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the Scottish Banner

A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 45 Number 3 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper September 2021

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Volume 45 - Number 3

the Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

The resilience of the international Scottish community

by Sean Cairney

As we enter the final quarter of 2021 most of us will look back on this year as a tough one filled with uncertainty, cancelled plans, and an eagerness to get back to 'normal'. Most weeks we see additions, amendments or updates being done to our online events listings from across the globe. *The Scottish Banner* hosts one of the world's most diverse and largest international Scottish and Celtic events listings, I regularly get to see a snapshot of how different countries are navigating through the Covid pandemic simply through our events calendar.

From across North America, Australia/New Zealand and Scotland events have been cancelled as governments regulate both large, and small, scale gatherings. The impact has been huge, and it underlines just what a vibrant and active community international Scots have developed, regardless of how many miles they are from the shores of Caledonia.

Online presentations

Thankfully, it is not all doom and gloom as many events are coming back or at least being planned for next year. Scots across the globe are not giving up and the incredible culture which is celebrated each month in diverse locations is not going away. Some events are being creative by offering a digital edition, or for others a part digital and part in person event, whilst some are fortunate to go all in person, with perhaps some caps on numbers or additional safety measures being put in place. Different local rules will dictate how events can or cannot manage themselves in these trying times, but one thing that may just be a positive is the notion of having events being put online.

Whilst this may not be everyone's preferred choice it does open the door to people 'attending' an event from anywhere in the world. Recently in Scotland events such as Glasgow's PipingLive! and both the Edinburgh Book and Fringe Festival's for example all had a mix of in-person and online events which anyone could take part in, and yes in case you were wondering the content remained online for a period so people in various time zones could be accommodated.

I think we will see more of this as events look to get back to some normal but perhaps at the same time continue and expand with online presentations to a global audience. I know this is also already being done with online Highland Games having already been produced out of Australia, Canada, Scotland and the USA, not to mention whisky events, Clan meetings, Gaelic classes and pipe band practices just to name a few. Most *Scottish Banner* readers live a fair distance from Scotland and whilst going back is eagerly awaited few can go multiple times a year, or even annually, perhaps we will soon be able to attend an event in Edinburgh or Inverness from the comfort of our home, as often as we like.

In this issue

This year the world lost one of its icons with the passing of Edinburgh native and fiercely proud Scot Sir Sean Connery. Whilst his legacy will live on in so many classic films and he continues to be voted the 'best Bond ever', his family have recently honoured him with his very own tartan which made its worldwide debut at New York's Dressed to Kilt fashion event. It is a fitting tribute for one of Scotland's great sons and I will always remember the time I was paged to the podium at an airport, waiting for a flight to Glasgow, and paged as Sean Connery. It certainly caused a few others in the departure lounge to be "shaken, not stirred"…

Can you imagine travelling with an 800-year-old guidebook? That is exactly what David C. Weinczok did as he travelled to Orkney with the *Orkneyinga Saga* in hand. This medieval chronicle takes the reader across Orkney at a time when the islands were still very much a part of the Viking world. The pages really take the reader back to a brutal time with battles, mythology, history and legend.

An example of just how innovative events are thinking outside the box is highlighted in this issue with the recent digital presentation of the Montreal Highland Games. The Games program blended pre-recorded segments of music, dance and storytelling with onsite interviews and live action. A highlight however was without doubt that Canadian champion Highland Heavy athlete Jason Baines beat the Guinness World Record for the number of cabers tossed in one hour. Jason incredibly beat the previous record of 122 caber tosses in one hour to establish a phenomenal new record of 161 tosses, a feat you can now watch online. Congratulations Jason and to the entire Montreal Highland Games committee!

Haste ye back

As we go to press with this issue there are already numerous event committees planning that next great Scottish event for you to enjoy. Some people will still have to wait several months before considering which one to go to, whilst others have some great events happening this month. As a community group the Scots are spoiled for choice with great events across the globe that appeal to all ages and interests.

When it is safe to do so I urge all our readers to travel near and far (or online) and enjoy and support these great events and reconnect with our shared love of Scotland. If you can do so now then haste ye back and go for those of us that currently cannot and let those events, their performers, vendors and community groups know how important they are to keeping us connected, grounded and proud to have Scotland in our veins.

Will you be attending any Scottish events in person or online? 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: Natasha Connery and Samara Connery debut the Sir Sean Connery Tartan. Photo by JP Yim/Getty Images.

CITY OF Armadale
ARMADALE
HIGHLAND
GATHERING
AND THE
PERTH KILT RUN
SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER 2021
8.30am – 4pm, Minnawarra Park, Armadale
ARMADALE HIGHLAND GATHERING
Heavy events | Highland dancing | Pipe bands
Clan village | Live music | Scottish tavern & food
Medieval fair | Scottish dogs + much more!
Free ticketed event. See details on the Facebook page.
PERTH KILT RUN
The only charity fun run in Western Australia where everyone wears a kilt!
REGISTER NOW
perthkiltrun.com.au

SCOTPOURRI

Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.
Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history?

The Scots are here!

G'day or should I say fit like? (I'm polishing up my Doric to work with my new associate). Please find attached a picture at the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival which took place in Wingham, NSW in June. The photo is of me giving the Jamie Fraser salute during the opening ceremony. I plan to do this every year from now on. It might be worth noting it in *the Scottish Banner* and encouraging other festivals to take up the idea too.
Cheers, slàinte etc.
Wade King
Wingham, NSW
Australia

Ed note: Great idea Wade and we would love to hear from other Scottish events doing unique concepts.

Expat photo appeal

I'm trying to complete a music video project and need some expat help .... For an explanation please see: www.facebook.com/ForeverHame Appreciate if you can circulate.
John Dawson
Aberdeen, Scotland
Email: johndaw@btinternet.com

Enjoy the Scottish Banner

This is a letter of appreciation. I buy *the Scottish Banner* to take with me when I see a nursing sister I used to work under. She is now a resident of the nursing home she had a large hand in running in Sydney, Australia. She grew up in Port Glasgow and Aberdeen, before she moved with her parents to Australia. That is she met her Czech, immigrant, husband. Let's call my friend, 'Jane'. This is not her real name (she has asked me not to use it) but the name of my first 'girlfriend', Jane Cameron. We were in kindergarten together, part of the English School in Vienna. My father was originally from there, but escaped in 1938 when the Nazi regime took over (with a good deal of Austrian support). He got to New Zealand-Aotearoa, where he married my Ngaire Head, who grew up in the rather Scottish South Island. Jane's parents, Jack and Margaret, were Scottish. I am not sure why Jane and I were inseparable, but we were. So Sr Jane, not her real name, and myself very much enjoy *the Scottish Banner*. It is very much a nostalgia trip for both of us. That is because I also worked in Scotland, in Montrose. That is between Aberdeen and Dundee, in a factory run by 'Chivers' or actually Cadbury. That and Eskfoods (Montrose is on the River Esk besides being a seaside town) have both closed down. I love the Scottish accent(s) and typically Scottish traditions, kilts and cabers and those celebrations beginning with 'k'. And of course, the wit of so many Scots that leaves the English for dead. Maybe it is the hardship that so many Scots have been through that has created that.

There is so much I miss about Scotland, especially when I visit Sr Jane. Thanks again for *the Scottish Banner*.
Stephen Langford OT (Order of Timor)
Paddington, NSW
Australia

Scotland's K66

Dear Sean,
I am belatedly catching up on the July edition in which you rightly celebrate your 45th anniversary – well done is all I can say. Many congratulations on the enduring success of *the Scottisah Banner,* your parents would be very proud of you and your continuing achievements.

Prompted by your editorial and article on K66 (*Get your kicks on Scotland's K66, Scottish Banner*, July, 2021), I effectively covered K66 before its recent formal introduction. I can only echo the comments in the K66 article; I really enjoyed my stay and travels in Kintyre. The McCartney family farm is still owned by Sir Paul and the memorial to Linda in Campbeltown testifies to their love of the region and the region's love of the McCartney family.

I have been fortunate to be able to travel to Scotland every year over the past decade or so, the last such trip was in 2019. It is a shame to realise that, like many, each passing virus-impacted year, reduces the number of prospective trips down the track.

Again, very well done on the continuing success of *the Scottish Banner* and here's to your enjoyment of *The Mull of Kintyre*, hopefully in the not-too-distant future, both visual and aural.
Cheers,
Stewart Campbell

Ed note: Thank you Stewart for your note and we really hope we can all get back to Scotland soon.

Scotland's Castle Corridor

I particularly enjoyed this article (*Scotland's Castle Corridor, Scottish Banner,* August, 2021) as I have been studying the building of the seaway castles on the west coast of the Scottish mainland and the Inner and Outer Hebrides for several years. The last chief of the Clan MacNeil, Ian Roderick Macneil made a personal study of Galley Castles and looked for similarity in structures in the Orkneys and Outer Hebrides.

In 2015 a conference was held on the island of Barra and a number of leading researchers gave papers. Following the conference the Islands Book Trust published a book of the papers edited by Paula Martin and I have a copy of this book.

The castles covered in this book extend from the Orkneys, Western Isles, Inner Hebrides, the west mainland coast castles, Galloway and Ireland. There is a wealth of information in this book.

Sailing down the sound of Mull provides an excellent view of the power of the local clans with Aros and Duart castles on the isle of Mull and Mingary and Ardtornish on the opposite bank. Further along as one approaches Oban there are Dunollie and Dunstaffnage castles.
Kind regards,
John MacNeil

Wailing widow Falls

Wailing widow falls
Veils of a tumbling rushing
stream fall over scree as
in a dream, launched to
spray the vertical drop
with no hand of nature
to call it to stop.

Streams of water the widow's
tears the consequence of
realised fears, a son in
fullest bloody chase neer
saw the drop over the
waters race.

A hunter's mind with thought
of kill took no notice of the
rush of the waters spill, he
followed the hind down the
darkest drop and the tears
that followed never stopped.

Now the tears there flow over
scree and hill and the widow's
veils tumble still, in the mist
and rain when the cold winds
blow the widow in her veils
will surely show.

Kit Duddy
kitspoems
Caithness, Sutherland
Scotland

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media

Coo

Great to finally get a wee bit of sunshine.
Scotdrone
Scotland

Castle Stalker

Stalker Castle on Loch Linhe in Appin.
Ronald Stokes

Mull of Galloway Lighthouse

Mik Coia

The Wallace Monument

The magnificent Wallace Monument in Stirling. Definitely worth climbing the 246 steps to the top for the magnificent views.
Charles McGuigan
Scotland

Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Please keep letters under 300 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters can be emailed to info@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!

Work begins to uncover secrets of Viking burial site

Scottish archaeologists begin post-excavation work on significant ancient Viking burial site in Orkney.

Archaeologists working in Orkney.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is funding post-excavation analysis on two recently discovered Viking graves that may form part of a previously unknown cemetery uncovered in Orkney, to unlock stories of Viking life in Scotland over a thousand years ago. In 2015, human remains were discovered on the northeast coast of Papa Westray, Orkney.

Further investigation determined that these discoveries were in fact the remains of Viking Age burials. Excavations revealed a number of significant finds, including evidence of a rare Viking boat burial, and a second grave richly furnished with weapons including a sword. Similarities with the type of burials and grave furnishings to those previously uncovered suggest the Papa Westray graves may be those of first-generation Norwegian settlers on Orkney.

Archaeologists from AOC Archaeology are now working to analyse the discovery using a range of cutting-edge scientific techniques, with the hope of gaining new insights into the life and death of the Viking community in Orkney during the 10th century. The project will include a detailed programme of osteological work (bone analysis) and radiocarbon dating to help determine the age of the remains, as well as expert conservation and analysis of the grave artefacts that were unearthed.

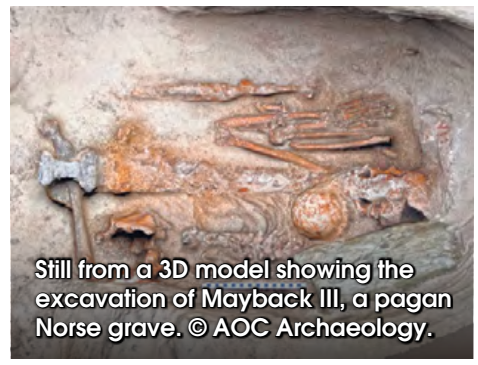
HES will also be working with the Ancient Genome Project to undertake genetic analysis of the discoveries to determine further information about the individuals in the graves, including genetic ancestry and sex, as well as to gain information on their diet and mobility.

Viking heritage of Orkney

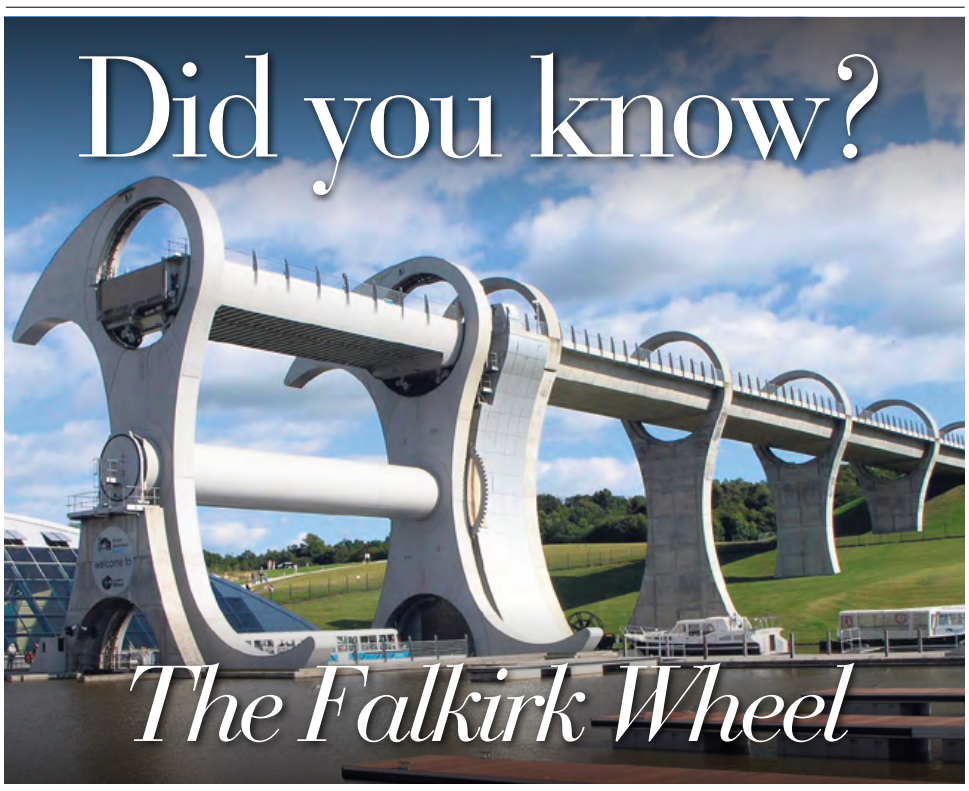
Dr Kirsty Owen, Deputy Head of Archaeology at HES, said: "We are delighted to be funding the work on this exciting project with AOC Archaeology, which we hope will shed new light on the Viking communities in Orkney during the 10th century. Many of the Viking burial sites we know of in Orkney were excavated in the late 19th and early 20th century. This is a rare opportunity to investigate this discovery with the cutting-edge methods and techniques available to us today. We look forward to sharing our findings as the analysis continues, which we hope will enhance our understanding of the rich Viking heritage of Orkney and reveal more about the people who lived on these islands over one thousand years ago."

