



Volume 45 - Number 02

*Scottish Banner

Publisher Scottish Banner Pty Ltd.

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

Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806

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

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The Banner Says...

The lure of a Scottish castle



by Sean Cairney

prior to press I cannot help but notice we have some great castle themed content. I can remember on some of my earliest visits to Scotland being so incredibly fascinated and drawn to castles. The impressive structures were so remote to what I grew up around and were seeped in history, folklore and, as I learned, brutality.

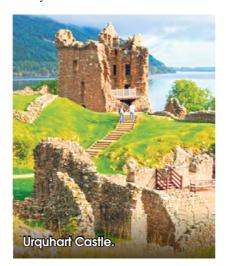
If these walls could talk

The saying "If these walls could talk" certainly comes to mind when you think of the times in which castles across Scotland have stood, and what thick walls they have...Throughout history castles have been used as fortresses and homes for powerful families. Some served as prisons or as military strongholds against foreign invaders, and those who were much closer to home.

My first visit to Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness may have been a bit too focused on seeing 'the monster' on the loch, but later visits I realised just how important this medieval stronghold was and the iconic ruins we see today still have a story to tell. In fact, every Scottish castle is full of stories, intrigue and spine-tingling hair-raising history. It is estimated that at one time Scotland had over 3,000 castles dotted across its landscape, that is close to one for every 100 square miles.

Scotland's oldest castle dates back to the 1100s, Castle Sween takes its name from Suibhne (Sven) 'the Red', a chieftain of Irish descent and ancestor of the MacSweens.

For those really wanting their castle fix look no further than Aberdeenshire's Castle Trail. Aberdeenshire is known as 'Scotland's Castle Country'. With an incredible count of over 300 castles, stately mansions and ruins scattered



across the landscape, there are more castles per acre here than anywhere else in the UK. Amongst the famed castles are Balmoral Castle which was purchased by Prince Albert in 1852 as a gift for Queen Victoria, it has been the Scottish home of the Royal Family ever since.

The last castle in Scotland I visited was also the most visited paid for attraction in the country. Edinburgh Castle majestically sits on top of an extinct volcano and overlooks Scotland's capital. Edinburgh Castle is one of the oldest fortified places in Europe and as you enter the castle walls the motto above the main entrance 'Nemo Me Impune Lacesssit' is Latin for 'No-one attacks me with impunity', or 'no one can harm me unpunished' sets the tone for what this castle was made for. It was the Latin motto of the Stuart dynasty and appeared on some Scottish coins of the 16th century and more recently on one-pound coins. Edinburgh Castle joins a long list of castles across the country that also have reputed ghostly residents. With a long and bloody history there are spooky tales here as well as Stirling, Glamis, Cawdor and Fyvie castles to name just a few.

In this issue

Keeping with our castle theme this month we look at Scotland's Castle Corridor, the area of coastal Argyll comprising the Sound of Mull, Firth of Lorn, and Loch Linnhe. The area boasts some magnificent castles to see, and David C Weinczok illustrates the historical interconnectivity of waterways and how those waterways connected Scotland to an international network.

Castles were once fortifications to keep people out, now they welcome people in to learn about the incredible story of Scotland, and how lucky are we to have them.

It was recently Holyrood Week for the Royal Family in Scotland, also known as Royal Week. Led by Her Majesty The Queen, she and other members of the family visited a variety of locations across Scotland. The Queen officially reopened the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' Museum during a visit to Stirling Castle, it was during this visit The Queen was also presented with the keys to Stirling Castle. The 95-year-old monarch was also accompanied by her grandson Prince William to the AG Barr factory in Cumbernauld to officially open a new processing facility at the factory making the famed drink Irn-Bru. The Earl of Strathearn, as Prince William is known is Scotland, commented that he could "taste the girders", a reference to the company's slogan 'Made in Scotland from Girders', as he sampled some of the drink.

Scottish heavy events feature at Highland Games across the globe. The cheer of the crowd often pinpoints on the field where spectators are witnessing true feats of strength, whether it is lifting, throwing or pulling. With origins dating back 1,000 years when King Malcolm III got the local men to run up a hill in Braemar looking for the fastest man to deliver his messages. Today both men and women compete at a variety of events as they impress crowds with their strength, ability and sporting prowess. I will always be grateful to the group of athletes who once pushed out my van bogged in at a Highland Games, like it was a toy car.

Scotland's inspirational castles There is something romantic about visiting a Scottish castle, so much so they are in fact today popular wedding venues. Steeped in history and often set in incredible environments castles are a big pull for international visitors. Shows such as Outlander have also added to the popularity of planning a trip to Scotland as fans include visits to places such as Doune Castle, which was used as Castle Leoch, the seat of Clan Mackenzie. The 'Outlander effect', has also seen a huge boost in visitor numbers to Aberdour Castle, Blackness Castle and Midhope Castle to name just a few.

Craigievar Castle in Aberdeenshire is said to be the inspiration for Disney's Cinderella Castle. This iconic pink tower remains amongst the best preserved and most loved in Scotland and really does look like it is out of a fairytale. Sitting on the coast of Cruden Bay is Slains Castle, which was originally built in 1597 by the Earl of Erroll. Bram Stoker visited and it is believed the castle is the inspiration for the setting of the tale in *Count Dracula*.

Castles were once fortifications to keep people out, now they welcome people in to learn about the incredible story of Scotland, and how lucky are we to have them.

Do you have a favourite Scottish castle? 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: Hafthór Júlíus Björnsson at the Scottish Highland Gathering in California. Photo: Ellen Finch via Wikimedia Commons.

Royal Mail marks the 70th anniversary of Beano's Dennis with special stamps



oyal Mail have announced the launch of a new set of stamps celebrating 70 years of the British comic character Dennis. Six stamps look back at Dennis through the ages; from his first ever black-and-white comic strip in 1951, to important events in his life, including meeting his baby sister, Bea, adopting Gnasher, and even finding out that his dad is a grown-up version of Dennis from the 1980s. These stamps are based on original strips from Beano comics of the time.

A further four stamps, exclusively illustrated by the current Dennis artist, Nigel Parkinson, show the culmination of an exclusive comic strip. The strip, written especially for Royal Mail is featured in the Presentation Pack. The story focuses on Dennis's birthday celebrations and includes a brief 'history of Menaces'.

The light-hearted episodes end with a birthday surprise, with the final comic strip frame revealing the four new stamps.

Dennis spirit

Natasha Ayivor, Royal Mail said: "For seven decades Dennis has been entertaining children by getting into all manner of mischief and mayhem. Generations have experienced the excitement and anticipation of reading about Dennis's latest prank. Royal Mail is delighted to be honouring Dennis and Gnasher with a set of stamps as the ultimate birthday present."

Royal Mail collaborated with Beano Studios on selecting all the stamps and associated imagery featured in the issue. Mike Stirling, Editorial Director of Beano Studios said: "Dennis has stamped his personality across first class laughs and mischief for generations of children. We believe everyone has a little bit of the Dennis spirit within them, so can't wait for fans big and small to take delivery of this amazing piece of Dennis history. This incredible stamp collection really pushes the envelope of philately flattery for our hero."

The stamps and range of collectible products are available from: www.royalmail.com/dennisandgnasher.





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

- 1) Ben Nevis is Scotland's highest mountain, what is the second highest?
- 2) What does skeerie mean in Old Scots?
- 3) How many warships of the German fleet were scuttled at Scapa Flow in 1919? a) 113 b) 21 or c) 51?
- 4) What in Scotland is a coo's lick?
- 5) What gives malt whisky from Islay its characteristic flavour?
- 6) What were the three "Js" connected with the city of Dundee?
- 7) What and where in Scotland is the Grey Mare's Tail?

- 8) What famous liqueur is said to commemorate the 1745 rebellion?
- 9) Name the range of mountains that separate Scotland from England?
- 10) Name Glasgow's two main railway stations?

Answers:

- 1) Ben Macdui.
- 2) Easily scared or frightened, timid or shy.
- 4) A tuft of hair growing at an awkward angle from the head.
- 6) Jute, Jam and Journalism.
- 7) It's a 200-foot waterfall near Moffat in Dumfriesshire.
- 8) Drambuie.
- 9) The Cheviots.
- 10) Queen Street Station and Central Station.



SCOT POURRI

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

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

Congratulations on 45 years

Firstly, let me congratulate you on 45 years of publication. Reading the July 2021 edition of the Scottish Banner (Vol 45 Number 1) gave me an opportunity to reflect on my own association with the Banner over the years. My family emigrated from Dundee to Australia in 1967. I turned 11 years old a month after our arrival in Sydney. My parents, my father in particular, were proud Scots but had chosen to test the waters elsewhere in an effort to improve their chances in life. My parents were always striving to maintain their Scottishness and meet with like-minded souls and immerse themselves in Scottish culture and contact.

My father first discovered a copy of *the Scottish Banner* in a local newsagent sometime in 1980. It was not unusual in the following years for a copy to be found in the house each month. During my visits home I took time to read it and this gave my father the opportunity to continue his efforts to inculcate me with knowledge of all things Scottish (to my benefit I may add!). As my own children grew up, I became an occasional buyer of the paper and the paper was an invaluable resource for teaching them about their Scottish heritage, culture and history.

It was thanks to the Scottish Banner's Calling the Clans pages that I made contact with the Clan MacLaren Society of Australia (CMSA). During a family visit to Scotland in the mid-1990s we had collected some stones from the area around the Boar's Rock, the clan gathering place at Balquhidder in Stirlingshire. In the following years I had discussions with my father about having some of the stones placed in the Clan Wall at the Australian Standing Stones at Glen Innes. He suggested the Banner as a likely source of contact information and so my association with the CMSA began. I contacted them with a view to having a representative of the CMSA to preside over the unveiling of a plaque and embedded stone at the 2002 Celtic Festival. The CMSA executive suggested that I could officiate if I accepted a position of Northern NSW representative on joining the society. I believe the



CMSA gained several new members that year and I became a more frequent buyer of *the Scottish Banner*.

Over the years the Banner has proved an invaluable resource for me in keeping up with news from 'home' and the Australian Scottish community and for accessing (often hard to find elsewhere) books, music and Scottish 'hingmies' either from the Banner shop or their business advertisers. Now as the Deputy Chair of the CMSA my association with the Scottish Banner has never been closer. I have had the pleasure of meeting Sean on several occasions (at various Highland Gatherings) and liaised with him regarding publicity for and introductions to the Chief of Clan Labhran, Donald MacLaren of MacLaren and Achleskine during his 2019 visit to Australia. (see SB Vol 44 #1 July 2020 interview). Sean has been most helpful and obliging in regard to our own (CMSA) needs as a cultural organisation.

For several years now I have a digital subscription to the paper and my partner, Lorna (also an expat Scot), still buys a hard copy (she likes to read the paper version) from the local newsagent each month. We wouldn't be without it. My children and grandchildren are more than familiar with *the Scottish Banner* and its place in our own family history. *Keep up the good work*.

Regards, Bill Law

Rutherford, NSW

Australia

Deputy Chair, Clan MacLaren Society of Australia Life Member, Clan MacLaren Society (Scotland)

Ed note: Thank you Bill for such a lovely note and we are so happy to know our publication has been part of so many generations of your family. Thank you for your support.

Happy birthday Scottish Banner
How marvellous to see the cover of your
July issue. 45 years is something to be
immensely proud and a great deal of love
and passion has clearly gone into this fine
publication. My parents were long time
subscribers and they simply loved it, they
subscribed when we did not have the
internet and it really was a lifeline to so
many, something I am not sure many can
even relate to today. Sadly both my mother
and father are now gone but every time
I get a copy of the Banner it is like a little
bit of them also comes and says hello.
I love my Scottish roots and even after all

these years *the Scottish Banner* continues to deliver each issue filled with such interesting content and the Scottish community is blessed to have *the Banner*. I have no doubt the pandemic has been very hard on the publication, as it has with so many papers and magazines, and thank all those involved for giving us a wee bit of Scotland every month that cannot be found anywhere else.

Jan McRae Toronto, Ontario

Canada

Ed note: Thank you Jan for your note and for being a loyal long time reader.

Stirred up memories



Well once again the Banner has stirred up memories for me. I don't always get around to making contact with you, but the May and June issues took me back in time. I have attached some photos for your distillery collection. As I was born in Inverlochy I lived around the corner from the Ben Nevis Distillery and visited regularly with my mother (actually she visited a lady who lived in the cottage attached to the site in the '50s). In 1989 the distillery was purchased by Nikka a large Japanese Company. The other distillery is Dallas Dhu in Forres (now a Museum) just up the road from my cousin's house.

Inverlochy got a mention again in the June Issue with your story of Inverlochy Castle and the destruction of the Castle by Robert the Bruce. Inverlochy Castle and Fort William Castle both featured in the *Outlander* series. When you look at the thickness of the Castle walls you have to wonder what could have penetrated these structures.

Keep well and hopefully we will meet again soon when the Highland Games return. Best wishes from,

David and Trudi Mackenzie

The spirit of Scotland



Like yourself, every time I set foot on Scottish soil I feel so at home. I can't really put it into words as to exactly how I feel, but I really do. I must have been Scottish in a former life or something!

I have so many wonderful memories of visiting Scotland, including from the very first time in 2004 on a whirlwind trip of the UK to the most recent back in October, 2019. I was also planning on coming back - this time to the Speyside area. My favourite city in the whole world is Edinburgh - its buildings, its history, but more importantly its people are so friendly and welcoming. I could easily fit in. It also helps that my favourite pub in the whole world is also here - The Guildford Arms. One of my other favourite places is Islay - a stunningly beautiful piece of paradise where I could easily live too (my favourite single malt is also made here - Laphroaig). Scotland has it all - stunningly beautiful scenery, history, whisky and much more!

I enclose a photo from my recent trip which I think encompass my love of Scotland. *Rachel Hopkins*

Ed note: Thanks Rachel for your note and we hope you manage to get back to Scotland for another visit soon.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



Kilchurn Castle



The Kilted Photographer *Scotland*

Cove



Some really beautiful beaches, coves, harbours and coastline on the SE coast of Scotland. Another beautiful, warm day with clear waters at Cove.

Gary Chittick

Balachulish



St.John's Balachulish lay me beneath the bluebells and the soaring mountains above forever in my beloved ALBA. *Ronald Stokes*

Islay



The coast of Islay.

