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the Scottish Banner

A' Bhratach Albannach

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NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS

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**the
Scottish Banner**

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The Banner Says...

For the Love of Scotland's Great Outdoors



by Sean Cairney

For some, February is month of love. For most of us when we visit Scotland one of the things we love most to do is get out and see the incredible natural spaces. There is nothing quite like being in the great outdoors, especially when in Scotland. All of us should have access to green spaces and be able to connect in some way with nature. In Scotland there is an abundance of rich and diverse spaces which locals and visitors alike can enjoy. From the majestic Highlands to the lowlands and islands, and even some great city parks, Scotland offers a great tapestry of nature that is easily accessible to all. I am very much a city person overall and certainly love to take in Scotland's urban playgrounds when I am visiting, but equally I love getting out of the city and hitting both the high and low roads of Scotland.

For a relatively small country Scotland boasts some incredible natural assets which likely is the reason many visit the country for. These include the popular National Parks, National Nature Reserves and the UNESCO Global Geoparks and Biospheres.

National Parks

Currently Scotland has two National Parks, the Cairngorms National Park, which happens to be the largest in the UK, and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. The Scottish Government has pledged to create a third National Park for the country with contenders including Ben Nevis, Glen Affric, Argyll, Wester Ross, Harris, the Scottish Borders, and Galloway. A new National Park would champion, promote, and conserve some of Scotland's most magnificent landscapes. A National Park would also have economic impacts as it would attract local and international visitors and help fragile rural economies to rebuild and thrive whilst helping Scotland tackle its biodiversity and climate change challenges.

Creating a new National Park would greatly assist Scotland's ambitious commitment to protect at least 30% of its land for nature by 2030. A recent online poll found Galloway was top choice with more votes than all of Scotland's other six possible park locations combined. A statement from Galloway National Park Association said: "Galloway is the natural choice not just because of its fabulous countryside and coasts but because so many members of the public, businesses, voluntary organisations and others are so enthusiastic about the potential social, economic and environmental benefits."

Rewilding

Many people across the UK are becoming more aware of the precious natural spaces around them and the incredible species that live there. Four in five adults in Britain support rewilding, according to new research and Scotland is looking to become Europe's first 'rewilding nation'. An opinion poll commissioned by the charity Rewilding Britain shows that 81% of Britons support rewilding, with 40% strongly supportive and just 5% of people opposed. Rewilding Britain defines rewilding as the large-scale restoration of nature to the point it can take care of itself – restoring habitats and natural processes, and where appropriate reintroducing missing species.

Charity Trees for Life plans to open the world's first rewilding centre at Dundreggan in the Scottish Highlands this year. This is expected to welcome over 50,000 visitors annually – allowing people to explore the wild landscapes, discover Gaelic culture, and learn about the region's unique wildlife including golden eagles, pine martens and red squirrels.

In this issue

One person who manages to get out into Scotland's great outdoors is Finlay Wilson. Finlay is famous for doing Kilted Yoga in some of Scotland's most scenic places, in a kilt. Finlay practices ancient yoga methods amongst some of Scotland's ancient locations and now has students and followers from across the world who love both the practice of yoga and the nation of Scotland.

*For ye'll take the high road And
I'll take the low road And I'll be in
Scotland afore ye*

*For me and my true love
will never meet again
On the bonny banks of Loch Lomond.*

These famous lyrics are known by Scots the world over and sung and numerous events instilling both longing and pride for Scotland. If like me, you may have never known who the 'me and my true love' actually referred to. A descendant and *Scottish Banner* reader tells us more about this incredible love song and its connection to one of Scotland's most horrific battles.

Scotland's great outdoor beauty

For those lucky enough to visit Scotland there is nothing like being amongst Scotland's great outdoor beauty. From rugged Highland landscapes with towering mountains to clear lochs and island coastlines. Sure, it just may rain, it may be cold and there may be midges, but that is Scotland. With the pandemic affecting so many people during the last couple of years many have turned to nature for solace, inspiration and to simply reset and people's connection with the natural world has had a much needed reboot.

With habitats and species being eradicated rapidly worldwide, the United Nations has declared 2021-2030 the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. The Scottish Government has committed itself to bold action to tackle the crisis facing biodiversity through its Edinburgh Declaration.

As visitors to Scotland, we can also take part in more responsible tourism when next visiting, consider how sustainable you are travelling, leave just your footprints and respect the environment you are in. Scotland is a gift to the world, and we need for that gift to keep on giving for many years to come. 🌿

Where is your favourite place in Scotland to enjoy nature?
Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition?
Share your story with us by email, post, social media or:
#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:
Finlay Wilson- The Kilted Yogi.
Photo courtesy of: Alastair
Wilson/Hodder & Stoughton.



Are you a West Coaster?

Tourism group launches campaign to find kindred spirits.

Visit Wester Ross, a voluntary tourism association based in Wester Ross in the Scottish Highlands, has launched a campaign designed to attract visitors who have an affinity with Wester Ross and the people that live there. Launched in January, Are you a West Coaster? comprises a series of films featuring West Coasters who run businesses in Wester Ross and are looking to develop sustainable tourism to the area, which is also designated a Biosphere by UNESCO. Douglas Gibson, Co-ordinator at Visit Wester Ross, explains what it means to be a West Coaster: "People living in Wester Ross share the same mindset. We are passionate about where we live, we treat our stunning natural environment and each other with respect and we are proud to welcome visitors from all over the world and share our home. But a key difference is that we take 'Highland time' – this landscape and our culture has developed over a long period of time and is not something that needs to be rushed. We think there

are fellow West Coasters all over the UK and indeed the world. People who want something different, people who want an authentic experience in a place where people, place and land are inextricably linked, people who want to stay and spend quality time, not just pass through for a selfie. So, we are asking people to identify as a West Coaster and come and spend some quality, Highland time with us."

Breath-taking landscapes

A series of films will be released featuring West Coasters in their places of work, talking about what it's like to live in Wester Ross and the impression the area makes on visitors. Viewers will be introduced to the Mountaineer West Coaster, the Nature West Coaster, the Water West Coaster, the Cultural West Coaster and the Foodie West Coaster, each giving their perspective and asking the question: Are you a West Coaster? This campaign is the latest development in the tourism strategy for Wester Ross, supported by national efforts spearheaded by VisitScotland to develop

sustainable tourism. Natasha Hutchison, General Manager of the Wester Ross UNESCO Biosphere, is proud that Wester Ross has been included in the world's first UNESCO trail which was launched by VisitScotland last year.

Natasha highlights the significance of the UNESCO Biosphere designation for Wester Ross: "UNESCO Biospheres are often located in breath-taking landscapes and Wester Ross is no exception. This makes them wonderful places to visit. But living in a UNESCO Biosphere is about actively working towards a sustainable future and finding that delicate balance between development and conservation to ensure the wellbeing of our people and place for generations to come. We hope that this campaign strikes a chord with people and encourages visitors who are as passionate about Wester Ross as we are."

Wester Ross was recognised as a Biosphere Reserve in 2016 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for the fantastic array of landscapes, wildlife and cultural heritage that the region offers. Biospheres house dynamic local partnerships, rooted in communities that work collaboratively with Biosphere teams in a global network, to explore how – through education, science, culture, communication and information – we can learn to live in harmony with our environment.

More information about Visit Wester Ross can be found at: www.visitwester-ross.com

Iona tops list of 'top hidden places' in the UK



The Isle of Iona in the Inner Hebrides topped a list of 20 lesser-known beauty spots across Britain in a recent survey by a UK travel company. The island which is only 1.5 miles wide has been voted the UK's top tourist 'hidden gem'. Iona is often described as the 'birthplace of Christianity in Scotland' and has a population of under 200 permanent residents. The Isle of Iona also boasts sandy beaches, excellent walking opportunities and a variety of wildlife to look out for.

Graham Donoghue, chief executive of Sykes Holiday Cottages, which commissioned the survey, said: "Getting to experience places that aren't so well known and have a sense of secrecy about them is really exciting. In the UK, there are so many of these hidden gem locations within easy reach that many people have perhaps not even heard of, never mind visited."

Other Scottish locations to get a mention include the Fairy Pools and Talisker Bay on the Isle of Skye, the Stone Age sites on Orkney's Rousay Island, The Devil's Pulpit in Stirlingshire, The Bays on the Isle of Harris, the Southwest Coastal 300 road trip in Dumfries & Galloway. Also making the list from England were and Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel, the Cotswold Canals and Malham in the Yorkshire Dales.



The Greyfriars Bobby statue in Edinburgh.

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

- 1) Greyfriars Bobby was a West Highland Terrier true or false?
- 2) Kinnoull Hill overlooks which prominent Scottish town?
- 3) How many inhabited islands are there around Scotland? a) 120. b) 130 or c) 140?
- 4) What is a coo's lick?
- 5) What name did the Romans give to Scotland?
- 6) Name the most northerly town on the Scottish mainland?

- 7) By what name is the fish-eagle more popularly known?
- 8) When in Scotland is the stag-hunting season?
- 9) What is a "granny sooker"?
- 10) What is the name of the Queen's official residence when she is in Scotland?

Answers:

- 1) False - a Skye Terrier.
- 2) Perth.
- 3) b) 130.
- 4) A tuft of hair growing at an awkward angle from the head.
- 5) Caledonia.
- 6) Thurso.
- 7) The Osprey.
- 8) From July 1st to October 20th.
- 9) A hard mint sweet.
- 10) Holyrood House, Edinburgh.

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Michael And Luna



Thank you *Scottish Banner* for featuring the story of Michael And Luna (*One man and his dog complete epic 5,000-mile rewilding trek across Canada, the Scottish Banner, January, 2022*) and what an incredible achievement this is. We have enjoyed reading about this epic adventure for an epic cause in our household and only imagine the determination Michael and his faithful companion Luna must have. Dogs truly

are man's best friend and to walk such a vast length with your best friend will provide Michael with some memories of a lifetime, and possibly some sore feet also! We so often here about what we can do for the environment and for many it is simply recycling their waste where possible and reusing bags when shopping, however for this great Scot (and surely honouring Canadian) it clearly is so much more. Canada is a land I love and one I am fortunate to travel across, however by car and plane rather than foot! I simply cannot imagine what a walk across Canada must be like on the body, mind and spirit-it must have been so hard, amazing, beautiful and lonely.

Scots are a hardy bunch and Michael has proven this tenfold. I love reading stories like this and knowing we live in an earth where so many still care.

Keep up the great work that goes into *the Scottish Banner*, the international Scottish community is so very fortunate to have it!

Alex Forsythe
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada

Royal Cousins



The year 2022 marks the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, the cousin-in-law, once removed, of our clan chief Malcolm, Lord Forbes. This celebration commemorates the 70th anniversary of the accession of the Queen on February 6, 1952. Captain Nigel Ivan Forbes, then Master of Forbes and later 22nd Lord Forbes, married the Hon. Rosemary Katharine Hamilton-Russell, in 1942. Lady Rosemary was the daughter of Gustavus William Hamilton-Russell, 9th Viscount Boyne (1864–1942) and Margaret Selina Lascelles (1883-1978). Lady Margaret's brother was Henry Lascelles, Viscount Lascelles and later the 6th Earl of Harewood (1882–1947), who married Mary, later the Princess Royal, in 1922. For the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at Westminster Abbey, Nigel, then Master of Forbes, carried the Princess Royal's coronet and Lady Rosemary carried her train.

Learn more here:
www.clan-forbes.org/post/royal-cousins
Clan Forbes Society

Scots Day Out Bendigo



Following considerable discussion by the Scots Day Out (SDO) committee and extensive consultation and guidance from the City of Greater Bendigo, the SDO committee reluctantly has made the decision to postpone SDO 2022 to the spring of this year. There remain COVID compliance requirements for events and meeting these extend beyond the capacity of the small SDO committee in terms of logistics, funding and implementation. Also taken into great consideration was the impact of current government requirements on the atmosphere and concept that is uniquely Scots Day Out together with the risk associated with the still rapidly changing nature of response and regulation to the COVID-19 pandemic. The risk, including financial implications would be too much for the SDO committee.

The committee has also considered that all Scottish events leading up to the original scheduled date for SDO have been cancelled for those organisers.

We are pleased to announce, however, that with the support of City of Greater Bendigo we will be presenting A Taste of SDO at the Capital Theatre on Friday 4 March, including Australian premieres from the Edinburgh Short Film Festival. Keep in touch for details at:
www.scotsdayout.com
Scots Day Out
Bendigo, Victoria
Australia

Susan Boyle



I cannot tell you how happy I was to pick up *the Scottish Banner* and see Susan Boyle on the cover! I remember being transfixed when I first saw her audition all those years ago and she won me over as a fan instantly. I have enjoyed her music ever since but for me it is her story that has really struck a chord. She has remained so grounded and connected to her hometown and homeland. Fame seems to have taken a second fiddle to her roots, family and community. I would dearly love to be able to see her perform one day but being so far away I will have to get over to Scotland to see her one day. Having not heard about Susan for some time it was such a pleasant surprise to see her and on the cover of *the Scottish Banner* was the perfect place to see her again.

Our family came out to New Zealand many years ago, but we still have relatives in Fife, and I look forward to our next trip over, who knows maybe when Susan is touring!

Deb Henderson
Wellington, New Zealand

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The ScotlandShop Team

Ae Fond Kiss

Cold grey mornings loved ones crying
Onto the airport soon we'll be flying,
Back to Australia with its desert and plains
Wull ye no come back again.

Meeting old friends starts memories anew
Places we went and things we would do,
We talk of the humour but never the pain
Wull ye no come back again.

This tired old country of mountains and clans
Whisky and peat marching pipe bands,
Proud pipers playing soft haunting refrain
Wull ye no come back again.

Heads turn away as tears mist the eyes
Crying farewells as we climb to the skies
We gently hold hands settle back in the plane
Wull ye no come back again.

Time takes its toll on the weak and the strong
You've made a choice it's there you belong
We aw love ye dearly that much ye ken
Wull ye no come back again.

Davidson Harris
From the Barony of the Gorbals

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Sent to our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts-send us your photos or letters via social media (#ScottishBanner or #TheBanner):

Loch Eck



Loch Eck- A lone fishing boat on this iconic loch, 7 miles long outside Dunoon.
Ronald Stokes

Stirling



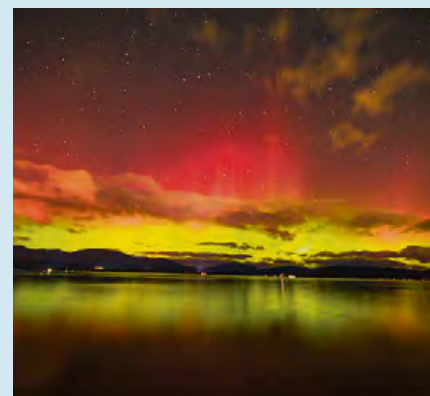
Morning across Stirling.
Scotdrone

Uist

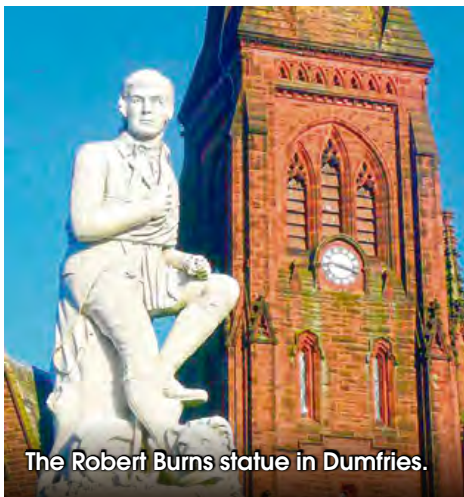


This pot of gold leads to Uist.
Mik Coia

Aurora Borealis



Aurora at Duck Bay on Loch Lomond, at Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.
Gerry Doherty



The Robert Burns statue in Dumfries.

Greetings from Scotland, which is a somewhat chilly place at the moment. As winter bites, it is perhaps not somewhere for the faint hearted. And it has certainly proved a weather shock for the MacGregor who is back from working in sunny Africa. The chief had been photographing in Namibia. He plans to bring out a coffee table book and went for three warm weeks – which then stretched into six. As he prepared to return, fresh covid chaos meant the flight was cancelled. And when he did get on a plane, on landing in the UK found he had to quarantine in a hotel for ten days. We got him home... eventually.

And whilst he was away, he missed the drama. A great storm passed through Scotland, high winds taking four of our favourite trees with them. One, an ancient lime on the drive, must have been two hundred years old. Another, a vast variegated specimen, was planted in the Edwardian age. A towering Douglas fir came down by the stables, just managing

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



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

to miss going through the barn roof. It is so sad to see these fallen giants. We were heartbroken when dawn broke, and we saw the damage. They had fallen through fences and into fields. Yet, in a way, we were luckier than some. A friend of ours with an estate on the west coast saw a hundred of his trees snapped or uprooted. Others lost thousands of them.

