 21st Anniversary Concert DVD
In 1981 The Corries celebrated 21 years of singing together by recording a special concert for the BBC. All the songs with all the chat and jokes in between, just as it was broadcast! 27 tracks: Johnny Lad, Sherrifmuir, Bonnie Dundee, Dark Lochnagar, Ae Fond Kiss, Maggie Lauder, Liberty, The Portree Kid, Flower of Scotland & more. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



The Gael DVD
Featuring the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Black Watch and the 5th Queens Pipers with military bands, ceilidh bands and orchestra. 21 tracks: Title track, Caledonia, Hector The Hero, The Black Bear, She Moves Through The Fair, Highland Cathedral, Amazing Grace, A Scottish Soldier, The Dark Island, Campbeltown Loch, Flowers Of The Forest and more with band and scenic footage **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



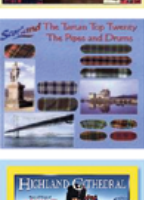
The Lone Pipers of the Scottish Regiments DVD
P/M Bryon Brotherton Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, P/M Gary Pollock Royal Highland Fusiliers, P/M Steven Small The Black Watch, P/M Jim Motherwell Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. 17 tracks: Flower of Scotland, Skye Boat Song, Glamis Castle, Hector The Hero, Amazing Grace, The Dark Island, Spirit of Scotland, Highland Cathedral, Auld Lang Syne and more. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



The Dark Island
21 tracks and many of the old favourites are here, accompanied by Military Band. Includes: Amazing Grace, Auld Lang Syne, The Dark Island, Black Bear, Glencoe Company Marches, Regimental Marches & more. One of Scotland's finest military bands. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



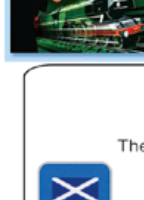
The Lone Pipers
The Lone Pipers are P/M Bryon Brotherton Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, P/M Gary Pollock Royal Highland Fusiliers, P/M Steven Small The Black Watch, P/M Jim Motherwell Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. 17 tracks: Flower of Scotland, Skye Boat Song, Glamis Castle, Hector The Hero, Amazing Grace and more. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



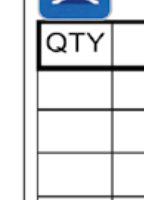
The Gael - The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Black Watch & The 5th Queens Piper with military & ceilidh bands and orchestra. 12 tracks: Title track, Caledonia, Hector The Hero, The Black Bear, She Moves Through The Fair, Highland Cathedral, Amazing Grace, A Scottish Soldier, The Dark Island, Campbeltown Loch & Flowers Of The Forest. Price: \$24.95 Plus postage



Scotland's Tartan Top Twenty - The Pipes and Drums
20 classic and contemporary pipe tunes: Highland Cathedral, The Bells of Dunblane, The Sands of Kuwait, Amazing Grace, Flower of Scotland, Scotland the Brave, The Flowers of the Forest by acts including 78th Frasers, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guard, Scots Guards & Massed Bands. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



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By the world's premier military pipe band. 14 tracks: Highland Cathedral, 2/4 Marches - The Barron Rocks Of Aden Selection, Amazing Grace, The Castle Walls, My Heart Will Go On (Titanic Love Theme), The Rebel Piper, Amazing Grace The Fling, Main Theme Last Of The Mohicans, Will Ye Go Lassie Go, Jig Set - The Gold Ring Selection, Braveheart Trilogy, Scotland The Brave - Heilan Laddie & Ceilidh Set Atholl Highlanders Selection. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



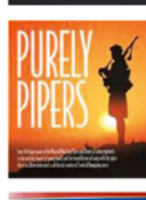
Blowaway and Breathless
A selection of hit tunes made popular by Elvis Presley, Paul Simon, The Proclaimers, Runrig, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Westlife, Frankie Miller, The Black Watch, Dolly Parton & Whitney Houston 16 tracks: Loch Lomond, I Will Always Love You, Highland Cathedral, Skye Boat Song, Graceland, You Raise Me Up, Caledonia and more. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



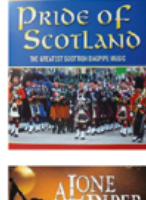
From Glen to Glen-3 CD Box Set Various Artists
This 3 CD collection features 45 tracks of the pipes in many different forms. From the massive sound of the Highland Bagpipes marching through the glens to the chilling strains of the Solo Piper, this uniquely Scottish combination of instrument, music and history is an unforgettable part of Scotland. All the top piping tunes! **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



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One of the world's most popular bagpipe bands, latest signature Bagrock sound release. 14 Tracks: Bleaching Cloth, Dalavich, Hallelujah, Shut Up And Dance, Highland Cathedral, Smelling Fresh, Treasure, The Gladiator, This Is Me, Auf Uns, Old Yellow Bricks, Under The Influence, All These Things That I've Done & Leave A Light On Complete RHCP back CD and DVD catalogue also available. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Purely Pipers Featuring The Pipes & Drums Of Leanisch, Massed Pipes, Drums & Military Bands, solo pipers, The Porridge Men, Enter The Haggis, Queen's Own Highlanders, The Gordon Highlanders, Buccleuch and Queensbury Caledonia Pipe Band & more. 18 tracks: The Black Isle, Hector The Hero, The Skye Boat Song, Amazing Grace, The Piper's Waltz / The Stronsay Waltz, Flower Of Scotland & Highland Cathedral. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Pride of Scotland The Pipes & Drums of Leanisch
A selection of tracks featuring some of the most popular and long-lasting tunes of Scotland. 16 tracks: Scotland The Brave, Amazing Grace, Hector The Hero, Highland Cathedral, Flower Of Scotland, The Gael, Loch Lomond, Caledonia, Skye Boat Song, The Black Bear, Mist Covered Mountains, Scots Wha Hae, Flowers Of The Forest, Ye Banks And Braes, Scottish Soldier & Auld Land Syne. **Price: \$24.95 + postage**



A Lone Piper - Flowers O' The Forest
A CD of well known Scottish tunes beautifully played by a lone piper with 31 tracks: Atholl Highlanders, The Dark Island, The Skye Boat Song, Highland Cathedral, Flower Of Scotland, Bonnie Lass O' Fyvie, Highland Cradle Song, Scotland The Brave, Caledonia, Barren Rocks Of Aden, Black Bear, Abide With Me and more. **Price: \$24.95**



The Braveheart Trilogy The Celtic Pipes & Strings
21 tracks inspired by the film Braveheart including: Braveheart, Highland Cathedral, Bunch of Thyme, Amazing Grace, Muckin' O' Geordies Byre Atholl Highlanders, Flower of Scotland, The Castle Walls, The Dark Island, She Moves Through The Fair, Mist Covered Mountains, Mingulay Boat Song, Danny Boy, Caledonia, Wild Mountain Thyme, Iolaire, Johnny Cope, Loch Lomond, Carrickfergus and The Skye Boat Song. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Parallel Tracks Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
A mix military style with contemporary styles. 15 tracks: Going Home, The Bells Of Dunblane, The Gael, Top Deck In Perth, Lewis Jig, Raigmore, Celtic Cottage, Erin Shore, Hector The Hero, The Ceilidh, Ashley's Thinning Napper, She Moves Through The Fair, Piobaireachd, Amazing Grace & Auld Lang Syne. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



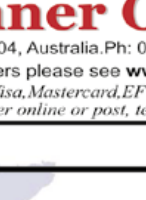
The Competing Highland Dancer
This 25 track CD plays Highland and National dances from beginners and advanced dancer. An excellent selection of dances including the Sword Dance, Scottish Lilt, Irish Jig, Sailors Hornpipe, Highland Fling and more. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



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A special album performed on Gow's fiddle by Pete Clark and Muriel Johnstone. 18 tracks: Tullochgorum / Poem - To Mr Gow Visiting Dumfries, Loch Errochside / The Earl Of Morton's Jig / Miss Stewart Of Grandtully Strathpey And Reel, Coilsfield House, The Duchess Of Atholl, Farewell To Whisky / Welcome Whisky Back Again / Highland Whisky, Lament For James Moray Of Abercairnery, Lament Of Flora MacDonald, General Lord Glenlyon's March And Quickstep. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



The Brandon McPhee Band Play The Music Of Sir Jimmy Shand
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Join Jim MacLeod and his band for this collection of classic Scottish Country Dance songs including: Dashing White Sergeant, Military Two-Step, Pride Of Erin / St Bernard's Waltz, Grand March & Reels, The Hebridean Polka, Gay Gordons, Eightsome Reel, Scottish Waltz, Canadian Barn Dance, Strip The Willow & more. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Still Time Karen Matheson
Latest release from the lead vocalist of Capercaillie. 11 Tracks: Cassiopeia Coming Through, The Aragon Mill, Still Time, Little Gun, Lassie With The Lint White Locks, The Glory Demon, Recovery, Laurel To A Wreath, Orphan Girl & Ae Fond Kiss. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Gaelic Scotland
17 traditional Gaelic songs from the Isle of Skye and other areas. Instruments: fiddles, bagpipes, clarsach (harp), concertina, guitar, dulcimer, whistle, flute, percussion and others. Original lyrics in Gaelic, with translations into English performed by: Ishbel MacAskil, Clair, Donnie Murdo MacLeod, Iain MacKay, Maeve Mackinnon, Mary Anne Kennedy, Blair Douglas & Dochas. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



The Essential Scottish Ceilidh Party Album CD/DVD
3 discs feature 2 music CDs (CD 1-18 tracks of music and CD 2-15 tracks of the dances) and also a karaoke DVD (13 tracks with full lyrics on screen and 8 page booklet of Scottish classics). Covers all kinds of Scottish dance music: Strip the Willow, Gay Gordons, Barn Dance, Amazing Grace The Fling, Loch Lomond & more by Kinloch Ceilidh Band/Jim MacLeod. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



The Tartan Scottish Box - 3 CD Set Various Artists
The music of Scotland with Singers, Bands and Pipers performing many of Scotland's best loved tunes & anthems. 60 tracks: Ae Fon' Kiss, Amazing Grace, Annie Laurie, Auld Lang Syne, Ballad Of Glencoe, Cailin Mo Ruin'sa, Caledonia, Dark Lochnagar, Donald Where's Your Trousers, Flower Of Scotland, Grannies Heilin' Hame, Highland Cathedral and many more. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



Music and Song of Scotland This compilation was first released in 1989 and is a sample of the very best of Scottish music and song of the time but has not dated in any way. The 19 tracks from: Lothian and Borders Police Pipe Band, Jean Redpath, Eric Bogle, Aly Bain & Phil Cunningham, Ceolbeg, The McCalmans, Catherine-Ann MacPhee and more. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



100 Scottish Greats -4 CD Set 100 tracks by a variety of artists such as; Scotland the Brave (Pipes & Drums of the Royal Highland Fusiliers), Flower of Scotland (The Munros), Caledonia (Julienne Taylor), A Scottish Soldier (Andy Stewart), Bonnie Dundee (Buccleuch & Queensferry Caledonia Pipe Band), Bluebell Polka (Jimmy Shand), Scottish Waltz Medley (The Lothian Scottish Dance Band), The Song of the Clyde (Kenneth McKellar) **Price: \$29.95**



I Grew Up With The Broons-4 CD Set
4 CD box set packed with over five hours of music and 93 tracks featuring iconic hit songs and artists. A trip down memory lane for everyone who grew up with Scotland's favourite family, The Broons. Hits include Chariots of Fire, Braveheart, Going Home, Ally Bally Bee, Ye Cannae Shove Yer Granny aff a Bus, Blue Suede Shoes, Moon River, Only the Lonely and more. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



Freumhan Falaichte/Hidden Roots Gillebride MacMillan
From Gaelic singer, songwriter, poet and writer Gillebride MacMillan, well-known for his role as Gwyllyn the Bard in Outlander, All 11 tracks on this album are self-composed melodies and self-written lyrics in Gillebride's native Gaelic. Freumhan Falaichte is a body of work that explores personal, societal and political themes, as well as Gaelic traditions and customs. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



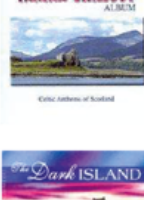
The Clydesiders- Scottish Folk Songs of the West
This CD will have you smiling, singing along, tapping your feet and might even bring a bit of a nostalgic tear to your eye. 15 tracks: The Waverley Polka, The Soor Milk Cairt, Old Glasgow Town, Always Argyll, The Caltan Weaver, Just a Glasgow Boy, The Rovin' Journeyman, Kelvingrove, Island Of Arran, Inveraray Summer Nights and more. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Over the Sea to Skye CD/DVD Ann Williamson
This release has a bonus DVD with film locations of Harris, Lewis, Skye, Glencoe, Loch Fyne, Morar, Caledonian and Crinan Canals. 15 Tracks: Skye Boat Song, Amazing Grace, Ae Fond Kiss, The Old Scottish Waltz & Mingulay Boat Song. Disc 2 DVD visits: Harris, Lewis, Skye, Glencoe, Loch Fyne, etc. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Nobody's Child CD/DVD The Alexander Brothers
From one of Scotland's most loved singing duos on this special 2 disc CD & DVD. CD contains all the hits with 16 tracks: Nobody's Child, These Are My Mountains, The Northern Lights Of Old Aberdeen, The Dark Island, Let's Have A Ceilidh, The Bluebell Polka, etc. 15 track DVD: The Song Of The Clyde, Rothesay O', Rothesay Bay, Amazing Grace, Daisy A Day, Nobody's Child, The Way Old Friends Do & Auld Lang Syne. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Scottish Serenity-3 CD Set
Celtic harps, panpipes, guitars and sound of nature. Pure relaxation - gentle guitars, Celtic harps & panpipes take the listener on a journey of Scotland and its Celtic influences. 43 tracks include Danny Boy, The Dark Island, Auld Lang Syne, Always Argyll, Loch Lomond, Caledonia, Scottish Soldier & more. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