Dr Ciara Clarke, Deputy Managing Director of AOC Archaeology, said: "We are excited to be embarking on this project and look forward to working with HES, and an enthusiastic team of experts including Dr Stephen Harrison of Glasgow University, to record, study and analyse the evidence contained in these Viking Age burials. The programme will help us to understand these individuals, their lives and their culture, telling us more about life in Orkney during the 10th century. We will be able to compare and contrast the evidence to other Scottish examples, as well as to similar sites from across the wider Viking world."

HES will be updating on progress and results regularly throughout the year as the work continues.


Still from a 3D model showing the excavation of Mayback III, a pagan Norse grave. © AOC Archaeology.

A skeleton buried with a sword. © AOC Archaeology.



- Designed to replace a series of lock gates built in the 19th century, long since demolished and replaced by housing. The Falkirk Wheel is the showpiece of the Millennium Link project.
- The Falkirk Wheel is the world's only rotating boat lift and is one of only two working boat lifts in the entire UK.
- The Wheel was built to connect the Forth & Clyde Canal and the Union Canal which allows coast to coast navigation across central Scotland, re-established for the first time in over 40 years.
- The Falkirk Wheel was opened by Her Majesty, The Queen in 2002.
- The structure replaced a flight of 11 locks that once stepped the Union Canal down to the level of the Forth & Clyde, more than 100 feet below and which nearly a day to complete.
- The structure contains over 15,000 bolts which are matched with 45,000 bolts holes. Each of these bolts was hand tightened.
- Original concepts for the Falkirk Wheel included a see-saw, rolling eggs, and monorails.
- The Wheel only uses 1.5kWh of energy to turn, the same amount as it would take to boil 8 household kettles.

SCOTSPEAK

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

"The programme we are announcing represents a carefully organised return to live performance. It is a collaborative effort between those who live in our city, our artists, the team at the festival, our donors and stakeholders and all who will be coming along to our performances. While so much has been written and said about the challenges of the past 15 months, it is now time to look to the future and to the brilliant musicians, actors, dancers and poets who are getting ready to perform in Edinburgh. I would like to pay tribute to everyone involved in the Festival who has worked tirelessly in extraordinary circumstances and to thank our many partner organisations and stakeholders who have contributed to this programme. None of us can be certain of what the coming months will bring but we are committed to working together on returning to the joy of live performance."

Fergus Linehan, Festival Director, Edinburgh International Festival said ahead of the launch of the world famous festival. The scaled back event ran alongside the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and was a celebration of the performing arts.

"We're absolutely delighted with this change. This recognises a thousand years of tradition in Highland Games. While much of the origins are lost in the mists of time, it is often said that the Scottish King Malcolm started things in the eleventh century with competitions to find the swiftest runners, strongest throwers and best pipers."

The Royal Scottish Highland Games Association (RSHGA) Chairman Iain Watt said that the governing body for Highland games in Scotland has officially changed its name. Formerly known as the Scottish Highland Games Association it is now the Royal Scottish Highland Games Association, following agreement to the name change by Her Majesty The Queen. Highland games have enjoyed strong royal connections ever since, including annual visits to the Braemar Gathering; the patron of the RSHGA is HRH Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, who recently gave a video message of support for Scottish Highland Games.

"I'm really looking forward to sharing a few of my favourite moments from over the years … it's been brilliant, and I hope you'll come along for the ride!"

Sir Billy Connolly said of his new show *Billy Connolly Does* which will see the Scottish comic reflect on his life and career spanning 50 years. The five episode show will cover topics that range from work, love, sex, travel, and childhood, and will be shot around Florida in his home with his wife Pamela Stephenson.

"I'm delighted and very proud with what's been achieved here – with the lack of facilities we have at Aviemore, the lack of manpower and, initially, the lack of finance. I'm also rather sad at the number of people who've been involved in the restoration of 5025 who are either no longer with us or too infirm to enjoy what's happening. It was extremely important to restore because of its history. It's the oldest one of its type. It was never taken into a scrapyard – it worked until the very last day of steam."

Strathspey Railway project manager Paul Blount said: as 5025 – the oldest 'Black 5' class locomotive in preservation – was refurbished after a 10 year and £500,000 restoration by Strathspey Railway enthusiasts. The 122-year-old locomotive returned to service after a break of nearly thirty years.

"This change is significant and it is hard-earned. The sacrifices everyone has made over the past year and a half can never be overstated. However, while this move will restore a substantial degree of normality, it is important to be clear that it does not signal the end of the pandemic or a return to life exactly as we knew it before Covid struck. Declaring freedom from, or victory over, this virus is in my view premature. The harm the virus can do, including through the impact of long Covid, should not be underestimated. And its ability to mutate may yet pose us real challenges."

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon urged caution as Scotland lifted coronavirus restrictions. Level zero ended recently with almost all of the remaining anti-Covid measures now removed. However some measures are still being used across the country such as face coverings in public places, and pubs and restaurants will continue to collect customer contact information.

SCOTWORD

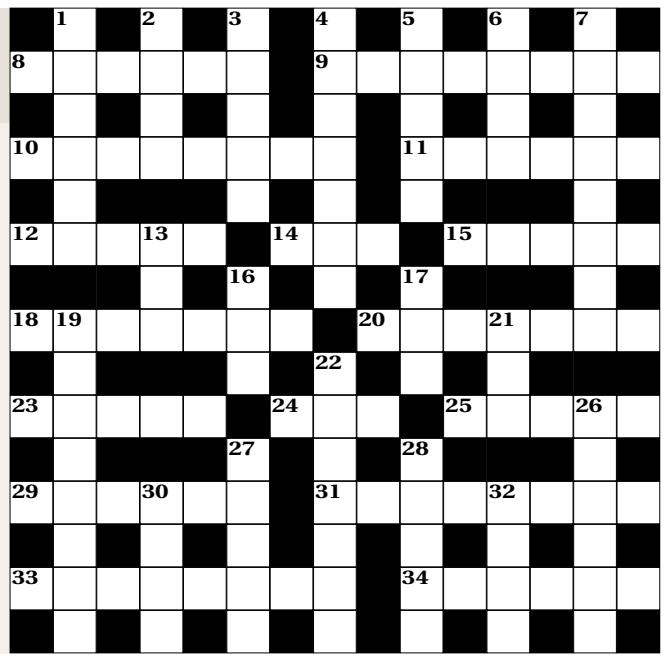
Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try! If you're stuck, answers can be found on page 22.

CLUES ACROSS

8) Bonnet accessory (6)
9) Often called the mayflower (8)
10) With 11 Across, The North-east admin area (8)
11) See 10 Across (6)
12) Scots serving plate (5)
14) He'll know Scots! (3)
15) Scottish lakes (5)
18) Scots get-together (7)
20) Argyll peninsula (7)
23) Town near Elgin (5)
24) Of the same name (3)
25) Staggers through the dances (5)
29) The "Bridie" town (6)
31) A Scots commotion (8)
33) Theatrical pose (8)
34) Rangers rivals (6)

CLUES DOWN

1) Town near mouth of River Findhorn (6)
2) Whisky measure (4)
3) Largest Outer Hebridean island (5)
4) Part of the Pipes (7)
5) A Highland dancer needs it! (5)
6) Scots name for Hugh (4)
7) Village at head of Long Loch (8)
13) Old Scots measure (3)
16) Bustling activity (3)
17) Another whisky measure (3)
19) Border fishing town (8)
21) Driving aid (3)
22) Highland hose accessories (7)
26) Town near Glenrothes (6)
27) Freshwater fish (5)
28) An amazing lass! (5)
30) Glasgow's annual summer holiday (4)
32) Its capital is Tobermory (4)



Aberdeen Highland Games

By: Charles Cooke, Vice President

Since the postponement of the annual Aberdeen Highland Games, that were due to run on Saturday 3rd July, much seems to have taken place. Following the announcement of Saturday 2nd October as the new date for the Games, there have been many changes, especially within the realms of COVID and the Lockdowns that are now affecting so many. These changes are taking place daily, and I suppose we must admit that we do not really know where the buck will stop. Whilst there has been some refunding of tickets it is nowhere near where we thought it may have been. Likewise, a couple of stalls have pulled out their place has soon been taken up by others. A similar situation exists with the Pipe Bands and some of the other entertainers. The Kilted Warriors likewise are all lined up to come and to entertain all with their feats of strength. All this of course being dependent upon COVID Lockdowns. A final decision on the event going ahead will be made in early September and all will be advised from there. We trust you may all keep well, and we look forward to seeing you all on Saturday 2nd October.

Tickets are still available so please visit the Games web site www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com to get your tickets and to keep up with what will be happening on the day.

The Silver Chanter

The 2021 Silver Chanter competitors.

Angus MacColl.

Photographs by DerekMaxwell.

The 55th Silver Chanter competition, held at the National Piping Centre Glasgow was won this year by Angus MacColl of Benderloch. The 55th annual MacCrimmon Piobaireachd competition saw six top pipers compete playing some of the most well-known piobaireachd.

This event was established in 1967 by Dame Flora MacLeod of Dunvegan Castle and all the tunes played have a MacCrimmon connection. Angus played *Lament for Mary MacLeod*. Also playing were Stuart Liddell (*Lament for the Only Son)*, Iain Speirs (*Lament for MacLeod of Colbecks)*, Finlay Johnston (*Lament for the Children*), Callum Beaumont (*Lament for The Earl of Antrim)* and Glenn Brown (*Rory MacLeod's Lament)*.

This prestigious event is sponsored by The William Grant Foundation.

A Harbour to Treasure

By: Charlie Mill

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

Tobermory. Photo: VisitScotland.

Whenever the name Tobermory, on the lovely west-coast island of Mull, is brought up, the first thing that leaps to everyone's mind is Spanish treasure, and a vast amount of riches that have defied all attempts to locate and recover it for over four centuries. The romance of the Tobermory treasure began in 1588 with the rout of the glorious Spanish Armada.

When the fleet was dispersed to all points, several of the ships attempted to reach home waters by sailing up round Scotland. One such vessel was the *Florencia*, the pay ship of the Armada, and by the time she limped into Tobermory Bay for badly needed supplies and repairs she was in a rather sorry state.

In those days the Chief of the Maclean's of Mull was Sir Lachlan Mor Maclean of Duart Castle. Sir Lachlan was busy doing battle with his neighbours, and with the appearance of the Spanish ship this gave him an ideal opportunity to augment his force of fighting men.

So, the Highland chieftain and the Spanish captain met and made a pact with each other. It basically meant that in return for rations and supplies, Maclean would be recompensed with the loan of a company of well-equipped Spaniards.

Blew the bottom out of the galleon

With a boosted force of men now at his disposal Maclean went on to lay waste to the islands of Muck, Rum, Canna and Eigg.

On his triumphant return, the Spanish galleon was all prepared to up anchor and said off, when a "misunderstanding" took place at this point whose details are vaguely chronicled it appears that Maclean got greedy and demanded payment in gold for the provisions he had furnished the Spaniards with. When the "payment" was not forthcoming, Maclean held two Spanish officers as hostages. At the same time the Spanish captain seized Donald Gras, the son of Maclean of Morvern, who had been sent to the ship as a go between.

In spite of the loss of his officers, the Spanish captain then resolved to set said and get as far from Maclean and Tobermory as quickly as possible.

Faced with the likelihood of being sold into slavery Donald Gras acted swiftly. Managing to sneak into the powder magazine, he struck flint on steel and blew the bottom out of the galleon, which immediately sank almost in the middle of the harbour where she still lies to this day.

Elusive prize

Throughout the centuries many attempts were made to recover the ship's great treasure, estimated to be now millions of pounds, but all have been in vain. But the unsuccessful search has continued, and the elusive prize still lies at the foot of the bay, a bay that is one of the most beautiful spots in the Western Highlands.

Shielded from the Sound of Mull by Calve Island, it is almost completely landlocked. All round the shores to the south and the west wooded slopes plunge to the water's edge. Across the sweeping band of the Sound, long tracts of heather clad hills stretch into the distance, and together with the vast expanse of the open sea, it gives a sense of breathtaking magnitude.

At the time of the Spanish galleon's sinking there were no houses at Tobermory just a sumptuous natural harbour. Then in 1788 when the British Fisheries Company were establishing resorts round the coast as headquarters for herring fishers, they opted for Tobermory as a likely site and erected the first houses.

In the beginning the fishing flourished and many people were tempted to move to the attractive location on the bay. Sadly, the success didn't persist, but its fleeting affluence had established some influence as the only town in a large district. Present-day Tobermory is a sleepy little town where life carries on at an unhurried pace. A single sweep of buildings lines the harbour front, while on the slopes behind you'll find more houses which appear to look down regally on their more humble companions.
But with or without the treasure concealed in its majestic bay, the area in and around Tobermory possesses enough natural treasures to delight everyone.

Glencoe creel house construction underway

A team of heritage craftspeople raised the wooden frame in Glencoe.

The reconstruction of a 17th century creel house using traditional methods is now underway in Scotland's most famous glen. Led by the National Trust for Scotland, a team of heritage building craftspeople has broken ground and raised the house's 6m-high timber cruck frame. Two triangular 'crucks', which span the width and height of the building, were raised without power tools using an old-fashioned gin pole and hand-winch. This involved the team pulling hard on guy ropes and straps to lift the structure into place. The crucks were then locked together with a horizontal ridge beam, secured with hand-cut joints and pegs.