Tommy Hamilton Photography

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

Scotland

Dumfries and Galloway celebrated at the Royal Highland Showcase



umfries and Galloway is celebrating the success of its drive to highlight all that's best about Scotland's south west at the Royal Highland Showcase. Each year the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS) invites a different region to act as "host", allowing it to celebrate the best of its rural economy. This year it was the turn of Dumfries and Galloway which prides itself on its thriving creative community.

The Royal Highland Showcase in partnership with Royal Bank of Scotland, ran during June, and replaced the annual Royal Highland Show which could not take place due to COVID-19 restrictions. While many of the classes were still the same, and featured the best of Scottish

agriculture and rural life, it all took place behind closed doors, but was livestreamed for free worldwide.

The spirit of the Galloway hills

Dumfries and Galloway took full advantage of these opportunities with a series of arts and cultural initiatives. The artworks projects were led by Cathy Agnew on behalf of Fiona Armstrong, honorary president of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS), and her President's Initiative.

The bull was made by willow artist and sculptor Trevor Leat, whose figures are familiar from Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations, the Wickerman music festivals and a variety of National Trust for Scotland properties. Trevor, who is



based in a small village workshop in Auchencairn, said: "This was a wonderful project to take part in. What I wanted to capture was the character of these truly iconic cattle – the strength, muscle, power and energy of the bull – but also something of the spirit of the Galloway hills where they are bred and which are their homes."

Fiona Armstrong, honorary RHASS president and *Scottish Banner* columnist, said: "We're delighted that we've been able to play our part in helping to put Dumfries and Galloway further on the map. There might not have been the usual crowds at Ingliston, but the virtual Royal Highland Showcase sent the show worldwide. It went global - and we were part of that. Trevor Leat's spectacular giant Beltie was the star - but so many others -

our farmers, the Stewartry Young Farmers, the Dumfries Veterans' Garden, Dumfries College, our graphic designers and filmmakers - even our Beltie cake makers! They've all played their part in showing what our region has to offer. Food, farming, coast, countryside, tourism and culture. In a rural area like ours, they're all linked. Thanks to the Royal Highland Showcase, we've been able to tell the world that we are Dumfries and Galloway and we are Growing Together."

For further information about The Royal Highland Show see: www.royalhighlandshow.org









SCOTSPEAK

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

"With well over 80,000 pottery sherds found at the Ness of Brodgar, it can be all too easy to lose sight of the people behind them. This single sherd has brought two back into the spotlight and given us an unparalleled glimpse into life at the Ness complex 5,000 years ago. It also raises many questions. The creation of this pot involved an adolescent boydid he fashion the vessel or was he just involved in the manufacturing process, perhaps overseen by a more experienced potter? Were all children engaged in the creation of pottery from an early age or was it a task that involved a select few? Were different types of vessel created by different people within the household or community? The analysis has much wider implications in the study of Neolithic ceramics, but we will need many more fingerprint examples before any firm conclusions can be drawn."

Nick Card, the director of the Ness of Brodgar excavation, commented as analysis of Neolithic fingerprints from the Ness of Brodgar in Orkney has revealed details of two individuals who left their mark on a clay pot 5,000 years ago. It is thought each print came from young men ranging in age from 13 to 22.



"We are an ambitious institution with a bold vision for the future. This is a ground-breaking model to expand access to educational opportunities and broaden

the range of potential students who would not ordinarily be able to attend a vet school. It will also help solve existing skills shortages across Scotland. We see a key role of the new vet school in sustaining primary agriculture and hence food and drink productivity, with the welfare of both livestock and companion animals at its heart. The school will produce champions for best-in-class animal welfare in support of these industries, which will help improve productivity, effectiveness, and sustainability. Building on the excellent new facilities we have already announced for Aberdeen and Inverness, there is a lot of work still to be done, but we are ready to seize the opportunity."

Professor Wayne Powell, Principal and Chief Executive of Scotland's Rural College (SRC), said as they announced plans to create Scotland's first new vet school in 150 years, in Aberdeen. SRUC, which is the biggest provider of veterinary nursing, livestock husbandry and animal care training in Scotland, says it will offer a core veterinary programme to address existing shortages in veterinary provision, in areas such as rural veterinary practice, food production, food safety and animal and public health.

"One of the great things about my job is the sheer variety of pieces you come across and the wealth of stories behind them. We had a really interesting range of items in the auction but anything to do with Sir Sean Connery always captures the public imagination."

Cathy Marsden, rare manuscripts and books specialist at auction house Lyon and Turnbull, said on the recent sale of suits worn by Scots actor Sir Sean Connery. The two suits up for auction sold for sold for almost £7,000 in an online auction.



"This anniversary is a significant milestone for Rosslyn Chapel Trust and a chance both to reflect on its achievements during this time and to record our thanks to staff, past and present, our expert team of specialists and all who have contributed to its work. As a charity, the Trust relies on income from visitors and so I am also very grateful to everyone who has visited the Chapel in the past 25 years. I hope that this wonderful new window will attract many more to visit and enjoy this unique building in the months and years to come."

The Countess of Rosslyn said as a new stained-glass window has been unveiled in Rosslyn Chapel to mark the 25th anniversary of Rosslyn Chapel Trust. The window is the first to be installed in 50 years. Rosslyn Chapel is located outside of Edinburgh and was founded in 1446 by Sir William St Clair.

"It is wonderful to announce a date for our first general release, as we know our fans across the world have been keen to enjoy a sip of whisky history. The response to our inaugural members' release was hugely positive and we are delighted to be able to now share the Commemoratively labelled Lindores and Lindores MCDXCIV. The thinking behind this is that we want

all our whisky to be accessible and enjoyed rather than only collected. If people want to enjoy our product they can do so even if they are not fortunate enough to obtain a commemoratively labelled bottle."

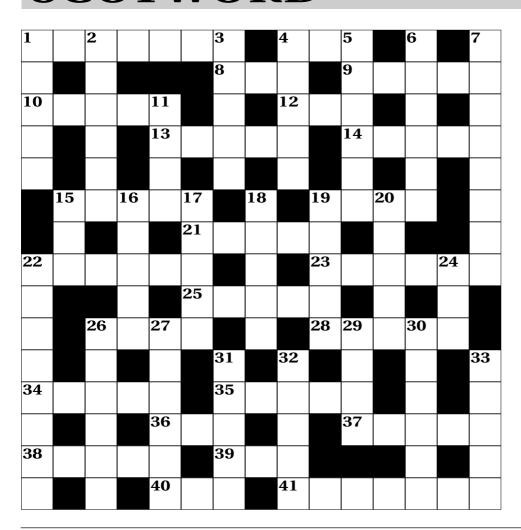
Drew McKenzie Smith, founder and MD of Lindores Abbey Distillery said as the first Scotch Whisky from Lindores Abbey Distillery, the 'birthplace of Scotch whisky', was made available for purchase by the general public in July. Some 527 years after distillation was first recorded at Lindores Abbey, Fife, in 1494.



"The western extent of the Ness catchment has seen drier than usual conditions in recent months, though the river levels Sepa monitor in the catchment have not been notably low. It's likely that the dry weather is a significant contributing factor to low water levels in Loch Ness. Our data shows that the water level is at its lowest point since the current loch level monitoring station has been in operation from 2016. Lower levels had, however, been recorded at the previous station on a number of occasions, in 1998, 1999, 2000

A spokesman for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) said as water levels in Loch Ness have dropped to their lowest in five years. Loch Ness is Scotland's largest freshwater loch by volume and is 20 miles long (32km) and almost two miles wide (3km) at its widest point.

SCOTWORI



Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 22!

CLUES ACROSS:

- 1) Fishing town on Banff Bay (7).
- 4) To make a Scot do something (3).
- 8) Blade! (3)
- 9) Town near Blairgowrie (5).
- 10) The mountain ash (5).
- 12) Time period (3).
- 13) A Scot off the straight (5).
- 14) The deil (5).
- 15) Strath near Bridge of Cally (5).
- 19) Scots cowshed (4).
- 21) Winter sportsman (5).
- 22) Village on River Lossie (6). 23) Town on Cromarty Firth (6).
- 25) Miss Laurie (5)
- 26) Cautious (4).
- 28) A Highlander's dagger (5).
- 34) Praise lavishly (5).
- 35) Power units (5).
- 36) The first lady (3).
- 37) Male voice (5).
- 38) Hooked claw (5). 39) Scots view with them! (3).
- 40) On it you're alone (3).
- 41) Site of 1645 victory by Montrose (7).

CLUES DOWN:

- 1) Firth stretching from Inverness (5).
- 2) Village near Nairn (6).
- 3) Shetland island (5).
- 4) Colourful regiment (5).
- 5) Island east of Skye (6).
- 6) An evergreen shrub (6).
- 7) Pipes for beginners (8).
- 11) Joiner's fastener (4).
- 15) Away to a Scot (3).
- 16) Mouth of a river (5)
- 17) A composition (5).
- 18) Tell a Scotsman no! (5).
- 19) Scots hillsides (5).
- 20) A series of hills (5).
- 22) Town near Edinburgh (8).
- 24) Transgression (3).
- 26) Interwoven building twigs (6).
- 27) Change one's mind (6).
- 29) A large Scots box (4).
- 30) Place of business (6).
- 31) Peebles' river (5).
- 32) Scots street gutter (5).
- 33) City on River Tay (5).

Sir Walter Scott Steamship sends out an urgent SOS call





The future of this national historic maritime treasure is under threat.

he charitable trust that looks after the 121-year-old Sir Walter Scott Steamship has launched an urgent appeal to preserve the iconic steamship and get her back sailing on Loch Katrine. The SOS appeal to 'Save our Steamship' seeks to raise £500,000 to restore the historic steamer, which requires a new boiler and other significant repairs. These funds will have to be secured by the end of this year to allow work to begin in time to allow her to resume sailing during summer 2022 and to avoid further deterioration. She has not sailed since the annual inspection in January 2020 which revealed hairline cracks in the boiler which led to it being condemned.

Launched away back in 1900, Sir Walter Scott Steamship is named after the novelist and poet, born exactly 250 years ago, whose Lady of the Lake poem, published in 1810 put Loch Katrine and the Trossachs on the map, resulting in it becoming the 'Birthplace of Scottish Tourism'. Crowds have continued to flock to Loch Katrine to sail on the Steamship and enjoy this special part of Scotland in the heart of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park which is also the source of Glasgow's main water supply.

National maritime heritage treasure James Fraser, Trustee and CEO of the Steamship Trust, said: "Our efforts to restore the Steamship have been severely hampered by the impact of Covid 19 lockdowns which meant we have not been able to generate enough trading income to repair and restore the steamship to full sailing. Sadly, as a result of the prolonged cessation of sailings the Steamship has rapidly deteriorated and this is a situation we are anxious to reverse quickly as there is a real danger of us losing the boat permanently. Many generations of visitors have had enormous pleasure sailing on the historic Sir Water Scott Steamship. We have to act now to make sure that current and future generations will be able to enjoy cruises on this national maritime heritage treasure."

The Steamship plays an important role in supporting the fragile Trossachs rural economy and is a significant local employer, with many additional indirect jobs dependent on the Steamship being in operation. As well as providing much needed transport links on the loch for sightseers, cyclists and walkers, the vessel can carry 220 passengers and is accessible for all levels of mobility and sensory needs. When restored the Steamship will also be a leading example of an ecofriendly water transport visitor experience in Scotland with low carbon emissions due to a ground-breaking hydrogen-based fuel mix that it is planned to use.

Financial support for help to save this important national maritime heritage asset which brings so much pleasure to so many people can be made on site at Loch Katrine or via the SOS appeal website: www.saveoursteamship.com

Sir Walter Scott Steamship-Did you know?

- Sir Walter Scott was launched in 1900. She was Loch Katrine's fourth steamer. The first being Gypsy, introduced in 1843, providing competition to 'Water Witch', an eight-oared wooden galley. Gypsy was to sink under mysterious circumstances just a week later, allegedly by the ferrymen who thought the steamer's arrival threatened their jobs. Rob Roy and then Rob Roy II steamers followed until 1900, when Sir Walter Scott was introduced.
- Sir Walter Scott was commissioned to replace the 'Rob Roy II', which was reaching its end life. She was built at Denny's Yard in Dumbarton on the River Clyde. After completing her trials on the Clyde, she was dismantled for transportation to Loch Katrine.
- Nearly half of the £4,269 purchase price was the delivery charge. This is understandable considering that she was transported in sections by barge up the River Leven and Loch Lomond to Inversnaid. From there, teams of horses lugged the steamship up the steep hills to Stronachlachar; there she was reconstructed and launched for the first time into Loch Katrine in 1900.
- In 1900 the newly launched Sir Walter Scott shared sailings in her first year with Rob Roy II. The first master of the steamship was Captain John McKinnon.
- The original steam plant remains intact, with a pump that draws feedwater from the loch for the boiler. In 2007 the operation and ownership of the steamship moved to an independent charitable trust.

- In 2008 she moved from coal power to biodiesel and was soon joined by another cruiser 'The Lady of the Lake, named after Sir Walter Scott's famous poem and this year by 'Rob Roy III'.
- 2020 was set to be a high-profile year for the Sir Walter Scott Steamship, marking the 120th year of sailing on Loch Katrine. Sadly, the double blow of Covid-19 restrictions and boiler issues meant that not only was she unable to sail in her celebration year, but her long-term future is under serious threat.
- The Steamship has kept with the times, adapting over the years to use more environmentally friendly fuels. Green biofuel will be used when the Steamship is back sailing, which will substantially reduce carbon emissions.
- The Steamship sails through Great Trossachs Forest, the second largest National Nature Reserve in Britain, with a new forest of 2.5 million native trees.
- In 1859 23.5 miles of new aqueducts and tunnels opened linking Loch Katrine and Glasgow. Opened by Queen Victoria, this feat of Victorian engineering provided clean water to the city of Glasgow for the first time. Its arrival transformed the health of a vast population and is still in operation today. Up to 120 million gallons per day can be extracted from the loch via the gravity operated network of tunnels and aqueducts. The famous Tennant's lager is brewed with water from the loch.