The Definitive Corries Collection
An excellent collection of favourite tracks from charismatic performers Roy Williamson and Ronnie Browne. Selected from their huge collection of recorded repertoire. Memories of the great Scottish singing duo, with a mix of 15 stirring patriotic ballads, gentle laments and humorous songs. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



The Tartan Chillout Album Classic collection of Celtic anthems with performances by Scottish Regiments, The Black Watch, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and The Scots Guards, and is complimented with volaists and melodies by The Queen's Piper and world renowned Celtic piper Eric Rigler. 20 tracks: Hector The Hero, Loch Lomond, Flower of Scotland, Highland Cathedral, Flowers of The Forest and more. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



The Dark Island-3 CD Set Various This is definitely one from the heart. Romantic and ambient songs reflecting the beauty of Scotland, by artists such as Celtic Spirit, Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, Strathclyde University Choir and more. 42 tracks: Dark Island, For These Are My Mountains, Skye Boat Song, Scottish Moods, Flower of Scotland, Ye Banks and Braes, Skye Boat Song, Maid of the Loch and much more. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**

Essential All Scots Song Collection CD/DVD Tommy Scott
Over 50 songs. Filmed in Inverness, Elgin, Carbridge, Speyside Whisky Trail, Glenmore, Ullapool, Trochachs, Stirling and Glasgow. Tracks include: Scotland The Brave, Ye Canny Shove Yer Granny, Scotland Forever, These Are My Mountains, Flower Of Scotland, Campbeltown Loch, The Inveraray Inn, Marie's Wedding and more. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

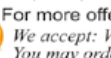
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Glasgow's Piping Live! confirmed for 2021

Photo: Elaine Livingstone



Piping Live! is back with a nine-day festival packed full of world-class performances, music sessions, recitals, competitions, book launches, workshops and more. Taking place between the 7th and 15th August, the festival has confirmed they will present their programme online, in response to current government guidelines. However, if restrictions allow the team will do all they can to introduce a live audience element to the festival if this proves possible. The Piping Live! Team have put together a varied programme that ensures the event stays true to its reputation as the world's biggest piping festival.

The festival will undoubtedly look a little different to previous editions, however the abundance of top-class performances which will be accessible to enjoy from across the world. For 18 years, Piping Live! has brought the world to Scotland, but this year it will take Scotland to the world and showcase the internationally renowned pipers and musicians who are synonymous with this globally recognised festival.

The world's biggest week of piping

The world's biggest week of piping will include:

- The 55th Annual Silver Chanter Event will showcase 6 top players performing MacCrimmon Piobaireachd.
- The Lowland & Borders Pipers Society evening concert that celebrates the music of the Bellows Bagpipes. The concert will also be an exploration of the music of the Scottish Borders to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott.
- Scottish supergroup Mánran is one of the only bands on the Scottish folk scene whose sound carries a pairing of the Uilleann pipes and the Highland bagpipes.
- The International Quartet Competition will feature 7 top Grade I pipe band quartets in the world - Field Marshal Montgomery, Scottish Power, Inveraray and District, People's Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia, Glasgow Police, Johnstone and Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Bands.
- The Masters Solo Piping Competition is the qualifying event for the Glenfiddich Piping Competition and will see the top soloists in the world compete.
- The Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies Memorial Piping Competition, Piping Live!'s flagship evening of solo piping, will see pipers perform a recital of their favourite tunes which must include a piobaireachd ground and an MSR.
- Folkie Friday with the TRYST pipers commissioned 5 brand-new pieces of music which will be premiered at this year's festival. Whilst drawing on the tradition of ceol mor, the classical music of the bagpipes, TRYST continue to push boundaries with their innovative style.
- The National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland's pre-recorded event will demonstrate the exciting and novel ways in which this young group has adapted their practice over the past year. These pipers will showcase their new works in some iconic locations across Glasgow as part of the online concert.
- The Gordon Duncan Memorial Competition celebrates the late-great Gordon's links to Scotland, Ireland and Brittany. One piper will each play sets of Scottish, Irish and Breton music and the overall winner will be the best player of all three musical styles.
- Trad music trio Hecla, will be joined by be neo-trad trio Project Smok, whose line-up includes a BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year.

Learn @ Live!

Other events will include emerging talent and music sessions where learners can play along at home as well as listening to the performance. There will also be book launches throughout the festival. The educational element of the festival, Learn @ Live! will host a series of workshops which will be a mix of pre-recorded and live events. Piping Live! prides

itself on being at the centre of the international piping community and year on year it extends a hand of musical friendship to artists and audiences across the world. Organisers have ensured that this is recognised this year with a number of international showcases being premiered at the festival, including performances from Ireland, Brittany and Canada, with more to be announced.

Finlay MacDonald, Artistic Director for Piping Live!, said: "It's been a tough year for all of us but we're so excited to be bringing audiences at home and abroad as close to our normal offering of entertainment as we possibly can for this year's festival. We've programmed 9 days of top-class performances, competitions, sessions and so much more and we're just delighted we'll have the opportunity to showcase some of the world's top pipers doing what they do best this summer. If restrictions allow, we'll be inviting live audiences to be part of the festival this year too. We'll do all we can to try and make this possible, whilst ensuring we are adhering to all government guidelines."

Organisers of Piping Live! hope the festival's online offering will appeal to the international audience they would usually see attending the festival. With the event's global audiences in mind, they have allowed for all shows to be available for a week after they are first streamed to avoid any issues with different time zones.

Piping Live! will run from Saturday 7th - Sunday 15th August. For details and tickets: www.pipinglive.co.uk

Hoping for sun... and midges

By: Rule Anderson,

National Trust for Scotland
Ranger at Kintail, West Affric
and Falls of Glomach

Scottish summer can mean midges.

Perfect midge weather
at Gleann Lichd, Kintail.

Brown long-eared bat.

We all hate midges ... don't we? Here, Kintail ranger Rule Anderson gives us a few good reasons to buck the trend, for the sake of our wildlife.

Summer is nature's time for the young. Bats are getting ready to give birth in their nursery roosts in our towns and cities; young hedgehogs may already be in your garden; and field voles should be onto their second or even third litters in grassy corners of the countryside. What's more, we're approaching peak season for what is arguably Scotland's

most spectacular wildlife wonder: the vast colonies of nesting seabirds that find their way to internationally important sites in the National Trust for Scotland's care such as St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve, Mingulay and St Kilda.

Here at my base in Kintail, red deer are beginning to calve on undisturbed stretches of hillside. The calls of the young animals to their mothers have been mistaken for distress calls from hillwalkers, on one occasion even spurring a futile all-night mountain rescue search.

The weather can make or break my summer plans; if it's bad, the worst that happens is that I'll have to cancel a guided walk or redirect volunteers to a work site that's not too far from the bunkhouse. For some of our wildlife, however, a bad summer is a matter of life and death.

People's pet hate

Midges are many people's pet hate when exploring Scotland's countryside, but they're a crucial food supply for many birds, bats and even some plants (the fascinating insectivorous

sundew and butterwort have sticky glands or leaves that trap the insect). Midges won't fly during heavy rain or in a strong breeze, so a prolonged spell of bad weather can be disastrous for those species that rely on them.

Reptiles, such as common lizards, and invertebrates including Scotch argus butterflies and golden-ringed dragonflies can be even more affected by the weather. A sunny summer is good for them, with its reward of vibrant wildflower displays when species such as tormentil and heath spotted-orchid carpet Kintail. Without that sun, there are fewer flowers, meaning fewer sources of food for our creatures.



Common lizard.



Common butterwort.

Come August, I'll be looking out for heather in full bloom on our hillsides. I'm as wary of the dreaded midge as the next person – but for the sake of our wildlife, I'll have my midge hood to hand, in the hope that this summer is a buzzing one.

Have you had a Scottish midge experience? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at: www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

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



Golden-ringed dragonfly.



Tormentil.

KINGS CASTLES AND “DURTY” WEE RASCALS

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



Tighnabruaich

“The Congo’s no’ to be compared wi’ the West o’ Scotland when it comes to insects”, said Para Handy. “There’s places here that’s chust deplorable whenever the weather’s the least bit warm. Look at Tighnabruaich - they’re that bad there , they’ll bite their way through corrugated iron roofs to get at ye... There is a spachial kind of mudge at Dervaig in the Isle of Mull, that hass aal the points o’ a Poltalloch terrier, even to the black nose and cocked lugs, and sits up and barks at you.”
Para Handy speaking with his highland lilt about midges in Neil Munro’s ‘Hurricane Jack of the Vital Spark’, 1923, Chapt 14, ‘Mudges’

For some weeks at school, before the 1960 summer school holidays, I had been discussing with a friend, John Mole, a plan for a fortnight’s camping holiday down at a place called Port a` Mhadaidh (Portavadie) in Argyll. I had never heard of the place but I could see from a road atlas that it was not very far from Inverary, Dunoon and Tighnabruaich, places I had visited at one time or another by Clyde Steamer or by bus. We were to join up with some lads who John Mole, nicknamed Moley, knew. One of them was Morris Smith and it was him who had contacts to obtain a

campsite on a farm field near to where his grandparents had a little holiday cottage, a one-time crofter’s cottage, at a one-time little settlement called Dergbruaich.

Achifarrest

Moley was to be in charge of catering and I was to organise to borrow an eight-man tent from my scout troop, together with any other necessary camping equipment. The other boys who were joining us on the camp were the friends of Morris and Moley, Tam Imrie, John MacDonald and Morris’s cousin, Iain McLaren. Morris, Tam and John worked as apprentice engineers at the Rolls Royce aero factory in Hillington, while Moley, Iain and I were still at school studying for our Higher Leaving Certificate. An inaugural planning meeting was scheduled for a weekend at Morris Smith’s house at 5 Bargaran Road in Pollok.

When I arrived at Morris’s place I was pleasantly surprised to find that, as well as our all male planning group, there were two young girls present. They were Morris’s two younger sisters, Jean and Anne. I was immediately attracted to Jean, a very pretty blonde who was drying and combing her hair in front of a coal fire, rather like a mermaid, although fully clothed of course. There were some cursory introductions, but in general, there was an intentional ignoring of our male company as these mermaids continued with what they were doing, and we went about the business of organising our camp.

I admit that my concentration on the planning wandered a little when I discovered that Jean would be down at Portavadie at the same time as us, which was to be during the Glasgow Fair Fortnight. She would be staying with Morris’s parents at the cottage and we would be camping down the hill from there, in a field that Morris referred to as the ‘achifarrest’. Another field was mentioned as the ‘achidhu’ and my first impression was that there were a lot of Gaelic names being thrown around at this mysterious place called Port a` Mhadaidh (Portavadie).

It was after this first meeting that I began to haunt the streets around Bargaran Road in Pollok on my bicycle in the hope that I might catch a glimpse of Jean and accidentally bump into her on her way home from work or to the shops on Lyoncross Road. Instead, I bumped into a young boy who ran out between two cars. As I sped downhill toward Mossspark West Railway Station, he walked out, unseen by me, between just about the only two cars on the street. He didn’t get a scratch on him, but I went clean over the handlebars. The underside of my arms and the front of my legs were stripped raw while attempting to smooth out the rough surface of the road. I was a mess, but my bike was in an even worse state with the front fork and wheel completely buckled. The boy’s mother was very apologetic, took me in and washed and dressed my wounds, as best she could, before I made the long way back home carrying the damaged bicycle over my shoulder. No mobile phone in those days and anyway neither my father nor the mother of the boy had a car for me to put the bike into.

The house on the hill

After a few more meetings it was time to collect the tent and camping equipment from the storage cage out at Auchengillan Scout camp. Luckily, Jean’s father owned a car, a Morris Minor, and her dad took us out to Auchengillan to collect the camping gear. For reasons that fully elude me now it was decided that rather than take a train we would hike during the night all the way down to Gourrock from Pollok, a distance of about eighteen miles. At Gourrock we caught the early morning steamer to Tighnabruaich lying on The Kyles of Bute. The attractive village of Tighnabruaich, ‘the house on the hill’, lay 24 miles southwest of Dunoon on a narrow reach of the Kyles of Bute. Tighnabruaich had lots of Victorian houses and cottages which swept up a wooded hillside to overlook a teashop and a very busy wooden pier that ran into the bay holding a cluster of sailing yachts.