Scottish North American Community Conference

Let us hope that this year will be a calmer one – in all senses of the word. Here in Scotland, we are still wearing masks and are advised to limit social contact where possible. But vaccination rates are holding up. Nine out of ten of us has had the first two covid injections – whilst booster numbers are creeping up. It has been a strange old time. I am sure it will have been much the same for you. Parties planned, then parties cancelled. Trips arranged, then rearranged. So much time spent zooming and teaming. And not a ceilidh, nor a Highland games in sight.

One ray of light has been the Scottish North American Community Conference organised by the American-Scottish Foundation which is based in New York. Here in Scotland, we were able to dip in and out of three days of lively discussion – among the themes, responsible tourism, Celtic fashion and the Scottish revival. The eminent author Professor Caroline

McCracken Flesher from the University of Wyoming gave a fascinating talk about Walter Scott and tartan. I went on to speak about Queen Victoria who also championed tartan and all things Highland.

For me, *Auld Lang Syne* is now taking on a new depth of feeling when sung. Then I always feel an extra affinity with this international anthem to love and friendship, because the poem was written here, in the south of Scotland.

This event was both fun and educational. It was also, in part, a bonding exercise between Scots round the world. Things may have been cancelled. We might have been grounded. But there is no doubt that the internet has kept us connected. And it has made us appreciate family and friends more than we might have done in the past.

Dumfries

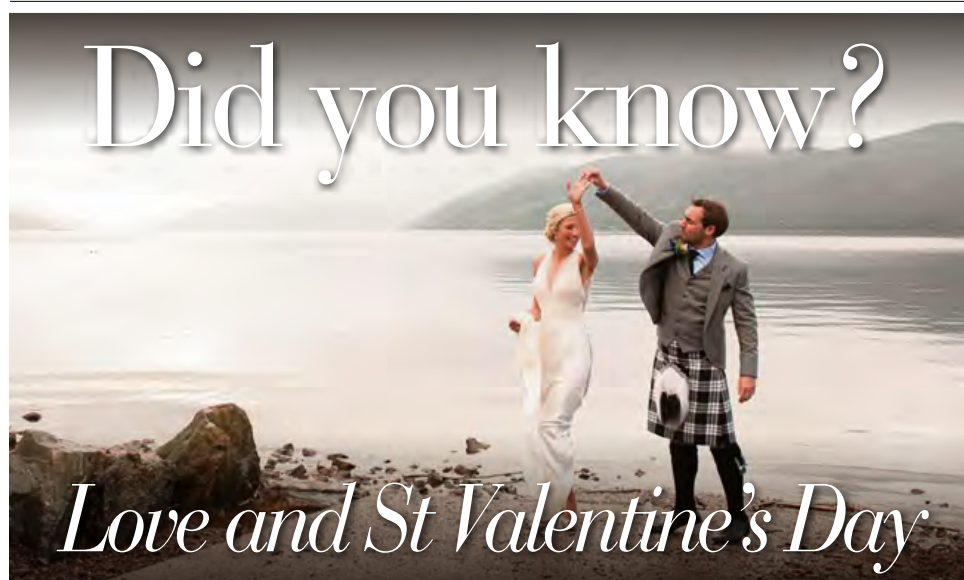
For me, *Auld Lang Syne* is now taking on a new depth of feeling when sung. Then I always feel an extra affinity with this international anthem to love

and friendship, because the poem was written here, in the south of Scotland. Robert Burns may have been born in Ayrshire, but twenty miles from where we live is the town of Dumfries – and that is where the Bard lived, worked, died – and created. Along with *Tam O'Shanter*, *Auld Lang Syne* was one of more than a hundred poems he wrote locally. No wonder they put up a statue to him in the centre.

And there's no surprise that they now put on an annual Big Burns' Supper here. With a mix of theatre and dance, a lantern procession, and a spot of haggis hurling, this event is the largest contemporary Burns celebration in the world. It is one that lights up the dark nights with poetry and song. That sees thousands dancing in the street. As I write, the jury is out on whether the thing will actually take place on the ground this year. If it doesn't, organisers have vowed to put something on virtually – and promise to celebrate the Bard's birthday in style later in the year.

Who knows, by then, Dumfries may not be a town, but a city. 2022 marks seventy years of The Queen's reign. Yes, the British monarch will have been on the throne for seven decades and as part of the celebrations she will mark her Platinum Jubilee by making three towns into cities. Dumfries, one time home to Rabbie Burns, is one of those vying for the honour. Watch this space to see how it all goes...

Photo: VisitScotland.



- A relic of Saint Valentine, a bone from one of his forearms, is kept in the Blessed John Duns Scotus Church in the Gorbals area of Glasgow.
- It was tradition in Scotland for young unwed males and females to write their name on bits of paper, place them in a bonnet and each draw one of them. If one name was read out three times, it meant a marriage would take place.
- In 1268, Lord John Balliol died. His grieving widow, Lady Dervorgilla of Galloway, had his embalmed heart placed in an ivory casket. Unwilling to part with him, she is said to have carried it with her everywhere. She undertook many charitable acts in her late husband's memory, including the founding of Sweetheart Abbey in 1273. When she too died in 1289, Dervorgilla was laid to rest in front of the abbey church's high altar, clutching her husband's heart to her bosom.
- A poet named Pierre de Bocosel de Châtellard fell in love with Mary Queen of Scots after meeting her in 1561. On February 14th he hid under her bed as she stayed at Rossend Castle in Fife, and also went into her bedchamber at St Andrews. Mary was not impressed and had him tried and executed for treason.
- Gretna Green in the Scottish Borders is famous for marriages with thousands of couples tying the knot here each year. Historically it was to Gretna Green that young English runaway couples eloped so that they could be married 'over the anvil' from the age of 16.
- The 2000 wedding between US pop star Madonna and UK film director Guy Ritchie at Skibo Castle caused a Scottish wedding boom. The 'Madonna effect' in the years following showed 30% of Scottish weddings were for those that did not live in the country.
- A sprig of white heather hidden in the bride's bouquet is a popular good luck token in the Scottish Borders.

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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.



“A National Park in Galloway would bring huge benefits to the people of our region and the whole of Scotland. There is a great deal of support for the idea and the contribution it could make to building a sustainable economy and improving wellbeing.”

The Galloway National Park Association chair Rob Lucas said as they have issued a request to the Scottish Government for a third National Park to be created in Galloway. Currently Scotland only has two National Parks in Loch Lomond and The Trossachs and the Cairngorms. The benefits are many should they be awarded, both environmental and economic. Other areas in Scotland that have been earmarked for a possible National Park in Scotland include: The Scottish Borders, Ben Nevis and Glen Coe, a coastal and marine national park centred on Mull, Glen Affric, Harris and Wester Ross.

“The horrors of the Covid pandemic have changed how many of us view and value nature, and we know people want to spend more time outdoors for the benefits it brings to their mental and physical health. We want to improve access to green spaces and provide equal opportunities for everyone to connect with nature. Wee Forests are an ideal way of achieving this, whether as a place for children to play or a quiet spot to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. This new network of Wee Forests is a great example of partnership working between the public, private and voluntary sector and is an important legacy of COP26 when the eyes of the world were on Glasgow and the future

of our planet. As we now look forward to COP15 on biodiversity, innovative projects like this will showcase to the rest of the world how Scotland is leading the way in our action to tackle the twin crises of climate change and nature loss.”

Scotland's Environment Minister Mairi McAllan said as communities and schools are set to benefit from a new network of “Wee Forests” in towns and cities across Scotland, backed by £500,000 Scottish Government funding. To create each forest, around 600 native trees will be planted by “Wee Foresters” in an area the size of a tennis court. Volunteer keeper teams will look after the forests over the long term and schools will use the forests for outdoor learning. People will also take part in citizen science activities to raise awareness of climate change and the value of urban trees. This will include monitoring the butterflies that use the forests and measuring how much carbon is captured by the trees as they grow.

“We’ve found over 2,000 different objects, ranging from art to personal relics, that tell us how Mary was remembered and how stories about her were told throughout centuries. These stories tell us as much about the cultural biases of the people who tell them – their views on gender, on religion, and on power, for example – as they do about how Mary has lived on in the popular imagination. This course provides us with a great opportunity to share that research with a global audience, and we’re excited to see it launch.”

Dr Steven Reid, a Senior Lecturer in Scottish History at the University of Glasgow, and course leader of *The Life and Afterlife of Mary Queen of Scots*, said as the University of Glasgow aims to bring Mary Queen of Scots back into focus and test peoples knowledge. The free course explores Mary's life and legacy. Regarded by academics as one of the most infamous monarchs in British history, Mary Queen of Scots is featured in lectures, lessons and popular culture, however many know little about her. The course is available at: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/the-life-and-afterlife-of-mary-queen-of-scots>



“Video games are an amazing tool to help people imagine the past and the Burgh Records are an outstanding resource to help us understand life in the Middle Ages. We’ve uncovered so much not just about the history of Aberdeen but about how the city interacted with other parts of Scotland and Europe. This period of history has a rich tradition in influencing creative writing and media from The Lord of the Rings to A Game of Thrones. The Burgh Records provide us with real people, events and places upon which to build a fictional story. We were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm for the game with our Kickstarter fundraising campaign backed by supporters around the world and we are delighted to have brought the game to fruition just a year later.”

Researcher Dr Jackson Armstrong said as a video game based on historical research brings medieval Aberdeen to life. The digital narrative game which will bring people face-to-face with life in Scotland during the Middle Ages has now been launched. Based on and inspired by the events, descriptions and characters recorded in Aberdeen's UNESCO-recognised Burgh Records held by Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Archives, the game stems from research by University of Aberdeen historians. The Burgh Records are the best preserved of any in Scotland, can tell us about life from the end of the 14th century to the early 16th century.

“I was in an auction house to look for records because I do a radio show. I play vinyl and I am always looking for stuff no one else has played. There was a lot of 45s and 78s and I bidded on it. I didn't expect to win but I got it for six quid. There was

this football record and I thought that was unusual because I have quite a few 78s but I've never come across one that says Rangers versus Celtic. I have done my research on it, and somebody wrote to me saying he had one from 1914. It's definitely the oldest football match described on a record. It predates the Titanic. It's hard to estimate a price because there aren't any others that I know of.”

Scottish radio DJ Shane Quentin said after he purchased a rare vinyl record, ‘The Football Match (Rangers v. Celts)’ which dates to 1907. Quentin purchased the record at an auction in Auchtermuchty, Fife in December. The DJ believes it is the world's oldest football record and may now be interested in selling it.



“You rarely go past the statue here without a throng of tourists from all sorts of different parts of the world, and quite right too, Greyfriars Bobby epitomised loyalty, dedication, and there's no surprise that dogs are of course man's best friend.”

Alastair Morrison, head of George Heriot's Junior School, said people paid tributes to Greyfriars Bobby one of the world's most famous dogs, on the 150th anniversary of his death which was on January 14, 1872. This devoted Skye terrier guarded his masters grave for 14 years in Greyfriars Kirkyard. His statue today is one of the most popular in Edinburgh. Visitors are reminded to please not rub his nose as it has caused damage to the statue over the years.

SCOTWORD

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

CLUES ACROSS:

- 8) People of a state (6)
- 9) It can be found in the North Sea (8)
- 10) It goes with Dumfries (8)
- 11) Scots town sounds American (6)
- 12) Perfect (5)
- 14) A Scots roll (3)
- 15) Front of a kilt (5)
- 18) Bagpipe essential
- 20) Scotland' emblem (7)
- 23) Scots valleys (5)
- 24) Conical hill (3)

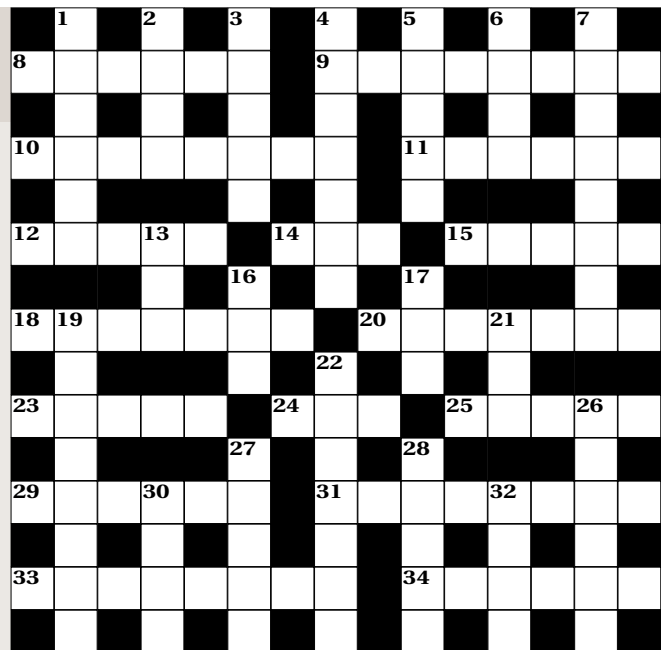
- 25) Call-to-arms cross! (5)

- 29) Resort near the River Earn (6)
- 31) The Granite City (8)
- 33) East-coast port (8)
- 34) A Scots bride's dowery (6)

CLUES DOWN:

- 1) A knight's tunic (6)
- 2) A Scots measure (4)
- 3) A Scots hilltop
- 4) Follow the feline! (7)
- 5) Glasgow' flower! (5)
- 6) Bequeath (4)

- 7) Fishing port on Loch Broom (8)
- 13) Scotland's own (3)
- 16) A river from 31 Across (3)
- 17) Reserved (3)
- 19) A capital palace (8)
- 21) Scots winter pastime (3)
- 22) Castle rampart (7)
- 26) Smelt in Scotland! (6)
- 27) Gently-flowing water (5)
- 28) Grampian town on the Isla (5)
- 30) Newts (4)(3)
- 32) Across airport (4)





James IV is usually remembered as the tragic king who not only lost the Battle of Flodden in 1513, but also died on the field. In fact, he was a very much more complex and interesting figure who influenced both the world of the church and the world of the arts. One place where these interests came together was Linlithgow Palace.

Linlithgow figures prominently in the Flodden story; it was in St Michael's Kirk (adjacent to the Palace and also surviving today) that, before Flodden, James reportedly saw a blue-gowned apparition that warned him not to march with his army to England. Well, we can take that, as all such stories, with a hefty pinch of salt but if James IV were to see a ghost when in church, he'd be likely to see it in St Michael's for he regularly went to Linlithgow. He commissioned a number of developments and enhancements to the palace. It's been called 'James IV's Pleasure Palace', but it was also a place of prayer with its own Chapel Royal - as if St Michael's Kirk wasn't grand enough.

The arts

James IV had one especially distinguishable characteristic; he travelled about his kingdom a great deal, being seen in public, carrying out engagements and making agreements with local power bases. This was a probably a deliberate contrast to his late father, James III (a lot of Stewarts were called James) who had been criticised for rarely venturing outside Edinburgh. James, by contrast, progressed, in traditional royal fashion, between his various palaces including Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Stirling Castle and Falkland.

James encouraged the arts. He ordered the completion of the Chapel Royal and the Great Hall at Stirling Castle (both of which we can still appreciate today) and poets like William Dunbar and Gavin Douglas were encouraged to flourish. James became the patron of King's College, Aberdeen in 1505 and in 1507 licensed Scotland's first printing press. Scottish sacred music also began to get noticed, Robert Carver being its key figure.

Carver was an Augustinian canon at Scone Abbey near Perth, but also a

composer of church music. He is most notable, however, for compiling what is now known as the Carver Choirbook, a collection of polyphonic sacred music, which included some of his own compositions. The National Library of Scotland suggests that the Choirbook was put together at some point between 1513 and 1520 (ie, after James IV's death), possibly for use in the chapel at Scone Abbey, or the Chapel Royal at Stirling Castle. However, it's just possible that the collection was compiled a little earlier for use in the Chapel Royal at Linlithgow Palace in the presence of James IV.

James IV was devoted to the cult of St Catherine and was known to celebrate her feast day (November 25) at Linlithgow. His alleged spectral warning about Flodden came in the St Catherine's Aisle of St Michael's Kirk and he paid fifteen visits to a healing well at Liberton in Edinburgh that was dedicated to St Catherine. The well still survives, in the grounds of a restaurant, and is sometimes known as 'the Oily Well' because of the oil that naturally appears on the water from local shale deposits. It may be significant, then, that the Carver Choirbook includes a number of works referencing St Catherine.

The sound of live Renaissance worship

Two research projects, involving Edinburgh University and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council - Space, Place, Sound and Memory and Hearing Historic Scotland - have been investigating the appearance, layout and acoustic properties of the Linlithgow Chapel Royal during James IV's time. The aim is to enable people today to experience what the sound of live Renaissance worship was like. Linlithgow Palace is now mostly ruinous (though still impressive) and the Chapel Royal is a bare, roofless, windowless space. The researchers surveyed the existing chapel using laser technology and studied the likely furnishings and layout of the space in James IV's time. The aim was to make recordings and to develop an app that would allow listeners to experience the music as it might have sounded in Linlithgow's Chapel Royal in its heyday.

