

Volume 45 Number 4 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper October 2021

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Scotland's steamboats

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Scotland's most underrated fortress?

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Volume 45 - Number 4

## \*Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

## Samhain-The ancient traditions of the Celts



by Sean Cairney

ctober is the month of
Halloween across the world
and whilst most see it as
an excuse for kids to trick
or treat and for big and small kids
to dress up it can actually trace its
origins back to ancient Scotland.

## **Ancient Celts**

Ancient Celts believed ghosts of the dead would walk amongst them on 31 October and the term Halloween or Hallowe'en was first used in 1745. Taking its name from All Hallows' Eve, the night before the Christian festival of All Hallows or All Saints Day, it is possible to trace its origins back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which takes place on November 1st, which marked the end of summer and the harvest period with the beginning of the cooler winter and when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts.

Halloween is still recognised today in Edinburgh at the ancient Samhuinn Fire Festival on top of Calton Hill on October 31st, as people witness the exciting standoff between the Summer and Winter Kings and the dying of the light and the coming of the dark. Edinburgh is of course also known as one of the world's most haunted cities with some of the most known sites to include Greyfriars Kirkyard, Mary King's Close, The Edinburgh Playhouse and even a headless drummer at Edinburgh Castle!

## **Ghostly apparitions**

Of course, Edinburgh does not hold exclusive rights to ghostly sightings in Scotland. Did you know one of Scotland's most scenic beaches is also meant to be haunted? Sandwood Bay in Kinlochbervie is a 1.5-mile beach filled with dunes, sandy coastline and stunning cliffs.

Visitors to this beautiful bay may think they have the beach all to themselves, however they could be sharing the surroundings with ghostly apparitions better known as the 'Dead Sailors of Sandwood Bay'.

Music fans may be spooked to learn that at Argyll's Inveraray Castle a harpist has been playing tunes for nearly 400 years! The castle is home to the 'Phantom Harpist' who is believed to have been the harpist of a former Duke of Argyll. Other hauntings around the castle include a female ghost who is thought to have been killed by the Jacobites and a ghost ship which sails up Loch Fyne and disappears onto the land.

Scotland's national instrument also has fans 'on the other side' as The Phantom Piper of Clanyard Bay can be heard playing the bagpipes on the coastline near Stranraer during the evenings. Legend has it a piper and his loyal dog entered a now long-gone fairy cave, the piper never returned, and his dog did manage to escape-but without any fur! Another piper is said to haunt Duntrune Castle near Crinan, the oldest continuously occupied castle on mainland Scotland.

## In this issue

This month we caught up with Anna White who founded the Scottish retail business ScotlandShop in Duns in her beloved Scottish Borders. At the heart of their business is tartan, a fabric that shouts Scotland to all and one the nation can be so proud of and also one that goes beyond kilts, with so many items now available in your favourite tartan. Anna's passion for Scottish products, culture and of course tartan is allowing her to take a leap of faith across the Atlantic and open a US chapter in Albany, New York.

For generations, Glaswegians have loved going down the Clyde coast aboard historic pleasure steamships. Many Glaswegians were doing 'staycations' well before they became a pandemic catchphrase. This month we go 'doon the watter' aboard some of the great steam paddlers and steam ships who sailed along the Clyde and were a highlight to thousands of people's vacations and part of lifetime memories for many of summer in Scotland.

Scotland is full of castles, and many have a strong military history and are well known not just in Scotland but across the world.
One that may not be as widely known is Dumbarton Castle, which is said to be the longest continually occupied fortification in all of Britain and is built on top of and into an extinct volcano. Unlike William Wallace and Mary Queen of Scots I have not yet visited this fascinating site and have found it a pleasure to learn more about this often-missed historic Scottish site.

## **Scottish traditions**

Scottish traditions and folklore stretch back many years and what the world celebrates today with Halloween can trace back to a harvest festival, marking the final harvest of the year and the beginning of the onset of winter. Many of what we know as Halloween traditions came from our Celtic ancestors who would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts.

To keep evil spirits at bay, carved neeps, or turnips, with scary faces were placed outside folks houses. The Scots tradition of Guising involved children going door to door dressed up as a scary spirit so that they can venture out safely and ward off evil ghosts.

As Scots emigrated to new lands far and wide, they took these traditions with them which has evolved to the Halloween we know today. So, beyond all that sugar and the outrageous costumes there is in fact a spiritual tradition which dates back to Pagan times and which marks the change of seasons and the respect of our ancestors and that is something not to be scared of but instead very proud of.

Do you celebrate any ancient Scottish traditions? 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: The incredible tartans of Scotland. Photo courtesy of ScotlandShop.

## The purpose-built Great Tapestry of Scotland gallery opens



he new purpose-built Great Tapestry of Scotland gallery, visitor centre, cafe and workshop space has been revealed in its permanent home in Galashiels, the heartland of the Scottish Borders. The latest addition to Scotland's national cultural scene was unveiled as world-renowned author Alexander McCall Smith, whose vision it was to create a tapestry telling the history of Scotland, carefully positioned the 160<sup>th</sup> and final tapestry panel in place with chief stitcher Dorie Wilkie. The Great Tapestry of Scotland is located in the centre of Galashiels, less than an hour by train from Edinburgh on the Borders Railway, and close to Galashiels Transport Interchange.

The brainchild of Alexander McCall Smith and designed by artist Andrew Crummy, the Great Tapestry of Scotland is one of the world's largest community arts projects. Hand-stitched by a team of 1,000 stitchers from across Scotland led by Dorie Wilkie, over 300 miles of wool was used in creating the 160 linen panels (enough to lay the entire length of Scotland from the border with England to the tip of Shetland). The design of the panels is based on a narrative written by Scottish Borders-based award-winning writer and historian Alistair Moffat.

Speaking on the news of the centre's opening, Alexander McCall Smith said: "The opening of this wonderful gallery marks the end of a long period of hard work by all of those who have created this astonishing tapestry and its permanent home. But it also marks the beginning of the public life of one of the great artistic creations of our time."

An artwork truly born from the love of the places, people Councillor Mark Rowley, Scottish Borders Council's Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Finance, said: "The Great Tapestry of

Scotland truly is a national asset, and we are exceptionally proud to be able to open this phenomenal gallery to house it in the Scottish Borders. I have absolutely no doubt that this will draw in visitors from far and wide and will be an incredibly important development for this region. The addition of new world class museums and galleries like The Great Tapestry of Scotland, the Trimontium museum and the Jim Clark Motorsport Museum add to our impressive array of visitor attractions across the beautiful Scottish Borders. Alongside Scotland's Year of Stories in 2022 and the Scott 250 celebrations to mark the anniversary of Sir Walter Scott, our region's incredible visitor assets, including our landscape, will provide a springboard for economic recovery post Covid-19. Having exhibitions and events of such national historical and cultural significance based in the south of Scotland is an extremely positive development and will deliver wider benefits to the local economy and place the area firmly on the map.'

As well as permanently displaying the Great Tapestry of Scotland itself, the new visitor attraction will be home to a workshop space - where visitors can meet the makers, a café showcasing Scotland's larder, a shop and Gallery 1420, which will host a series of visiting exhibitions. Housed in the new visitor centre's Gallery 1420, the *Iconic Scotland* exhibit also displays some artefacts relating to some of the individuals appearing in the exhibit including Drew

McIntyre's WWE Championship belt, items donated by *Outlander* star Sam Heughan, an eighteenth century purse embroidered by one of the daughters of the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Traquair, a salwar kameez worn by pioneering human rights activist Saroj Lal and a Great Tapestry of Scotland kilt created by leading kilt designer Howie Nicholsby at 21<sup>st</sup> Century Kilts, in an exclusive fabric designed by Lochcarron of Scotland.

Revealing the new exhibit, Great Tapestry of Scotland Centre Director Sandy Maxwell-Forbes said: "The Great Tapestry of Scotland is an artwork truly born from the love of the places, people and stories that feature within it. I'm delighted to reveal that this great love and world-renowned story telling continues into our opening Iconic Scotland exhibit. We have received wonderful contributions from some of the most inspiring and iconic people. People are such a big part of Scotland's story. It is the people of Scotland, their achievements and their warmth of welcome that really put our much-loved small country on the map. It is their accounts throughout history and their continued passion and pride that give us our identity. Indeed, this is why the Great Tapestry of Scotland has received global acclaim and also why there will be so much to celebrate in the Year of Stories in 2022. We want to ensure our new national gallery and exhibition space will always be where Scotland's story truly begins."

For more information visit: www.greattapestryofscotland.com



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

- The word whisky derives from the Gaelic "uisge beatha." What does this translate as?
- 2) Which is the longest river in Scotland?
- 3) When was St Andrews University founded? a) 1411, b) 1517 or c) 1723?
- 4) Does heather thrive on acid or alkaline soil?
- 5) Ben Nevis is the highest mountain in Scotland which is the second highest?
- 6) How many years did the historical Macbeth reign as King? a) 15 years, b) 16 years, or c) 17 years?
- 7) On the site of what can you find the Heart of Midlothian?

- 8) What was the Mercurius Scoticus and why was it groundbreaking?
- 9) Which famous battle did Bonnie Prince Charlie win on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1745?
- 10) What disease devastated Edinburgh in 1645?

## **Answers:**

- 1) Water of life.
- 2) The River Tay, at 120 miles long.
- 3) a) 1411.
- 4) Acid.
- 5) Ben Macdui at 4296 feet.
- 6) c) 17 years.
- 7) Edinburgh's Tolbooth prison.
- 8) It was the first newspaper produced in Scotland in 1651.
- 9) The Battle of Prestonpans.
- 10) Bubonic plague.



## SCOT POURRI

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

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

## **Memories of Scotland**

Just a wee note to say how much I enjoyed your April edition and the article The Allure of Islands. So many memories revived from several visits to Scotland, particularly several weeks in 1979 while researching Scotland's 'Distance Delivery of Student Services'. Harris and Lewis via a 34 foot sloop, 3 weeks walking and camping (and enjoying the odd malt!) on Islay, Mull and Skye, where my paternal grandfather was born in 1870. Travelling on a BMW 80 RT motorcycle to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness and Dingwall (where my great, great, great uncle a free kirk minister and whose bust is at the church door).

As David C Weinczok wrote "The visitor has the privilege of knowing the islands as a collection of moments, each with a point of arrival, immersion, and departure, and then, like the tides, to return from whence they came, oblivious to the longerterm ebb and flow of the forces that define life upon them." Andrew Thorburn Narromine, NSW Australia

Ed note: Thank you Andrew for sharing your memories with us, Scotland's islands are so special.

As I am in Aberdeen I wonder if your readers

assist in researching the unpublished works of

## Sir Sean Connery Tartan



Thank you for a very interesting September

issue and for highlighting the new Sir Sean

Connery Tartan. I did not know a tartan was

being released to honour this great actor. I find the tartan quite beautiful for a

woman to wear, but not sure if Sir Sean would agree with the colour choices as he was such a man's man. I still think Sean Connery is the best bond we have ever had and though I have enjoyed the franchise no one has come close to his suave voice and presence on camera. I was also quite captivated by the article Straight from the Sagas: The

Peter Dodds McCormick. Advance Australia Fair I am trying to establish if one of his melodies is the basis of Flower of Scotland. Following my queries the UK Performing Rights Society have since reclassified the melody as Traditional (Public Domain). I wonder if anyone substantiate McCormick being the source? John Dawson Aberdeen, Scotland Email: johndaw@btinternet.com The Last Shift

Flower of Scotland



I saw this post of the artwork of Bob Barker "The Last Shift". It inspired my tribute poem to the miners....

## **Active Clan member**

Emma Campbell Washington, USA

Vikings' own guide to Orkney, and

look forward to visiting this magical

place on my next visit to Scotland.

I contributed several articles in the Scottish Banner during the 90's and was a Convenor for the Lindsay and Hay Clans. I have been busy with Clan history of the Lindsay's, now that we know of our Flemish origins. I am now an active member of the Scots Clan Lindsay Society, our Clan DNA project, and as FSA Scot. Now at 81 years of age, slowing down a bit, but still interested in Scots history and modern activities, in our culture. Thanks for all you do. Joseph W. Lindsay Hayle ATP FSA Scot

Ed note: Thanks Joseph for reaching out and all your commitment to the Clan movement.

## The Last Shift

A walk to the pithead somber and quiet, speech seemed to be absent no one tried it....

winding gears grated we picked up our coin, stood at the gate where others we joined.

and the faces around us some could not see for the mist and smir wet the eyes of us three....

my brothers the pit took my father before and cage was descending last time to the floor....

shoulders bent like roof up above...

and the last shift took station for a pit hated and loved...

those bent before us that once crawled to

whispered "I'm sorry for your loss, but you're better out of this place."

Artwork by Bob Barker.

Kit Duddy **Kitspoems** Scotland

## **Stirling Castle**

I much enjoyed your August article on the castles of Scotland, in particular the reference to Stirling Castle. I've always thought that castle was more spectacular than Edinburgh's, towering right over the town itself, not on 'you distant hill.' In fact, it is one of the not many built into the town environments directly that we visited over several years. About 1990 my wife and I visited Stirling and it's castle, and had a tour of it and the Argyle & Sutherland Highlander's Regimental Museum. It was when there was a strong effort in play to 'SAVE THE ARGYLES.' In fact, I had such a sticker on my car bumper on return to Toronto in support. We were taken around by a custodian, and my wife, as a knowledgeable silver collector, was impressed at the amount of table silver in the display – vegetable dishes, large ornate salt cellars, snuff 'heads, etc. Everywhere there were signs asking for donations to the fund to 'Save the Argyles'. My wife said in puzzled tones to our guide, "Why don't they just sell a few of those items, like that large Georgian (or earlier) salt cellar piece? It would be worth several thousand pounds at the least." This absolutely horrified our guide! "Sell any of the regimental silver?? We'd never do that of course." My wife didn't have quite the same attachment to regimental history! I was Navy, and we had far less such items! A great edition, so thank you, Fraser Murray McKee (CDR, RCNR, ret'd) Toronto, Ontario Canada

## **Orkney Sagas**



What a wonderful and unique article to read in the September edition of the Scottish Banner (Straight from the Sagas: The Vikings' own guide to Orkney, Scottish Banner, September, 2021). In a vastly changing modern world we all live in with everyone on their phones and devices how refreshing to see someone use an 800-year-old guidebook to look at things, when our world was so much different. Not only was your author able to look at historic sites in a way many most likely do not realise were previously seen as but the book, which I had never heard of before, gives new meaning to a travel guide and part of a time in history. I have no idea where this type of story would come to life other than the Scottish Banner, which I look so forward to reading each month.

I look forward to my next visit to Scotland, which will include my first to Orkney! Chris Sinclair Toronto, Ontario Canada

Ed note: We are glad you enjoyed the great article by David C. Weinczok. We hope your trip to Orkney is just as memorable as David's was.

