the Scottish Banner

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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 46 Number 1 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS July 2022

When the Pipers Play

» Pg 12

Fang-tastic!

Scotland's link to Dracula

» Pg 17

Floral clock blooms

in honour of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

» Pg 3

Australia $4.95 N.Z. $4.95

Study sheds light on life beyond Rome's frontier ..... » Pg 3

Hebridean study to explore disease and genes link ..... » Pg 9

The Thistle – Scotland's national flower ..... » Pg 15

Patterns of the Past: Rock art in Kilmartin Glen and far beyond.... » Pg 21

Volume 46 - Number 1

the Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

Scotland rolls out the welcome mat for summer

by Sean Cairney

As we finish off the July issue the summer solstice is taking place across Scotland. Those long days allow visitors to Scotland to take in so much as some regions of the country can experience up to 19 hours of day light per day.

The summer solstice occurs each year when one of the Earth's poles has its full tilt towards the sun, bringing the longest period of daylight in the Northern Hemisphere. Scotland has traditions dating back to the Stone Age during the summer solstice which included the use of fire to ward off evil spirits and bless crops and livestock.

An exciting summer of events

One thing that summer certainly brings to Scotland are events and after the last couple of years of cancellations and Covid protocols it is fantastic to see Scotland is again ready to welcome people from across the world for an exciting summer of events. The return of Highland Games and music festivals has already begun across Scotland and from next month major events such as the Edinburgh Festival's, the World Pipe Band Championships and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo are all making a very welcome comeback.

In addition, 2022 is Scotland's Year of Stories and events are taking place throughout the year celebrating the nations rich heritage of storytelling and the stories inspired by, written, or created in Scotland.

Please check our events page for just some of the great events taking place this summer not only in Scotland but across the Scottish ex-pat world. For those who can't get back to Scotland in 2022, next year will again be filled with some great events to take in on your visit.

Regardless of the time of year there is always something to enjoy in Scotland, just plan your wardrobe for all the weather Scotland can bring!

Regardless of the time of year there is always something to enjoy in Scotland, just plan your wardrobe for all the weather Scotland can bring! Closer to home Scottish events are already back into full swing with Scottish community members filling their calendar each month with an array of outings which celebrate our common love of Scotland.

In this issue

Another major event returning this summer is Glasgow's PipingLive! There is no sound that shouts Scotland more than the bagpipes. This month it is great to have Finlay MacDonald the Artistic Director of Glasgow's International Piping Festival PipingLive! speak to us about the return of the world's largest piping festival. Finlay and his team at the National Piping Centre in Glasgow promote, teach and celebrate pipes and drums year-round. PipingLive! is a celebration of global bagpipe sounds from across the world. Next month will be the place to be if you are into pipes and drums with both PipingLive! and the World Pipe Band Championships returning to Glasgow after the pandemic.

The City of Edinburgh has recently unveiled the city's iconic Floral Clock. A sure sign of summer for the locals and visitors alike to enjoy and if you happen to be heading to the Scottish capital this summer and into early autumn, please do yourself a favour and check it out. The clock is the oldest floral clock in the world and is located in the heart of Edinburgh's tourist scene. I have been to the clock in summer before and been amazed by the many thousands of plants used to create the annual spectacle with this year's celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Rock art can be found around the world and often has been used by our ancestors to tell their story. Scotland happens to have thousands of these mysterious carvings dating back thousands of years. One of the areas which has those in abundance is Kilmartin Glen which has the greatest concentration of prehistoric carved stone surfaces to be found in Scotland.

Happy Birthday Scottish Banner!

This month also sees *the Scottish Banner* notch up another anniversary year and celebrate our 46th birthday. They say for dogs one year is like seven, well for small independent publications like ours one year must be at least a decade! As with so many businesses we have had some tough months recently and I did wonder how *the Banner* could continue through those pandemic days when we lost so much revenue.

I am so thankful to those who continued to buy their copy each and every month and our wonderful advertisers who stuck with us. Whilst we are not yet back to 'normal' and of course I realise, like so many, that actually a new normal may be what we have for some time. The support of the readers and advertisers has meant we march into our 46th year with a sense of hope and gratitude for the support. So please join me in celebrating another year, as it is an achievement, we have all contributed to, and here's to many more to come!

Are you attending any events in Scotland this year or planning on returning next year? 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

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We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.

A street performer at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Photo: David Monteith-Hodge.

Gracing our front cover: Scottish band Rura and members from PipingLive! celebrate the return of the Glasgow Piping Festival.

Floral clock blooms in honour of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Floral clock 2022. Photo: Edinburgh City Council.

Work has finished to complete this year's design on the world's oldest Floral Clock in Edinburgh's West Princes Street Gardens. For 2022, the hugely popular landmark celebrates Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

A team of five gardeners took just four weeks to plant over 35,000 flowers and plants used to create the clock, which will be in bloom until October. There are nine different plants included in this year's design such as Agaves, Echeveria, Sedums, Pyrethrum, Crassula, Kleenia, Antenaria, Geraniums and Begonias. To be ready for the recent Jubilee celebrations, the team at Inch Nursery brought the plants on earlier than previous years and the gardeners worked quickly to complete this in time.

They will be in full bloom throughout the summer. This year also marks 70 years since a cuckoo clock was added which still chimes every 15 minutes.

The oldest of its kind in the world

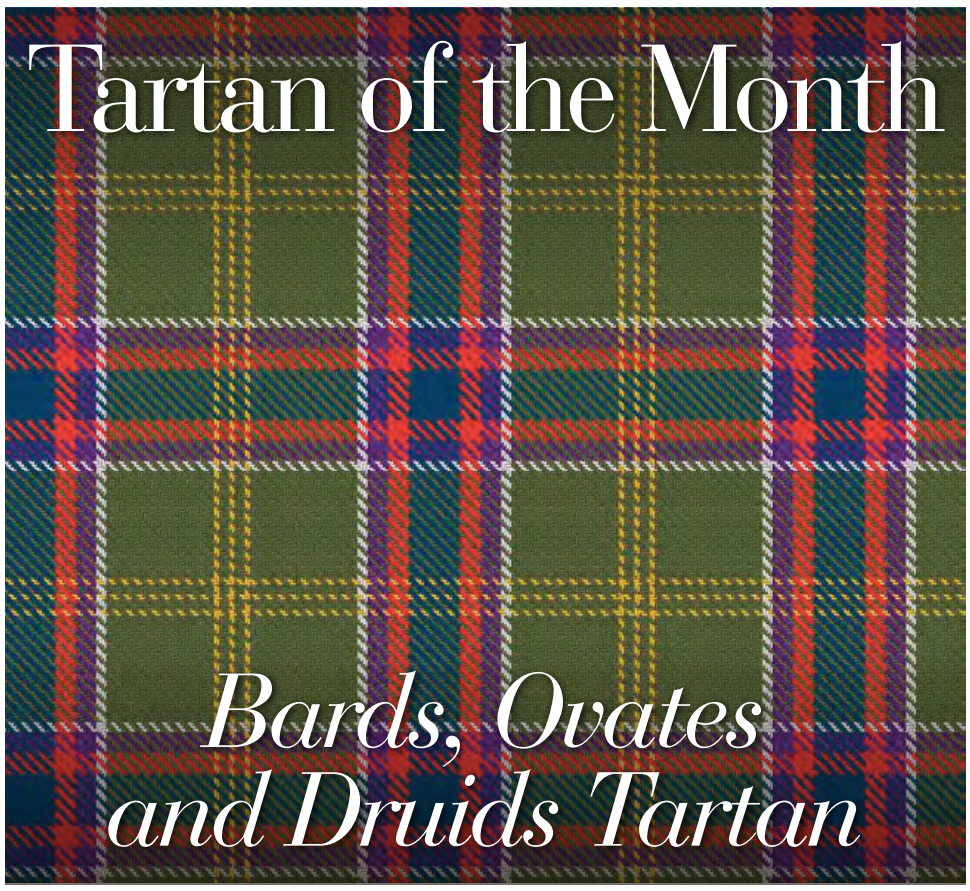
Edinburgh's Lord Provost Robert Aldridge said: "I am delighted to once again see the city's beautiful floral clock completed, and in perfect time for the Jubilee weekend. Each year the iconic clock marks special occasions and events in the heart of the Capital and this year it is a unique tribute coinciding with celebrations taking place around the country as the nation marks The Queen's 70-year reign. My thanks and congratulations to the dedicated and creative parks team who have put together the design that I'm sure will be enjoyed by everyone who passes by it this summer."

The Floral Clock was first created in 1903 by then Edinburgh Parks Superintendent, John McHattie, and is the oldest of its kind in the world. It initially operated with just an hour hand, with a minute hand added in 1904, followed by a cuckoo clock in 1952. Until 1972 the clock was operated mechanically and had to be wound daily.

Since 1946 it has been designed in honour of various organisations and individuals, including the Girl Guides Association, Robert Louis Stevenson and The Queen, for her Golden Jubilee. In the clock's centenary year in 2003 it won a Gold Medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Floral Clock-Did you know?

- The clock was created in 1903 and is the oldest floral clock in the world.
- It is housed in the plinth of the Allan Ramsay Monument at the north-east corner of West Princes Street Gardens.
- Planting begins in May each year.
- Up to 40,000 plants are used in the design each year (compared to 13,000 in the 1930s; 25,000 in the 1950s).
- In 1946 the clock began celebrating a different event or anniversary each year.
- In 1952 a cuckoo clock was added and still chimes every 15 minutes.
- The clock began being operated electrically for the first time in 1973.
- The clock won a Gold Medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2003.
- Clock circumference: 36 ft.
- Clock width: 11 ft 10 ins.
- Weight of large hand (when filled with plants): 80lbs.
- Weight of small hand (when filled with plants): 50lbs
- Floral clocks are now distributed worldwide and many were made in Edinburgh, where the idea originated.
- They can be found in India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, United States of America, Canada and many other European countries.



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).

This tartan was created for anyone who calls themself a Druid.

The design incorporates colours intended to represent the three grades - Bard, Ovate & Druid - and five elements; earth, air, fire, water and spirit. The three yellow overchecks are intended to represent the three golden strands of Awen. This tartan (SRT Reference: 13478) was designed by Catherine Collison and registered in April, 2022.

SCOTPOURRI

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

Ottawa Platinum Jubilee celebrations

The downtown Ottawa Sparks Street came alive on May 21 and 22 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen and it was quite the party! Pipe Major Bethany Bisaillion from the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band put together a show with dancers from the Katharine Robinson, Schiehallion and Stirling Highland Dance Schools, the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, guest pipers from three cities, singers Kevin Offord, Ellen MacIsaac, and Johnny Vegas. There were jubilee cupcakes and a massed band march to celebrate National Tartan Day, and Ottawa Corgis of Ottawa represented The Queen's favourite dogs! It was a wonderful celebration, and one we will always remember!

Bethany Bisaillion
The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
www.sospb.com

Tartan Day

On July 1st Australians and New Zealanders with Scottish connections will celebrate our own Tartan Day. This date commemorates the day on 1st July 1782 that the monstrous 1746 Act of Proscription against the wearing of Highland Dress was repealed. This was largely due to the efforts of James Graham, 3rd Duke of Montrose, so let's all celebrate by donning our tartan and wear it with pride on 1st July.

As an ancient Scottish ex-pat, I would like to express my appreciation of *the Scottish Banner* which is my monthly antidote to yearning for my birthplace, sadly an impossible dream. So, thank you Sean and your team, long may the *Scottish Banner* continue to fly!

Jenny Graham
Tasmania, Australia

Ed note: Thanks Jenny and we wish all our readers across Australia and New Zealand a very Happy Tartan Day!

The Slate Islands

Just received May's *Scottish Banner* and what a delight to see the article on the Slate Islands. My paternal Great Grandparents came from Seil. They moved to Glasgow at the end of the 1800's. My Great Grandfather and his brother were the islands shoemakers and toolmakers, all the slate workers shoes were 'made to measure' to ensure comfort.

They moved to Oban Drive in Glasgow and Great Grandfather and his brother opened a shoemaking and repair shop in Maryhill Road. My mother and her siblings all had their shoes 'made to measure' when they were school children. When they passed away, they were taken back to Seil and buried in the Angel Hill Cemetery, which was the cemetery for Seil. They were the last of our family to do so.

Going back further in time my Grandmother owned the house where the men changed out of their kilts into trousers to cross to the mainland. Doing the reverse on return, the house still stands today facing The Bridge Over the Atlantic.

That is my family's connection to the Slate Islands. Thank you for a wonderful article.

Carol Mitchell
Auckland, New Zealand

Ed note: Thank you Carol for sharing your family story with us and glad this article was special for you.

The Last on Bell Rock

Thank you for such an interesting article in the June edition. I have seen this lighthouse on previous trips and actually have an interest in lighthouses in general. Reading about the last Principal Lighthouse Keeper of the Bell Rock Lighthouse I found both fascinating and nostalgic. We live in such a modern and automated world it is so interesting to read about a career that is now obsolete due to advances in our technology.

I love everything about Scotland and have visited many times before, and now feel ready to visit again in 2023. I also attend a variety of Highland Games here in California and enjoy the great friendship to be had and sharing my Scottish culture with pride to my friends who I bring along.

Thanks *Scottish Banner* for such an informative mix of news and stories every month, I would not be without it.

Keith McCormick
San Jose, California
USA

Culloden Battlefield

My husband and myself have visited Scotland twice, in 1987 and 2010.
We stayed with my husband's brother and sister-in-law, John and Irene Bruce. We visited Culloden Battlefield both times and found it very spiritual, fascinating and very eerie. I could almost envisage the battle, the howls, yells, screams, the clash of swords and boom of canons in use on that fateful day in April 1645.

I myself would recommend anyone visiting Scotland at anytime to visit Culloden Moor and feel the experience. I thoroughly enjoyed it both times.

I remain a loyal reader,

Cheryl Bruce
Jennings, NSW
Australia

SNP disparaging kilts

SNP policy is to racially discriminate against Indigenous Scottish kids in school, ban kilts and abuse them with cultural-marxist indoctrination.

www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/scottish-news/snp-want-ban-kilt-scottish-26983361
Joshua Markham
E-mail: joshmarkham1@hotmail.com

Pen pal wanted

My name is Shayne Hudson and I'm from Evans Head (but now living in Sydney), just up the road from Maclean at a small wee town in northern NSW. My mum Helen Hudson Donaugher was born in a snow blizzard in Glasgow Scotland many years ago before she and the family came to Australia. I noticed when I visited Maclean the town that there are family clan names on the telegraph poles up that way including the Sinclair Clan and our family clan name. Do they still do the marches with bagpipes and the caber toss in Maclean?

I have bagpipes though unfortunately they were brought from off the internet and were set up on me as they came from Portugal instead of handmade bagpipes from Glasgow.

I would be interested in a Scottish pen pal and if they write to me then I can write back to say a happy hello just like old days and we could share stories and songs and poems and photos please.

Shayne Hudson Donaugher
122 Kareela Avenue
Penrith, NSW
2750
Australia
Email: surfygoesoff1@gmail.com

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Caerlaverock Castle

Mik Coia

Castle Stalker

Castle Stalker, Argyll, the rail track was used to deliver goods to the Castle.
Ronald Stokes

Highland Coo

Who needs a pot of gold when you have your family!
The Kilted Photographer

The Forth Bridges

The Forth Bridges at sunrise.
Aye Spy Photography

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

Multiverse celebrates the Summer Solstice

Crawick Multiverse held a special sunrise-to-sunset summer solstice celebration – a chance to enjoy the longest day amidst a spectacular 55-acre environmental artwork inspired by the sun and stars.