Informed by the Hearing Historic Scotland project, a CD was recorded and issued, composed of selections from the Carver Choirbook (although none of the chosen music is by Carver himself) including some pieces dedicated to St Catherine. The music was performed by the Binchois Consort, conducted by Andrew Kirkman. James VI is known to have celebrated Easter at Linlithgow in 1512, so the selections are designed to be a possible order of service for that occasion, performed in the presence of a king who revered St Catherine. Using the app, listeners can compare how the music would sound in the recreated chapel of 1512, with the sound in today's cold bare space.

Renaissance sacred choral music may not be your cup of tea, but these studies add to our understanding of James IV. It's remarkable how much of the world that he knew can still be visited today. The sacred well at Liberton is freely accessible and so are James' royal palaces, although Stirling, especially, was much remodelled later by his son James V. Even the burial place of his parents, James III and Margaret of Denmark, can be visited at the site of Cambuskenneth Abbey, a quiet spot near Stirling.

Much of what we know about James concerns his piety; the chapels, the music, the sacred sites. There is also his *Book of Hours*, a spectacular illuminated prayer book created probably in Ghent, Belgium, and now held in the Austrian National Library in Vienna. And yet, in the strange world of the 15th and 16th centuries, he was able to combine his religiosity with a liberal love-life. He had several children by a string of mistresses.

James IV was a fascinating if not a particularly admirable man. Recent research now enables us to appreciate even the music he heard during his devotions. He was more than just the king who received a ghostly warning about an impending battle, ignored the warning, and rode out to his death.

You can see a sample page of the Carver Choirbook at the National Library of Scotland's website: <https://digital.nls.uk/scotlandspages/timeline/15032.html>

Details of the Hearing Historic Scotland and Space, Place, Sound and Memory research can be found at: <https://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/research/space-place-sound-and-memory>



Inside Linlithgow Palace.



St Michael's Church.



St Michael's Church, Linlithgow Palace and Linlithgow Loch.



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The Clanlands Almanac: Seasonal Stories from Scotland From First Footing to Samhain, Fringe Festival follies to whisky lore, Sam & Graham guide readers through a year of Scottish legends, traditions, historical & contemporary events, sharing personal stories and tips as only these two chalk-and-cheese friends can. As entertaining as it is practical, a light-hearted education in Scottish culture, told through the eyes of two passionate Scotsmen. The perfect escapism guide, and intended as a starting point for your own Scottish discoveries. **Price: \$32.95 Plus postage**

The Picts: A History

New edition of this popular history of the Picts, an ancient nation who ruled most of northern and eastern Scotland during the Dark Ages. Despite their historical importance, they remain shrouded in myth. Absorbed by the kingdom of the Scots in the 9th century, they lost their unique identity, their language and their vibrant artistic culture. It pieces together the evidence to tell the story of this mysterious people from their emergence in Roman times to their eventual disappearance. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

The Secrets of Rosslyn

Ever since Rosslyn Chapel was built in the mid 15th century it has cast a mesmerising spell over all who have visited it, exuding an aura of profound mystery, as if it holds the key to some vast, unearthly secret. 600 years later it continues to confound and intrigue, inspiring stories of The Knights Templar, the Holy Grail and a myriad of esoteric beliefs. This book sifts through mounds of unfounded conjecture and fantasy to make sense of it all and lets the facts speak for themselves, showing ultimately that the truth is no less amazing than fiction. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

The Outer Hebrides: A Historical Guide Outer Hebrides lie 40 miles to the west of the mainland. Culturally distinct from early prehistory, the islands contain historical & archaeological monuments, including the standing stones at Callanish, as well as numerous brochs, castles, Pitish houses, croft houses and industrial & military buildings. In addition to descriptions of key historic sites from prehistory onwards and gazetteers covering every place of historical interest, this book also traces the development of the modern environment and landscape of the islands, enabling the visitor to appreciate the sites within their historical and cultural context. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

The Drowned and the Saved

The loss of two British ships crammed with American soldiers bound for the trenches of the WW1 brought the devastation of war directly to the shores of the Scottish island of Islay. 8 months later an armed merchant cruiser collided with another troopship, throwing 600 men into the water. Just 19 survived... Based on the harrowing personal recollection of survivors and rescuers, newspaper reports, and original research this tells the story of these terrible events, painting a vivid picture which also pays tribute to the astonishing bravery of the islanders... **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

When the Clyde Ran Red: A Social History of Red Clydeside This book paints a vivid picture of the heady days when revolution was in the air on Clydeside. Through the bitter strike at the huge Singer Sewing machine plant in Clydebank in 1911, Bloody Friday in Glasgow's George Square in 1919, the General Strike of 1926 and on through the Spanish Civil War to the Clydebank Blitz of 1941, the people fought for the right to work, the dignity of labour and a fairer society for everyone. This book puts the politics into the social context of the times and tells the story with verve, warmth and humour. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

Scottish Queens 1034-1714

The lives of the Scottish queens, both those who ruled in their own right, and also the consorts, have largely been neglected in history books. One of the earliest known Scottish queens was none other than the notorious Lady MacBeth. Was she really the wicked woman depicted in Shakespeare's famous play? Was St Margaret a demure and obedient wife? Anne of Denmark, frequently written off as a stupid and wilful woman? These are just a few of the questions addressed in this entertaining, impeccably researched book. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

Scotch

Scotch whisky is beloved around the world. This comprehensive guide to Scotch whisky history, production, and appreciation will help you navigate the world of Scotch with confidence. Along with an overview of its intricate production process and tips for visiting your favorite distillery, Scotch features profiles of more than 200 whiskies, from popular blends to coveted single malts, with a special focus on bottles you're likely to find with ease. **Price: \$39.95 plus postage**

Scottish Proverbs

Proverbs, once described as 'the wisdom of many and the wit of one', offer unique insights the way of life of past generations. This book features an introduction which explores the role of proverbs in Scottish culture and over 1,000 proverbs arranged in easily accessible A-Z format. Many have been commonly used for hundreds of years, but modern sayings are also included. The addition of a comprehensive glossary will help you fully appreciate these colourful and often humorous nuggets of wisdom. **Price: \$19.95 Plus postage**

Scottish Customs

This book introduces hundreds of Scottish customs associated with a huge range of topics. As well as customs associated with key events of our lives, from birth to death, it also includes customs associated with the world of work, food and drink, health, animals and nature. Extracts from written works through the ages bring these customs to life and show how important they have been in the story of Scotland for thousands of years. **Price: \$19.95 Plus postage**

A Life in the Hills: The Katherine Stewart Omnibus

This book gathers A Croft in the Hills with some of Katharine's later books: A Garden in the Hills, describing a year in the life of her Highland garden; A School in the Hills, a vivid history of the school at Abriachan which eventually became the Stewarts' family home; and The Post in the Hills, which tells the dramatic story of the postal service in the Highlands, from the point of view of Katharine's later role as postmistress of the smallest post office in Scotland, run from the porch of her schoolhouse. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**

The King Over the Water: A Complete History of the Jacobites

Spanning more than a century, the Jacobite cause is one of the epic stories of history. They may have failed in their aim to restore the house of Stuart to the British throne, but in that failure the Jacobites changed the course of history. Intrigue, espionage, corruption and betrayal, as well as constancy to the cause in the face of terrible risks are all ingredients of this extraordinary tale. Few novels can boast such a colourful cast of characters, not to mention one of the most well-known historical figures of all time and brings them to life in this vivid, sweeping narrative, full of insight, anecdote and analysis. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**

The Well of the Heads: Historical Tales of the Scottish Clans Scottish clans go back over a 1000 years, and for centuries these extended networks of families dominated life in the Scottish Highlands and Islands. The warriors of the clan, fiercely loyal to each other and to their chief, were well known for their extraordinary courage and military skills. These stories show a society which lived close to nature, had little in the way of material wealth but which boasted a remarkable treasure house of stories that were passed down over generations. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

The Silver Chanter: Historical Tales of Scottish Pipers

All over the world people associate the bagpipes with Scotland. In this informative and entertaining book Stuart McHardy introduces Scotland's national instrument – its history, development and repertoire – and examines the part that the piper himself has played in Highland and Lowland society over the centuries. Whether dealing with great bravery or contemptible jealousy, the supernatural or the mundane, these stories reflect the central role that the bagpipes have played, and continue to play, in Scottish traditional culture. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

Mull and Iona: A Historical Guide

This book provides a history of the islands from the time of their earliest human inhabitants to the present. The gazetteer lists all the places of interest from all periods in the islands' history, from the world-wide renowned churches and graves on Iona and the magnificent restored Duart Castle on Mull, seat of the Clan Maclean, to the planned village of Dervaig, the townships in the Ross of Mull and Ardmeanach which were cleared during the 19th century and more. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

The Faded Map: The Lost Kingdoms of Scotland

Recent politics and logistics have established borders and jurisdictions which now seem permanent and impervious. The Faded Map looks beyond these to remember a land that was once quiet and green. It brings to vivid life the half-forgotten kings and kingdoms of two thousand years ago, of the time of the Romans, the Dark Ages and into the early medieval period. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

Scottish Home Rule

Home Rule is not widely understood being seen by many Unionists as the slippery slope to Independence and by Independence supporters as a Unionist proposal to retain sovereignty over Scotland. It is however a strong proposal in its own right with a separate history from Independence and a more likely stepping-stone to Federalism. This book is a statement for the merits of Scottish Home as the best solution for Scotland. It covers the history and support for the Home Rule option from 1860s, a clear structure for what Home Rule is and how Home Rule could improve both Scotland as well as be a framework for constitutional reform across the UK. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

The Lowland Clearances: Scotland's Silent Revolution 1760 – 1830

The Highland Clearances are a well-documented episode in Scotland's past but they were not unique. The process began in the Scottish Lowlands nearly a century before, when tens of thousands of people significantly more than were later exiled from the Highlands. These Clearances shaped the appearance of the Scottish landscape as it is today as they swept aside a traditional way of life. Based on pioneering historical research, this book tells the story of the Lowland Clearances, establishing them as a wider part of the process of Clearance which affected the whole country and changed the face of Scotland forever. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

Wild Kilted Yoga: Flow and Feel Free

Viral Scottish yoga star Finlay Wilson is back with Wild Kilted Yoga. Get ready for more tartan, more dramatic scenery and more tips and tricks to make your yoga practice extra special. This beautiful book features four special yoga sequences that can be done alone, plus a bonus fun sequence for couples to do together. Finlay's book will take you on a journey through some of Scotland's most stunning locations and will leave you feeling zen and grounded. **Price: \$27.95 Plus postage**

The Colouring Book of Scotland

The first colouring book dedicated to the beautiful landscapes and landmarks of Scotland. A unique Scottish colouring book suitable for adults as well as children featuring 20 of the country's most iconic places, including: Edinburgh Castle • Forth Rail Bridge • St Andrews • HMS Discovery, Dundee • Balmoral Castle • Loch Ness/Urquart Castle • Stromness, Orkney • Skara Brae • Callanish Standing Stones • Highland Games • Eilean Donan • Duart Castle • Tobermory, Skye • Kelvingrove Museum • Caerlaverlock Castle • Abbotsford House • Melrose Abbey • Rosslyn Chapel • Falkirk Wheel • Stirling Castle **Price: \$19.95 + post**

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The Highland Clearances

This book traces the origins of the Clearances from the eighteenth century to their culmination in the crofting legislation of the 1880s. In considering both the terrible suffering of the Highland people as well as the stark choices that faced landowners during a period of rapid economic change. In drawing attention away from the mythology to the hard facts of what actually happened, this offers a balanced analysis of events which created a terrible scar on the Highland and Gaelic imagination. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**

Scotland: A History from Earliest Times

From the Ice Age to the recent Scottish Referendum, historian Alistair Moffat explores the history of the Scottish nation. As well as focusing on key moments in the nation's history such as the Battle of Bannockburn and the Jacobite Risings, Moffat also features other episodes in history that are perhaps less well documented. From prehistoric timber halls to inventions and literature, Moffat's tale explores the drama of battle, change, loss and invention interspersed with the lives of ordinary Scottish folk, the men and women who defined a nation. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**

Scottish Battles

Scottish history has been shaped and defined by a series of great battles. John Sadler gives the first full military history of Scotland for many years. From Mons Graupius to Culloden, he shows how terrain and politics shaped the campaigns and decisive engagements we still remember today. This new paperback edition includes detailed battle plans and eyewitness accounts where possible, and sections on the development of warfare – tactics, equipment and styles of fighting. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**

The Flowers of the Forest: Scotland and the First World War

This book provides the full account of how the war changed Scotland by exploring a wide range of themes - the overwhelming response to the call for volunteers; the performance of Scottish military formations in 1915 and 1916; the militarization of the Scottish homeland; the resistance to war in Glasgow and the west of Scotland; and the boom in the heavy industries and the strengthening of women's role in society following on from wartime employment. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**

The White Cockade: Historical Tales of the Jacobites

During the first half of the 18th century, Bonnie Prince Charlie and his diehard supporters, the Jacobites, almost changed the course of British history. Their attempts to drive out the house of Hanover and restore the Stuarts to the British throne is one of the great epics of history. This book retells over 40 Jacobite stories which date back to the time of the prince himself and his bitter defeat at the Battle of Culloden. Featuring exploits of real people & events, this book opens a window into a remarkable world and features a huge cast of colourful characters. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

Scotland Her Story

Scotland's history has been told many times, but never exclusively by its women. This book takes a unique perspective on dramatic national events as well as ordinary life, as experienced by women down the centuries. From the saintly but severe medieval Queen Margaret to today's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, it encompasses women from all stations of class and notoriety, offering a tantalising view of what happened to them, and how they felt. Drawing on court and kirk records, exchequer rolls, treasurer's accounts, diaries and memoirs, newspapers, government reports and eyewitness statements, it brings to life the half of history that has been hidden or ignored. **Price: \$29.95 + post**

Scottish Gaelic in Twelve Weeks/w 3CD's

This book has been written both as a self-tuition course for beginners and within the classroom. You may want to learn Gaelic because of a general interest in Celtic or Scottish history and culture, or because it was the everyday language of your ancestors. Each lesson in the book contains some essential points of grammar explained and illustrated, exercises, a list of new vocabulary (with a guide to pronunciation, using the International Phonetics Alphabet), and an item of conversation. Purchase just book or complete with 3 audio CDs to help make learning even easier and more fun. **Price: \$29.95 book only/\$49.95 book & 3CD+ post**

Gaelic-English/English-Gaelic Dictionary

Latest soft cover dictionary is ideal for learners of Gaelic at all levels, and its generous coverage of vocabulary from fields such as business and IT makes it a valuable tool for all those who require an up-to-date reference work. It contains a large amount of explanatory material, numerous examples of usage and idiomatic phrases and expressions. Many registers and styles are sampled, from the familiar (and occasionally the vulgar) to the formal and the literary. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

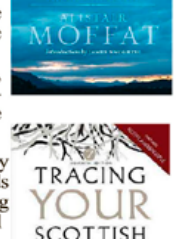
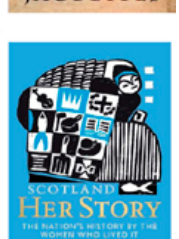
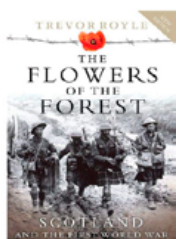
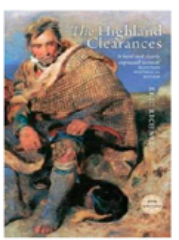
Scotland's Last Frontier: A Journey Along the Highland Line

The Highland Line is the most profound internal boundary in Britain. First recognised by Agricola in the first century AD (parts of its most northerly portion mark the furthest north the Romans got) it divides the country both geologically & culturally, signalling the border between Highland & Lowland, Celtic & English-speaking, crofting & farming. Take a journey of the imagination, tracing the route of the Line from the River Clyde through Perthshire & the North-east. In addition to exploring the huge importance of the Line over almost two thousand years, he also shows how it continues to influence life in 21st-century Scotland. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

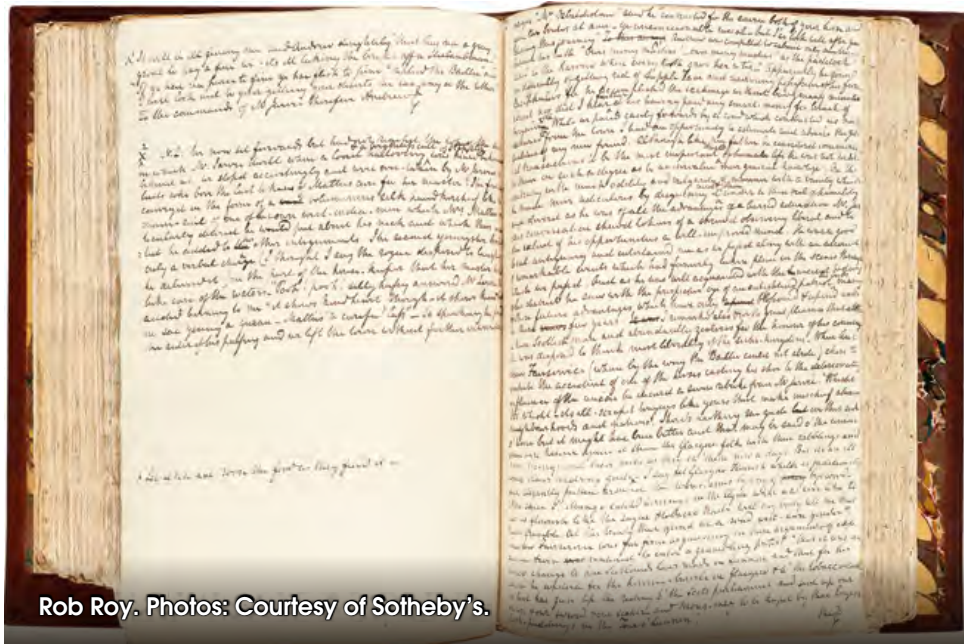
Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors

New edition of the bestselling guide to this increasingly popular pursuit. Scotland has the best-maintained records and facilities of any country in the world for undertaking family research. This is the National Archives' official guide and is written in an accessible style from the unique perspective of a custodian of the records. It details all the latest internet developments, including a chapter on family history on the web. It also points to more traditional resources, explaining step by step how to research records of births, marriages and wills. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**

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Saved for the nation - Scottish institutions celebrate appeal's success



Rob Roy. Photos: Courtesy of Sotheby's.