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**Uist** 

Glencoe



Glencoe delights. Ronald Stokes

**Crovie** 



Bealach na Bà



Debbie Neilson



Would you drive Bealach na Bà, or Pass of the Cattle, the steepest ascent of any road climb in the UK? John Pow Photography

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

## Haunted Homes of History

From phantom pipers to cursed castles, Historic Environment Scotland uncovers stories of Scotland's haunted homes this Halloween.

s it's Halloween, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) thought they would share some spooky tales attributed to some castles in their care. Before we begin, it's worth remembering that ghost stories are – well, just that – stories! HES can account for historical dates and records, but not the ghosties. These are speculated spooks. Still, if you fancy a chilling read to celebrate 31 October in style, read on...

## The Curse of Cardoness Castle



Cardoness Castle is a 15<sup>th</sup> century tower house in Galloway. The land was first inhabited by the Cardoness family and then, in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, McCulloch lairds built the current Cardoness Castle. There are rumours of a curse which afflicted those that dwelt on the land. A curse that that led each family to tragedy, eventual ruin or even death. Accounts tell that the Laird of Cardoness had nine daughters, but he wished for a son. He threatened his wife that unless she produced one, he would drown her and all her nine daughters in the Black Loch (nice, huh?). A male heir was indeed born and to celebrate, Laird Cardoness suggested that a party should be held on the frozen loch, because that sounds safe. All the family assembled except one daughter. With the revels in full swing, the ice gave way, and everyone tragically plunged to their death in the dark frozen waters. The absent daughter married one of the McCulloch clan who would then build and inhabit the castle.

The McCullochs made good use of their highly defendable castle but were involved in a lengthy and bloody feud with their neighbours. They frequently encountered troubles and spells of financial hardship and ruin. Could both these unfortunate tales be linked to the reputed jinx? If a curse isn't enough, there has also been alleged reports of apparitions, including that of a ghostly lady...

Dunstaffnage Castle and the Lady in Green



The second of our (allegedly) haunted homes is Dunstaffnage Castle in Argyll and Bute. This dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, making it one of Scotland's oldest stone castles. It was the mighty stronghold of the MacDougalls, built on a huge rock above the Firth of Lorn. Notable figures from Scottish history are connected to the castle including Flora MacDonald, who was held there in 1746 before being sent to the Tower of London for aiding Bonnie Prince Charlie's escape. Like many castles, it has a long and exceptionally violent past, besieged and rebuilt many times. Legend has it that the castle is haunted by a lady in green known as "Ell-maid of Dunstaffnage", reputedly seen on the ramparts at times of peril. If she smiles then the outcome will be good, but if she weeps, trouble lies ahead for the castles owners.

## Edinburgh Castle and the spooky troubadours



Edinburgh's castle rock has been occupied since the late Bronze Age, but the buildings of the present castle date from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Edinburgh Castle is reputed to be one of the most haunted spots in Scotland! Some have reported stories of a phantom piper, a headless drummer and even the ghost of wandering dog. What a musical motley crew, wonder what their band name is?

Have you had any spooky experiences in Scotland? 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

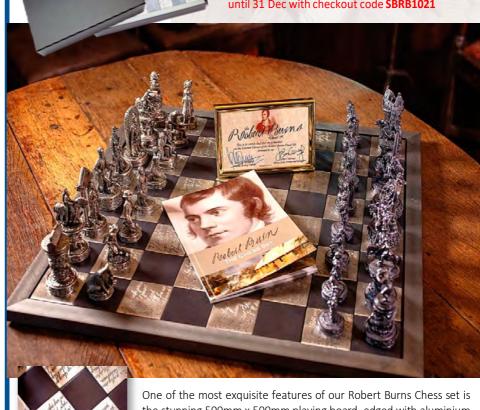
## Robert Burns The Chess Set

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and reality that populated his works or weaved their way through his life or he, through theirs.

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## **SCOTSPEAK**

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

"March 2022 will mark a historic milestone in Glasgow's story, as the completely refurbished Burrell Collection reopens to the world. Very soon, thanks to all the project's funders, these wonderful works of art, which Sir William Burrell gave to the people of Glasgow, will be enjoyed in a modern, green museum, fit for purpose and for the future. Our vision for the Burrell Collection demonstrates the city's ambition for it to become more widely appreciated and well known around the world and for Glasgow to retain its place as a global cultural leader."

Chief executive of Glasgow Life Bridget McConnell said the Burrell Collection in Glasgow will reopen next March following its £68m refurbishment and redisplay. Building work on the A listed building in Pollok Country Park, which has been closed since autumn 2016, has now finished and installation of artworks has begun. The overhaul will see gallery space increase by 35%, allowing more items from the collection to go on display. The collection of more than 9,000 works of arts was amassed by William Burrell (1861-1958), a shipping company owner, over a 75-year period. It was gifted to the city of Glasgow in 1944.

"I was pleased that we got confirmation that the distraction of a £20bn fixed bridge, or three tunnels and a roundabout under the sea, has finally been put to bed."

Northern Ireland's Infrastructure Minister Nichola Mallon said as a proposed plans to build a bridge or tunnel between Northern Ireland and Scotland has been shelved. With a predicted cost £15-20 billion, the plan backed by Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been shelved due to limits placed on public spending by the UK Treasury.

"The statue has been in various places throughout Scotland and it was offered to the club just this year. The statue itself is a remarkable piece of craftsmanship by a local man who put Brechin on the map with his talents. Having previously been on display all over Scotland we are delighted that the statue will be situated within our ground for all to see and appreciate."

Clark Renilson, Community Manager at Brechin City Football Club, said as the club unveiled the *Braveheart* statue which has found a new home at Glebe Park.

Local sculptor Tommy Church came up with the idea of identifying a permanent home for his work in his hometown and decided what would be better than the local football club. The 13-foot figure depicts William Wallace played by Mel Gibson in the film *Braveheart* and will now be permanently housed at Brechin City FC.

"We want the Old High Church to stand. There is the history of it. It stood at the time of the Battle of Culloden, its tower was used for the prisoners, it has historical artefacts inside and in the church graveyard. It is the town church, and many people will be upset by this decision."

Christina Cameron, the chairwoman of the Friends of the Old High Church, said as the oldest church in Inverness may be put up for sale. Dating back to 1770 it is one of Inverness' most historic buildings and the mound on which the church was constructed is believed to be the site where Irish missionary St Columba converted King Brude in 565. A decision has yet to be made on the future of the church by the Presbytery of Inverness.



"Just like the rockets that will soon be launched from Sutherland, I am absolutely over the moon! The space hub has the power not only to provide highquality employment in Sutherland, but to bridge political differences. I hope that the Prime Minister will visit us to view the first launch and join me in celebrating the fact that Sutherland is leading the way."

Liberal Democrat MP Jamie Stone said as plans for the world's first carbon-neutral spaceport, Space Hub Sutherland, in the Highlands have been given the go-ahead. The site is now on track to be the UK's first space port, and would see an inaugural space flight launching from land on the Melness Crofters' Estate in 2022.



"The wonder of Càrn Deas lies in its natural undisturbed beauty. Here, you can truly escape from reality, take a deep breath and enjoy what nature can offer. It is a lovely space to camp and live off what you've caught from the sea, swimming, kayaking, or sailing by day and enjoying the huge unpolluted skies by night."

Fenning Welstead, partner at GOLDCREST Land & Forestry, said as the uninhabited Scottish island of Càrn Deas went up sale for offers over £50,000. The Summer Isle off Scotland's north-west coast has a beautiful coastline encompassing cliffs, coves and a shingle beach. The waters surrounding the island are home to porpoises, dolphins, whales, basking sharks and otters and a rich feeding ground for seabird and aquatic life.

## Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition 2021



unedin, in the South Island of New Zealand, has a familial link to Robert Burns in the form of his nephew, Dr Thomas Burns - who was one of the City's founding fathers during Scottish settlement. A statue of Robert Burns was unveiled in 1887, and stands in the Octagon at the heart of the City Centre. Today it remains a popular focal point and meeting place for both residents and visitors. Robert Burns, the great Scottish Bard, was born on 25 January 1759, and his legend lives on through his poetry and songs, such as Tam O'Shanter. Regarded as a pioneer of the Romantic Movement, his works reflect his strength of opinion, his love of women and his fondness (sometimes too much) of drinking. For their annual Robert Burns Poetry Competition, Dunedin Public Libraries invite you to write a poem in the spirit of Robert Burns.

## **New Scotland**

The University of Otago holds the Robert Burns Fellowship, a prestigious residency for contemporary New Zealand writers, which enables them to further explore and develop their craft. The Dunedin Burns Club was formed in 1891. Alongside a number of Scottish clubs and societies in the city, the Dunedin Burns Club keeps the memory of our Scottish heritage alive and well. The Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition is a collaboration between the City of Literature, Dunedin Public Libraries and The Dunedin Burns Club, with the support of the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies and the Otago *Daily Times.* Entries are judged by associates of the Robert Burns Fellowship and the winners are announced and presented with prizes on Robert Burns' birthday, 25 January. There is a separate competition for young poets - Rap Like Robbie Poetry Competition - which runs concurrently with the Robert Burns Poetry competition for adults.

The theme of the 2021 competition is New Scotland. How has Scottish culture evolved at home and abroad? Do the Scots become more Scottish the further they travel from the homeland? What happens when cultures blend or collide, with travel and migration? Write a poem in English or Scots in response to any of these questions, in 500 words or less. Enter online or print off an entry form post to:

2021 Robert Burns Poetry Competition
C/- Kay Mercer
Dunedin Public Libraries
PO Box 554
Dunedin 9054
New Zealand
The competition closes on 19th November.
For full information see:
www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz

## **SCOTWORD**

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

## **CLUES ACROSS**

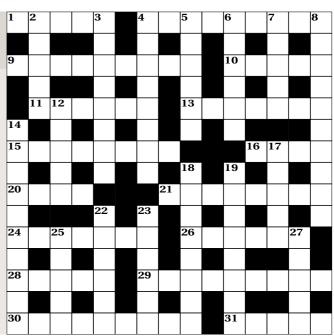
- 1) Soak at an angle! (5).
- 4) Two-edged swords (9).
- 9) Tayside flower! (5, 4).
- 10) In Scotland he's a provost (5).
- 11) A tumshie to a Scot (6).
- 13) An undershirt (7).
- 15) Major police commission (8).
- 16) Minerals (4).
- 20) Smoke to Scots (4).
- 21) Dance movement put together! (8).
- 24) A gathering of Scots! (7).

- 26) Apprehensive (6)
- 28) In debt to (5).
- 29) Yee-Haaa! (5, 4).
- 30) Valley, village and forest in Central Region (9).
- 31) Edible seaweed (5).

## **CLUES DOWN**

- 2) Contort at this dance (5).
- 3) Laurel & Hardy, Martin & Lewis (8)
- 4) Competitor's ultimate aim (8).
- 5) Town 3 miles W. of Invergordon (6).
- 6) A short time (6).

- 7) Top stag! (5).
- 8) Dance it or play it (10).
- 12) Loosen (5).
- 14) Symbol to gather and fight (5, 5).
- 17) Loose gowns (5).
- 18) Amber nector to the Gael (8).
- 19) Annuled (8).
- 22) Move in fits and starts (6).
- 23) Spanish wine (6).
- 25) More slippier (5).
- 27) Egg centres (5).



## Lady MacGregor's Scotland

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



reetings from Scotland where the weather is holding; autumnal now; dry with a hint of colder climes to come. It is that time of year.

The fish are jumping, and the MacGregor and I dust off our rods to try our luck on the mighty River Tay. Perthshire is a pretty place in the fall, but our luck is not in. Nothing can be tempted to take the numerous gaudy flies we throw at the resident salmon population...

With us on this fishing trip is the latest addition to the house. Benbecula (Bennie for short) is now eight months old and is living up to his reputation as a naughty Norfolk Terrier; a breed full of mischief and permanently on the go. But who would have thought that one small dog could cause so much damage?! The latest victims are the wastepaper bins, upstairs and down. Bennie has discovered that it is great fun to topple them and toss their contents round the room. They, along with the toilet rolls, are now sitting up high. In fact, everything we own - shoes, bags and brushes - will soon be stacked on a shelf somewhere. Unfortunately, we cannot move the chief's tartan carpet. At least a hundred years old, this MacGregor red and black check creation graces the hall. It is his pride and joy but is being unravelled by the day.

## **Sheep**

Meanwhile, more animals arrive in the surrounding fields. They are newly shorn and nervous, and I feel sorry for them. Yet sheep are hardy creatures. They are the great survivors. Especially in Scotland.

Some years ago, a sturdy blackface ewe from the Isle of Lewis became a candidate for title of world's oldest sheep. Methuselina was nearly twenty-six when she died. And she could well have gone on longer. This long-lived but unfortunate creature died after falling off a cliff. Yes, we can farm sheep here. Cheviots and Hebrideans. North Ronaldsays and Shetlands. Here in Scotland, there are more sheep than people. And if you need any further proof of the six-point-seven million woolly quadrupeds that totter round these shores, then the British Wool depot in Galashiels is the place to visit.

This month our filming takes us to Scotland's largest wool grading centre. It is a place that processes three million tonnes of the stuff each year. Lorry loads regularly arrive at this Borders's site. Wool from all over the country – and here in this great warehouse, tens of

thousands of fluffy coats are checked by hand and sorted. Being a wool grader means joining an exclusive club. Very few people still have this skill. Among them is Kevin, who has been grading fleeces for forty-four years. It is time well served and one way to stop your hands from ageing. He shows me them. They are baby soft. Which it is all down to the lanolin in the sheep coats. Fleeces must be sorted because sheep must be shorn - but at what cost? Wool prices are low, and farmers are not happy. Much of our wool goes to making carpets with the biggest buyers the cruise liners and the hospitality industry - both of which have not been buying recently, for obvious reasons.

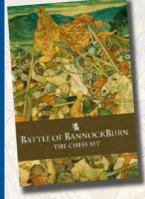
## Glenluce Vintage Tractors

Let us hope things pick up. Meanwhile, it has been a busy month for filming and one of the highlights of the work is a Galloway village where a farming club is marking twenty years of showing traditional tractors. I did not realise how popular these machines are. But Glenluce Vintage Tractors can usually get at least fifty of them out on a run; an amusing day for owners and watchers along the route. It was the tractor that transformed agricultural life in Scotland. From the Victorian steam engine on wheels, to our twentieth century petrol-powered machines. Today I think we are on the way to being able to use state-of-the-art electric versions. However, these farming machines are powered, I do know that the old ones are highly collectable.