30TH ANNIVERSARY

SEP 4-5 2021

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Enjoy an evening of wine, scotch, beer and food tasting with local and international wines, whiskies and brews from some of the world's most celebrated producers. The Celtic lounge atmosphere features experts available to share their knowledge as you taste your way from booth to booth. Appetizers served up by some of Canmore's finest



Canmore Highland Games

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The Canmore Ceilidh

Arcana Kings came together from members of the Johnny McCuaig Band. This 5-piece band has branded their music "Stadium Rock" because of their high energy show and their ability to mesmerize audiences with their big sound. While using the bagpipes they take a page from AC/DC and combine it with influences of Foo Fighters and Danko Jones.

canmorehighlandgames.ca

VIT honored WWII veterans in only major Tattoo held worldwide in 2021





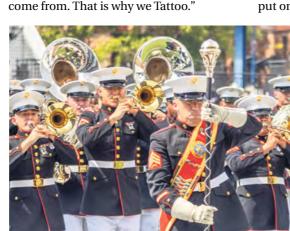
he Virginia International Tattoo (VIT) became the only major Tattoo scheduled to take place in the world in 2021 when the Edinburgh Tattoo announced that it was not holding its annual event. With this year's theme—A Salute to the Greatest Generation—the VIT had WWII veterans present and honored at every performance, as well as WWII aircraft from the Military Aviation Museum for flyovers each night. Aircraft included the most famous fighter plane from the war, the British Supermarine "Spitfire," which performed brilliantly during the Battle of Britain from July to October 1940 while matched in countless dogfights with German Messerschmitts.

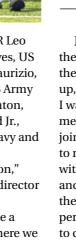
A Salute to the Greatest Generation
This year's VIT A Salute to the Greatest
Generation honored WWII veterans. Even
as we celebrated all WWII veterans, it was
a special treat to welcome 11 veterans
who attended in person. Honorees in
attendance were: 1LT Helen Kowalczyk
Blassingham, US Army Nurse Corps;
LCDR Jack Cassell, US Navy; SSG Robert

DeHaven, US Army Air Corps; LCDR Leo Dormon, US Navy; COL Walter Graves, US Army; Chief Quartermaster Felix Maurizio, US Navy; MG Charles McGinnis, US Army Corps of Engineers; SGT Harry Quinton, US Army Air Corps; LTC Butler Redd Jr., US Army; BM Julius Shoulars, US Navy and SGT Andrew Valero, US Army.

"We honored the Greatest Generation," said J. Scott Jackson, producer and director of the Virginia International Tattoo.

"We refused to give up, and we made a statement about who we are and where we







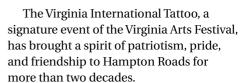


The world's only Tattoo in 2021 A few other notable highlights from this year's VIT include:

- Our final performance on Sunday, June 6, included a flyover from two WWII era planes from the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach, a Curtiss P-40 Warhawk and a Grumman FM-2 Wildcat.
- Before the pandemic, there were 12 major Tattoo events held worldwide annually.
- The 2021 VIT was the largest event held in Norfolk since March, 2020.

The Virginia
International Tattoo
became the only major
Tattoo scheduled
to take place in the
world in 2021.

J. Scott Jackson added: "The days after the Virginia International Tattoo ends are the hardest days of the year. When I wake up, I won't be tying my tie twice because I want to look squared away when I greet members of the Greatest Generation joining us for the show. I won't be heading to rehearsals and performances to work with the greatest Tattoo performers and team in the world, and I won't feel the electricity that accompanies all live performance. But every day, when it's time to cheer myself up, I will remember: We put on the world's only Tattoo in 2021!"



The Virginia International Tattoo will return to its original location in the SCOPE Arena, April 28 - May 1, 2022. Next year will be the Tattoo's Silver 25th Anniversary Celebration. Tickets are on sale now at https://secure.vafest.org/1362 or by phone through the Virginia Arts Festival Ticket Office at 757-282-2822.







TENEMENT TALES - By: Brian Diamond

The Sash and the Mick

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



n a previous story I recounted the legend of Mr. Charlie Tuck's betting shop in Springburn, a place frequented by an assortment of wonderful characters. So as my street smarts developed, I quickly got to know many of the characters that frequented Mr Tucks place of business, some were funny, others clearly in a world of their own, and some so far out of touch that you gave them a wide berth. The story below is delivered with absolutely no malice and hopefully will never offend anyone, I have changed the slanderous insults to protect the innocent (LOL) and left the reader to apply their own interpretation. I sincerely hope that the silliness of the story brings a smile to the reader.

One of the happiest characters that I came across in the bookmakers was a gentleman named Duncan F. Very few people ever knew his real name, he lived on Gourlay St., had a love affair with the taste of malt, and was quite the happiest of characters when inebriated. When he was in this happy state, he took on a whole new persona of the 'Singing Orangeman'. Duncan was always immaculately turned out, a suit, collar & tie and a real hat, not a bunnet. He always carried an impeccable light-coloured raincoat which was always folded and draped in a very nonchalant style over his arm. Concealed in the deep pockets of this raincoat were two half bottles of his favourite beverage, and throughout the course of the day, Duncan would surreptitiously uncap a bottle, and sip a sly swig of the nectar all discretely hidden by his raincoat, or so he thought.

In his sober state, Duncan was a very well read, civil, and well-spoken individual. With each passing drink that he took, Duncan acquired the persona and accent of a frightfully, frightfully Olde Etonian English gentleman. The transformation was awesome to watch and of course was raucously greeted and exceptionally well received by the good patrons of Springburn's better class society of Cowlairs Rd.

As a boy I used to deliver Duncan's newspapers, he never seemed to work, and growing up I suspected that he came

from a military background. He had that bearing and he always had money which I suspected came from an Army allowance or pension. At least twice a week after making his bets and returning home when his transformation was complete, Duncan would start to make his way home, staggering with his disjointed back and forth steps on the apparently moving sidewalk pavement beneath his feet. As he made his way home, he would suddenly break into song, and in a loud tenor voice he would sing The Sash, apparently it was the only song that he knew, and he sang it with great gusto.

Duncan's speciality quirk was this, he would start the first line in the loudest voice, "Oh The Sash"...stagger ten or twelve paces...then mutter "my father wore for me"...stagger another ten paces or twelve paces and forget where he was and start the whole process "Oh The Sash"... loudly all over again. In my whole life as a kid he never did get past the first line, it was hilarious to watch with the words being delivered in his highbrow acquired accent. As a direct consequence of this behaviour, and over a period of time, the good people of Springburn completely forgot his Christian name and forever more Duncan was simply referred to as "The Sash", Glasgow people are a riot in giving out nick names.

All of this is leading up to the tragically comic event that could have caused poor Duncan's demise. It was a Saturday evening and I am running up and down the tenement stairs delivering the Saturday Pink Times. As I exit a close here is The Sash staggering up Gourlay Street singing his one and only one line aria song with great gusto and phoney accent. As fate would have it on that eventful night, on the other side of the street approaching Duncan is a likely candidate for trouble. Staggering along, is an equally inebriated Celtic supporter wearing a very long green & white wool scarf around his neck.

The Mick

Upon seeing the offending colours, The Sash stops his wonderful three-word rendition, and screams across the road the infamous three word Roman epithet guaranteed to raise the dander of his opponent.

His would be adversary comes back with an equally balanced three word royalty based epithet and this refers to his horse as well, a quick witty one liner from the offended party. How dare you insult my hero you bog Irish thick Mick retorts Duncan in his best upper class acquired British accent. You would not say that if I had my hatchet in my hand, and so, as Julius Caesar would say at the Coliseum in Rome all those years ago, let the games begin.

The Sash invites The Mick to come across the road and wait for him at his close as he will have to stagger/crawl/ climb up three flights of stairs to retrieve his weapon of choice, his trusty hatchet. The Mick, accepts the challenge and crosses the road where upon The Sash makes a passable attempt to strangle him with his long offending green and white hooped woollen scarf. As the struggle escalates, it is clear that the scarf is definitely a hindrance, it is progressively stretching longer and longer as the dance progresses without either of them ever laying a hand on the other.

The Sash had got hold of both ends of the scarf, and was swinging The Mick around Gourlay Street like an Argentinian bolo maestro as the scarf was still wrapped around The Mick's neck. They were of course being loudly cheered on by their respective constituents from both sides, and a few bets were made on who would be the ultimate winner.

After a truly exhausting struggle and much rolling around on the ground accompanied by a stream of colourful language surrounding both of their genetic backgrounds and dubious parenthood, they both sit down on the stairs at the front close to recuperate.

Not a blow had been struck yet, and after regaining his strength The Sash makes his way upstairs to retrieve his trusty hatchet telling The Mick to wait here for him, which he of course does. After what seemed like an eternity, The Sash emerges from the close brandishing a rather small ball point hammer. "Now my fine young man," he says to The Mick, I have my hatchet, "would you kindly repeat the insult that you shouted at me moments ago". "Aye" says The Mick and he glibly repeats the offending three-word insult about royalty and his horse. Having delivered the insult, The Mick, then reaches out, and takes poor Duncan's own hammer from his hand and delivers a resounding bump on Duncan's head.

Other than a nasty bruised lump, no serious damage was done and a few saner adults quickly stepped in and stopped the fiasco before any escalation happened, and after that everyone lived happily ever after, or at least until the next altercation. To this day, the very mention of the word sash in any context causes me to flash back to my Springburn roots.



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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



South of Scotland planning City of Culture 2025 bid

South of Scotland Enterprise is bringing together key stakeholders to develop a bid for the region to become the 2025 UK City of Culture. The competition, delivered by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in collaboration with the devolved administrations, recognises the central role culture and creativity has in the recovery of our communities and provides a fantastic opportunity to shine a light on what the region has to offer. For the first time, the competition is open to areas and places joining together to apply for the title to be awarded to their local area.

As a result, South of Scotland Enterprise is engaging with Borderlands, Team South of Scotland partners and key influencers on an ambitious bid, which would aim to celebrate the region's heritage, culture and creativity, help recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and ultimately bring investment into the region which includes Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders.

South of Scotland Enterprise's Chair, Professor Russel Griggs OBE said: "There has been a transformational impact on communities which have previously been named UK City of Culture, and the change of criteria to allow areas and places to apply opens up an exciting opportunity for the region. The richness of our creative and cultural sector makes us who we are and something we rightly want to celebrate. Inspired by our natural landscape, the sector tells a powerful story about our region. This competition provides us an opportunity to show what we have to offer to the rest of the world. I look forward to discussing further the exciting possibilities of such a bid with partners in the coming weeks."

The winner will be chosen in May, 2022 and take over from current UK City of Culture, Coventry, in 2025.

'First time in over a century' sea eagles return to Loch Lomond



White-tailed eagles have appeared on Loch Lomond for the first time in over a hundred years. Nature bodies are working together to protect the native birds and minimise disturbance in the hope that they might stay and breed in future years. A pair of white-tailed eagles, or sea eagles as they're commonly known, were first spotted at Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve in early March this year. They have since been observed 'nest prospecting' – searching for suitable nest sites – suggesting they intend to stay.

It is believed that this is the first time sea eagles have settled at Loch Lomond since persecution and habitat changes led to their extinction in Britain in the early 20th century, with the last known bird reported in Shetland in 1918. Their reintroduction to Scotland, first in the 1970s and again in the 90s and early 2000s, has been a conservation success. There is now estimated to be over 150 breeding pairs.

Simon Jones, Director of Environment & Visitor Services at Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, said: "White Tailed Eagles are the UK's largest bird of prey and to have them here in the National Park is something we are excited about. We all have a responsibility to help keep these special birds safe and try to minimise disturbance to them. We are engaging with a range of stakeholders who may be impacted by the birds' arrival in the area, including loch users, visitors and local farmers. Protecting the natural environment and the wildlife here in the National Park is a priority for the Park Authority and we have plenty of experience of doing this, including our work to protect nesting ospreys, for whom we have put similar protections in place."

Mary Queen of Scots rosery beads stolen



Police are seeking thieves who broke into Arundel Castle in West Sussex and stole gold and silver items worth in excess of £1million. Castle staff were alerted of a break in after a burglar alarm had sounded. Police were on the scene within minutes.

Various items have been stolen of great historical significance. These include the Gold Rosary Beads carried by Mary Queen of Scots at her execution in 1587, several coronation cups given by the Sovereign to the Earl Marshal of the day, and other gold and silver treasures. The rosary is of little intrinsic value as metal, but as piece of the Howard family history and the nation's heritage it is irreplaceable.

The items were taken by force from a display cabinet along with other items. A spokesman for Arundel Castle Trustees said; "The stolen items have significant monetary value, but as unique artefacts of the Duke of Norfolk's collection have immeasurably greater and priceless historical importance. We therefore urge anyone with information to come forward to the police to assist them in returning these treasures back where they belong."

New lease of life for historic Tron Kirk



Edinburgh Councillors have given the green light to Scottish Historic Buildings Trust (SHBT) to take forward the restoration of the much-loved Tron Kirk on the Royal Mile, giving the building a new and meaningful lease of life for residents and visitors to enjoy for generations to come. The decision by the Finance and Resources Committee has secured the long-term future management and maintenance of this historic building. Working in partnership with the Council, SHBT will develop a feasibility study to set out a future vision for the Tron Kirk and when fully funded the charity will sign a 125 year lease for the building. In the short term the charity will fulfil a management role for the Tron Kirk liaising with all existing and new tenants to make sure that the building is open for business as soon as possible.

Chair of Scottish Historic Building Trust Maggie Wright said: "We welcome the committee's decision to partner with Scottish Historic Buildings Trust to secure the future of Tron Kirk which has had a significant role for the people of Edinburgh since the mid-17th century. It is a huge vote of trust in the expertise of our director and staff. We share the City of Edinburgh Council's vision to breathe new life into this very special building and use our experience to create a legacy for generations to come."

£1million project to bring Walter Scott's poetry to new audiences



A million-pound project will enable the publication of a complete edition of Walter Scott's poetry and help to make it accessible to new audiences. Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been awarded funding to revisit the original manuscripts of the author, who transformed Scottish literary culture, and create a new edition of his poems. Scott has been credited with popularising tartan, saving the Scottish banknote, and rediscovering the nation's Crown Jewels. His string of best-selling books dominated the $19^{\mbox{th}}$ century, changing how the world saw Scotland and Scotland saw itself. But the speed of publishing driven by an unquenchable thirst for his work combined with his notoriously spidery handwriting - meant that many errors occurred during the printing process.

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen's Walter Scott Research Centre will be able to return his poetry to a form which more closely reflects his original intentions and to create five volumes of what will eventually be a complete 10-volume edition of his verse published by Edinburgh University Press. They will also bring to life the extensive notes that Scott added to his poems to offer readers a deeper insight and understanding of the meaning behind them. Few of these notes survive in modern editions but Scott used them to provide fascinating pieces of background information for his poems.