Although the heavy tent and stoves were transported for us by Morris’s family, we still had full rucksacks stacked with the rest of our gear, and to top it all, we each had to carry at least two giant catering tins of luncheon meat. This was the meat that Moley had scrounged up for us at a bargain price from a mysterious source. It looked and smelled like tinned dog food but was destined to become a major part of our diet, at least until we couldn’t stand the sight and smell of the stuff anymore.

Naturally enough it was called ‘Moley meat’ and became the butt of our jokes for the rest of the fortnight. Weighed down with Moley meat, Morris, Moley, Tam and I set out from Pollok in the wee, small hours of a Saturday morning and collected John as we hiked through Hillington. Iain, Jean’s cousin lived in Greenock so the arrangement was that we would meet him at the pier in Gourrock.

On arrival at Tighnabruaich later in the day we caught the local bus that met the steamers journeying back and forward between Tighnabruaich Pier, Kames and the village of Millhouse. It doubled up as the school bus for the rest of the time. At the crossroads at Millhouse we met Morris’s Uncle Davie, his Aunt Beatrice and some of his cousins out in their garden. Davie was the gamekeeper on the Ardlamont Estate and bred and worked Jack Russell Terriers. As I was to find out later, Uncle Davie loved animals even though as a gamekeeper he sometimes had to cull the deer and other wildlife as part of his job. There were always to be litters of newborn pups and kittens in his house at Millhouse and that suited Jean.

Millhouse Gunpowder Works

Just over a little burn and bridge from David Simpson’s cottage, lay the site of the old Millhouse Gunpowder Works, built in 1839. The gable of David’s cottage at Millhouse, like the others around it, was built to face the old works and made without a window on one side to give some protection from accidental explosions. Millhouse had been chosen for the site of the gunpowder factory because of its remoteness but was closed in 1920 because Tighnabruaich, with its mild climate and sub-tropical plants, began to attract many visitors.

Around the village lay the remains of lades and aqueducts that gave clues to the use of water from the Powder Lochs to supply power to the old mill. The materials used for making gunpowder and the gunpowder itself were once transported to and from Millhouse and the Powder Quay at Kames, where there had, at one time, been a saltpetre works. The raw materials and the finished product were transported by sea aboard ships, one of which was appropriately enough called the *Guy Fawkes*. The rusting remains of little red painted, iron canisters, once used to store the powder were still to be found by us on later explorations, dumped carelessly in the burn behind Uncle Davie’s house.

There were of course more worrying things than old gunpowder canisters to concern us in this remote and beautiful place. As Para Handy, that iconic character created by Niall Munro, told us in his soft highland voice, the midges of Tighnabruaich could be a serious problem, and in the future only too ready to spoil a beautiful walk in the gloaming with my bonny Jean.

“There iss nothing that the mudges likes to see among them better than an English towerist with a kilt: the very tops wass eaten off his stockin’s.”
Neil Munro writing in ‘Hurricane Jack of the Vital Spark’, (1923) Chapter 14; ‘Mudges’

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Boondooma Homestead celebrates Scots in the Bush



An opportunity for a catch up with friends, relatives and performers will, hopefully, without COVID shutdowns, take place at Boondooma Homestead in August, 2021. An extremely popular Celtic, in particular Scottish, event which attracts patrons from all parts of Australia. This event celebrates the establishment of the 958 square miles Boondooma Station by 3 Scotsmen, Robert and Alexander Lawson and Robert Alexander in 1846.

This event celebrates the beginnings of the pastoral industry which has endured to the present day. On the third weekend in August (19 to 22 August) the skirl of the pipes and the beat of the drums will be heard for many kilometres around

the Boondooma and Durong areas. It is expected that at least 400 caravans will converge on Boondooma Homestead for a great Celtic celebration.

Celebrations will actually begin on the Wednesday evening with a sausage sizzle, sound check and performances by walk up artists. Proceeds from the sausage sizzle will be donated to charity. The walk-up sessions provide a great opportunity for people to share their heritage through song, music, and dance.

The main program will begin at 1.30 pm on Thursday afternoon and the very popular Scottish ceilidh will take place on Thursday evening. This is a great opportunity for people to join in the singing and dancing.

Celtic heritage

Four pipe bands will entertain this year and they are, Noosa and District Pipes and Drums, Dalby Thistle Pipe Band, Murrumba Pipes and Drums and Amberley Pipes and Drums. These bands will join together with individual pipers and drummers to participate in combined band entertainment as well as individual band performances. There will be great opportunities for pipers and drummers from all over to participate. Ceilidh bands, Celtic Psychosis, Celtic Crossover, Ishka, Thistle Do, Mouldy Haggis and Velcro will provide toe tapping entertainment throughout the weekend. The Rum City Dancers will once again entertain with the old and the new highland dancers. Amy Bromham from Burdekin Celtic Dancers will delight the crowd with some Irish dancing. The popular Moreton Celtic Fiddle Club together with Limerick will be highlights.

South Burnett's own Scotsman, Jervase Fullerton will address the Haggis before the evening meal on Friday. Jervase will thrill the crowd with his dramatic address followed by his favourite Scottish songs. Scottish food will be available throughout the weekend and enjoy a meal of Haggis, tatties, and neeps.

Dundee stew and rumbledethumps and potato damper will be available on Friday evening. Enjoy shortbread, Dundee cake and scotch pancakes for morning and or afternoon tea. Many Clans will set up clan tents and this will give our patrons a great opportunity to check out their Celtic heritage. Come in Highland dress for the Clan and Tartan Parade on Saturday. Scots in the Bush will be an exciting weekend, with lots of tartans, entertainment and beautiful food on offer.

Due to the Queensland Governments framework for Events, Scots in the Bush 2021 will be a ticketed event. For bookings and information see: www.boondoomahomestead.org.au



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By: Nick Drainey



Clydebuilt - Celebrating Glasgow's shipbuilding heritage

The great industrial achievements of the River Clyde in steam propulsion, engineering and shipbuilding are widely known not just in the UK but around the world. Despite this, there is no single location on the River where this world-class story can be told. The time has come to acknowledge the vision of those who established these industries, of the innovation central to their success and to the individual contribution made by hundreds of thousands of men and women over many decades who toiled through good times and bad to manufacture remarkable products and make the name Clydebuilt synonymous with excellence. The Ship Yard Trust has been formed to focus attention on these achievements and engage with all parties to formulate a strategy that permanently acknowledges this outstanding industrial heritage as Nick Drainey explains.



Shipbuilder in 1944. Photo: Ministry of Information Photo Division Photographer/Wikipedia Commons.

Once the river was so shallow that, in a few parts, people could wade across it. Ships had to dock at Greenock, and goods unloaded and transferred to small boats in order to travel up the Clyde to reach Glasgow. As Cromwell's man Thomas Tucker said in the middle of the 17th century: "Glasgow was checked and kept under by the shallowness of her river, every day more and more filling up". But thanks to the innovative brilliance of engineers and the toil of thousands of ordinary folk, the river that didn't even need a boat to cross it became famous around the world for its shipbuilding.

It is often said that Glasgow made the Clyde and the Clyde made Glasgow, a description that is far from an empty metaphorical phrase. Clydesiders' work over centuries transformed the river and made it possible for an estimated 25,000 ships, including the *Cutty Sark* clipper, the doomed passenger liner the *Lusitania*, battleship *HMS Hood* and the *Royal Yacht Britannia*, to be built on its banks.

Shipbuilding excellence

At its peak, it was said the Clyde yards built a fifth of the ships in the world and the wealth the industry brought to the city and its surrounding towns was to provide a financial backbone well into the 20th century. Now a charity, The Ship Yard Trust, have ambitious plans to create a museum, archive and workspaces for 21st century marine engineering companies to celebrate this rich heritage and further its success in to the future.

Gil Paterson, the Chair of the Ship Yard Trust, said there is currently nothing to showcase the heritage of the Clyde in one spot and plans are aiming to create something on a par with the Titanic Museum in Belfast or

the Guggenheim in Bilbao, a city which, like Glasgow saw the effects of de-industrialisation at the end of the 20th century.

It is often said that Glasgow made the Clyde and the Clyde made Glasgow, a description that is far from an empty metaphorical phrase.

He added: "The Clyde's marine exploits and experiences have left a mark on the world. Our vision is to establish an iconic building that will set straight the record of shipbuilding, incorporating all the communities on the river." Plans for the building are currently out for consultation with nothing but "positive feedback" so far, according to Mr Paterson. The archive of stories is already underway with the Trust asking those who worked in the yards, or who lived nearby, to contact them. Mr Paterson said many had moved away with the decline of the industry, including emigrants in all corners of the world.

The first step in making the expression "Clydebuilt" synonymous with shipbuilding excellence came from the engineers whose vision saw the river dredged and sculpted into a navigable waterway. The pressure came from the tobacco, sugar and slave trade, which was really taking off from the beginning of the 18th century. Merchants wanted their ships to be able to unload in the city itself and over the course of the century around 108,000 tonnes of sediment was removed from river, dumped on the banks or later into the firth in order

to deepen the channel. Engineer John Golborne's system of building jetties out from each bank, channelling the water into the centre and increasing the force of the flow, helped to scrape the sediment from the riverbed to such an extent that by 1773 a local magazine was reporting that three sea-going ships had been able to unload their oatmeal from Ireland directly at Broomielaw without having to stop at Greenock.

Iconic yards

With the 19th century came steam power and shipbuilding on the Clyde expanded rapidly with the creation of many of the iconic yards. Denny's shipyard in Dumbarton built the *Cutty Sark* in 1869, one of the last tea clippers ever built, now a visitor attraction in London; between 1844 and 1963 the yard built more than 1500 ships, specialising in cross-Channel ferries. Govan was a still quiet village at the beginning of the 19th century with thatched cottages and a population of around 2000. Eighty years later, it was home to nearly 60,000 and the biggest shipyard in the world, Fairfield, named after the farm that had been on the site when the area was mainly rural. The man known as the "father of shipbuilding on the Clyde" Robert Napier also owned a shipbuilding yard in Govan, as well as the Parkhead Forge steelworks - his Govan site was where the first iron ships for the British Royal Navy were produced.

Perhaps the most famous yard of all was John Brown's Shipyard at Clydebank, a town which didn't exist before brothers J & G Thomson moved their shipbuilding operations there in 1871. By 1901 it was home to more than 30,000 people. The Thomson brothers were apprentices of Napier and built passenger liners and paddle steamers which plied the route to the

Highlands and Islands, carrying passengers including Queen Victoria. In 1897, the yard was taken over by John Brown & Co, Sheffield steelmakers, and continued to build world-class battleships and liners.

The Clyde shipyards played a vital role during the two world wars of the 20th century, but the post-war period was not kind to them. Many yards began to disappear in the 1960s and the Clyde yards were most famous in the 1970s for the "Work In" when thousands of workers refused to leave the yards after the government of the day ruled out financing a £6 million emergency loan. Govan-born Jimmy Reid became a people's hero, rallying the workers, and his speech, on July 30, 1971, was broadcast worldwide, leading to global support including from former Beatle John Lennon. Despite their success in forcing the government to change its mind, the yards continued to decline and today shipbuilding on the Clyde is a shadow of its former self.

However, the Ship Yard Trust is keen to build on what is left - some of it world class engineering such as BAE Systems' cutting edge military ships. As part of the project, small marine engineering companies will be encouraged to move into technology park and develop their businesses. At the same time, the archive of previous success will be built, including stories from people now scattered across the world but who were once at the heart of the Clyde's achievements. Mr Paterson said there had already been a fantastic response: "Folk are aware of the heritage, proud of it and enthusiastic about it."

If you have memories of the Clyde's shipbuilding heritage and would like to share your story in the archive, contact the Ship Yard Trust at contact@theshipyardscot.scot or visit their website at: www.theshipyardscot.scot.



Shipyard in 1944. Photo: Ministry of Information Division Photographer/Wikipedia Commons.

Scottish causes for optimism in 2021

By: David C Weinczok



Scotland a rewilding nation: Photo: Scotlandbigpicture.com

Blameless is the person who, in 2021, has become prone to cynicism. The relentlessness of ill news, personal loss, and events beyond any individual's control or comprehension have so far defined the third decade of the third millennium. Yet within this barrage there are glimmers of hope and good; roots which, if fostered and encouraged to grow, hold the promise of making our world a better place in ways large and small. It is a small sample of these glimmers, as seen in Scotland, that I invite you draw some much needed optimism from.

A greener, wilder future

What many residents of and visitors to Scotland likely don't realise is that the vast majority of the country's landscapes are not, in fact, in a state of raw, rugged nature, but the products of thousands of years of intensive, human-directed modification. Agriculture, industry, warfare, aristocratic whims, and countless other factors have steadily transformed the land (and seas) themselves, often to the detriment of wildlife and ecological diversity. In recent years, some small but promising winds of change have started to gather momentum.

A pair of white-tailed eagles were first observed searching for nesting grounds around Loch Lomond in early March. Boasting a 2.5-metre wingspan, the enormous predatory birds make for an unmistakeable and unforgettable sight. They were hunted to the point of extinction in the UK in 1918. Now, it has been confirmed that the pair has decided to stay. Paul Roberts of NatureScot suggests that they were attracted to Loch Lomond, which forms the heart of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, by the reduced human presence over the course of lockdown.