The site features standing stones, a great avenue, huge mounds and the beautiful Sun Amphitheatre. Summer Solstice at the Multiverse held activities that gently enhance the experience of being in a place specifically designed to link us to the cosmos.

Events included music, outdoor theatre, tai chi and yoga sessions around various parts of the Multiverse – with a special performance from the top of the mounds that represent the Milky Way and Andromeda galaxies.

The idea was for visitors to have the time and space to mark the solstice in their own way, enjoying a site that many feel has a sense of spirituality akin to ancient henges and stone circles. It also represents the next stage in the emergence of the art installation, created by the late Charles Jencks, into an outdoor events and performance venue.

A cosmic landscape worthy of the ancients

Sharon Glendinning, Crawick Multiverse General Manager, said in the lead up to the event: "Crawick Multiverse was created by Charles Jencks to be 'a cosmic landscape worthy of the ancients' and is the perfect place to celebrate the solstice. The events and activities we have planned are intended to be engaging and fun, while bringing people closer to the tranquillity of the natural world around us, and the wider universe."

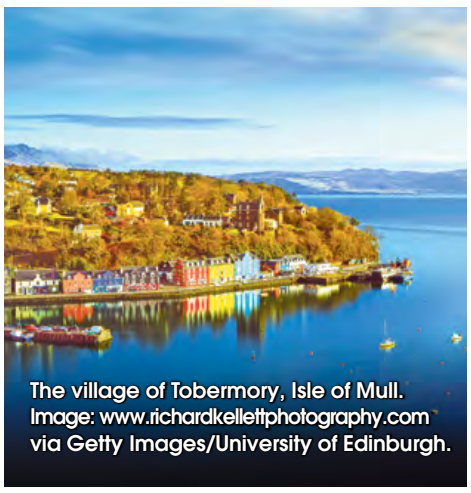
Crawick is situated in the hills between Sanquhar and Kirkconnel, on the border of Dumfries and Galloway and Ayrshire. Crawick Multiverse is a spectacular land art installation created and inspired by Charles Jencks thinking about space, astronomy and cosmology.

It was a major land restoration project, transforming 55 acres of former open cast mining into an inspirational landscape, unique destination and visitor attraction.

Crawick Multiverse reflects both the ecology and geology of the region where it stands. It has many spectacular features for visitors to enjoy which include 2,000 boulders were used to create Crawick Multiverse, the Northpoint provides a 20-mile 360-degree panoramic view and the Sun Amphitheatre at the heart of the Multiverse and can hold approximately 3,500 spectators.

For more information on Crawick Multiverse see: www.crawickmultiverse.co.uk

Hebridean study to explore disease and genes link



The village of Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Image: www.richardkellettphotography.com via Getty Images/University of Edinburgh.

People with at least two grandparents from the Hebrides in Scotland are being asked to take part in a major genetic study. The distinctive Hebridean gene pool could shed light on the causes of diseases such as stroke, diabetes, heart disease and cancer and, in time, potentially point to new treatments for the general population, researchers say. The genetic make-up of people from the islands – which previous research has shown to be different from the rest of Scotland – will allow researchers to investigate how variations in Hebridean DNA influence the health of locals.

The University of Edinburgh study, which is aiming to recruit 2,000 people, will not be limited to people living in the Inner or Outer Hebrides, but will also include people with Hebridean grandparents who live anywhere in the world.

Viking Genes study

Participants will be asked to complete an online questionnaire about their health and lifestyle and to return a saliva sample by post, which researchers will use for genetic analysis. Volunteers who live in the UK can choose to receive specific genetic information from their saliva sample. This information, provided in collaboration with the NHS, could help prevent future disease. The MRC-funded research builds on the work of the Viking Genes study, which has recruited over 8,000 volunteers with Orkney or Shetland ancestry.

Professor Jim Wilson, lead researcher and Chair of Human Genetics, University of Edinburgh, said: "Expanding the Viking Genes study will allow us to explore the unique genetic heritage of the Inner and Outer Hebrides. We will explore how the distinct gene pools influence the risk of disease today and investigate the Norse, Scottish and Irish components of ancestry in the different Hebridean isles." The study also involves the University of Aberdeen and NHS Grampian Clinical Genetics doctors Professor Zosia Miedzybrodzka and Dr John Dean.

Register your interest in the study at: www.ed.ac.uk/viking

SCOTSPEAK

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

"I'm just so happy, I'm speechless. Back to back and twice is an amazing feeling."

28 year old Tom Stoltman from Invergordon in the Highlands said as he won his second World's Strongest Man title in a row in Sacramento, California. Stoltman was the first Scot to win the title in history last year and has again been crowned champion in 2022 Stolman is only the 10th athlete to win the World Strongest Man title twice and first to achieve back to back titles since 2016.

"We are delighted to be able to reopen the interior of the castle once more after access restrictions were put in place for essential high masonry work. We know how keen visitors are to enjoy the castle, which is an iconic site and has featured in a wealth of productions, including most recently in Outlander. The castle and the surrounding village are a hugely popular destination, and we look forward to welcoming visitors back through the castle doors so they can enjoy this much-loved heritage attraction once again."

Stephen Duncan, Director of Marketing and Engagement at Historic Environment Scotland (HES) said that visitors are once again able to explore Doune Castle, which has featured in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, *Game of Thrones* and *Outlander* (Castle Leoch). Access restrictions were put in place temporarily at the 14th century castle last year as a precaution for essential high level masonry inspections, while HES, who manage the attraction, conducted a full survey of the site.

"Had we known in 2014 everything we know now about the path the UK would have taken then, I've got no doubt Scotland would have voted yes back then. The conclusion very clearly is that Scotland could be doing much better as an independent country... Nobody right now can look at the UK - the mess it's in currently and its prospects for the UK outside of the European Union surely and conclude anything other than that Scotland can do better as an independent country."

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said that the SNP led Scottish Government will push for a second referendum on independence from the United Kingdom by the end of 2023. In 2014 Scotland voted to remain in the UK by 55% yes to 45% no. Scottish voters later also voted in a majority to remain part of the European Union and not for Brexit.

"I burst out laughing when I opened the parcel, I couldn't believe it. We had a book returned to our Rosyth branch after 14 years recently, which we thought was amazing enough, but this was way beyond anything we've heard of. For a bit of fun, we worked out how much could have been due in fees and it comes to £2,847. It arrived with a lovely letter from the borrower's daughter who was able to give us a bit of detail."

Donna Dewar, of Dunfermline Carnegie Library and Galleries, said as a book which was due back in November 1948 was recently returned. Fife libraries have had an amnesty on late fees throughout the pandemic to encourage members to return books. The over seven-decade late copy of *Stately Timber* by Rupert Hughes will now go on display at the library.

"What a wonderful honour for Dunfermline to be granted city status and I'd like to pass on my congratulations to everyone involved in achieving this. It is fitting with its royal connections, rich heritage and historic role as Scotland's ancient capital that Dunfermline will once again take a prominent place in the country's world-famous offering. This increased profile brings with it a wealth of opportunities, particularly for the city's tourism experiences. It will undoubtedly open up Dunfermline to new audiences, position it as a city break destination and ultimately bring more visitors to the area and the wider region."

Malcolm Roughead, VisitScotland Chief Executive, said as Dunfermline, Fife, is among a record number of locations to have won prestigious city status through a competition, as part of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Dunfermline, Scotland's eighth city, was only the only Scottish location and joined Bangor in Northern Ireland, Douglas on the Isle of Man, Stanley in the Falkland Islands, Wrexham in Wales and Colchester, Doncaster and Milton Keynes in England.

"V&A Dundee is delighted to welcome people from across the city and beyond to enjoy this fascinating free exhibition celebrating Dundee firm J. Valentine & Sons, which with the help of its workforce grew from a family business to become one of the most successful and innovative publishers of postcards in the world. Their story, told beautifully in the exhibition, weaves together many stories from design and social history through to personal memories and nostalgia for the past."

Leonie Bell, Director at V&A Dundee, said as a new free exhibition that tells the story of Scotland's most pioneering and successful commercial photographers best known for popularising the holiday postcard, opening at V&A Dundee. Founded in 1825 in Dundee, the family firm Valentines capitalised on rapid developments in photography, printing and tourism in the early 20th century to create a fascinating body of work and a vibrant industry, quickly becoming one of Dundee's largest employers. *Sincerely, Valentines* runs from 2 July until 8 January.

"I was staying at the bungalow at Edington Mains where Jim lived, his home farm, and I had to take the dog out for walks. I used to walk round the fields that were Jim's, that in those days were sheep fields but are now arable. I just started to think about him and his life and what an extraordinary experience it must have been to have been a sheep farmer in Berwickshire and then become a double world champion racing driver and win the Indy 500."

Writer and director Alex Watson said as she was inspired to write and produce a musical about Scottish racing car legend Jim Clark. Clark was raised in Scottish Borders on a farm and went on to win the Formula One world champion in 1963 and 1965 and won an incredible 25 grand prix races.

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SCOTWORD

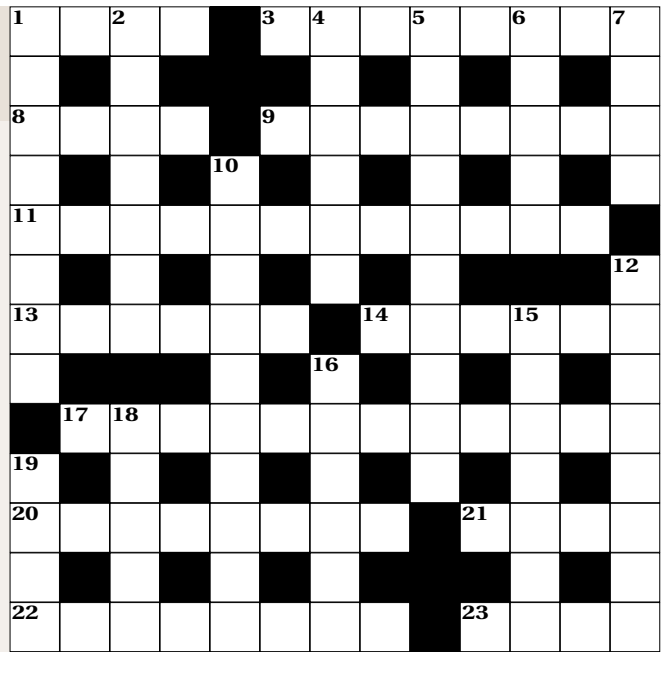
Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try! If you're stuck, answers can be found on page 22.

CLUES ACROSS

1) Marshes (4).
3) Adequately fitting! (8).
8) Battle or Lochaber! (4).
9) "Smokie" town (8).
11) Central area of beauty (3,9).
13) Her Majesty's signature (6).
14) Games performer (6).
17) Princess Margaret's birthplace (6,6).
20) Acting wary (8).
21) Where Scots find work! (4).
22) Wholesaler (8).
23) Enterprising space journey! (4).

CLUES DOWN

1) David Livingstone's birthplace (8).
2) Glen - both ways! (7).
4) Not substantial (6).
5) Road surface! (10).
6) Impetuous (5).
7) Sound return! (4).
10) Giant step in opening dance (5,5).
12) James Watt's birthplace (8).
15) Food provider (7).
16) Behind on board (6).
18) Hi-tech beam (5).
19) Was Mac the first Scot? (4).



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.

Well, what a month it has been! Flags out; beacons lit; cakes cut; pipes playing, concerts galore - and thousands of celebrations being held up and down the land. Yes, Scotland has been very much a party place as we got together to mark seventy years of service by Her Majesty The Queen.

The monarch's Platinum Jubilee gave us not just a four-day holiday, welcome as that was. No, there was much more. After a dismal two years of sickness and lockdowns it offered the chance for communities to come together again: to break bread, have fun and celebrate what has been a remarkable reign.

Royal theme

Earlier in the year, from the Highlands to the Borderlands, thousands of Jubilee trees had been planted, with more planned for when autumn comes along, and now our Jubilee colours were turning from green to red, white and blue. Shop windows took on a 'royal' theme; post boxes found themselves decorated with crowns and knitted flags; schools held posh picnics; one of them unveiling its latest nature project – a haven for insects dubbed 'Bug-ingham Palace'.

Indeed, it was the youngsters who threw themselves into the scene; in the Scottish Borders guides and scouts re-enacting The Queen's coronation, complete with white dress, orb and sceptre – and a Duke of Edinburgh. Yet this occasion was something all ages could take part in. Army veterans with disabilities valiantly scaled Ben Nevis, our highest mountain, to light a beacon at the top. At Musselburgh racecourse, teams of corgis, the Queen's favourite breed of dog, ran relays, much to the delight of the watching crowd. In the seaside town of Kirkcudbright, two thousand people sat down to a massive street party.

During that Jubilee weekend we had a special royal visit. Princess Anne came to Edinburgh and cut a cake onboard a naval ship. She then went on to feed the penguins at the zoo – although I am told it was not with a slice of the sweet stuff.

Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries

For my part, it has been one of the busiest times. As Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries, I am The Queen's personal representative in this part of south-west Scotland, and during the week's celebrations I was lucky enough to be invited to attend a number of events.

At one care home I met senior citizens who could remember the dances and street parties they held when Her Majesty ascended the throne back in 1952. Those with short term memories might not be able to recall what they had done that morning, but they certainly knew who the Queen was. At a community centre we sat down to a traditional Jubilee tea, complete with cucumber sandwiches and dainty china cups. At a more rustic community bonfire on a local hill, we toasted the monarch with cider as the smoke drifted across the valley.

Yes, Scotland has been very much a party place as we got together to mark seventy years of service by Her Majesty The Queen.

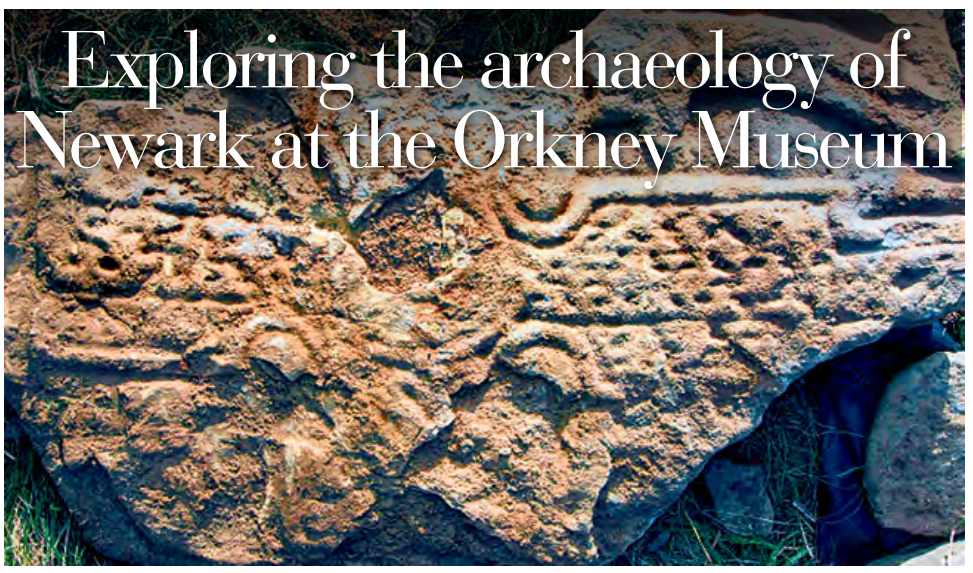
Arriving at one primary school they all wore home-made paper crowns and when I arrived the cry went up 'It's The Queen!' No, I explained carefully to the class of young children. 'I am not The Queen. I am The Queen's personal representative.' Lines of blank faces looked back at me. The teacher took me to one side and explained that they couldn't understand what 'personal representative' was – so she had told them that it was The Queen's 'friend' who was coming to visit.