It took eight people two days, plus a lot of skill and physical strength, to complete the task. The frame's Scots pine and birch timbers have been sourced from Trust's woodlands at Glencoe and Mar Lodge Estate, carefully chosen from trees with a natural curve to give the cruck its shape. The project's lead carpenter, Chas Heath, prepared the rough logs in advance to remove the bark, hew them to size with a hand-axe and crafted each triangular cruck with traditional mortice and tenon joints and wooden pegs.
More than 2,000 hand-cut pegs are required for the building's sturdy timber frame.

A glimpse into how people once lived

The replica creel house is sited next to the Glencoe Visitor Centre, but the building's design has been informed by a long-lost dwelling discovered by archaeologists during excavations beneath the towering Aonach Eagach ridge in the heart of the glen. It will offer visitors a glimpse into how people once lived in Glencoe around the time of the infamous massacre of 1692. No local buildings survive from that era and creel houses have been completely lost from Scotland's architectural landscape, but they would have dominated in rural communities in the West Highlands until the 19th century.

The public will be able to witness the next stage of construction which involves the creation of a basket-like 'creel' internal framework, woven from freshly cut green wood, and thick, insulating external walls built from blocks of turf. The final stage will be the addition of a roof made from a layer of thinner turf below heather thatch. Support for this innovative project came from donors at home and across the world, who enable the Trust to bring alive Scotland's heritage by carrying out projects like this.

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

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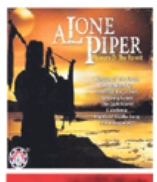

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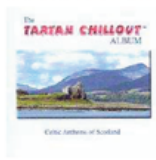

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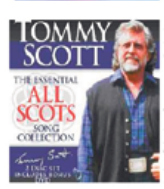

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KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS

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

Largs waterfront.

Cracking the Code

Please keep off the grass
and let the ladies pass,
Here comes a polisman
sliding on his ask,
No questions and
I'll tell no lies.

In the amusement arcade, near to the pier at Largs, there were the usual old fruit machines, later versions to be called one-armed bandits, and those other machines to try our skills out on and to keep us out of the rain. There was the 'powerful' four-pronged crane. It looked like it could lift the shiny watches with ease but its soft-sprung caliper jaws collapsed with the strength of a feather when manipulated into place, so that even getting a plastic peashooter or a plastic whistle into the chute was nigh on impossible, never mind an expensive looking watch from Hong Kong. The shiny watches and even the cheap toys remained frustratingly in place, week after week, gathering dust, as the machine ate up our hard earned Glasgow pennies.

Another machine already had layers of our pennies and half-pennies in its piles for we would attempt to edge over the elusive half-crown and florin that the arcade owner had enticingly and very kindly seeded into the piles of copper. These were, more often than not, precariously balanced at the very edge of the chute and only needed that one more but very smallest of nudges to bring a fortune tumbling down into the waiting grey flannel trouser pockets of my cousin Allan and me. We eagerly placed our coins in the slot and pushed them in to join the others, which by chance and bad luck alone always seemed to be accommodated by the other coins as they politely made way, pushed up and squeezed themselves up to make another space for the new arrivals.

One armed bandit

But when it came to taking a chance and a bet on the fruit machines at Largs my cousin, Allan Marshall and I were experts. We discovered one year that we could beat the odds by being able to predict what the mechanics of the machines would present to unsuspecting punters. These were not fancy machines with flashing lights, enticing sound effects or even 1950's electronics. These were well-worn and entirely mechanical devices with absolutely nothing new fangled or electrical about them. They were state of very old art and we quickly learned how to make them work for us.

Our favourite fruit machine, or one armed bandit, didn't have the usual pictures of cherries, plums, lemons and oranges printed on its slowly revolving barrels. Instead, it had a more exotic theme, suited to the economist or stock-broker gambler. It pictured words and symbols for coal, wheat, textiles, Corn Exchange, Stock Exchange and so on and my cousin and I discovered that we had become very good at working out what was likely to emerge and line up next on its laboriously spinning barrels. So long as we were willing to invest our time and patience and had a sufficient stake to play the machines, we were on a winner.

When four Stock Exchanges lined up the machine paid big money such as a shilling, for three Corn Exchanges, perhaps a sixpence, for three coal bags, threepence and for two corn sheaves maybe a penny and so on. It was no different from any other fruit machine in that respect, except that the elusive pattern brought about by bias, and sought by gamblers in casinos the world over, was staring us in the face. We had cracked the code. All we needed were a few mug punters to feed the machines until our recognized patterns emerged and we would be ready and waiting to cash in. Our predictions were far from infallible but were reliable enough to allow us to go out of the amusement arcade with more money than we went in with - at least on most occasions.

A payout was due

That was far more than could be said by the majority of gamblers. We still needed our own stake and we still needed unwitting punters to play the machine ahead of us but we were able to stand back whilst adults fed their pennies into the machine for an inevitable poor return. A couple of eleven year olds hanging back and watching the adults play didn't arouse too much suspicion on anyone's part.

In the amusement arcade, near to the pier at Largs, there were the usual old fruit machines, later versions to be called one-armed bandits.

After paying in a few shillings worth of money most people gave up in disgust, and one and sixpence down. That's when Allan and I stepped forward knowing that a payout was due, having studied carefully the pattern of returns. By feeding in two further pennies we might get sixpence. We were now fourpence up and waiting for our next opportunity. Sometimes we went in without sufficient funds and got caught out early in the piece, and with our parents not believing what we told them about our personal money-making machine, they were unwilling to help us out. In spite of the pitfalls, on most occasions we made a profit to fund a matinee at the Viking Cinema, another round of putting or a pokie hat from Nardinis Café.

It was appropriate that the one and only cinema in Largs had the prow of a Viking longship sitting outside its front entrance. The Viking campaign of plunder followed by settlement in the western isles had strategy and order to it. The Outer Hebrides were first occupied as summer bases to support extended raids beyond to Ireland, the Isle of Man and so on. As the need arose for personal space and land in Norway the islands of the Outer Hebrides were in turn settled. The Hebrides were geographically beyond the help of the Scottish king so they became Norwegian through time and for more than three centuries they remained so.

The native people of the Scottish islands, in the Hebrides, in the Orkney and In the Shetland Isles who had protested or resisted were undoubtedly put to the sword. Those left would eventualy have integrated with their Norwegian conquerors. But for the fact that the Vikings then decided to put their energies in to raiding mainland Europe, rather than encroach further into Scotland, meant that Scottish history was perhaps saved from taking a very different course.

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY

Duncan Scott pictured alongside Steven Tigg, Head Performance Swim Coach at the University of Stirling. Photo: University of Stirling.

Duncan Scott becomes most decorated Olympian at a single Olympic Games

University of Stirling swimmer Duncan Scott has made history by becoming the most successful British Olympian at a single Olympic Games - winning a record four medals. The 24-year-old surpasses the likes of Sir Chris Hoy, Jason Kenny and Max Whitlock - who all won three medals at a single Games - after winning silver in the Men's 4 x 100m Medley Relay, the final swim event of the Tokyo Olympics.

The win also moves Scott onto a total of six career Olympic medals (one gold, five silver) - for Team GB, only Hoy, Kenny and Bradley Wiggins have won more. Scott's accolade comes three years after he became Scotland's most decorated swimmer at a single Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast 2018. Asked about becoming the most successful British athlete at any individual Games, Scott from Glasgow said: "It's a lot of good teammates, that's what that is. I am very fortunate to be part of some excellent relay teams, this being one of them." Reflecting on the race, he said: "I think initially we are all pretty disappointed - but I think, in 2015, when we started coming together, back to back Olympic silvers in this event, we'd take that all day. We were coming in here to really challenge the Americans, like we did the last time at the Worlds. I think, looking at the splits, we all swam well - slightly disappointed with mine, but that's just the way it is. It's been a tough week, but I think we've got to be happy with that."

Reflecting on Scott's record-breaking four medals, Steve Tigg, Head Performance Swim Coach at the University of Stirling, said: "Duncan has always been special - his success hasn't been the result of just a few years work. All of life's experiences - good or bad - prepare us to face our biggest challenges. Having been part of Duncan's journey for 16 years, this meet was always a key goal on the journey. His level of preparation and commitment to try and achieve his goals was nothing short of inspiring. Although perhaps not all of the dreams were fulfilled, it's fitting that his ambition, desire and relentless competitive nature has won him the accolade of Team GB's most decorated athlete at an Olympics. Duncan is one of Scotland's all-time best athletes across all sports - and he won't stop here with two or three more Olympics left in him. I hope he enjoys all the praise and adulation he duly deserves."

Conservation success as beaver numbers double in Scotland

The number of beavers has more than doubled in Scotland in the last three years to around 1000 animals, according to a NatureScot survey published today. The new population survey has not only found that beaver numbers have increased, but that the population is in a rapid expansion phase as beavers spread out from Tayside, with territory numbers also more than doubling to 251. That population now ranges from Glen Isla to Dundee and Stirling, Forfar to Crianlarich, and is likely to expand into Loch Lomond in the future. Robbie Kernahan, Director of Sustainable Growth, said: "Wildlife is declining in Scotland so this extensive survey which reveals an increasing beaver population is great news for nature in Scotland. Beavers play a vital role in creating and restoring wetlands where other species can thrive, reducing downstream flooding and improving water quality. We also hope that many people in Scotland will enjoy spotting these sometimes elusive but fascinating animals, as they become more common." The survey, carried out last winter, is the largest, most comprehensive and authoritative survey of beaver numbers and their range ever conducted in Britain. It gathered detailed and up-to-date information on the locations of active beaver territories, as well as assessing the health and spread of the overall population, to help inform future beaver work. Beavers became a protected species in Scotland two years ago.

Dornoch Firth whisky and oyster project reaches milestone

Alex Robertson-Jones and Prof Bill Sanderson inspect DEEP's native European oysters from the Dornoch Firth.

Glenmorangie Distillery and a team of scientists from Heriot-Watt University have reached a significant milestone in the Dornoch Environmental Enhancement Project (DEEP), focused on restoring a sustainable native oyster reef in the Dornoch Firth. August 2021 marked the completion of 20,000 native European oysters being returned to the Dornoch Firth, where they became extinct more than 100 years ago as a result of overfishing. This phase's success will pave the way for the restoration of the reef, after years of research, planning and monitoring. As part of the DEEP project, the team is investigating findings that suggest that the restored oyster reef habitat has the capacity to act as a long-term carbon store. Researchers are now researching the carbon value of the calcium carbonate produced in the shell of native oysters, a key component in estimating the total value of the reef's carbon storage potential. Conscious of the organic waste discharge from the Distillery in Tain, Glenmorangie has long understood the need for a water quality enhancement strategy while supporting the marine environment at its brand home on the banks of the Dornoch Firth. The oysters will play a key role in purifying the water which contains organic by-products from the Distillery and the local area, with one oyster able to purify up to 200 litres of water a day. The Distillery's anaerobic digestion (AD) plant commissioned in 2017 has already successfully reduced the Distillery's biological load on the firth by over 95%, and in a Distillery first, the oyster reef is expected to act in tandem to soak up the remaining 5%. In addition to the water purification role the oyster reef also creates a haven for marine life and will help to mitigate the effects of climate change. Professor Bill Sanderson, from the School of Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure and Society at Heriot-Watt University, said: "DEEP has allowed us to demonstrate the many benefits of restoration of long-lost reefs, and carbon storage is yet another exciting outcome of the research for the project. We are still uncovering exactly how much of a game changer this can be but we're increasingly focusing our research on delving deeper into the role of the oyster reef as a carbon store. It's great to think that the Dornoch Firth can contribute as a global exemplar for helping to mitigate climate change, especially as we run up to COP26 being held here in Scotland."

In the process of restoring the reef, Glenmorangie and Heriot-Watt University have worked with rural Scottish oyster growers and brood stock providers across Scotland. In a government-funded report, it was found that for every aquaculture job created in the Highlands, there was a gross value added of about £68k, demonstrating that breeding oysters for reef restoration adds extra economic value.

The North Coast 500 named UK's top road trip

The North Coast 500 (NC500) in Scotland has been crowned the UK's number one road trip destination, research has revealed. The survey of 2,000 motorists found almost half (47 percent) of Brits are planning to take a road trip in the UK now restrictions have been fully lifted, with three quarters (74 percent) of these aspiring to head to the country's picturesque coastline. The NC500 starts in the northern city of Inverness, weaves along the west coast to Applecross and then northwards towards the towns of Torridon and Ullapool. From there, you'll venture to some of the most northerly coastal points in Scotland, passing by Caithness and John o' Groats before heading south again through Dingwall and finally back to Inverness. One in four Brits planning on taking a road trip are eager to take the 'road less travelled', while 45 percent claim great company is what makes a road trip memorable.

The study from Continental Tyres, carried out by OnePoll saw Scotland take out the both the first and second spots for a UK road trip, with the top five UK road trip destinations polled: 1) North Coast 500, Scotland, 2) The Outer Hebrides, Scotland, 3) North Yorkshire Moors, England, 4) The Atlantic Highway, England 5) Coastal Circuit, Northern Ireland.Peter Robb from Continental Tyres, said: "It is fantastic that so many are planning on exploring the country in their vehicles. The restrictions over the past 18 months have prevented many people from getting away and with the summer holidays just starting, it is great that so many people are keen to get behind the wheel again and create incredible memories on a road trip."

By: Nick Drainey

Discovering the Shinty Trail

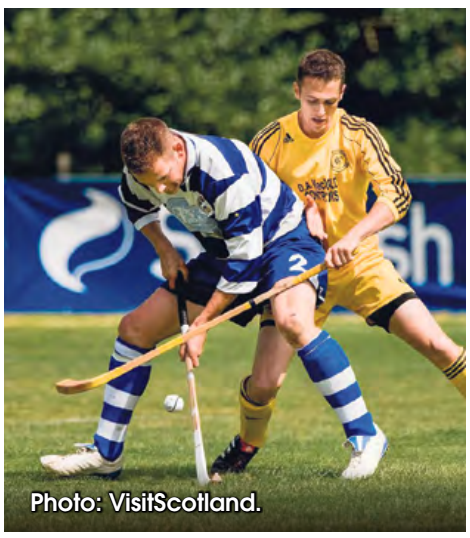


Photo: VisitScotland.

The Highland tradition of Shinty.
Photo: Fiona Young.

The sport of shinty looks brutal when viewed from the side of the field. Players wielding long sticks called camans swoop on the ball with a fierceness not usually seen in hockey, or even in hurling, which is more closely related and played in Ireland. But the game is more than a competition between two sides, it is part of the culture and heritage of Highland Scotland and still brings communities together, hundreds of years after it was first played. The Cairngorms National Park has developed an online Shinty Trail, telling the story of the ancient sport, based around Badenoch where the two big teams of Kingussie and Newtonmore play.