More systemically, there is a promising effort to introduce rewilding measures to restore, as much as is possible, the vibrancy of Scotland's significantly diminished natural ecosystems. Rewilding, or renaturalising as some prefer to call it, has in recent years secured a firmer place in the public's consciousness and celebrated several notable steps forward. In 2019, a community-led campaign to improve the health of marine and terrestrial environments around the

waterways of coastal Argyll resulted in the area being designated as a 'Hope Spot', the first of its kind in Scotland and the UK mainland. There is also now serious talk of reintroducing wolves to Scotland. Eradicated in the mid-18th century, the stunning success of the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone National Park in the United States has opened many minds to the possibility of doing the same here. On a larger scale, the Scottish Rewilding Alliance is lobbying the Scottish Government to commit to rewilding 30% of Scotland's public lands by 2030.

There are glimmers of hope and good; roots which, if fostered and encouraged to grow, hold the promise of making our world a better place in ways large and small.

Perhaps most notably, in 2020 Scotland met the equivalent of 97.4% of its energy needs through renewable sources. While this narrowly missed the target set in 2011 to meet 100% through renewables, it is still an astonishing figure and one which proves that a shift to renewables is both productive and possible for other nations to achieve.

Linguistic revival



Photo: Amanda Slater/Wikimedia Commons.

The history of languages in Scotland is inextricable from narratives of identity, power, and persecution. This applies not only to Gaelic, which legislation and the violence of the Highland Clearances and subsequent decades attempted to systematically root out; but also to Scots,

the language of world-famous makars like Robert Burns and Hugh MacDiarmid as well as hundreds of thousands of people primarily in the Lowlands and Northeast. Both languages are currently undergoing a very welcome renaissance.

Gaelic, very recently considered by many to be a 'dying language', received a dramatic boost thanks to mobile technology. One year after the language learning app Duolingo added a course on Scottish Gaelic, over 500,000 people around the world have signed up to it - ten times the number of Gaelic speakers in Scotland, which presently stands at around 58,000. An increasing number of heritage and cultural institutions including libraries, museums, and organisations responsible for preserving Scotland's historic built environment, have incorporated Scottish Gaelic use and awareness into their on-site and digital offerings. These efforts are bolstered by enthusiasm from the international community, and credit where credit it's due: the enduring popularity of the television series *Outlander* has undoubtedly inspired many language learners. Perhaps it is apt that the seeds of the Scottish diaspora, which were scattered in a time in which Gaelic was criminalised, are now bearing fruits in ways that the language's historical oppressors could never have imagined.

In 2020, the second-ever Scots Leid (Language) Awards took place to celebrate those who have advanced the cause of Scotland's 'mither (mother) tongue'. A great deal of enthusiasm for Scots has been generated by creators on social media, perhaps most notably Len Pennie, a 21-year-old poet from Airdrie in North Lanarkshire. Pennie posts daily videos in which she teaches a 'Scots word of the day' to viewers all around the world. She rose to public prominence after posting a video in which she recited her poem (poem), *I'm no havin' children*, which has now been viewed nearly 750,000 times. April 2020 saw the first broadcast of *Rebel Tongue*, a documentary on the history and struggles of the Scots language presented by Alistair Heather which has been broadcast several times since. The efforts of creators like Pennie and Heather have helped Scots to overcome its relegation in popular culture as a novelty for tea towel

tat and be recognised as the dynamic, day-to-day language of many that it is. Though much of the credit for this linguistic revival is owed to grassroots and community initiatives as well as individuals, the swearing in of the sixth session of the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood this past May demonstrated how far language awareness has come. MSPs broke a 'language record', reciting their oaths not just in Gaelic and Scots but also (to name a few) in Urdu, Welsh, Arabic, Punjabi, German, and British Sign Language - the latter being a first for the Scottish Parliament. Such high-level actions of solidarity are indicative of the desire to truly make Scotland a place that welcomes all.

Inclusion and belonging

Continuing the theme of inclusivity, 2020 saw the passing of the Scottish Elections (Franchise and Representation) Bill. This extended the right to vote in Scottish Parliament and local council elections to all foreign nationals with leave to remain, including those granted refugee status. This follows another significant political reform bill, the 2015 unanimous extension of the right to vote to all those in Scotland 16 and older. Given that it is the younger generation who will face the brunt of the existential challenge of climate change - alongside which stand economic downturns and a global trend towards exclusionary politics - it is encouraging that they will now have a greater say in how their future is shaped.

The Covid-19 pandemic has shrunk daily life down to the hyper-local and heralds the prospect of hard times ahead more so than any other event in most peoples' living memories. In such circumstances, you might expect for attitudes to harden; for lines of 'us' and 'them' to be drawn in bold, for a concern to care for 'our own', however defined, to override all other obligations and aspirations. That has resoundingly not been the case.

We're all Jock Tamson's bairns

On 13 May 2021 over 200 demonstrators gathered on Kenmore Street in Glasgow to successfully stop two men, originally from India, from being detained in a dawn raid conducted by the UK Home Office. "These are our neighbours!" was a refrain of the demonstrators. In an interview conducted shortly after the day's events, one of the two men, Lakhvir Singh, said, "I'm so happy my fate brought me to live in Glasgow, where the people came out onto the streets to help one of their own."

The Scotland that I have come to know in my 10 years since moving from Canada is one which, while far from perfect or free from tensions, seeks to include rather than exclude; to conduct itself compassionately rather than provocatively; and to position itself as a forward-looking member of the global community. People from all walks of life across Scotland have told me time and time again that the definition of a Scot is someone who chooses to call Scotland home, or who carries Scotland in their hearts wherever they are in the world. 'We're all Jock Tamson's bairns', indeed. I cannot help but think that if more people adopted the Scots' philosophy towards belonging, the future would seem a little brighter after all.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - The reconvened Scottish Parliament was officially opened. After a devolution referendum showed resounding support for the reconvening of the Scottish parliament, plans were put into motion for the creation of such a body. The parliament would sit in the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall in Edinburgh. Elections were held on May 1, 1999 and the first sitting of the body took place on May 12 of that year. The official opening on July 1 saw the Queen transfer full constitutional powers to Edinburgh. **1999**

1 - Seal granted by Edinburgh Town Council to the Incorporation of Barbers and Surgeons to practise their craft. The organisation is now known as the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. **1505**

1 - Proscription Act Repealed, thus allowing again the wearing of tartan and the carrying of weapons (banned as a result of the 1745 Uprising in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie). **1782**

2 - Treaty of Perth, Norway renounces claim on the Hebrides. **1266**

2 - Scottish architect Sir John Burnett died. His most famous commissions include the Royal Institute of Fine Arts; the Alhambra, and the Athenaeum, all in Glasgow, and the North front of the British Museum, the Institute of Chemistry, and the extension to Selfridges, all in London. **1938**

3 - John Logie Baird transmitted first colour television. **1928**

3 - Robert Adam, the Scottish architect, furniture and interior designer, was born. Adam is regarded as a leading exponent of the neoclassical revival in the latter part of the 18th century. **1728**

3 - The Clyde shipyards suffered their worst accident when the SS *Daphne* capsized at her launch. The packet steamer had been built by the Linthouse yard of Alexander Stephen and Sons and immediately sank into the River Clyde, taking the lives of the 195 workmen on board. It was later discovered that the 460-ton ship had little stability when it was launched, and rolled over forty-five degrees, taking huge amounts of water through a large deck opening. **1883**

4 - Robert Burns moves into the Brow Inn in Dumfries and Galloway looking to cure an ailment (rhumatic fever). The cure involved drinking the waters of the Brow Well and bathing in the cold waters of the Solway Firth. He died on 21 July. **1796**

5 - Final run of the Edinburgh to London mail coach (a route which was taken over by rail). **1847**

5 - Border reiver, John Armstrong of Gilnockie, and 50 of his men were hanged for blackmail by James V. Armstrong was a well-known laird in the Borders area, and although a frequent marauder in England, he is not known to have attacked in Scotland. However, his wealth and power in a troublesome region brought the resentment of James V. Armstrong was tricked into attending a royal hunt only to be seized on his arrival. He faced the king, and volubly remonstrated with him that he had "asked grace at a graceless face". Legend has it that the trees at Carnlanrig, where Armstrong and his followers were hanged, withered, and none have grown there since. **1530**



5 - UNESCO gives World Heritage status to the Forth Bridge, one of Scotland's best-known structures. It stretches 2.5 kilometres between the villages of South Queensferry and North Queensferry, and was opened on 4th March 1890 by Edward, Prince of Wales. **2015**

6 - John Paul Jones, hero of the US Navy, born Kirkbean, Dumfries. **1747**

6 - The Piper Alpha oil platform in the North Sea was rocked by a huge explosion. Blasts continued on the platform throughout that night, and by morning 167 men had died. **1988**

7 - John Knox became the first Protestant minister appointed in Edinburgh. **1559**

7 - The Antonine Wall, part of the ancient Roman limes, is designated as a World Heritage Site. Known to the Romans as Vallum Antonini, was a turf fortification on stone foundations, built by the Romans across what is now the Central Belt of Scotland, between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde. **2008**

7 - The novel *Waverley*, by Sir Walter Scott, was published. *Waverley* was Scott's first novel, and written mainly as a way of proving himself a superior literary talent to Byron. Although it was published anonymously as a safety net against its failure, it was an open secret who the author was. Scott needn't have worried: the book was a runaway success and Scott became regarded as the leading author in Europe. **1814**

7 - Andy Murray wins the Men's Singles at Wimbledon 2013 defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in straight sets. Murray is the first British man to win the title since Fred Perry in 1936, and the first Scotsman to win since Harold Mahony in 1896. **2013**

8 - King Alexander II died on Isle of Kerrara, Oban Bay. **1249**



9 - Queen's Park Football Club, first senior football (soccer) club in Scotland formed. **1867**

9 - Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the Chief of Clan Fraser, Scottish aristocrat and soldier was born. Fraser, a Second World War hero, played a key role in the development of the commandos and was actively involved in both the Dieppe Raid, 1942, and D-Day landings, 1944. **1911**

10 - King James III born at Stirling. **1451**

10 - Glasgow Rangers signed Maurice Johnston. One of the last bastions of Scottish Protestant sectarianism, Rangers shocked many of its supporters when the club, under manager Graeme Souness, signed Maurice Johnston from the French club, Nantes, for £1.5m. Johnston had not only played for arch-rivals Celtic, but was the first well-known Roman Catholic player to sign for Rangers in modern times. **1989**

11 - Robert the Bruce born at Turnberry Castle, Ayrshire. After the death of William Wallace, Bruce led the campaign to regain Scottish independence, culminating in his stunning victory at the Battle of Bannockburn in June 1314. **1274**

12 - Darien expedition left Leith for Panama. **1698**

13 - King Alexander III crowned at Scone. **1249**



14 - Scottish National War Memorial opened. The National War Memorial for Scotland was established by Royal Charter to commemorate the sacrifice of Scots in the Great War, Second World War and subsequent conflicts. The Memorial within Edinburgh Castle houses and displays the Rolls of Honour of Scots servicemen and women from all the Armed Services, the Dominions, Merchant Navy, Women's Services, Nursing Services and civilian casualties of all wars from 1914 to date. **1927**

14 - Cavalry units from the Scottish Engager army clashed with Lambert's Parliamentarian cavalry at Penrith. The Engager forces were commanded by the Duke of Hamilton, who made several mistakes in planning and executing his advance south, and quickly made themselves unpopular with the local population for their plundering and excesses. **1648**



14 - Eriskay is linked to South Uist by causeway. **2001**

15 - National Portrait Gallery for Scotland opened in Edinburgh. **1889**

16 - David II, son of Robert I (the Bruce) married Joan, sister of Edward III (he was 4, she was 7). **1328**

16 - 13th Commonwealth Games opened in Edinburgh. **1970**

16 - A Shetland fishing tragedy occurred leaving 105 fishermen dead as their boats got lost at sea. 31 Shetland sloop boats perished leaving devastation to the island community. **1832**

17 - Bank of Scotland, first bank to be established by an Act of the Scottish Parliament, opened. **1695**

18 - John Paul Jones, naval hero of the American Revolution, died; he was born in Kircudbrightshire in 1747. **1792**

18 - Birth of Jim Watt, Scottish boxer. After a successful amateur career, Watt turned professional in 1968 and quickly rose to the top of the lightweight division before adding British and European titles to his collection during the 1970s. **1948**

19 - Battle of Halidon Hill in which Sir Archibald Douglas (guardian of David II) routed by Edward Balliol and Edward III. Scots losses were nearly 600, English losses 14. **1333**

19 - A.J Cronin, the Scottish novelist, was born. Cronin is most fondly remembered as the creator of the hugely popular character, Dr. Finlay. **1896**

20 - Battle of Inverkeithing. Royalist force supporting Charles II failed to halt advance of army of Oliver Cromwell heading for Perth. **1651**

21 - Robert Burns dies in Dumfries, aged 37. The cause of death appears to have been heart failure, probably brought on by the hard physical work done in his youth. His widow, Jean Armour, gave birth to a son on the day of her husband's funeral. However, Maxwell, named after Burns's doctor, died in infancy. **1796**

22 - The army of the English King Edward I, using longbows for the first time, defeated the Scots led by Sir William Wallace at Battle of Falkirk. **1298**