'So, I am not The Queen', I grandly announced. 'I am The Queen's friend'. They all began to cheer, and one wee boy shouted, 'well if you're her friend, what's her bedroom like then?!' It is perhaps presumptuous to declare myself a 'friend' of the monarch. Yet over the course of seventy years, that is what Her Majesty has become to many.

A reassuring figure

She is not a friend in the usual sense of the word. A person you ring up and go out to lunch with and confide in. But she is someone who has been a reassuring figure and voice in times of trouble. Someone who has been a constant in an often worryingly changing world. Someone we have been able to respect and rely on. Of course, not everyone likes the idea of a monarch and here in Scotland one recent poll showed that less than half the country supports the idea of the monarchy, with a third thinking that the end of The Queen's reign would be the right moment to create a republic.

We shall see. As the independence debate starts up again Scotland looks like it is going to be an interesting place over the next few years. Yes, watch this space. In the meantime, can I just say to our wise and dutiful monarch - thank you Ma'am.



Exploring the archaeology of Newark at the Orkney Museum

A Pictish cross-slab has gone on display for the first time as part of an Orkney Museum exhibition exploring the archaeology of Newark, Deerness. Discovered in 2016, the carved stone is one element of an exhibition outlining a site with a history spanning millennia, but which is under constant threat from coastal erosion. The project has been drawing together the threads of the Newark story, based on past excavations, surveys and modern scientific analysis of the human remains. And what a remarkable story it is – of Bronze Age burials, of Picts, Vikings, Norse and the descendants of kings and Orkney's merchant lairds.

Newark is a complex multi-period site with around 4,000 years of activity. A Bronze Age burial is the earliest evidence so far with several suspected burial mounds also detected in a recent geophysical survey. In the Iron Age, two underground structures were built, one of which had human remains deposited within. The 8th century AD cross-slab may have marked the site of an early chapel, which was replaced by a stone-built church. Although used from around AD600 until 1400, most of the cemetery burials date to the Norse period. These are a source of much information and some are surrounded by shells carefully placed around the dead, something unknown from other contemporary cemeteries.

Newark eventually appears on maps as the site of a Late Medieval manor house owned by Lord Lindores, son-in-law of Robert Stewart, Earl of Orkney. Although some of the ground plan was uncovered during excavations in the 1960s, not enough was explored to fully establish its size and style. By the late 1790s, one of Orkney's leading merchant laird families, the Balfours, owned the dilapidated building. At some point after, it was demolished.

The Newark Project: the story so far runs at the Orkney Museum until October 29, 2022.

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Clanlands: Whisky, Warfare, and a Scottish Adventure Like No Other

A road trip book with a difference. Stars of Outlander – Sam Heughan & Graham McTavish – explore Scotland, a land of raw beauty, poetry, feuding, music, history, and warfare. From their faithful camper van to boats, kayaks, bicycles, and motorbikes, join Sam and Graham on a road trip with a difference, as two Scotsmen explore a land of raw beauty, poetry, feuding, music, history and warfare. **Price:$22.95 Plus postage**

Clanlands: : Whisky, Warfare, and a Scottish Adventure Like No Other

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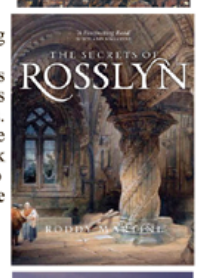
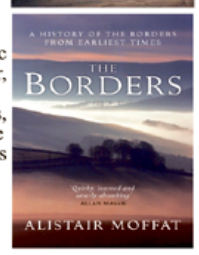
Price: $22.95 Plus postage

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. Ths book sifts through mounds of unfounded conjecture and fantasy to make sense of it al and lets the facts speak for themselves, showing ultimately that the truth is no less amazing than fiction. **Price: $24.95 Plus postage**

The Borders: A History Of The Borders From The Earliest Times



This is the story of an ancient place; where hunter-gatherers penetrated into the virgin interior, where Celtic warlords ruled, the Romans came but could not conquer, where the glittering kingdom of Northumbria thrived, the place where David MacMalcolm raised great abbeys, where the Border Reivers rode into history, and where Walter Scott sat at Abbotsford and brooded on the area?s rich and historic legacy.
Price: $34.95 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**

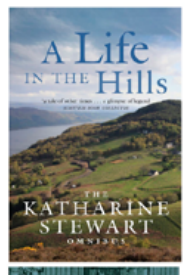
Scottish Proverbs

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

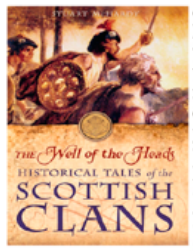


This book gathers A Croft in the Hills with some of Katharine's later books: A Garden in the Hills, describing a year in the life of her Highland garden; A School in the Hills, a vivid history of the school at Abriachan which eventually became the Stewarts' family home; and The Post in the Hills, which 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

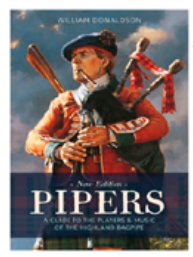
Spanning more than a century, the Jacobite cause is one of the epic stories of history. They may have failed in their aim to restore the house of Stuart to the British throne, but in that failure the Jacobites changed the course of history. Intrigue, espionage, corruption and betrayal, as well as constancy 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



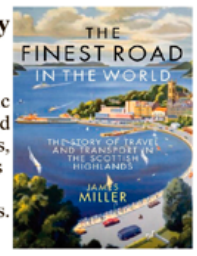
Scottish clans go back over a 1000 years, and for centuries these extended networks of families dominated life in the Scottish Highlands and Islands. The warriors of the clan, fiercely loyal to each other and to their chief, were well known for their extraordinary courage and military skills.These stories 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**

Pipers: A Guide to the Players and Music of the Highland Bagpipe



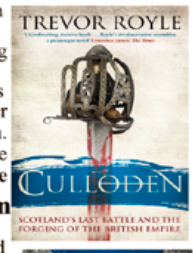
Pipers takes the reader inside the world of the performer community of Scottish piping, introducing the instrument itself and the various different repertories. It also discusses piping techniques as well as information on some of the great piping dynasties and individual pipers. Dr Willie Donaldson shows how 'traditional music' is the creation of gifted individuals operating in a sophisticated and vigorously ongoing enterprise, their story offers fascinating insights into the whole traditional music and song repertoire of Scotland.
Price: $29.95 Plus postage

The Finest Road in the World: The Story of Travel and Transport in the Scottish Highlands



Trains and stagecoaches stuck in the snow, wild storms driving sailing ships off course, traffic pile-ups on so-called 'killer' highways – stories abound about the horrors of travel in the Highlands and Islands, and have done for as far as the records go back.James Miller tells the dramatic and sometimes surprisingly humorous story of travel and transport in the Highlands.
Price: $29.95 Plus postage

Culloden

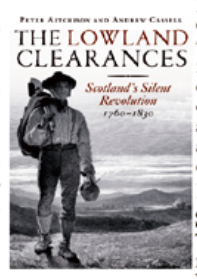


The Battle of Culloden has gone down in history as the last major battle fought on British soil: a vicious confrontation between Scottish forces supporting the Stuart claim to the throne and the English Royal Army. But this wasn't just a conflict between the Scots and the English, the battle was also part of a much larger campaign to protect the Britain from a French invasion. This book looks afresh at the period and unveils its true significance. **Price:$29.95 Plus postage**

Scotland: The New State of an Old Nation

This book covers recent aspects of Scottish politics, Scottish society and Scottish life, strongly underpinned by contemporary research. It provides insight into the foundations and structures of modern-day Scotland. There is a growing interest in Scotland's constitutional future and in Scottish issues, both nationally and internationally, but there are very few up-to-date books to which readers can refer. This work provides just such an analysis and will be of interest to a range of readers both within and beyond Scotland. The book includes chapters on Scottish identity, politics, education, employment, gender, ethnicity, class, art, culture and sport, as well as looking at Scottish societies in the UK & overseas.**Price: $44.95 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 form 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

After Brexit

Pressure for independence remains a major force in Scotland, but the case for it has changed substantially since the referendum of 2014. In the 2016 Brexit referendum, 60 per cent of the Scottish electorate voted to remain part of the European Union – the only part of the UK to reject Brexit so unequivocally.This new analysis takes into account a host of economic issues including deficit, debt, currency, energy (including North Sea oil and gas), pensions, mortgages and the financial sector. It weighs up the advantages of rejoining the EU single market, , with the disadvantages of a hard border with the rest of the UK.
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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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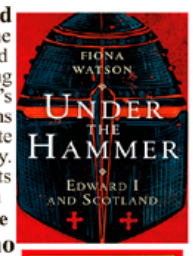
Under the Hammer: Edward I and Scotland

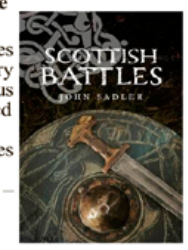


Few aspects of Scottish history inspire interest as the wars with England.Explore how Edward I attempted to bring the Scottish kingdom under his control during the late 13th and early 14th centuries. Despite England's overwhelming military might, victory was by no means inevitable, and Scotland's leaders proved able to create a successful front to repel a far more powerful enemy. Packed with detail, description and analysis, it paints a vivid picture of a key period in the history of both nations. **Price:$34.95 Plus postage**

Putting the Tea in Britain: The Scots Who Made Our National Drink

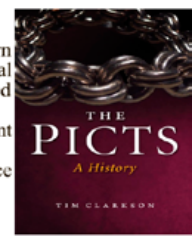
Offering a 'nice cup of tea' has been a stock British response to a crisis. But tea itself has a dramatic, and often violent, history. That history is inextricably interwoven with the story of Scotland. Scots were overwhelmingly responsible for the introduction and development of the UK's national drink, and were the foremost pioneers in the development of tea as an international commodity.Les Wilson brings the story right up to date, with a look at the recent development of tea plantations in Scottish hills and glens. **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 Picts: A History

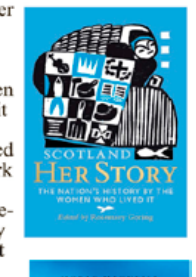


New edition of this popular history of the Picts, an ancient nation who ruled most of northern and eastern Scotland during the Dark Ages. Despite their historical importance, they remain shrouded in myth. Absorbed by the kingdom of the Scots in the 9th century, they lost their unique identity, their 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

River of Fire: The Clydebank Blitz

Clydebank was an obvious target for the attentions of the Luftwaffe. On 13 March 1941, the authorities first detected that Clydebank was 'on beam' – targeted by the German bombers – no effort was made to raise the alarm.This tells the story of the Clydebank Blitz and the terrible scale of death & devastation, speculating on why its incineration has been forgotten and its ordeal denied any place in national honour.With reference to written sources and the memories of those who survived the experience this tells the story of the Blitz and the terrible scale of devastation. **Price:$29.95 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 eye-witness statements, it brings to life the half of history that has been hidden or ignored.**Price: $29.95 + post**

Everyday Gaelic Book/Book & CD

Everyday Gaelic has been compiled by an author with many years experience in teaching the language to adults & children. In addition to basic words and phrases, it also includes more complex and idiomatic material, all arranged thematically and covering topics such as meeting and greeting, travelling, the weather and more. There are also clearly explained sections on grammar and imitated pronunciation for all Gaelic words and phrases. The result is a useful book which will be of benefit to all levels & ages of learners. **Price: book only $24.95 also available with Book/CD (improves pronunciation and comprehension) for $39.95.**

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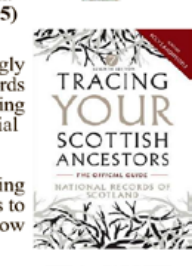
Latest soft cover dictionary is ideal for learners of Gaelic at all levels, and its generous coverage of vocabulary from fields such as business and IT makes it a valuable tool for all those who require an up-to-date reference work. It contains a large amount of explanatory material, numerous examples 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

Scottish Gaelic in Twelve Weeks: 3 x CD

This book has been written both as a self-tuition course for beginners and also for use 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. This edition comes complete with 3 audio CDs to help make learning even easier and more fun.
Price: $49.95 Plus post(book only available $29.95)

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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Study sheds light on life beyond Rome's frontier

Archaeologists from Edinburgh have discovered more than 100 Iron Age settlements in south-west Scotland that date from the time of Roman occupation. The team has been surveying an area north of Hadrian's Wall to better understand the impact of Rome's rule on the lives of indigenous people. Researchers explored nearly 600 square miles around Burnswark hillfort, Dumfries-shire, where Roman legions campaigned as the Empire expanded northwards. Previous archaeological research in terrain between Hadrian's Wall and the Empire's more northerly frontier at the Antonine Wall had focused predominantly on the Roman perspective. It had concentrated on the camps, forts, roads and walls that the Rome's empire built to control northern Britain – rather than sites associated with native tribes.

Immense firepower

The new study initially focused specifically on Burnswark – home to the greatest concentration of Roman projectiles ever found in Britain, and a testament to the firepower of Rome's legions. The research team went on to scour an area of 580 square miles beyond the hillfort, using the latest laser-scanning technology. Although much of the area had been studied before, researchers found 134 previously unrecorded Iron Age settlements — bringing the total number known in the region to more than 700. The survey's discovery of so many small farmsteads is a significant finding, researchers say. Such settlements offer key insights into how the majority of the indigenous population would have lived. Analysis showed sites were dispersed evenly across the landscape — with dense clusters in some places — suggesting a highly organised settlement pattern, researchers say.

Empire's edge

Work on Hadrian's Wall began in AD 122 and, for two decades, the defensive fortification between the Solway Firth and the River Tyne marked the northernmost border of the Roman empire. In AD 142, having made further gains north, the Romans built a second defensive line called the Antonine Wall between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde. A few decades later, however, this second wall was abandoned with the Empire drawing its frontier back south to Hadrian's Wall. The findings of this latest study by the University of Edinburgh, Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre have been published in the journal, *Antiquity*. The study is part of a wider project called Beyond Walls, which is seeking to shed light on ancient sites, stretching from Durham in the south to the fringes of the Scottish Highlands in the north.

Northernmost frontier

Study author Dr Manuel Fernández-Götz, of the University's School of History, Classics and Archaeology, said: "This is one of the most exciting regions of the Roman Empire, as it represented its northernmost frontier. The land we now know as Scotland was one of very few areas in Western Europe over which the Roman army never managed to establish full control".

Fellow author Dr Dave Cowley of Historic Environment Scotland said: "The discovery of so many previously unknown sites helps us to reconstruct settlement patterns. Individually, they are very much routine, but cumulatively they help us understand the landscape within which the indigenous population lived."

Scottish Borders cyclists race to stage in September

Over 100 of the world's best cyclists will race between Hawick and Duns when the Tour of Britain returns to the Scottish Borders later this year. The race's ninth visit to the Borders promises to be an unforgettable sporting spectacle, featuring some of the best backdrops that Britain has to offer and a first-ever finish in Duns.

One year on from hosting its first stage start, Hawick will return to the Tour of Britain in September, and will once again be where the riders depart from.

The 178-kilometre (110-mile) route will pass through Jedburgh, Kelso, Coldstream – all places familiar to the Tour – as it heads north east to visit the historic coastal town of Eyemouth for the first time, before turning inland for the finish in Duns.

Sam Smith, Scottish Borders Council's Chief Officer for Economic Development said; "We are delighted to be hosting the Tour of Britain again this year and have the whole of Stage Two in the area. Hawick was a fantastic stage start venue last year and it is great that we've managed to bring a stage finish to Berwickshire for the first time to showcase the region."