The Scottish members of a consortium set up to save a unique collection of literature for the nation have welcomed the news that their international appeal has reached its target of £15 million. This means that the Blavatnik Honresfield Library (formerly Honresfield Library) – a treasure trove of items from the world's most beloved writers, unseen by the public for almost a century – will no longer be sold at open auction and instead will be shared with libraries and other organisations across the UK. The library, collected and curated

by a Rochdale businessman in the 1800s, comprises priceless manuscripts, rare first editions and irreplaceable letters. These include works by Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, Jane Austen and the Brontë siblings.

A UK-wide consortium led by The Friends of the National Libraries, which includes Abbotsford, the National Library of Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland, was successful in raising half the funds needed from hundreds of individual donors, as well as the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Scottish Government, the Foyle Foundation, and

other organisations, with the balance coming from a generous donation by Sir Leonard Blavatnik – the largest ever given to the UK by an individual for a literary treasure. This achievement has also been made possible by the vendor's willingness to give the consortium the time needed to launch and run the fundraising appeal, to which countless people from Scotland, the UK and around the world contributed.

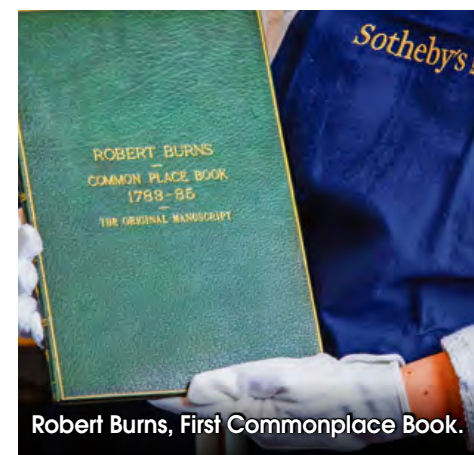
Coveted collection of literary treasures

Arrangements will be made in the coming months for the Scottish organisations to take possession of key works from the collection, conserve them and make them publicly accessible. These include an early volume of poems by Robert Burns in his own hand – containing some of his earliest recorded literary works – known as the *First Commonplace Book*, as well as individual autograph poems (*Cessnock Bank* and the *Brigs of Ayr*), and some of the poet's earliest correspondence, including the only extant letter to his beloved father.

Other Scottish material of huge importance is the complete working manuscript of Sir Walter Scott's iconic novel *Rob Roy*, part of the autographed manuscript of Scott's verse romance, *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*, his travel journal of an expedition off the Scottish coast in 1814, a copy of *Border Antiquities* with

extensive manuscript revisions, and an exceptional group of Scott first editions in their original condition.

Culture Minister Jenny Gilruth said: "It's important for the nation that this coveted collection of literary treasures has been saved from being sold into private hands. Once again, books which play a crucial part in Scotland's literary history were in danger of being withheld from public view. These include some of Robert Burns's earliest works and the manuscript of Sir Walter Scott's *Rob Roy*. The Scottish Government is pleased to support the Honresfield Library appeal by providing £400,000 to ensure these valuable books return to Scotland where our culture and heritage organisations will ensure they are cared for, preserved and made available to the public."



Robert Burns, First Commonplace Book.

Tartan of the Month

Love Gaelic Tartan

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

Text and image use are courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans (SRT).

A tartan for the company Love Gaelic (Love Gàidhlig) Ltd. It was created to reflect the love and passion which exists to keep the Gaelic language alive. Gaelic learners and native speakers worldwide, form the backbone and hope to overcome any obstacles the Gaelic language encounters. This tartan (SRT reference: 13290) was designed by Mr Blair Urquhart, House of Tartan and registered in September, 2021.

Bundanoon Highland Gathering

2 April 2022

Admission prices for 2022: ticketed event only

Adults: \$20
Family: \$50
Children: \$10
Concession: \$18

Groups attending the event - Minimum 20 Tickets, Maximum 50 Tickets per order

www.ticketabo.com.au/bundanoon-highland-gathering/brigadoon-2022.html

Sponsorship still available-please contact: publicity@brigadoon.org.au

www.brigadoon.org.au

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Glasgow reveals studio plans for Kelvin Hall

A major new television and film studio is set to be created in the centre of Glasgow. Council bosses approved plans to develop a £11.9million production facility within the city's historic Kelvin Hall with substantial support of up to £7.9million from the Scottish Government - delivering a huge boost to the city's dynamic screen and creative sectors. It is anticipated the first part of the new screen hub will be ready to open later this year; with discussions already well advanced with potential tenants.

Council leader Susan Aitken said: "Glasgow's creative industries are hugely important not only to the city's economy; but also its culture and its national and international profile. The city is home to an incredible community of independent producers, with access to an enviable pipeline of young talent. We know they are in demand all over the country and, often, the world - but we also know that, here at home, there is a relative lack of the kind of studio space they need to be able to win higher-value commissions. This exciting plan for the Kelvin Hall will not only establish that kind of facility, but do it right in the heart of the city. It shows how serious Glasgow is about fostering and building on a well-deserved reputation as centre of excellence in television production."

The screen sector is already estimated to be worth up to £500m to Scotland each year, with around 60% of that in Glasgow. However, recent changes to how public service broadcasters commission programmes, laid down by industry regulator Ofcom, mean there are now huge opportunities for creative centres outside London to grow. Since first opening as an exhibition venue in 1927, the Kelvin Hall has hosted an extraordinary range of events and been a fixture of the city's cultural and sporting scenes. For a generation of Glaswegians, it is perhaps most familiar as the former home of the city's transport museum.

Wild Salmon Strategy launch



An ambitious strategy which aims to bring the wild salmon population in Scotland back from crisis point has been launched. Atlantic salmon is an iconic species featuring highly among the wildlife readily associated with Scotland at home and abroad. Salmon are affected by a wide range of pressures, some at sea, but many others acting within the Scottish freshwater and coastal environments. A key contributory factor appears to be climate change. The strategy highlights five priority themes for action, including improving the condition of rivers, managing exploitation including the effectiveness of deterrents to poachers, understanding and mitigating pressures salmon face in the marine and coastal environment, international collaboration and developing a modernised policy framework.

Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon said: "I am grateful to the many organisations which have contributed to development of this important and ground-breaking strategy for wild salmon in Scotland. There is now significant evidence showing that populations of Atlantic salmon are at crisis point and, we must now reinvigorate our collective efforts to ensure a positive future for the species. Although the pattern of decline is repeated across the salmon's North Atlantic range, with climate change a significant factor, there remains much that we can do in our rivers, lochs and coastal waters to seek to build resilience and transform the fortunes of this iconic fish."

Clackmannan Town Hall to receive vital upgrade



Clackmannan Town Hall is to receive upgrades worth £1.2m to ensure its future as a valuable community asset. The upgrade, led by Clackmannanshire Council in partnership with Clackmannan Town Hall Trust, will see a programme of works take place to make the building wind and watertight. This will include a new replacement roof, stonework repairs and cleaning the stonework at the front of the building to improve its appearance. The building, which dates back to the 1800s, is in a Conservation Area and the roof replacement works will be carried out in keeping with the Town Hall's history and in consultation with the Clackmannan Town Hall Trust.

Councillor Craig Holden, spokesperson for Housing and the Environment, said: "I welcome the work being carried out at Clackmannan Town Hall. Ensuring our built heritage is maintained is important for our communities to feel connected to their past and to provide a place to come together for years to come. Clackmannan Town Hall has been part of the community for well over 100 years and this work will mean this vital community asset has many more years ahead of it."

Full details of the planned work will be made available once the survey works are completed, with the work starting later in the year.

Eden Project to establish 14 hectares of new wildflower habitat across Dundee



The Eden Project will bring swathes of colour to the city of Dundee with the planting of a series of wildflower meadows. The first of these meadows to be developed will be at Seabraes, located near the science centre and approximately a mile from the former Dundee Gasworks on East Dock Street, the proposed site for the Eden Project's home in Dundee. Other locations will be at Camperdown Park and the Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc. In addition, a further seven sites have

been identified by Dundee City Council that will be developed and maintained through the Nature Restoration Fund. Eden will support the evolution of these sites with training and narrative building. The meadows will be planted this spring and will start blooming in the summer. The planting programme is part of Eden's commitment to the city ahead of the opening of Eden Project Dundee in 2024. Dan James, Eden's Development Director, said: "We are delighted to announce this fantastic project which will deliver community engagement, biodiversity, wildlife habitat and nature spaces for people to access for wellbeing, health, joy and beautification. This project represents hope for a green future. Every community deserves to have green space and nature to explore, and it demonstrates our commitment to Dundee to make a real difference to people and the places they live."

Each of the wildflower areas will contain different, carefully selected mixes of annuals and perennial flowers, chosen due to their adaptation to local soil and environmental conditions. In May, a memorandum of understanding was signed between to kick off a period to explore the practicalities of converting the site of the former Dundee Gasworks on East Dock Street into Eden Project Dundee. Eden predicts that the project will create 200 jobs (with an additional 300 indirectly created) and contribute £27m per year to the regional economy.

Glasgow Subway to be first in Britain without drivers



A £300m upgrade is coming to the Glasgow Subway in 2023. 17 new trains in a new four-car set formation, as opposed to the current three-set, have been ordered. Due to the unique dimensions of the Subway, the new trains sets are the same length and size as the existing rolling stock but inside passengers will now be able to walk the entire length of the train and enjoy an open view at the front into the tunnels. Once in service, the trains are expected to initially operate with a driver on board before switching to "unattended train operation" with no staff travelling with passengers, which will be a UK first, following some underground lines in Paris, Barcelona and Copenhagen. This is in addition to the Subway station modernisation programme, which is now complete, with all 15 of the stations having recently been upgraded. The Subway opened on 14 December 1896 and is the third oldest underground system in the world after London and Budapest. The Glasgow Subway carries 13 million passengers each year and is currently undergoing its biggest modernisation programme in more than 30 years.



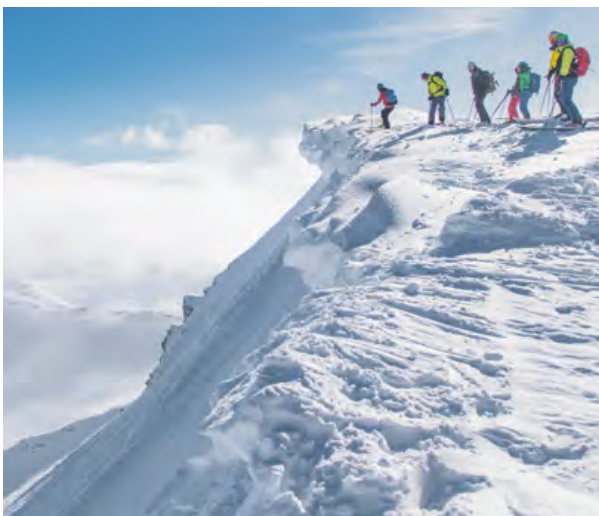
However, the pandemic has significantly restricted the last two winter seasons, meaning the upcoming 2021/22 ski season is pivotal to the recovery and future of the industry in Scotland. The past two years have been challenging for the Scottish snow sports industry – with the stop-start disruption

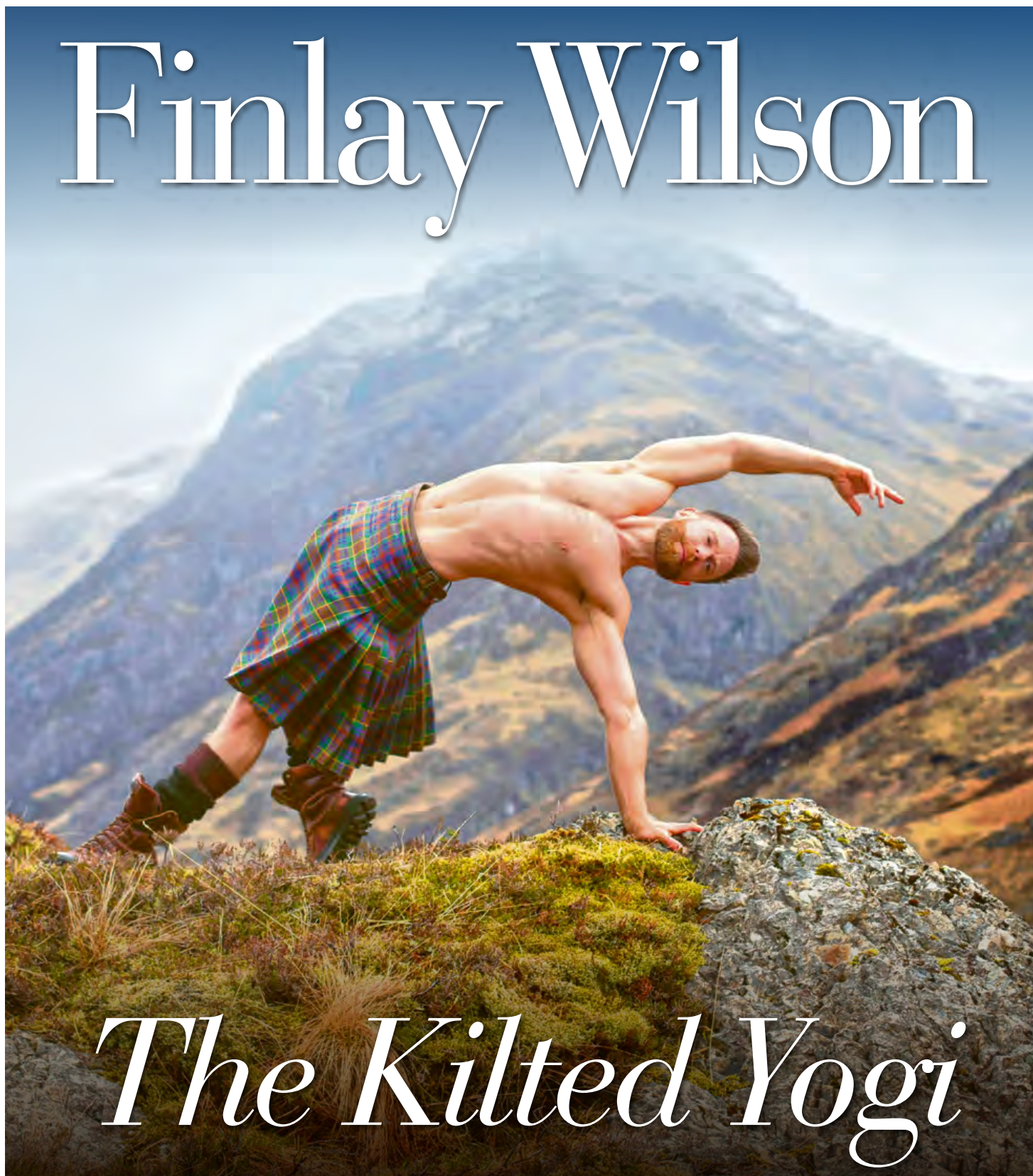
However, despite the difficulties, Mr Wilson, who marks four years at the helm of Snowsport Scotland in May, believes Covid-19 provided opportunity by putting the industry under the magnifying glass and highlighting its importance to Scotland's economy and tourism industry. He said: "While Covid has been a massive headache to say the least, particularly the stop and start nature of it, it's also provided the opportunity to gain heightened support from the Scottish Government and other agencies and promoted the national importance of the snow sports industry. Snow sports matters in Scotland. As evidenced through independent research the snow sports industry injects

However, for the centres and the communities around them to thrive, Mr Wilson believes more investment is needed, which will hopefully be achieved in part, by strong ticket sales in the coming winter season. With thousands of people also facing uncertainty due to the ever-changing quarantine rules in European countries, Mr Wilson hopes more people may look to Scotland this winter season. He said: "There's a golden opportunity to get people in the UK thinking about coming to Scotland as concerns remain about travelling abroad. We hope that this opportunity allows more people than ever before to experience snow sports in the UK; and want to come back for more in the years to come. It's fundamentally important we have a good season. We want people to ski and snowboard in Scotland, enjoy it, and make it a habit going forward. This winter season presents a great opportunity for people to make the most of the varied terrain on offer, explore our backcountry playgrounds and to learn how to ski or snowboard on home soil. With GB Snowsport looking to confirm 2022 Winter Olympic and Paralympic squads, Snowsport Scotland expects to see a strong base of Scottish athletes included.