22 - Oliver Cromwell invades Scotland and proceeds to the eastern edge of Edinburgh. The Scots form a defensive line within the city. **1650**

23 - Charles Edward Stuart landed on Eriskay at the start of the 1745 campaign. **1745**

24 - Mary Queen of Scots abdicated and the young James VI acceded to Scottish throne. The Earl of Mar was appointed regent. **1567**



23 - The 2014 Commonwealth Games opened in Glasgow. **2014**

24 - The Princess Royal formally opened the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Scotland's first national park. **2002**

24 - The Battle of Harlaw took place at Inverurie. Nearly 2000 Highland and Crown soldiers fought over an area of land called the Earldom of Ross. **1411**

25 - King James I born. **1394**

25 - Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991, which gives full legal capacity to those aged over sixteen, receives the Royal Assent. **1991**

25 - Charles Macintosh, inventor of the plastic mac, died. Macintosh discovered the first rainproof cloth in 1818, by joining two sheets of fabric together with dissolved indiarubber. Although Macintosh is best known for his eponymously titled coats, he made significant advances in many fields of chemistry. As well as inventing a revolutionary bleaching powder with Charles Tennant, he also discovered a fast method of using carbon gases to convert iron to steel, and devised a hot-blast process which produced high quality cast iron. **1843**

26 - James IV responded to pleas for assistance from France and declared war on England. Aside from assisting the French, who had been invaded by an English army, James was also aggrieved at England's seizing of two Scottish ships and the non-payment of part of the dowry for his wife, Margaret Tudor. **1513**

27 - The Forth and Clyde Canal was opened from the Firth of Forth to the Firth of Clyde, with the first boat navigating its channel in August of that year. The length of the Canal from eastern sea lock to the western sea lock was 35 miles. **1790**

27 - Battle of Killiecrankie in which Graham of Claverhouse (Bonnie Dundee) leading an army of Highlanders in support of the Jacobite cause, defeated King William's army under General Hugh Mackay. **1689**

28 - The Royalist Marquess of Montrose beat General Baillie in a skirmish which was part of the English Civil War at Dunkeld, Perthshire. For a war of positions the Highlanders had neither aptitude nor inclination, and at Dunkeld the greater part of them went home. **1645**

29 - Mary, Queen of Scots, married Lord Darnley, in a Catholic wedding. **1565**

29 - King James VI (aged 13 months) crowned at the Church of the Holy Rude, beside Stirling Castle, following the abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots, five days earlier. **1567**



30 - First edition of the long-running *Beano* comic was published. **1938**

30 - The beginning of the work-in at John Brown's Clydebank Shipbuilding Yard, organised by stalwart Socialist, Jimmy Reid. This was in response to the Ted Heath Tory government's plans to liquidate the yard - Reid exposed these as unethical. **1971**

31 - Cigarette advertising banned on television in Britain. **1965**

31 - The first edition of Robert Burns' poems, *The Kilmarnock Edition*, was published by John Wilson of Kilmarnock, under the title of *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*. It cost three shillings and the entire print run of 612 copies sold out within a month. **1780**

31 - French naval forces in support of the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots bombard St Andrews Castle and capture the Protestant rebels. These include Protestant John Knox, who is sent to become a galley-slave. **1547**

Greenbank - *A place of different daffodils*

All images: The National Trust for Scotland.



Greenbank House.

The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) owns and preserves many tracts of Scottish countryside, both large and small. Some of these properties are spectacular mountain landscapes - in Glencoe, Kintail or Galloway, say - while others are smaller parcels of land close to, or even in, our great cities. One of these is Greenbank Garden in Glasgow's Southside, near the district of Clarkston.

Now a cherished green space for the city, Greenbank's surroundings were once entirely rural. Greenbank House was built in the 1760s by Robert Allason, a merchant from a local farming dynasty. Records show that the 16-room house was complete by 1772, the walled garden to the south dates from the same time. It's now the feature of the site for visitors but was originally intended purely for fruit trees. A wider estate of farms and woodland enfolded Greenbank deeply in the countryside.

A haven of scent and colour and peace

Allason traded in a number of commodities including iron, sugar and tobacco. Sugar and tobacco, of course, were grown on slave plantations in the Americas and Allason also benefitted directly from the slave trade itself. As such, a visit to Greenbank enables us to reflect on awkward issues from earlier times. Allason, his trade by then suffering from American independence, sold the estate in 1784 and died the following year. The estate actually passed through very few hands over the years and for much of the 19th and 20th centuries it remained in the ownership of the Hamilton family.

They made few changes; unlike many Georgian mansions, Greenbank was never altered to suit Victorian tastes, though the garden became mainly an ornamental one from the 1840s onward.



Greenbank Gardens.

In 1962 the house and garden came into the possession of the Blyth's who sold it to the NTS in 1976, on condition that it be used as a gardening advice resource. By then, much of the wider estate had been sold off. Suburban housing reaches right to the gates, now, though there is still farmland nearby. The NTS estate amounts to the house, the garden and a surrounding belt of woodland.

Greenbank is most valuable as a green oasis and escape for people in the Glasgow area and as a fund of ideas for gardeners.

The garden is the big attraction, a haven of scent and colour and peace with many charming spots where you can sit and relax. Within the garden are a number of themed areas all designed to give domestic gardeners inspiration and practical suggestions. For example, the Biodiversity Area specialises in plants that attract bees and includes plenty of nettles to encourage those butterfly species that lay their eggs on them. The Sensory Area provides scents and sights and sounds, not least among the latter the tinkle of the fountains that play around Foam, Charles Pilkington Jackson's sinuous nymph statue. Jackson also sculpted the mounted statue of Robert the Bruce you'll find in the grounds of another NTS property, The Battle of Bannockburn. Foam first appeared in Bellahouston Park in 1938 at Glasgow's spectacular modernist Empire Exhibition. Thereafter it lived in Jackson's own garden until his death. Nearby is one of



Daffodils in Greenbank Gardens.

Greenbank's most famous sights, the giant topiary owl. Children are said to love it. It doesn't appeal much to me; I find it rather sinister-looking and I suspect it would have terrified me as a child. Go and see what your family makes of it.

A green oasis

Greenbank is a test site for herbaceous plants in trials run by *Which?*, the consumer magazine. Plants have to be fairly tough here; the garden is 150m above sea level and receives almost no direct sunlight for two months in winter. All the same, the garden also holds the National Collection of *Bergenia* plants. These flower in spring and have large leaves that supply its alternative name of 'elephant's ear'.

As well as displays that encourage gardeners to experiment, there are also events for gardeners held at Greenbank.

In spring, other events include special Daffodil Days. Everyone, of course, has some daffodils in the garden and they are a Greenbank speciality. Not only is the garden a searing yellow blaze each March and April, but the range of different daffodils is astonishing. The Trust are quite specific about this point; there are 568 varieties of daffodils growing at Greenbank. I was fortunate enough to visit the garden at daffodil-time in 2021 and I can confirm that it's a stunning sight, then. I can confirm that there are lots of different varieties, but I didn't try counting them. In the 1920s and 1930s a Major Hamilton lived at Greenbank. He was a daffodil enthusiast and the originator of the collection. Apparently, there were even more varieties growing here then.

The woodland belt outside the garden is home to more springtime daffodils and offers a pleasant short walk by a burn. Outside Covid times there is a tearoom and shop at the garden and plants are offered for sale. A small number of rooms in Greenbank House are also sometimes open for visitors. There's a large car park and city bus routes are just a short walk away, reminding you that this refuge is now in the heart of suburbia. Greenbank is most valuable as a green oasis and escape for people in the Glasgow area and as a fund of ideas for gardeners. However, it deserves a few hours of anyone's time and is well worth the small cost of entry.

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY

Scotland's top baby names

ISLA

JACK

Scotland's top baby names announced

Isla overtakes Olivia as the top name for baby girls for the first time, with Olivia taking the second spot and Emily now being the third most popular name, according to the full lists of 2020 baby names published by National Records of Scotland (NRS). Jack remains the most popular boy's name, holding on to the top spot for the 13th consecutive year. Noah is now the second most popular boy's name, having jumped from 7th place last year, and meanwhile James stays in 3rd place. The girl's name Maeve made a massive leap of 130 places from last year, up to 86th place, and Ayda, the second highest climber in the girls' top 100 list, rose 63 places to the 91st spot. The biggest increases in the top 100 boys' list were Roman, which jumped up 68 places to 33rd, and Finley, which rose 48 places to 88th. 2020 saw the highest ever level of different names, a trend that has continued for some time now.

Of the 23,968 girls registered in Scotland last year, there were 4,347 different names, whilst more boys shared the same name. Of the 22,387 boys registered, there were only 3,375 different names. Children nowadays are much less likely to share a name with classmates than their grandparents were.

Julie Ramsay, Vital Events Statistician, said: "We can see from the 2020 names lists that different generations of parents have different preferences for naming their babies. Isla, the most popular name for girls in 2020, was the most popular name with mothers aged 35 and over, but it only ranked 7th with mothers aged under 25. However, Olivia, the most popular girls name of 2019, was ranked 1st by younger mothers and 6th by older mothers. Jack, the most popular name for boys in 2020, was the 2nd most popular name with mothers aged 35 and above, and only 17th with mothers aged under 25. James was the most popular name for boys with older mothers while Noah was ranked 1st for younger mothers. Popular culture often affects how people name their babies. The name Billie rose in popularity by 79% in the past two years with 34 baby girls being given this name in 2020. In the same time, Google searches in the UK for "Billie" and "Billie Eilish" spiked, with the singer having her first number one single in the UK in early 2020. Tommy, a name occurring in the popular TV shows *Peaky Blinders* and *Love Island*, has doubled in popularity in the last two years, with 148 boys being given this name. Our data shows it is more popular with younger mothers than with older mothers."

Scottish Crannog Centre destroyed by fire



A devastating blaze has ripped through the iconic Scottish Crannog Centre on Loch Tay near Kenmore. The hugely popular tourist attraction and education base - a recreated Iron Age house - was consumed by flames in June as locals watched in horror. Fire fighters raced to the living history museum on Loch Tay, Perthshire, just after 11pm on the 11th of June when a huge fire broke out.

Nicholas Grant, Chair of Trustees said "This is a hugely distressing blow to all our friends, visitors, and members of the Trust who have so ably supported us in the past. But we are now even more determined to double-down on all our efforts in the development of the new Crannog Centre already in planning on the north shore of the loch at Dalerb. The appeal is for all those to whom the Crannog has meant so much in the past and whom we know will wish to contribute to the renewal of this unique part of Scottish history. Luckily the museum and its artifacts are still intact and can be moved to Dalerb."

An appeal to raise £50,000 has now been set up to help the charity rebuild. Find out more at: www.crannog.co.uk

Former Cold War Bunker in Edinburgh gets A Listed



A former RAF Caledonian Sector Operations Centre at Barnton Quarry has been awarded Category-A listed building status by Historic Environment Scotland (HES). The site was nominated by The Barnton Quarry Restoration Project, a community group involved in restoring the building as a unique piece of cold war history in the heart of Edinburgh. Category-A listed building status is awarded to buildings of special architectural or historical interest which are outstanding examples of a particular period, style or building type.

The buildings are a well-preserved physical reminder of two significant global periods of conflict that helped define the 20th century (World War II and the Cold War), and in both cases many of their contemporary related structures have been either heavily altered or demolished, further adding to the significance of these surviving examples. The site was highly fortified by design with 10ft (3m) thick concrete walls and roof to provide protection for the occupants against Soviet fighter-bomber attack.

Philp Robertson, Deputy Head of Designations at Historic Environment Scotland (HES) said: "We are delighted to list the Cold War Rotor Radar System bunker in Barnton after the nomination by The Barnton Quarry Restoration Project, the local community group restoring the building. Listing at Category A recognises the special architectural and historic interest of this building. As one of only four purpose-built radar system headquarters of its type in the UK, the Barnton building is a very rare survival from the Cold War."

Eden Project signs agreement for preferred Dundee site



The Eden Project has signed a memorandum of understanding with the owners of its preferred site for Eden Project Dundee and released the first image of how it might look. The agreement between Eden, National Grid and SGN will kick off a period in which the partners will explore the practicalities of converting the former Dundee Gasworks on East Dock Street into the Eden Project's home in Scotland.

The site is set back from the Dundee waterfront on the bank of the River Tay. It has good public transport links, the potential for a new pedestrian connection to the city centre and is less than a mile away from V&A Dundee and the train station.

The existing tall brick walls on the site suggested to the Eden team the potential to create walled gardens, making for a striking contrast to the industrial heritage of the Gasworks. Eden envisages this as a powerful symbol of regeneration, echoing the project's home in Cornwall which is located in a former clay quarry. Building Eden Project Dundee in this location would also provide an eastern anchor for the Dundee Waterfront regeneration project. Eden Project Dundee will draw on the history of the city's Nine Incorporated Trades and is themed around nine new "Guilds" - of Healers, Growers, Navigators, Myth-Makers, Noticers, Alchemists, Celebrators, Menders and "Re-Sourcerors".