Hill-top finishes at Glenshee Ski Centre in Aberdeenshire and The Needles on the Isle of Wight will bookend the Tour of Britain, which returns for what promises to be a ground-breaking 18th modern edition in September.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY

Jack Nicklaus at The Open St Andrews 1978.
Photo: Walter Iooss Jr./Sports Illustrated via Getty Images/ University of St Andrews.

Golf greats to be honoured in St Andrews

The town of St Andrews and its ancient university will honour some of the world's best-loved golfers when The 150th Open returns to the Home of Golf in July. Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino, José María Olazábal, Catriona Matthew, Sir Bob Charles and Sandy Lyle will be honoured in a major public ceremony in the Younger Hall, North Street, St Andrews, on Tuesday 12 July at 1pm.

Jack Nicklaus is to be made an Honorary Citizen of St Andrews by The Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council, while Trevino, Olazábal, Matthew, Charles and Lyle will receive honorary degrees from the University of St Andrews in recognition of their achievements and outstanding service to the game of golf.

Dr Nicklaus, who is already an honorary graduate of the University of St Andrews, will be the first person to be made an Honorary Citizen of St Andrews (the equivalent of the Freedom of the City) since Bobby Jones was made a Freeman of St Andrews in a ceremony in the Younger Hall in 1958. He will be one of only three US citizens to have received this honour, the other being Benjamin Franklin in 1759.

Nicklaus has 18 Majors to his name and won The Open twice at St Andrews. He played his last Open in 2005 on the Old Course where, in the company of Tom Watson, he birdied the last hole in emotional scenes at the Home of Golf. Well-known St Andrews golfer John Devlin will give a speech of tribute to Jack on behalf of the town, and honorary citizenship will be bestowed in the form of a scroll presented by the Provost of the Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council.

Dr Nicklaus has said he is "deeply honoured' by the invitation from the townspeople of St Andrews and will give a short speech of acceptance from the stage in the Younger Hall. In the same ceremony, the University of St Andrews will present Honorary Degrees of Doctor of Laws to Lee Trevino, José María Olazábal, Catriona Matthew, Sir Bob Charles and Sandy Lyle. These golfers join an illustrious roll of St Andrews' honorary graduates which includes Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson, Seve Ballesteros, Peter Alliss, Sir Nick Faldo, Colin Montgomerie, Peter Thomson, Gary Player and Padraig Harrington.

After the ceremony on 12 July, Dr Nicklaus and the new honorary graduates will take part in a public procession in the town expected to draw thousands of well-wishers.

TransPennine Express celebrates first service to call at Reston in more than 50 years

The Border Piper, Sandy Mutch, played as the service arrived for the first time in half a century.

Communities from East Berwickshire in the Scottish Borders were connected by rail for the first time in more than 50 years thanks to TransPennine Express (TPE). The first service took place in May from Edinburgh stopped at the newly constructed Reston Station, marking the first passenger service in the village since 1964. To mark the historic occasion, the first train to call at the new station was named 'St Abb's Head' after the picturesque Scottish National Trust reserve located just a few miles away.

Matthew Golton, Managing Director of TransPennine Express, who was among TPE customers on the first rail journey to Reston, said: "This is a landmark day for Reston – and for TPE – and we're delighted we've been able to work with our partners to help connect communities in the Scottish Borders. Our customers are at the heart of everything we do, and it was fantastic to see so many using our newly named 'St Abb's Head' Nova train this morning. We're excited to welcome the hundreds of future travellers who have already purchased advanced tickets and look forward to the part TPE will play in providing new leisure and commuting opportunities for the local community."

Transport Minister, Jenny Gilruth MSP, who travelled on one of the first TransPennine Express services from Edinburgh said: "Thanks to the Scottish Government's investment of £20 million, rail services are returning to Reston station. I am delighted to be celebrating the re-opening of Reston, connecting another part of the Scottish Borders to Scotland's rail network. For the first time since 1964 the people of Reston and Berwickshire will have rail connectivity. We know that reconnecting communities to rail isn't just about transport; it's opening up employment opportunities, it's driving investment & it's creating opportunity for future generations. This investment will change the lives of the people of Reston for the better."

The new services operate in each direction seven times per day between Edinburgh – Berwick-upon-Tweed (calling at Dunbar and Reston) and five times per day between Edinburgh - Newcastle (calling at Dunbar, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Alnmouth, Morpeth and Reston, with limited calls at Cramlington). Passenger volumes on these services grew by 50 per cent in the past four months as customers took advantage of the new connectivity.

Dunfermline granted City status by The Queen

Dunfermline is celebrating its new, official status as a city. The ancient capital has won its bid to have official status city, as part of the civic honours competition to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Provost of Fife Jim Leishman, said: "The official title of city will give Dunfermline the wider recognition that it deserves as one of the fastest-growing, urban areas in Scotland, offering all the amenities that any modern city could hope for. City status will help us grow economically and as a tourist destination and will have a positive impact on Dunfermline and the surroundings. Of course, the people of Dunfermline have always known that Dunfermline is a city, that's why we have the City Car Park, the City Hotel and City Cabs but it's great to finally get official recognition of this."

Dunfermline and St Andrews were both put forward to the competition, keen to see their heritage recognised and their historical status officially restored, and both bids were supported by Fife Council. Both towns were strong contenders, with Dunfermline a growing urban centre and historical capital of Scotland, and St Andrews known worldwide as the home of golf and Scotland's first university.

Provost Leishman continued: "I'd like to congratulate Dunfermline and say thank you to all those who put in so much effort with the bid to get Dunfermline recognised as a city. And commiserations to St Andrews and all those who pulled out all the stops to put forward an excellent submission. We look forward to being able to say 'officially' – Welcome to the City of Dunfermline! "

Plans for a long-distance walking route across Shetland

A feasibility study is underway into the creation of a long-distance walking route across Shetland, to attract more visitors to the islands and provide additional walking opportunities for local residents.

The Shetland Way would run from north to south along the spine of Shetland, linking the islands' considerable natural, cultural and community assets for social, economic and environmental benefit. The proposed route from Sumburgh Head in the south to Hermaness in the north could be used by tourists and locals alike, utilising 'visitor hubs' along its length, to divide it into daily walkable sections and give access to attractions, accommodation, facilities and shops.

The project is being developed by VisitScotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Shetland Islands Council, NatureScot and Shetland Tourism Association. With funding provided by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, consultants Stantec have been appointed to undertake the feasibility study, having a long-established track-record in Shetland and an in-depth knowledge for designing active travel infrastructure across Scotland, the UK and Europe.

Steve Mathieson, VisitScotland Development Manager for Shetland, said: "The idea of creating a long-distance walking route for Shetland seems to make perfect sense, especially with the growth in interest in responsible tourism and eco-friendly outdoor activities plus the drive to help communities engage more with active travel initiatives. There are a number of iconic walking routes throughout Scotland which are highly popular with both visitors and locals and this study will help determine the possibility of creating the most northerly one in the UK."

Visit East Lothian launches new destination driving routes

Taking inspiration from over 40 miles of stunning coastline, an expanse of open countryside, rolling hills and fascinating stories, Visit East Lothian has re-developed three driving routes which cross the county. The routes encourage visitors and locals alike to explore 102 miles around East Lothian and discover scenic landscapes, uncover picturesque towns and villages, visit hidden gems and experience authentic Scotland.

With people looking for new ideas and places to go, these routes open up a world of new adventures and opportunities. The routes can be broken down into smaller sections which make for ideal cycling too. The Driving Routes provide a unique insight into the region's fascinating history and heritage and continue right up to date with modern East Lothian. There are three routes to choose from. Each has stopping points with interpretation boards which link to further information on things to see and do in the surrounding area via a QR code.

Neil Christison, Regional Director, VisitScotland said: "East Lothian is a fantastic place to visit and explore and with its breath-taking coastline, quaint villages and quality visitor attractions has something for everyone. These driving routes will encourage visitors to explore further, stay longer and discover the region all year round. The impact of tourism spreads far beyond the industry itself – it benefits our economy, our community and our wellbeing."

Breath-taking scenery

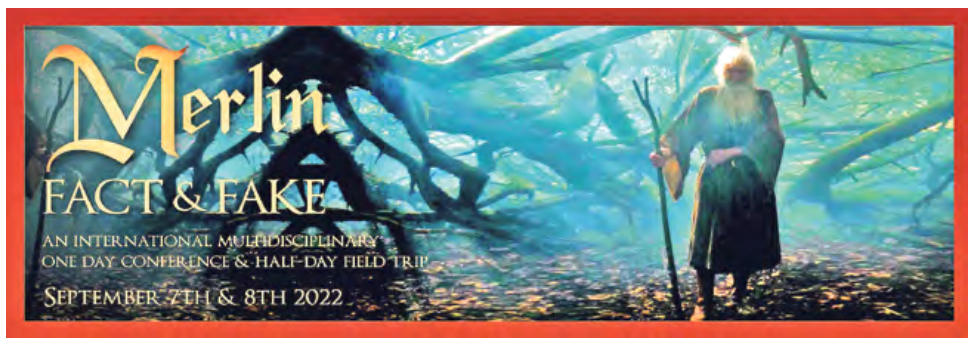
The Driving Routes take in some of Scotland's most breath-taking scenery and iconic landmarks including The Bass Rock, TantallonCastle, Belhaven Bay and Concorde as well as less well-known treasures such as Preston Mill, St Mary's Church, Whitekirk and Gifford. The three themed trails follow an individual route between Bilsdean, close to Dunbar on the main A1 route into Scotland travelling from England and Musselburgh which links East Lothian to Edinburgh.

The Coastal Trail is perfect for exploring rugged cliffs, sandy beaches, wildlife spotting and historical attractions. The Saltire Trail follows a central route through the county and delves into Scotland's rich history, heritage and culture. East Lothian is birthplace of The Saltire, Scotland's national flag and the story of its creation is just one of many told on this trail. The Hillfoots Trail meanders through glorious countryside, heads up into the Lammermuir Hills, passes through traditional villages and takes in panoramic views. There is a network of EV charging points in East Lothian and parts of the routes are also suitable for cycling and walking.

Elaine Carmichael, Visit East Lothian said: "With the increase in the staycation market and the desire from locals to become 'hametown' tourists, we felt the time was right to give our car touring trails a new lease of life. The resulting Driving Routes are a great addition to the overall East Lothian product and experiences offer and we are sure they will appeal to many people who want to really soak up the essence of a place, slow down and make the most of their holiday or day out."

The routes can be viewed at: www.visiteastlothian.org/discover-the-area/driving-routes

Merlin Fact & Fake



The Dark Age in Southern Scotland rarely merits more than a passing reference in our history books. Oxford History of Britain states that *"the turbulent, fractured, schizophrenic history of the Celtic nations, comes out as little more than a myth, fit for the refuse heap of history*"!

The time between the departure of the Romans and the arrival of St Columba was far from being "*a myth*". It was a dynamic and dramatic time in our history when the elements, which eventually formed Scotland, were beginning to come together. Emerging kingdoms and politics, international trade, Christianity and new peoples - the Angles of Northumbria and the Scots of Dalriada – were changing the face of northern Britain

This will be the subject of an international conference in Moffat on 7th September 2022 (postponed since 2020 because of Covid). It will bring together archaeologists, historians, philologists, topologists, literary scholars, geographers, geo-archaeologists, art experts and anthropologists in a multi-disciplinary meeting of minds.

The historic Merlin story

The 6th century AD is the background for the historic Merlin story, not as the wizard of legend but a man of learning – a free thinker who was suddenly subjected to horrors not so different to the present Russian invasion of Ukraine. His world was shattered in a bloodbath of pillage and genocide and his beliefs exterminated by the imposition of an alien Christian religious dogma. Suffering post-traumatic stress disorder, he took to the hills as an outlaw, surviving on what nature could provide until he was finally assassinated and buried on the banks of the weed.

Over the centuries that followed, history evolved into legend. His story was adapted, to champion new ideals and changing times. What is fact and what is fake? Where does story-telling and history connect? The conference will examine and debate the evidence. A programme of archaeological investigation starting in August in the Upper Tweed will explore the unknown. A hidden heritage is at last gradually being unearthed.

For an outline of the Conference programme see www.merlintrail.com. It is open to the public (£35 including buffet lunch) with a field trip to the excavation site the next day). Entry will only be available by advance booking.

SCOTS IN THE BUSH
Scottish & Celtic Festival
17 to 21 August 2022

Historic Boondooma Homestead
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Entertainment includes
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Celtic Thunder Oz, Moreton Celtic Fiddle Club, Limerick, Brumbys Run, Darrel Craft, Irish dancer – Amy Bromham and Jeff Mears on pipes, Tom Kimmet, Rum City Highland Dancers, David Rowan, Enzo & Rabbit.

Compères: Merv Webster, Clarrie Weller

- **Walk ups welcome on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning**
- **CONTACTS**
  Caretaker on (07) 4168 0159
  info@boondoomahomestead.org.au
  Judy Brandt on 0427 364 026
  judy.keith.brandt@bigpond.com
- **ADMISSION**
  $95 per person for full festival. Children up to 15 years, FREE. Fee includes entry, bush camping and all entertainment. Day rates will be available.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Tickets will be available from 1 June 2022 by going to https://www.boondoomahomestead.org.au

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CEILIDH DANCING and combined band performances

KIRKIN 'O' THE TARTAN on Sunday morning

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- **Stalls** welcome with own public liability insurance. Stallholders must comply with any Covid restrictions and mandates current at the time of the festival.

Bar and Meals are available

ALL CLANS WELCOME

Any COVID mandates or restrictions in place at the time of the festival will be applied.

When the Pipers Play

The Scottish Banner speaks to Finlay MacDonald, Artistic Director of Piping Live! Glasgow International Festival of Piping

Celebrating the return of PipingLive!

The world's biggest piping festival celebrates its return to the full in-person programme for the first time since 2019, offering a blended showcase of in-person gigs and online events, so both local and international audiences can enjoy the array of world-class performances. Finlay MacDonald, Artistic Director for Piping Live! took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner on the festival which annually attracts over 30,000 attendees to Glasgow.

Finlay you learned to play the pipes from your father and piping has been a huge part of your life. What is it about the instrument that you find so iconic and timeless?

FM: For me when I was younger it was simply the sound of the pipes that drew me. When I grew up my dad was a Pipe Major, and I was exposed to pipe bands from a very young age. That sound of standing by a pipe band is incredible, there is no recording that can capture what it is like to hear live pipes and drums. The visceral sound and the unique feeling you get when you hear those sounds, for me cannot be replaced. The pipes were so prevalent in my house, my father, sister and cousins all played, and it was very much in the family.

Piping Live! Is the world's biggest piping festival and returns to venues across Glasgow this August. Can you tell us about some of the highlights at this year's event?

FM: The highlight for me is getting PipingLive! back as an in-person event again. It has been a tough couple of years, but we have made things happen online and we are so grateful for everyone who has supported us through that and bought tickets for our online events. And while we still are doing an online element this year, which I think is still important in many ways as it keeps us connected to our digital supporters and those who cannot travel to Glasgow this year. Musically though getting people back is so important and obviously there is the atmosphere of a live crowd, there is nothing like it. Attendees can meet with friends, enjoy a drink and listen to live music, and for me that is a really big thing. Musically we have some great acts coming, our headline act is Rura a really great Scottish folk band and one thing that makes that special is the band actually formed about 12 years ago just to play at PipingLive!, at the time at the emerging talent stage and I was actually teaching the guys over at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland here in Glasgow and I encouraged them to get together musically and we gave them their first gig.

Headline act Rura.

Scotland is known the world over for bagpipes; however they truly are a global instrument. Can you tell us how does PipingLive! champion international piping performers and sounds?

FM: The pipes themselves have always been true to our core and it really is an international piping festival. We are lucky to travel around a bit and I am always on the lookout for different piping sounds in order to bring performers to Glasgow to showcase their sound. This year we have a great international element with pipers from Ireland, Estonia, Brittany, America, New Zealand and amazingly the first ever professional Iranian female piper Liana Sharifian.