For more on Snowsport Scotland and its activities, visit www.snowsportscotland.org.

- There are 5 mountain resorts in Scotland; Cairngorm Mountain; Glencoe; Glenshee; Lecht 2090; and Nevis Range.
- There are 16 artificial snow sport centres; Aberdeen Snowsports Centre; Glasgow Ski & Snowboard Centre; Midlothian Snowsports Centre – Hillend; Snow Factor; Bearsden Ski and Board Club; Newmilns Snow and Sports Complex; Polmonthill Snowsports Centre; Firpark Ski Centre; Alford Ski Centre; Glenmore Lodge; Huntly Nordic and Outdoors Centre; Lagganila Outdoor Centre; Loch Insh; and, RM-Condor Arbroath.
- There is calculated to be demand for approximately 840,000 ‘skier days’ per year in Scotland, with 580,000 taking place on artificial slopes and a further 260,000 at mountain resorts.
- 750,000 ‘skier days’ were recorded in the 2018-19 winter season (the last season recorded prior to covid).
- Currently, 18 of the 48 athletes on the UK Sport funded winter sports programme are Scottish.
- Snowsport Scotland’s membership has increased by 39% over the last 4 years (4,112 new members).





If it weren't for the on-the-spot decision to rescue him, the chain of events would have meant Kilted Yoga never happened! Once Amaloh was over here, I made a video about him that went viral. In the small period of time afterwards people waited for the "what's next" and were receptive to Kilted Yoga. His three million views were knocked out of the park within 24 hours! On a more serious and less digital note, I had just gone through an awful divorce and having him suddenly in my life gave shape to my days, keeping me from sinking too deeply. He also really enjoys being around when I am doing yoga, so he was like a familiar that encouraged me to do even that.

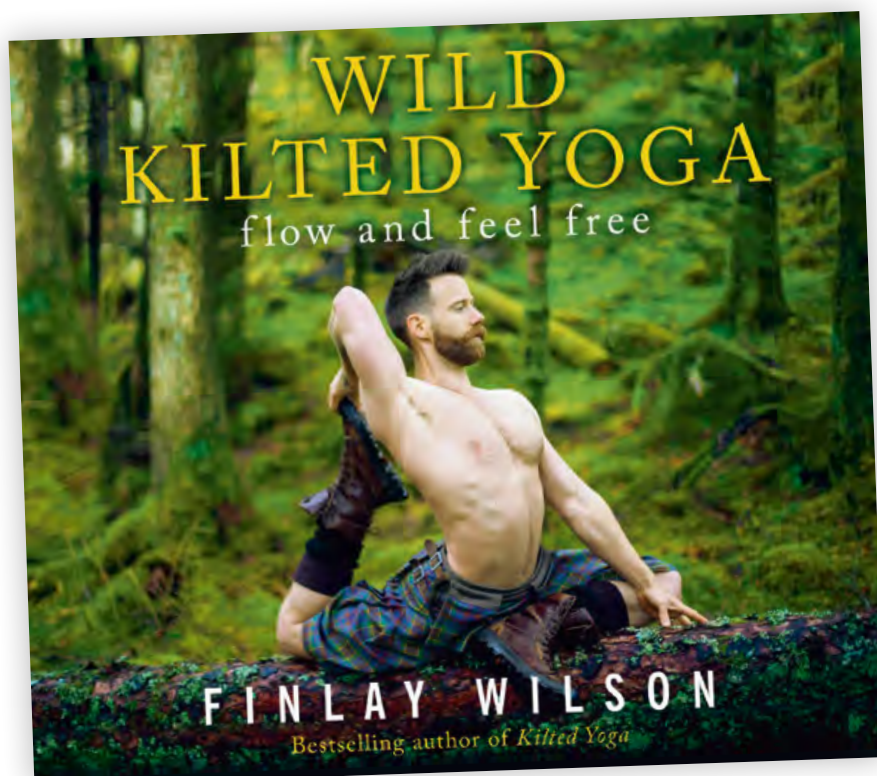
As the world changed so drastically last year with many facing isolation and depression. How do you find yoga has helped you during the pandemic and how have you had to adapt your business during a Covid world?

Yoga is my daily practice. The pandemic added a lot more pressure but what it did was move me outside. I found to deal with the challenges mentally, I had to augment my practice by getting outside more and became an avid cyclist, gardener and walker. From a business point of view, teaching online wasn't new to me, so we were able to transition straight away to online classes without missing a beat. While practicing online isn't the same as being in person, it was a means to an end that kept our community together and in a routine for the 18 months. Our staff all stayed on full time and our audience grew to span the world, that was a very unexpected bonus!

You do a lot of community outreach from your Dundee based studio and help children, young adults and families and recently became an Ambassador for the Prince's Foundation, can you tell us more?

I sure can. The studio, Heart Space, just celebrated 10 years since I opened it and now that we are back into the swing of things (albeit with physical distancing still in place) we have a full schedule of

Viral Scottish yoga star Finlay Wilson is back with his new book Wild Kilted Yoga: Flow and Feel Free, get ready for more tartan, more dramatic scenery and more tips and tricks to make your yoga practice extra special. Finlay took time to speak to the Scottish Banner on his love of yoga, his rescue dog Amaloh, tartan and of course Scotland.



Finlay you have fused Scotland's incredible scenery, the iconic kilt and the ancient, but non-Scottish, practice of yoga to become a viral Scottish yoga star a few years back. Since then, you have helped sell yoga, kilts and Scotland to the world. How has your life changed since 2017 and are you still surprised how merging these elements has been enjoyed by millions of people across the world?

It constantly surprises me that every week new people engage with it. I get messages and comments from all over, some first timers to yoga, but most that are big fans of Scotland. If it gets more people thinking about yoga and a practice for themselves, then great!

You have said your dog Amaloh is the reason you created Kilted Yoga and that you rescued Amaloh from Sri Lanka with a yoga strap as a collar. Can you tell us more and how has having Amaloh in your life changed you?

classes for families that are free. So far, we offer pregnancy yoga, parent and baby yoga, parent and baby barre, kids yoga, kids aerial yoga, and kids aerial silks and a class called Yoga for Every Body. All of our other classes help fund this and the work we do in the community. With community centres and groups still working out this new environment, we are hoping to keep developing and re forging connections we had 20 months ago.

With this focus and skillset, I was approached by The Prince's Foundation to be an ambassador for the incredible work that the foundation does around mental health, wellbeing, and education. Without it being too much of a theme, as we come out of the pandemic, my role will become clearer as we find new ways to work with each other.

Yoga is my daily practice.

In 2017 you released the bestselling book *Kilted Yoga: Yoga Laid Bare* which introduced many to yoga and also some spectacular Scottish scenery. Now you are releasing *Wild Kilted Yoga: Flow and Feel Free*. Can you tell us more about the new book, working with your twin brother and how making this book you were able to visit special places in Scotland from your childhood?

Not only was it amazing to get out when restrictions lifted, I also hadn't spent any meaningful time with my twin brother since the start of the pandemic. So, to be able to go out with a project and a plan felt incredible. Now, the weather had other ideas and we were hit with blizzards as soon as we got to Glen Coe in May, hail, gale force winds and torrential rain. We had to move some of our locations around and for each sequence (fire, water, earth, and air) we shot in two different locations for each as we navigated the weather. Only one of the locations, air, was new to me as we trekked along single track roads for hours to get to Sanna Beach. It looks more like Caribbean waters than what you would associate with Scotland!

Alastair has taken almost all of the images you see on my pages, we do a calendar every year and I wanted to work with someone that knows me very well, understands the poses and when I am fully in them, but also to celebrate that he is as much an essential part of kilted yoga as the guy doing the yoga!

The book follows on from book one which set the foundations of the practice I teach and moves into four very different sequences that build on these foundations. Each sequence has a different energetic with flowing movements for water and strong holds for fire. There is also a bonus chapter in there for two people practicing together, just like book one.

In 2018 you created the Kilted Yoga tartan which gives a nod to the mystical Scottish wolf. Can you tell how important it is for you incorporate kilts in your work and to also champion the art of kiltmaking and Scottish textiles?



I did indeed. The colours are a cry back to a wolf's coat with a shot of red through there for other parts of my environmental studies with Red Deer and Scot's Pine (which has a lovely red hue to the bark). It matches the wolf tattoo on my forearm and is something that has held my imagination since I was younger and began my studies. Prickly Thistle helped design and weave the tartans and a big part of their message is the permanence of traditional Scottish industry vs. fast fashion and plastic-based materials. I know a lot of people growing up inherited a kilt, it has a lifespan beyond that, unlike most clothes and I really put mine through its paces.

Finlay what would you tell someone, regardless of their age, who wants to try yoga? Also, can you tell us about some of the ongoing benefits yoga has given you and how does it make you feel to be taking yoga to such a new level across the world?

A lot of people have tried yoga, one of the things we try to let people know is that there are many styles, systems, methodologies and personalities out there. Depending on what you need (and you may not even know) it is worth shopping around a little. One teacher's interpretation of gentle may be vastly different to another's.



It is useful to find a teacher that is knowledgeable and experienced, especially if you are navigating any injuries but it is best to check with a physical therapist about the best route for that.

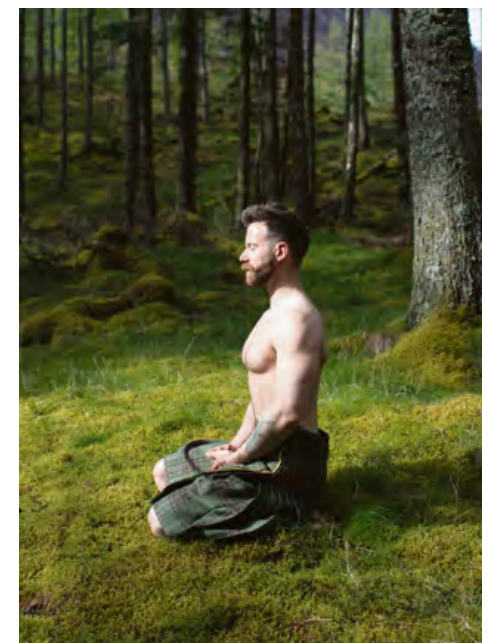
For me, yoga makes me less reactive. I have a core that feels steady in the face of challenges. Breath work and endurance have helped me on so many occasions it doesn't need mentioning! It is this that I hope brings people to my classes, the desire to explore what they can do rather than adding to a list what they can't do.

And finally, Finlay in your book and your videos you get to travel across Scotland and show off its beauty to many. How does Scotland's natural settings compliment yoga and do you have a favourite part of the country to visit when not rolling out the yoga mat?

I love practicing all over but if it's a peat bog and soaking, I am usually miserable! Give me dry and grippy rock and we are on to a winner. It's the fresh air, the feeling of life in with each breath. Whenever I am away travelling it is something I look forward to on my return.

***Wild Kilted Yoga: Flow and Feel Free* by Finlay Wilson is available now from the Scottish Banner. www.scottishbanner.com/product-category/books**

For more information or to keep up with Finlay see: www.finlay-wilson.com



THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Alexander Selkirk, a sailor from Lower Largo, Fife, rescued after four years on the island of Juan Fernandez, 400 miles off the coast of Chile; his story inspired Daniel Defoe to write *Robinson Crusoe*. **1708**

1 - Author Muriel Spark born. She is most well known as the author of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, written in 1961, a touching and funny portrait of an individual and eccentric Edinburgh teacher during the inter-war period, and the effect she has on her pupils. **1918**

2 - Feast and legal Quarter Day of Candlemass.

2 - James I married Lady Jane Beaufort, daughter of the Earl of Somerset, in London. **1424**

2 - Battle of Inverlochy, one of the Duke of Montrose's victories over the Covenanters, killing 1,300. **1645**

2 - Birth of James Chalmers in Arbroath - he devised the adhesive postage stamp. **1782**

2 - Novelist Alistair Maclean died. His books *The Guns of Navarone*, *Ice Station Zebra* and *Where Eagles Dare* were made into films. **1987**

3 - General Monck's regiment entered London, having marched from Coldstream in the borders. The regiment kept order during the period of the restoration of Charles II. It continued as a standing regiment of the British Army, becoming known as the Coldstream Guards. **1660**

4 - Charles II proclaimed king in Edinburgh - but not in England. **1649**

4 - Prince James Francis Stuart, the Old Pretender, left Scotland after a stay of only three weeks, effectively bringing the first Jacobite Uprising to an end. **1716**

4 - Honours of Scotland put on display in Edinburgh Castle after being rediscovered by Sir Walter Scott. The jewels consist of a sword, crown and sceptre. The three items were first used together during the coronation of Mary, Queen of Scots and last used for the coronation of Charles II in 1651. During the Second World War, they were hidden in different parts of Edinburgh Castle in case of German invasion. **1818**



5 - *SS Politician* ran aground on Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides during gale worse winds, creating the basis for Sir Compton Mackenzie's novel *Whisky Galore*. **1941**

5 - John Witherspoon, clergyman, writer, President of Princeton University 1768-94, signatory to American Declaration of Independence 1776, born in Gifford, East Lothian. **1723**

5 - John Boyd Dunlop, who patented the first practical pneumatic tyre, born Ayrshire. **1846**

5 - Writer and historian Thomas Carlyle died in London. **1881**

6 - Queen Anne, last of the Stuart monarchs, born. **1665**

6 - King Charles II, the "merry monarch" died. His last words to his brother James were "Don't let poor Nellie starve" - a reference to his favourite mistress, Nell Gwynne. **1685**

6 - Representation of the people Act received Royal assent, granting votes to women over the age of 30. **1918**

6 - King George VI dies and Queen Elizabeth II becomes monarch. **1952**

7 - Battle at Glenfruin when the MacGregors slaughtered a number of Colquhouns - the origins of the banning of the MacGregor name. **1603**

7 - 12,000 players and spectators descended on the frozen Lake of Menteith for Scotland's only outdoor curling tournament, known as the Bonspiel or the Grand Match. **1979**

7 - The Old Pretender's Jacobite army disbanded at Aberdeen, ending the 1715 uprising. Thirty years later his son, Charles, would try again to recapture the throne for the Stuarts. **1716**

8 - Mary Queen of Scots beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle after nearly 20 years of imprisonment. At the time of her death, Mary was 44 and had outlived three husbands. **1587**

8 - A contingent of a thousand Scots, commanded by the brothers John and William Stuart, headed to the relief of the beleaguered French garrison at Orleans. The expedition ended in disaster when the force was defeated by the English at Rouvray Saint Denis and both Stuarts were killed. **1429**

9 - John Noble, co-founder of Loch Fyne Oysters and Loch Fyne Restaurants died. It began as an umbrella and a trestle table and then transferred to a cowshed. Soon the venture became a restaurant, and then evolved into a chain of oyster bars. **2002**

9 - Gordon McQueen, 25-year-old Scotland central defender, becomes Britain's first £500,000 footballer in a transfer from Leeds United to Manchester United. **1978**

10 - Robert the Bruce murdered John 'Red' Comyn in Dumfries. Bruce met Red Comyn at the old Greyfriars Church and killed him at the high altar and Bruce began his bid for the throne. **1306**

10 - Lord Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, assassinated. **1567**

10 - Death of Lord Joseph Lister, pioneer of surgery and antiseptic at the University of Glasgow and Glasgow and Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. **1912**

11 - Tolls are removed from the Erskine Bridge, the Tay Road Bridge, and the Forth Road Bridge. These bridges were the last three remaining toll bridges in Scotland. **2008**

11 - Coldest temperature ever recorded in Scotland, -27.2 (-16.96F) at Braemar. **1895**

11 - Author and politician John Buchan died in Canada. **1940**

12 - Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the world-wide savings bank movement, died near Ruthwell. **1846**

12 - George Heriot, goldsmith to King James VI and founder of Heriot's School, died. The school was originally founded as Heriot's Hospital, Edinburgh. He is thought to be the inspiration for the character, Georgie Heriot, in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Fortunes of Nigel*. **1624**

13 - Kenneth MacAlpin, King of Dalriada and the Picts, died at Forteviot. **858**

13 - Massacre of 38 of the Clan Macdonald by government order at Glencoe. **1692**



13 - Scottish Youth Hostel Association formed. **1931**

14 - Mary Queen of Scots meets Lord Darnley for the first time. They married in July 1565. **1565**

14 - Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone (Patent 174461). Two hours after it was lodged, his rival, Elisha Gray, applied for a similar patent. Bell's was granted. **1876**