The trail also illustrates the strong ties which the Gaelic language has within the history of the sport. Gaelic song and verse was often composed about the game, where music and dance was also a crucial aspect of match-day activities in days gone by. According to the Camanachd Association, the governing body, it is likely a sport called camanachd was played in the fifth sixth and seventh centuries and it is thought the game came to Scotland from Ireland, where hurling was popular.
In recognition of a shared history, a team of Scottish shinty players and Irish hurling players have often played an annual game against each other, using a composite set of rules.

Shinnie

By the 1600s a game called "shinnie" was being played and although similar to hurling it had developed its own unique rules. In these early days the game had a dual role in providing a sport but also developing fighting skills with the use of the wooden camans. In the past century the competitiveness has been used as a way to show the importance of teamwork and fair play, something which is central to the ethos of the Association. By the time the Victorian era arrived shinty became more organised and the Camanachd Association was formed, holding its first meeting in Kingussie in 1893. By this time, it was played across the Highlands but also in the Lowlands and parts of England, usually where Scots had emigrated. Nowadays the main teams are in the Highlands and Islands although there are clubs in London and Cornwall, and teams have even been established in California and Oregon.

It has even been claimed that Scottish immigrants playing shinty in Canada in the 19th century were responsible for the development of ice hockey. As winter came they played the game on frozen lakes, the start of one of North America's most popular sports. Others claim English hockey was more closely related to the ice version but a newspaper in Ontario in 1899 reported: "Hockey is a graduate of old man shinny."

Despite this rich heritage, a game of shinty in the Highlands has all the feel of a game rooted in the community where it is being played. Much of the Highland culture is retained in the 21st century, not least with the prevalence of Gaelic. The Cairngorms National Park Authority states: "Gaelic is undoubtedly the language of shinty, where historically both players and spectators alike were native speakers from the surrounding communities. The language and etiquette on the pitch were also in Gaelic, as were the cheers from supporters on the side-lines. As a result, many of the terms now associated with the game, which are still used prominently today, are in the language."

Traditional Highland culture

The big trophy played for by Highland teams in modern shinty is the Camanachd Cup, with the first final won in 1896 by Kingussie, against Glasgow Cowal in Inverness.
The trophy is now a replica of the original after the Association decided it was at risk from the celebrations of the winners – whisky is usually drunk from it and in 1990 the victorious Skye team temporarily left it in a square in Portree. The figure of a player on top of the trophy is based on a real person - Jock Dallas who played for Kingussie and whose great grandson, Ally Dallas, also played for the same team. Another great player from Badenoch is Ronald Ross who also played for Kingussie. He is the only man to have scored more than 1,000 goals in the sport and was dubbed the "Ronaldo of the Glens" All of this heritage is included in the Shinty Trail developed by the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) with funding support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig (the principal public body in Scotland responsible for promoting Gaelic development).

At one time, a number of settlements along the length of the Spey had teams, where the area is also home to two of the most successful teams in the game through the neighbouring Newtonmore and Kingussie Camanachd Clubs.

Shinty historian and broadcaster Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan says the sport in Badenoch "is such an important part of life and the cultural heritage", adding that the trail "will be a huge asset to schools and other people wanting to research the history of the game and its importance to people young and old. It will offer visitors to the area and people from all over the world an insight into the wayward strands which come together on the field of play, but which are reflected in the environment and its rich store of place-names and other features."

Bruce MacDonald, the Cairngorms National Park Authority Gaelic Intern, adds: "The Shinty Trail is an online, storytelling experience covering 30 key heritage sites, spanning from Laggan to Kincraig, where the aim is to convey the significance of the sport to the heritage and culture of Badenoch, as well as its deep-rooted relationship with many other aspects of traditional Highland culture, such as the Gaelic language. Over the course of this journey, the origins of shinty and the development of the modern game can be explored, as well as the history of key teams in the area, both past and present. There is also the opportunity to experience important aspects of Badenoch's past, such as the Clan Macpherson, emigration, war, and early tourism."

The Shinty Trail can be viewed in English at: www.cairngorms.co.uk/discover-explore/heritage/the-shinty-trail or Gaelic: www.cairngorms.co.uk/discover-explore/heritage/the-shinty-trail

A shinty field in Killin.
Photo: Don Gillies/Wikimedia Commons.

Shinty being played in Argyll.
Photo: Billy McKechnie/Wikimedia Commons.

The Camanachd Cup.
Photo: Sologoal/Wikimedia Commons.

Dressed to Kilt

Natasha Connery and Samara Connery debut the Sir Sean Connery Tartan. Photo by JP Yim/Getty Images.

Kilts, craftsmanship, and love for Sir Sean Connery were on full display at this year's Dressed to Kilt (DTK) after taking a hiatus due to COVID. The hugely popular Dressed to Kilt Scottish fashion show was held on Long Island, New York in July and the Sir Sean Connery Tartan was revealed to the public for the first time, modelled by his granddaughters in a stunning tribute.

Sir Sean Connery Tartan

The show featured an array of Scottish, Native American and Country Lifestyle clothing with the Sir Sean Connery Tartan unveiled as the show's finale. Beautiful frocks made from the Tartan were modelled by Sir Sean's granddaughters, Natasha and Samara Connery, and kilt was modelled by event co-founder Peter Morris. The tartan was designed by well-known Scottish tartan designer Mark Gibson working together with Sir Sean's family; Lady Connery, Stephan Connery his son, and his granddaughters as a tribute to his life and Scottish heritage.

DTK's Peter Morris and Dr. Geoffrey Scott Carroll.

Models walk the runway at the Dressed To Kilt Charity Fashion Show. Images: JP Yim/Getty Images and Victoria Bruno.

debuts Sir Sean Connery Tartan in a stunning tribute show

It featured red, blue, and yellow hues as a tribute to Connery's love for Scotland, the Bahamas, and France, where his wife is from. The audience was deeply touched by many of the personal anecdotes and memories from shows past with Sir Sean by show orators and Dressed to Kilt chairs, Dr. Geoffrey Scott Carroll and Peter Morris.

Kilts, craftsmanship, and love for Sir Sean Connery were on full display at this year's Dressed to Kilt after taking a hiatus due to COVID.

The Dressed to Kilt show is known as the media darling of Tartan Week in the United States. It was originally co-founded by the late Sir Sean Connery and in his honour, event chair and DTK co-founder, Dr. Geoffrey Scott Carroll arranged to have a new tartan designed for Sir Sean with input from his family. The Sir Sean Connery tartan was be debuted on the catwalk in a kilt produced by Glenisla Kilts and a bespoke coat and dress designed by Totty Rocks of Edinburgh.

The largest and most prestigious Scottish fashion event in the world

The show was held at the Mill Neck Manor Estate perched atop a rolling hill, about 25 miles outside of New York City. The theme of the show was "Country Lifestyle Fashion," everything from Downton Abbey to the Dakotas. The runway show celebrated Scottish, Native American, and Outdoor Lifestyle and culture with extra exuberance after the hardship endured over the last year.

The show and event raised funds for the Navy SEAL Foundation. Notable models and attendees included Ann Coulter, Buck Sexton, Grace Dove, Ashley Callingbull, Lea Gabrielle, Taya Kyle, and several former Navy SEALS.

From its genesis in 2003, DTK is now the largest and most prestigious Scottish fashion event in the world, and one of the highest profile fashion shows in the United States. We believe that fashion without the enrichment of diverse cultures become hollow.

The show is produced by the Friends of Scotland charity which was co-founded by Sir Sean Connery in 2002. In addition to supermodels, this show highlights very accomplished men and women on the runway and it is also filled with A-List celebrities and athletes from both sides of the Atlantic. In recent shows Sir Sean Connery, Gerard Butler, Kiefer Sutherland, Kyle MacLachlan, Billy Connolly, Brian Cox, Martin Compston, Chris "Mr. Big" Noth, Mike Myers and Craig Ferguson have all walked the runway. The charity has raised significant sums for veterans and their families on both sides of the Atlantic.

For more information, please visit: www.dressedtokilt.com

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Death of St Giles, patron saint of Edinburgh (and Elgin). **714**

1 - The sole remaining gas street lamp in Glasgow was lit for the last time. **1971**

1 - Cairngorms National Park created and the UK's largest National Park, it was Scotland's second national park after Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, created in 2002. **2003**

2 - Death of engineer, road, bridge and canal builder Thomas Telford. He was buried in Westminster Abbey. **1834**

2 - Bill Shankly, arguably the greatest football manager ever, was born in Glenbuck, Ayrshire. His early career saw him winning seven caps for Scotland as a professional footballer. At the age of 33, Shankly was approaching the end of his playing days, so when the 1946-47 season brought professional football back post-war, Shankly embarked on a new career as a manager, he was appointed chairman of Liverpool in 1959. At this time Liverpool was languishing in the Second Division. Shankly turned this situation around and elevated Liverpool to the top of the league, the envy of all other clubs. Shankly died of a heart attack in 1981. **1913**

3 - Prince Charles Edward Stuart proclaimed his father as King James VIII of Scotland at Perth. **1745**

3 - Rioting on the streets of Glasgow, as weavers expressed their anger at wage cuts. Workers burned their looms in the streets, and bricks were thrown at magistrates and soldiers, in protest at the city manufacturers' proposal to reduce the scale of wages. The disorder resulted in soldiers opening fire on the insurgents and six people were killed. **1797**

4 - The last of the famous green and yellow tramcars ran in Glasgow. The final scheduled tram ran from Dalmuir to Auchenshuggle in the city's East End, and marked the demise of a transportation system dating from August 1872. More than 200,000 Glaswegians turned out to bid a poignant farewell to the trams. **1962**

4 -The Forth Road Bridge was opened to the public. Construction had begun in 1958, and at 6,156 feet long, with a centre span of 3300 feet, the suspension bridge spanning the River Forth at South Queensferry outside Edinburgh was the longest in Europe at that time. **1964**

4 -The Queen has officially opened the Queensferry Crossing. She was accompanied by Prince Philip as she cut the ribbon on the £1.35bn road bridge - exactly 53 years after she opened the Forth Road Bridge. The 1.7 miles (2.7km) structure is the longest three-tower, cable-stayed bridge in the world. **2017**

4-5 - Margaret Thatcher becomes the first serving Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to visit Shetland. **1980**

5 - John Home, the Scottish playwright, historian and minister, died. Home outraged the Church when his verse tragedy, Douglas, enjoyed a successful run in Edinburgh after its first performance in 1757. **1808**

6 - The Earl of Mar unfurled the standard of the "Old Pretender" in Braemar at the start of the first Jacobite Uprising. **1715**

6 - Rail transport returns to the Scottish Borders after 46 years with the reopening of the Waverley Route between Edinburgh and Tweedbank, under the name of the Borders Railway. **2015**

7 - Sir Simon Fraser, the "Scottish Patriot", who fought alongside Wallace and Robert the Bruce, was executed by the English and his head displayed in London alongside that of Wallace. **1306**

7 - The birth of Henry Campbell Bannerman, the British Prime Minister. Born in Glasgow and educated at Glasgow and Cambridge, Bannerman became the Liberal MP for Stirling in 1868, a position he held until his death. He climbed the parliamentary ranks, , before becoming leader of the Liberal Party in 1899. Bannerman became Prime Minister in 1905 following Balfour's resignation, and led his party to a landslide victory in the 1906 general election. **1836**

8 - The hanging and beheading of John Baird and Andrew Hardie in Stirling, following the Battle of Bonnymuir in April. The Radicals, who were on strike from the weaving communities in outrage at decreased wages, had marched from Glasgow towards the Carron Iron Works in Falkirk. **1820**

9 - James IV and the flower of Scotland's nobility were killed in battle at Flodden Field, near Branxton, in the English county of Northumberland. **1513**

9 -Mary Queen of Scots was crowned in the security of Stirling Castle. Although only six days old at the time, Mary's coronation took place in the castle chapel following the death of her father, James V. **1543**

9 - *MS Norsea* launched at Govan, the largest passenger ship built on the Clyde and last large passenger ship built in the UK. **1986**

10 - The Scots were defeated by the English at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh, or Falside, near Edinburgh. The battle was sparked by the "Rough Wooing"; the English demands that the ten-year-old Edward VI should marry Mary Queen of Scots, aged five. The military campaign by Henry VIII on the Borders followed the reneged agreement by the Scots Parliament that the two crowns would be united by marriage. The battle was fought at Pinkie Cleugh (cleugh meaning narrow glen in Gaelic) outside Musselburgh and can be regarded as the first "modern" battle on British soil. **1547**

10 - HRH Duke of York opened the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow. **1897**

11 - Battle of Stirling Bridge, Wallace (as famously portrayed by Mel Gibson in *Braveheart*) and Andrew de Moray led Scotland to victory against the forces of England's King Edward I. **1297**

11 -The Referendum on Devolution in Scotland which approved the creation of a new Scottish Parliament. In the 1990s, the Labour Party had revived the idea of devolution and, on their return to power in 1997, the first moves were made. The referendum received an overwhelming "Yes" vote in favour of establishing a Scottish assembly with tax-raising powers, with 74.3 per cent voting for a Scottish parliament and 63.5 per cent in favour of it having tax-raising powers. The Scottish Parliament was formally opened by the Queen on 1 July 1999, with Labour politician Donald Dewar invested as the first minister, at the helm of a Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition government. **1997**

12 - Jacobites defeated government forces at Battle of Sheriffmuir. **1715**

12 - The death of William McNab, the curator of the Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden. McNab was one of the greatest of 19th century Scottish gardeners, responsible for reviving the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh, elevating it from a state of neglect into one of the world's great plant collections. **1848**

13 - Battle of Aberdeen, in which the Marquis of Montrose captured the city. **1644**

14 - Bonnie Prince Charlie, Charles Edward Stuart, occupied Edinburgh. **1745**

15 - The *Hector* from Loch Broom, near Ullapool, arrives at Pictou, Nova Scotia, carrying emigrants escaping from the Clearances. It is estimated that today there are more than 140,000 descendants of these emigrants living in Canada and the United States. **1773**

16 - Scottish explorer David Livingstone discovered Lake Nyasa, Africa. **1859**

16 - Jacobite forces routed Hanoverian dragoons on the outskirts of Edinburgh in what was known as the Canter of Coltbrig. At the beginning of September Charles had entered Perth. He had then crossed the Forth unopposed at the Fords of Frew and, after passing through Stirling and Linlithgow, he arrived within a few miles of Edinburgh. **1745**

17 - David Dunbar Buick was born in Arbroath. Buick emigrated to the USA with his parents at the age of two and founded the Buick Manufacturing Company which later became General Motors. **1854**