Finlay MacDonald.

PipingLive! includes a great initiative for young people called Pipe Idol. Can you tell us more and why you find it so important to engage with and celebrate the next generation of great pipers?

FM: It has been part of our festival since we started and it is a great way to encourage younger plays to get up on a stage in front of an international audience, which can be a bit daunting. We do it in a very supportive and encouraging way, it is not like the formal judging panel; some may be used to. We pick judges who are in Glasgow, so an international panel, and they are seated amongst the audience, and we very much encourage it as a performance rather than a competition. The contestants get to meet their peers from different countries and perform on the same stage as them, it really is a real positive thing for those taking part and gives them a platform and experience they otherwise may not have had before. When you give young musicians a platform like that, they generally go for it.

Piping Live! takes place at the same time the World Pipe Band Championships are also on in the city. For those that have yet to attend can you tell us just what the buzz in the city is like for pipe band fans?

FM: There is nothing like it, it really is piping heaven in Glasgow. If you are into

piping or pipe bands, then Glasgow is the place to be in August. The music is one thing, that goes without saying, but there is also the social side to all this. Piping is a very friendly machine. At our festival we try to encourage a social side to the music where people can come together and meet each other from across the world, Glasgow itself really is alive with piping at this time and it is a great place to be.

If you are into piping or pipe bands, then Glasgow is the place to be in August.

Glasgow is a UNESCO City of Music. How important do you feel it is to make sure the bagpipes are celebrated in Scotland's most musical city?

FM: Glasgow is a year-round music city and great music can be had all over. Music can find you in this city from the great live music scene in clubs and venues to the simple pub scene there is always so much on offer. We have not just PipingLive! and The World's here but great music events such as Celtic Connections which brings a great array of artists from across the globe. We are obviously passionate about showcasing and the celebrating the pipes and can think of nowhere better to do it than Glasgow.

The pandemic has been quite hard on pipe bands the world over, with practices and performances cancelled. How have you found the spirit, resilience, and comradery of the pipe band movement has helped players get through the isolation and tough times?

FM: It has been really tough for most bands, and some have found other ways to keep going like through online practices. It is so difficult to recreate the live sound of a band online when each member is Zooming in from a different address, but many bands have stuck with it and have

also been creating new music during lockdown. For some bands they have used the time to develop new material and really been massively resilient and come out stronger. We recently had our first in person competition here in Scotland in Gourock and there was a real amazing atmosphere and people were in fact joyous to be able to play the pipes again.

And finally, Finlay what message do you have for anyone, regardless of age, interested in taking up the pipes or drums and joining a pipe band?

FM: Just do it! People in the pipe band movement are very welcoming and here at the National Piping Centre we teach people from the age of 8 to 80 and you are never too young or too old to learn. There is also all the added benefit of the experience that has been gained during the pandemic of online learning for those who are not near a pipe band. You can start off online for those that can't travel, and I know that online tuition works as I have seen students flourish through our online courses. Pipe bands really connect people and offers a huge range of opportunities and experiences that most would not have otherwise, like I said just do it!

Piping Live! Glasgow International Festival of Piping, will return to Glasgow from 6th – 14th August 2022. For details see:www.pipinglive.co.uk

Piping Live! celebrates a return to in-person events with jam-packed festival

Just some of the highlights on for PipingLive! 2022:

- The Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies Memorial Recital Challenge, Piping Live!'s flagship evening of solo piping, will make a welcome return this year. The competition will pit five top pipers against each other as they take to the stage to perform a medley of their favourite tunes. Annually a sell-out success, performances this year will come from Callum Beaumont, Finlay Johnston, Sarah Muir, Angus MacColl and Matt MacIsaac.
- The International Quartet Competition will feature six of the top Grade I pipe band quartets in the world, including the Simon Fraser University band and Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia. Each of the six bands from across the world will send four of their best pipers to compete in this head-to-head challenge.
- There will be performance from Allan MacDonald, alongside his hand-picked band of Iain MacFarlane, Finlay MacDonald and Ali Hutton with a guest appearance from Uilleann Piper Leonard Barry. This evening's entertainment, entitled We're a Case the Bunch of Us, will see Allan MacDonald present music from his collections The First Hundred and The Second Hundred. This will be a double header gig, with a performance from Biera, the up-and-coming all female group who bring together roaring Scottish tunes with stunning songs in Gaelic, Scots and English.
- A special performance will come from the for the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland (NYPBS) to celebrate its 20th birthday at Glasgow's City Halls. The band will showcase 10 new compositions that have been written as part of their Emerging Composers project. The bespoke 'project band' will feature the 10 young composers themselves as well as NYPBS Pipers and Drummers alongside a host of leading traditional musicians.
- The nine-day festival will showcase several piping competitions including the highly esteemed Silver Chanter, which will make its return to Skye. The pioneering piping event, now in its 56th year, is the annual invitational Piobaireachd competition that was established by Dame Flora MacLeod, 28th Chief of MacLeod, in 1967 with the aim of encouraging more top pipers to compete at the Skye Gathering. The esteemed competition came under the stewardship of the National Piping Centre in 2018 but it will now make a welcome return to Skye's Sabhal Mòr Ostaig this August.
- The Masters Solo Piping Competition will take place at the National Piping Centre. This prestigious competition is the qualifying event for the Glenfiddich piping competition and will see the best soloists from across the world compete in Piobaireachd and Light Music.
- Piping Live! continues to host an eclectic mix of world-class performances and opening night will be no exception as the festival showcases a performance for the first time for an Avant Garde "Ceol Nua" or New Music piping night featuring USA's Blarvuster and Skye's Malin Makes Music.
- Piping Live!'s final day will feature 2 fantastic events with entertainment starting in the afternoon with the internationally renowned Gordon Duncan Memorial Competition. This unique event continues to celebrate Gordon's links to Scotland, Ireland and Brittany. One Scottish, Irish and Breton piper and in person for the first time, an international piper will each play sets of Scottish, Irish and Breton music and the overall winner will be the best player of all three musical styles.
- The closing concert will see no other than the legendary piper Fred Morrison Trio take to the National Piping Centre stage, alongside his trio. Paddy Keenan, one of the founding members of the Bothy Band, will close the 19th festival alongside Fred in unforgettable style.
- Day time events, which will primarily take place at the festival's iconic Street Café on McPhater Street, will include the 'Emerging Talent' stage where daily shows will be performed by up-and-coming trad music groups, including GLASTUR, the Ross Miller Trio, Falasgair and Fionnlagh with Gillie O'Flaherty and Eoghainn Beaton.
- The Pipe Idol Final will see four solo players aged 21 and under compete after winning their heat earlier in the week. The much-coveted prize is a set of Fred Morrison's Reel Pipes.
- Pipe bands from across the globe will perform on Buchanan Street from 12noon each day of the festival, including artists from Canada, USA and Argentina.
- Virtual audiences from around the world can enjoy around 40 hours of live stream content which is all included in one Livestream Festival Pass. Content that will be included in this online festival pass will include The Silver Chanter, The Masters Solo Piping Competition, The Allan MacDonald - We're a Case the Bunch of Us Concert, the Lowland & Borders Pipers' Society Showcase, The Pipe Idol Final, The Gordon Duncan Memorial Competition and the closing concert with Fred Morrison and Paddy Keenan. Several daytime events and the Learn at Live! workshops will also be streamed.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

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

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

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

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

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

2 - Royal Scots Dragoon Guards formed as the senior Scottish regiment of the British Army at Holyrood, Edinburgh, by amalgamation of the Royal Scots Greys and 3rd Carabiniers. **1971**

2 - Supporters of Stirling Albion F.C. become the first in the UK to take over ownership of their club. **2010**

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

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

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

4 - Lanarkshire-born James Keir Hardie became the first socialist to win a seat in the UK Parliament. **1892**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 - Darien expedition left Leith for Panama. Of the 3000 settlers who set sail in 1688 and 1699, only a handful returned, the rest having succumbed to disease. **1698**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

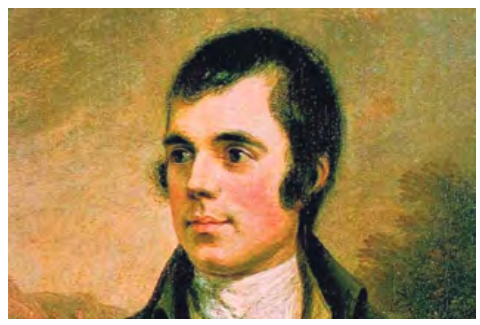
18 - John Paul Jones, naval hero of the American Revolution, died; he was born in Kircudbrightshire in 1747. **1792**

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

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

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

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

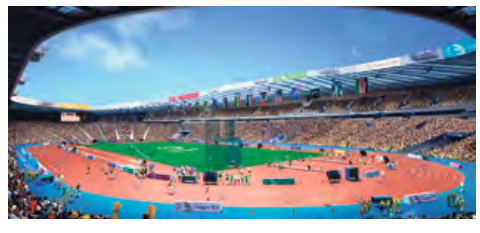


21 - Robert Burns dies in Dumfries, aged 37. The cause of death appears to have been heart failure, probably brought on by the hard physical work done in his youth. His widow, Jean Armour, gave birth to a son on the day of her husband's funeral. However, Maxwell, named after Burns's doctor, died in infancy.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

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

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

23 - Charles Edward Stuart landed on Eriskay at the start of the 1745 campaign. July 24 1567 - Mary Queen of Scots abdicated and the young James VI acceded to Scottish throne. The Earl of Mar was appointed regent. **1745**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

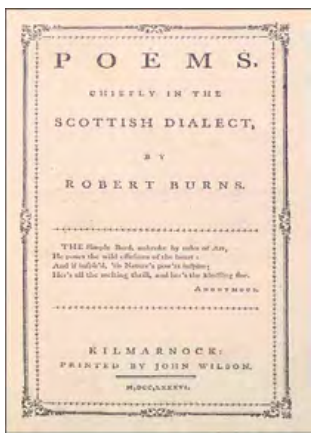
28 - The Royalist Marquess of Montrose beat General Baillie in a skirmish which was part of the English Civil War at Dunkeld, Perthshire. For a war of positions the Highlanders had neither aptitude nor inclination, and at Dunkeld the greater part of them went home. **1645**

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

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

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

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


POEMS.
CHIEFLY IN THE
SCOTTISH DIALECT,
BY
ROBERT BURNS.
KILMARNOCK:
PRINTED BY JOHN WILSON.

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

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

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

The Thistle – Scotland's national flower

By: Rheanna-Marie Hall,
The National Trust for Scotland (NTS)

The thistle is the flower of Scotland and one of its most recognisable symbols. Since King Alexander III, it has been Scotland's national emblem. No-one is truly sure of how the thistle came to be Scotland's national flower. A well-known story though attributes the thistle being chosen as the emblem of Scotland to the Battle of Largs (a coastal town in Ayrshire) in the 13th century. A Norse army journeyed to Scotland, intent on conquering the land. The legend has it that they left their ships under cover of night, and were planning to ambush the sleeping Scottish Clansmen. In order to be as quiet as possible, the Norsemen had removed their shoes. However as they crept across the countryside, one of them stepped onto a thorny thistle. His cry of pain roused the Scots, and the warriors rose up and defeated the invaders.

History

Silver coins in Scotland and later Britain have long featured a thistle, and the first coins to do so were as early as 1474, issued by King James III in Scotland. The most recent design to feature the thistle plant was the British 5p coin (which stopped being minted in 2008), which was impressed with 'The Badge of Scotland, a thistle royally crowned'. In 1687 King James VII and II founded the Order of the Thistle. Its heraldic emblem was, of course, the thistle. Its full title is the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, and it is an order of chivalry, the highest honour Scotland can bestow on an individual. The motto of the Order, *Nemo me impune lacessit*, 'No one provokes me with impunity', pairs well with the prickly thistle which cannot be picked without difficulty.

The symbol of the thistle can also be seen in combination with other national flowers and symbols. Below is a flag gifted to Falkland Palace in 1950, to mark the 300-year history of the Scots Guards. The emblem represents the Crown and the rank of Colonel, showing the Scottish thistle, English rose and Irish shamrock with the words Unita Fortior, 'stronger in unity'. The military colours were presented to George VI when he was Colonel-in-Chief of the Scots Guards from 1932–7.

The thistle flower

Alpine blue sow thistle alongside melancholy thistle.

Thistles can be found right across Scotland, from the Lowlands to the Highlands, and even on the islands! There are a number of different types which grow in the UK, and a variety of thistles can be found in the wild around Scotland, the most common being the spear thistle, the creeping thistle, and the marsh thistle. It is the native spear thistle, Cirsium vulgare, which is thought to have been used as the national emblem. They are abundant in Scotland, and the imagery on coins, flags and other symbols through history closely matches this particular variety.

There is another type of thistle known as the 'Scotch thistle' or cotton thistle, Onopordum acanthium, but this is non-native. It was likely introduced from Europe sometime before the 16th century, and is most abundant in the United States of America and Australia.

Different varieties of thistle can be seen at NTS countryside and garden properties across Scotland, such as Mar Lodge Estate National Nature Reserve.

At Mar Lodge Estate, where over 600 plant species have been recorded, since 2018 a rare plant conservation project has been underway for two species which are at risk of extinction in Scotland. One of these is the alpine blue sow thistle (Cicerbita alpina). At Mar Lodge it can be seen growing beside the more traditional-looking varieties of thistle, here a melancholy thistle, Cirsium heterophyllum.

A popular symbol

The thistle is now well ingrained into the cultural identity of Scotland, and you can find it everywhere. Amongst other things, it is the logo of Scottish Rugby, adorns the crest of Scotland's national football team, is a core component of the Police Scotland logo, and is a popular choice for any number of Scottish businesses. For visitors to Scotland, a keepsake decorated with a thistle flower is often a must-have!

Thistle plant extract can also be found in beauty products, particularly soaps and face creams, as in recent years it has been found to have anti-inflammatory properties and be a beneficial ingredient in skincare.

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

Did you know?

Barra Airport. Photo: VisitScotland.

The Isle of Barra

- Barra (along with adjacent island of Vatersay) is the most southerly of the inhabited islands in the Outer Hebrides.
- The Isle of Barra is roughly 60 km2 (23 sq mi) in area, 11 mi (18 km) long and 6 mi (10 km) wide.
- Barra has been the stronghold of Clan MacNeil, who have claimed to be descendants of Ireland's King and warlord Niall of the Nine Hostages.
- The once fishing port of Castlebay is the today the main town on Barra. The town gets its name from where Kisimul Castle (also known as the Castle in the Sea), which sits on a small islet not far from shore.
- Of the near 1,300 island population, over half speak Gaelic.
- Barra airport is found on the North part of the island and Traigh Mhor is the beach where flights land. Barra is very unique as it has the only scheduled beach plane landings in the world. At high tide, the runway disappears beneath the waves.
- The original *Whisky Galore* film has made on Barra. Based on the novel by Sir Compton MacKenzie who adapted the true story of the *S.S. Politician* which sank off nearby Eriskay with its cargo of whisky in 1941. Compton Mackenzie is buried on Barra.
- From beautiful stunning beaches to a rugged landscape the island may be small but visitors can understand why the island is often dubbed "Barradise".

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The Scottish Banner

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN

Cheddar Soda Bread

Ingredients:
350g/12oz self-raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
100g/3½oz unsalted butter
50ml/2fl oz. milk
100g/3½oz cheddar, grated
6 sprigs fresh rosemary
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:
Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Place the flour, baking powder and butter into a food processor and blend together. Continue blending and add the milk and cheese. Mix until the mixture just starts to come together then stop. Remove the dough with floured hands and shape into a large flat round about 3cm/1in thick.