14 - Dolly the sheep died. Dolly was a female domestic sheep, and the first cloned mammal (at the Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh) ever to be created from an adult cell, her birth was of huge excitement both to the scientific world and to the public. **2003**

15 - Decimal currency introduced, abandoning 12 pennies to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound. **1971**

15 - The Caledonian Railway company opened. The Caledonian Railway ran trains from London to Glasgow and was in fierce competition with the Edinburgh based North British Railway. **1848**

16 - Government forces under Lord Loudon attempted to capture Prince Charles Edward Stewart at Moy Hall. **1746**

16 - Scottish crime and science fiction writer Iain Banks was born in Dunfermline, Fife. He was named one of The 50 greatest British writers since 1945 and sadly Banks died from cancer on June 9, 2013. **1954**



16 - Scottish actor, author and artist John Cairney was born in Glasgow. Best known for his one-man shows on Robert Burns, Cairney also starred in BBC's *This Man Craig* and films *A Night to Remember*, *Cleopatra* and *Jason and the Argonauts*. **1930**

17 - King James V passed a law which recognised Scotland's gipsies. **1540**

17 - James Renwick, last Covenanter to be executed. **1688**



18 - Glasgow's Queen Street train station opened. Originally called Glasgow Dundas Street the station was built by Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway to link the thriving city of Glasgow to the nation's capital. The station and line took four years to build. A £120m redevelopment has taking place to see the station into the future. **1842**

19 - James Douglas retook Roxburgh Castle and razed it to the ground. The Black Douglas, as he was known, and sixty men gained access to the castle by climbing the castle walls using hooked scaling ladders. **1314**

20 - King James I murdered in Perth by a group led by Sir Robert Graham. **1437**

20 - Orkney and Shetland annexed from Norway. **1472**

20 - Gordon Brown, former UK Prime Minister (2007-2010), born in Giffnock, Renfrewshire. **1951**

21 - Intercity railway between Glasgow and Edinburgh opened by Queen Victoria. **1842**

21 - Eric Liddell, *Chariots of Fire* athlete, winner of 1924 Olympics 400 metres, died in Japanese internment camp in China. **1945**

22 - David II died at Edinburgh Castle. **1371**

22 - King Robert II crowned. **1371**

23 - Battle of Roslin in which a Scots army of 8,000, led by Sir Simon Fraser, Sinclair of Rosslyn and the Red Comyn, surprised an English army of 30,000 led by Sir John Seagrave and defeated them. **1303**

23 - James Herriot (pen name of James Alfred Wight), author of *All Creatures Great and Small*, died aged 78. **1995**



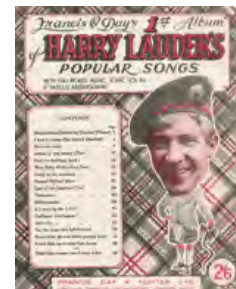
24 - Steam train, the *Flying Scotsman* went into service with London and North Eastern Railway (LNER), on the London (King's Cross) to Edinburgh route. The train was the first and the first to reach speeds of 100 mph. **1923**

24 - Footballer Denis Law who played for Manchester United and Scotland, born. **1940**

25 - Bishop Henry Wardlaw established St Andrews as a university although it was not officially inaugurated until 4 February 1414 when a Bull of Foundation was promulgated by Pope Benedict XIII. **1412**

26 - Philip van der Straten, a Fleming, was granted Scots naturalisation and set up a factory in Kelso, thus starting the Border woollen industry. **1672**

26 - Robert Watson Watt demonstrated radar for the first time. **1935**



26 - Entertainer and singer/song writer Sir Harry Lauder died. Lauder had become the highest-paid performer in the world, and was the first British artist to sell a million records. **1950**

27 - Battle of Ancrum Moor in which Scottish forces, led by Earl of Douglas, defeated an English army twice their size. **1545**

28 - Second National Covenant signed in Greyfriars Churchyard. The document was a direct response to Charles I's attempts to introduce a Book of Common Prayer across the whole of Britain, as Presbyterians were incensed that the General Assembly had not been consulted. **1638**

29 - The famous Glasgow theatre, The Pavilion, celebrated its opening performance. **1904**

29 - Patrick Hamilton was burned at St Andrews for the crime of heresy. Hamilton is regarded as the first Protestant martyr in Scotland. After studying in Europe, where he came into contact with the ideas of Martin Luther, Hamilton began to preach Protestant ideas in Scotland, leading to his arrest. Hamilton was sentenced to be burned at the stake but, horrifically, his inexperienced executioners underestimated how much kindling would be needed, and the fire petered out with Hamilton badly burned but alive. In all it took six hours for the flames to consume Hamilton. **1528**

TENEMENT TALES

By: Brian Diamond

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

Fish and the Landed Gentry Vol. 2



Hopefully dear reader you will by now have read my previous fishy story on salmon and the landed gentry (*Tenement Tales, Fish and the Landed Gentry Vol. 1, the Scottish Banner*, November, 2021), so time for salmon story number two, a light hearted tale. I had grown up, got married, left Springburn and was on holiday with my wife and two sons on the Isle Of Bute (Rothesay to the uninitiated).

While my wife and family played and had a picnic by the water's edge, I spent practically the whole day out on the rocks fishing, and much to my son's disgust had caught absolutely nothing. There must have been close to fifty fishing enthusiasts out on the rocks with me that day, and apart from the odd cod, we caught nothing of interest. Eventually the tide started to come in forcing

even the most diehard fisherman of the rocks where we assembled by our cars at the kerb side to pack our gear and call it a day.

King salmon

Suddenly there was quite a commotion as a wee lad appeared, he was walking along the pavement and had his finger hooked in the mouth of an enormous salmon, the tail of the fish was dragging on the ground easily a foot behind him, I don't think that I have ever seen a bigger salmon at that point in my life. All the fishermen coming off the rocks stared in wonder and envy at the sight of this kid with such a huge fish, it was a sight to see, we had fished all day for nothing and here is this kid walking along with a king salmon.

So as the crowd gathers around to observe this wonder, the local police

constable appears in the middle of the gathering and immediately demands to know where this fish came from. "Ah caught it" says the wee lad, "You did not" says the constable, "Ah DID SO", screams the wee lad right back. "OK, where did you catch it then?", says the constable. "Over there in that pond" says the lad, pointing to a shallow kiddies wading pond that fills up when the tide comes in. "So, where's your fishing rod?" says the Constable. "Ah did'nae need wan" says the kid, "AH HA, if you don't have a fishing rod, how could you have caught this fish?", says the constable.

Fishy tales from the tenements

Clearly the constable thought that with his deductive reasoning powers that this was game, set and match, but happily, not the case. With a shy wee smile the lad says, "Ah hit it oan the heid wi a brick", this response elicits gales of laughter and bravo's from the assembled fisherman. "Where are you from son?" asks the constable, "Springburn in Glasgow" says the lad, I liked him already, "I'm doon here oan ma holiday". "Do you have a fishing license?", asks the constable, "Naw ah don't" says the lad, "Well in that case, I will have to confiscate that fish as it legally belongs to the Earl of Bute, he owns this island and I will have to return it to him", said the constable.

By this time a large crowd had gathered, and they were getting uglier by the minute. Upon hearing the constable's verdict, the members of the fishing fraternity treated the constable to a lesson with variety of alphabetic f words, none of which referred to fish. Some even questioned the constable's parenthood. So, with discretion being the better part of valour, the constable, made a wise decision and decided to overlook the fact that the kid had no rod or license to catch this fish. What the kid did have was an ugly crowd of friends who were keen to prevent the constable from purloining the kids' fish, under the guise of the law. The constable beat a hasty retreat, with a warning to the kid of "Don't do that again", as if he ever could, it was a million to one long shot.

That said, I have to admit that the following day I wandered around to the magic wading pool with a few rocks in my hand just in case and was not surprised to find a few of my fellow fishermen who appeared to have the same intention as me, just in case. For a happy ending, one of the fishermen took the kid and his fish over to the local hotel where they sold it to the chef and the kid went home to his parents with a substantial holiday cash bonus. Two true fishy tales from the tenements, and not one of them about the size of the one that got away this has to be a fisherman's record of some sort.

Tartan honouring nursing is woven with gratitude



Jamie Smith and Georgia Duffy.

A tartan incorporating the colours of Scotland's national nurse uniform has been created by nursing students and is the first of its kind to celebrate the profession. The woven cloth features shades of blue with burgundy detail to echo the official outfits worn by NHS nurses, healthcare assistants and student nurses across the country. The tartan was conceived by Nursing Studies students at the University of Edinburgh, home to the UK's first nursing degree, the UK's first nursing research unit, and Europe's first Professor of Nursing Studies. The Nursing Now - Edinburgh Nursing Studies tartan symbolises identity, kinship and solidarity for nurses, according to its registration with the Scottish Register of Tartans.

Celebrating nursing

The colourful project has been developed in partnership with Nursing Now – a global campaign established in 2018 to promote nursing and its vital role in improving health and transforming healthcare – and as part of the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, which was designated by the World Health Organisation in 2020 to celebrate and enhance nursing. Jamie Smith, a nurse at NHS Lothian and a PhD student at the University,

and Georgia Duffy, a former student at Edinburgh and also a nurse in practice at NHS Lothian, initiated the idea for the tartan and its design and said: "Tartan is such a symbol of kinship which is synonymous with Scotland. We thought by creating this special tartan just for nurses it could help recognise their contribution - a way to support those who are always there to support us."

A range of tartan merchandise – including facemasks, lambswool scarfs, shawls, stoles, wraps and tartan ties have been developed. People can also show their support for nurses with a charity tartan ribbon available for purchase on the Nursing tartan website. Georgia Duffy, NHS Lothian nurse said: "Capturing the essence of nurses and nursing was paramount to us on the creation of the tartan. Using the national uniform colours achieves this through highlighting the diversity within the workforce. Anyone can wear the tartan and we hope everyone will and can."

Sales of the products will help raise funds for projects which will equip nurses and midwives to tackle global healthcare challenges. Proceeds will also support The Burdett Trust for Nursing, a charitable trust which funds a range of projects to empower nurses and make significant improvements to the patient care environment. The Burdett Trust provides support for the Edinburgh Global Nursing Initiative – a University project launched in 2020 which connects nurses worldwide to share research, innovations and knowledge to boost people's health outcomes. The global initiative's pioneering projects have a focus on innovating nursing and midwifery in areas where health systems are affected by challenges such as disease outbreaks, poverty and conflict.

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Scotch Lamb Broth

Ingredients:

450g/16oz. Scotch lamb shanks
1.2 litres/5 cups cold water
40g/1.5 oz. pearl barley
1 potato, cut into 5mm, dice
1 carrot, cut into 5mm, dice
1 onion, cut into 5mm, dice
1 leek, cut into 5mm, dice
2 tbsp. chopped parsley
100g/3.5 oz. fresh or frozen peas
1 stick celery

Method:

Put the lamb shanks and the water into a large pan. Season and add the stock cube. Bring to the boil, then cover and simmer very slowly for about 1 hour 30 minutes, until the meat is very tender. Lift the meat out onto a plate and set aside to cool slightly.

Add the pearl barley to the pan, bring back to the boil and simmer for 10 minutes. Add the potato and simmer for another 10 minutes. Then add the carrot, celery, onion and leek and simmer for a further 15 minutes. If at this stage the soup looks a bit too thick, add a little more water and bring back to a simmer.

Cut the meat from the cooked lamb shank into 5mm dice and add to the soup with the peas and the chopped parsley. Simmer for 5 minutes, check the seasoning and serve - it tastes even better if it's left to cool and then reheated the next day. It also freezes well.

Steak Balmoral

Ingredients:

4 rib-eye steaks
30g/1oz. butter
1 shallot, chopped
4 tbsp. Scotch whisky
1 tsp. coarse grain mustard
150ml/¼ pint beef stock
110g/4oz. sliced mushrooms
290ml/½ pint double cream
handful of fresh parsley, chopped
salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Method:

Pan fry the steaks to desired 'doneness' and keep warm. In a separate pan, melt the butter. Sauté the chopped shallot until soft. Add the whisky to the pan and carefully set it alight. When the flame goes out add the grain mustard, stock and mushrooms. Add the cream and bring to the boil. Simmer gently until the sauce has reduced by half, stirring from time to time. Add the chopped parsley just before serving. Season well. Pour over steaks to serve.

Cullen Skink Bridies



Ingredients:

250g/9oz. strong bread flour, unbleached
75g/2.5 oz. plain flour
1 pinch salt
175g/6oz. unsalted butter, cubed
3 tbsp. cold water
For the filling:
500g/18oz. smoked haddock (can substitute with cod or halibut) fillets
300ml/1¼ cup milk
20g/.5oz. chopped flat leaf parsley, stalks retained
25g/1oz. unsalted butter
25g1oz. plain flour
2 tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 unwaxed lemons, grated zest
1 pinch black pepper

Method:

First make/prepare the pastry. Sift the flours and a pinch of salt into a food processor. Add the butter and process until incorporated. Add just enough cold water to bind into a stiff dough. Gather dough into your hands, wrap in cling film and chill for at least 1 hour.

Make the filling. Place the smoked haddock in a pan with milk and parsley stalks.

Bring slowly to the boil, bubble for one minute, then remove from the heat and cover. Leave for 30 minutes or so then strain through a sieve over a jug, reserving the fish liquor.

Flake the fish. Melt the butter in a pan, add the flour, stir for one minute, then add the reserved fish liquor. Cook, whisking constantly, over a medium heat to low heat until smooth. Stir in the mustard, lemon zest, chopped parsley leaves, flaked haddock and season with salt and freshly ground pepper. Cool. Divide the pastry into four and roll each piece into an oval. Divide the filling into four and spoon on to one half of each pastry oval, leaving a border. Dampen the edges and fold the top half of the pastry over the filling to enclose it. Trim the edges into a neat horseshoe shape. 'Dunt' and 'nick' by pressing down the edges to seal to give a nicely finished look. Using a sharp knife, make a small hole for the steam to escape in the top of each bridie. Place on a lightly buttered baking sheet and chill or an hour or so. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Bake the bridies for 40 minutes, or until a pale golden brown. Serve with a rocket or watercress salad.

Deep-filled Lemon Meringue Pie

Ingredients:

For the pastry
200g/7oz plain flour, plus extra for dusting
1 tsp. caster sugar
125g/4½oz cold butter, cut into cubes
1 free-range egg, beaten
For the lemon filling:
50g/1¾oz cornflour
350ml/12fl oz. cold water
200g/7oz. caster sugar
4 lemons, zest and juice
1 free-range egg plus 3 free-range eggs yolks
For the meringue topping:
3 free-range eggs whites
175g/6oz caster sugar
½ tsp. vanilla extract

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Grease a 20cm/8in fluted flan tin. To make the pastry, place the flour, sugar and the butter in a food processor and pulse until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

With the motor running, gradually add the beaten egg and blend until the mixture forms a ball. Do not over blend or the pastry will be tough. Tip onto a floured board, knead briefly, then roll out to a 5mm/¼in thickness, turning the pastry and flouring the surface regularly. Use it to line the prepared flan tin. Trim the edges neatly, prick the base lightly with a fork and chill the pastry for 30 minutes. While the pastry is resting, make the filling. Put the cornflour in a small bowl and mix with enough of the cold water to make a thin paste then set aside. Pour the remaining water into a large saucepan and add the sugar, lemon zest and juice. (You should have around 225ml/8fl oz. lemon juice.) Heat gently until the sugar dissolves then bring to the boil. Reduce the heat slightly and quickly stir in the cornflour mixture – the sauce should thicken immediately.

Cook over a low heat for three minutes, stirring until thickened and glossy. Remove from the heat and cool for five minutes. Whisk the egg yolks with the whole egg until smooth, then whisk vigorously into the sauce. Set aside to cool for 25 minutes. Put the pastry case on a sturdy baking tray, line with crumpled baking parchment and fill with baking beans. Bake blind for 15 minutes then carefully take out of the oven and remove the paper and beans. Return to the oven for a further 3-4 minutes until the surface of the pastry is dry. Remove from the oven and reduce the temperature to 150C/ 300F/Gas 2. For the meringue topping, whisk the egg whites in a large bowl until stiff then gradually whisk in half the sugar. Add the vanilla extract and whisk in the remaining sugar. Stir the cooled lemon filling and pour into the pastry case. Cover very gently with large dessert spoonful's of the meringue topping, starting at the sides then working your way into the middle, and gently swirl the top. Bake for 25 minutes or until the meringue is set and very lightly browned. Leave to cool before removing from the tin.

Scottish Raspberry Romance



Ingredients:

1 shot scotch whisky
1 shot Chambord Rose Champagne

Method:

Pour whisky and Chambord into a flute glass, then add in rose champagne to fill. Delicious!