18 - Theatre Royal, Glasgow, became the first theatre in Britain to be lit by gas. The Queen Street Theatre's consent to be "illuminated with sparkling gas" in the presence of a large and fashionable audience was a significant advance. **1818**

18 - Scotland holds a Referendum on independence. More than 3.6m people turned out to answer the referendum question: 'Should Scotland be an independent country?' 55.3% voted no and 44.7% voted yes. **2014**

18 - The Clyde Arc, a pedestrian/ cycle bridge over the River Clyde at Finnieston, is officially opened. **2006**

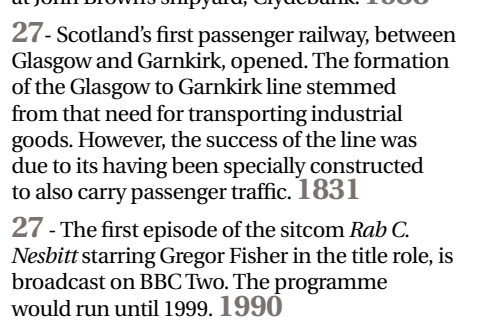
19 - The Great North of Scotland Railway opened, running from Aberdeen to Huntly. **1854**

20 - Liner *Queen Elizabeth II* launched at John Brown's shipyard at Clydebank. The ship was not named after the Queen, but rather was the second ship to bear that name. This is why the Arabic '2' is used in the name rather than the Roman numerals used by the Queen. The ship made its maiden voyage in 1969. **1967**

21 - King James V crowned at Stirling Castle. **1513**

21 - Prince Charles Edward Stuart emerged victorious at the Battle of Prestonpans. The Jacobite army of just over 3,000 under Bonnie Prince Charlie heavily defeated the English Royal forces led by Sir John Cope. **1745**

22 - Alex Salmond defeated Margaret Ewing by 486 votes to 186 to become National Convenor of the Scottish National Party (SNP). Salmond is credited with improving the credibility of the SNP by projecting a moderate image and presenting the party as a realistic alternative to the Labour Party. He would go on to become First Minister of Scotland. **1990**



23 - The Earl of Mar was commissioned to raise a regiment nicknamed "Earl of Mar's Gray Breeks" which later became the Royal Scots Fusiliers. **1678**

24 - Edward Balliol, son of John Balliol, crowned at Scone. He was deposed by supporters of David II in December 1332, restored in 1333, deposed again in 1334, restored in 1335 and finally deposed in 1341. **1332**

25 - The last steam locomotive built in Scotland, by Andrew Barclay Sons & Co. of Kilmarnock, is despatched to its customer in Sumatra. **1962**

25 - The first telephone cable connecting the UK and North America "went live". 2,240 miles long, the cable ran from Gallanach Bay, near Oban in Argyll and Bute, to Clarenville, Canada. **1956**

26 - Queen Margaret, Maid of Norway ("Eiriksdotter") died, en route from Norway to Scotland. **1290**

27 - The 80,000-ton liner *Queen Elizabeth*, then the largest passenger ship ever built, launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank. **1938**

27 - Scotland's first passenger railway, between Glasgow and Garnkirk, opened. The formation of the Glasgow to Garnkirk line stemmed from that need for transporting industrial goods. However, the success of the line was due to its having been specially constructed to also carry passenger traffic. **1831**

27 - The first episode of the sitcom *Rab C. Nesbitt* starring Gregor Fisher in the title role, is broadcast on BBC Two. The programme would run until 1999. **1990**

28 - "Battle of the Clans" between clans Chattan and Kay on the North Inch, Perth, in front of King Robert III. Clan Chattan was declared victorious. **1396**

28 - Ayrshire born Sir Alexander Fleming invented penicillin, today it is the most widely used antibiotic in the world. Sir Alexander Fleming won The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1945 and died in 1955. His ashes are interred at St Paul's Cathedral in London. **1928**

29 - Charter granted to Sir William Alexander of Menstrie to colonise the "Baronetcy of Nova Scotia". **1621**

29 - John Cobb made an attempt at the world water-speed record on Loch Ness which ended in tragedy as the boat crashed and Cobb was killed. Cobb was a racing driver who had broken the land speed record in 1938, 1939, and 1947, when he became the first man ever to attain a speed of 400 miles per hour on land. In 1952 he made an attempt on the water speed record. On his first run, he became the first person to break the 200 miles per hour barrier, but his boat crashed shortly afterwards and he was killed. **1952**

30 - Announcement of the discovery of penicillin by Ayrshire-born Sir Alexander Fleming. **1928**

30 - John Rae, explorer and surveyor of Canada's northern coastline was born in Orkney. Several Orkney born explorers worked in the Canadian Arctic in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, but Rae was the most outstanding. Rae was recently granted a posthumous Freedom of Orkney from the local officials. **1813**

Floral clock blooms in honour for the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh's 350th anniversary

Work has finished to complete this year's design on the world's oldest Floral Clock in Edinburgh's West Princes Street Gardens.

For 2021, the hugely popular landmark will celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), postponed from 2020 where it was decided with support from RBGE to dedicate the floral clock to NHS and key workers as a message of thanks from the city.

Edinburgh's Lord Provost Frank Ross was joined by Simon Milne MBE, Regius Keeper of Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, RBGE horticulturists and Council parks staff responsible for creating the clock. Together they officially unveiled this year's intricate design.

A team of three gardeners took seven weeks to plant over 35,000 flowers and plants used to create the clock, which will be in bloom until October. There are over 15 different plants included in this year's design including many donated by RBGE such as Agave kerchovei and Agave sebastiana, various species of Echevaria and Cyanotis somaliensis: all of them are integral to the RBGE Living Collection of plants.

The two teams had worked closely on the design and creation of this year's display, with the Council's Floral Clock experts advising on colours and choice of plants and how best to present the RBGE logo. The logo is representative of the Sibbaldia procumbens, a creeping plant in the rose family, that was named after the Garden's co-founder, Sir Robert Sibbald.

Oldest of its kind in the world

Edinburgh's Lord Provost Frank Ross, who spoke at the official dedication said: "I am delighted to once again see the city's beautiful floral clock completed, which I know will be enjoyed by everyone who passes by it this summer. Much like the city's floral clock, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is iconic to Edinburgh's past and present and this year's design celebrates 350 years. As always, I am delighted to officially unveil this striking and much-loved creation and I'd like to congratulate our dedicated and creative parks team who have put together the design and we can all now enjoy their realised vision."

Simon Milne MBE, Regius Keeper, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, said: "It's wonderful to see our 350th anniversary celebrated in such magnificent floral fashion, reflecting the four centuries of friendship between the City of Edinburgh and the Botanics. The Floral Clock is a particularly apt way of celebrating the work of the Garden. At a time when 40 percent of plant species are at risk of extinction, our research and conservation work, supported by our visionary Edinburgh Biomes project, has never been more vital. We are grateful as always for the interest and support of the people and city of Edinburgh."

The Floral Clock was first created in 1903 by then Edinburgh Parks Superintendent, John McHattie, and is the oldest of its kind in the world. It initially operated with just an hour hand, with a minute hand added in 1904, followed by a cuckoo clock in 1952. Until 1972 the clock was operated mechanically and had to be wound daily. Since 1946 it has been designed in honour of various organisations and individuals, including the Girl Guides Association, Robert Louis Stevenson and the Queen, for her Golden Jubilee. In the clock's centenary year in 2003 it won a Gold medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

2022 SCOTLAND CALENDARS

Direct from Scotland, the 2022 Scottish calendar range. Let Scotland into your home or office and have a laugh or enjoy the view each month with these great calendars. A great gift for loved ones and that includes yourself! Most titles sell out before Christmas so please order early to avoid disappointment.

Outlander Boxed Daily Calendar 2022

A daily flip desk calendar with quotes and cast images. Based on the popular book series by international best-selling author Diana Gabaldon, the *Outlander* series has become a phenomenon loved by fans around the world. Gorgeous images of the characters from the TV series are featured — perfect for *Outlander* fans.
Price: $25.00 plus $9.50 postage

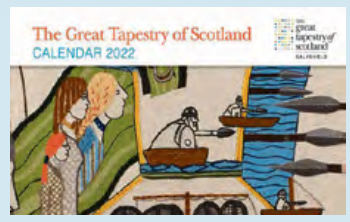
Scottish Maps Calendar 2022

This new calendar features more of the most beautiful maps of Scotland ever made. From the very earliest representations of Scotland in the second century AD, through the first printed maps of the 16th century and the achievement of the Ordnance Survey in the 1920s and 1930s to the most recent satellite imagery, these images tell the story of a nation, made in collaboration with the National Library of Scotland.
Price: $24.95 plus $12.50 postage.

Hebridean Calendar 2022

This calendar features distinctive full-colour paintings by one of Scotland's best-loved authors and artists and is a wonderful celebration of the extraordinary natural beauty of the Hebrides throughout the seasons. Mairi Hedderwick's drawings, produced over a period of more than forty years, expertly capture the unique character and diversity of Hebridean land and seascapes, from wind-swept moors and dramatic cliffs to rolling hills and secluded woods.
Price: $24.95 plus $12.50 postage.

The Great Tapestry of Scotland Calendar 2022



A brand-new calendar for 2022 that features 12 stunning, full-colour panels from the acclaimed Great Tapestry of Scotland. The Great Tapestry of Scotland is an outstanding celebration of 420 million years of Scottish history and achievement. Involving over a thousand volunteer stitchers who worked on 160 separate panels, the Tapestry is one of the biggest community arts projects ever to have been conceived in Scotland. This stunning calendar features 12 entire panels from the completed Tapestry which show to optimum effect the magnificent colouring and detail of the originals.
Price: $24.95 plus $12.50 postage.

Outlander Mini Calendar 2022

The story continues with Jamie and Claire fighting for their family and home amidst the birth of America and the Revolutionary War. Based on the popular book series by international best-selling author Diana Gabaldon, the *Outlander* series has become a phenomenon loved by fans around the world. Gorgeous images of the characters from the TV series are featured — perfect for *Outlander* fans.
Price: $14.95 plus $5.00 postage.

Kilty Pleasures Mini Calendar 2022

Indulge in a little kilty pleasure with these handsome Highland hunks! Each month features a different luscious lad showing off his finely sculpted physique — and his favourite tartan, of course. Paired with tongue-in-cheek sayings about men in kilts, if these images don't get your heart racing, you may want to check your pulse! Spend the year with these hunky men and find yourself dreaming of Kilty Pleasures.
Price: $14.95 plus $5.00 postage.

Order your copy direct from the Scottish Banner: post orders: PO Box, 6202, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204 Telephone orders: 02 9559 6348, Email: info@scottishbanner.com
Order online at: www.scottishbanner.com/product-category/calendars Payment can be made by cheque, money order, Visa, Mastercard, PayPal or EFT.

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN

Beef and onion pie with cheese crust

Ingredients:

For the pastry:
225/8oz. plain flour, plus extra for dusting
75g/2¾oz. chilled butter, cut into cubes, plus extra for greasing
pinch salt
75g/2¾oz. mature Lancashire cheese, or similar mature crumbly cheese, grated
4 tbsp. water
1 free-range egg yolk
For the filling:
1-2 tbsp. vegetable oil
250g/9oz. beef mince
1 onion, peeled, chopped
1 carrot, peeled, finely chopped
1 celery stalk, trimmed, finely chopped
1 tbsp. tomato purée
1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
splash bitter ale
1 free-range egg, beaten

To serve:
mashed potatoes
brown sauce

Method:

For the pastry, blend the flour, butter cubes and salt in a food processor until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the cheese, water and egg yolk and continue to blend until the mixture comes together as a dough. Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knead lightly for 3-4 minutes, or until smooth and elastic. Wrap the dough in cling film and chill in the fridge for at least one hour. Meanwhile, for the filling, heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the beef mince, in batches if necessary, and fry for 6-8 minutes, turning once, or until browned all over. Remove from the pan and set aside (keep warm). Repeat the process with the remaining batches of beef mince.

Add the onion, carrot and celery to the pan used to fry the mince. Fry for 3-4 minutes, stirring well, until softened.

Return the mince to the pan and stir in the tomato purée, Worcestershire sauce and bitter ale. Bring the mixture to a simmer and cook, stirring regularly, for 8-10 minutes, or until the majority of the liquid has evaporated. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Grease a 20cm-25cm/8-10in pie plate with butter. When the dough has chilled, divide it in half. Roll out one half onto a lightly floured work surface until slightly larger than the pie plate. Carefully line the pie plate with the pastry, pressing it into the edges of the plate.

Spoon the filling into the pie case. Roll the remaining dough out onto a lightly floured work surface until it is slightly larger than the pie dish. Brush the rim of the pie case with a little of the egg wash. Place the pastry disc on top of the pie and press the edges together. Brush the pie lid all over with the remaining beaten egg. Prick the pastry all over several times with a fork. Bake the pie in the oven for 35-40 minutes, or until the pastry is crisp and pale golden-brown. Serve with mashed potatoes and brown sauce.

Highlander Soup

Ingredients:

2 cups dried lentils or peas
3 lbs./1.3kgs. ham or beef bone
½ cup diced celery
1 small onion, diced
1 cup cut carrots
2 tablespoons flour
2 teaspoons salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

Method:

Wash lentils or peas & soak overnight in cold water. Drain. Add the recipe water & bones. Heat to boiling. Simmer 2 hours. Add greens (celery) & carrots & simmer until lentils or peas are tender. Skim all fat from soup.

Remove bones, cut off any meat, dice it, & return diced meat to the soup. Sauté onions, then add flour, salt and pepper. Mix well. Slowly add one cup hot soup stock to onion mixture, cook until thick & smooth & return thickened mixture to rest of hot soup.

Aberdeen Butteries

Ingredients:

1 lb/.45kgs.plain flour
1 oz. yeast or ½ tablespoons dried yeast
1 tablespoons sugar
1 cup butter ½ cup lard
1½ cup water at blood heat
pinch of salt
Method:
Mix sifted flour and salt in basin. Cream yeast with sugar. When it bubbles, add to flour with water. Mix well, cover, set in warm place until bulk doubles; about ½ hour.

Cream butter and lard together, divide into three parts. Put dough on floured board, roll out into long strip. Dot first third of fats on top third of pastry strip. Fold over like an envelope as when making flaky pastry. Roll out, repeat with other strips until all butter mixture is used up. Roll out, cut in small oval shapes or rounds. Lay on floured baking sheet, leave 2 inches between each to allow for expansion. Cover as above, let rise ¾ hour. Bake for 20 minutes at 375°F/160°C - 400°F/205°C.