The project will be led by Professor Alison Lumsden who said: "Unlike Walter Scott's novels, which have never been out of publication since they were released, there are very few editions of his poetry and those which do exist are severely compromised by 19th century editing practices. Scott was a prolific writer and as well as the poems themselves, he produced long notes which are almost like alternative stories. He is such an important part of our cultural heritage, and this project will ensure that his legacy is preserved with the accuracy and detail it deserves."

In addition to Scott's own notes, the research team will also provide their own detailed explanations to support the modern reader and to help open up his work to new audiences. They will work with staff at Scott's home, Abbotsford, now a living museum, to create teaching materials for schools which will introduce pupils to the stories in Scott's poetry and the rich legacy they provide for Scotland.

Braemar Castle Raising the standard with a major fundraising campaign featuring Drystane Dyking and a world record attempt.



The UK's only community run castle, the 17th century fairytale concoction has played witness to 400 years of turbulent Scottish history, now Braemar Castle launches world record attempt calling for over 1500 people to dance their socks off for the Castle's future.

t was the place where James VIII was declared King of Scotland and James III of England as part of a failed Jacobite rising, it was torched by the Black Colonel in 1689, and used as a garrison for Hanoverian soldiers after the rebel Jacobite defeat at the Battle of Culloden, but now Braemar Castle is set to play a positive role at the heart of the future sustainability of its local community in and around Braemar. An iconic landmark in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park, the Earl of Mar's castle is a fairytale concoction of battlemented towers and turrets, a star shaped curtain wall and a bottle necked dungeon, the future of which rests with the small community of Braemar, a village of just 500 residents. The only castle in Scotland/UK under community management, for the last 14 years the village has been preparing it to be a 5 star visitor attraction, while also creating a new community programme so that the Castle contributes to the future



welfare of the whole region by providing opportunities for charities, schools and individuals to grow through creative and communal activities.

World record attempt

As it works towards an ambitious reimagining of its role, setting out to realise its social and educational potential and make a transformative impact locally and in communities throughout the north-east of Scotland, Braemar Community Limited announces a series of summer events which celebrate traditional aspects of the local culture, educate and preserve fading craft skills, and seek to reach those far and wide interested in supporting the Castle's future. Catriona Skene, events coordinator at Braemar Castle is hoping to break a world record attempt for most people performing a choreographed dance online, using the accessibility of Zoom to bring those with ancestral links to the area, and those who enjoy Scottish heritage together with a band and dance callers online to perform a Military Two Step. Whether based in LA or Tokyo dancers can join in the fun and support the community's ambitions for the Castle by paying £5 per person to take part. The previous record is 500, but the record for the world's largest Scottish country dance is 1,453 and the hope is to exceed both of these targets and go down in history with 2,000.



Raising the Standard

Drystane Dyking is a dying art, so familiar across the Scottish countryside, intrinsic to many a famous photo of its landscape but only five craftspeople now have the skills required to maintain and build these beautiful features of our countryside. A small number of people will get the opportunity to try their hands and develop their skills on weekends through to September in the Castle grounds. This summer Alan Breck's Jacobite and Redcoat armies undertake their training at Braemar Castle. This year Breck's a highly anticipated book, by local historian, Maureen Kelly of the Braemar Local History group, on the Jacobites of Upper Deeside will be launched alongside the annual spectacle. Other events over the summer include the Braemar Castle Scramble golf tournament, and an ongoing series of coffee talks on the history of the Castle, Clan Farquharson, the Jacobites and the war among other fascinating topics.

Any money made through these activities will be put towards the community charity's campaign Raising the Standard, which will fund the £1.6m conservation and re-development project planned for completion in 2023. It has already received generous support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Castle team is well advanced in raising £600,000 in gifts from individuals, trusts and companies. Raising the Standard will re-define the role that Braemar Castle plays in the wider community. Having always drawn in visitors and worked with schools and community groups on site, it has now developed a vastly more ambitious vision for community engagement and learning. In future, the Castle team will welcome greater numbers to Braemar for a more diverse programme of activities. It will also look outwards and engage more broadly with communities and groups in Aberdeenshire.

Find out more about Braemar Castle, the Castle Community Trust and its plans see: www.raisingthestandard.org.uk









here is a place on the west coast of Scotland where the driving forces of history are condensed into a single voyage. For the vast majority of human history waterways have served not as barriers but as connectors, linking communities across distances both near and vast. Imagine, for a moment, a Scotland without rail lines, motorways, or airports. Doing so flips our understanding of movement entirely on its head; suddenly, the easiest and safest way to get from one place to another - say, from Inverness to Dumfries or from Kirkwall to Edinburgh - is not by going overland, but by taking to the seas. Places of power were built to control these seaborne superhighways, and cultures rich with lore grew out of their opportunities and perils. Few areas instil this understanding more deeply than the Castle Corridor.

Galley castles

You won't find the Castle Corridor on any maps, tourist or otherwise, of Scotland. The title is admittedly an invention of this author's imagination, though much has been written about its history without calling it by this name. It refers poetically to the area comprising the Firth of Lorn, Loch Linnhe, the Sound of Mull, and at its furthest extent the Isle of Barra across the open stretch of sea between the Scottish mainland and the Outer Hebrides. In the Middle Ages this was the realm of the Lordship of the Isles, a semiautonomous kingdom which emerged from the crucible of centuries-long combat between the Gaels of the Isles and the Norse. Occasionally a mainland king would venture west, only to wander the isles vainly searching for a pitched battle before returning home having achieved little to nothing. If you are searching for an equivalent in popular culture, in my book I compare the Lordship of the Isles to the Iron Islands in Game of Thrones, with all of the rugged beauty and fiercely independent inclinations which that implies.

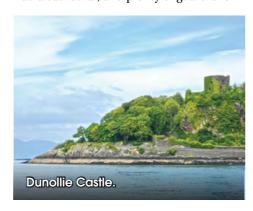
To understand how the Castle Corridor functioned, one must undertake it in the same way that the Lords of the Isles did: on the water. Luckily this is easily done, as the ferry from Oban to Barra traverses much of it. The best way to spend the time it takes to sail through the Castle Corridor (just over four hours) is to impersonate a tennis ball, pinging from port side to starboard as the Corridor's stone sentinels come into view on the surrounding shores. It is an exhilarating experience but also an educational one, for the realisation soon dawns that nearly every inch of the route is kept under tight watch. In their heyday,

the castles would have had fleets of galleys ready to launch at the first sign of trouble on the waves. For this reason, many of the castles on Scotland's west coast have been dubbed 'galley castles', reinforcing the symbiotic relationship between stone walls and timber prows.

Mark on history

The Castle Corridor kicks off within minutes of leaving the dock at Oban. Dunollie Castle, perched atop a rocky crag on the mainland, is one of the most ancient strongholds in Scotland and was the chief seat of Clan MacDougall. The MacDougall coat of arms, and the arms of their MacDonald overlords, bear the unmistakable image of a Hebridean galley, underlining the source of their authority. It's now ivy-covered walls give it an almost organic feel, as though its tower sprouts from the very rock upon which it is built. This is a running theme for castles along the Castle Corridor. The next visible castle is Duart on the Isle of Mull, and the view of it from the ferry is easily among the most dramatic sights in all of Scotland. In many ways it is similar to the much better known Eilean Donan Castle, being on a similar scale and also the product of major reconstruction efforts in the early 20th century. Home of the Clan Maclean and a cornerstone of the Lordship of the Isles, many a birlinn war galley launched from under the shadow of Duart until it was torched by Hanoverian soldiers in the wake of the Jacobite Risings - hence the rebuilding. It remains a vision straight out of a high fantasy novel.

Though they remain just out of sight, several more castles guard the Castle Corridor's northern and eastern extremes. Dunstaffnage Castle on the mainland is most famous for playing host to the Stone of Destiny in folklore, and more certainly for being taken by Robert the Bruce in his campaign of furious vengeance against the MacDougalls of Lorn. The Isle of Lismore passes by the opposite deck from Duart. This now unassuming island was once a meeting place for the Isles, being in an ideal central position. It even had a cathedral, and plenty of guardians



in the form of two castles, Achanduin and Coeffin, as well as the massive Iron Age broch of Tirefour. Not long after passing Lismore, a modest yet historically significant castle comes into view on the shores of Morvern. Emphasising the 'Norse' in Norse-Gaelic, the MacDonald Lords of the Isles chose as one of their favoured seats the seemingly spartan hallhouse of Ardtornish Castle. Two events define Ardtornish' mark on history: the death here of John of Islay, a great patron of the arts who holds the honour of being buried at Iona alongside many kings of Scotland including MacBeth, and the Treaty of Westminster-Ardtornish. The latter was a plot hatched between the Lords of the Isles and King Edward IV of England to divide Scotland between them following a combined assault. The plot was discovered and came to nothing, except the ruin of the complicit MacDonald's by the enraged Scottish crown. Still, the fact that the Lords of the Isles were able to treat directly with the king of England is a testament to the extent of their power and autonomy.

A masterclass in the interconnectivity of the Isles

The tennis-ball effect is back in full swing now, for if you rush to the portside deck shortly after passing Ardtornish you might just make out the much-diminished ruins of Aros Castle on the Mull across the bay from Saline. Dating from the 13th century, this is yet another MacDougall castle atop a rocky crag which passed from their hands into those of the MacLean's and, ultimately, the ascendant Campbells in the 17th century. The last castle before crossing the open waters to the Hebrides is Mingary, a quintessential galley castle comprising a stout, hexagonal stone wall thickest on the seaward side - an indication of where the main threat was

expected to come from. The waters directly in front of Mingary contain the wreck of a ship from 1644 and is now a designated Historic Marine Protected Area. The castle has recently been renovated into a hotel.

The final stage of the Castle Corridor is, to me, the most unforgettable. Ever so slowly the Outer Hebrides grow upon the horizon, until their stone-swept shores engulf the senses. As the ferry nears its end point at Castlebay, the main settlement on Barra, one final castle reveals itself: Kisimul, ancient seat of Clan MacNeil. It is one of those places whose sheer improbability is one of its most remarkable features; the waves of the bay lap right up against the walls on three of its four sides, with only the scantest bit of uneven ground to land on. It seems more sea stack than castle. Small yet formidable, the MacNeils insist that its provenance goes back 1,000 years. While this might be exaggerating by two or three centuries, there was a fortification of some kind here when the Vikings landed on Barra's shores. There are many stories about Kisimul that straddle the line between history and lore, but perhaps my favourite is recorded by the MacNeils themselves who clearly embrace their somewhat eccentric role as watchers over the edge of the world. It is recorded that after the MacNeil chieftain had finished his midday meal, a herald ascended the high tower of Kisimul Castle, and, after a flourish on his trumpet, proclaimed to all the world: "Hear, ye people, and listen, ye nations! The MacNeil of Barra having finished his dinner, all the princes of the earth are at liberty to dine!"

So ends the Castle Corridor on a dramatic flourish unlike any other I have known after visiting nearly 450 of Scotland's castles. A journey through it is no less than a masterclass in the interconnectivity of the Isles, and an exercise of the imagination. It is often said that to understand someone else's perspective, you must walk a few miles in their shoes; if you want to understand some of the essential factors that shaped the west of Scotland, you must sail the many miles of the Castle Corridor.





The Queen and the Duke of Cambridge visit AG Barr







er Majesty The Queen and The Duke of Cambridge, Earl of Strathearn travelled to AG Barr's factory in Cumbernauld where Her Majesty officially opened their new process facility. Established over 140 years ago in Scotland, AG Barr has since created a portfolio of

successful drinks including the iconic IRN-BRU drink, which launched in 1901. IRN-BRU is a carbonated soft drink made to an original secret recipe, which contains 32 flavours. Other popular drinks manufactured by AG Barr include Rubicon fruit and juice drinks and Strathmore Still Spring Water.

Royal Week

During the visit, Her Majesty and The Earl of Strathearn were given an overview of the history of the company before meeting employees to learn about the company's place in local community life. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness also viewed products created at the factory before signing their visitor's book.

The Queen was in Scotland for Royal Week where she will be undertaking a range of engagements celebrating community, innovation and history. The Queen also visited businesses, charities and cultural institutions that highlight the pioneering work taking place to further community engagement, education, technology and efforts to combat climate change.

The Queen opens £4m museum transformation at Stirling Castle





he Argyll and Sutherland
Highlanders Museum at Stirling
Castle has reopened its doors to the
public, after being officially opened
by Her Majesty The Queen. The museum
embarked on a lengthy transformation
and renovation project in September 2018
to ensure its historic military legacy was
preserved for future generations. Now, for
the first time in almost three years, staff
have opened the doors allowing a stunning
look at the new-look museum.

To mark the completion of the redevelopment project, Her Majesty The Queen formally opened the new-look Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum at Stirling Castle. The Queen, who was granted Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment on her 21st birthday in 1947, was welcomed by



nearly 100 veterans of the Highlanders, who travelled from across Scotland and England and was presented with the keys to Stirling Castle. The Queen also unveiled a plaque to commemorate the museum and taken on a tour to see just some of the military artefacts and documents.

A wealth of military treasures and artefacts

Home to a wealth of military treasures and artefacts, the museum brings the rich culture and heritage of one of Scotland's great Highland regiments to life. The museum weaves a rich tapestry, connecting the Regiment to the local communities around Scotland from where its soldiers and their families came from.

Through its thematic approach, the museum aims to engage with audiences of all ages and knowledge, offering something for everyone. With over 5,000 objects in the Museum's collection, many of the artefacts and displays cover the fascinating history of the Regiment. From its involvement in numerous global conflicts and insight into what life was like as a serving soldier and its impact on family life, to incredible personal items donated to the

museum – some with astonishing and poignant stories. All renovation work has been carried out with meticulous care to protect, conserve and compliment the archaeology of the King's Old Building which dates from the late 14thcentury and is believed to be one of the oldest structures still standing at Stirling Castle.

Work has included opening up the original vaults on the ground floor, creating a new floor to house museum displays and improved access via a new central stairway. The galleries have been created with engaging storyboards and displays to show off the nationally recognised collection of artefacts, silver and original artwork, together with fascinating audio-visual displays. Conservation standard display cases and eco-friendly lighting have been installed to meet modern museum standards.

Scotland's proud military and cultural heritage

Colonel A K Miller, Project Director, said: "This project has taken nine years to plan and deliver. With the loss of Scotland's historic regiments, it is important to ensure this unique element of our history is not lost. Throughout their tour, visitors will find themselves immersed in Scotland's proud military and cultural heritage."