Place onto a floured baking sheet and decorate with the rosemary sprigs. Slash a criss-cross over the centre of the dough and place into the oven to bake for 15 minutes, until risen, golden and cooked through. To serve, cut up the cheddar bread into eight pieces and place in a basket or bowl.

Highland Salad

Ingredients:
1 x 300g/10½oz. sirloin or fillet steak
salt and freshly ground black pepper
25ml/1fl oz. rapeseed oil
1 red chilli, finely chopped
1 tbsp. palm sugar
2 garlic cloves, sliced
2 tbsp. fresh coriander, plus extra for the salad
2 tbsp. fresh mint
1 tsp. fish sauce
1 tbsp. soy sauce
1 lime, juice and zest
1 round lettuce
50g/1¾oz. sugar-snap peas, halved
6 radishes, sliced

Method:
Preheat a barbecue or griddle pan to hot. Season the steak with lots of black pepper, drizzle with oil and place onto a hot barbecue or griddle pan for five minutes, turning half-way through. To make the dressing, put the chilli, palm sugar, garlic and a teaspoon of salt into a pestle and mortar. Grind for 1-2 minutes, then add the coriander and mint and grind for another minute. Mix in the fish sauce, soy sauce, lime juice and zest. Cut the lettuce into six wedges and place in a bowl. Top with the sugar-snap peas, radishes and a few coriander leaves. Pour the dressing over the salad and toss to coat. Slice the beef and lay it on top of the salad.

Highlander Soup

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

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

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

Dundee Lamb Chops

Ingredients:
Four leg of lamb chops
75ml/2.5 fluid oz. or five tablespoons vinegar
Half teaspoon ground ginger
4 tablespoons marmalade
4 slices orange for garnish
60g/2 oz. or half stick butter
75ml/2½ fluid oz. water
Half teaspoon paprika
Salt and pepper

Method:
You will need a frying pan with a heavy base and a close-fitting lid. First, brown the chops in the butter. Sprinkle the ginger, paprika, salt and pepper over the chops and add water and vinegar. Place a generous tablespoon of marmalade on the top of each chop. Bring to a slow simmer and cook for 45 minutes on a very low heat. If required, add a little extra water.
Serve with a twist of orange on top of the chops and with boiled potatoes and fresh vegetables.

Aberdeen butteries (Rowies)

Ingredients:
500g/1lb 2oz. strong plain flour, plus extra for dusting
1 x 7g sachet easy-blend dried yeast
1 tbsp. soft light brown sugar
1 tbsp. sea salt flakes
350ml/12¼fl oz. warm water
vegetable oil, for greasing
275g/9¾oz. butter, plus extra to serve
100g/3½oz. lard
ready-made jam, to serve

Method:
In a large bowl, mix together the flour, yeast, sugar and salt until well combined. Make a well in the centre of the mixture, then gradually add the water in a thin stream, stirring well with a wooden spoon, until the mixture comes together as a dough (note: You may not need to use all of the water). Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead lightly for 8-10 minutes, or until smooth and elastic. Transfer the kneaded dough to a clean, greased bowl and cover with a greased sheet of cling film. Set aside in a warm place to rise (prove) for at least one hour, or until the dough has doubled in size. Meanwhile, in a separate bowl, cream together the butter and lard until well combined. Divide the mixture into four equal portions. When the dough has proved, turn it out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for a further 1-2 minutes. Roll out the dough into a 40cm x 20cm/16in x 8in rectangle, about 1cm/½in thick. Turn the dough around so that the shortest edge is facing you.

Spread one portion of the butter and lard mixture over the bottom two-thirds of the dough rectangle. Fold the remaining one third of the dough rectangle over onto the butter and lard mixture to cover the centre section of the dough rectangle. Fold the other end of the dough rectangle over the folded dough, so that the dough ends up three times its original thickness. Roll the dough out again to a 40cm x 20cm/16in x 8in rectangle, about 1cm/½in thick. Repeat the process of spreading and folding with another portion of the butter and lard mixture. Repeat the process twice more, until all of the butter and lard mixture has been used up and the dough has been rolled out a total of four times. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Roll the dough out again to a 40cm x 20cm/16in x 8in rectangle, about 1cm/½in thick. Cut the dough into 16 pieces and roll each into a round, flat bun shape. Transfer the buns to a lightly oiled baking tray and set aside for 40-45 minutes, or until they have doubled in size again (leave enough space between them for expansion). When the buns have risen, bake them in the oven for 15-18 minutes, or until they have risen further and are golden-brown and cooked through. Set aside to cool on a wire rack. Serve each buttery warm, spread with butter and jam.

Honey sponge

Ingredients:
130g/4½oz honey
100g/3½oz unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
100g/3½oz caster sugar
3 free-range eggs
110g/4oz self-raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
custard or cream, to serve

Method:
Butter a 1 litre/1¾ pint pudding basin. Put two tablespoons of the honey into the prepared basin (if the honey is very thick, warm it gently first to make it more liquid).

Put the remaining honey and all the other ingredients into a large bowl and beat together using an electric whisk. Start off slowly, then increase the speed and mix for two minutes until all the ingredients are well combined.

Pour the mixture into the pudding basin, on top of the honey.

Place a piece of baking parchment on a sheet of foil and make a large pleat in the middle, folding both sheets together (this allows for the pudding's expansion as it cooks). Put the parchment and foil on top of the pudding, foil side up, and secure with string, looping the end of the string over the top of the pudding and tying it to form a handle that will enable you to lift the pudding in and out of the pan.

Place the basin in a large pan, and pour in enough boiling water to come halfway up the side of the basin. Put a lid on the pan and bring to a simmer. Lower the heat to maintain a simmer and let the pudding steam for 1¼ hours, until risen and springy to the touch. Top up the boiling water, if necessary, to prevent the pan boiling dry.

Remove the foil and parchment and run the tip of a small, sharp knife around the edge of the pudding to help release it. Turn onto a warmed plate and serve piping hot with custard or cream.

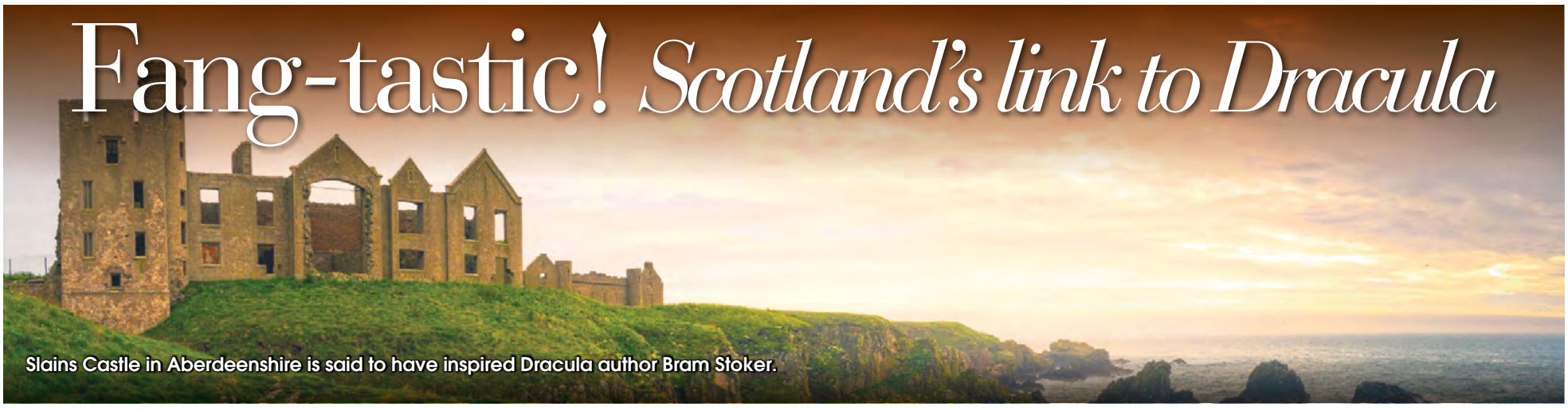
Glasgow punch

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

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

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

Fang-tastic! *Scotland's link to Dracula*


Slains Castle in Aberdeenshire is said to have inspired Dracula author Bram Stoker.

VisitScotland is celebrating Scotland's surprising links to *Dracula* and its famed author Bram Stoker on the iconic book's 125th anniversary. Scotland is said to have played a crucial role in the creation of the classic story with Stoker holidaying north of the border as he wrote it. Visitors and locals alike are being encouraged to indulge in some literary tourism, whereby people are inspired to visit the locations depicted in literature, and delve into the country's connections to *Dracula*, following in Stoker's footsteps.

Slains Castle

Locations in Edinburgh, the Scottish Borders and Glasgow all have links to Stoker, but it is perhaps the striking cliff top castle in Aberdeenshire that is best known for its links to the story.
Slains Castle, near Cruden Bay, is believed to have inspired Dracula's castle – specifically a unique octagon-shaped room described in the book, which Slains boasts. Stoker began writing *Dracula* – which was published in 1897 - while staying at the nearby Kilmarnock Arms Hotel, with his signatures from its guestbook in 1894 and 1895 surviving to this day. Now in ruins, the castle is best admired from nearby and should not be entered due to safety reasons.

The 125th anniversary of *Dracula* is fittingly marked during Scotland's Year of Stories which celebrates and promotes the wealth of stories inspired by, written, or created in Scotland. Recently, the national tourism organisation co-hosted a special event with Blackwell's bookshop in Edinburgh to mark the anniversary attended by Stoker's great-grandnephew Dacre Stoker, who took part in a Q&A and book signing attended by fans of Dracula and horror literature.

Jenni Steele, VisitScotland Film and Creative Industries Manager, said: "This anniversary is a fantastic opportunity to highlight Scotland's connections to this world-renowned book and character. *Dracula*holds such a sense of intrigue and mystery, so it is not surprising that Bram Stoker's writing is said to have been influenced by the country's magical landscapes and locations while on his travels. It was pleasure to co-host the special event in Edinburgh and have Dacre involved in sharing his passion and knowledge about *Dracula* in Scotland. 2022 also marks Scotland's Year of Stories – so this anniversary is a perfect fit to celebrate our links to this world-famous tale. And we hope that by shining a light on those ties, people will come and see the inspirational places that arguably helped created one of the most famous pieces of literature ever written."

Scotland's literary tradition

Dacre Stoker, great grandnephew of Bram Stoker, said: "It is a great privilege to part of this special anniversary, and even more so to be celebrating it in what is arguably the birthplace of *Dracula*; Scotland. The rich culture and heritage clearly left its impact on Bram; from the ruins of Slains Castle clearly inspiring the gothic setting of Dracula's castle, to the vast landscape of Aberdeenshire's coast to his links to Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders, including his friendships with writers such as Arthur Conan Doyle and other writers that make up the fabric of Scotland's literary tradition. Scotland has inspired many writers and artists for centuries and its stories and landscapes hopefully will continue to inspire many more to come."

Scotland has world-class literary links. Our landscapes, history and people have inspired writers for centuries, helping to bring to life enduring characters that capture the imagination. From *Dracula* to *Outlander, Harry Potter* to *Sunset Song*, Scotland has inspired some of the world's best-loved literary creations. Pre-Covid19 there were over three million visits to literary attractions across Scotland (2013-2019). Figures released by the Moffat Centre for Travel and Tourism Business Development at Glasgow Caledonian University detail visitor numbers to places with literature links including Abbotsford – The Home of Sir Walter Scott, Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, the Grassic Gibbon Centre, the Writers' Museum, JM Barrie's Birthplace, Scott Monument and Burns Monument Centre.

And there are several Scottish locations with Dracula and vampire ties for visitors to discover:

Renfield Street, Glasgow – It is believed Bram Stoker supported the staging of plays at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow and that the name of RM Renfield, the character featured in the novel, was taken from Glasgow's Renfield Street.

Edinburgh - Before writing Dracula, Bram Stoker worked as a theatre manager, which saw him heavily involved in the opening night of the Royal Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh in 1883.

Glamis Castle, Angus - There is said to be a 'vampire child' who was born in the castle and kept in a secret room.

Melrose Abbey, Scottish Borders.

Another vampire legend tells of a woman who worked in the castle and was caught drinking blood from a body and was punished by being walled up alive in a secret room, where she remains to this day.

Melrose Abbey, Scottish Borders – Reportedly, during the 12th century an unpopular priest lived at the abbey. He was a rule-breaker and nicknamed Hunderprest because he preferred hunting with dogs rather than serving God. After he died and was buried on the grounds, it's alleged Hunderprest rose from his tomb, wailing and drinking the blood of the nuns. One night, as the undead priest rose again, the other priests beheaded him, cremated him and scattered his ashes to the wind.

Blair Atholl, Perthshire - A local tale describes how two poachers were attacked by a blood sucking creature while they slept in a bothy near Glen Tilt. The pair fought the creature off after which it flew away into the night or accounts claim it simply vanished.

Another interesting *Dracula* connection is through Emily Gerard, an author born in Jedburgh, Scottish Borders and lived in Airdrie, North Lanarkshire. She was the first person to bring the word "nosferatu" or "vampire" into use in western Europe. She studied and wrote about Transylvanian folklore having married an Austro-Hungarian chevalier, who was stationed in a small town there. Gerard's collection of Transylvanian myths and legends are known to have influenced Stoker's *Dracula*.

Text and images courtesy of VisitScotland. For more information about Scotland's Year of Stories 2022 visit: www.visitscotland.com/about/themed-years/stories

Glamis Castle, Angus.

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Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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

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

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

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

CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-

Clan Chief
Peter Carruthers of Holmains
(Honorary Society President)

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

www.clancarrutherssociety.org
clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

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

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

FORBES

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CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG

CHISHOLM

Clan Chisholm Society of Australia Inc

Membership is invited from Clan Chisholm descendants of all spellings of the name (Chisholm, Chisolm, Chism, Chisum, Chisam, etc)
Contact: Kim Polley OAM
PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301
Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com
www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/AUSmembership.php

Clan Cumming Society of the United States

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

Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid
People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh "The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.
For information and membership application, contact Gordon Robertson.
Email: gord7@bigpond.com

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

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

CLAN BELL

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

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

Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

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

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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

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

Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

www.clangalbraith.org

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

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

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

Clan Donald Australia

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

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

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

Edmonstone Clan Society

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

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

Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balqhidder,
24th Chief of Clan Gregor

Great Lakes,
New England,
Pacific North West,
Western U.S.
and Southeast Chapters

www.clangregor.org

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

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

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

Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

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

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com

Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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

THE CLAN CAMPBELL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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

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

Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

Clan Donald USA is a nationwide organization of over 2,000 families who trace their ancestry to any of the branches of Clann Domhnaill. We embrace all the MacDonalds and other surnames that are recognized as branches or adherents of the greatest of the Highland clans.

www.clandonaldusa.org

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

American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909

Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

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

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

Clan Hamilton Society

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

CLAN LAMONT SOCIETY AUSTRALIA invites membership from Sept names refer to Web Site
www.clanlamontaustralia.com

Clan Chief Peter Lamont of that Ilk resides in Sydney Australia.

For all enquires about the Clan and Membership contact :-

President Ian McLucas.
Email ianandbevmclucas@bigpond.com

mobile 0448 778 799

MacLaren

Clan Labhran

Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

Information about the Clan and application for CMSA membership is available on the website or via the email address below.
Membership is open to MacLarens (all spellings), Septs, individuals and families with an association to the Clan.