Chocolate and raspberry brownies

Ingredients:

350g/12oz. dark chocolate (55-60% cocoa solids)
250g/9oz. unsalted butter
3 free range eggs
250g/9oz. dark muscovado sugar
110g/4oz. plain flour, sifted
1 tsp baking powder
pinch of salt
175g/6oz. fresh raspberries

Method:

Preheat the oven to 170C/325F/Gas 3. Butter a 23cm/9in square cake tin. Melt the chocolate and butter together, then cool slightly. Whisk the eggs until thick, then gradually add the sugar and beat until glossy. Beat in the melted chocolate mixture, then gently fold in the flour, baking powder and salt. Pour just over half the mixture into the prepared cake tin. Scatter over the raspberries, then cover with the remaining mixture. Bake in the preheated oven for about 40 minutes or until the surface is set. It will be cooked when a skewer into the middle comes out with just a little mixture adhering. Remove the cake to a wire rack, and allow it to rest for about 20 minutes. Cut the cake into squares and remove them from the tin when cold.

The Lone Piper

Ingredients:

1 tsp lemon juice
35ml/1fl oz. blended whisky
15ml/0.5fl oz. peach liqueur
20ml/0.7fl oz. pressed apple juice
cream soda
peach and apple wedges, to garnish

Method:

Mix the lemon juice, scotch, peach liqueur, apple juice in a mixing glass with a handful of ice.

Strain the mixture into a highball glass and top with cream soda. Garnish with the peach and apple wedges.

The Royal Mint celebrates the 250th Anniversary of Sir Walter Scott on official UK coin

The Royal Mint, the Original Maker of UK coins, has launched a commemorative £2 coin to honour the late Sir Walter Scott, 250 years after the great writer's birth.

Matthew Maxwell Scott at Abbottsford.

One of the most influential Scots in history, Sir Walter Scott is renowned for his contribution to literature with his novels and poems, many of which remain literary classics to this day. Marking the 250th anniversary of his birth, Scott's legacy has been celebrated for the first time on an official UK coin. Available in gold, silver and brilliant uncirculated, the commemorative keepsake was first unveiled in the 2021 Annual Set and has launched as an individual collectors' item at The Royal Mint. Sir Walter Scott was a prolific and talented writer and is renowned for popularising historical fiction. His poetry transformed a landscape perceived as wild and mysterious into something truly sublime; a picturesque Scotland graced with magnificent glens and beautiful lochs. He then turned his hand to writing novels, where he weaved history with fiction to create an array of bestsellers that includes *Ivanhoe, Waverley, Rob Roy, The Heart of Mid-Lothian* and *The Bride of Lammermoor*.

Novelist, Historian and Poet

Designed by textual artist Stephen Raw, the coin was inspired by the artist's visit to Abbotsford, the famous home of Sir Walter Scott. On the canvas of a £2 coin, the words Sir Walter Scott and Novelist, Historian and Poet are inscribed in the same calligraphy seen at Abbotsford's grand entrance and chapel. The design also includes Scott's portrait modelled on the Scott Monument – one of Edinburgh's most iconic landmarks. To celebrate the launch, the Original Maker collaborated with Scott's Abbotsford home and Trustee and direct descendant, Matthew Maxwell Scott – the great, great, great, great grandson of the famous writer.

Clare Maclennan The Royal Mint's Divisional Director of Commemorative Coin said: "Sir Walter Scott's status as one of Great Britain's greatest writers endures 250 years after his birth and the anniversary celebration is a wonderful occasion to commemorate his legacy on a £2 coin.

Marking the 250th anniversary of his birth, Scott's legacy has been celebrated for the first time on an official UK coin.

The exquisite design, with the inscription Novelist, Historian and Poet, reminds us of the wide-reaching influence of his work. What a treat is has been to reveal this collectable piece of art in collaboration with his great, great, great, great grandson Matthew Maxwell Scott and the fantastic team at Abbotsford, the famous home of Walter Scott, as part of their Anniversary celebrations."

One of Scotland's most influential sons

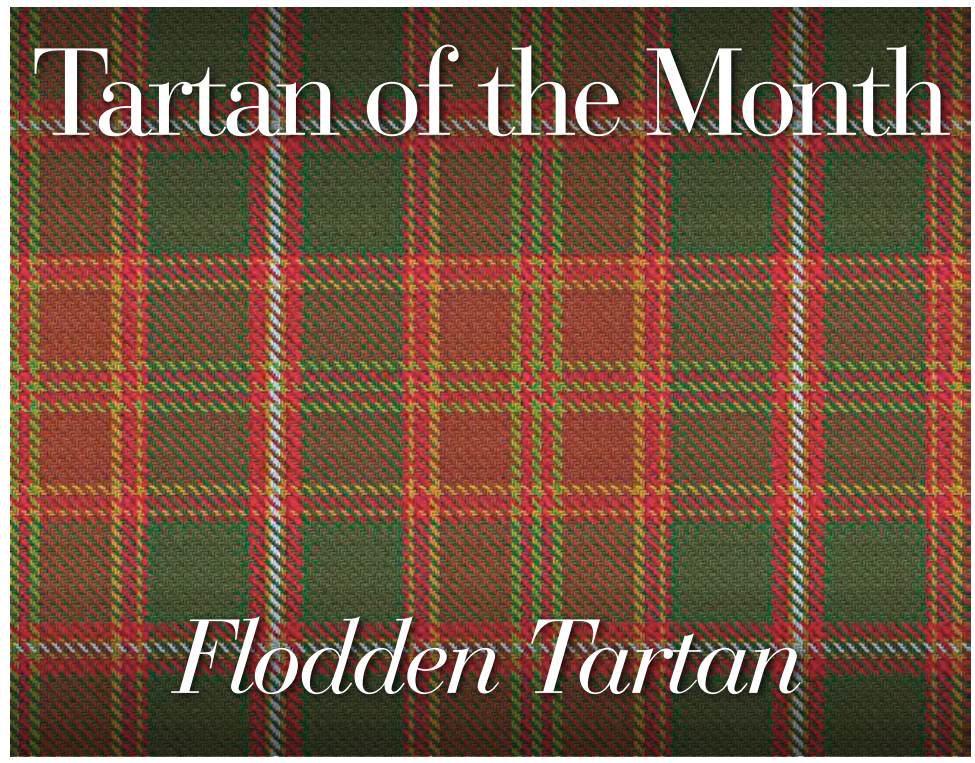
Matthew Maxwell Scott, Trustee at Abbotsford, said: "I'm extremely proud to see my ancestor recognised on a very special coin from The Royal Mint – a fitting tribute during a year of 250th birthday celebrations. It is a beautiful coin. Sir Walter was a collector of beautiful things and I think he would have loved to have this coin in his collection among the many treasures at Abbotsford."

Giles Ingram, CEO at Abbotsford, said: "This year we are commemorating the 250th Anniversary of Sir Walter Scott, which is a great occasion to look at Scott's work and legacy. At Abbotsford, we were delighted to be approached by The Royal Mint to collaborate with them on this beautiful coin.

Recognising Scott as Novelist, Historian and Poet, 250 years after his birth on, such a beautiful coin and packaging, truly marks Scott as one of the world's most famous writer's and one of Scotland's most influential sons."

Speaking of the design, Stephen Raw, who also designed the Sherlock Holmes coin in 2019 and the First World War Armistice coin in 2018, said: "Sir Walter Scott was such a fascinating character, there were so many routes that you could explore. Being a textual artist, I'm fascinated by lettering and I chose a combination of distinctive Gothic lettering from the chapel at Abbotsford alongside some lettering used by Scott in the magnificent entrance to his home. As for the portrait, I used the wonderful sculpture of Scott that sits within his monument on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. I hope that collectors enjoy the design and that when people see the coin, they might be encouraged to visit Abbotsford and the Scott Monument – the second largest such memorial to a writer in the world they say."

More information about the coin, in a range of precious metals, can be found at The Royal Mint: www.royalmint.com/our-coins/events/sir-walter-scott/



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).

The Battle of Flodden took place September 9th 1513 and saw English army defeat the Scots in Northumberland. This tartan was commissioned by Flodden 1513 Ecomuseum Ltd, a company established to coordinate the heritage and legacy of the Battle of Flodden and to mark its 500th anniversary in 2013. The tartan uses white, Tudor green, golden yellow and red to represent the dyed colours of the uniforms worn by the English and Scottish troops. Woven in Selkirk by A Elliott Fine Fabrics Ltd., this tartan (SRT reference: 10873) was designed and registered by Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers in August 2013.

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

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

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"
Membership enquiries to Don Chitts
Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com
Website: http://clanfraseraustralia.org
Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/482236358590288

CLAN BELL

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

Website: www.ClanBell.org
Online membership: https://clanbell.org/membership.html
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell
Email: President@clanbell.org
Clan Bell North America
4676 Emerald Willow Drive
Acworth, GA 30101

Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

CHIEF: Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing one of these Names: Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day; Dye;Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dee; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dhai; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny; MacDhai; McKeddie. In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson.
Applications may be made online: **clandavidsonaus@gmail.com** or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P, P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

Membership invited to all who share the Sept names: Duncan, Robertson, Reid, etc.

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

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

Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

www.clangalbraith.org

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

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

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

Clan Donald Australia

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

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

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

Edmonstone Clan Society

Invites membership to anyone of the surname or variations:- Edmiston/e, Edmondston, Edmanson, Edmeston, Edmonson, Edmundson, etc. Chieftain Sir Archibald Edmonstone Bt of Duntreath

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

Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balqhidder, 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, *Secretary*
6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland

Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

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

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

Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald
Ph: 0412 090990
Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.clandonaldqld.org
ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.
There is no joy without Clan Donald

Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

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

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com

Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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

THE CLAN CAMPBELL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

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

Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

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

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

Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

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

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

American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909

Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

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

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

CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-

Clan Chief
Peter Carruthers of Holmains
(Honorary Society President)

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

www.clancarrutherssociety.org
clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE
Hon Chief: Mr Thomas R. Macdonald
Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

A hereditary clan society formed by the children of Norman Hume Macdonald and Johan McKenzie Macdonald (nee Munro) who departed Scotland in 1854.

FORBES

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#GRACEMEGUIDE #LONACH

CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG

Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society.
Inquiries to be sent to:
Sheri Lambert, Treasurer
P.O. Box 5399
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
visit our website:
www.clanhamilton.org

Clan Hay

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

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

www.clanhay.com

Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

MacDougall — MacDowall

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

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

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

Coul	MacCoul	Macoual
Conacher	MacConacher	
Coyle	MacCoyle	
Dole	MacDole	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	McDougal
Dougal	MacDougall	MacDougald
Dougle	Mcdougle	McDougald
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDugle
Dowall	MacDowal	MacDowall
MacDowell	Macdowell	McDowell
Lullich	McLullich	MacCullich
MacCulloch	McCulloch	MacCullagh
MacClintock	MacLintock	McLintock
MacHale	McHoul	Mactheul
MacHowell	MacCowan	McCown
MacKichan	M'Gowall	MacNamell
MacLucas	MacLugash	MacLuke

Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc

Clan MacLellan

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

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

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

The MacEanruigs, proud sons of Henry, invite you to join!

Clan Henderson Society

Purposes of the Society

- Foster Scottish culture and activities
- Promote Scottish festivals and games
- Assist in genealogical research
- Foster fellowship among kith and kin
- Promote the history of Scotland
- Promote charitable and educational activities via a scholarship fund
- Gather the Clan, as directed by our Chief,

Alistair of Fordell

Contact Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
0439 330 012

Virtue Alone Ennobles — SOLA VIRTUS NOBILITAT — An Eirean Ceann Cinnidh

www.clanhendersonsociety.com

INTERNATIONAL
CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC

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

Loch Sloy! We welcome all descendants of Clan MacFarlane from around the world!

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

International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.
PO Box 398 Glendora, CA 91740 USA
info@macfarlane.org

Arms of the International Clan MacFarlane Society granted by Lord Lyon, King of Arms, 16 February, 2000

MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacLeod

Societies of Australia

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

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

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

Clan Macpherson Association

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clan Hope of Craighall Society
For all of the name and lineage of Hope

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

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

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

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

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

Clan MacInnes

Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

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

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

THE MACLEODS

RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS

FOR INFORMATION:
WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

A.L. MacLeod
3923 Rockwood Way #B
West Valley City, UT
84120-6880

The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

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

Clan Irwin Association

Clan Irwin Association Patron
Alexander Irvine of Drum
27th Baron of Drum & Chief of the Name.
Contact: Brian S. Ervin, Chairman
1103 Highview Dr. Lapeer, MI, 48446
Phone: 248-854-0798 brian.ervin@clanirwin.org
IRWIN • IRVIN • IRVINE • IRVING • ERWIN • ERVIN
Over 270 ways the name has been spelled since 325 A.D.
www.clanirwin.org

Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.

Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

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

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

Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide

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

New Second Edition!
A History of the Clan Macnachtan
Paperback available through
Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk, Amazon.ca

Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

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

www.macrae.org

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

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY

of Australia and New Zealand

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

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

MacLaren
Clan Labhran
Clan MacLaren
Society of Australia

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

Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

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

Clan Maitland Society

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

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

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

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

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

McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!

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

Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President
President@clanmaclarenna.org

CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

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

Clan Munro Association, U.S.A

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

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

Scottish Associations and Societies

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of North America

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ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com
www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org

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

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

THE AMERICAN-SCOTTISH FOUNDATION, INC.

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

The American-Scottish Foundation

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

Membership is welcomed from all Australians of Scottish descent.

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

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

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

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

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

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

Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia
(The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a nonprofit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels.
Ruaraidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor)
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org
Web: www.ozgaelic.org
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

Scottish Gaelic Language Classes:
Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm
during school terms
420-424 William Street, West Melbourne.
Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277
Email:scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

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

Clan Ross in Australia
for information contact Commander Des Ross
(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowan)
We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest.
Contact: Commander Des Ross at
lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853
Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0409 322 374

Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated
Contact: M Hodgkinson
212 MacKenzie Street
Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559)
william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au
http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus
Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia

Caledonian Society of WA Inc.
Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia
For further details contact John: 0427 990 754
Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com
www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER
FOUNDED 1947

The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited
ABN 30 093 578 860
Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association
The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC,
www.standrewsociety.com

Clan Ross America
Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.