So, what else is happening here in Scotland? Well, we are slowly getting back to normal – whatever that is – although the Covid rate remains stubbornly high. As such we are still wearing masks and are being urged to maintain some sort of social distancing. But folk are starting to travel again. As I write the MacGregor is taking himself off to Iona. A place I have never visited but would dearly love to get to one of these days. Iona is a tiny island off the coast of Mull. It is the birthplace of Celtic Christianity in Scotland. The place where St Columba arrived from Ireland fifteen hundred years ago to start spreading the gospel.

Some folk go there for retreats and spiritual healing. The chief has gone to take some landscape pictures. I cannot wait to see the photos when he returns...

## BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN THE CHESS SET



Created by our family business **Stirling 1314 llp** - located within sight of majestic Stirling Castle, the prize Scotland and England sought to win on the field of Bannockburn In 1314. This epic 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary limited edition chess set is a spectacular addition to any home and a family heirloom of the future. Hand-crafted in stunning solid pewter, the key players and places

Hand-crafted in stunning solid pewter, the key players and place of importance for both sides make up an array as dramatic as they are majestic.

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John and Niael 1996

"I was inspired to create the Battle of Bannockbun chess set by two events — the first was reading the epic and unmissable 'The Bruce' Trilogy by brilliant Scots historic novelist Nigel Tranter. The second was meeting a young artisan model maker, Steve Trickett, who showed me a fantasy chess set he had created in pewter, with every single piece different. The three of us worked together for the next two years on the vision. The rest, as they say, is history...." John W Morgan, Stirling 1314llp

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## Clan Chieftain - Clan Hope of Craighall

Sir Alexander Archibald Douglas Hope, OBE, 19th Bt of Craighall.

ormally one might expect to read of a clan chieftain living in a stately manor somewhere in Scotland. Perhaps doing a bit of fishing and hunting or delving in company directorships in the realms of establishment and industry enterprises. Happily, the chieftain of Clan hope of Craighall decided to be a little more creative in his pursuits than just those careers and pastimes. So, if you are unaware of who the Clan Chieftain of Clan Hope of Craighall is this extract from a article on Double Negative (DNEG) the business he co-founded in 1996 might help shed some light.

## **Rise of DNEG**

As film production in the UK ramped up, so too did competition among visual effects studios, many of which happened to be located in the Soho area of London. DNEG Co-founder Alex Hope says the focus in those earlier years was to not only help grow DNEG as a business and as a creative enterprise, but also the local industry as a whole.

"One of our primary aims was to get the visual effects industry in the UK on the map," recalls Hope. "Through that period, the *Harry Potter* films started being made, and we first became involved on *Prisoner of Azkaban*, released in 2004. Those films, and the commitment of Warner Bros. Everyone associated with those films to want them to be done in the UK gave confidence to British visual effects companies, and gave confidence to Double Negative – that we could invest in training and R&D and capital expenditure and build our business."

Another cornerstone relationship that DNEG cultivated was with Christopher Nolan, first working with the director on *Batman Begins* and then several others DNEG also quickly became one of the major contributors to other large franchises such as *The Hunger Games* series, Bond films, the DC Extended Universe and the Marvel Cinematic Universe. For that to happen, DNEG had to grow – quickly and creatively – not only in London but around the world. The studio now has locations in London, Vancouver, Mumbai, Los Angeles, Chennai and Montréal.

## **Oscars**

DNEG has proved its metal in the competitive creative area of VFX production winning multiple awards for its work on a diverse range of feature films and television productions including

Academy Awards (Oscars) for: *Inception, Interstellar, Ex Machina, Blade Runner* 2049, *Dunkirk, First Man* and *Tenet*.

After 22 years Sir Alex left DNEG in early 2020 to take time away from the industry. He's now involved in some new ventures in the entertainment industry looking to launch in late 2021 and 2022. Sir Alex also serves as Vice Chair of ScreenSkills the UK's industry led skills body for the screen industry. Clan Hope of Craighall Society looks forward to hearing more about their chieftain's future business ventures and successes.

You can find out more about DNEG at: www.dneg.com and also about Clan Hope of Craighall Society at: www.clanhope.org





## Canna-A small island with a big future

## Crowd funding appeal to build three community owned houses on the remote Isle of Canna.



he tiny community of 15 on the Isle of Canna is appealing for donations to help complete the funding package to build three community owned houses. The aim is to gradually increase the population of Canna to around 30 but currently there are no available empty houses on the island to enable the population to grow. The Isle of Canna Community Development Trust (IoCCDT) has launched a crowd funding appeal to complete the £750,000 total of funding required to build the houses. The community has to raise £200,000 as their contribution to the overall cost.

The houses will be managed and owned by the community; they will be warm, energy efficient and let at affordable rents. The island's owner, the National Trust for Scotland, have released the land needed for this development. It is planned to start building these 3 new community owned houses in spring 2022 so that Canna can welcome its new residents later in 2022.

Geraldine Mackinnon, Chair of the Isle of Canna Community Development Trust, said: "The Isle of Canna Community may be small but we are always up for any challenge that will help us create a sustainable future for our island. We have a positive track record with previous projects and hope everyone will come on board and help us make our Community Housing a reality."

## The Small Isles archipelago

The Isle of Canna is the westernmost of the Small Isles archipelago, in the Scottish Inner Hebrides. It is owned by the National Trust for Scotland and is a two-hour ferry journey from Mallaig. The current number of permanent residents on Canna is 15. This housing project is a major step toward their eventual aim of having 30 people on Canna. Canna is home to the award-winning Cafe Canna, is renowned for its safe harbour, a wealth of wildlife and a vibrant community. The IoCCDT was set up in 2013 to enable sustainable development and manage community assets. Since 2013, IoCCDT has successfully set up a community shop, community moorings, an all-tides road to enable Sanday residents vehicular access at all times and an integrated renewable energy project. The IoCCDT has worked with the Community Housing Trust to develop the current housing project and funding is available from the Scottish Government's Rural Housing Fund and a range of trusts and foundations.

Building on islands increases costs by an estimated 30-40% and the tiny population of Canna needs to raise enough money to fill the funding gap for houses that are essential to its sustainable future.

The IoCCDT's development plan for the island's future include the renovation and development of Coroghon Barn and the creation of a Visitor Hub to provide for the over 10-15,000 visitors every year. With these ambitious plans there is a need for more people on Canna to help make this future a reality. There are several other employment and self-employment opportunities on the island including staff for existing businesses and new business start-ups.

Contributions toward making Canna a more sustainable place to live can be made via the crowd funding page: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/isle-ofcanna-housing-project

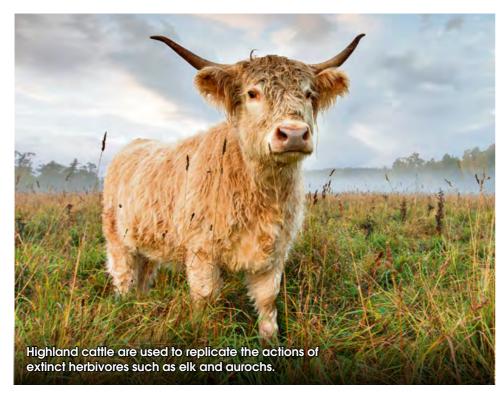


## First killer whale match made between Scotland and Norway



hat is believed to be the first match of killer whales between Scotland and Norway has been made after experts identified three individuals photographed in southern Norway as part of a 'mystery pod' seen off Scotland's west coast in 2018. The discovery solves a three-year enigma after the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust made the last known sighting of the pod - never before seen in Scottish waters - off Vatersay on Scotland's west coast on 23 June 2018. The breakthrough came on 10 July this year, after citizen scientist Asmund Aasheim photographed a pod of six whales in Børøyfjorden and sent his pictures to the Norwegian Orca Survey, where Dr Eve Jourdain found that the killer whales were not familiar from Norwegian records. As the colouration on the animal's backs, known as a saddle patch, looked different to that of killer whales normally seen around Norway, Dr. Jourdain looked further afield, comparing the individuals against other national records. She found a match in the Scottish Killer Whale Catalogue, a key research document containing the best available images of all known living killer whales seen in Scottish waters. The Trust's Science Officer Becky Dudley was on board and captured the photographs that, three years later, made the Norwegian match possible and said: "The encounter with this group of killer whales back in 2018 was one of the most amazing experiences I've had on Scotland's west coast. It was made even more exciting when, despite much investigation and collaboration with other organisations, the identity of this pod remained a mystery. I am thrilled that the group has been matched to the group seen in Norway over three years later. It highlights how much there is to learn about the marine life in our oceans." With marine mammals at risk from human activities including climate change, entanglement, pollution, underwater noise and habitat degradation, ongoing and long-term research is crucial to improve understanding of the impacts on whales, dolphins and porpoises, collectively known as cetaceans, and how to protect them.

## More Scottish landowners unite to save Scotland's wildlife



Ballinlaggan Farm in the Cairngorms.

All images © scotlandbigpicture.com

ncreasing numbers of Scottish landowners are joining a chain of rewilding projects to tackle the nature and climate emergencies, and create new economic opportunities for rural communities. The Northwoods Rewilding Network is bringing together a diverse group of farms, estates, crofts and community lands, and has more than doubled in size to 28 land partners since its April launch. The sites now cover more than 7,000 acres between them, and Northwoods aims to grow to at least 10,000 acres within two years.

Operated by rewilding charity SCOTLAND: The Big Picture, Northwoods was created in response to a growing number of enquiries from landowners keen to contribute to Scotland's role in reversing global nature loss and tackling climate breakdown, but who needed more knowledge and resources. Partnering with small and medium-sized landholdings of 50-1,000 acres, Northwoods is creating a tapestry of nature recovery 'stepping-stones' across the landscape, with tailored support being offered to farmers, landowners and land managers.

Rewilding is the large-scale restoration of nature, and goes beyond protecting fragments of nature now left.

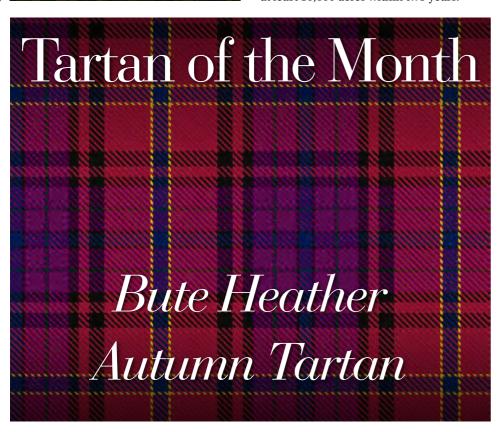
Large-scale restoration of nature
Most rewilding activity in Scotland is
presently limited to large estates and
landscape-scale projects. Outside
of these initiatives, the challenge of
restoring nature and connecting habitats
remains. James Nairne, Northwoods'
Project Manager said: "Northwoods
is helping a much wider range of land
managers play a bigger role in restoring
and connecting nature-rich habitats.

The levels of interest show that rewilding is increasingly seen as an important way of helping Scotland's land and seas recover, and delivering a range of positive outcomes for nature and people."

Research has estimated that only 29 countries out of 218 have lost more biodiversity than the UK, with Scotland faring only slightly better than the UK average. Rewilding is the large-scale restoration of nature, and goes beyond protecting fragments of nature now left. It restores vibrant living systems across woodlands, peatlands, wetlands, rivers, and at sea, and offers new opportunities for farmers on marginal land.

For more information and a list of Northwoods members, see: www.scotlandbigpicture.com





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

his month we celebrate the glorious season of autumn in Scotland. This tartan (SRT Reference: 6175) design was one of a series of tartans, all with "Bute Heather" in their names, produced by Houston Kiltmakers of Paisley for their retail and kilt-hire business. This tartan was designed by Houston Kiltmakers of Paisley, and registered in August 2007.



## IN SCOTLAND TODAY



## **Dumfries City Status Bid**

Stakeholders and community members from across Dumfries and its surrounding areas have met to discuss the potential of Dumfries applying for City Status as part of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year. Dumfries has previously applied for city status in 2011 and key requirements include having a distinct identity, civic pride, cultural infrastructure, interesting heritage, history and traditions, vibrant and welcoming community, and associations with Royalty.

South Scotland MSP Emma Harper said: "Dumfries, and our surrounding areas, has a rich culture, history and civic pride. This is an exciting opportunity for Dumfries to be the First City in Scotland when people head north. Through our connections to Robert Burns, J.M Barrie, Moat Brae and Peter Pan and Robert the Bruce, the Theatre Royal, the Crichton Estate and Calvin Harris our fantastic community events like the Big Burns Supper and Guid Neighbours, as well as our Universities and College, we meet the required criteria for City Status and more. We also have abundant green spaces in Dock Park, Heathhall Forest, King George IV Park and the Crichton Gardens, to name a few. We are surrounded by forestry, cycling and active travel infrastructure and these fantastic historical, cultural and environmental assets deserve the recognition and benefits that City Status can bring.'

Several towns across the UK will be granted city status ahead of the Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and the application deadline is December 8<sup>th</sup>. The bid is now being considered by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

## **SCOTS DG celebrate 50**



The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (SCOTS DG), Scotland's senior and only cavalry regiment, recently celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Regiment's long and illustrious heritage dates back to 1678 when three independent troops of dragoons were raised at the House of the Binns, Linlithgow by General Thomas 'Bluidy Tam' Dalyell and the current Regiment was formed through an amalgamation of the Royal Scots Greys and the 3rd Carabiniers at Holyrood Park in Edinburgh on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1971.

During the last 50 years the SCOTS DG have participated in four Operational Tours of Northern Ireland, fought in the Gulf war in 1991, deployed to Bosnia and twice to Kosovo in the later 1990s and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan three times each since 2001. The SCOTS DG are now based in Leuchars in Scotland.

In marking the 50<sup>th</sup>anniversary of the amalgamation and the formation of the Regiment the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Graeme Craig said: "While our antecedent lineages run deeper into history, this anniversary prompts an important moment of reflection for The SCOTS DG. We draw much of our of fighting spirit from our strong connection with our veterans, and I find it inspiring to think of the number of people who have served wearing our capbadge over the last 50 years, as well as those attached to us, representing a vast wealth of experience, operational prowess, individual stories and Regimental folklore. No-one in the serving Regiment was alive and present at the time, but the amalgamation remains very much within the living memory of our wider Regimental family."

The Regiment are very proud to have Her Majesty The Queen as their Colonel in Chief since 1953 and His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent as Deputy Colonel in Chief since 1993. Both have sent messages to the serving soldiers, veterans community and the families of the Regiment on this auspicious day. These messages highlight the affection and time-honoured bonds between The Regiment and the Royal Family. Scotland's most senior cavalry unit celebrated the landmark by marching down the historic Royal Mile from Edinburgh Castle to Holyrood Palace in September.

Diageo opens landmark global Johnnie Walker visitor experience



One of Edinburgh's newest attractions has opened, Johnnie Walker Princes Street, the eight-floor new visitor experience for the world's best-selling Scotch whisky, in the heart of Scotland's capital city.