The Museum operates as part of a partnership agreement with Historic Environment Scotland, who run Stirling Castle and have supported the refurbishment through grant funding and conservation work to help upgrade the site and visitor offer, as well as providing additional support in

areas such as educational activities and onsite interpretation. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum is located in Stirling Castle which was the Argylls' depot from 1873 to 1964 and remains the Regiment's spiritual home. The Museum exists to preserve, display and interpret for all time the historical records and material culture of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in order to perpetuate the memory of the deeds and men of the Regiment.

Richard Hickson, CEO of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum, said: "We approach an incredibly important achievement as we prepare to reopen our doors after almost three years of hard work. Setting itself against the broader history of Scotland, our museum tells a fascinating story covering significant periods in Scottish history. From the Highland Clearances and the industrialisation of West-Central Scotland to shipbuilding and engineering on Clydeside, we have brought to life the activities of the Regiment's soldiers and their families, both in Scotland and across the globe."

For more information on The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum see: www.argylls.co.uk



THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Death of Queen Anne; George I, Elector of Hanover becomes king. 1714
- 1 Proscription Act introduced, banning tartan and the carrying of weapons. The penalty for a first offence was six months in jail and a second offence resulted in transportation for seven years. 1747
- 1 University of Dundee which was incorporated into the University of St Andrews(as Queen's College) in 1890, constituted as a separate university. 1967
- 2 Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, died in Nova Scotia. Although he is best known for this invention Bell was also well known for his work on deafness. 1922
- 3 Sir William Kirkcaldy of Grange executed, after defending Edinburgh Castle on behalf of Mary Queen of Scots from May 1568 to May 1573. **1573**
- 3 King James II killed by an exploding cannon at the siege of Roxburgh Castle. 1460
- 3 William Wallace is captured near Glasgow. Wallace is tried in London on 23 August, then executed. 1305
- $\boldsymbol{3}$ The 2014 Commonwealth Games (officially the XX Commonwealth Games) closing ceremony took place in Glasgow, Scotland. 2014
- 4 Birth of the entertainer Sir Harry Lauder, his hits included Roamin in the Gloamin' and Keep Right on to the End of the Road. Lauder died in 1950 at the age of 79. 1870
- 5 James, Earl Douglas, died out of sight of his army, in a bush, at Battle of Otterburn in which Scots defeat Henry Percy, (Hotspur) but with the loss of the Earl of Douglas. 1388
- 5 The Scottish Parliament established a General Post Office. 1695
- 6 First Glasgow/Edinburgh coach service began from White Horse Inn, Edinburgh. 1678
- 6 Donald Alexander Smith later Lord Strathcona - born in Forres. A pioneer of the Hudson Bay Company in the North-West, he later championed the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway across Canada and drove the last spike at Craigellachie, British Columbia. 1820
- **6** Birth of Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin. 1881
- 7 Lord Kitchener, the war minister, began a mass recruiting campaign, three days after Britain declared war on Germany. By the war's end a total of 147,609 Scots had been killed, a fifth of Britain's dead from a country that made up only 10% of its population. 1914



7- Air services begin from Barra Airport, the only beach airport anywhere in the world to be used for scheduled airline services. 1936



- 7- The first train arrives in Fort William on the newly opened West Highland Line. 1894
- 8 Former World flyweight boxing champion Benny Lynch died. 1946
- 8 King Edward I removed to England the Stone of Destiny on which generations of Scottish kings had been crowned. 1296
- 8 King James IV married Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII of England. The marriage was known as the Union of the Thistle and the Rose. 1503
- 9 Civil engineer Thomas Telford born in Dumfries. 1757

- 9 Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire opened after David McIntyre set up Scottish Aviation Ltd. Aircraft had been flying from the area since 1913. 1935
- 10 King James III crowned at Kelso Abbey. 1460
- 10 Education (Scotland) Act passed, providing elementary education for all children. 1872
- 10 Perth Museum and Art Gallery opened by the Duke and Duchess of York. $1935\,$
- 11 Andrew Carnegie, the Dunfermlineborn steel industrialist and philanthropist, died. Throughout his later life Carnegie established a number of foundations for education and research such as the Carnegie Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 1919
- 12 Roy Williamson, the Scottish folk musician and songwriter, died. Williamson was one of the famous duo, The Corries, along with Ronnie Browne. 1990
- 13 Explorer Alexander Gordon Laing became the first Christian to reach Timbuctu, Africa. 1826
- 13 Birth of John Logie Baird, developer of television. 1888
- 13 Scotland's first nuclear power station at Dounreay went "critical" ushering in the generation of power from atomic reactions. 1957
- 14 King Duncan I killed in battle at Pitgavney by Macbeth. 1040
- 14 King Robert III born at Scone. 1337
- 14 King Robert III crowned at the Augustinian abbey of Scone. 1390
- 14 University of Strathclyde was constituted in Glasgow, based on the Royal College of Science and Technology. 1964
- 15 Macbeth killed in battle by Malcolm at Lumphanan. 1057
- 15 Novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott born. Synonymous with the Scottish Borders Scott wrote classics such as Waverleyand The Bride of Lamermoor. 1771



- ${\bf 15}$ Foundation stone for the Monument to Sir Walter Scott laid in Princes Street Gardens. 1840 16 - Birth of Carolina Oliphant (Lady Nairne), poet and author of many Jacobite songs, including Charlie is my Darling. Her songs are second only in popularity to Burns. 1766 17 - Visit of George IV to Edinburgh began,
- orchestrated by Sir Walter Scott. 1822



- 17 Death of Bill Millin, British Army soldier and piper during WWII (born 1922). Widely known as Piper Bill, he was personal piper to Simon Fraser, 15th Lord Lovat, commander of 1 Special Service Brigade at D-Day. 2010
- $17 \hbox{ First Edinburgh International} \\ Festival opened. 1947$
- 18 The Tay Road Bridge opened, linking Dundee city centre with Fife. The Tay Road Bridge carries the A92 road across the Firth of Tay from Newport-on-Tay in Fife to Dundee. 1966
- 18 Arthur Elphinstone, Lord Balmerino, the Jacobite noble, was executed. Balmerino was captured along with Lord Kilmarnock after the Battle of Culloden and the pair were tried for treason in London and beheaded in the Tower of London. 1746



- 18 45 years after forming in 1973, folk rock band Runrig performs their last show against the backdrop of Stirling Castle. 2018
- 19 Mary Queen of Scots lands at Leith on her return from France, after the death of her husband, King Francis II. 1561
- 19 Charles Edward Stuart, raises his standard at Glenfinnan, at the start of the '45 uprising. 1745
- 19 Scottish aviator Jim Mollinson landed after the first East/West solo flight of the Atlantic from Portmarnock, Ireland to Pennfield, New Brunswick. 1932
- 20 Ronald Ross, the first Scot to win a Nobel prize (in 1902) dissected a mosquito and established the link with malaria. 1897
- 21 Battle of Dunkeld when the newly formed Cameronians defended the town against 3,000 Highlanders. 1689
- $2\overline{1}$ Birth of William Murdoch who pioneered the use of coal-gas lighting in 1792 in partnership with James Watt and Mathew Boulton. 1754
- 21 Birth of Donald Dewar, former Secretary of State for Scotland and First Minister in the new Scottish Parliament. 1937
- 22 Battle of the Standard at Northallerton in which King David I was defeated by the English. 1138
- 22 Devorgilla, Countess of Galloway founded Balliol College, Oxford. She was mother of John Balliol (who acceded to

and Parliament (Roundheads). 1642

- the Scottish throne in 1292). 1282 22 - King Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham, initiating a Civil War in England between the Royalists (also known as Cavaliers)
- 23 Sir William Wallace was executed in London. Wallace was captured after being betrayed by Sir John de Menteith and was transported to London. King Edward I had devised a new method of execution for one of his arch-enemies, and Wallace became the first person to endure the agonies of being hanged, drawn and quartered. 1305



- 23 Work begins on the rebuilding of Eilean Donan Castle. It took until 1932 to complete. The castle is today one of the most photographed in Scotland. 1913
- 24 Berwick on Tweed finally ceded to England (Edward IV) after changing hands 12 times. 1482
- 24 The first Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama opened. The festival was inspired by the arts festivals organised in Salzburg before the Second World War, but has grown to become the largest event of it's kind in the world. It has also spawned a book festival, film festival and the festival fringe. The festival was also responsible for the creation of Scottish Oper and forced a greater amount of funding from the Arts Council to be given to Scotland. 1947
- 25 James Watt, developer of steam power, died. Watt was known as the 'father of the industrial revolution', 1819
- 25 Actor Sir Sean Connery born. Connery famously went from an Edinburgh milk man to global movie superstar, best known for playing James Bond 007. Sean Connery died at age 90 in the Bahamas in October, 2020. 1930
- 25 Glasgow Zoo, or Calderpark Zoo, closed. The was a 99-acre (40 ha) zoological park in Baillieston, Glasgow was established in 1947 by the Zoological Society of Glasgow and West of Scotland. The zoo was located on the lands of the former Calderpark Estate, and closed due financial losses and reports of animal cruelty. 2003

- 26 Mary Queen of Scots leads an army out of Edinburgh to supress a rebellion led by her half brother James Stewart, 1st Earl of Moray, who is opposed to her marriage. She puts the rebellion to flight in what becomes known as the Chaseabout Raid. 1565
- 26 The Donibristle Mining Disaster occurred in the Fife coalfield. The disaster occurred when part of Mossmorran peat bog near Cowdenbeath collapsed on sixteen miners 360 feet underground. Four miners were lost, as was a four-strong rescue party. All the bodies were eventually recovered but some remained underground until the December of that year, 1901
- 27 First balloon ascent in Britain by James Tytler, Edinburgh. 1784
- 27 James Thomson, the Scottish poet, died. Thomson's most famous works include the anthem, Rule Britannia. 1748
- 27 The trial began in Edinburgh for Deacon William Brodie, a cabinet-maker and member of the town council, who also was a notorious criminal. On 1 October 1788 he was hanged for theft in the Lawnmarket in front of a crowd that was the largest seen in living memory. 1788
- 28 Edward I of England held a parliament at Berwick to which he summoned all Scottish landholders to sign the Ragman Roll. 1296
- 28 The Battle of Newburn on Tyne. The battle was fought between Leslie's veteran Scottish army and a hastily assembled English force. The Scots had invaded northern England in response to the attempts of Charles I to impose an Anglican prayer book upon Scotland. 1640



- 29 The population of St Kilda were evacuated from the island. The island was evacuated on economic grounds at the islanders own request as the population had dwindled from 73 in 1920 to only 37 in 1928. The island had been populated since Bronze Age times, but from the latter part of the 19th century, the islanders had began to lose their means of self-sufficiency and the fate of the resident population was sealed. The island was sold to the Marquess of Bute, a keen ornithologist, who bequeathed it to the National Trust for Scotland in 1957. 1930
- **30** The Royal Research Ship Discovery reaches the Falkland Islands on a mission to rescue polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, to find he has already been rescued. 1915
- **30** Birth of golf course designer Dr Alister Mackenzie; he was responsible for Augusta National and Cypress Point, among others. 1870
- **30** Liz McColgan won the World Athletics Championship 10,000 metres in Tokyo by a margin of 20 seconds. 1991



- **30** The Queensferry Crossing opens to traffic. The 1.7 miles (2.7km) crossing was the biggest infrastructure project in Scotland in a generation and carries about 24 million vehicle journeys a year. 2017
- 31 The first Edinburgh Film Festival opened. The festival was officially opened on this date by the Lord Provost at the Playhouse Cinema. The festival was originally known as the International Festival of Documentary, but has now grown to become recognised as one of the great worldwide film festivals. 1946

Middle Tennessee Highland Games & Celtic Festival



The Scottish Banner spoke to the Middle Tennessee Highland Games & Celtic Festival committee on this year's event, taking place next month.

SB: Tell us about Middle Tennessee Highland Games and Celtic Festival, what are this year's dates, where are you located, event times, etc? **MTHG:** Date is Sept 11, 2021, at Percy Warner Park, in the Belle Meade neighborhood of Nashville, Tennessee. Festival times are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. **SB:** What is the history behind your event, how long has it been going on? **MTHG:** This will be our 6th year in Nashville Tennessee. We had to cancel in 2020 because of Covid and so we are very hopeful for our return in 2021. We have scaled down this year's event to one day, but the enthusiasm shown by everyone to return to highland games

leads us to believe that we will have a great crowd and a successful return. **SB:** Who is performing at this year's event? How many stages? MTHG: We will have two stages of music and one stage for dancers and young people's music. The music this year consists of three local Nashville Celtic bands: Doon the Brae, NoseyFlynn and The Secret Commonwealth. Two national touring bands: Seven Nations and Tuatha Dea, and the Scottish Bard from Glasgow Colin Grant Adams. An intimate acoustic stage and a rocking beer garden stage - chose your style or enjoy both. Irish step dancers and Highland dancers perform near the children's zone and have many performances planned along with the Kid's Ceilidh Band. Our three pipe and drum bands from Nashville and Knoxville will perform while roving through the festival grounds. SB: What Games will be at this year's event? MTHG: We will have amateur heavy Scottish athletics for men and women in Classes, A, B, and masters. Events will include weight throws, hammer throw, weight over bar, sheaf toss, and of course caber toss. We have 40 athletes registered to compete. **SB:** What is different this year than from years past?

MTHG: We have had to closely

community and had to try to plan

accordingly. Fortunately, we have a

watch the pandemic's progress in our

great team that has been able to pull together all the pieces of a multi-faceted festival. We are now looking forward to a Highland Games and Festival will all the ceremony and fun we all enjoy. Our tag line for 2021 is "The Year of Recovery".

SR* What can one expect when

SB: What can one expect when attending your event?

MTHG: We think of it as a three-ring circus of Celtic Culture. The anchor to the event is the Heavy Scottish Athletic competition. It is supported by a Scottish Clan village of over 45 Scottish clans and societies. We have over 40 vendors of Celtic products, and yummy foods, plus 2 tents of soft and alcoholic beverages, We have a large Kids Zone, and demonstrations in Highland and Irish dance, tartan weaving, and Birds of Prey. And of course, we will have numerous bagpipe and drum teams and a solo bagpipe competition. At noon we will have a special Opening Ceremony and Tartan Parade to honor 911. It should be a very full and fun day for the entire family. **SB:** What is your favorite aspect of Scottish culture?

MTHG: The goosebumps we get when hearing the pipe and drums come across the field, the cheers when the caber fly's through the air, the love, and pride we see when a grandfather in a kilt shares a story of the 'old country' with a child and the warmth of a dram of good whisky.