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

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

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

Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc
Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in Newcastle, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas. Members and interested people are welcome to attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night, St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.
Web: hvscots.org Email: hunterscots@gmail.com
P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289

Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group
Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria
Scottish Resource Centre
Level 1, 420 – 424 William St.
West Melbourne VIC 3003
E-mail: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au
Website: https//scotsofaus.org.au
Facebook: facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria

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

www.theclanross.com
clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com
Contact L. Q. Ross
105 S. Graham Ave, Orlando, Fl 32803

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

Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot

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

www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/

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

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

Victorian Scottish Union Inc
Established 1905
Umbrella group representing the interest of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria.
Affiliated Clans & Societies

Balmoral Highland Dancing Society	Geelong Scottish Dance
Brunswick Scottish Society	Glenbrae Celtic Dancers
Clan Donald Victoria	Kilmore Celtic Festival
Clan Grant	Maryborough Highland Society
Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc	Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society
Clan Mackenzie of Australia	Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
Clan Maclean Australia	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Clan Sinclair Association	Robert Burns Club of Camperdown
Warrnambool & District Caledonian Society	Warrnambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society

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

Clan Scott Australia Group
Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch KT, K.B.E
Commissioner: Heather de Sylva
Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs: Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.
E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com

Clan Wardlaw Association
Founded 2004
Worldwide organization for all Wardlaws or related families. We invite you to join us.
Email: clanwardlaw@yahoo.com
'Wardlaw ivermair!'
www.clanwardlaw.com
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www.scottishheritageusa.org
email: shusa457@gmail.com
(910) 295-4448

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

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

Jason Baines smashes the caber toss world record at the 45th annual Montreal Highland Games

Sunday, August 1 was a cool and misty day in Montreal, reminiscent of the Highlands of Scotland and perfect weather for tossing a caber. Despite the COVID health guidelines that prevented the gathering of the usual 5000 plus spectators, the Montreal Highland Games (MHG) went ahead with a unique virtual event that went off without a hitch thanks to advance planning, dedicated volunteers, and meticulous marching orders. The Games are thrilled to announce that Canadian champion Highland Heavy athlete Jason Baines beat the Guinness World Record for the number of cabers tossed in one hour! In a moment filled with drama and excitement, he blew past the previous record of 122 tosses, eventually reaching a phenomenal new record of 161 tosses. Thanks to the kind generosity of our friends and viewers, over $6,000 was raised for the Douglas Hospital Foundation. The Douglas Hospital (founded by Scots) is a world-class mental health treatment and research facility, and we are proud to support its important work in the community. Donations continue to poor in daily as more people are made aware of Jason Baines and his world record and his goal to raise awareness of the need for mental health support via the Building Hope Movement of the Douglas Foundation.

Jason Baines (centre) and the MHG athletes team.

Photos: Peter Matulina

Historic occasion

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this historic occasion: the athletics team who supported Jason and kept the cabers moving (no small feat), the pipers and dancers who shared their art, the frontline workers amongst who shared their stories, presenter Kelly Alexander, and the dedicated team of volunteers whose hard work made this all possible. The Games especially thank our fans, for their enthusiastic participation! The event video has reached 2,000 views and continues to climb.

If you missed the live event or would like to re-experience the drama, you can watch it again on the Montreal Highland Games YouTube channel.

MHG look forward to seeing you next year on July 31, 2022, on the grounds of the Douglas Hospital in Verdun, Quebec for the Montreal Highland Games live and in person.

To watch the video or for more information see: www.montrealhighlandgames.com

Armadale set to deliver another authentic Highland Gathering

A pipe band competition, highland dancers, a medieval joust, heavy events and a mass pipe band haggis are all part of the Armadale Highland Gathering and the Perth Kilt Run being held on Sunday 3 October at Minnawarra Park in Perth's south-eastern suburb. Amongst the big players of the day will be Pipe Bands WA who has been part of the Armadale Highland Gathering since its inception. "One memorable moment from our many years of involvement was 2016, when a piper and a bass drummer both played their instruments while running in the Kilt Run. We are absolutely delighted to be back competing and performing at the 2021 Armadale Highland Gathering.

With pandemic lock-downs all over the world, we are very grateful to be living in Western Australia and able to entertain crowds without restrictions," said Stuart Bradford, Chairman of Pipe Bands WA.

Attempt for the largest Kilt Run in the world

The event also features a Meet and Greet with Scottish Dogs, the Clan Village, live entertainment and a range of food and beverage stalls, as well as a Scottish inspired tavern, so there really is something for everyone. If you fancy getting fit before the event starts, the event begins with the Perth Kilt Run, with 2.5 and 5km routes available, with runners donning a kilt to embrace their inner Scotsman and work towards the record attempt for the largest Kilt Run in the world! Registrations for the Perth Kilt Run are now open. The Armadale Highland Gathering and the Perth Kilt Run are hosted by the City of Armadale.

For all the details visit www.perthkiltrun.com.au

Ken your country

The West Highland Way. Photo: VisitScotland.

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

1) What does the word ceilidh translate as?
2) Who wrote the words of *Scots Wha Hae*?
3) Which American park did the Scots conservationist John Muir found?
4) If a Scot is said to be sprack what is s/he?
5) Whose dying words were, "So little done. So much to do"?
6) What physical characteristic is supposedly associated with the Clan Campbell?
7) How long is the West Highland Way? a) 85 miles, b) 95 miles or c) 105 miles?
8) Which much-derided Scottish King was known as Toom Tabard, or empty coat?
9) How did James I of Scotland (1394-1437) die?
10) What kind of weather is described in Scotland as smolt?

Answers:

1) A visit.
2) Robert Burns.
3) Yellowstone.
4) Lively or alert.
5) Sir Walter Scott in Edinburgh.
6) Crooked mouths.
7) b) 95 miles long.
8) John Banjo' (1250-1313).
9) He was assassinated in a Perth privy.
10) Fair and calm with a blue sky.

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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

Australia

SEPTEMBER 2021

TASCAL 10th Anniversary Weekend
3 – 5, Hobart, TAS
Celebrate the Tascal Scottish Country Dancers (Hobart) Inc. 50th Anniversary with dancing events, socials and a Ball. Info: Denice Walter:derekwalter@bigpond.com or 03 6224 1105.

Claymore Live @ The Mission to Seafarers
10, Melbourne, VIC
Join Australia's premier Celtic folk rock band," Claymore", for a night of great Scottish music, dance, fun and laughter. Info: www.facebook.com/ClaymoreMusic

Camperdown's Robert Burns Festival Events
11 – 12, Camperdown, VIC
Camperdown's Robert Burns Festival tickets are now on sale for the Robert Burns Festival September weekend of events. 11 & 12 of September will host the Lecture Series, Gala Dinner and an array of music. Covid safe event. Tickets: https://www.trybooking.com/BTARM or seewww.facebook.com/RobertBurnsFestival

Irish & Celtic Music Festival
17 – 19, Yass, NSW
This event has been cancelled for 2021. Info: www.irishcelticmusicfestival.com

Clans on the Coast
18, Nelson Bay, NSW
Postponed for 2021 and back September, 2022. Info: www.clansonthecoast.com.au

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

OCTOBER 2021

Aberdeen Highland Games
2, Aberdeen, NSW
Aberdeen Highland Games is making a decision during September if the Games can take place due to current Covid restrictions. Info:www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com

Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival
3, Croydon, VIC
New name and new venue! Pipe bands, Heavy Games, Clans and more at Eastfield Park, 119 Eastfield Rd. Info: www.facebook.com/MelbourneHighlandGames

Armadale Highland Gathering and the Perth Kilt Run
3, Armadale, WA
The largest Highland Gathering event held in Western Australia, which includes: the charity Perth Kilt Run, pipe bands, Medieval Fair, Clan stalls, entertainment and more. A free community event at Minnawarra Park. Info: www.perthkiltrun.com.au

Canberra Highland Gathering
9, Canberra , ACT
Cancelled for 2021 and back October 8, 2022. Info: www.canberragathering.com.au

Celtic Spectacular
9, Brisbane, QLD
Think Riverdance, Scottish kilts and pipes, Irish whistles and fiddles, tender love lilts with the Queensland Pops Orchestra, Gregory Moore, Sarah Calderwood, Kevin Higgins, the Watkins Academy of Irish Dance, the OzScot Highland Dancers and the BBC Pipes and Drums at QPAC 2:30pm & 7:30pm performances. Info: 136 246 or www.qpac.com.au/event/qpops_celtic_spectacular_21

Scotland The Brave Pipe Celebration Dinner
15, Wongawallan, QLD
On arrival be welcomed by the entire Brisbane Pipe Band. As the evening progresses so does the entertainment with fantastic not to be forgotten performances right up close and personal. If you're a passionate Scot or just love the pipes then this is an event not to be missed at Fox & Hounds Country Inn. Info: 07 5665 7582 or www.foxandhounds.net.au

Illawarra Scottish Fair
17, Kanahooka, NSW
It is with regret that we have to cancel our contest this year again, due to the recent COVID19 pandemic restrictions, however the contest next year will be the 16th October 2022. Info: James: 0422 699 513, jmb7@dodo.com.au or www.illawarrapipeband.com

Hunter Valley Scots Scottish Night
23, Teralba, NSW
Book your seat or table and settle in for an entertaining night of Celtic music and dance at Teralba Hall, 15 Anzac Pd. Info: 0490 419 570 or www.hvscots.org

St Andrew of Scotland (Qld) Darling Downs Branch 30th Birthday Gala
23, Toowoomba, QLD
Includes a 4-course dinner, dram of Scotch, special entertainment by Gregory Moore, Highland dancers and pipers at Oaks Hotel Function Room, Annand St. Info: 0412 987 771 or rjmay@bigpond.net.au

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

NOVEMBER 2021

Beechworth Celtic Festival
5 – 7, Beechworth, VIC
The Celtic Festival will be postponed for this year and back for 2022. Info: www.beechworthcelticfestival.com.au

Williamstown Highland Celtic Gathering
20, Williamstown, VIC
Presented by Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival at Seaworks Maritime Precinct, 82 Nelson Pl. Info: www.facebook.com/MelbourneHighlandGames

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

St Andrews Day Ball
27, Perth, WA
Come and join the St Andrews Day celebrations at one of the top events of the year with the Saint Andrew Society of Western Australia at Pan Pacific Hotel Perth, 207 Adelaide Terrace. Info: www.saintandrew.org.au

St Andrews Scottish Evening
27, Wongawallan, QLD
St Andrews Scottish evening with live pipes and drums and $59pp 3 course dinner, at Fox & Hounds Country Inn. Info: 07 5665 7582 or www.foxandhounds.net.au

A Right Big Scottish Night
27, Sydney, NSW
A night of Scottish music and fun, presented by Mary Kiani, at Paddington R.S.L. Club, 220-232 Oxford St. Info: www.marykiani.com

St Andrew's Night Dinner & Ceilidh
27, Brisbane, QLD
Celebrate St Andrew's Day with Clan Campbell Society of Australia (Qld) at the Royal on the Park. Enjoy a great night of good food, entertainment, dancing and meet fellow Scots in Brisbane. Info: macnjan@powerup.com.au

Happy St Andrew's Day
30, Nationwide
Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

New Zealand

SEPTEMBER 2021

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

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

Highland Piping Society of Canterbury Sunday Solo's #4
19, Christchurch
Solo piping event at St Andrews College Christchurch, presented by the Highland Piping Society of Canterbury. Info: www.piperscLub.co.nz

VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group-The Deans Family – Canterbury's legend of heartache, tenacity and triumph
28 Wellington
Fifth generation member of the family, Nicky Hobbs will 'show' us beautiful Riccarton House (acquired by Christchurch Council in 1947) and share the story of these amazing Scottish pioneers, including Jane's ten-year wait in Scotland to marry John until he got established in this new country, then, as a widow made her family prosper at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay (between Bunny and Whitmore Sts); entrance door from Bunny St. Info: www.wellyscots.wordpress.com

OCTOBER 2021

NZ Young Piper of the Year 2021
2, Nelson
A full list of events for all ages, Chanter, D, C & B grade as well as the NZ Young Piper of the Year Under 21 events with big prize money up for grabs. This year includes the 2021 NZ Championship Strathspey & Reel. In addition, the Under 21 MSR & Piobaireachd events will gain placed competitors points towards the William Boyle Foundation Scholarship. Info: www.facebook.com/NZYoungPiper

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

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

Silver Chanter Labour Weekend Competition
23-24, Christchurch
Every October, during Labour Weekend, the Highland Piping Society of Canterbury hold one of New Zealand's premier solo piping contest. These competitions are held at St Andrew's College in Christchurch with the Novice to B Grade events held on the Saturday, the MSR Silver Chanter event on the Saturday evening, all Open Grade events on the Sunday and the MMSSRR Clasp event on the Sunday evening. Info: compsechpsc@gmail.com

VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group-Glamis Castle: mystery, murder and a monster!
28, Wellington
Glamis Castle (near Forfar, north of Perth) was the childhood home of the late Queen Mother. NZ Writer Julia Millen will talk about her Scottish family connection with the castle. As usual – this being the last meeting of the year, we shall start with a brief review of 2021 and look forward to 2022 at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay (between Bunny and Whitmore Sts); entrance door from Bunny St. Info:www.wellyscots.wordpress.com

NOVEMBER 2021

Hororata Highland Games
6, Hororata
A Scottish Festival with a Kiwi twist, with pipe bands, strong men, Clans, and plenty of fun for the whole family at Hororata Domain. Info: www.hororatahighlandgames.org.nz

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

The Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh
13, Wellington
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Happy St Andrew's Day
30, Nationwide
Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

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Saturdays: 5:00pm – 6:00pm
5EBI 103.1 fm

Digital EBI World:
WWW.5ebi.com.au

Scotword answers from page 6

ACROSS:
8) Toorie
9) Hawthorne
10) Grampian
11) Region
12) Ashet
14) Ken
15) Lochs
18) Ceilidh
20) Kintyre
23) Keith
24) Ilk
25) Reels;
29) Forfar
31) Stramash
33) Attitude
34) Celtic.

DOWN:
1) Forres
2) Dram
3) Lewis
4) Chanter
5) Sword
6) Shug;
7) Arrochar
13) Ell
16) Ado
17) Nip
19) Eyemouth
21) Tee
22) Flashes
26) Leslie
27) Trout
28) Grace
30) Fair
32) Mull.