David Harland, Eden Project International Chief Executive, said: "This is a really exciting moment for the Eden Project and the City of Dundee. The former Dundee Gasworks site is by far the best location for our Scottish home and we're delighted to have a formal agreement in place to start working on a detailed plan. The feasibility study was like nothing we've ever worked on before, coming as it did during lockdown.

Against all the odds, the hard work and dedication of our partners in Dundee shone through - even when we could only talk to them through a computer screen, their passion for the project, their city and country was palpable. Alongside the generous engagement of local businesses and community groups, this has come together, such that we now have a project with genuine air under its wings."

Eden Project Dundee is one of a sisterhood of UK projects Eden Project International is developing, with plans well advanced for Morecambe (Eden Project North), and others proposed in Derry/Londonderry and Portland. Eden's global portfolio of projects includes developments in China, Australia, New Zealand and Costa Rica.

Like every Eden Project around the world, Eden Project Dundee will be transformational and regenerative with an overarching theme of humanity's connection to the natural world. Eden predicts that the project will create 200 jobs (with an additional 300 indirectly created) and contribute £27m per year to the regional economy.

Plans for restoration work at historic Preston Tower take shape



A number of improvements are planned at the late Medieval towerhouse, which was originally constructed in the 15th century and then repaired and extended upwards in the 17th century. The £900,000 restoration of the buildings in Prestonpans, East Lothian is focused on improving access and encouraging more people to visit in future while contributing to local regeneration. It has been many years since local people and visitors could safely access the tower, which has the potential to contribute significantly to the economy and to build on local pride of place.

The National Trust for Scotland's Chief Executive, Phil Long OBE said: "Preston Tower lies quietly now but has played a part in our national story for many centuries, torched as part of the Rough Wooing by the forces of Henry VIII, again by Oliver Cromwell in 1650, and sketched by Turner on one of several of his expeditions to Scotland in the early 19th century. And so it's exciting that, through the work of this partnership, the Tower is receiving new attention, conserved and cared for and provided with information to help understanding of its remarkable story."

The Preston Tower project is one of three planned heritage led projects in Prestonpans the others being major investment at Prestongrange museum to build a new engine shed and the re-landscaping of War Memorial square.

Prehistoric animal carvings discovered for the first time in Scotland



The first time that ancient deer carvings have been discovered in Scotland.

Prehistoric animal carvings, thought to be between 4,000 and 5,000-years-old, have been discovered for the first time in Scotland hidden inside Dunchraigaig Cairn in Kilmartin Glen, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has announced. The carvings, thought to date to the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, include depictions of two male red deer, which are considered to have been the largest deer species in Scotland during this time. Full-grown antlers can be seen on both animals, while anatomical detail including a short tail can be seen on one.

Three other quadrupeds are also visible, two of which are thought to be juvenile deer. Valuable as sources of meat, hides, and with bones and antlers used for a variety of tools, deer would have been very important to local communities during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. These are the earliest known animal carvings in Scotland, and the first clear examples of deer carvings from the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age in the whole of the UK.

Neolithic and Bronze Age remains

The carvings were discovered by chance by Hamish Fenton, who has a background in archaeology, while visiting Kilmartin Glen. The carvings are located inside Dunchraigaig Cairn on the capstone of an Early Bronze Age burial cist. Kilmartin Glen has one of the most important concentration of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in mainland Scotland, including some of the finest cup and ring markings in the country. This is the first time that animal carvings of this date have been discovered in an area with cup and ring markings in the UK. There are over 3,000 prehistoric carved rocks in Scotland. The vast majority are cup and ring markings which are abstract motifs created by striking the rock surface with a stone tool, such as a large river-washed pebble.

Most commonly, cup and ring markings are composed of a central cup mark surrounded by pecked concentric circles. While many of these mysterious carvings can still be seen in the open landscape today, we know little about how they were used, or what purpose they served.

Dr Tertia Barnett, Principal Investigator for Scotland's Rock Art Project at HES, said: "It was previously thought that prehistoric animal carvings of this date didn't exist in Scotland, although they are known in parts of Europe, so it is very exciting that they have now been discovered here for the first time in the historic Kilmartin Glen. This extremely rare discovery completely changes the assumption that prehistoric rock art in Britain was mainly geometric and non-figurative. While there are a few prehistoric carvings of deer in the UK, the only other ones created in the Early Bronze Age are very schematic. It is remarkable that these carvings in Dunchraigaig Cairn show such great anatomical detail and there is no doubt about which animal species they represent. This also tells us that the local communities were carving animals as well as cup and ring motifs which is in keeping with what we know of other Neolithic and Bronze Age societies, particularly in Scandinavia and Iberia. Until now, we did not know of any area in Britain with both types of carvings, which poses questions about the relationship between them and their significance to the people that created them."

Following Hamish's discovery, experts from Scotland's Rock Art Project examined the carvings to confirm their authenticity. This included utilizing innovative technology in their analysis. A structured light scan was carried out by HES digital documentation experts to create an accurate and detailed 3D model with photographic texture, and various visualisation techniques were then applied to the model in order to reveal more details of the carvings than would have been visible to the naked eye.

Helping to reshape our understanding of the past

Dr Barnett added: "Digital techniques are being used more and more frequently to create precise 3D models of rock art and reveal details that were previously unknown to us, or that we only suspected. This also means that we are able to make rock art in Scotland more accessible than ever before. As part of Scotland's Rock Art Project, we have created over 1,000

3D models of prehistoric rock art which are now available online for people to explore. Digital technology is becoming increasingly important for archaeology, and particularly for rock art, and is a key to unlocking the hidden secrets of our past. This incredible discovery in Dunchraigaig Cairn makes us wonder if other animal carvings previously unknown to the UK are hidden in unexpected places in our ancient landscapes, waiting to be uncovered in the future."

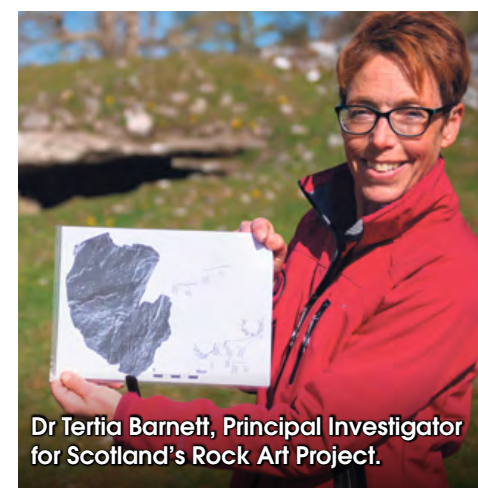
The Cairn, which is a Property in Care of HES, is 30m wide and contained three stone burial chambers, or cists. The third cist, where the carvings are located, was dug directly into the ground, lined with drystone cobbled walls and capped with an unusually large stone over 3.5m long. The remains of up to 10 individuals, some cremated, were also discovered here when the site was initially excavated in the 1860s, as well as artefacts including a whetstone, a greenstone axe and a flint knife.

On discovering the carvings, Hamish Fenton said: "I was passing Dunchraigaig Cairn at dusk when I noticed the burial chamber in the side of the cairn and decided to slide inside with my torch. As I shone the torch around, I noticed a pattern on the underside of the roof slab which didn't appear to be natural markings in the rock. As I shone the light around

further, I could see that I was looking at a deer stag upside down, and as I continued looking around, more animals appeared on the rock. This was a completely amazing and unexpected find and, to me, discoveries like this are the real treasure of archaeology, helping to reshape our understanding of the past."

The cairn is currently closed while HES carries out further evaluation and puts measures in place to protect the extremely rare, and delicate, ancient carvings. Visitors are encouraged to explore the carvings via 3D models which have been created.

You can explore 3D models of the cairn and its carvings at: <https://sketchfab.com/HistoricEnvironmentScotland>



Dr Tertia Barnett, Principal Investigator for Scotland's Rock Art Project.



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).

Happy birthday tae us! *The Scottish Banner* is the world's largest international Scottish newspaper and began publishing in Canada in 1976 and is now available across Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. This tartan (SRT reference: 11526) includes the colours of the countries in which we serve. The black represents the ink used throughout the publication. The red, yellow and black are also our mast head colours and used in various branding materials for *the Scottish Banner*. The four squares found within the larger yellow square design represents each a decade we have published, commemorating 40 years of publication when registered in 2016. The colours were chosen and combined to portray a classic tartan with a modern and bold design.

Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

CLAN BELL

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

Website: www.ClanBell.org
Online membership: <https://clanbell.org/membership.html>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell>
Email: President@clanbell.org
Clan Bell North America
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@gmail.com 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.

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

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

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

Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

www.clangalbraith.org

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

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

Clan Donald Australia

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

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

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

Edmonstone Clan Society

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

Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland
Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balgihidder,
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
PO Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876
kmac1@optonline.net
Peter Lawrie, Secretary
6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL, Scotland

Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

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

President: Alistair Cameron
Secretary: Terry Cameron
secretaryclancameronnsw@gmail.com
www.clan-cameron.org.au

Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald
Ph: 0412 090990
Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.clandonaldqld.org
ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.

There is no joy without Clan Donald

Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

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

Clan Gregor Society Australasia

All MacGregors and Septs of our clan are invited to join the Clan Gregor Society Est 1822
If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative:
Frank McGregor
PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002
Email: clangregoraustalia@gmail.com
Web: www.clangregor.com
"Royal is our Race"

THE CLAN CAMPBELL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

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

Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

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

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

Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

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

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

American Clan Gregor Society

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

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

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

CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-

Clan Chief Peter Carruthers of Holmains (Honorary Society President)

Bi-Annual Journal, Weekly Blog, Clan Merchandise, DNA/Genealogy project etc.

www.clancarrutherssociety.org
clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA
President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald
Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com
Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE
Hon Chief: Mr Thomas R. Macdonald
Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com
A hereditary clan society formed by the children of Norman Hume Macdonald and Johan McKenzie Macdonald (nee Munro) who departed Scotland in 1854.

FORBES

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CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG

Clan Hamilton Society

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

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

Clan Hay

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

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

www.clanhay.com

Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

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

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

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

Coul	MacCoul	MacDoual
Conacher	MacConacher	
Coyle	MacCoyle	
Dole	MacDole	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	MacDougal
Dougal	MacDougal	MacDougal
Dougle	MacDougle	MacDougal
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDugle
Dowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
MacDowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
Lutlich	MacLutlich	MacCullach
MacCulloch	MacCulloch	MacCullagh
MacClintock	MacClintock	MacClintock
MacHale	MacHale	MacHoul
MacHowell	MacHowan	McCowan
MacKichan	M'Gowan	MacNameil
MacLucas	MacLucash	MacLuke

Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc

Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.
Treasurer
383 Ash Brook Lane
Sunnyvale, TX
75182-3250
Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail
of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

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

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 our Chief, Alistair of Fordell

Contact Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
0439 330 012

www.clanhendersonsociety.com

INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC.

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

Lugh Slay! We welcome all descendants of Clan MacFarlane from around the world!

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

International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.
PO Box 358 Glenora, CA 91740 USA
info@macfarlane.org

MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

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

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

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

Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

Clan Macpherson Association

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope
highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org
Membership Chair: Cynthia Hope Henderson
membership@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE MACLEODS
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FOR INFORMATION:
WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

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

The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

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

Clan 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

Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide

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

New Second Edition!

A History of the Clan Macnachtan
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Clan MacRae Society of North America
Granted Arms in 2008

We invite MacRaes of all spelling variations and their descendants to join our Clan MacRae Society. Learn your Scottish MacRae history and family lineage!

www.macrae.org

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

CLAN 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.

Contact: **Malcolm W. Leslie D.Ua.**
117/303 Spring Street.
Kearney's Spring, Qld, 4350, Australia.
Phone: +61 418 986 876
malncol@icr.com.au www.clanleslie.org

MacLaren
Clan Labhran

Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

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

Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

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

Clan Maitland Society

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

North America: Rosemary Maitland Thom
rthomnvpdrdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Amanda Maitland clanmaitland@yahoo.com.au
6/1 Hinemoa Ave. Normanhurst, NSW, 2076

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

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

McAlpin/e
and variant spellings

Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!

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

Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President
President@clanmaclarenna.org

CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

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

Clan Munro Association, U.S.A

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

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

Scottish Associations and Societies

**OLIPHANT CLAN
& FAMILY ASSOCIATION
of North America**



The only home
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Olifant - Olifent
and all descended

ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com
www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

For further info contact
President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174
Secretary : Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263
E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com
www.clansinclairaustralia.com



THE AMERICAN-SCOTTISH
FOUNDATION, INC.

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



The American-Scottish Foundation

**The Scottish Australian
Heritage Council**



Membership is welcomed
from all Australians of Scottish descent.

For information please contact
The Hon Secretary SAHC, Susan Cooke
Ph: 0411097724
E: info@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Find us on Facebook

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



Clan Pollock

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

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



The Stewart Society

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

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



**Comunn Gàidhlig
Astràilia**

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

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

**Scottish Gaelic
Language Classes:**



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during school terms
420-424 William Street, West Melbourne.

Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277
Email: scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria
Founded in 1905
https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com



**Clan Ross
in Australia**

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

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

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



**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



**Caledonian Society
of WA Inc.**

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions
in Perth, Western Australia

For further details contact John: 0427 990 754
Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com
www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com



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The Society of St. Andrew
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The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC,
www.standrewsociety.com

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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 of North
America Inc.**

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

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



**Hunter Valley
Scots Club Inc**

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture
in Newcastle, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas.