SB: What are you most looking forward to about this year's Games and Festival?

MTHG: Thousands of people having a great and safe time getting back together, celebrating a great culture.

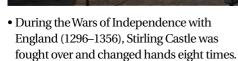
The Middle Tennessee Highland Games & Celtic Festival takes place on Saturday, September 11th, 2021 at Nashville's Percy Warner Park. For further details see: www.midtenngames.com











- Robert the Bruce had the castle's defences destroyed to prevent it falling into enemy hands again. It was not substantially rebuilt until 1336, when the English recaptured it. The castle finally fell back into Scottish hands in 1342.
- Mary Queen of Scots, lived in the Royal Palace as a child and was crowned here in 1543.
- The world's oldest football, made of a pig's bladder, was found behind an oak panel in Stirling Castle. It has been dated to around 1540.
- Scotland's first firework display took place at the Castle in 1566 to celebrate the birth of Mary's son, the future James VI.

- The Chapel Royal which stands in the Castle today, was built in 1594 for the Christening of Prince Henry, the first-born son of King James VI and the heir to the throne. It was the last great royal building to be erected in the castle and was one of the first Protestant kirks to be built in Scotland.
- Stirling Castle's magnificent Queen Anne Garden is said to date back to the 15th century. The present day lawn was recorded as being a bowling green in the 1620s.
- The War Office owned the castle from 1800 until 1964. It was used as a barracks. The Great Hall became an accommodation block and the Royal Palace became the Officer's Mess.
- Stirling Castle remains the headquarters of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, although the regiment is no longer garrisoned there.

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

he White House Historical
Association Tartan (ref: 12638) was
created to promote the history of
the Scottish stone masons who

were instrumental in the building of the White House. Each colour represents a key aspect of the White House: blue symbolises the Bellange furniture of the Blue Room, decorated in 1817 during the James Monroe presidency; green represents the Green Room, decorated in 1818 by James Monroe; red symbolises the Red Room, which was furnished with bold red silks during the James Polk administration in 1845; Grey represents the Scottish stone works, including the famous "Double Scottish Rose" that adorns the White House and white represents the White House as a whole. Many American presidents are of Scottish descent and Scottish stonemasons played an integral role in its construction and the White House Historical Association regularly promotes this shared history. This tartan was designed by Mr Blair Urquhart, House of Tartan Ltd, Crieff, Perthshire and registered in October, 2019.



IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Chilled tomato pipers bisque

Ingredients:

1 slice white country bread, crusts removed and broken into large crumbs 2 tsp sherry vinegar ½ garlic clove, peeled and finely chopped 1 tsp caster sugar ½ red chili, seeded and finely diced 30ml/1fl oz. extra virgin olive oil 225g/8oz plum tomatoes, peeled and seeded 2 tsp tomato ketchup 200ml/7fl oz. tomato juice 2 spring onions, finely sliced ½ red pepper, roasted or grilled, peeled, seeded and diced 1/4 large cucumber, peeled, seeded and roughly diced 2 tsp pesto salt and freshly ground black pepper frozen olive oil cubes (place olive oil in ice cube moulds and freeze)

Method:

Place the bread in a food processor or blender. With the machine running add the vinegar, garlic, sugar and chili, and blend until smooth.

Add the extra virgin olive oil until the bread will absorb no more then, a little at a time, add the tomatoes, tomato ketchup, tomato juice, spring onions, red pepper, cucumber and pesto. Continue to blend to form a smooth emulsion. Season to taste with salt and black pepper. Serve with frozen olive oil cubes.

Scotch pies



Ingredients:

For the filling:
600g/1lb 5oz mutton mince
½ tsp ground mace
½ tsp nutmeg
5 tbsp. gravy or stock
salt and white pepper
For the hot water crust pastry:
½ tsp salt
120g/4½oz lard
360g/12½oz plain flour
1 free-range egg yolk, beaten, for glaze

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6 and line a baking tray with baking parchment. Cut four strips of greaseproof paper, about 5cm/2in deep and 25cm/10in long, to wrap around the pies. You'll also need four pieces of cook's string to secure the paper.

For the filling, mix all the ingredients together in a bowl and season generously with salt and white pepper. Work the liquid into the meat, divide into four portions and mould into balls. Refrigerate while you make the pastry.

To make the pastry, heat 160ml/5½fl oz. of water, salt and lard in a saucepan until just boiling. Meanwhile, put the flour in a mixing bowl. Pour the hot liquid onto the flour and mix together with a spoon. Once cool enough to handle, tip onto a floured surface and knead until you have a smooth dough.

Working as quickly as you can, cut off a quarter of the pastry and set aside. Divide the remaining dough into four equally sized balls. Roll out each ball to an 18cm/7in circle, about 5mm/1/4in thick. Roll out the remaining pastry and cut out four circular lids, 10cm/4in in diameter.

Place a ball of filling on each large circle of pastry. Gather the pastry around the meat and bring up the sides to form the shape of a pork pie. Keep stretching the pastry so it comes above the meat by around 2cm/1¾in. Dampen the edges of the pies with water and press the lids on top of the filling. Seal the edges together using your fingers. Wrap a strip of greaseproof paper around each pie and secure with string (to make sure the pie holds its shape when cooking). This is much easier if you have someone to help you.

Put the pies on the baking tray and cut a steam hole in the centre of each. Brush with beaten egg yolk and transfer to the fridge to rest for 30 minutes. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until golden-brown. Serve hot.

Flying Scotsman

Ingredients:

5 fresh chicken fillets
1 haggis
1 tbsp. whisky
100ml/3.5fl oz. double cream
100ml/3.5fl oz. of chicken stock
2 tsp. corn flour
2 tbsp. whisky
Knob of butter

Mehtod:

Preheat oven to 180°c/350F/Gas 4. Clean and flatten the chicken. Place the haggis in a bowl, pour the whisky over and leave to marinate for a few minutes. Make a patty of haggis per portion and wrap with chicken and bacon.

Drizzle with olive oil / butter, then place on a baking tray and cook at 180°C/350F/Gas 4 for 40 mins.

Whilst the haggis is cooking, make the sauce. Add the corn flour to the stock and slowly bring to the boil until it thickens. Add whisky and simmer for 5 minutes.

Slowly add cream over a low heat. Serve with the whisky sauce in a jug, with neeps and tatties.

Arran fish pie



Ingredients:

For the flaky pastry: 250g/9oz strong white bread flour pinch salt 50g/13/4oz. lard or vegetable shortening 1 tbsp. lemon juice 100ml/31/2fl oz. chilled water 150g/5½ oz. butter For the filling: 8 quails' eggs 600ml/20fl oz. milk pinch saffron 2 bay leaves 6 black peppercorns pinch salt 200g/7oz. salmon 200g/7oz. smoked haddock (or substitute smoked cod or mackerel) 200g/7oz. cod (or substitute haddock, pollack, black cod, stripped bass, hake, mahi mahi, grouper) 70g/21/2oz. sunflower margarine 70g/2½oz. flour salt and freshly ground white pepper small bunch chives, chopped small bunch flat leaf parsley, chopped 125g/4½oz. jumbo king prawns, cooked and peeled 1 free-range egg, beaten

Method:

1 tbsp. sesame seeds

To make the pastry, mix the flour with the salt and rub in the lard or vegetable shortening until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the lemon juice and water to form a dough and knead until smooth. Roll out the pastry on a floured work surface to form a rectangle and dot two thirds of the rectangle with one third of the butter. Fold the unbuttered end of the rectangle over the middle third, fold again and seal the open ends by gently pressing them together. Cover with cling film and chill for 15 minutes.

Roll out the pastry again and repeat the process with another third of the butter, then repeat again with the remaining butter. Roll out the pastry to a rectangle once more, fold it in thirds then wrap in cling film and return it to the fridge. To make the filling, cook the quails' eggs in a pan of boiling water for two minutes then plunge into cold water and set aside to cool. Warm the milk in a wide saucepan with the saffron, bay leaves, peppercorns and salt. Bring to a gentle simmer then poach the salmon, haddock and cod in the milk until just cooked through. Remove the fish, break it into flakes then set

it aside and strain the milk through a sieve into a clean bowl. Melt the margarine in a clean saucepan then add the flour, stir to form a roux and cook gently for two minutes. Add the strained milk and bring the sauce to a simmer, stirring all the time, then season with salt and freshly ground white pepper. Add the chopped chives and parsley to the sauce, gently fold in the fish and transfer the mixture to an ovenproof dish. Preheat the oven to 180C350F/Gas 4. Peel the quails' eggs and add them to the pie filling with the prawns. Roll out the pastry and cover the filling, sealing the edges of the pastry to the dish with a little water. Roll out the off-cuts of pastry and use to decorate the top of the pie. Brush the pie with the beaten egg, scatter over the sesame seeds and bake for 25 minutes.

Bannockburn tart

Ingredients:

For the pastry:

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

For the filling:

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

Method:

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

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

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

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

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

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

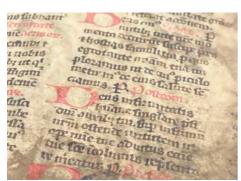
Spread some of the raspberry jam generously across the base of the pastry, leaving a 2.5cm/lin gap around the edge.

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

Bake the tart for 20 minutes, or until the filling is set and golden-brown.
Allow to cool in the tin before serving.
To serve, cut the tart into 5cm/2in squares.

Treasured 16th century manuscript secured for the nation





he National Library of Scotland was successful in securing the manuscript known as the Chronicle of Fortingall at auction recently. Scribes compiled the manuscript between 1554 and 1579 at Fortingall in Highland Perthshire, which contains contemporary annals, poetry and other short texts in Latin, Scots and Gaelic. The scribes belonged to the MacGregor family who also compiled the slightly earlier Book of the Dean of Lismore, the earliest surviving collection of Gaelic poetry compiled in Scotland. Scholarly research and evidence shows the two manuscripts were almost certainly compiled by members of the same family.

The Library's single most important Gaelic manuscript

Manuscripts Curator Dr Ulrike Hogg said: "We consider the Chronicle of Fortingall a partner volume to the Book of the Dean of Lismore, the Library's single most important Gaelic manuscript and one of our greatest treasures. The two manuscripts are so closely connected that it's difficult to describe one without reference to the other. It's a great privilege for us to be able to bring the manuscripts together again after their compilation some 450 years ago. The Gaelic contents of the Chronicle of Fortingall make a significant addition to our Scottish Gaelic manuscripts collection, which is the largest in the world. And securing the manuscript for the national collections means we can make the contents publicly accessible and ensure its professional preservation."

Senior Lecturer in Scottish History at the University of Glasgow, Dr Martin MacGregor, welcomed the acquisition and said: "It is a relief that the National Library was successful in securing the Chronicle of Fortingall, especially as they hold the companion volume, the Book of the Dean of Lismore. The Chronicle of Fortingall is a highly significant manuscript which provides insight into public life in the Highlands in the later Middle Ages. It is an important source for the history of the Highlands - social, political, cultural, economic and religious. It also has great linguistic importance as it embodies the interplay of Latin, Scots and Gaelic as written languages in then Gaelic-speaking Scotland."

Breadalbane Muniments

The manuscript was compiled at Fortingall, at the mouth of Glen Lyon in Highland Perthshire, near the eastern end of Loch Tay. It is written in several hands. Compilation took place between 1554 and 1579, although it may have begun earlier. One of the compilers records that he said his first mass in 1531, began to serve the cure at the church of Fortingall in 1532, and acknowledged the chief of the MacGregors. He may be the principal compiler, and further identified with Dubhghall (Dougall) MacGregor, on record as vicar of Fortingall in 1544. The authorial perspective reveals continuing Catholic allegiance, and hostility to the Scottish Reformation brought into law in 1560.

The item is the manuscript named *The* Chronicle of Fortirgall by Cosmo Innes, and published by him under that name in The Black Book of Taymouth: with other papers from the Breadalbane Charter Room (T. Constable: Edinburgh 1855). At that time, it belonged with the private family papers of the Earls of Breadalbane, held at Taymouth Castle by Kenmore, at the east end of Loch Tay in Highland Perthshire. When at various points during the 20th century these papers were transferred to what is now the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh, where they are catalogued as the Breadalbane Muniments, this manuscript was not among them. It is supposed it remained with the family until now.

Did you know?



The contents of the manuscript include:

- Lists of kings of Scots and notes on their reigns in Latin.
- A list of battles from Bannockburn (1314) to Flodden (1513), also in Latin.
- A chronicle recording the deaths of prominent men and women within the Highlands from 1390–1579, written in Latin and Scots.
- A Gaelic poem written in a writing system based on Middle Scots.
- Poetry in Middle Scots by Robert Henryson and William Dunbar.
- Verses, proverbs and aphorisms in Latin.
- Miscellaneous short prose texts in Latin and Scots covering everything from the size and divisions of Ireland to medicine and cures, religion and belief, and commentary against women and inebriation.

Canmore Highland Games tickets go on sale



his Labour Day long weekend,
Canmore Highland Games (CHG)
will roll out its 30th annual festival.
We are committed to creating a
safe, fun environment for all to enjoy Celtic
Culture at its finest. After a great deal of
anticipation, CHG are excited to announce
the 2021 program of events. Saturday
evening, the Taste of the Highlands Food
and Drink Festival will feature regional
wine, beer, and scotch whisky vendors in
The Wild Rose Festival Tent.

On Sunday, there will be no Highland Dance competition, however, there will be dance demonstrations throughout the day and a Massed Fling on the center field in the afternoon. Regional Pipes and Drums Bands will perform exhibition-style throughout the day. New for this year, we will be offering a Drum Major Workshop, and a couple of select participants will have the honour of joining the bands for the closing ceremonies.

Heavy Sports will be competition as usual, with regional athletes battling for the top spot.

The Games will see a British Car and Motorcycle Show and Sheep Dog Demonstrations, and a Tug o' War contest. Guests will shop at the Celtic Market, meet Clan representatives, and sample a wide array of delicious food from local vendors. Celtic bands Fraid Knot and Cabot's Crossing will grace the stage through the day punctuated by the ever-popular Scotch Tasting presented by The Famous Grouse.

On Sunday evening, CHG throw a Ceilidh for the record books with Canadian Celtic rock band The Arcana Kings. The Canmore Highland Games welcomes everyone to join us in a celebration this September. After a long period of collective struggle and sacrifice, it is time to raise a toast to our freedom.