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www.scottishbanner.com

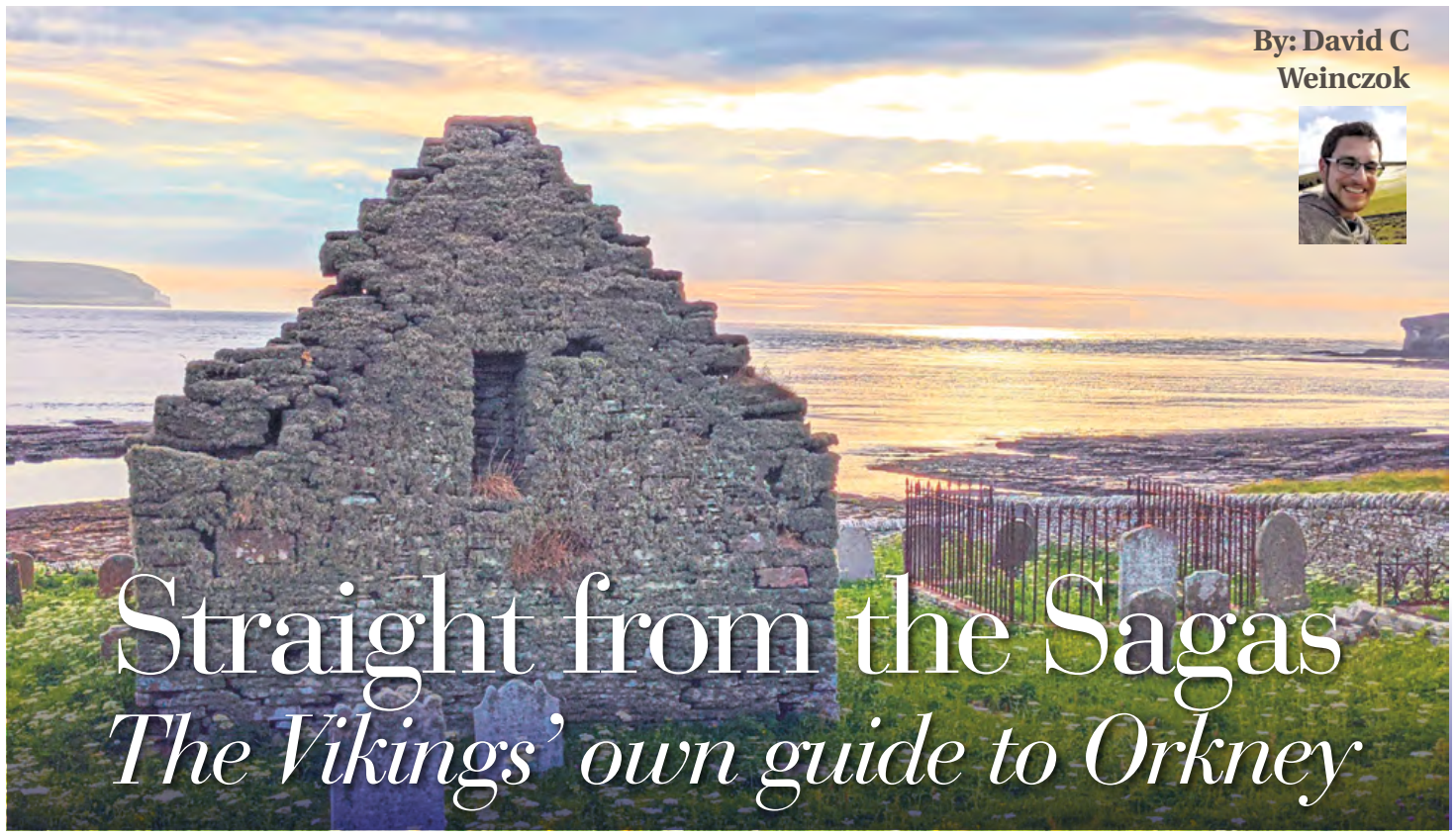
Clan MacNicol Federation World Gathering abandoned

Skye Gathering on the Clan Lands near Portree, Skye.

The Clan MacNicol Federation, one of the few Clan organisations to have been granted its own Coat of Arms by Lord Lyon, has had to once again abandon the planned World Gathering in 2021 due to ongoing Covid restrictions and travel problems. The Federation had planned to meet in Dunedin, New Zealand, last year 2020, as a part of its biennial world Gatherings, however this was postponed until 2021 due to the ongoing Covid pandemic. Now with continuing travel restrictions and even doubt over the Australia / New Zealand travel bubble, it was apparent that members from around the world would not be able to attend, so regrettably the event has been abandoned. The last New Zealand Gathering had been also at Dunedin in 2006. The next proposed Gathering will be on the Isle of Skye in 2023, after the last Gathering was held there in 2018 with over 120 members from worldwide.

For further details about Clan MacNicol see: www.clanmacnicol.org

Clan MacNicol Federation Arms.



Straight from the Sagas

The Vikings' own guide to Orkney

By: David C Weinczok

Cubbie Roo's Castle.

My guidebook on a recent week-long trip to Orkney was 800 years old. A little out of date when it comes to the more practical aspects of travel, sure, yet I could not have hoped for a better companion as I sought out historic sites around the archipelago. *Orkneyinga Saga* tells of Orkney's Norse inhabitants from the ninth century to the start of the thirteenth. It is the only medieval chronicle centred on Orkney, with the action fanning out to Norway, Ireland, the Hebrides, and even the Holy Land. No one knows the name of its Icelandic author. The historical individuals it includes come and go like passing seasons; their days are filled with intrigue, farming, spiritual concerns, raiding, and poetry. For five centuries Norse customs, language, and politics dominated Orkney and Shetland, and *Orkneyinga Saga* provides an invaluable - if not wholly accurate - insight into that period.

Norse inhabitants

Nothing is more powerful than a good story, and experiencing a place with one to hand heightens every aspect of being there. Before I set out for the day, I would identify passages from the Saga relating to wherever I was going. It was especially exhilarating to be aboard one of the many interconnecting ferries, and read an account of something that happened on the waves or shores of the places passing by.

It is fascinating to read how the Norse inhabitants of Orkney interacted with the countless ancient monuments in the landscape. Almost everywhere across the islands are cairns, settlements, standing stones and fortifications going back well over 5,000 years. The Norse were far from indifferent to them.

Famously, *Orkneyinga Saga* tells, all too briefly, how Earl Harald's party were caught in a snowstorm while on their way to Christmas celebrations in 1153AD. They sheltered in the chambered cairn of Maeshowe, where two men went mad. They left behind 30 runic and pictorial carvings, one of the largest collections of runes in the world outside Scandinavia. Brochs, stone towers mostly built around 2,000 years ago, are unique to Scotland and incredibly numerous across Orkney and Shetland. As visually prominent and fortified strongholds, it would be surprising if the Norse did not make use of them. In *Orkneyinga Saga,* one episode tells how Erland the Young abducted Margaret, mother to the Earl of Orkney, and sailed to Shetland to hole up inside the Broch of Mousa. A siege followed, but despite already being the better part of 1,000 years old the broch proved "an unhandy place to attack".

Although he gets just a few fleeting mentions, one of the most memorable names (and there are many to choose from) in *Orkneyinga Saga* is Kolbein Hruga, or 'Cubbie Roo'. An "overbearing man", Kolbein is noted as possessing a "fine stone castle", and it is this castle that attracts most visitors to the island of Wyre. Kolbein was a big man on a tiny island - Wyre is just 2 miles long by 1 mile wide. His castle is regularly touted as the oldest stone castle in Scotland, a claim that's nearly impossible to prove but passed around between a half dozen or so contenders. It is stout, like its builder, and likely built on the site of an earlier Iron Age broch. If you visit the well-known Broch of Gurness and then visit Cubbie Roo's Castle, the similarity in layout is unmistakeable.

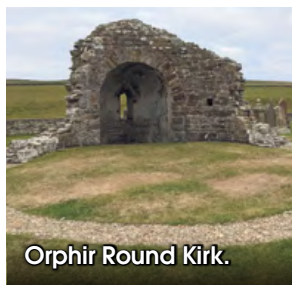
Dramatic tales

Across the narrow stretch of water separating Wyre from Rousay is a Neolithic cairn called Cubbie Roo's burden, a name which conjures amusing scenes of neighbourly bickering. In the mists of time Cubbie Roo became a giant in local folklore. Like in the much more famous tale of Finn MacCool and the Giant's Causeway, Cubbie Roo tried to build a bridge over the water. Unlike Finn MacCool, Cubbie Roo failed and the collapsed stones of his bridge buried him, forming the cairn. An ignominious, if mythical, end for a proud Norseman!

Westness on Rousay, an area of such archaeological significance that its moniker of 'the Egypt of the North' has truly stuck, is home to the Norse settlement of Skaill. *Orkneyinga Saga* tells us that Earl Paul Thorfinnson (d.1098), who guarded the ships of the Norwegian king Harald Hardrada while the Battle of Stamford Bridge was being fought, spent much time here as a guest of Sigurd of Westness. Excavations in July 2021 confirmed the existence of a high status hall - hence the name, Skaill, from the Old Norse skali meaning 'drinking hall'.
Skaill also has a church, a testament to the fact that despite popular histories depicting the Norse as stereotypically bloodthirsty Pagans, those in Orkney were in fact devout Christians by the late 10th century. Defence was also on the mind, as evidenced by a small stone tower known as The Wirk. It, too, recently underwent excavation, and its status as a castle appears to have been confirmed, making it one of Scotland's oldest stone castles alongside nearby Cubbie Roo's.

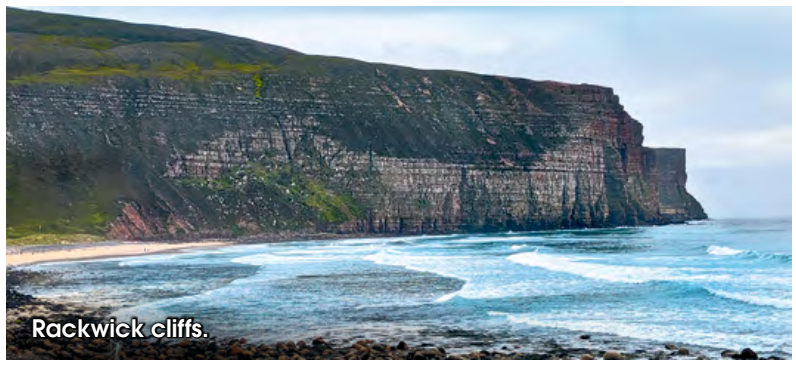
At the south end of Mainland (the name for the largest island) is a small slice of what was once a grand place, Orphir Round Kirk, adjoined by the foundations of another drinking hall, the Earl's Bu. Its round design was inspired by the churches seen by crusaders in the Holy Land, which included several of the characters in *Orkneyinga Saga* led by Earl Ragnvald. Despite the church's peaceful intentions, it is best known as the scene of the murder of Svein 'Breast-Rope'.
Svein was a large and formidable Viking and, importantly for the moral of the story, a Pagan. He preferred to sleep under the stars rather than under any roof, and was "greatly skilled in ancient lore". Insulted by another man called Svein (Asleifsson) while feasting at Orphir, Breast-Rope muttered under his breath, "Svein will kill Svein, and Svein shall kill Svein." Having heard this, Asleifsson seized the initiative and killed Breast-Rope, proving the latter's pseudo-prophecy true.

These are just a handful out of hundreds of examples from *Orkneyinga Saga.* Others lead you in the footsteps of St Magnus' martyrdom on Egilsay, or to the scene of a dramatic battle in the shadow of the great cliffs at Rackwick on Hoy. Wherever the Saga takes you, having it to hand while exploring Orkney inserts you into its pages. Inconspicuous places take on new meanings; the waterways surge with the weight of the past; and old ruins become the framework for dramatic tales. Not bad for an 800 year-old guidebook.



Orphir Round Kirk.

Cubbie Roo's Castle.



Rackwick cliffs.

Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival 2021

For more than half a century the Ringwood Highland Games has brought a celebration of Scottish Celtic culture to the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne. Thousands of Melbournians, young and old, have laughed, cried and generally been entertained during our wonderful Melbourne autumns since 1965.

Significantly, they are now the only metropolitan Highland games left in Victoria and that is why they have launched and rebadged as the Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival. The Games efforts to keep people entertained will come to fruition on Sunday October 3rd at Eastfield Park Croydon when the Games will be able to safely stage the postponed 2021 Games. These will be the first Highland games to be performed in Victoria for over two years and the Games are really looking forward to putting on a spectacular event for the Victorian community that has been so strong but doing it hard during the pandemic.

The last Games were in March 2019, and since then, with the support of Maroondah Council and the Victorian Government the Games have entertained people with two Virtual Highland Games. These were wonderfully successful events that provided important entertainment and support to a community facing unprecedented adversity. Now, the Games are really looking forward to bringing spectators face to face with those wonderful pipers, dancers and athlete's people have not seen for two years. Taste Scottish and Celtic delicacies, browse the Scottish and Celtic memorabilia, tap into your heritage and for the first time in Melbourne watch women competing in the Heavy Games. Kids will be able to once again pat Erica's Hielan Coo and compete in the Mini Highland Games. It will be a great day out, it will be safe and it will be family friendly.

This year Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival will be an opportunity for people to come together and celebrate life and Celtic culture.

For more information see: www.facebook.com/MelbourneHighlandGames

Conservation coos at Culloden

Rocket, one of Culloden's newest recruits. Photo: Alison White.

Meet the new conservation team helping to preserve and maintain the moorland at Culloden Battlefield. The latest recruits come from a great conservation pedigree and join 12 Shetland cattle, 6 primitive goats and 2 Highland ponies, who all take part in conservation grazing on the battlefield site. Working to control the scrub and create a healthy moorland, these animals play a crucial role in maintaining the landscape to showcase what Culloden Battlefield would have looked like in 1746. The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) relies on the herd to provide continuous work on the moorland to protect the archaeology of the land as well as the natural flora and fauna.

The appeal of cattle at Culloden is truly global. In particular, generous supporters in the US have been known to donate and name new additions to the herd. Some of the new cows and calves give a little nod to Culloden's past, with Flora and Lady Anne named after strong Jacobite women who assisted the Bonnie Prince during, and in the wake of, the 1745 Rising. Others have more quirky names, including our stellar new calf, Rocket.

One of the most pivotal moments in Scotland's history

Culloden Battlefield is the site of one of the most pivotal moments in Scotland's history, where the 1745 Jacobite Rising came to a tragic and brutal end. It's a place of great cultural significance and therefore it's essential that the NTS protects it now, and for future generations. A key part of this lies with the cattle and the conservation grazing they have introduced here. It is this essential work on the battlefield, where a variety of livestock, including goats, Highland ponies and Highland cows, graze all year round.

They're an environmentally friendly and cost-effective way to ensure scrub tree growth doesn't encroach onto the battlefield. The battlefield is now regarded as a war grave, a place where more than 1,300 men lost their lives and where many of them are buried. For many visitors, the site is a place of pilgrimage, a place linked to their family history.

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

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