Members and interested people are welcome to
attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night,
St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.

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



**Scots of Victoria
Coordinating Group**

Supporting the Scottish
Community in Victoria

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

E-mail: resource_centre@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
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www.theclanross.com
clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com
Contact L. Q. Ross
105 S. Graham Ave, Orlando, FL 32803



**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@clanyoungaustalia.com.au
www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustalia/

**The Robert Burns Club
of Melbourne Inc.**



> Promotes interest in the works, life and
milieu of the Scottish Poet Robert Burns
> Celebrates Scottish Culture
> Conducts Annual Burn Supper, Poetry
Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

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

Victorian Scottish Union Inc
Established 1905

**Umbrella group representing the interest
of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria.**
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Balmoral Highland Dancing Society	Geelong Scottish Dance
Brunswick Scottish Society	Glenbrae Celtic Dancers
Clan Donald Victoria	Kilmore Celtic Festival
Clan Grant	Maryborough Highland Society
Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc	Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society
Clan Mackenzie of Australia	Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
Clan Maclean Australia	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Clan Sinclair Association	Robert Burns Club of Camperdown
Warrumbool & District Caledonian Society	Warrumbool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society

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



**Clan Scott
Australia Group**

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

Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs:
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E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com



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**www.scottishbanner.com/events/
submit-an-event**

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Rustic smoky bacon quiche

Ingredients:

For the pastry:

150g/5oz. unsalted butter (cut into cubes)
250g/9oz. plain flour
1 free-range egg
pinch of salt

For the filling:

80g/3oz. smoked bacon, cut into matchsticks
2 garlic cloves
1 white onion, finely chopped
20g/1oz. unsalted butter
60g/2oz. strong Scottish cheddar, grated
250ml/9fl oz. single cream
2 free-range eggs
2 free-range egg yolks

Method:

For the pastry, preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. In a large bowl, rub the butter and flour together to a breadcrumb texture using your fingers. Add the egg and salt to bring the pastry together. Wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge for 10 minutes. Remove the pastry from the fridge, and roll out to fit a deep 18cm/7in loose-bottomed tart tin. Place the pastry-lined tin in the fridge for 10 minutes to firm up. Place a piece of greaseproof paper into the tart shell and fill with baking beans or dried pulses. Bake for 10 -15 minutes and then remove greaseproof and beans. Leave in oven for a further 10 minutes so that the pastry is dry and crisp. For the filling, in a frying pan fry the bacon, garlic and onion together in the butter until softened and golden-brown. Drain off any excess fat.

Mix the cream and eggs together in a bowl until well combined. Layer the cheese with the bacon and onion mixture in the cooked pastry case and pour over the egg mixture. Top with some more cheese and trim the crust if needed. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until the filling is just set in the middle. Serve in slices while still hot.

Haggis soup

Ingredients:

1 tbsp. oil
½ leek, diced
½ potato, peeled and diced

¼ swede, peeled and diced
¾ pint chicken stock
salt and freshly ground black pepper
85g-110g/3-4 oz. haggis

Method

Heat the oil in a pan and sauté the leek, potato and swede for a few minutes, to soften. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Pour in the chicken stock and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat, add the haggis and simmer for 10-12 minutes. Remove from the heat and spoon into a soup bowl to serve.

Fish pie

Ingredients:

For the fish:

300g/10½oz. cod loin, skin removed, cut into chunks (also can use Haddock, Pollack, Black Cod, Stripped Bass, Hake, Mahi Mahi, Grouper)
200g/7oz. salmon steak, preferably organic, cut into chunks
200g/7oz. raw king prawns, heads and shell removed
1 lemon, juice, zest of ½ lemon
salt and freshly ground black pepper
3 tbsp. chopped fresh chives

For the sauce:

50g/2oz. butter
1 onion, chopped
½ lemon, zest only
3 tbsp. plain flour
175ml/6fl oz. milk
125ml/4fl oz. double cream
175ml/6fl oz. dry white wine
2 tbsp. crème fraîche
12 boiled quails' eggs, peeled, halved
100g/3½oz. asparagus spears, woody ends trimmed, cut into 5cm/2in lengths
75g/3oz podded fresh peas

For the pastry:

500g/1lb 1oz. ready-made puff pastry
1 egg, beaten

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. For the fish, place the fish and prawns into a bowl, add the lemon juice and zest and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Sprinkle over the chives, stir well and set aside to marinate in the fridge for at least 30 minutes. Meanwhile, for

the sauce, melt the butter in a frying pan and fry the onion for 1-2 minutes, or until softened. Stir in the lemon zest and flour and mix well to form a roux. Cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring constantly, then slowly stir in the milk, cream and white wine and cook for a further 2-3 minutes, or until the sauce has thickened. Stir in the crème fraîche and season to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Pour the sauce over the fish and stir gently until well combined. Spoon half of the fish into a large ovenproof dish, add the quails' eggs, asparagus and peas, then top with the remaining fish mixture. For the pastry, roll the puff pastry out thinly on a floured work surface until large enough to cover the pie dish. Brush a little beaten egg around the rim of the pie dish. Place the pastry on top of the dish, crimp the edges with a fork and trim off any excess pastry. (Use the excess pastry to cut out fish shapes or letters.) Brush the pastry with beaten egg. Stick the fish shapes and letters onto the pie with a little more beaten egg. Cut a steam hole in the top of the pie and cook for 10 minutes. Reduce the oven to 170C/325F/Gas 3 and bake for a further 20 minutes, or until the pastry is risen and golden-brown and the pie filling is bubbling.

Cherry tomato and spinach bread

Ingredients:

150g/5½oz. self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting
2 tsp baking powder
85g/3oz. butter, cubed
salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 free-range egg, beaten
2 tbsp. milk
2 handfuls spinach leaves, torn
6 cherry tomatoes
2 tbsp. olive oil

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Place the flour, baking powder, butter and salt and freshly ground black pepper into a food processor and pulse until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the beaten egg and milk to bind the mixture, adding more flour or milk as necessary, then

pulse again to form a dough. Add the torn spinach leaves to the food processor and pulse until roughly combined. Knead the dough on a floured surface, then shape into a round and transfer onto a baking sheet. Using your fingertips, make six indentations, large enough to hold the cherry tomatoes in the top of the dough. Press the cherry tomatoes into the indentations, drizzle over the olive oil and bake in the oven for 10-12 minutes, or until golden-brown and cooked through. Serve warm, in slices, with butter for spreading.

Macerated berries with mascarpone sorbet

Ingredients

4 handfuls of strawberries
4 handfuls of raspberries
2 handfuls of tayberries
1 small punnet of redcurrants
1 small punnet of white currants
a good dousing of Cointreau
270g/9½oz. caster sugar
350ml/12fl oz. cold water
2 tbsp. fresh orange juice
250g/9oz. mascarpone cheese
3 sprigs of mint
dusting of icing sugar

Method:

Dissolve the caster sugar and water together, bring to the boil until slightly reduced and cool. Add the orange juice. Whisk the syrup into the mascarpone. Sieve and churn in an ice cream machine. If making by hand put into a freezer-proof box and stir/whisk every 30mins for about 1½ hours. Pick through all the berries, hull the strawberries and red and white currants. Place the berries in a large bowl and douse with Cointreau. Leave covered with cling film to macerate for 1-1½ hours. To serve, simply ladle out the berries into four chilled bowls. Scoop the sorbet and place into the centre of the bowls. Garnish with a sprig of mint and icing sugar. Serve immediately.

Glasgow punch



Ingredients:

1 large wedge fresh lime
50ml/2fl oz. aged rum
1 lemon, juiced and zested, mixed with 2 tsp. caster sugar
4 small chunks fresh pineapple
1 pinch fresh nutmeg

Method:

Place all the ingredients in a cocktail shaker with a handful of ice and shake hard.

Strain the cocktail into a small wine cup and garnish with a pinch of nutmeg and serve.

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

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

Due to the current situation in the state of Victoria we have made the tough decision to postpone the planned Camperdown Robert Burns Scottish Festival in July 2-4. We are proud to present 'Burns Bites' - a series of events running from July-September in place of our usual weekend festival. 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

Tartan Day Ceilidh 10, Exeter, SA

A Tartan Day afternoon ceilidh hosted by the Port Adelaide Caledonian Society, 189 Semaphore Rd, commencing at 2.00 pm entry fee \$20.00. Info & bookings: Jenny Niven 0400 896 131 or jenny.niven@hotmail.com

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

The Maitland Tattoo 2021 31, Ashtonfield, NSW

Presented by the City of Maitland Pipes and Drums, join us for the excitement and uplifting joy of The Maitland Tattoo at Hunter Valley Grammar School, 42 Norfolk St. Info: Diane 0408 664 796 or <https://www.maitlandpipeband.org.au/>

2021 Winter 'Family' Ceilidh 31, Perth, WA

2021 St Andrew Society of WA Winter 'Family' Ceilidh at the Irish Club of Western Australia 61 Townshend Rd, Subiaco. Info: www.saintandrew.org.au

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

30th Birthday Kirking of the Tartans 15, Toowoomba, QLD

Presented by The Society of St Andrew of Scotland (QLD) Ltd Darling Downs Branch at St HJohn's on Geddes, Geddes St. Tartans, Pipes & Drums and Dancing Pumps will be blessed. Info: 0412 987 771 or rjmay@bigpond.net.au

Scots in the Bush 19 – 22, Boondooma, QLD

A celebration of the contribution of the Scottish people in opening up much of Australia at Boondooma Homestead, with great Celtic music. Camping on site. Info: 07 4168 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

Scottish Masonic Charitable Foundation of Western Australia Annual Gala Ball 28, Perth, WA

The event will be held at the Duxton Hotel commencing at 6.30pm. Tickets are \$100 per person for a 3 course meal and 4 hours classic drink package. Tables of 10. Music by Gallus Ceilidh Band and performance by Perth Metro Pipe Band. Info/tickets: Peta 0433 707 716 or www.smcfwa.com.au

SEPTEMBER 2021

TASCAL 10th Anniversary Weekend 3 – 5, Hobart, TAS

Celebrate the Tascal Scottish Country Dancers (Hobart) Inc. 50th Anniversary with dancing events, socials and a Ball. Info: Denise Walter: derekwalter@bigpond.com or 03 6224 1105.

Irish & Celtic Music Festival 17 – 19, Yass, NSW

Join the craic in Yass for music, poetry, dance, Celtic markets and good craic in unique venues, many serving an excellent variety of food and drink. Info: <https://irishcelticmusicfestival.com/>

Clans on the Coast 18, Nelson Bay, NSW

Postponed for 2021 and back September, 2022. Info: www.clansonthecoast.com.au

Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh 25, 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

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!

Whisky Tasting 7, Auckland

Travis Field will take us on a little tasting tour of Scottish Single Malt Regions. Each of the whiskies are from the Fantail & Turtle Single Malt list - learn about the regions, taste profiles, distilleries & dip your toes in the world of single malts, where each bottle tells a story of a place and a time. At Fantail & Turtle, Goodside, Smales Farm, 72 Taharoto Road, Takapuna, Auckland. Info: www.eventfinda.co.nz/venue/fantail-turtle-auckland

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

Blenheim Pipe Band Ceilidh 2021 17, Renwick

Grab your dancing shoes and come join us for a Ceilidh at Renwick Community Memorial Hall, High St. Featuring Dunwoffin Ceilidh Band, a Haggis Ceremony, Highland Dancers, Scottish Country Dancers and more More info and tickets: blenheimpipeband@gmail.com

VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group- The Pictish puzzle, Aberlemno and beyond – Alison Morris' home territory. 28, Wellington

The Picts are becoming better documented. Fortunately, 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

SEPTEMBER 2021

Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club Night 10, Auckland

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

The Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh 11, 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 Deans Family – Canterbury's legend of heartache, tenacity and triumph

September 28

Wellington – New Zealand Wellington , New Zealand

Fifth generation member of the family, Nicky Hobbs will 'show' us beautiful Riccarton House (acquired by Christchurch Council in 1947) and share the story of these amazing Scottish pioneers, including Jane's ten-year wait in Scotland to marry John until he got established in this new country, then, as a widow made her family prosper 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



Urquhart Castle. Photo: VisitScotland.

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

- 1) The ruins of which castle overlook Loch Ness?
- 2) Which city lies farthest north - Glasgow or Edinburgh?
- 3) When was the original Tay Bridge opened? a) 1858, b) 1868 or c) 1878?
- 4) Montrose stands at the mouth of which river?
- 5) What does the old Scots word "mellison" mean?
- 6) What type of hill in Scotland is described as a "rig"?

- 7) The captain of a team in which sport is known as the "skip"?
- 8) Which castle is the home of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders?
- 9) What does Ailsa Craig mean in Gaelic?
- 10) The Paps are a feature of which Scottish island?

Answers

- 1) Urquhart Castle.
- 2) Edinburgh.
- 3) c) 1878.
- 4) The South Esk.
- 5) A curse.
- 6) A ridge.
- 7) Curling.
- 8) Stirling Castle.
- 9) Fairy Rock.
- 10) Jura.