Four and a half years in the making, Johnnie Walker Princes Street is the centrepiece of our £185million pound investment in Scotch whisky tourism in Scotland – the largest single investment programme of its kind ever seen in Scotch whisky tourism.

To mark the opening, a Johnnie Walker flag was raised above the landmark building by Diageo's Chief Executive, Ivan Menezes, and the Managing Director of Johnnie Walker Princes Street, Barbara Smith, who said: "This is a proud day for everyone. Last year Johnnie Walker celebrated 200 years since founder John Walker opened the doors to his small grocery store and today represents the next chapter of the incredible story. Johnnie Walker Princes Street is a landmark investment in Scotch whisky and into Scotland and it sets a new standard for immersive visitor attractions. It celebrates Scotland's remarkable heritage, our incredible skilled whisky-makers, and looks to the future by engaging new generations of consumers from around the world in the magic of Scotch whisky."

Johnnie Walker Princes Street is crowned by two world-class rooftop bars and a terrace with breath-taking views of the Edinburgh skyline, including the Explorers' Bothy whisky bar stocked with 150 different whiskies, and the 1820 cocktail bar where drinks are paired with a carefully curated menu sourced from, and representing in culinary form, the four corners of Scotland.

## First Hybrid Electric aircraft in Scotland



An electric aviation pioneer is the first to fly low-emission aircraft on a potential airline route as part of UK program to transition to sustainable aviation. Ampaire, a leader in electric aviation, celebrated the first hybrid electric flights in Scotland, crossing the Pentland Firth from Kirkwall Airport on the Orkney Isles to regional airport Wick John O'Groats Airport in the north of mainland Scotland. This milestone marks the first set of demonstration flights in the UK. The trials, the first to operate on a viable regional airline route, are part of the Sustainable Aviation Test Environment (SATE) project, which is being led by Highlands and Islands Airports Limited.

Funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, SATE is based at Kirkwall Airport in Orkney, which is also home to the UK's first operationally based low-carbon aviation test centre. SATE forms part of the UKRI's Future Flight Challenge, created to test low-carbon aviation technologies, as well as investigate the airport infrastructure necessary to support sustainable aviation. Ampaire's Electric EEL technology demonstrator, a modified six-seat Cessna 337, runs on battery power and a conventional combustion engine.

The company is developing a line of hybrid electric powertrain upgrades that will reduce emissions and operating costs by as much as 25 percent initially, allowing regional airlines to better serve lifeline routes in Scotland and around the world.

Ampaire test pilot Justin Gillen commented: "Today's flight to Wick went without a hitch, flying at 3500 feet and 120 miles per hour. The Electric EEL is easy to fly and we've achieved a total five hours here so far."

"This is an important first step to decarbonizing Scottish regional aviation, while lowering the cost of air service," said Ampaire founder and CEO Kevin Noertker. "It's a model for what Ampaire will be able to offer regional carriers everywhere."

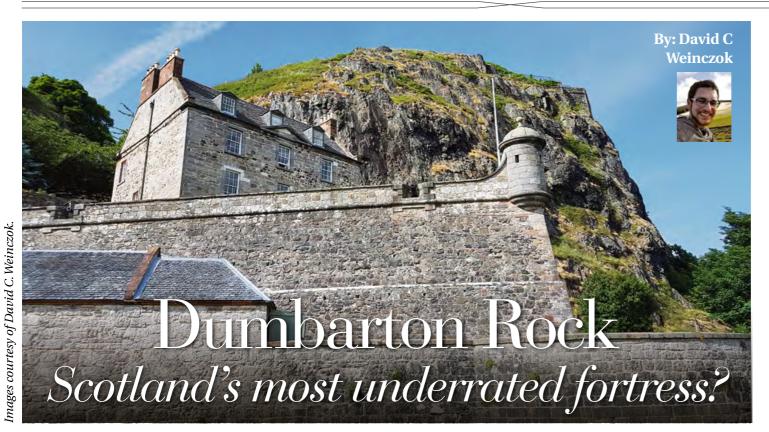
The company sees its hybrid electric upgrades as a catalyst to zero-emission, all-electric aircraft, as battery technology advances and airport charging infrastructure matures. Noertker continued, ""With CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rising 70 percent faster than predicted, transition to zero emission technology is critical. We're pleased to be taking a big step in that direction here in Scotland."

## Royal Bank unveils design of new polymer Scottish £50 note



Royal Bank of Scotland has unveiled its first polymer £50 note. Featuring the image of historic Scottish educationalist Flora Stevenson, this is the bank's first £50 note to feature a woman on its face. The £50 - which has been designed in consultation with the public - is the fourth in the bank's 'Fabric of Nature' series, and includes illustrations of the Scottish osprey on its reverse and will join Royal Bank's £5, £10 and £20. Flora, who was born in Glasgow was a British social reformer with a special interest in education for poor or neglected children, and in education for girls. She was one of the first women in the United Kingdom to be elected to a school board. The primary school, named after her, opened in 1899, the year of her 60th birthday. She passed away in 1905. Malcolm Buchanan, Royal Bank of Scotland's Scotland Regional board chair, said: "At Royal Bank of Scotland, we feel that a banknote's value is more than just the figure printed across its front - it is our symbol which lives in people's pockets and touches everyday lives. Flora Stevenson's legacy touches so many aspects of Scottish life that we, as a nation, are justifiably proud; education, dedication and creating opportunities for all. Flora's impact on education, directly and indirectly, has led to opportunities for many generations. It feels right to celebrate her impact in this way."

The Polymer £50 will follow the £5 Polymer note, which was launched in 2016 and features poet Nan Shepherd, the £10 Polymer which was launched in 2017 and includes the portrait of scientist Mary Somerville, and the £20 – the bank's largest circulating note which features philanthropist Kate Cranston, which was launched in 2020.



ind an outcrop of rock in Scotland and chances are someone, at some point, called it a seat of power.
Inland crags, coastal cliffs, and the stone spires left by retreating glaciers 12,000 years ago are commonly crowned by castles or their prehistoric equivalents -duns, brochs, hillforts, lookout towers, and every other type of fortification imaginable.

Nothing, however, serves as a statement in stone quite like building on the carcass of an extinct volcano. Think Edinburgh and Stirling castles, or the island strongholds of Bass Rock and Ailsa Craig, both of which loom large as natural wonders and visitor attractions. In terms of sheer symbiosis between stones crafted by hand and those crafted by nature, however, none can rival Dumbarton Rock. I would not be surprised if you had not heard of it until now. Dumbarton receives little of the fanfare given to the likes of the places listed above. Just why that it is anyone's guess. Sure, Dumbarton is not at the centre of a major tourism hub like Edinburgh or Stirling; in its shadow is a football pitch, and the area it is in (about 15 miles west of central Glasgow) is much more famous

for its industrial heritage and wartime involvement than its medieval history. However, few landmarks in Scotland are as distinctive or ancient as Dumbarton Rock.

## The oldest continually occupied fortified site in all of Britain

With a recorded history going back to Ptolemy's mapping of the ancient world in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, Dumbarton Rock is very likely the oldest continually occupied fortified site in all of Britain. It goes by many names, all of them emphasising the strength of the geological exclamation point upon which the fortifications were built - Dùn Breatann, the 'fort of the Britons'; Alt Clut, the 'Rock of the Clyde'; civitas Brettonum munitissima, the 'very well fortified city of the Britons', and so on. Dumbarton was no local curiosity; it was a place that international cartographers and military campaigners could not help but make note of. The rock itself is formed of two great peaks, divided by a deep cleft into which a steep stair and guardhouse were constructed in the early Middle Ages. The even more ancient hillfort of the Britons of Strathclyde was built on the peak known as the White Tower Crag, while

the other peak, known as The Beak, rises higher still. From a distance, some say the whole rock resembles a lion in repose not unlike Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh. To me, it looks like a great capital 'M', or perhaps a single-humped camel. However you interpret its shape, it is clearly visible and obviously powerful from many miles away.

The peoples of Dumbarton Rock witnessed many events which shaped the course of Scottish history, not all to their benefit. They would have watched with trepidation as men in metal suits bearing eagle standards and shouting in strange tongues raised the western extremity of the Antonine Wall at nearby Old Kilpatrick. Some versions of Arthurian lore say that the wizard Merlin was a guest within its walls. Far more tangibly, the people of the rock would have looked on in horror as a fleet of Viking longships descended upon it from across the seas. In 870AD, Ivar the Boneless laid siege to Alt Clut with a force of 200 longships and 5,000 hardened warriors. The Vikings met their match against Dumbarton's defences, however, and only won when the well in the fort mysteriously ran dry, forcing the defenders to concede.

They were slaughtered and enslaved wholesale, with the *Annals of Ulster* recording how a "great prey of Angles and Britons and Picts" were sent in chains to the markets of Dublin.

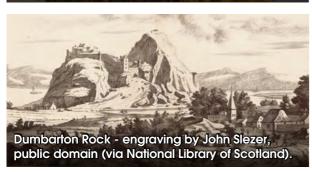
## Scotland's most underrated castle

In the medieval period, Dumbarton was no less a witness to era-defining events. It was the governor of Dumbarton, Sir John de Menteith, who was alerted to the location of the rebel William Wallace nearby. He had Wallace apprehended, imprisoned within Dumbarton, and sent to London for trial and certain execution. A stone 'grotesque' of Menteith, his face contorted in perpetual disgrace, now adorns the guardhouse in the cleft of the rock. Later, Henry VIII of England considered Dumbarton to be the "key of the north". Mary, Queen of Scots, whom Henry had sought to capture by invading the Lowlands, departed for France from Dumbarton at the age of 6. It was the last scrap of Scottish soil she would touch until her return as queen in 1561. As discussed previously in the pages of the Scottish Banner, the Scottish diaspora brought the name of Dumbarton to shores across the world, including to Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand.

I have now visited Dumbarton Rock perhaps a dozen times, and each time is as rewarding as the last. Depending on the weather, from its summit you can see well into the mountains of the Trossachs and beyond. One of my favourite, albeit physically taxing, memories of any Scottish castle is of running from the bottom of the rock up the multiple stone staircases that lead to its top - several hundred in all - imagining myself as a Briton, or even as a Norseman following its capture, racing a friend to the top for some prize or pride of place. For children, Dumbarton has innumerable such opportunities for play. For historians, it is one of the richest sites anywhere in the country. For those who have already been, it always ranks among their favourites. For those who have not, well, I can only envy them the sense of wonder and discovery that comes with a first visit to what is surely Scotland's most underrated castle - the absolute powerhouse of geology, history, and imagination that is Dumbarton Rock.









## Taking tartan across the world



The Scottish Banner recently caught up with ScotlandShop's founding director Anna White on being in the tartan business, opening a new North American branch and her love of the Scottish Borders.

**SB:** Anna thanks for speaking to *the Scottish Banner*. ScotlandShop was born out of your home in the Scottish Borders, can you tell us about the inspiration behind the business and its reach today?

AW: I started ScotlandShop in 2002 in the spare room of my wee cottage near Duns in the beautiful Scottish Borders, and we have steadily grown from there, driven by requests from customers and the fabulous





resource that is the textiles industry in this area. I love colour and the tactile nature of the woollen fabrics we work with, and this was my original inspiration to set up the business. I wanted to bring the history and heritage of tartan to customers all over the world. I am also very passionate about this very rural area, I needed an interesting job myself without commuting into the city, so I created the business and have now been able to offer employment to lots of other local people, as well as supporting the rural economy by using local manufacturers. Today we offer over 500 tartans custom made into all sorts of clothing and interiors products, to customers across the globe.

**SB:** ScotlandShop has really embraced technology with sites in different languages, virtual Clan consultations and a robust presence on social media. How has using these tools helped ScotlandShop reach new international customers, and have they become even more important during the Covid pandemic?

**AW:** When I first started ScotlandShop, e-commerce was just beginning and there was a deep mistrust of the technology and of companies who operated purely online. Suppliers didn't want to work with us as we were regarded as fly by night and not a proper bricks and mortar business.

Thankfully over time this has completely changed and of course COVID has really cemented this shift. We have sold to customers in the US and overseas since day 1 and I suppose my personal interest and passion for international markets has also fuelled our growth in these areas. Both the internet and social media have meant that despite being located in a very rural area we are not limited by the local population in how we can grow our business, the opportunity to reach customers is almost unlimited. In the last 18 months our favourite move has been into video appointments and consultations with customers.

Everyone is so used to Zoom now, and it is great fun teaching people how to measure and chatting about tartan with someone thousands of miles away, hearing their family stories and why they are choosing that specific tartan. **SB:** ScotlandShop has attended Highland Games and Scottish events around the world. How important have these been for business growth and also how important do you think they are for the international Scottish community to have?

## I wanted to bring the history and heritage of tartan to customers all over the world.

AW: So, despite all of the above saying how fabulous e-commerce and video calling is, nothing beats face to face and pre-Covid as we started researching where to have our base in the US, we ran pop-up shops and attended Highland Games all over the country. We started with Tartan Week in New York and had the best time, partying as well as working, marched with our giant Tartan Suited Mascot down 6th Avenue and met so many wonderful people. We then moved on to visit the Chicago Scots and join in their Highland Games, where the famous windy city nearly blew our tent away but again what an amazing welcome for our products. Emily, who will head up our US branch, then subjected herself to two weeks in an RV with myself and my two teenagers while we toured Canada, visiting Glengarry, Montreal and Fergus Highland Games. That gave us a real taste of the enormity of these events, it is very rare to get that many people to one event in Scotland! Just before Covid we also did a tour of Florida and we only just sneaked back home before the borders were closed

Of course we also attend Highland Games here in Scotland, with North Berwick one of our favourite more local ones, full of pipers as it always falls just before the Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow. So how important are these events? The most important of all! You meet people, you hear feedback you would never hear otherwise, you gain an understanding for who your customers are which is hard to do by phone or email, and they really appreciate us making the effort to

be there. We loved learning more about the differences between the states and the cultural nuances we were missing.

**SB:** Tartan tells a story and is the core of your business, and when people think of Scotland many will think of tartan. What is it about tartan you love so much and what are some of the things you have learned about the tartan industry since starting the business?

**AW:** There is much I love about tartan. First up I love colour....I am wearing yellow trainers today which match the yellow in my Doddie'5 Tartan Scarf! I am also very tactile, and the feel of the different wool and cashmere products is one of the reasons I like working in our dispatch department, you get to handle all the products before they are packed and sent off. I worked with a few of the Scottish mills before I started the business and fell in love with the production process, the quality of what we produce locally and the story behind it all. The old files with the colour and dying information, the links to clans and landscapes and the changes from the original plant-based dyes to the chemical ones we use today.

Everything has a story, and not just a brief story, hundreds of years of history and my favourite thing is that every day I learn something new and my passion to promote that particular tartan or product is re-fuelled. I wanted to create a business that didn't just sell product, it sold products with meaning, emotion and story behind them. Also, because I really love this area of Scotland, I wanted to make sure it could survive economically and by selling products produced here I could contribute to that.