The 30th Annual Canmore Highland Games will take place September 4-5, in Canmore, Alberta. For details see: www.canmorehighlandgames.ca



Welcome to our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our office for full details. Our contacts are Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

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

Regional Directors for Australia

David and Patricia Benfell Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



Clan **Cumming** Society of the United **States**

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



Clan Donnachaidh **Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia**

Duncan Robertson Reid

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

For information and membership application, contact Gordon Robertson. Email: gord7@bigpond.com

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

and Fraser septs to join our clan society.

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves" Membership enquiries to Don Chitts Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com Website: http://clanfraseraustralia.org Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/ Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/

482236358590288



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

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



Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

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

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

Africa:

Arizona * Carolinas * Florida * Gulf Coast * Mid-Atlantic * New Mexico * Mid-West * Northeast * Northern California * Pacific Northwest * Rocky Mountains * South * Southern California * Texas * Upper Mid-West

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



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

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

www.clangalbraith.org



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Acworth, GA 30101

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce 1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary 5561 Earl Young Road Bloomington, IN 47408

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

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Mr A. Neil Macdonald

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Ms Pamela McDonald

Ms Therese McCutcheon Mr Norman A Macdonald

Mr John Currie

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



aronet of Lanrick and Balqhidde 24th Chief of Clan Gregor Great Lakes, New England,

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

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

Peter Lawrie, Secretar 6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland



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

> President: Alistair Cameron Secretary: Terry Cameron

secretaryclancameronnsw@gmail.com www.clan-cameron.org.au



Commissioner: Neil Macdonald Ph: 0412 090990

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



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

Direct inquires to: Jim Dougherty Treasurer/Membership Chair Email: elliotcommia@gmail.com

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com



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All MacGregors and Septs of our clan are invited to join the Clan Gregor Society Est 1822 If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative: Frank McGregor

PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002 Email: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com Web: www.clangregor.com

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www.clan-campbell.org.au



Clan Donald

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

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



Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

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

Association Australia PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777 or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com Est 1909

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American Clan

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



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

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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

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inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Haye(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Armll; Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgatie; D' Ay(e); Dellah'aY; Errol(I); Garrad; Garrow; Gifford; Hawson; Haygood; Hayter; Hayward; Haywood; Haynie; Hayden; Hayfield; Hayne(s); Leask(e); Leith; Lester; MacGaradh; Peebles;







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Clan Mackenzie Society

in Australia Inc.

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welcomed from Mackenzies

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Society of Australia

https://clanmaclarenau.org/

clanmaclarenau@gmail.com

President@clanmaclarenna.org

MacLaren

Clan Labhran



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Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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and Septs (of any variant spelling),

and descendants. Recognised Septs

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



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

Europe. Will Tulling

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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/





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

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

Australian Contact:

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

Clan Macnachtan **Association Worldwide** Descendants and Septs of the

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

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



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

rthomnvprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org Australia: Amanda Maitland clanmaitland@vahoo.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





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

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





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

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nonprofit organisation which supports the language

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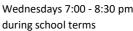
www.americanscottishfoundation.org



Scottish Gaelic Language Classes:

For information please contact

The Hon Secretary SAHC, Susan Cooke Ph: 0411097724



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

The Scottish Australian

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Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

Founded in 1905

https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com



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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



of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth. Western Australia For further details contact John: 0427 990 754



Caledonian Society

Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com

www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com



The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited

ABN 30 093 578 860 Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association

www.standrewsociety.com

Scots of Victoria

Clan Ross America



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



Clan Sutherland Society 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



Coordinating Group

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

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

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Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot

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

www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/





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

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65th Grandfather Mountain Highland Games



he Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) was held July 8 to July 11, 2021 at MacRae Meadows in Linville, North Carolina.

The crowds were tremendous each day, and the prevailing sentiment was "We are so happy to be here!".

Games organanizers held the event minus any of the usual indoor activities as part of Covid management, and were pleased with the response to the many pleas made for attendees to get vaccinated. GMHG President Stephen Quillin said "I think we proved we are back, and that we are

back in a safe way. I am very proud of how everyone pulled together to make it happen. Given the difficulties of the past year and a half, our 65th anniversary Games may well have been our best effort."

The crowds were tremendous each day, and the prevailing sentiment was "We are so happy to be here!".

The Games featured a fantastic display of Clans, entertainment, heavy events and athletics, Scottish dance, a Torch Light Ceremony and more.

Clan Morrison

Even the weather cooperated, beginning with the rainbow ahead of the Thursday Torchlight Ceremony to the rain shower that held off till Sunday's closing. The GMHG owes a great debt to Alasdair

Morrison, Chief of Clan Morrison, and Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil. Alasdair and Andrew gladly came running to help when the Chieftain of the Games, Alexander Matheson of Matheson was unable to obtain entry to the US. The Clan Matheson turned out in great numbers and held a strong and enthusiastic Gathering, of which Alexander would have been very proud.

The Clan Morrison Society of North America held its Annual Meeting at the Grandfather Mountain Games. It will be the first official appearance of the new chief, Alasdair Morrison, Morrison of Ruchdi, following the untimely death of his father, Dr. J. Ruairaidh Morrison last November. Alasdair is the youngest chief eligible to serve on the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs.

Congratulations to all involved. Grandfather Mountain is looking forward to a normal 2022 and the 66thanniversary.

For more information on the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games see: www.gmhg.org











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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 Australia/New Zealand) or add your event at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

Canada

AUGUST 2021

Montreal Highland Games

1. Virtual event

In 2021, we are working on an innovative plan to bring the community together to celebrate Scottish arts and culture in a virtual environment. Info: www.montrealhighlandgames.com

Goderich Celtic Roots Festival

6-8, Virtual event

The Board of Directors of the Goderich Celtic Roots Festival has cancelled its in-person August Festival and College event and instead is proceeding with its second virtual Festival on the same weekend. Info: www.facebook.com/goderichceltic

The Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games 13-15, Virtual event

Due to Covid, Fergus Scottish Festival have made the proactive decision to not host our 2021 Festival in person live event, instead they present their second ever virtual Festival and Highland Games featuring: Heavy Events, Highland Dance, Clans & Heritage, and Pipes & Drums as well as special features. Info: www.fergusscottishfestival.com or 519-787-0099.

National Capital Highland Games

21, Ottawa, ON

Date pending please check direct with event. A full day of Scottish events and celebration at The Capital Fair: Rideau Carleton Raceway Casino 4837 Albion Road South. Info: www. nationalcapitalhighlandgames.com

37th Annual North Lanark Highland Games

28, Almonte, ON

It is with deep sadness that we announce the cancellation of this years' North Lanark Highland Games, the 37th Games will take place Saturday August 27th, 2022. Info: www.almontehighlandgames.com

The Edmonton Scottish Society Highland Gathering 28, Edmonton, AB

Be stirred by the sounds of pipes and drums, the sight of highland and country dancing, the thrill of heavy events (like the hammer throw and caber toss) and the fun of it all. Info: www. edmontonscottishsociety.org/highland-gathering

SEPTEMBER 2021

ScotFestBC: The British Columbia Highland Games 4, Coquitlam, BC

Pipe bands, Tartan Run, Clans, entertainment and more at Lafarge Lake Park. Info: www.scotfestbc.com

30th Canmore Highland Games

4-5, Canmore, AB Canmore Highland Games take place annually on Labour Day weekend in Canmore,

Alberta - in the beautiful Canadian Rockies. Info: www.canmorehighlandgames.ca

Calgary Highland Games

4, Calgary, AB

At Springbank Park for All Seasons for a glorious day of heavy events, bagpipes, band, Highland dancing, tastes of Scotland plus much more. Info: www.calgaryhighlandgames.org

Cobourg Highland Games

10-11, Cobourg, ON

Solo Piping and Drumming, Heavy Event competitions, Clans, massed bands, Scottish dance and more at Victoria Park. Info: www.cobourghighlandgames.ca

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15 Ardle	Moray	26 Wattle
19 Byre	2 Cawdor	27 Relent
21 Skier	3 Foula	29 Kist
22 Dallas	4 Greys	30 Agency
23 Alness	5 Raasay	•
25 Annie	6 Myrtle	31 Tweed
26 Wary	7 Chanters	32 Stank
28 Skean	11 Nail	33 Perth

Quebec Celtic Festival 10-12, Québec, QC

A program of musical, sporting, gourmet and cultural Celtic events. The 2021 line-up will be announced in August and be available at: www.festivalceltique.com

OCTOBER 2021

Celtic Colours 2021 8-16. Virtual event

As the pandemic continues to impact the possibility of large gatherings and international travel, and with no ability to determine what conditions may be in the fall, Celtic Colours International Festival will once again deliver a celebration of music and culture online this October 8-16. While it is disappointing that we will not be hosting the Festival in-person this year, we hope that you will tune in and enjoy the great experience we are working hard to bring to you. Info:www.celtic-colours.com

Scottish North American Community Conference 22-23, Virtual event

The Conference, now in its 19th year, is presented annually by founding partners, The American-Scottish Foundation and CHICAGO SCOTS in association with St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, Council of Scottish Clans & Associations (COSCA), Clans And Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC), the Toronto, Ontario-based Scottish Studies Foundation and the University of Guelph. The Conference is an opportunity for those in the Scottish North American community to share views, values, experiences and best practices. Info: www.scottishleadershipconference.com

USA

AUGUST 2021

The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit Highland Games 6 – 7, Livonia, MI

Detroit's annual Highland Games is a celebration of Scottish culture and heritage at Greenmead Historical Village, 20501 Newburgh Rd. Info: www.highlandgames.com

Spokane Highland Games

7, Spokane, WA

Cancelled but back Saturday, August 6, 2022. Info: www.spokanehighlandgames.net

Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering 21 - 22, Hamilton, MT

Pipe bands, dancers, Celtic wares and more at the Daly Mansion. Info: www.bcgg.org

Maine Highland Games & Scottish Festival 21, Brunswick, ME

A celebration of Scotland at Thomas Point Beach. Info: www.mainehighlandgames.org

60th Annual Long Island Scottish **Festival and Games**

28, Old Westbury, NY

Cancelled for 2021, returns August 2022. Info: www.liscots.org

SEPTEMBER 2021

Wisconsin Highland Games 3-5, Waukesha, WI

Celebrating Celtic heritage at the Waukesha County Expo Center. Info: www.wisconsinscottish.org

Capital District Highland Games

4, Altamont, NY

Large Annual Highland Games near Albany, NY with over 70 years of rich heritage. Pipe band events, solo piping and drumming, highland dancing, highland athletics, food, drink, stage bands, scottish breed dogs, childrens events, clans and societies at Altamont Fairgrounds. 129 Grand St. Info: www.scotgames.com

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Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival 10-12, Estes Park, CO

Celtic music, pipe bands, Scottish Highland athletics, representatives of many Clans at Estes Park Fairgrounds. Info:www.scotfest.com

Middle Tennessee Highland Games & Celtic Festival 11, Nashville, TN

Where families come together every year to learn, appreciate, preserve and celebrate Scottish and Celtic traditions for charitable, educational, social, and athletic purposes at Percy Warner Park. Info: www.midtenngames.com

Columbus Scottish Festival

11 – 12, Columbus, IN

It is with great sadness that we must announce that the 2021 event will be cancelled, but returning September 10 & 11, 2022. Info: www.scottishfestival.org

Scotfest | Oklahoma

17 – 19, Broken Arrow, OK

Oklahoma's Flagship Celtic Music Festival & Scottish Highland Games. Info: www.okscotfest.com

Scots on the Rocks Moab Celtic Festival 17 - 19, Moab, UT

Celebrate the heritage and culture of Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales at Old Spanish Trail Arena. Info:www.scotsontherocksmoab.org

Ligonier Highland Games 18, Ligonier, PA

A celebration of Scotland and a tradition of preserving and promoting Scottish arts and heritage at Idlewild Park, Route 30. Info: www.ligonierhighlandgames.org

NESD Celtic Faire & Highland Games 18-19, Aberdeen, SD

An exciting opportunity for all individuals who have any interest in Celtic heritage, history. arts, sports, dance, music, food, merchandise, livestock and dog breeds at Richmond Lake. Info: www.nesdcelticfaire.com

OCTOBER 2021

Arkansas Scottish Festival

8 – 10, Batesville, AR

For the first time ever, the College will combine Homecoming and the Arkansas Scottish Festival into a campus-wide festival, at Lyon College, 2300 Highland Rd. Info: www. lvon.edu/arkansas-scottish-festival

49th Stone Mountain Highland **Games and Scottish Festival**

15-17, Stone Mountain, GA

Celebrate Scotland on the meadows of the Stone Mountain Park located in the Northeast suburbs of Atlanta, GA. Info: www.smhg.org

RedStone Highland Games & Festival 15 - 16, St George, UT

Celebrate the thrill & excitement of the ancient Highland Games! Athletics, clans, Scot Bands, Dancers, Celtic vendors & more. Family fun in the sun. Info: www.redstonehighlandgames.com

Scottish North American Community Conference 22-23. Virtual event

The Conference, now in its 19th year, is presented annually by founding partners, The American-Scottish Foundation and CHICAGO SCOTS in association with St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, Council of Scottish Clans & Associations (COSCA), Clans And Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC), the Toronto, Ontario-based Scottish Studies Foundation and the University of Guelph. The Conference is an opportunity for those in the Scottish North American community to share views, values, experiences and best practices. Info: www.scottishleadershipconference.com

CelticFest Mississippi

23 - 24, Brandon, MS

A celebration of Celtic culture at Lakeshore Park on the Reservoir.1112 North Shore Parkway. Info: www.celticfestms.org

Richmond Highland Games

30-31, Richmond, VA

A weekend of Scottish events at Richmond Raceway. 600 E Laburnum Ave. Info: www.vacelticfestival.com

World record attempt at the 2021 Montreal Highland Games



The Montreal Highland Games 2021 virtual event will host a Guinness World Record attempt at the most caber tosses, while raising funds to support the Building Hope movement at the Douglas Hospital Foundation.

n August 1, 2021, the Montreal Highland Games are counting on history happening. Montreal-born Jason Baines will attempt to smash the world record for the most caber tosses in 60 minutes. The current record stands at 122 tosses by fellow Canadian Kevin Fast.

To qualify as a successful toss, the caber must be thrown up in the air at such an angle that the top end hits the ground, allowing the caber to flip end over end. A caber must be a minimum of 14 feet 7 inches in length and weigh at least 55 pounds.