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

Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide

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

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Clan Hay Australia

A' Hay A' Hay

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

Alderston; Ayer; Bagra; Beagrie; Conn (Aberdeenshire only); Constable; Delahaye; Delgaty; Du Plessis; Dupplin; Errol; Garrow; Geary; Gifford; Hayden; Haye; Hayes; Hayle; Haynes; Hays; Hayton; Hayward; Hey; Hye; Kinnoul; Laxfirth; Leask*; Leith; Locherworth; Logie; Macara; MacGaradh; McKester; Peebles; Phillips (Aberdeenshire only); Slains; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester; Zester

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

clanHayAustralia@Facebook.com

McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

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Website: https://macailpein.com/

Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President
President@clanmaclarenna.org

Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

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

Clan Hay

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

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

www.clanhay.com

Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

MacDougall — MacDowall

Valerie McDougall
VP Membership
505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON
N5Z 3B2
Email: Info@macdougall.org Home page: www.macdougall.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall

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

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

Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc

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Clan MacNeil Association of America

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

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

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

Clan Henderson Society

Purposes of the Society

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

Alistair of Fordell

Contact Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
0439 330 012

An Eirean Ceann Cinnidh

www.clanhendersonsociety.com

International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc

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

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

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

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

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

MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacLellan

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

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson
PO Box 243
GYMEA NSW 2227
www.clanmacnicol.org

Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

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

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

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

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

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

Clan MacInnes

Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

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

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

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

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

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

- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
- South Australia - Alex McLeod 08 8327 0925
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334
- *Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au*

Clan Macpherson Association

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron
Alexander H.R Irvine of Drum,
27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name
Contact: Susan Irvine McRae, Chair
5607 Bryar Rose Drive, Ooltewah, TN 37363
susan.mcrae@clanirwin.org
www.clanirwin.org
IRWIN • IRVINE • IRVIN • IRVING • ERWIN
And the many other spellings of the Name

Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.

Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

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

Visit our website
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The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

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

Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

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

www.macrae.org

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

Clan Scott Australia Group

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

Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs:
Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.

E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com

Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

'Wardlaw ivermair!'
www.clanwardlaw.com
Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

For information please contact
members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Find us on Facebook

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Scottish Associations and Societies

Clan Maitland Society

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

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

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

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

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

Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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

www.clansinclairaustralia.com

THE AMERICAN-SCOTTISH FOUNDATION, INC.

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

The American-Scottish Foundation

Scottish Gaelic Language Classes:

Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm during school terms at Faraday Street, Carlton and on Zoom.
Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277
Email:scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

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

Oliphant Clan & Family Association of North America

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Oliphant - Olyphant - Oliphint
Olifant -Olifent
and all descended

ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com
www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org

The Stewart Society

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

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

Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

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

Còisir Ghàidhlig Bhioctòiria

Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria

www.facebook.com/ScottishGaelicChoirofVictoria

Do you live in Melbourne? Are you interested in Gaelic and its music, or do you simply enjoy singing? Why not join us?

Rehearsal times:
Thursday 7-9pm during school terms,
Term 1 2020 beginning 6th February
at The Kildara Centre, rear of
39 Stanhope Street, Malvern.

Contact Raghnaid NicGaraidh
rachel.hay@iinet.net.au

Clan Pollock

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

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

Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary
PO Box 1166
Park Ridge QLD 4125
genealogist_clan_sutherland_australia@hotmail.com
http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus
Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia

Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in Newcastle, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas. Members and interested people are welcome to attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night, St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.

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

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER
FOUNDED 1947

The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited
ABN 30 093 578 860
Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association
The Secretary, P.O. Box 352, Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122
www.standrewsociety.com

Clan Ross in Australia

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

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

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

Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

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

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

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

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

Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

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

E-mail: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au
Website: https//scotsofaus.org.au
Facebook: facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria

Clan Ross America

Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.

Michael Ross, President
Nancy Ross-Anderson, VP Membership
15244 El Centro St., Hesperia, CA 92345
membership@clanross.org
info@clanross.org

www.clanross.org

YOUNG

Clan Young Australia

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

Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot

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

www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457
Pinehurst, NC 28370

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

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

Victorian Scottish Union Inc

Established 1905

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

Affiliated Clans & Societies

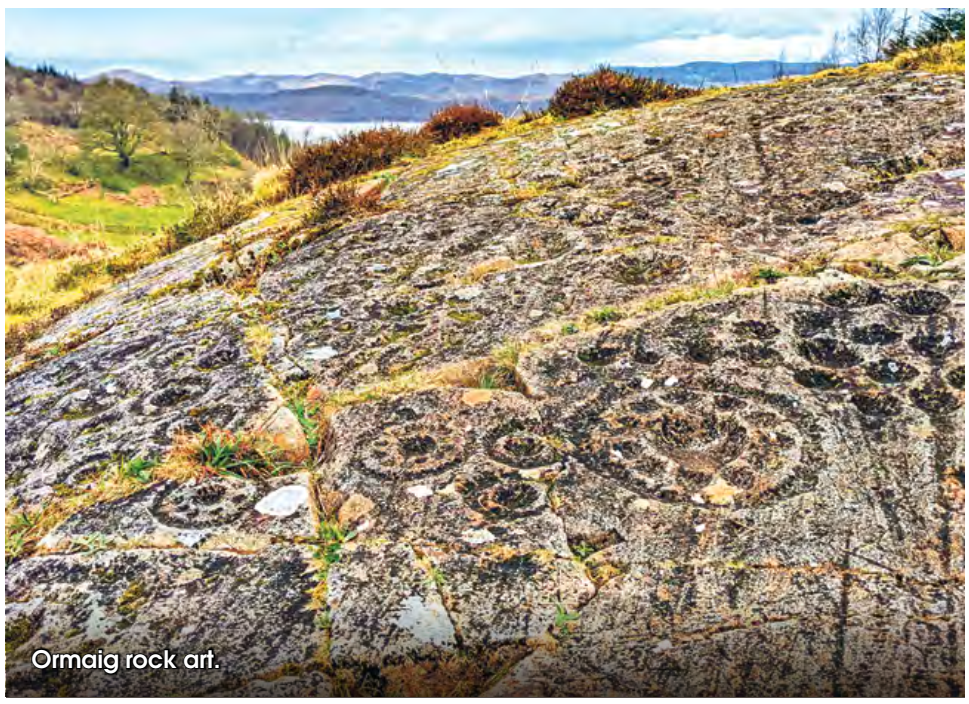
Brunswick Scottish Society	Glenbrae Celtic Dancers
Clan Donald Victoria	Maryborough Highland Society
Clan Grant	Scottish Country Dance Society of Victoria
Clan Hay	Robert Burns Scottish Festival Camperdown
Clan Macdonald of Yarraville	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Clan Sinclair	Warrnambool & District Caledonian Society
Geelong Scottish Dance	Warrnambool Highland Dance

Chief : Mr Grant McKinna
President Norman Macdonald
Secretary Jan Macdonald

Contact details:
Email: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
Mobile 0438 584 930
Address: PO Box 116, Cobden, Victoria 3266
www.victorianscottishunion.com

Patterns of the Past - *Rock art in Kilmartin Glen and far beyond*

By: David C Weinczok


Ormaig rock art.

Motifs and symbols are some of the most enduring and intriguing remnants of the past for historians and archaeologists to study. Unlike structures, they can endure long after any individual site has been reduced to dust. Deciphering a motif's meaning keeps many such experts up at night, but there is more to it than just the 'how' or 'why'. Understanding and reinterpreting past symbols, I believe, brings us close to the essence of ancient lives precisely because we can't help but make them our own, just as past peoples would have.

Ring rock art

One of the most prevalent types of motifs in Scotland are variations on cup and cup-and-ring rock art. These simple designs consist of a 'cup' or bowl-like depression carved into a stone surface, sometimes surrounded by layers of 'rings'. These symbols pop up around the world. While they're most strongly associated with the north-west seaboard of Atlantic Europe, they can also be found in Scandinavia, Alpine valleys, and the Aegean Sea. Similar patterns of rock art, though with important distinctions, have been found in Australia, Central Asia, Hawaii, India, Mexico, and more.

More than 3,000 rock art sites, many of them bearing cup or cup-and-ring marks, are known in Scotland today. They were made between 4,000 – 2,500 BCE, and re-used in various ways well into the Bronze and Iron Ages (and, as we'll see soon, much more recently). There are several especially dense clusters, including around Loch Tay, but no historic landscape quite brings them to life like Kilmartin Glen in Mid-Argyll. Specific locations of note in the area include Achnabreac (also spelled Achnabreck), Ormaig, and Kilmichael Glassary.

Recent research by Scotland's Rock Art Project (ScRAP) has shed light on the relationship of rock art to the wider landscape. Most rock art sites are located on gentle slopes facing south, ensuring greater sun coverage and coinciding with areas most favourable for prehistoric settlement and agriculture. As in Kilmartin, many instances of rock art are not visible from far away. In fact, they are often found away from obvious paths, suggesting that they were not intended to be landmarks or obvious statements of power but were perhaps more intimate, with only those in the local community or those bearing special knowledge knowing their location.

A handshake between tiers of the cosmos

Creating cup-and-ring marks was laborious, but not as intensively as you might think. Experimental archaeology has shown that a simple cup-and-ring design can be made on the surface of softer rocks like sandstone using stone and bone tools in thirty to ninety minutes. Softer stones don't last as long against the forces of erosion, however, so most examples of rock art found in Scotland today are 'pecked' into harder rocks like schist. Pecking marks on tougher rocks takes longer, but a single cup-and-ring mark can still be made within a single day. The act of creating rock art was likely itself ceremonial, an event meant to create a common memory and spectacle for the community. While standing around listening to the repeated tap-tap-tapping of someone pecking a design into stone might not sound like thrilling entertainment to us today, a greater appreciation can be gained for such communal events by considering prehistoric cosmology.

A common way of perceiving existence in prehistoric societies the world over was as a three-tiered universe: the realm above (sky), the realm here (earth), and the realm below (netherworld). Within this cosmology, certain stones, metals, and minerals like quartz were considered 'alive' in the sense that they were believed to have come from one tier into another, ours. In this way, pecking designs into stones can be understood an interaction with another realm. The rhythmic sounds produced are not so different from shamanic chanting or drumbeats. The morphing of the raw material of stone, and even things like the bright green colour produced fleetingly by striking quartz, were expressions of that relationship – a handshake between tiers of the cosmos.

Ormaig rock art.

In a 1971 article in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, Ronald Morris makes a fascinating observation about how symbols change their form and meaning over time. The cross has been a symbol of Christianity for 2,000 years, but a red cross now means 'medical aid'; a white cross on a red background means 'Switzerland'; a Victoria Cross means 'bravery', and so on. Like crosses, cup-and-ring rock art has variations in form, context, and position – the precise meaning of each is simply unknown to us. A cup-and-ring mark on a south-facing slope may or may not have meant something different than a cup-and-ring mark etched onto a standing stone, which may or may not have meant something different than one removed from its original location and added to a later cairn, boundary fence, or domestic hearth.

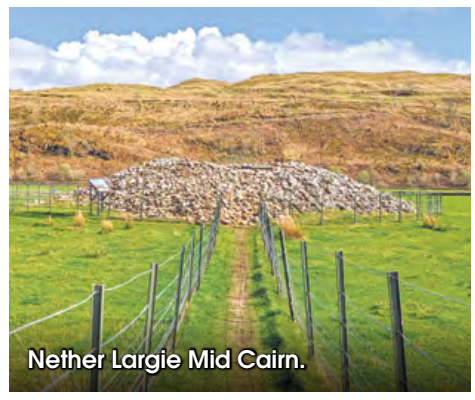
Motifs and symbols are some of the most enduring and intriguing remnants of the past for historians and archaeologists to study.

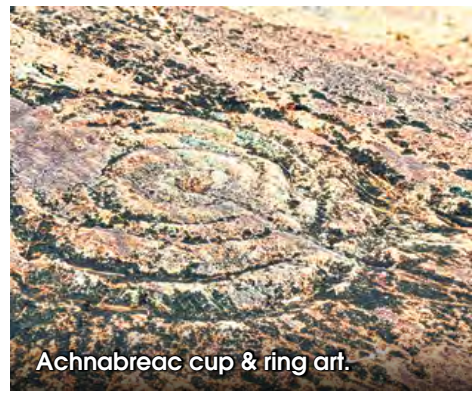
Timeless symbol

In Kilmartin Glen, something I found fascinating is how the modern community has clearly embraced the motifs. They are seen everywhere from children's drawings in chalk to decorations in windows to signposts for local companies on roadsides. Symbols first created up to 6,000 years ago are still being created, displayed, and innovated upon – isn't that extraordinary? One particular example of this stands out. The focal point of Kilmartin Glen is the 'Linear Cemetery', a series of burial cairns laid out in a line across the floor of the glen. One of these cairns, Nether Largie Mid Cairn, was almost wholly reconstructed following excavations in 1929. To enter the cairn – which, historically, was not intended to be entered – you must climb atop the pile of stones and go in through a metal hatch and ladder. The stone ledge in front of the ladder is adorned with a cup-and-ring motif likely carved at the time of reconstruction.

The 'original' cairn had no such marking, but now it does. The design was familiar to the cairn builders, but used here in a new way as an entrance marker. It's not strictly accurate to how cup-and-ring marks were once used, but it speaks to the spirit of the place in a way that makes visitors dwell on the connective themes of ancient Kilmartin. It was made by people a century ago, and now seen and stepped over by people today and photographed by smartphones. Each person who sees it decides for themselves how to interpret it, and it's this adaptability that makes the cup-and-ring design such a timeless symbol.

Back home in central Edinburgh following a week-long stay in Kilmartin Glen, a funny thing began happening. I started seeing cup-and-ring marks everywhere: in the vaguely concentric pattern on a coffee shop's napkins; on a fence cordoning off a building site adorned with the builders' ripple-like logo; and in the splashes made by raindrops in the pools forming in pockets along the street outside my flat. The universal simplicity of the design means it can manifest just about anywhere, far from any stone that bears them. They linger not just on smooth stone canvases, but in the mind. That, ultimately, is where the stuff that connects us all as humans dwells.
So, wherever you may be in the world, look out for cup-and-ring marks – in the clouds, in the foam of your coffee milk, in the ethereal moments between sleep and wakefulness – and in doing so, become part of a more than 6,000-year-old tradition of motifs and imagination.


Nether Largie Mid Cairn.


Achnabreac cup & ring art.

Nether Largie Mid Cairn entrance.

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

Enjoy Australia and New Zealand's top Scottish event listings in the Scottish Banner. Please check direct with event contacts for the most up to date information. You can also see our latest updates (including events listed across Scotland and North America) or add your event at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

Australia

JULY 2022

International Tartan Day
1, Nationwide
International Tartan Day marks the anniversary of the repeal of the 1747 Act of Proscription that banned the wearing of tartan. Wear some tartan today with pride today!