**SB:** Some may think of tartan and thinks kilts, but there is much more to it than just that. Can you tell us about some of the outside the box tartan items that have proved popular?

AW: We do make some quite unusual products as well as the traditional kilts and jackets. Tartan sneakers has to be one of them! I am currently trying to decide whether to have a pair made for myself in my husband's MacGregor tartan or to simply choose my favourite colour combination. We also make ladies dress shoes and men's brogues in tartan which are a nice way of adding just a touch of tartan to an outfit. We have made a cloak for a member of the clergy, in Clergy Ancient tartan of course, a suit using four different tartans for a British & Irish Lions

rugby commentator, and the doggie bow ties and bandannas came about from a customer requesting them for a wedding. We have had some interesting embroidery to do as well but we love a challenge and as long as it's in tartan we can usually do it!

**SB:** ScotlandShop champions quality products and Scottish made. How important is it for you to sell genuine Scottish products? Also how does it make you feel promoting Scottish products internationally?

AW: This is why I started the business, I wanted to sell products made in my local area to promote the economy of the Scottish Borders. We have had to source suppliers from further afield due to customer demand where specific manufacturing skills or capacity aren't available locally but as far as possible we will always use what is on our doorstep. And of course, you can't beat the quality of Scotland, and quality is another of those things I just won't bend on.

**SB:** At a time of great uncertainty around the world ScotlandShop has announced they are opening a US operation in Spring 2022. Can you tell us more?

AW: It does seem a little crazy to open up a new location on the other side of the Atlantic when we can't even fly into the US right now, however we just feel like we want to be really close to our market and customers and provide even better levels of service than we currently do.

So Albany, the capital of New York state is our destination, and we will open a showroom and customer service centre there. Customers can come and see our products and be measured for garments, talk about tartan and peruse swatch books, and we will also be able to handle returns and customer service at hours that suit the US rather than us being asleep when they need answers! Most importantly Albany will act as a base for more popup events, attending Highland Games and supporting Scottish Societies and groups with their activities. We can't wait to get more involved! We will be in New York once a month for pop up measuring and clan consultations from November and booking for that is now open.

**SB:** Finally Anna as passionate as you are about your business, you are also incredibly passionate about your home



region of the Scottish Borders. What is it about the Scottish Borders you love so much, and do you have any Border recommendations for a visitor to Scotland?

AW: People fly over the Borders into Edinburgh or Glasgow, or they zoom up the coast on a train and they miss what is one of the most beautiful areas in Scotland. I am a little biased of course but this area has so much to offer, particularly if you love the great outdoors, with walking and biking opportunities galore. The roads are really quiet so if you aren't energetic enough for a bike, hire a car and you can cruise around and stop at all the many historical sites – my favourite are the smaller, lesser known ones such as Greenknowe Tower in my home village (home of the Gordon

clan thousands of years ago) or Smailholm Tower which you might have seen lit up in celebration of Sir Walter Scott, or you can do the Border Abbeys route and take in these four better known ruins. If you are here in summertime, you must watch the Common Ridings which remember the traditional riding of the bounds of the local towns and are a sight to behold with hundreds of horse riders and everyone out lining the streets. But best of all is when I stand at my back door, looking out across to the Cheviot Hills, and it is just so quiet, with the only sound the birds cheeping, the tranquillity is very hard to beat. Then I head off into the mayhem of the ScotlandShop office!

For more information on ScotlandShop see: www.ScotlandShop.com





## THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Battle of Largs Scots defeated the Vikings who were attempting to invade.  $1263\,$
- $\begin{array}{c} 1 \text{ Contract to construct the North} \\ \text{Bridge, Edinburgh, signed.} \\ 1763 \end{array}$
- 2 Birth of Sir William Ramsay, Scottish chemist who discovered helium, xenon, neon, argon, radon and krypton.  $1852\,$
- 2 Death of Sir Thomas Lipton, grocer, tea merchant and contestant for the Americas Cup. 1931



- 2 The new paddle steamer *Waverley* was launched from A. & J. Inglis's yard on the Clyde. After providing services on the Firth of Clyde she has been preserved and still takes passengers "doon the watter" as the oldest sea-going paddle steamer in the world. 1947
- 3 Treaty of Berwick, freeing David II from imprisonment by the English.  $1357\,$
- $\begin{array}{lll} 3 \text{ Last Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh} \\ \text{ before the Union with Westminster.} & 1706 \end{array}$
- 4 Boys' Brigade founded in Glasgow by Sir William Alexander Smith. The first uniformed youth organisation in the world, from one small company of 35 boys it has grown into a worldwide organisation with companies in over 60 countries. 1883
- 5 The Glasgow Royal Concert Hall opens in Sauchiehall Street. 1990
- 5 Balloon flight by Italian aeronaut Vincenzo Lunardi from Heriot's School, Edinburgh to Ceres in Fife. 1785
- 5 The birth of Jock Stein, famous Scottish football manager. Stein was manager of Celtic between 1965 and 1978, during which time it was one of the most successful clubs in Europe, and in 1967 became the first British club to win the European Cup. 1922
- 6 Scot Ebenezer Henderson formed the first Congregational church in Sweden. He spent many years travelling throughout Scandinavia and Russia, giving out bibles translated into local languages. 1811



- 6 West Highland Way opened as the first of the official Long Distance Routes for walkers in Scotland. 1980
- 7 Birth of Charles McLaren, one of the founders of the  $\mathit{Scotsman}$  newspaper. 1782
- 8 Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the first savings bank, born in the Manse at Lochrutton.  $1774\,$
- 9 King James IV ratified the Charter incorporating the Surgeons and Barbers.  $1506\,$
- 9 Death of Lord Home of the Hirsel, also known as Sir Alec Douglas-Home, formerly Foreign Secretary and UK Prime Minister. 1995
- 9 Backwater Reservoir opened to supply the Dundee area.  $1969\,$



9 - Scottish Parliament Building in Edinburgh, designed by Enric Miralles, is formally opened. 2004

- 10 Writer and geologist Hugh Miller born on the Black Isle, Cromarty.  $1802\,$
- 10 Jock Stein, Scottish football manager, collapsed and died. He suffered a massive heart attack after watching Scotland draw 1-1 with Wales in a World cup qualifying match in Cardiff. As well as managing the national team, from 1965-78 he was Celtic's most famous manager, seeing them win the European Cup in 1967. 1985
- 11 Letter from Wallace and Moray to the mayors of Lubeck and Hamburg saying that "The Kingdom of Scotland has, by God's Grace, recovered by battle from the power of the English". The Lubeck Letter was thought to have been destroyed during World War Two, but was found in a Lubeck Museum and is now on permanent loan to the Museum of Scotland. 1297
- 11 Ship *Great Michael* launched for King James IV. 1511
- $11\,\textsc{-}$  The British fleet, under the command of Admiral Adam Duncan (born in Forfar in 1731), defeated the Dutch off the village of Camperdown, Holland.  $1797\,$
- 11 Scotland's first First Minister Donald Dewar died suddenly at 63 after a fall on the steps of his official residence in Edinburgh. He was the first person to hold the position of First Minister following the establishment of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. 2000
- 12 Ramsay MacDonald, first Labour Prime Minister of UK, born in Lossiemouth. 1866
- 12 The birth of Magnus Magnusson, writer and broadcaster. Born in Iceland, Magnus moved to Scotland when only a baby. He made a career in journalism, finally achieving the post of Assistant Editor with *The Scotsman*. Magnusson died on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2007. 1929
- 13 Battle of Aberdeen, James Graham, 1st Marquess of Montrose, sacked the city. 1644
- 13 Birth of Allan Ramsay, painter and son of Allan Ramsay the poet. 1713
- 14 Second marriage of King Alexander III (to Yolanda de Dreux).  $1285\,$
- $14\,\textsc{-}$  Edward Bruce, brother of Robert the Bruce, killed in a battle near Dundalk, Ireland.  $1318\,$
- 14 Birth at St James' Palace, London of King James VII, second son of King Charles I and brother of King Charles II. 1633
- 14 The 50 pence decimal coin was first issued, replacing the ten shilling note. 1969
- 14 Post Office Telephones take the UK's last manual public telephone exchange out of service on Portree, Isle of Skye. 1976
- 14 Introduction of plastic shopping bags charges in Scotland. The number of plastic bags handed out in stores was slashed by 80% the equivalent of 650 million carriers in the first year of Scotland's 5p charge. 2014
- $15 \hbox{ Birth of poet Allan Ramsay, father} \\ \text{ of Allan Ramsay the painter. } 1686$



15 - Edinburgh's Balmoral Hotel opened its doors for the first time. The hotel was originally known as the North British. Acclaimed as one of the great railway hotels, it originally boasted 300 bedrooms and 52 bathrooms. It was later renamed The Balmoral — which means "majestic dwelling" in Gaelic. 1902

- 15 HMS Hawke was shot and sunk off the coast of Aberdeen by a German submarine. Launched in 1891 the ship was the sixth British warship to be named Hawke. 524 officers and men died, including the ship's captain, Hugh Williams, with only 70 survivors. 1914
- 16 King James II born. 1430



- 16 Bridge to the Isle of Skye opened. Built as a private finance initiative, the bridge initially had the highest tolls in Europe which led to a decade of non-payment protests. 1995
- 17 Battle of Neville's Cross during which King David II was captured by the English. 1346
- 17 James "Paraffin" Young obtained a patent for the extraction of paraffin from shale, starting the chemical industry in West Lothian.  $1850\,$
- 18 Aberdeen-born Denis Law became the youngest footballer to play for Scotland. At the time playing for Huddersfield Town, he was 18 years and 7 months old when he played against Wales at Cardiff. Scotland won 3-0. He has recently been nominated Scotland's best player of the last 50 years by the SFA. 1958
- 18 The death of Margaret Tudor, English princess, sister of Henry VIII, wife of James IV, and mother of James V. It was through Margaret, a paternal great-grandmother (through Henry, Lord Darnley), and a maternal great-grandmother (through Mary, Queen of Scots), that James VI based his claim to the throne of England following the death of Queen Elizabeth I. 1541
- 19 The first public-hire sedan chairs became available in Edinburgh. A sedan was an enclosed chair for one person, carried on poles by two men. They reached the height of their popularity in the 18th century, when there were as many as 180 sedans for public hire in Edinburgh. 1687
- $20 \text{ Explosion at Clarkston Toll} \\ \text{shopping centre, killing 12.} \\ 1971$
- 20 Introduction of a minimum charge of 5p for single-use carrier bags in Scotland.  $\underline{2014}$
- 21 Last tram car ran in Dundee. 1956



- 21 The Queen officially opened the Burrell Collection in Glasgow's Pollok Country Park. The museum's collection had been donated to the city nearly 40 years earlier by the shipping magnate Sir William Burrell. The Burrell Collection is now closed for refurbishment and undergoing a multimillion pound redevelopment. 1983
- 22 Foundation stones of main Post Office and National Museum of Scotland laid by Prince Albert in his last public engagement before his death. 1861
- 23 Treaty between King John Balliol of Scotland and King Philippe IV of France which promised mutual help against the English the start of the "Auld Alliance". The Alliance, which was described in 1942 by Charles de Gaulle as 'the oldest alliance in the world' promised mutual help against the English, asserting that should either Scotland or France be invaded by England, the other country would invade English territory. 1295

- $23 \hbox{ Death of John Boyd Dunlop who} \\ \text{re-invented the pneumatic tyre from the} \\ \text{design of Robert WThomson. } 1921$
- 24 Artist David Roberts born in Edinburgh. He died on 25 November 1864 whilst working on a painting at St Pauls Cathedral. 1796
- 25 Elvis Presley touched down at Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire, his only visit to Scotland. This was also the only time "The King" set foot on British soil. 1960
- 26 George III crowned, beginning a 60 year reign, one of the longest in British history.  $1760\,$
- 26 Following the death of Donald Dewar, Henry McLeish is selected to be First Minister of Scotland by the Scottish Parliament, and is officially appointed by The Queen. 2000
- 26 Poet Sorley MacLean born on the island of Raasay. Sorley MacLean was the greatest Gaelic poet of the  $20^{th}$  century. He died in 1996.  $1911\,$



- **27** William Smith, founder of the Boys' Brigade, born. **1854**
- 27 Edinburgh City Council vote to proceed with plans for a Gaelic school in the city. 2011
- 28 Birth of Robert Liston in Linlithgow who was to carry out the first operation in Britain with the aid of an anaesthetic. 1794
- 28 Dr Henry Faulds, a Scots medical missionary working in Japan, published a letter in "Nature" which gave the first evidence that fingerprints could be used as proof of guilt or innocence in legal cases. 1880
- **28** Journalist and novelist Cliff Hanley (*Dancing in the Streets*) born in Glasgow.
- 29 1740 James Boswell, biographer of Dr Johnston, born at Blair's Land, Parliament Square, Edinburgh. **1922**
- 30 Caledonian Canal opened. The Caledonian Canal links the west of Scotland to the East, and makes it possible to navigate a canal boat journey coast to coast right through Scotland's Great Glen, between Fort William and Inverness. It is scenically spectacular along its whole length, surrounded as it is by Scotland's highest mountains and most beautiful scenery. 1822
- 30 First moving image on a television screen when John Logie Baird transmitted the image of a 15-year-old office boy in his London workshop. 1925
- 30 Glasgow born Scottish aviator Scottish aviator Jim Mollison died. Mollison became the RAF's youngest serving officer, the first person to fly solo east to west across the Atlantic and flew from Scotland to Australia in 8 days, 19 hours and 28 minutes. 1959
- $\bf 31$  Pneumatic bicycle tyres were patented by inventor John Boyd Dunlop from Ayrshire.  $\bf 1888$



31 - Hampden Park Stadium opened in Glasgow as the home of Queen's Park Football Club. The national stadium of Scotland bears the name of an English politician John Hampden and is actually the third venue to be called Hampden Park in Glasgow. 1903

## Chosts of the Trust

With so many ancient buildings in the care of the National Trust of Scotland (NTS), it's no surprise that some are filled with spine-chilling tales of witchcraft and the supernatural, ghosts and ghouls, torture and murder most foul. Here are 10 haunted NTS properties that play host to a few ghosts...

1. The Green Lady – Crathes Castle, Aberdeenshire



The Green Lady's Room at Crathes is named after the spirit of a young woman who has often been seen by the fireplace wearing a green dress and cradling an infant in her arms. When the castle was renovated in the 1800s, the bones of a child – presumed murdered – were discovered under the hearthstone of the fireplace. Queen Victoria is counted among those who have witnessed her at the castle, but the true identity of the Green Lady remains shrouded in mystery.