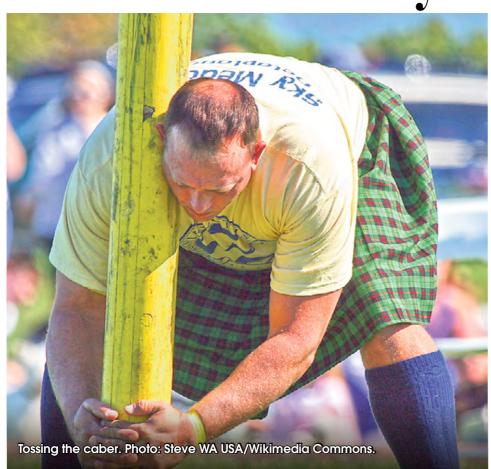
Brian MacKenzie, President of the Montreal Highland Games, says, "Our theme this year is 'See US in 2021—see YOU in 2022!' Given the uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic, we sadly cannot host a live event this year. Instead, we will be broadcasting Montreal's very own Jason Baines's attempt to beat the current Guinness World Record for tossing the most cabers in one hour!" The event will also include an online demonstration from some of our local Highland dancers, a limited competition for three levels of bagpipe contestants to be judged by Bob Worrall, a traditional Address to the Haggis, and more. Kelly Alexander of Virgin Radio's The Kelly Alexander Show will be emceeing the event. Montreal Highland Games are partnering with the Burgundy Lion pub, located in Montreal's Little Burgundy, to provide Scottish-themed dinners for purchase and pickup.

Join for an hour of Scottish fun LIVE on August 1, 2021 at 6 p.m. This event is FREE and will be streamed live on the Montreal Highland Games YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UC3hBGLUj9skRyRNpHqVIdWQ).

By: Nick Drainey

Scottish Heavy Events-A show of strength





n a summer which has seen many of the Highland Games across Scotland ruled out because of Covid restrictions, Tom Stoltman has kept the profile of traditional "heavy" events high. With iconic meetings such as the Braemar Gathering cancelled, Tom took the top honour in the World's Strongest Man competition in Sacramento, California. The 6ft 8in, 397lb athlete from Invergordon went one better than his runner-up spot last year. He told the Scottish Banner: "I put the secondplace trophy straight into my dad's house – I didn't want to be happy with it. If you go into a sport saying you don't want to be the best, you are lying."

The competition included deadlifts, log lifting and pushing a steam locomotive. Although pushing trains is not usually seen at Scottish showgrounds, the disciplines are similar feats of strength used to determine the top competitors in Braemar, Cowal and many other contests in towns and villages across Scotland in the summer months.

A trial of physical strength and stamina

And it is a trial of physical strength and stamina which forms the origin of Highland Games in Scotland. The first written record is of King Malcolm III persuading men to test their strength against each other at Braemar, including a race up and down Craig Choinnich, above the village, at the end of the 11th century. His aim was to find the fastest man to be his official messenger, as well as improving the strength of the local yeomanry.

Tom finds Highland Games heavy events technically challenging although he does see a similarity with throwing 16kg kegs in strongman competitions with the weight for height event. He added: "There are a lot of heavy events that carry over. World's Strongest Man must have been inspired by the Highland Games. And there are a lot of guys who wear the kilt."

Such tests of physical prowess as King Malcolm III promoted were often used to test soldiers, sometimes from different regiments, and continued for centuries with music and dancing, turning the competition into a local festival. The same kind of competition has also taken place in other countries across Europe.

The first written record is of King Malcolm III persuading men to test their strength against each other at Braemar, including a race up and down Craig Choinnich, above the village, at the end of the 11th century.

However, in Scotland, after the defeat of the Jacobites at Culloden, many of the traditions in Highland culture were outlawed, meaning gatherings were forbidden. But it was the Victorians, who really got hold of the concept, as they did with many traditions, and created the modern Highland Games. And a visit by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert to the Braemar Gathering in 1848 really put Highland Games on the map.

Their development grew to the point where a demonstration was given at the Paris Exhibition of 1889. It was seen by Baron Pierre de Coubertin and it has been claimed it influenced him as he developed the modern Olympic Games after seeing events such as the caber toss, shot put and hammer throw. Seven years later Athens saw the first modern Olympics – including competitions in hammer throwing and shot putting.

Heavy events

Meanwhile in Scotland, dancing and bagpipes now formed part of the competitive element in Highland Games meeting. But it was the "heavy" events

which still drew the crowds. There are many types of heavy events from the caber, hammer and shot to throwing a weight over a bar and throwing a sheaf of straw weighing 20lbs. The caber toss is perhaps the best known. A long log (caber comes from the Gaelic for beam, or pole) is held upright by the competitor and then tossed in the air so it lands on the upper end and falls forward. If it lands in a "12 o'clock" position it is judged to be a perfect caber toss. The origins of this event, like so many, are shrouded in the mists of history but there are competing thoughts about where it came from. Some say it was ancient foresters who devised the game as they cut down trees in the glens of Scotland. Others believe that soldiers often used logs when building bridges on long expeditions and, similarly to the foresters, created a diversion by tossing the logs. Others claim that logs would be tossed against the walls of a castle or stronghold during an invasion but whatever the origins, it is now quintessentially Scottish when it comes to games.

The hammer throw is thought to have military origins and dates from the time Edward I of England (Longshanks or Hammer of the Scots) banned Scots from owning weapons at the end of the 12th century. They turned to the hammer, which was not classed as a weapon, although the "hammer" used in Highland Games is actually a metal ball attached to a pole.

The hammer throw is similar to events seen in the Olympic Games as is the shot, or stone, put. A slightly more unusual event is throwing a weight (with a handle) over a bar (weight for height), or the sheaf toss, the origins of which can be easily guessed as coming from farming communities. A sheaf, or bale, of straw and hay is thrown with a pitchfork over a bar, the highest throw wins. A great competition for spectators is Maide-leisg (Gaelic for Lazy Stick). Two competitors sit facing each other, legs stretched out, with the soles of their feet pressed together. Both hold on to the same stick and try to pull each other off the ground. Another very popular event, and seen all over the world since ancient Greece, is the Tug of War, always sure to bring a big crowd at a gathering.

Since the early days of Highland Games, competitors now travel from across the globe and Cowal Highland Gathering has become the biggest in Scotland.

However, the biggest crowds are drawn to events in the United States, especially in Pleasanton, California, which has spectators numbering nearly 50,000. The US and other ex-pat communities have a high number of gatherings with the first Highland Games in the US taking place as long ago as 1836, in New York.

But the heavy events of old still take place outside traditional Highland Games. One of the best known is the Dinnie Stones challenge. In 1860 famous Highland Games champion Donald Dinnie carried two large granite stones weighing a total of 332kg across Potarch Bridge between Aboyne and Banchory in Royal Deeside. It was front page news when he did it in 19th century - and the Dinnie Stones hit the headlines again when powerlifter Stevie Shanks recreated the test in 2017.

And with Tom Stoltman still basking in the glory of becoming the World's Strongest Man, there seems to be no sign that the "heavy" events are going to lose their popularity any time soon.







Castles of the Black Douglases

James Douglas – The Black
Douglas – was Robert the
Bruce's right hand man.
Follow the fates and fortunes
of his family as we explore the
castles of the Black Douglases
with Dr Callum Watson.

courtesy of Hista he Black Douglases were one of the most powerful and dangerous noble families in Scotland. They rose to prominence through service to the Scottish crown during a series of conflicts with England in the fourteenth-century. Unfortunately for the Douglases, fundamental changes in the make-up of Scottish aristocratic society in the fifteenth-century led to their downfall. At the height of their power, the family controlled a string of castles all over the kingdom. This article will look at six sites now under the care of Historic Environment Scotland that help us chart the rise and fall of this tremendously important noble dynasty.

Rising Stars – Melrose Abbey



The Black Douglases owed their rise to power to the activities of 'the Good' Sir James Douglas. He was a vigorous and successful war leader and a counsellor of Robert the Bruce. When Bruce died in 1329 Douglas was chosen to take the king's heart on crusade to Spain. When Douglas was killed carrying it into battle the heart was brought back to Scotland for burial at Melrose Abbey. This began a long association between Melrose and the Douglases, who sought to present themselves as the 'special protectors' of the abbey. The Douglases even adopted the 'bludy hart' of Bruce on their coat of arms, which can be seen around many of the sites mentioned below.

Top of the Tree - Bothwell Castle



The Black Douglases may have risen to prominence with 'the Good' Sir James, but his son Archibald 'the Grim' cemented that power. Archibald was technically illegitimate and so was initially a minor figure in the Douglas family. However, in the 1360s King David II began to promote Archibald's interests. In part, this was done to destabilise the influence of Archibald's cousin William, 1st Earl of Douglas. In 1362 David arranged for Archibald to marry Joanna Murray. Murray was a wealthy

heiress who owned a number of castles around Scotland. Of all of these, Bothwell Castle seems to have been Archibald's favourite. It became his primary residence for the rest of his life. Archibald refortified Bothwell for use as a base from which to bring the fractious kindreds of Galloway under royal control. King David rewarded him for this service by making him Lord of Galloway in 1369.

It was at Bothwell in 1399 that Archibald's daughter Mary married King Robert III's son David, Duke of Rothesay. The marriage cemented Archibald's position as one of the most important people in the kingdom and provoked his local rival the Earl of March to leave Scotland altogether! Archibald died, probably at Bothwell, around Christmas 1400 but the castle remained one of the most important Black Douglas residences. Archibald's son – Archibald, 4th Earl of Douglas – was an influential figure both within Scotland and abroad, and he turned Bothwell into a palatial dwelling in keeping with his ambitions.

Trendsetters – Lincluden Collegiate Church



Archibald the Grim was quite a trendsetter. In 1389 he petitioned the pope to allow him to turn the nunnery at Lincluden into a collegiate church. He claimed that the nuns were living in sin with 'very evil men'. The pope approved Archibald's petition and Archibald removed the nuns by force.

Collegiate churches became very popular among the Scottish nobility in the years afterwards, with thirteen – including one beside Crichton Castle – being established in the fifteenth-century.

Many of the early adopters of this trend – such as the Crichtons, the Hamiltons and the Douglases of Dalkeith – were kinsmen or allies of the Black Douglases. The rise in popularity of collegiate churches after 1400 may partly reflect a desire to emulate the family's power and prestige.

Troublemakers – Lochleven Castle
The Black Douglases owed their
prominence to the faithful service of 'the
Good' Sir James and Archibald the Grim to
King Robert I and King David II. However, at
the beginning of the fifteenth-century
Scottish society was changing. King James
I of Scotland was distrustful of the ability
of great magnates like the Black Douglases
to maintain huge regional followings using
the wealth generated by their enormous
landholdings. Instead, James encouraged
lesser noblemen to look directly to the
crown for patronage and leadership.
This gave him greater control in the localities.

In 1430 James briefly had his nephew Archibald, 5th earl of Douglas, imprisoned at Lochleven Castle. This was in an effort to prevent the earl from interfering in the local politics of Carrick in south-west Scotland. The Black Sheep - Balvenie Castle



Family drama also weakened the Black Douglases in the early fifteenth-century. Archibald the Grim had two legitimate sons, Archibald (who succeeded him as the fourth earl) and James 'the Gross' (so called because he was so overweight in later life). The fourth earl granted Balvenie Castle to his brother - James the Gross - in 1408. Balvenie was one of the castles that came to the family through Archibald the Grim's marriage to Joanna Murray. He had hoped giving his son this northern castle would keep James out of the his business in the south. However, James continued to pursue a successful career as a royal courtier.

In 1440, James's great-nephews William, 6th Earl of Douglas, and David Douglas were arrested at Edinburgh Castle, tried on flimsy treason charges, and executed. This gruesome event, known as the 'Black Dinner', was also certainly orchestrated with James's knowledge, and perhaps even his assistance. As a result of the Black Dinner James became the seventh earl of Douglas. James's sons used Balvenie Castle as a base from which to expand Black Douglas influence in north-east Scotland. To facilitate this, his son William, 8th earl of Douglas, made a deal of some kind with the other powerful magnates in that region - the earl of Ross and the earl of Crawford. This would ultimately sour relations between the Black Douglases and

King James II was deeply suspicious of Ross and Crawford. When William refused to break the deal in 1452, King James personally stabbed the earl to death at Stirling Castle! This began three years of intermittent conflict that ended with the Black Douglases being driven from Scotland altogether.

The Harder They Fall – Threave Castle



Threave Castle had been built by Archibald the Grim to cement his position as Lord of Galloway after 1369.b The tower-house design was unusual in Scotland at the time but started a fashion among Scottish castle builders that continued well into the sixteen-century. Galloway was crucial to maintaining Black Douglas power. In the fifteenth-century it played a significant role in the efforts of the Scottish crown to limit the family's influence.

In 1426 James I granted Galloway to his sister Margaret Stewart (Archibald the Grim's daughter-in-law) for life. This was partly to undermine her son the fifth earl (King James's nephew). From 1426 until around 1447 Margaret administered Galloway from Threave and did her best to do right by both her Douglas and Stewart relatives, despite the efforts of her Douglas kinsmen to wrestle the lordship back from her. When she died she was buried at her father-in-law's foundation, Lincluden Collegiate Church.

William, 8th Earl of Douglas, eventually managed to recover Galloway and he or his brother the ninth earl undertook serious building work at Threave. Impressive and high-tech artillery fortifications were added at the base of their grandfather's tower-house. This was likely intended to display Black Douglas power and prestige. However, it may also have been in anticipation of future conflict between the crown and the Black Douglases. When that final confrontation occurred in 1455, Threave held out longer than any other Black Douglas stronghold. However, the typically conservative Scottish political community had by now come to support the king over the Black Douglases. The garrison at Threave surrendered to save their own lives.

Digging into the Douglas story



Between 1974 and 1978, Historic Scotland conducted archaeological work at Threave. It identified a series of out-buildings that were once clustered around the towerhouse. The dig also revealed some wooden platters and bowls, each marked with the 'bludy hart'. The prominence of the heart on these objects is a reminder that during a period when Scottish noble families generally wanted to emphasise how ancient their lineage was, the Douglases were eager to emphasise the fact that they owed their prominence to vigorous and faithful service to the Scottish crown in war. Their links to Robert the Bruce could not protect them from the changes happening in Scottish society in the fifteenth-century. However, it did ensure the family left an indelible mark on our perception of aristocratic life in medieval Scotland.

The Black Douglas was a firm favourite among fans of the film *Outlaw King*. Check out the Historic Scotland Robert the Bruce Trail to go behind the scenes and visit the filming locations of *Outlaw King* and discover the real story of Robert the Bruce.

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