Auld Lang Syne ritual lodged in Scotland's past



It is a custom observed worldwide by millions every New Year, now research has uncovered why revellers link arms when they sing *Auld Lang Syne*. A study of Robert Burns' best-loved song links the practice to freemasonry, where singing with arms crossed and hands joined was a parting ritual in many Lodges. University of Edinburgh musicologist Morag Grant, who has just published a book about the song, spotted the Masonic connection while sifting the archives of Glasgow's Mitchell Library. A newspaper report of an Ayrshire Lodge's Burns Supper in 1879, describes the song being sung as members

formed 'the circle of unity' — a common masonic ritual, also called the 'chain of union'.

Global popularity

Dr Grant says the tradition of singing the song at times of parting, and doing so with crossed hands, emerges in the mid-19th century – not just among Freemasons, but in other fraternal organisations too. The Masonic link is hardly surprising, according to Dr Grant. Burns was a Freemason all his adult life and the organisation was instrumental in promoting his work during his lifetime and after his death. Dr Grant has studied

a range of historical sources – including written accounts, newspaper reports, theatre playbills, printed music and early recordings – to illuminate the song's path to global popularity.

"*Auld Lang Syne's* sentiments didn't just resonate with Freemasons", says Dr Grant. "Some of the earliest reports of the song's use at parting come from American college graduations in the 1850s." Within decades, the use of the song at graduation had crossed to Japan, where the well-known tune — known as Hotaru no hikari—is still played at the close of business in some shops.

Dr Grant's study shows that *Auld Lang Syne's* global fame predates the invention of sound recording and radio. Many commentators had previously linked its rise to the dawn of the broadcast era. Historical analysis suggests otherwise. In 1877, Alexander Graham Bell used it to demonstrate the telephone, and in 1890 it was one of the first songs recorded on Emil Berliner's gramophone. The song's use at New Year emerged around the same time, principally through exiled Scots gathering outside St Paul's Cathedral in London, but also expatriates living abroad. By 1929, the tradition was so well established internationally that a line from the song was displayed on the electronic ticker at New Year's celebrations in Times Square. The Scouts too played a key role in spreading its fame. The song was sung at the end of the first World Scout Jamboree in 1920 and versions in French, German, Greek and Polish soon followed.

Song's origins

Dr Grant's book, *Auld Lang Syne: A Song and its Culture*, also explores the song's origins and Burns' role in creating the modern song from older models. The book examines the part played by his publisher, George Thomson, in picking the tune generally sung today, which is not, in fact, the one Burns intended. *Auld Lang Syne* quickly became popular with Scottish audience when it was published in this form in 1799 and soon became well known elsewhere.

A key step in this process was its inclusion in an opera called *Rob Roy Macgregor*, or *Auld Lang Syne* – which premiered in London in 1818. Before long, it was being performed in North America. Says Dr Grant, who's based in the Reid School of Music at Edinburgh College of Art: "It's remarkable how this song, written in a language which even most Scots don't fully understand, has become so synonymous with New Year the world over. The many traditions and rituals associated with the song – as well as its simple, singable tune – are key to understanding its phenomenal spread, and why we still sing it today. *Auld Lang Syne* is a song about the ties that bind us to others across the years and even though its appeal is now global, it's very much rooted in the world Burns inhabited," says Dr Grant.

***Auld Lang Syne: A Song and its Culture* by M J Grant is published by OpenBook Publishers and is available to read free online at: www.openbookpublishers.com/product/1253**

Earlybird tickets on sale now for CelticFest 2022



CelticFest organisers are pleased to announce that Early Bird tickets are now available for the CelticFest Gathering, the festival's main ticketed event to be held on Saturday 26 March 2022 at the Warwick Showgrounds. For the very reasonable price of \$15 for adults and \$5 for school age children, festival-goers will be able to immerse themselves in a full day of events to celebrate all things Celtic, including highland games heavy events, pipe band competition, Irish dancing, Highland dancing competition, clan gathering, Celtic choir, medieval village,

Celtic-themed markets, and music from bands such as Limerick. In the evening, Irish band The Gathering will get everyone up on their feet and dancing. CelticFest Gathering tickets are available at www.eventbrite.com.au.

A celebration of the Southern Downs' rich Scottish and Irish heritage

CelticFest is a celebration of the Southern Downs' rich Scottish and Irish heritage and continues on from the Warwick Caledonian Society's 150th Anniversary celebrations in March 2021.

"Those who attended the 150th celebrations in March 2021 will have some idea of what to expect," said Alexander Manfield, the Society's chieftain. "From medieval re-enactments to marching bands, from highland games to highland dancing, from pipe bands to Celtic rock bands, from highland coos (cows) to

haggis, it will be like the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo right here in Warwick." The Warwick business community will also experience the benefits of CelticFest, with accommodation providers already receiving bookings for the event, Manfield added. "The Warwick Showgrounds is going to transform into a sea of tartan, armour, music, dance and traditional food," he said. "This is going to be a brilliant festival."

CelticFest organisers are also delighted to announce that Warwick Sandstone, Warwick Friendly Society, Proterra and Ironside Industry have committed to providing sponsorship for CelticFest. "It is our pleasure to be able to contribute towards an exciting new festival, CelticFest – another reason to put our great town of Warwick on the must-visit map," said Jill Bockman, from Warwick Sandstone. "Warwick Sandstone wishes the CelticFest planning committee good luck for an exciting and great outcome."

Celtic-themed events

In addition to the main Saturday event, CelticFest Community events will be held on Friday 25 March and Sunday 27 March. Some of these events will be free, and some will have their own ticketing. The CelticFest Community events will be held across many of the towns and villages in the region including Warwick, Killarney, Allora and Clifton, and will celebrate the area's Celtic heritage, music, art, dance and natural beauty including workshops, performances and tours.

Club Warwick RSL, a key CelticFest supporter, will host toe tappin' Irish band Limerick (the Saturday after St Patrick's)

Day, and is planning other Celtic-themed events leading up to CelticFest. Southern Downs Steam Railway will offer a trip to Clifton on Sunday 27th March, which will include lunch at O'Shanley's Irish Bar and Restaurant. The Warwick Art Gallery is holding a Celtic-themed art exhibition, titled 'Cruthaich' (Gaelic for 'create') between March 3-April 19, 2022, for which it is currently inviting submissions from artists; submissions close 11 February 2022.

Meanwhile Scots PGC College will run a Pipe Band competition, also on Sunday 27th March, and Glengallan Homestead and Warwick's Pringle Cottage will host roaming pipers while celebrating the region's history. Warwick Parkrun will host a Scottish-themed parkrun on the morning of Saturday 26th, and is inviting those in town for CelticFest to get their tartan on for a running start to the event. This is just a taste of what CelticFest visitors can expect from what is sure to be an event that will have something to suit everyone's interest. CelticFest is assisted by the Local Event Funding Program (LEFP), which is a temporary funding program facilitated by Southern Downs Regional Council and jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments as a component of the 2019 Queensland Bushfires Community Recovery Package under Category C of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Information about CelticFest and the CelticFest Community events will be placed on the CelticFest website at www.celticfestqld.com.au, and also on the CelticFest Warwick Facebook page as they are confirmed.



Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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

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

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

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



Clan Cumming Society of the United States

Website: www.clancumming.us
Email us: info@clancumming.us
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Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

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

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

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

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

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

CLAN BELL

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

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

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

Applications may be made online: clandavidsonaus@gmail.com or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P, P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill11@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

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

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:
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President 5561 Earl Young Road
1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Bloomington, IN 47408
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Kirwan, Qld, 4817
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m.edmiston@bigpond.com

Clan Gregor Society

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Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balgihidder,
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New England,
Pacific North West,
Western U.S.
and Southeast Chapters

www.clangregor.org
For membership contact Keith MacGregor
PO Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876
kmac1@optonline.net
Peter Lawrie, Secretary
6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL, Scotland

National Clan Cameron Australia 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
secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com
www.clan-cameron.org.au

Clan Donald Queensland

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

There is no joy without Clan Donald

Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

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

Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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

THE CLAN CAMPBELL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

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

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

Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

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

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Valerie McDougall
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Contact: Commander Des Ross at

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Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

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Park Ridge QLD 4125

genealogist_clan_sutherland_australia@hotmail.com

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Loch Lomond - A story of Culloden



Robert King at Culloden.

The song *Loch Lomond* is well-known by Scots. Most of us learnt it as children. The lyrics are not immediately clear; it is a lament about “me and my true love” but it does not say who they were. The story behind the song is true. “Me and my true love” were Robert King and his wife Janet Kissock who lived in Renfrewshire from 1673 to 1746. They courted in 1698 - 1700 and married in 1700, to be parted by his death 46 years later.

Robert King's baptism was recorded on 3rd January 1673 in the Old Parish Registers of the parish of Kilbarchan [ref. O.P.R. 568/1053 Kilbarchan] as “Robert son lawful to James King and Agnes Ffairy”. His parents were from the Dudwick estate at Ellon in Aberdeenshire. They had to leave Dudwick because they belonged to the Scots Episcopalian church, were Tory by political persuasion and their families had supported King Charles I in the Civil Wars of 1638-1649. The King family of Ellon were attainted specifically by a 1644 Act of the Scots Covenanter (anti-Royalist) parliament because General James King, Lord Ythan, had led the Royalist army centre at the Battle of Marston Moor in 1644. Also in that Royalist army were James's brothers William and John, sons of the King family of Barra in the Garioch district of Aberdeenshire. That William King was the grandfather of James King who married Agnes Ffairy.

In 1652 Cromwell led an English army into Aberdeenshire to kill Royalists or drive them from their lands. James King and Agnes Ffairy fled before Cromwell's forces. With other Episcopalians and Tories, they moved south to Renfrewshire, a Whig area where Cromwell would be unlikely to seek them. Many settled around Paisley, near Glasgow. The local Presbyterians were generous in letting them worship in one of the side chapels of the Abbey in Paisley. This was named the Non-Conformist Chapel to disguise its congregation. The Episcopalian families recorded their baptisms and marriages in the Old Parish Registers there for generations. These Episcopalian records were thought by genealogists to be lost until a few years ago, when the current author discovered them hidden in plain sight in the Abbey registers.

Robert King grew up on the family farm in Kilbarchan with his father James King, his mother Agnes Ffairy, his younger brothers William and James, and his younger sister Janet. Robert is recorded as attending

Kilbarchan Kirk on 30th June 1686. Members of the extended King family lived around the Clyde, with other Episcopalian families that had sought refuge in the 1650s. In childhood, the King children roamed the farmlands along the Clyde and later the hilly country north of the river, out to the Highland hills around Loch Lomond, where the boys hunted the wild red deer.

Janet Kissock

Janet Kissock was born around 1680 but no record of her birth has been found. She was the daughter of George Kissock of Cumnock in Ayresshire. He later moved his family to Auchinleck in Ayresshire.

In 1698 Robert King met and became enamoured of Janet Kissock. In 1699 Robert aged 26 and Janet about 19 were courting as “true loves”, roaming in the gloaming along the River Clyde and the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond. They married in her family church in Auchinleck on 20th August 1700. They lived in Cumnock, Ayresshire and later in Beith, Renfrewshire, where Robert developed a farm and a mill. They had three sons, George born 1702, William born 1705 and James born 1707, and a daughter Janet born 1709.

Politics in Scotland became polarised between the Whigs in power in Edinburgh, supported by the Hanoverian government in London, and the Jacobites wanting restoration of a Stuart King, “the King over the water”, James VIII of Scots. In 1715 came the first major Jacobite rising, “the Fifteen”. Robert was a Tory, a Royalist and a Jacobite, like all his family, so he took his weapons and went to join the Jacobite army raised by John, Earl of Mar. Robert was then aged 42. He enlisted in Mar's army and fought in the Battle of Sheriffmuir on 13th November 1715. The battle was indecisive and the surviving Jacobites retired. Robert went home to Beith and his soulmate, Janet Kissock.

Meanwhile, King James VIII's son Charles Edward Stuart, remembered as Bonnie Prince Charlie, campaigned in France for a Stuart restoration. He pressed King Louis XV of France for financial and military support.

In 1745, Prince Charlie landed in western Scotland, raised his banner at Glenfinnan and declared he had come to reclaim his father's throne. Robert, then aged 72, took his weapons and joined the Prince's cause, enlisting in the Atholl Brigade being raised at Blair Atholl by Lord George Murray.

Because of his experience, Robert was appointed the Brigade's (only) Sergeant, or Training Officer. As such he taught the three battalions of the Atholl Brigade battle tactics, especially the Highland Charge, which involved a lot more than is commonly thought. Robert taught the clansmen to run forward, brandishing their weapons and shouting warlike slogans, until they were 20 feet from the Sassenach (English) line, then fire their muskets and pistols at the English, throw those weapons as hard as they could to injure the Sassenachs, then drop down as the English returned fire over them. Then, when the Sassenachs were reloading, Robert would shout the order for the Atholls to stand up, form wedges and hack into the Sassenachs with their broadswords and dirks.

Culloden

Robert is listed in the muster roll of the Prince's army as King but he took the *nom-de-guerre* of MacRae, the maiden name of his first daughter-in-law, because the King family had started to grow wealthy again, running ships from Port Glasgow to the American colonies, and he feared if he was captured under his real name the English would take vengeance on the family business.

Robert led the Atholl Brigade in the charge at Prestonpans on 21st September 1745, when General Cope's English army was routed by the Scots. Robert continued serving the Prince in the Jacobites' march into England in late 1745, when they reached Derby, and then the return march to Scotland. Later, Robert led the Atholl Brigade in another highland charge at Falkirk Muir on 17th January 1746, when the Scots defeated the Sassenachs again. Things seemed to be going the Scots' way until the English Prince William, Duke of Cumberland, led a large, heavily armed English and Hanoverian army into Scotland to suppress the Rising. The Scots and Hanoverian armies came together at Culloden moor just east of Inverness on 16th April 1746.

At Culloden, Cumberland declared he would give the Jacobites “No Quarter”. Prince Charlie's generals argued about whether to fight that day and if so the best tactics. Lord George Murray ordered Robert to lead the Atholl Brigade onto the moor on the right wing, the position of honour, while the generals continued arguing.

Robert formed up the Atholl Brigade's second battalion on the moor and took his position in the middle of the front rank. They stood for twenty minutes while the English artillery bombarded them. Finally, Lord George Murray gave the order to charge. Robert led the Atholl's in a highland charge down the right side of the battlefield. First, the Atholls came under musket fire from treacherous Campbells hidden behind walls on their right. Then the Atholls came under volley fire from Wolfe's English infantry drawn up perpendicular to the main Sassenach line, so as to pour musket fire into the attacking Scots from their right flank. Robert led the Atholls into Wolfe's regiment, and they did great slaughter there. Then Robert led them on into Barrel's and Munro's regiments of the main English line, and the Atholls did great slaughter again, although at the expense of heavy Jacobite casualties.

Robert fought with his broadsword and dirk for forty minutes, no mean feat for a man of 73 years. When he realised

the battle was going against the Scots, Robert led an orderly withdrawal and the Atholl Brigade, or what was left of it, left the battlefield in good order with pipes playing, then dispersed into the Highlands.

A love bond

After Culloden, redcoat Sassenach troops scoured the Highlands to hunt out Jacobites. They ravaged and killed Highlanders, whether Jacobites or not, killed their livestock and burnt their dwellings. In July 1746 Robert was captured and taken to Carlisle Castle in northern England, where he was confined in the dungeons with about 200 other Jacobite prisoners-of-war.

The English feared another Jacobite rising and wanted to ensure there were not enough Highlanders to form another Jacobite army. Initially they decided to execute all Jacobite prisoners-of-war in their keeping, as they had done with the Scots wounded and captured at Culloden. However, they also wanted to reach a political settlement with the Scots, so they decided to execute one in ten of their Jacobite prisoners and let the others go free. Because of his age, 73 years, Robert volunteered to be one of those executed, so allowing a younger man to go home.

On 18th October 1746 Robert and nineteen other Jacobite prisoners-of-war were taken from Carlisle Castle to nearby Harraby Hill. There they were executed by the atrocious English way of killing “traitors”, being hung, drawn and quartered. After the appalling process, their heads were placed on spikes over the castle gateway and their quartered body parts were sent to be displayed in four distant locations in England.

Robert's execution inspired the words of the folksong *Loch Lomond*. The young Jacobite whom Robert saved “took the high road” (that is, he walked home) and Robert “took the low road” (was killed) but Robert was “in Scotland” (in spirit) “afore ye” (before the younger man reached home); but “me and my true love (Janet Kissock) would never meet again on the bonnie, bonnie banks o' Loch Lomond” where they had courted 46 years before.

Thus, *Loch Lomond* is a love song, about a love bond that lasted almost 50 years. It is also a lament, about the severing of that bond by the Sassenachs when Robert and Janet might have lived together for many more years. It is a lament too for the Highland culture crushed by the Sassenachs after Culloden in the bloody aftermath of the battle and then the devastating Highland Clearances.

The author is the five-greats grandson of Robert King who led the charge at Culloden. He is immensely proud to be of Scots heritage and, in a sense, a son of Culloden, and is profoundly moved whenever he hears the tune Loch Lomond.