2. The Laird's Piper – Culzean Castle, Ayrshire



For many years, it was thought that spirits lived in the caves below Culzean Castle. One day, the Laird's piper was sent into the caves to prove to local residents that they weren't haunted. As he marched inside, the howling of the pipes could even be heard from the castle, high above the cliffs. Suddenly, to everyone's surprise, the piping stopped. He didn't emerge from the cave that night, and he was never seen again. Every so often, the sound of pipes can be heard emanating from the caves below the castle and a lone figure can be seen standing on Piper's Brae.

3. Little Alexander – Drum Castle, Aberdeenshie



Drum Castle, one of Scotland's oldest tower houses, is home to several ghosts, and is a hotspot of supernatural activities. Perhaps the most frequent sighting is of young Alexander Irvine, son of the 20th Laird of Drum, who died aged just six in 1865. Over the years, many people have reported seeing the ghost of Little Alexander, and hearing his haunting laughter throughout the castle. It's thought that he returns there to play with his brothers and sisters.

4. The Grey Lady – Falkland Palace, Fife



Similar to Drum Castle, Falkland Palace has been visited by a number of ghosts over the years. The Tapestry Gallery within the palace is frequented by the ghost of the Grey Lady. She has been seen pacing and down, anxiously awaiting the return of her lover – a soldier who bade her farewell, then rode off to battle and never returned. Will they ever be reunited, or is she doomed to wander the castle forever, waiting?

5. Lilias Drummond – Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire



Tales of murder and betrayal cast a spine-chilling shadow over this 800-year-old Scottish Baronial fortress. When the room temperature drops suddenly and the air fills with the scent of roses, it's said that you are in the presence of the ghost of Lilias Drummond. Legend tells that Lilias was starved to death by her husband, Alexander Seton, for failing to provide a son and heir. On the night of his second marriage, her ghostly laments were heard outside the marital bedchamber – in the morning, and still visible today, her name was found freshly scratched into the castle walls.

6. Sir Tam Dalyell – House of the Binns, West Lothian



During the 1600s, the House of the Binns was occupied by General Sir Tam Dalyell, who earned the nickname 'Bluidy Tam' thanks to his feared reputation of violent suppression. Evidence of his dealings with the Devil can still be seen at the house today. It was after Dalyell's death in 1685 that the legends surrounding 'Bluidy Tam' really began to develop. They include accounts of the General's cavalry boots marching round the house on their own at night, and of a ghostly Dalyell on a white stallion galloping across the grounds.

Text and images are courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland. Have you had a ghostly experience whilst in Scotland? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at: www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us 7. The 12-Year-Old Girl – Greenbank Garden, Glasgow



The wonderful, idyllic oasis of Greenbank Garden hides a disturbing secret – it's home to the spectre of a young girl who was tragically killed in the courtyard in the early  $20^{th}$  century. Despite her gruesome fate, she still enjoys coming back to Greenbank to play, and can be seen skipping throughout the walled garden and beside the burn.

8. The Fiddler – Craigievar Castle, Aberdeenshire



Behind the enchanting façade of this pretty pink castle lies a dark history, filled with ancient clan feuds and murder most foul. Despite this, the most frequently sighted spirit of Craigievar is a simple musician – the castle is said to not only be to be the inspiration for Walt Disney's Cinderella Castle, but also be haunted by the ghost of a fiddler, who fell into the castle well and drowned many years ago. If you hear the eerie strings of the violin coming from inside the castle walls, you know who it is!

9. Lizzie Robertson – Moirlanich Longhouse, Killin



Lizzie Robertson lived at Moirlanich Longhouse for many years in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century. She would often sit on the stool by the fire, stirring the cooking pot and baking scones on the girdle. Although she died in 1940, she still likes to visit her old home now and again. She's often spotted wearing a white apron, sitting on her favourite stool by the fire, or in the kitchen busily mixing something in a bowl.

10. The Headless Horseman – House of Dun, Montrose



This stunning Georgian mansion and its surrounding estate hold many a dark secret, including tales of murder. However, the most frightening tale is that of the Headless Horseman, who roams the lanes of Dun at night, seeking retribution on unwary travellers. In addition to the Headless Horseman there have been reports of apparitions of a harpist who plays in the Den of Dun and a 'White Lady'.

## SCOTTISH ACCESSORIES SHOPPE KILT HIRE



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## IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Things may go "bump in the night" in the kitchen this month and we hope these spooky recipes are enjoyed in the lead up to Halloween.

Halloween, celebrated on 31st October, is widely assumed to be an American festival but it's actually an ancient Celtic pagan celebration. The term Halloween comes from All-halloweven or All Hallows' Eve - the evening before All Hallows' Day, or All Saints' Day. The festival originated as a pagan ritual among the Celts in Ireland and Britain, who regarded 31 October as the last day of summer, November being associated with the death and slaughter of animals that provided meat for winter. In the old Norse religion, sacrifices were made to the elves, and food was blessed and stored for winter. Irish and Scottish immigrants carried Halloween festivities in the 19th century.

## Pumpkin pasta with rosemary



## **Ingredients:**

340g/12oz pasta such as large shells or spirrals 1 small pumpkin 2 sprigs rosemary 1 clove garlic 1 shallot 140ml/5fl oz. carton double cream 1 tsp Dijon mustard 2 tsp chopped flat leaf parsley 30-55g/1-2oz butter 150ml/¼ pint white wine ½ lemon, juice only salt and freshly ground black pepper grated parmesan (or similar vegetarian hard cheese), to serve

## Method:

Preheat the oven 190C/375F/Gas 5. Peel and de-seed the pumpkin. Dice into 2.5cm/1in and place onto an ovenproof sheet. Chop the rosemary and sprinkle over the pumpkin. Season and drizzle with olive oil. Place in the oven and cook for 45 minutes. Cook the pasta in plenty of salted boiling water as per instructions. Chop the garlic and shallot, gently pan-fry in the butter for about 1 minute. Add the mustard and wine, bring to the boil. Simmer for 2-3 minutes. Add the lemon juice, seasoning, cream and finally the parsley. Drain off the pasta and remove the pumpkin from

the oven. Fold into the pasta in a bowl. Pour over the sauce and mix together. Check seasoning. Serve in a bowl with the parmesan cheese over the top.

## Roast pumpkin seeds



## **Ingredients:**

100g/3½oz pumpkin seeds 1/4 tsp celery salt 1/4 tsp salt 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper 1/4 tsp paprika 1 tsp vegetable oil

## Method:

Brush a frying pan with a very small amount of oil and place over a medium heat. Add the pumpkin seeds, stirring frequently. They will expand and brown fairly quickly, and when this is done, place them in a bowl and add the salt, celery salt, freshly ground black pepper and paprika. This is delicious if the pumpkin seeds are reasonably fresh

## Lantern soup (pumpkin and haricot bean soup)

## **Ingredients:**

1 tbsp. olive oil 1 large onion, finely chopped 2 cloves garlic, crushed 675g/11/2 lb. pumpkin flesh, cubed 450g/1lb sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed 1 tsp mixed dried herbs 1 tsp chopped sage 1.5L/21/2 pint vegetable stock 400g/14oz. canned haricot beans, rinsed and drained salt and freshly ground black pepper

Heat the oil in a large saucepan and fry the onion and garlic for about 10 minutes until softened and starting to colour. Add the pumpkin, sweet potato and herbs and cook for a further 5 minutes. Add the vegetable stock and bring to the boil. Cover the pan and simmer for 30 minutes, until the vegetables are cooked and tender. Add the haricot beans and season to taste with salt and pepper. Cook for 5 minutes, then serve hot with crusty bread.

## Halloween cake Ingredients:

## For the cake:

250g/9oz. butter, softened, plus extra for greasing 250g/9oz.caster sugar 4 free-range eggs, lightly beaten 1 tsp vanilla extract 200g/7oz. self-raising flour 50g/2oz. cocoa powder For the ginger biscuit tombstones: 350g/13 oz. plain flour ½ tsp ground ginger 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda 100g/3½oz. butter, cut into cubes 175g/6oz. light soft brown sugar

4 tbsp. golden syrup 1 free-range egg, lightly beaten For the decoration:

white icing (such as royal icing), for decorating the biscuits 125g/4½oz butter, softened 250g/9oz. icing sugar 2 tbsp. cocoa powder 1 tbsp. milk

½ pack Oreo cookies or bourbon biscuits 1 pack chocolate sticks

## Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Grease and line a 20x30cm/8x12in rectangular cake tin with baking parchment. Beat together the butter and sugar with a hand-held mixer until the mixture is pale and fluffy. Add the eggs a little at a time, beating well between each addition, adding the vanilla extract with the last of the egg. Sift together the flour and the cocoa powder into a bowl. Fold the flour mixture into the butter mixture until fully incorporated. Spoon the cake batter into the prepared tin and smooth the surface with the back of a spoon. Bake for 30 minutes until firm to the touch (a wooden skewer inserted in the centre should come out clean). Leave to cool for 10 minutes in the tin before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely. For the ginger biscuit tombstones, place the flour, ginger and bicarbonate of soda into a mixing bowl. Rub the butter in with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the sugar, syrup and egg and mix together until it forms a soft dough. Wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes. Pre-heat the oven to

180C/350F/gas 4. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface and cut out your shapes – you will only need a few for the cake so cut out some other Halloween shapes for extra biscuits. Place the shapes on to greased baking sheets and bake in the oven for 10-12 minutes. Remove from the sheets with a palette knife and place onto a wire rack to cool completely before decorating with white icing. For the buttercream, beat the butter in a large bowl with a handheld mixer until creamy then add the icing sugar a spoonful at a time beating well between each addition. Add the cocoa powder and milk and beat again for a further five minutes until light and fluffy. Blend the Oreo or bourbon biscuits to fine crumbs in a food processor. Spread the buttercream over the cooled cake, covering the top and sides don't worry if it's not smooth - a few lumps and bumps will make it more mud-like. Break the chocolate sticks in half unevenly, then stick around the sides of the cake to form the fence. Sprinkle the biscuit soil over the surface before sticking in the tombstones and decorating with spooky sweets.

## **Highland Mary**

## **Ingredients:**

2 dashes of Tabasco Sauce 1 splash of Worcestershire Sauce 45 ml/ 1 1/2 oz. scotch whisky 1 sprig of fresh rosemary, slightly bruised

## Method:

Pour over ice in large rocks glass, stir well. Garnish with rosemary.



## Scottish event changes

As the Covid pandemic continues to impact local Scottish events, we have a round-up of some scheduled events that hoped to be taking place. The Scottish community looks forward to the opportunity to celebrate our incredible culture soon in those regions currently impacted by Covid restrictions.

Camperdown's Robert Burns Scottish Festival

The Camperdown 2021 Robert Burns Scottish Festival has been cancelled. Chairperson Dr John Menzies OAM said "Due to continuing uncertainty and extended lockdown with restrictions, the festival committee has cancelled the remaining events of the RBSF for 2021. The organising committee delivered components of the festival, known as` Burns Bites, in July. These 'bites' proved to be very successful and were well patronised. It was planned to move the main event during September. It is now evident with that we cannot do this now because of the current outbreak in Victoria. This pandemic has been fast moving, impacting many communities such that most events and Festivals have had to be cancelled. The Communities' Public Safety, health and wellbeing will improve in the coming months once folk have been immunised and we obtain a high level of immunity." Menzies said. The festival's virtual component will be ongoing as we have established international links, partnering with festival organisers from Scotland, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. This virtual program will highlight Camperdown, our performers and the festival. Also we will showcase events received from overseas. www.camperdownburnsfestival.com

## **Aberdeen Highland Games**

Further to the NSW Health update, we find that there is no option than to cancel the Aberdeen Highland Games for 2021 that had previously been postponed to the 2nd October 2021 (originally scheduled for July, 2021). Although this is extremely disappointing, we feel that making this decision now allows us to move forward and put our efforts into the July 2022 Games. www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com

## **Melbourne Highland Games** & Celtic Festival

A decision has been made that the 2021 Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival that was to occur October 3rd, 2021 (originally scheduled during March, 2021), is officially cancelled. www.facebook.com/ MelbourneHighlandGames

## **Canberra Highland Gathering**

Cancelled for October 9, 2021 and back October 8, 2022. www.canberragathering.com.au

## Illawarra Scottish Fair

It is with regret that we have to cancel our contest this year again, due to take place October 17th. This is due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Our committee would like to take this time to thank you for your support over the years and hope that you are all safe and well. We look forward to getting together next year when things hopefully get back to the new normal. The date that we will be holding the contest next year will be the 16th October 2022, hope to see you all there.



## **Beechworth Celtic Festival**

A message to our supporters and event participants. It is with great sadness that the organising committee has come to the very difficult decision to again have to announce that the Celtic Festival will be postponed for this year. The festival was to take place November 5-7. We look forward to bringing the festival back next year. Keep up to date by following on Facebook or visit our website. www.beechworthcelticfestival.com.au

## **Auckland Highland Games**

"As the President of the Association I am devastated to make this announcement. As the current nationwide situation has unfolded Auckland Highland Games Association made the difficult decision at the Annual General Meeting not to hold the Auckland Highland Games previously scheduled for Saturday 20 November, 2021. While there are so many uncertainties at present, what is clear is the latest COVID-19 community infections and Alert Level restrictions will have a lasting impact on every community for some time and to commit to holding an event such as the Auckland Highland Games is untenable in these circumstances. We thank everyone for their support in organising the event to date, and we look forward to holding our annual Highland Games again in 2022 on the 19 November." David Harvey, President, Auckland **Highland Games Association** www.facebook.com/aucklandhighlandgames

## **Richmond Highland Gathering**

It is with sadness that we announce that the 2022 Richmond Highland Gathering has been cancelled for February, 2022. In observance of the current Tasmanian COVID-19 restrictions in place for outdoor gatherings and the dimensions of the Village Green, the Chieftain and the Committee of the St Andrew Society feel that it is not possible to showcase and enjoy Scottish culture to the fullest in such a restricted environment, and therefore have made the difficult decision to cancel the event for 2022. We are conscious that this event is a highlight of the year for so many people, and particularly in the current times - people need some joy with all of the different things happening around us. However with the added financial and personnel requirements needed to have this event, the Society is simply unable to make this possible. Sally Cornish, Chieftain, St Andrew Society Hobart www.facebook.com/ StAndrewSocietyHobartTasmaniaAustralia

The Scottish Banner hosts Australia and New Zealand's largest Scottish events listings, we are updating our events section as news reaches us. You can keep up with event changes and future dates at: www.scottishbanner.com/events Our thoughts are with all organisers, attendees and participants at this time.

## Toil & Trouble: Witchcraft in Scotland



his Glaswegian woodcut block print depicts a scene from the famous narrative poem, Tam o'Shanter, written by Robert Burns in 1791. In the poem, drunken farmer Tam, happens upon a meeting of witches and the Devil in the local haunted church and the ensuing chaos.