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On the cliffs of Canna

Thousands of seabirds nest on this Hebridean island every summer. Find out about the vital work of The National Trust for Scotland to monitor them and protect their rocky habitats.



Standing on the cliffs of the island of Canna, watching hundreds of seabirds swirl and freewheel through the skies, is an assault on the senses. “It’s an incredible thing to watch”, agrees Jeff Waddell, the National Trust for Scotland’s Senior Natural Heritage Advisor. “The birds are nesting on these beautiful, inaccessible cliffs, with waves crashing in at the bottom. It feels so wild and you’re just surrounded by nature, in every sense.”

Site of Special Scientific Interest

And then there are the birds themselves: the puffin with its iconic multi coloured bill and the beautiful snowy-feathered kittiwake. Here, too, you’ll find guillemots, shearwaters and more. Together with neighbouring Sanday, this island – gifted by John Lorne Campbell and his wife Margaret Fay Shaw to the Trust in 1981 – is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest and has Special Protection Area status. These craggy coastlines support some 11,000 seabirds, who build their nests and raise their young on the cliffs, sea caves and offshore stacks. Their numbers have declined hugely in the last two decades – it’s estimated that there were 21,000 birds here in the late 1990s, for instance. Without the efforts of the Trust, however, things could have been a lot worse.

In fact, some of the seabird populations here are in relatively fine fettle. Since a programme to eradicate rats from the island was successfully completed in 2008 (an operation that cost half a million pounds and saw more than 4,200 traps laid), the colony of shags has doubled from its low point in 2011 to 444 pairs in 2019. But, as is happening across the globe, many seabird populations are facing difficult times as the climate and

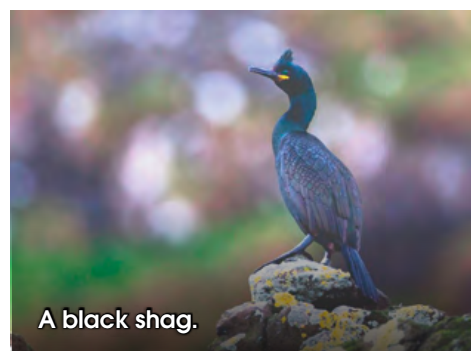
biodiversity crisis bites. “Most of our seabirds are declining. The vast majority are in serious trouble due to the effects of climate change”, says Jeff.

As the oceans warm, the sandeels that many seabirds feed on move north to colder waters. This forces the birds to change to different prey, which is often less ideal for them. They also often have to use more energy foraging, reducing their body mass and breeding condition. Chicks are less well fed and fewer make it to fledging.

“Seabirds are like a barometer for the health of our seas. Some of the seabird species are potentially threatened with local extinction and, if warming continues, extinction on a wider scale”, Jeff explains. That means monitoring seabird numbers is more crucial than ever.

50 years of counting seabirds

Bob Swann, a volunteer who leads a surveying team from the Highland Ringing Group, agrees. Bob first got involved in 1971 and has been on hand to record the highs and lows of the bird populations here ever since. The work is complex and demands experience, as he explains: “We check all the sites on the island every year and literally count how many there are. Some, such as the puffins, are quite tricky, and for those we have study plots where we can just count the number in a particular area. We also have plots where we try to see how many chicks the birds are producing in a year. And we ring a lot of birds. Initially, this was just to work out where they were going when they left Canna, but increasingly it’s being used to try to work out their survival rates, how long they’re living for. Last year we caught a guillemot that was 41 years old – a UK record.



We collect information about what the birds are eating and increasingly we’re attaching high-tech loggers such as geolocators.” From this data the team are able to understand some more surprising trends. Kittiwakes have seen massive declines in Shetland and Orkney but are doing well on Canna, with the highest numbers on record counted in 2019.

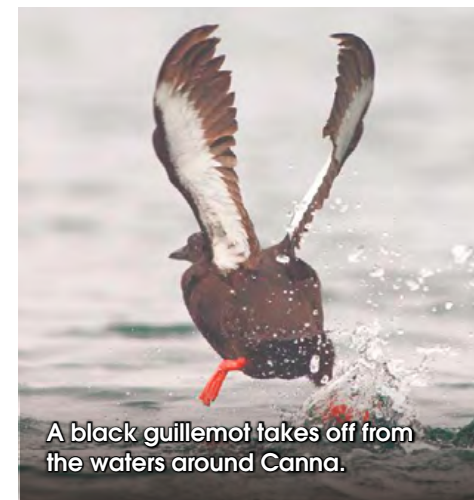
“I think in the North Sea they are very much hooked on sandeels”, notes Bob. “But in the west coast they’ll take a wider range of fish – young sprats or whiting, say. Here they switch and as a result they do better. We’ve been taking samples from them every year, so we know what they’re feeding on. We have also reached record puffin numbers, but that is almost certainly down to getting rid of the rats. Before, the puffins were very much confined to the offshore stacks where the rats couldn’t get at them. But now the puffin numbers on the north side of the island are just going up and up – they have probably doubled.”

He admits that he fears for the future of many of these birds though, remembering years of sharp decline between 2005 and 2010, when a series of mild winters led to warming seas and low fish stocks. Bob said: “I’ll never forget going down the north side on one occasion during that period and thinking: ‘There’s something really strange here.’ I couldn’t work out what it was until I got to the lip of the cliff and I realised it was silent. When I looked over, there were no birds – they had all failed. It was very emotional. Canna is a key monitoring site but it means if something is bad on Canna, the whole of the west coast of Scotland and beyond is affected. When something like that happens, you worry that it’s going to be the end of these great seabird concentrations.”

Numbers are up but haven’t fully recovered. “I don’t think we’ll ever get back to the peak numbers we once had. But it would be good if things could just be stable at the level we’ve reached, so these birds will be around for future generations to marvel at.”, says Bob.

Looking after Canna

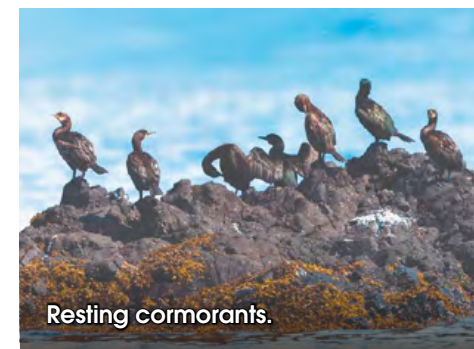
Committed to doing all they can to ensure this happens are the Trust’s senior rangers, Michael Butler and Gillian Gibson.



They believe Canna is a ‘magical’ place, not just to see seabirds but also to experience its rich biodiversity: you’ll find everything here from frog orchids and butterflies to seals, minke whales and eagles, both golden and white-tailed. For Michael, a visit to the puffin stack is the real highlight of any visit to the island. He said: “They do a murmuration like starlings do, which is incredible to see. There are hundreds of puffins swirling around the stack.” Below the puffins on a basalt shelf are fulmars, razorbills, guillemots and shags, with kittiwakes also on nearby cliffs. Michael continued: “It’s amazing to see so much life on one rock”, he adds. “Visitors watch open-mouthed.”

In normal times, helping people to connect with that magic is a key part of the ranger’s work. The aim is to help visitors to understand the importance of conserving our coasts by falling in love with these seabirds. “We came here because we really wanted to be part of connecting visitors to the wildlife. Canna truly is a hidden gem. Considering it’s so small, it has an awful lot to give. It shows there is always something bigger than us humans – that we are just a part of it. And that rather than fighting nature, we should be working with it, for everyone’s sake” Michael says.

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



Amateur Archaeologists shine a light on 10,000 years of Dumfries and Galloway's history

Photos: National Trust for Scotland.



Claire Williamson of Rathmell Archaeology working with volunteers at Threave in 2019.

Participants in a community archaeology project have made discoveries that tell a story of people living on what is now the Threave Estate near Castle Douglas, 10,000 years ago in the Mesolithic period, a time when hunter-gatherers roamed and Scotland's flora and fauna were flourishing again following the last Ice Age. The Galloway Glens community archaeology project Can You Dig It carried out a ten-day dig on the National Trust for Scotland's Threave Garden and Estate in the summer of 2019. They unearthed many finds at the time, including a lead shot from the 16th to 18th century and some flints from the late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

Mesolithic period

However, since then, some of the carbonised material recovered has been sent away for radiocarbon dating at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC), and the dates they have revealed are fascinating. It has long been known that Little Wood Hill on the National Trust for Scotland's Threave Estate is the location of a significant archaeological site, with the remains of a D-shaped enclosure on top of the hill first recognised on aerial photographs taken in the late 1940s.

It wasn't until work carried out under Derek Alexander, Head of Archaeology for the National Trust for Scotland, on a Thistle Camp in 2014 that the enclosure was revealed to date back to the Iron Age. The Can You Dig It excavation sought to build on this work, while at the same time transferring key technical skills to volunteers. A sample recovered by the volunteers from the end of the ditch, where it marked the eastern side of an entranceway, has now been dated to between AD 75 to 214 – firmly within the Iron Age.

This confirms the date recovered by the Thistle Camp, which has been recalibrated using the most recent program (IntCal20) to between 41 BC and AD 125.

What our Iron Age ancestors would have used the enclosure for is still a mystery – it may have been a small farmstead, a livestock enclosure or a defensive position within the landscape. Whatever the site's purpose, its expansive views over the flatlands of the Threave Estate, and its links to the outer world guaranteed by the passing river, makes the site of Little Wood Hill an excellent choice for any Iron Age settler. However, the Can You Dig It volunteers also unearthed a tiny burnt hazelnut shell. This has been dated to between 8,547 and 8,312 BC – evidence of human activity on the Threave Estate from the Mesolithic period.

Derek Alexander, Head of Archaeology for the National Trust for Scotland, said: "Over the years we have gradually built up an understanding of past human activity at Threave throughout prehistory and history. This radiocarbon date for Mesolithic activity is really exciting, as it is the first evidence we have from this time and is the earliest date recovered at Threave so far. It's great that the Thistle Camp and Can You Dig It volunteers have been able to be part of this process of delivery too."

Loch Lomond Stadial

Discovered on prehistoric sites across the country, hazelnuts have long been established as a favourite snack of the Mesolithic people. The people of Galloway at that time would have lived nomadically, moving between water and food sources as they became available.

Traces of human habitation within Scotland go back to around 12,000 BC, within the Upper Palaeolithic, but a period known as the 'Loch Lomond Stadial' saw a dramatic climatic downturn in Scotland around 10,900 BC. This abrupt return to severe cold conditions, which caused the regrowth of glaciers and likely caused a complete depopulation of Scotland during this time. By around 9,700 BC, however, the glaciers and ice-sheets had receded and human life began to return to Scotland. It is possible that the people who burnt this nutshell at Threave could have been amongst the first to re-populate the country.

Claire Williamson of Rathmell Archaeology, who is delivering Can You Dig It for the Galloway Glens said: "The results from these two dates continue to add to the surprises that have already come from this little-known site. Having the Iron Age date of the enclosure confirmed was what we

were hoping for, but to also have this small indication of Mesolithic life on the estate is amazing. This could not have been possible without the hard work of the volunteers, who's enthusiasm for the archaeology never faltered, even in high winds! It's great to see how, even at this stage, the results of their hard work continue to add to our archaeological knowledge of the area."

Can You Dig It is managed by Helen Keron, the Galloway Glens Education & Community Engagement Officer. Helen added: "Even as a non-archaeologist, the importance of these finds is clear to me. They show the unbroken line from our modern society right back to the very beginnings of human residence in Galloway.

Even the tiniest traces give us an insight into how life was for our ancestors, and that's a big part of what Can You Dig It is all about."

Dr Samuel Gallacher, Operations Manager for the National Trust for Scotland's Threave Garden and Estate, said: "We love to surprise our many visitors with unexpected discoveries and stories at Threave and finding out about this new evidence of our very ancient history will no doubt fascinate many. We always want to inspire people with the thought of what is still out there to be discovered, and with such great partnerships as we have with the Galloway Glens Scheme's Can You Dig It initiative, who knows what we'll unearth next!"



Threave Garden and Estate.



- The Scott Monument was built to commemorate Sir Walter Scott, one of Scotland's greatest novelists.
- It was designed by self-taught architect, George Meikle Kemp. Sadly, Kemp died in March 1844 before completion as he fell into the Union Canal and drowned, his grave faces the Monument.
- The Foundation stone was laid on the 15th August 1840 (the anniversary of Scott's birthday) and was officially opened in 1846.
- The monument is constructed in Binny sandstone from West Lothian and has four levels.
- There are 64 statues on the monument, mostly characters from Scott's novels, with some figures from Scottish history.
- There are 287 steps to the top where there are incredible views of Edinburgh. The walk up is quite narrow and not for the faint hearted.
- The Scott Monument is one of the tallest monuments to a writer in the world. The monument in Edinburgh stands exactly 61.11 meters (200 feet 6 inches) tall and is only second to the revolutionary writer José Martí Memorial in Havana, Cuba.
- The gothic Scott Monument, is sometimes referred to by locals as the 'gothic rocket'.



Can You Dig It volunteers enjoying their work at Threave in 2019.