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

FEBRUARY 2022

Robert Burns Club of Melbourne

– Annual Burns Supper

5, Melbourne, VIC

This event has been cancelled due to Covid. Info: 0407 051 748 or email: mjdllynch@bigpond.net.au Richmond Highland Gathering

19, Richmond, TAS

In observance of the current Tasmanian COVID-19 restrictions, 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 have made the difficult decision to cancel the event for 2022. Info: www.facebook.com/StAndrewSocietyHobartTasmaniaAustralia

Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh

26, Inglewood, WA

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

Robert Burns Club of Melbourne – AGM

27, Melbourne, VIC

Annual General Meeting followed by discussion and presentations on the life and works of Robert Burns. Info: 0416 271 573 or email: rbcmlb@gmail.com

Learn Scottish Country Dancing with Scots on The Rocks

27 - April 11

This eight-week course is for new dancers who wish to learn steps and basic dance formations that are the building blocks of Scottish Country dancing. You will be introduced to Jigs and Reels and will learn a series of lively, beginner friendly dances. Cost \$100pp at Fort Street Public School (temporary location), Wentworth Park, Wattle, St. Ultimo. Info: 0435 154 433 or www.sotr.org.au/beginner

MARCH 2022

Scots Day Out Bendigo

5, Bendigo, VIC

The SDO committee reluctantly has made the decision to postpone SDO 2022 to the spring 2022, new dates to follow. Info: www.scotsdayout.com

Liverpool Plains Military Tattoo

5, Quirindi, NSW

This is an exciting free community event by the Liverpool Plains Shire Council for the community of the Liverpool Plains and greater North West region, with pipe bands, Scottish dancers, entertainment and more at Longfield Park. Info: 02 6746 1755 or www.facebook.com/LiverpoolPlainsMilitaryTattoo

Melbourne Highland Games & Celtic Festival

20, Croydon, VIC

Pipe bands, Clans, Scottish vendors, entertainment and more at Eastfield Park. Info: www.facebook.com/MelbourneHighlandGames

Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh

26, Inglewood, WA

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

CelticFest

26 - 27, Warwick, QLD

An annual Celtic Festival featuring: Highland Strong Man Games, Irish & Highland Dancing, Pipe Bands, Markets, Massed Highland Bands, Traditional Ale & Whisky Tasting, Steam Train, Pipe Band Comps, Meeting of the Clans and much more. Info: www.facebook.com/CelticFestWarwick

APRIL 2022

Bundanoon Highland Gathering

2, Bundanoon, NSW

Australia's largest Scottish gathering with pipe bands, entertainment, Clans, dancers, parade and stalls in the beautiful NSW Southern Highlands. Info: www.brigadoon.org.au

Brisbane Boys' College Highland Gathering

2, Toowong, QLD

BBC Scottish Highland Gathering is a great FREE and fun event located at Brisbane Boys' College. It has Pipe Band, Dancers, Drum Majors, Scottish Stalls and food and drink. Info: www.facebook.com/ScotlandHG

Champion of Champions 2022

9-10, Launceston, TAS

International Highland dancing event hosted by Highland Dance Tasmania for the ABHDI. This elite Highland Dancing Event is open to all levels of Highland Dancers from Australia and the World. Info: www.highlanddancetasmania.com

Maclean Highland Gathering

15-16, Maclean, NSW

Listen to the stirring sounds of the pipes and drums and a variety of solo competitions. Highland dancing, Scottish stalls and more at Maclean Showground. Info: www.macleanhIGHLANDGATHERING.COM.AU

Australian Celtic Festival

28-May 1, Glen Innes, NSW

A weekend of Celtic music, spirit and friendship at the Australian Standing Stones. 2022 celebrating the Year of Brittany, Cornwall and Wales. Info: www.australiancelticfestival.com

Caledonian Society of WA 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

New Zealand

FEBRUARY 2022

Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club Night

11, Auckland

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

The 29th Annual Paeroa

Highland Games & Tattoo

12, Paeroa

The Paeroa Pipe Bands committee have decided to cancel the 2022 Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo, with the committee choosing instead to concentrate on planning the 2023 Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo. Info: www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

Whisky and Haggis Evening

12, Paeroa

The Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo has been cancelled this year. So how about still celebrating our Scottish Heritage with a Whisky and Haggis evening.

Full meal, Haggis, Neeps and Tatties and or Ham, roast vegetables and salads at Old Paeroa Racecourse. \$35 pp with all profits going to The Paeroa Highland Games. Bookings a must. Info: Lyn 0276818610

Ashburton's Festival of Pipe Band Music

13, Ashburton

Ashburton's annual music festival beginning with the Street March on Elizabeth Street at 12:30pm, then Sets and Medleys to follow in the Domain at 1:30pm. Info: Peter MacLean petermaclean@xtra.co.nz

Canterbury Centre Piping Contest

26, Christchurch

Innovation Park - 185 Kirk Rd, Templeton. Info: kim.robertson@outlook.co.nz

Pipes In The Park

26, Wellington

Wellington's very own Highland Games-Pipe Band competition, Solo Piping, Highland dancing, Irish Dancing, Clans, Castles (of the bouncy kind) and craft markets at Waitangi Park, 107 Cable St. Info: www.facebook.com/pipesintheparkWGTM

DramFest 2022

26 - 27, Christchurch

New Zealand's largest Whisky Festival at Te Pae Christchurch Convention & Exhibition Centre. Info: www.dramfest.co.nz

MARCH 2022

Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club Night

11, Auckland

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

2022 New Zealand Pipe Band Championships

11 - 12, Auckland

The Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands' Association and 2022 National Contest Organising Committee have decided to cancel the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships due to take place in Auckland on 11/12 March 2022. This decision was made after consulting with member bands and the wider pipe band community. Info: www.nzpipebands.org.nz

APRIL 2022

Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club Night

8, Auckland

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

Te Anau Tartan Festival

16-17, Te Anau

A fantastic family festival in Te Anau, Fiordland celebrating the south's Scottish roots. Includes Piping & Dancing, & Highland Games for the whole family. The Te Anau Tartan Festival is held over Easter weekend at Real Journeys Fiordland Community Event Centre and adjacent Memorial Park. Info: www.teanautartanfestival.co.nz

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:

- 8) Nation,
- 9) Oilfield,
- 10) Galloway,
- 11) Dollar,
- 12) Ideal,
- 14) Bap,
- 15) Apron,
- 18) Chanter,
- 20) Thistle,
- 23) Glens,
- 24) Pap,
- 25) Fiery,
- 29) Crieff,
- 31) Aberdeen,
- 33) Montrose,
- 34) Tocher

Down:

- 1) Tabard,
- 2) Gill,
- 3) Knowe,
- 4) Copycat,
- 5) Clyde,
- 6) Will,
- 7) Ullapool,
- 13) Ain,
- 16) Dee,
- 17) Shy,
- 19) Hollyrood,
- 21) Ski,
- 22) Parapet,
- 26) Reeked,
- 27) Afton,
- 28) Keith,
- 30) Efts,
- 32) Dyce

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National Dance Company to headline Te Anau Tartan Festival



Reigning New Zealand Highland Dance champion Angus Hendry, of Palmerston North, will join the New Zealand Highland Dance Company at the Te Anau Tartan Festival this Easter. Photo: Chris Watson/Profocus Photography.

An elite dance company of New Zealand's champion Highland Dancers, renowned for performing innovative choreography worldwide, will perform an exclusive show at the 8th Te Anau Tartan Festival this Easter. The Highland Dance Company of New Zealand is usually in demand performing its energetic and contemporary acts at festivals, tattoos and shows around the world, but opportunities have been stalled by the Coronavirus pandemic. With assistance

from the Regional Events Fund, which was created to stimulate domestic tourism and travel between regions through holding events, the Te Anau Tartan Festival's invitation to the dance company to headline this year's event was met with overwhelming enthusiasm. The company will perform a revised version of its Heart of the Highlands show, which included Invercargill in its 2018 tour, specially adapted to suit the Te Anau town hall stage at the Fiordland Events Centre. As part of their goal to inspire and encourage other

young dancers, the company is giving those competing at the festival the exciting opportunity to apply to be part of the cast.

How exciting and innovative Highland Dancing can be

Numbers are limited and priority will be given to Southland-based dancers. Te Anau Tartan Festival convener Kirsty Pickett, who is also a Highland Dancing teacher, said the festival committee was extremely excited to be hosting the dance company, and she hoped as many people as possible would take the opportunity to come and witness the spectacle. "I can't emphasise enough just what a unique opportunity this is. While we see them in competition around the country, these dancers usually only come together as a troupe for international performances. Shows around New Zealand are rare. "Although it's grounded in our traditional technique, the choreography and costuming is contemporary and dynamic and will appeal to a wide range of people. I think people will be genuinely surprised at just how exciting and innovative Highland Dancing can be. What these dancers are doing for Highland Dancing is akin to what *Riverdance* did for Irish dancing." Past and present champions and nationally-ranked dancers make up the cast, including the reigning New Zealand Champion, Angus Hendry. Full programme details will soon be unveiled, but the Dance Company will perform two shows over the course of the Tartan festival, the first to open the festival on Friday, 15th April.

Tickets will be available on the festival website: www.teanautartanfestival.co.nz.

Alongside highland dancing and solo bagpiping competitions, other events planned are the ever-popular have-a-go highland games on Saturday, 16th April, that the whole family can take part in, along with food stalls and a market. And, for the first time, piping and Highland Dancing workshops will be offered on Sunday, 17th April, to encourage competitors and their families to stay in the region longer, and learn from some of the country's leading tutors.

For details on the Te Anau Tartan Festival see: www.teanautartanfestival.co.nz



Auckland-based Highland Dancer Imogen Grayson, currently ranked number 2 in the country, will join the cast performing the acclaimed show at the Te Anau Tartan Festival this Easter. Photo: Chris Watson/Profocus Photography.

Podcast series: The Road to Culloden

Researched and written by volunteers at Culloden Visitor Centre, 'The Road to Culloden' follows the deadly game of cat and mouse between Government and Jacobite forces, concluding with the Battle of Culloden.

Four volunteers at Culloden Visitor Centre – Peter Cowe, John Easson, Ewen Macniven and Emma Tautscher – spent months piecing together information from a variety of sources for the newly released *The Road to Culloden* podcast series. The script was then checked by the National Trust for Scotland's historians before being given the seal of approval from Professor Murray Pittock, the Trust's Scottish History advisor and a world expert on Culloden.

The 275th anniversary of the battle

Each 15-minute episode takes a different point of the story as its theme. A new episode will be released every few weeks until April 2022, marking the end of the commemoration of the 275th anniversary of the battle. These podcasts also mark the beginning of Culloden's programme of 'war stories' – this will run over the next two years, tying in with VisitScotland's Year of Stories 2022.

The Road to Culloden podcast has been supported by many experts and members of the public, all passionate about the history of both the place and the people, before and after the Battle of Culloden. We are deeply grateful to those who have shared their expert knowledge and to those who donated to make this series possible,



including eminent military historian Christopher Duffy, Professor Murray Pittock, the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA and donors to Culloden's Fighting Fund. *The Road to Culloden* has been recorded by veteran broadcaster Clare English and a new episode will be released every 4 weeks.

Listen to The Road to Culloden at: <https://pod.co/the-road-to-culloden-podcast>

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Affric Highlands to rewild half a million acres of Scottish Highlands



30-year project joins prestigious European group of awe-inspiring rewilding areas.

An ambitious 30-year landscape-scale rewilding initiative to link up a majestic sweep of the Scottish Highlands as one vast nature recovery area connecting Loch Ness to Scotland's west coast has been launched by charity Trees for Life, and joins a select group of prestigious European rewilding areas. The Affric Highlands initiative follows three years of consultation between Rewilding Europe, Trees for Life, and other local partners and stakeholders. It will restore nature across a network of landholdings potentially covering an area of over 500,000 acres stretching from Loch Ness across the central Highlands to Kintail in the west, and encompassing Glens Cannich, Affric, Moriston and Shiel.

Trees for Life has brought together a broad coalition of landowners, communities and others to boost habitat connectivity, species diversity, and social and economic opportunities in the region, while tackling climate breakdown. With community involvement and partnership working central to the project, a diverse group of 20 landowners covering at least 25% of the total area and six organisations are already on board, with hopes that more will join. Work is underway to further involve local people, with practical action to connect areas of rewilding land due to begin in 2023.

Affric Highlands

During a ceremony attended by partners and stakeholders at Glenurquhart Public Hall in Drumnadrochit by Loch Ness, Affric Highlands was officially welcomed by Rewilding Europe as the ninth member of its network of large pioneering rewilding areas – taking the organisation one step closer to its ultimate goal of 10 such areas in Europe. Rewilding Europe's eight other awe-inspiring rewilding areas are Portugal's Greater Côa Valley; the Danube Delta in Ukraine, Romania and Moldova; Romania's Southern Carpathians; Croatia's Velebit Mountains; Italy's Central Apennines; Bulgaria's Rhodope Mountains; the Oder Delta in Germany and Poland; and Swedish Lapland.

"With Scotland's rewilding movement growing rapidly – and the Scottish Rewilding Alliance calling for Scotland to become the world's first Rewilding Nation, with the rewilding of 30% of the country's land and sea by 2030 – Affric Highlands will take large-scale nature recovery to a new level, providing a catalyst for the local economy at the same time," said Steve Micklewright, Chief Executive of Trees for Life. He continued: "The Highlands have huge potential to help nature to come back and so help people to thrive, and to make

a leading contribution to tackling the global climate and nature emergencies. We are delighted Affric Highlands is now one of Rewilding Europe's large rewilding areas that are inspiring hundreds of other rewilding projects across the continent."

Because engaging and involving stakeholders from the beginning is crucial to the success of any rewilding initiative, Rewilding Europe has been working with Trees for Life to lay the foundations for this over the past three years – including through meetings with over 50 local stakeholders, drawing on experience from other major rewilding sites across Europe, and a scoping study.

A beacon of hope

As well as connecting habitats, Affric Highlands will bring people together to help nature recover, and strengthen connections between communities and the wildlife on their doorsteps. Forest rewilding has been at the root of Trees for Life's work for three decades. The charity has so far established nearly two million native trees to restore the unique and globally important Caledonian Forest at its own 10,000 acre estate at Dundreggan in Glenmoriston, and at dozens of other sites in the Highlands, including Glen Affric. In 2023, Dundreggan will become home to the world's first Rewilding Centre – showcasing how large-scale nature recovery can give people amazing experiences, create jobs and benefit local communities. Rewilding Europe says this work in the Highlands has been a beacon of hope for reversing declines in habitat and wildlife that have left vast swathes of Scotland overgrazed, treeless, denuded, drained and over-managed, to the point that little remains unmodified by humans.

"Affric Highlands is a bold, exciting and inspiring venture for nature's recovery as Scotland moves up the biodiversity league table. Our decision to accept the project as our ninth rewilding area reflects the hard work and achievements of Trees for Life, its volunteers and its partners," said Frans Schepers, Managing Director of Rewilding Europe. "Including Affric Highlands in our portfolio of major European rewilding areas will help magnify rewilding's impact in the Highlands, and put it firmly on the global map."

The project will take a grassroots, community-driven approach that grows organically – harnessing an interdependence of nature, people and businesses to create a more resilient area for the future. Rewilding Europe's rewilding principles, best practices and wealth of Europe-wide practical experience will help to shape and guide Affric Highlands on its rewilding journey.

Find out more about Affric Highlands at treesforlife.org.uk/affric-highlands



Scotland's Anthrax Island



Tucked away in a secluded bay on Scotland's west coast, the remote island of Gruinard concealed one of British Intelligence's most deadly secrets for over half a century. Gruinard Island is a small island approximately 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) long by 1 kilometre (0.6 mi) wide, located in Gruinard Bay.

The island was selected by Second World War scientists as the perfect spot to test an anthrax bomb after the government of the day became anxious about Hitler's capacity to develop biological weapons. The experiment in 1942 was horrifically successful, in that it annihilated a flock of sheep and left the 520 acre island enshrouded in anthrax and out of bounds to any human being until 1990. Approximately 95% of people infected with anthrax die.

Gruinard's importance

Even though particulars of the pollution programme were familiar locally, Gruinard's importance was officially recognised in documents declassified in 1997. It was during the 1980s that Dr David Kelly (who tragically committed suicide after being involved in the controversy about Iraq's

weapons of mass destruction), was head of microbiology at the Chemical Defence Establishment at Porton Down and oversaw the operation to decontaminate the island. Cleaning and purifying an entire island proved a mammoth challenge, but ultimately it was accomplished in 1986 with the help of 280 tonnes of formaldehyde dissolved in seawater.

On 24 April 1990, after 48 years of quarantine and four years after the cleaning of Gruinard, the island was certified as safe and four years later a local crofter, John Robinson successfully reintroduced sheep. According to the wartime newspapers, scientists concluded that anthrax had 'enormous potential'. The wartime government was so taken aback by this statement that it declared that "these forms of frightfulness" should play no role whatever in the war effort.

Today you can take kayaking tours around the island and take it in its beauty. However some experts still today insist that the island will remain dangerous for several hundred years, as it is simply impossible to destroy the remnants of the anthrax in its territory.



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