A new student-led exhibition will explore 200 years of suspicions and actions that fueled the myths we associate with witchcraft today. Toil & Trouble: Witchcraft in Scotland will examine the dark history of witchcraft in the country, particularly from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The recently launched online exhibition has been curated by MLitt Museum Studies students at the University of Aberdeen. Drawing on the University's rich collections, it will take virtual visitors on a journey of discovery examining aspects of early modern Scotland in an attempt to bring understanding to why witchcraft accusations were so rife at this time.

Objects ranging from a 17<sup>th</sup> century handbook for hunting a witch written by a king to devices used to punish the accused to more innocuous items thought to bring good luck will be used to consider the broader

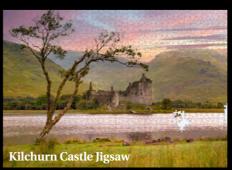
aspects of the subject, which has long fascinated the public imagination. The impact of gendered violence and oppression, the perceived difference between magic and medicine and the role of the church and religion will be introduced through the curation. As part of the MLitt Museum Studies the students select the topic, select items for display and work on every aspect of the exhibition from delivery to promotion.

The mysteries of witchcraft is Scotland Caitlin Jamison, who worked on the interpretation for the exhibition, said: "I loved the process of delving into the mysteries of witchcraft is Scotland. In writing the content for this online exhibition, my classmates and I have tried to shape how people understand this important topic. Magic, medicine and religion collide in a way that still has resonance today, which makes it so fascinating to explore."

Lisette Turner, part of the Design and Marketing curatorial team added: "It was important to me to be able to convey the other sides of witchcraft through its history. People often have preconceived notions of haggard women on broomsticks or hexing their neighbours. There is so much more depth to the topic than that. We wanted to change that visual representation with this exhibition and focus more on the naturalistic side of the craft and how often it was that 'common' women found themselves in trouble when thought to have toiled in anything seen as unholy."

Toil & Trouble: Witchcraft in Scotland is available online at: www.abdn.ac.uk/toil-and-trouble

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

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

## Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

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

Regional Directors for Australia David and Patricia Benfell

Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



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

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



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

## **Duncan Robertson Reid**

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

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

## **Clan Fraser Society** of Australia

and Fraser septs to join our clan society.

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



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

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



## Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

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

## **CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY**

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

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

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

Africa:

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

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



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

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

www.clangalbraith.org



Acworth, GA 30101

## Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

### Membership inquiries should be directed to:

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

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

**High Commissioner** Mr A. Neil Macdonald **State Commissioners** 

Clan Donald

"under the patronage of the High

Council of the Chiefs of Clan Donald'

Qld SA Vic

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

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



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

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



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

Pacific North West, Western U.S. and Southeast Chapters www.clangregor.org

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

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



## Clan Cameron **NSW Inc.**

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

> President: Alistair Cameron Secretary: Terry Cameron

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

## 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"



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

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

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



## Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

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

**Association Australia** 

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



## **American Clan Gregor Society**

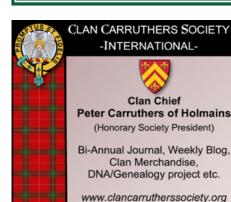
Est 1909

Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

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

Contacting our registrar, Jeanne P. Lehr 11 Ballas Crt. St. Louis, MO 63131-3038

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



## CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

## CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

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

## CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

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

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



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CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG



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

www.clanhamilton.org

clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

## **Clan Hay Australia**



A' Hay A' Hay A callout to all Hay's and our name variants, descendants and supporters. Clan Hay looking for new members to



join our illustrious Clan. All descendants and supporter's wel Alderston; Ayer; Bagra; Beagrie; Conn (Aberdeenshire only); Constable; Delahaye; Delgaty; Du Plessis; Dupplin; Errol; Garrow; Geary; Gifford; Hayden; Haye; Hayes; Hayle; Haynes; Hays; Hayton; Hayward; Hey; Hye; Kinnoul; Laxfirth; Leask\*; Leith; Locherworth; Logie; Macara; MacGaradh; McKeste Peebles; Phillips (Aberdeenshire only); Slains; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester; Zester

For more information, please contact: Australian Clan Hay convenor, Chris Hay McMor Fairbank PO Box 70, Darrinallum, Victoria, 3325, Australia E: clanhayAustralia@outlook.com

clanHayAustralia@Facebook.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 Hay



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

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



Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

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## 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





## 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 Chie

**Alistair of Fordell** Contact

Jeff Henderson jeffh@bigpond.con 0439 330 012



## www.clanhendersonsociety.com Clan Hope of Craighall Society For all of the name and lineage of Ho 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 Hende membership@clanhope.org www.clanhope.org

CANADA sioner@clanhope.ca

SCOTLAND ope.org

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



## Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr. Treasurer 383 Ash Brook Lane

Sunnyvale, TX 75182-3250

Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net



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

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

## INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC The OFFICIAL Clan MacFarlane Society Founded 1911 - Glasgow & London Re-established - 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC

fichael R. MacFarlane, FSA Soot - Presiden Richard G. Kilby, FSA Scot - Treasurer John K. Manchester - Secretary

MACFARLANE.ORG

## Clan MacLeod **Societies of Australia** Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling), and descendants. Recognised Septs

Askev MacAndie MacClure Beaton MacAskill MacWilliam MacCorkill Bethune MacAulay MacCrimmon Norie Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallun Norman MacCaig Harold MacHaigh Tolmie

MacCaskey MacRaild Lewis 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**

Clan Macpherson welcomes enquiries from Macphersons and members of our Associated famili For information about local activities visit our web site www.clan-macpherson.org/branches Africa Derek Macpherson Australia, John L Macpherson

phone +61 409 122 141 phone +265 999 512 620 Canada. Denise Lagundzin England & Wales. William Macpherson

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

EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7877 363 507 Europe. Will Tulling
Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org New Zealand. Tony McPherson NewZealand.Chairman@clan-ma

phone +64 274 587 813

Scotland & Northern Ireland. Annie Le Roy-Lewis USA. Robert T McPherson
SandNi. Chairman@clan-macpherson.org dNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org ne +44 7793 317 387

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/







## (Aonghais) **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 LAMONT SOCIETY** AUSTRALIA invites membership from Sept names refer to Web Site www.clanlamontaustralia.com

Clan Chief Peter Lamont of that Ilk resides in Sydney Australia

> For all enquires about the Clan and Membership contact

President Ian McLucas.

mobile 0448 778 799



## Clan MacInnes Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes

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



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 Mackenzie Society** in Australia Inc.

Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

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

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



## Clan Macnachtan **Association Worldwide**

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

New Second Edition! A History of the Clan Macnachtan

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 bruce waynem crae@gmail.com



## **Clan Maitland Society**

Chief: lan 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



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



## **Scottish Heritage** USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457 Pinehurst, NC 28370

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

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

The Scottish Australian

**Heritage Council** 

Membership is welcomed

from all Australians of Scottish descent.



## 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.

Write: Heather Munro Daniel 4600 Lloydrownn Road



## 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



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/

Clan Young

**Australia** 

## Clan Wardlaw Association

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

## 'Wardlaw ivermair!'

www.clanwardlaw.com

Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

Comunn Gàidhlig

(The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a

nonprofit organisation which supports the language

and culture of Scottish Gaels

Ruaraidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor)

Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org

Web: www.ozgaelic.org Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

**Scottish Associations and Societies** 



## **Language Classes:** Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm

For information please contact

The Hon Secretary SAHC, Susan Cooke Ph: 0411097724

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



## **COME JOIN US!**

Web site: www.Clanmunrousa.org

Mebane, NC 27302





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

Oliphant - Olyphant - Oliphint Olifant -Olifent and all descended

ClanOliphantMembership@amail.com www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org

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

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

A. D. Pollock, Jr.

PO Box 404

Greenville, KY 42345

e-mail: apollockis@comcast.net



## Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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

www.clansinclairaustralia.com



## The Stewart Society

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



## of WA Inc.

in Perth, Western Australia For further details contact John: 0427 990 754

www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com



## **Caledonian Society**

**Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions** Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com



The Society of St. Andrew

of Scotland (Queensland) Limited ABN 30 093 578 860 Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association

The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC,

www.standrewsociety.com



## **Clan Ross** 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



## **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



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 America**



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

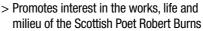


## Clan Sutherland **Society of North** America Inc.

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

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

## The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.



> 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

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

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

Clan Maclean Australia

Clan Sinclair Association

Balmoral Highland Dancing Society

Geelong Scottish Dance Glenhrae Celtic Dancers Kilmore Celtic Festival
Maryborough Highland Society
Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne

Robert Burns Club of Camperdow

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

## The Duke of Rothesay marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Duke of Sutherlands Railway



is Royal Highness, Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay recently visited Dunrobin Castle Station to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Duke of Sutherlands Railway. His Royal Highness was greeted by The Lord-Lieutenant of Sutherland, Dr Monica Main, who presented His Royal Highness to the Earl of Sutherland. His Royal Highness joined a reception where he met with guests including representatives of the railway industry and the neighbouring castle. His Royal Highness then toured the station with The Honorary Station Master, Daniel Brittain-Catlin.

The only part of the national rail network to have been planned, financed and opened by one person The Duke of Sutherland's Railway is the

The Duke of Sutherland's Railway is the only part of the national rail network to have been planned, financed and opened

by one person. Running from Golspie to Helmsdale it opened on 16 May 1871. In September 1870 an isolated section some 17 miles long opened from Dunrobin (a mile north of Golspie) to West Helmsdale (the temporary terminus). This was opened in September 1870 by HRH Princess Helena. Intermediate stations were opened at Brora and later Loth.

**Dunrobin Station (including platform** and building) remains in the ownership of the Sutherland Estate and is believed to be the only such station on the network. Trains to Dunrobin are operated by Scotrail's Far North Line service which runs between Inverness-Thurso/Wick. The station is situated at the top of the drive leading to Dunrobin Castle and open to the public throughout the castle season from April-October. In 2019/20 it was used by 1240 passengers. The cost of the railway was a remarkably cheap £5007 per mile, as the Duke did not have to buy the land. The equivalent sum today for the whole line would be approx £10.5million.

The station was used exclusively by the Sutherland family and guests from 1871 until the second world war. After the war it was opened to the general public but was closed (to the public) in 1965 under the Beeching cuts. In 1985 it reopened on summer Sundays, but now has a full service when the castle is open. The station has always been a request stop and intending passengers need to

hold their arm out to the train driver, like a bus stop. The original low platform is still in use and boxes with three steps are provided so passengers can reach the level of the train.

## The most northerly of Scotland's Great Houses

After visiting Dunrobin Castle Station, His Royal Highness Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay was then invited to visit Dunrobin Castle's Formal Gardens. His Royal Highness was welcomed by The Earl of Sutherland and introduced to Iain Crisp, Head Gardener for Dunrobin Castle. His Royal Highness took a short walk around the gardens with The Countess of Sutherland before being invited to take tea on the Coronation lawn.

Before leaving His Royal Highness met local volunteers from East Sutherland who had helped in their communities during the lockdowns over the last 18 months. Dunrobin Castle is the most northerly of Scotland's Great Houses and the largest in the Northern Highlands with 189 rooms. Dunrobin Castle is also one of Britain's oldest continually inhabited houses dating back to the early 1300's, home to the Earls and later Dukes of Sutherland. The Castle, which resembles a French chateau with its towering conical spires, has seen the architectural influence of Sir Charles Barry, who designed London's Houses of parliament, and Scotland's own Sir

Robert Lorimer. Dunrobin Castle is open to visitors annually from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April to 31<sup>st</sup> October where guests can walk through several of the castle rooms and even experience a Falconry show in the Formal Gardens.

For more information on Dunrobin Castle visit: www.dunrobincastle.co.uk





## The Glenfiddich Piping Championship returns for 2021



en of the world's greatest solo pipers have been invited to compete in this year's Glenfiddich Piping Championship, as the renowned competition returns to the spectacular Blair Castle on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October. This year's competitors are defending champion Stuart Liddell, Dollar's Callum Beaumont, British Columbia piper Jack Lee, five-time champion Roderick Macleod MBE, William McCallum of Bearsden, 2019 title holder Finlay Johnston, The Silver Chanter 2021 winner Angus MacColl, Edinburgh's Iain Speirs, Glasgow-based Canadian piper

Glenn Brown and Connor Sinclair of Crieff. The participants were selected from the two qualifying events that took place, with Stuart Liddell as the 2020 champion and Callum Beaumont as the overall winner of the Piping Live! Masters Competition.

The other competitors were chosen based on previous achievements at the Glenfiddich Piping Championship and will travel to Perthshire this October for the annual meet. Musicians will play in both the Piobaireachd and March, Strathspey and Reel disciplines, with prizes awarded for each discipline, as well as an overall Championship winner.

## The chance to tune in online

The prestigious 48<sup>th</sup> annual event will welcome live audiences to the Perthshire venue's Victorian ballroom whilst also being livestreamed, allowing piping fans at home and around the world to experience the impressive sights and sounds of The Glenfiddich.

The online show is priced at £15 and will be available to view for one week after it is first streamed. The Glenfiddich Piping Championship was established in 1974 to inspire the world's finest exponents of Ceòl Mòr or Piobaireachd (the great music) and Ceòl Beag or light music (the little music). Run by The National Piping Centre, the world centre for excellence in bagpipe music, and funded through the William Grant Foundation, the event is held annually at Blair Castle in Blair Atholl, Perthshire. The National Piping Centre's Director of Piping, Finlay MacDonald, said: "It's wonderful to be able to bring The Glenfiddich Piping Championship back to a live audience this year.

Blair Castle always makes for a magnificent venue for this prestigious event and the <sup>48th</sup> edition will mark a welcome return to live competition, whilst also giving people at home and abroad the chance to tune in online."

For information and tickets for the Glenfiddich Piping Championship 2021 see: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/glenfiddich





## 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

## OCTOBER 2021

## Aberdeen Highland Games

2, Aberdeen, NSW

Further to the NSW Health updates we find that there is no option than to cancel Games and put our efforts into our return in July, 2022. Info:www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com

## Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival 3, Croydon, VIC

Cancelled for 2021 and scheduled to return March 20, 2022. 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

## City of Hobart Highland Pipe Band Spring Gathering 8, Hobart, TAS

With great music from the City of Hobart Highland Pipe Band, delicious food, fine company, rare whisky and superb gin at Hobart Function & Conference Centre. Info: Niall Mitchell niall@hfcc.com.au or 0418 107 175.

### **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 orwww.qpac. com.au/event/qpops\_celtic\_spectacular\_21

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Radio S.A.

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**Saturdays: 5:00pm - 6:00pm** 

**5EBI 103.1 fm** 

**Digital EBI World:** 

WWW.5ebi.com.au

### 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 16thOctober 2022. Info: James: 0422 699 513, jmb7@dodo.

com.au or www.illawarrapipeband.com

## 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

## **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

### 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

Scotword answers from page 6

### Down: **Across:** 1) Steep 2) Twist 4) Claymores 3) Partners 9) RiverEarn 4) Champion 10) Mayor 5) Alness 6) Moment 11) Turnip 13) Singlet 7) Royal 15) Interpol 8) Strathspey 16) Ores 12) Untie 20) Reek 14) Fierycross 17)Robes 21) Assemble 24) Ceildh 18) Usquebae 19)Repealed 26) Uneasy 28) Owing 22) Fidget 29) RebelYell, 23) Sherry 30) Strathyre 25) Icier 31) Dulse 27) Yolks

## The Scottish Banner, P.O Box 6202, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204, Australia Ph: 02 9559 6348, Email: info@scottishbanner.com We accept: Visa, Mastercard,Cheques and Money Orders. Use this coupon or visit www.scottishbanner.com/shop QTY | TITLE / DESCRIPTION / SIZE Post Code: TOTAL Plus Postage, please ad Calendars: Small \$5.00/Large Large: \$12.5 Jigsaws: \$11.00 Bags: \$9.50 (multi orders: \$16.00

THE SCOTTISH BANNER ORDER FORM

Please note that these are speciality items imported from the U.K allow, at times, approx 4 weeks for delivery. Thank you for using

## **Descendants Day Celebration** 7, Port Adelaide, SA

The 157th anniversary of The City of Adelaide's (the world's oldest surviving composite clipper ship) first arrival in Adelaide in 1864. The day will have a free component, with lots of activities in Shed 13 Dock 2, Honey St, Port Adelaide. There will also have a paid component for those wishing to undertake a tour of the ship. Info:www.cityofadelaide.org.au

## Williamstown Highland Celtic Gathering 20, Williamstown, VIC

Cancelled due to current restrictions and will reschedule for June, 2022. 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

### 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

## St Andrew's Day Dinner 27, Brisbane, QLD

The Redlands, St Andrews and Springfield Pipe Bands will be jointly hosting a St Andrew's Day at Redlands Sporting Club. The event will include a two-course sit-down meal, drinks at bar prices,

## and entertainment. Info: www.pipebandsqld.com 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!

## **DECEMBER 2021**

## **Daylesford Highland Gathering** 4, Daylesford, VIC

Gather your clan and come to Victoria Park in Daylesford on the 1st Saturday in December for a 'wee' bit of Scottish culture with a full day of piping, drumming, Clans & Societies & dancing. Info: www.daylesfordhighland.com

## Caledonian Society of WA Hogmanay Ceilidh 31, Inglewood, WA

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

### **Happy Hogmanay** 31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022!

## **New Zealand**

## OCTOBER 2021

### NZ Young Piper of the Year 2021 2. Nelson

Cancelled but will be returning Saturday 8 October 2022 at NMIT in Nelson. Info: www.facebook.com/NZYoungPiper

## National Youth Pipe Band of New Zealand Evolution Concert

## 6-9, Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin

The management team have made the difficult decision to postpone the South Island Tour as a result of uncertainty around Covid-19. Info:www. face book.com/the national youth pipe band of NZ

## **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

 $\label{thm:condition} Every\,October,\,during\,Labour\,Weekend,\,the$ 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

Due to current Covid restrictions this event has been cancelled and will be back for November, 2022. 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

Info: www.wellingtongaelicclub.org.nz

**13, 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.

## **Auckland Highland Games**

20, Auckland

Cancelled and returning November, 2022. Info: www.facebook.com/aucklandhighlandgames

## 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!

## **DECEMBER 2021**

## Victoria Square Day Highland Day 4, Christchurch

Piping event at The Archery Lawn, Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Info: courtneywilliamson92@gmail.com

### **Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club Night** 10, Auckland

St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd, Auckland  $7.30pm-10pm.\ In fo: learn Scots fiddle@gmail.com$ 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

### The Jenny Mair Highland Square Day 11, Palmerston North

Highland pipe bands and scores of contestant solo bagpipers and solo drummers will converge on The Square. A magnificent day out for all ages, there

is no admission fee. Info: jennymair@xtra.co.nz

### RSCDS New Zealand Christchurch Summer School 2021/22

28 - January 5, Christchurch

Scottish Country Dance events and classes. Info: www.dancescottish.org.nz

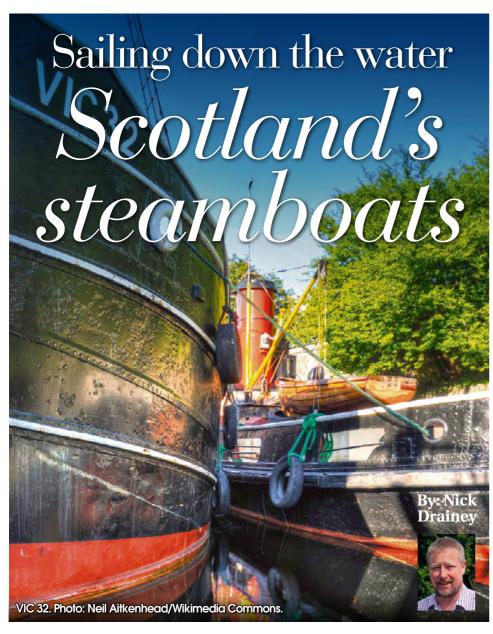
### **Happy Hogmanay** 31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022!

## Helen McGregor Memorial Medley **31, Waipu**Waipu Caledonian Society presents

the Helen McGregor Memorial Medley, like no other piping event in NZ. Open to the public, tickets available at the door \$10.00. Info: www.facebook.com/Waipuhiglandgames

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n their hundreds, they once chuffed and puffed their way along the mighty River Clyde, as well as many other canals and waterways of the west coast of Scotland. Before the advent of diesel power, it was steamboats that ruled the water, carrying cargo and passengers to remote communities and scenic holiday spots. And it was fitting that the area became home to so many steamers - while there were several inventors and engineers around the world working on the idea of putting Scotsman James Watt's steam engine to work in boats, it was in Scotland that key developments were made in an industry that was to transform the world.

## Doon the watter

Despite the fact that their glory days are long gone, steam paddlers and steam ships remain very much part of Scotland's culture. Sailing "doon the watter" is still a familiar expression for many Glaswegians, even if the days when the town's workers would take their precious holidays from the toil of the factories and shipyards by steaming down the Clyde to the likes of Rothesay and Dunoon have disappeared.

The tales of *Para Handy* – first serialised in the *Glasgow Evening News* in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, latterly a TV series on the BBC, featuring the skipper of a Clyde puffer - are still enjoyed. And the very fact that the

word "steaming" (meaning very drunk) comes from the fact that when pubs were shut on a Sunday in 19<sup>th</sup> century Scotland, canny Scots could still get a drink or two if they were on-board a steamer, the boats not being covered by the same legislation, is another small legacy. So perhaps that is the reason that the last few remaining steamboats that operate in Scotland are held in such affection. In fact, the very last steam paddle steamer to be built on the Clyde (and Britain) is expecting to welcome a flood of visitors in its new home on the shores of Loch Lomond.

The Maid of the Loch was launched in 1953 and is Britain's largest inland waterway vessel. After being built in Glasgow, she was dismantled and shipped to the loch by rail, where she was put back together. Licensed to carry 1,000 passengers, she was the largest paddle steamer to sail on Loch Lomond and was host to royal guests and celebrities as well as three million day-trippers during her 28 years on the water. Her last commercial sailing was 40 years ago in August 1981, and she was left to deteriorate by the side of the loch.

Bought by Dunbarton District Council in 1992, she was handed over to a charity, the Loch Lomond Steamship Company, which is dedicated to the restoring the boat and seeing her sail on the loch again. Last month, the latest stage of that restoration saw the 191-foot-long, 430-tonne paddle steamer hauled out of the water by the original steam powered winch in its A-listed winch house and onto the 120-year-old Balloch Slipway. Repairs are to be carried out to the steamer while it is out of the water. Iain Robertson, Chairman of the Loch Lomond Steamship Company, said: "The ship dwarfs everything around her. We're hugely excited to see the ship out the water for only the second time in 40 years."



## The success of steamboats

The Maid of the Loch is the last in a long line of Loch Lomond steamers which dates back to 1816, the beginning of the era of commercial steamboats. The idea of using steam power to propel ships was first developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In France, Marquis Claude de Jouffroy's attempts in the 1780s foundered due to finances and the French Revolution; a similar trial in the US in the same decade by John Fitch became mired in patent disputes. But it was Scottish engineer William Symington's steam paddle boat, which made its maiden voyage across Dalswinton Loch near Dumfries, close to the home of his patron, banker Patrick Miller, in 1788 which was to lead to the success of steamboats worldwide. Miller lost interest after a second larger steamboat had been built but luckily the project had captured the imagination of Lord Dundas, a member of one of the wealthiest families in Scotland at the time and the governor of the Forth and Clyde Canal Company. The second steamboat that Symington built for Dundas was called the Charlotte Dundas, after the lord's daughter, and in 1803 it travelled 20 miles along the Forth and Clyde Canal towing two 70-ton barges, making it the first practical steamboat in the world.

Despite the fact that their glory days are long gone, steam paddlers and steam ships remain very much part of Scotland's culture.

Two men were following the progress of Symington's ideas with great interest – both were believed to have witnessed the trials of the Charlotte Dundas, American Robert Fulton and Scot Henry Bell. They were engineers fascinated with steam power and its potential. In 1807, Fulton launched the steamboat Clermont on the River Hudson in New York, five years later Bell, from Torphichen, started the first commercially successful steamboat service in Europe with the Comet on the Firth of Clyde.

Steam-powered boats were an instant hit – not relying on the vagaries of the wind meant longer journeys to otherwise hard-



to-reach places were possible. Ocean-going ships were rapidly developed and within a decade it wasn't just the Loch Lomond service which had begun, there were more than 50 services operating out of Glasgow alone. And although the advent of steam transformed maritime trade, it also opened up a whole world of possibilities for ordinary workers. For a small fee, passengers could travel down the Clyde to various destinations, including Arran, Rothesay, Dunoon and Largs, opening up day trips and holidays for the factory and shipyard workers of Glasgow. Around 20,000 people went down the Clyde on steam powered paddle boats during the Glasgow Fair of 1850 and by 1900 there were more than 300 Clyde steamers.

## The gutsy little Clyde puffers

The very last of these paddle boats ever to be built in Glasgow for Clyde Services was called the PS Waverley, built in 1946 (PS standing for paddle steamer, whereas SS for screw steamer, meaning it used a propeller or screw) and making its maiden voyage in June 1947. The *Waverley* is now the last seagoing paddle steamer in the world and has carried more than six million passengers. Her regular commercial life came to an end in 1973 when ferry company and then owner Caledonian MacBrayne sold her to the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society for £1. She proved hugely popular as a tourist attraction, steaming the Clyde and around Britain, and when in 2019 it was announced that she needed new boilers if she was to ever take to the water again, £2.3 million was raised and the iconic ship is back operating on the Clyde again.

Campaigners are hoping there will be the same happy ending for the SS Sir Walter Scott, the oldest steamboat left in Scotland. The 121-year-old steamer needs £500,000 of repairs including a new boiler, before it can sail on Loch Katrine again. The boat was built on the Clyde and, like the Maid of the Loch, dismantled to be transported to her new home. Nearly half the £4269 purchase price was the delivery charge as the boat had to be transported in sections by barge up the River Leven and Loch Lomond to Inversnaid, then by teams of horses up the hill to Stronachlachar before being reconstructed and launched on Loch Katrine in 1900.

The gutsy little Clyde puffers hold a particular affection in the minds of many Scots – especially fans of *Para Handy* – and there is one that still operates, offering day trips and short cruises. The small boats once supplied remote communities around the west coast and its islands, their flat bottoms allowing them to get to places without piers. A number were also built during the Second World War, all prefixed VIC, standing for Victualling Inshore Craft, and it is one of these, the VIC 32, which runs cruises and day trips including around Loch Crinan and Loch Craignish – passengers can even be asked to help shovel the coal!



## Artist's year capturing the landscape and the lives of Threave's Ospreys

Audio-visual installation explores the environment and eco-system that is home to one of Scotland's rarest birds of prey.



ne of Scotland's rarest birds of prey, and the ecosystems that allow it to maintain its fragile presence in Scotland, are the focus of a new video art installation. A year in the landscape of the Threave ospreys was recently screened at Kelton Mains Farm, one of the handful of places where these magnificent hunters can be easily viewed by the public in Scotland today. Video artist and filmmaker John Wallace has spent a year exploring the landscape and waterways around Threave, in Dumfries and Galloway, where the conditions are right for ospreys to survive and breed when they arrive annually from West Africa.

The project is part of Artful Migration which supports artists to create work informed by wildlife, the natural world, the environment and climate change. Among the compelling images in John's work is

a close-up of a young osprey's eye. It was taken when the un-fledged birds were being ringed for study purposes.

John, who is based in the region, said: "What's fascinated me is how much has to be in place when the birds arrive in Scotland from Africa each March. There's a huge and diverse system of flora and fauna that changes during every season and creates the right conditions for them. With this work what I'm trying to do is to dig into this one place where they breed and rear young and show it across the year, including when they're far away. The story of how these birds were able to re-establish in the area is also notable. They were spotted in the area, a nest platform was built to get them started, and sure enough a pair moved in - or rather back into a landscape they were always part of until they were wiped out 100 years ago."

## **Majestic ospreys**

The multi-screen installation, which recently played at the National Trust for Scotland's (NTS) Threave Nature Reserve, coincides with the start of the conservation charity's 100-year Threave Landscape Restoration Project to improve habitats and make the area at Kelton Mains more resilient to climate change.

John added: "As top predators, osprey catch the large fish, but the big fish need small fish to feed on and the small fish need their own conditions to thrive and so on. This has to happen all along their migration path, so you just have to hope the ecosystems in all those stopping places will be able to cope with continuing climate change. Hats off to the NTS that they're already doing work to help that happen here."

The art project has involved getting very close to nature, with John spending

substantial amounts of time wading in the River Dee and neck deep in vegetation and biting insects. He said: "It's Scotland, but in summer it really is a jungle out there! Getting the kit and myself into position can be tricky, you get a wee bit warm you know, but it's been a real gift being able to work at all during COVID. I'm so lucky to have had the support and a huge thanks for keeping a light on for the arts."

Dr Samuel Gallacher, NTS Operations Manager for Threave Castle and Estate, added: "We are very pleased to be involved in this incredible project which showcases Threave and all the reasons why it is loved by so many, so powerfully. It's very fitting timing as we're just embarking on our 100-year project to restore this landscape and make it even better for the many species, including the majestic ospreys which visit us each summer."



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Price: \$24.95 plus \$12.50 postage.

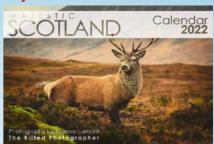
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