Robert Burns Scottish Festival
1-3, Camperdown, VIC
The festival promotes the legacy of Robert Burns and the cultural heritage of Scots in south-west Victoria. Info: 0407 056 126 orwww.camperdownburnsfestival.com.au

Aberdeen Highland Games
2, Aberdeen, NSW
Throughout the day there will be fun for all the family – there will be Highland and Country Dancing, Pipe Band displays, Strong Man events with the Kilted Warriors to enjoy as well as three-legged races, and the famed Kilted Dash to participate in. A multitude of stores and stands will surround the area selling all manner of Scottish heirlooms and souvenirs, clothing and garb, and food and drink to complete your day. Info: 02 6540 1300 or www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com

Kirkin' O' The Tartan Service
3, Melbourne, VIC
10.45am join the congregation of The Scots' Church, Collins St, for the annual Kirkin' O' The Tartan service commemorating the repeal of the Act of Proscription on 1st July 1782. Clan Associations - Register your Clan's participation in the Clan Tartan Procession at: www.trybooking.com/BZOQH

Melbourne Tartan Festival
3 -28, Melbourne, VIC
The Festival program includes pop-up events in the city, Kirkin 'O The Tartan, historical tour and exhibition, a high energy Ceilidh Dance with Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club, Scottish Connections CBD walking tour, Scottish migration author talks, Gaelic language, music & culture morning, whisky dinner, whisky tasting, a haggis supper, traditional Scots music recital, concerts, music gigs, The Victorian Pipers Association Championships and the Victorian Scottish Dancing Members Association 61st Commonwealth Championships. Info: www.melbournetartanfestival.com.au

Winter Ceilidh
9, West Croydon, SA
Highland Dancing Demo by Scots School of Highland Dancing, Whisky Toss and live music by Tellen Tri at West Croydon and Kilkenny RSL, 19 Rosetta St. Bar available also reasonably priced meals from 6 pm. Tickets at www.trybooking.com under Winter Ceilidh or details from: highlandtreasures@yahoo.com.au

Kirkin' o' the Tartan
10, Brisbane
The Scottish Clans Congress of QLD Inc. and the St Paul's Church community welcome everyone of Scottish heritage or inclination on the Sunday to celebrate together an historical event for Social freedom and Identity, the right to wear Highland dress (the Tartan). Note: Piper(s) and Procession participants Flag/Banner bearers arrive 8.30 AM and assemble for prompt 9.30 AM start of Procession and Church service. Morning Tea to follow in the Hall, (and all are invited) at 43 St. Paul's Terrace, Spring Hill. Info: Church marshal, BOB email: bobmiles3@gmail.com

Melbourne Tartan Festival Ceilidh Dance
14, Melbourne, VIC
This year the high energy Ceilidh Dance has moved to Collingwood Town Hall with its' larger dance floor. Dance the night away to the fabulous music of the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club, with lively and captivating performances combine a mix of traditional and contemporary music that will have you on your feet from the moment they begin playing. To book: www.trybooking.com/BYKLZ

Hawthorn Pipe Band Legacy Live
16, Melbourne, VIC
"Legacy" is a special music tribute to the band's long serving Drum Major and WW2 veteran Bob Semple and features a mix of new and traditional pipe band music with folk inspirations. Hawthorn is one of Australia's top pipe bands, and the "Legacy" concert will see the band at its best. With special guests, including Ballarat Grammar and Scotch College at the Hawthorn Arts Centre. Info:www.hawthornpb.com

A Celebration of Scots Song – Fiona Ross & Shane O'Mara
17, Melbourne, VIC
This themed concert of traditional Scots song, interweaving live music with narrative and audio-visual presentation at Kew Court House Theatre. The concert includes songs from their recent album Sunwise Turn - winner of Music Victoria's Best Folk Album 2020 Award. To Book: www.trybooking.com/BRGSP

International Tartan Day Brisbane
23, Brisbane, QLD
This event has been cancelled for 2022 and returning in 2023. Info: 07 3359 8195 or www.aussie-scots.org.au

Burns Night + 70th Birthday Celebration
23, Brisbane, QLD
Brisbane Pipe Band is hosting a traditional Burns Night and ceilidh to celebrate their 70th Anniversary. Includes a 3-course meal – including a toast to the haggis – and a traditional Ceilidh, with entertainment throughout the night from Brisbane Pipe Band, Celtic folk band ISHKA, and a traditional Scottish dance caller at Geebung RSL. Tickets: www.trybooking.com/BVLHK

Melbourne Tartan Festival Gala Dinner & Concert
23, Melbourne, VIC
The premier event of the Festival held in the majestic Main Hall of Melbourne Town Hall. Pipers will greet guests, drinks & canopies, a traditional 'Address to a Haggis; gourmet seasonally inspired menu and drinks, VIP guest speaker and an evening of superb concert style entertainment. A fabulous black tie/kilted evening to remember! More info & bookings: www.melbournetartanfestival.com.au orwww.trybooking.com/BQYJO

Robert Burns in July
30, Darwin, NT
Come and celebrate the life and works of Scotland's National Poet, Robert Burns, in poetry, song and dance. Meals and drinks available for purchase including haggis Entertainment by Get Reel, Darwin and Districts Pipes and Drums and dancing by the Arafura Scottish Dances at Darwin Railway Club. Info: www.facebook.com/northausceltic fest

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

75th Anniversary of the City of Maitland Pipes and Drums
30-31, Maitland, NSW
A weekend of entertainment is part of the 75th Year of Foundation celebrations for the City of Maitland Pipes and Drums. Includes a free entry concert for the community at Maitland Park. Info: Greg: 0409 918 260 or www.maitlandpipeband.org.au

Queensland Piobaireachd Meeting
31, Ipswich, QLD
The Queensland Piobaireachd Group is a monthly gathering of pipers and piobaireachd enthusiasts who play, listen to, and enjoy the ceòl mór at City of Ipswich Pipe Hall Limestone Park, Selwyn Edwards Dr. Info: www.pipebandsqld.com

Central Coast Scots Ceilidh
31, Gosford, NSW
At The Entertainment Grounds, Gosford 7pm book through TryBooking: www.trybooking.com/BVFTZ Info: www.facebook.com/Central-Coast-Scots-1460426047520374 or centralcoastscotsinc@gmail.com

AUGUST 2022

Caledonian Castaways Concert
5, Melbourne, VIC
The Caledonian Castaways are a group of ex-pat Scots drawn from Melbourne's Blues/Roots scene singing amusing and heart-warming songs about Scots in Australia and back 'hame', at Collingwood Town Hall. Info: www.melbournetartanfestival.com.au

Bundanoon Highland Gathering
6, 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

Scots on The Rocks – August 2022 Course for Beginners
8 -September 26, Sydney, NSW
This course is for new dancers who wish to learn steps and basic dance formations that are the building blocks of Scottish Country dancing. You will be introduced to Jigs and Reels and will learn a series of lively, beginner friendly dances. Eight Week Course (8 August – 26 September 2022) at Fort Street Public School (temporary location) Wentworth Park, Wattle St, Ultimo. Info: 0435 154 433 or www.trybooking.com/BYVYN

Scots in the Bush 2022
18-21, Boondooma, QLD
A celebration of the contribution of the Scottish people in opening up much of Australia with Celtic music, entertainment and more. Camping on site at Boondooma Homestead. Info: 07 4168 0159 or www.boondoomahomestead.org.au

Winter Ball Weekend 2022
19-21, Hobart, TAS
Winter Ball Weekend 2022 with musicians Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt. Friday evening, choose between a tour of the historic National Trust property Runnymede or walk through some of the dances for Saturday evening's Ball. Saturday evening is the gala event at the beautiful historic Hobart Town Hall. Sunday, picnic lunch at Richmond village. Info: tascaldance@gmail.com

Peter Adam's Caledonian Night
20, Teralba, NSW
Join the Hunter Valley Scots Club at Teralba Hall. Info & bookings: 0428 618 313 or hunterscots@gmail.com

Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival
27, Wingham, NSW
The Manning Valley Historical Society presents the annual free community event, Clans from all over the country descend to enjoy the Festival. The Clan of Honour for 2022 will be Clan Donnachaidh. Also pipe bands, entertainment, Scottish dancers and stalls. Info: www.bonniewingham.com

Society of St Andrew of Scotland Queensland 75th Anniversary Ball
27, Brisbane, QLD
A night to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Society of St Andrew of Scotland Queensland. The evening will be filled with live entertainment, the finest food, and wonderful company hosted in the famous Brisbane City Hall. Info: 0477 447 927 or https://event.standrewsociety.com

Queensland Piobaireachd Meeting
28, Ipswich, QLD
The Queensland Piobaireachd Group is a monthly gathering of pipers and piobaireachd enthusiasts who play, listen to, and enjoy the ceòl mór at City of Ipswich Pipe Hall Limestone Park, Selwyn Edwards Dr. Info: www.pipebandsqld.com

New Zealand

At time of press all of New Zealand is currently under the Orange Light setting of the Covid-19 Protection Framework.

JULY 2022

International Tartan Day
1, Nationwide
International Tartan Day marks the anniversary of the repeal of the 1747 Act of Proscription that banned the wearing of tartan. Wear some tartan today with pride today!

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

The Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh
9, Wellington
A ceilidh is held in the City of Wellington Pipe Band Hall, corner Stoke and Hanson Street Newtown, from 8.00pm - 12.00am. We are a very family-oriented organisation and we encourage participation by all ages and encourage the opportunity for you to wear some tartan. Info: www.wellingtongaelicclub.org.nz

Upper Hutt Annual Dance
23, Upper Hutt
Scottish country dancing at Wesley Centre, Benzie Ave. Info: www.wellingtonscd.org.nz

1897 – Victoria College – then University – on its way!
28, Wellington
Not 'naturally' rich, from earliest times Scotland's inhabitants had to be resourceful, always seeking better ways of life materially and spiritually. This eagerness to acquire knowledge became a national characteristic (with inventiveness). The tradition grew that Scots were great teachers, contributing to any community where they landed (e.g. New Zealand) as they quickly set up places of learning, hence Shetlander Sir Robert Stout's involvement with Victoria University (founded 125 years ago): three of first four professors were Scots. Over the 125 years many more have shared their knowledge and expertise. Margaret Wallace will share with VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group the story of these contributors to her alma mater's beginnings at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay. Info: www.wellyscots.wordpress.com

AUGUST 2022

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

The Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh
13, Wellington
A ceilidh is held in the City of Wellington Pipe Band Hall, corner Stoke and Hanson Street Newtown, from 8.00pm - 12.00am. We are a very family-oriented organisation and we encourage participation by all ages and encourage the opportunity for you to wear some tartan. Info: www.wellingtongaelicclub.org.nz

69th Annual Kapiti Caledonian Society Highland Ball
27, Waikanae
Put on your best formal dress and join for supper and a live band at Waikanae Memorial Hall. There will also be a live display from the Kapiti Pipes & Drums. Ticket enquiries: Dorothy:0272294660 or kapitiscots@outlook.com

Scotland

JULY 2022

Forres Highland Games
2, Forres
A spectacular show of Scottish tradition, sport and culture with Highland Dancing, Track and Field, Heavy Events, Tug 'o' War, Solo Piping and many more disciplines on display. Info: www.forreshighlandgames.com

Luss Highland Gathering
2, Luss
The Loch Lomond gathering which includes the annual gathering of the Clan Colquhoun. Info: www.lusshighlandgames.co.uk

John Paul Jones Birthday Celebration
6, Kirkbean, Dumfries
Celebrate John Paul Jones birthday at the historic birthplace, childhood home, and museum of John Paul Jones, "Father of the American Navy". Featuring unique artifacts and a beautiful setting. Info: www.johnpauljonesmuseum.com

Tiree Music Festival
8-10, Tiree
Magical award-winning island festival on Tiree. Info: www.tireemusicfestival.co.uk

The Open
10-17, St Andrews, Fife
Now, 162 years and 149 Opens later, the home of golf will host The 150th Open at the Old Course, St Andrews. On what is sure to be a historic Open with record crowds, the world's greatest players will descend on Fife to try and capture the Claret Jug. Info: www.theopen.com/st-andrews-150th-open

HebCelt Festival
13-16, Stornoway Isle of Lewis
The best local talent with leading Scottish, UK and world artists and brings together household names and emerging talent to provide a feast of music to appeal to all ages in the heartland of the Gaelic language and culture. Info: www.hebceltfest.com

Inverness Highland Games
16, Inverness
Traditional Highland Games in the capital of the Highlands. Info: www.invernesshighlandgames.com

Loch Lomond Highland Games
16, Balloch
Traditional Games at Moss O'Balloch, Balloch Rd. Info: www.llhgb.com

Speyfest 2022
22-24, Fochabers
Speyfest will return with a host of Scottish talent as they mark a quarter of a century showcasing the very best in traditional and Celtic music. Alongside the lively mix of concerts, ceilidhs and stomps, we'll have our usual mix of traditional music and singing workshops, non-denominational Celtic Kirk Service and more. Info: www.speyfest.com

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Summer School
24-August 14, St Andrews
Summer School, an action - packed three weeks of dancing in the historic town of St Andrews. Come and join with dancers from around the world and be led by some of the best of Scottish Country Dance teachers and musicians. Info: www.rscds.org/events/summer-school-2022

Scottish Pipe Band Championships
30, Dumbarton
Pipe band competitions and events at Levengrove Park. Info: www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/leisure-parks-events/west-dunbartonshire-leisure/events/scottish-pipe-band-championships

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
1 Bogs	1 Blantyre
3 Suitable	2 GlenElg
8 Axes	4 Unrest
9 Arbroath	5 Tarmacadam
11 TheTrossachs	6 Brash
13 Regina	7 Echo
14 Dancer	10 Grandmarch
17 Glamis Castle	12 Greenock
20 Discreet	15 Caterer
21 Broo	16 Astern
22 Merchant	19 Laser
23 Trek	19 Adam

Glasgow's top walking spots

With so many visitors to Scotland often starting their journey in Glasgow, as international travel resumes, many want to stretch their legs after a long flight. Here are some of the city's great spaces to stretch your legs and take some of the sights across Scotland's largest city.

1-Glasgow Botanic Gardens

The Botanic Gardens is completely free to enter and has lots of space and interesting activities for kids to enjoy; from playing in the park, to exploring the glasshouses which homes giant plants and even some goldfish.

2- Maryhill Walking and Nature Trails

The three different trails through Maryhill are suitable for families and are approximately 1.4 miles long – the perfect spot to explore nature and learn about the local history.

3-Cathkin Braes

Cathkin Braes is an area of hills to the south east of Glasgow – with panoramic views over the city, and has a host of walking routes, woodland, grassland – ideal for walking, picnics and informal recreation.

4-Pollock Park

The perfect spot if you're looking for an adventure – with three mountain bike circuits, 146 hectares of parkland and a variety of woodland walks.

5-Glasgow Green

The oldest park in the city, which is bursting with history and offers something for the whole family to enjoy including play parks, monuments, fountains and walking routes.

6-Glasgow Murals Trails

This walk explores the city by foot and visits 29 impressive artwork creations with some placed on iconic buildings.

7-Kelvingrove Park

The perfect spot in the West End on a sunny day where you can get lost for a couple of hours with nature around every corner.

8-Seven Lochs Wetland Park

Take in the ancient lochs, woodland walks and a wealth of wildlife at the largest urban nature and heritage park in Scotland.

9-Scottish Wildlife Trust Loch Ardinning

The picturesque wildlife haven with areas of wetland, woodland, grassland and moorland is the perfect spot for birdwatching.
Two walks around the reserve provide many opportunities to appreciate the wildlife.

10-Queens Park

The park offers a range of sport and recreational facilities along with a boating pond, a smaller nature pond and an adventure playpark.

Well Visited

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

By: Charlie Mill

The waters of Ballater. Photo: VisitScotland.

Peculiar as it may appear, and it makes for an intriguing story, but the existing burgh of Ballater, one of the most prominent inland holiday resorts in Scotland, owes its existence to the Mineral Waters of Pannanich, which can be found within walking distance to the east of what is recognised today as the Capital of Upper Deeside.

Nearly two and a half centuries have elapsed since Pannanich Wells first came into prominence, as it was in 1760 that an elderly woman had a dream in which she envisaged nearby curative waters. On relating her vision to others an investigation was eventually arranged and her prophesy was proved correct. It didn't take long for the word to spread and great numbers of people soon flocked to the area.

The few local cottages could in no way provide sufficient accommodation for the hordes of 'patients' who yearned to take the miracle cure and gradually a village sprang up at Ballater to provide board and lodging.

Reel 0' Tullich

In 1793 a surgeon proclaimed in the *Aberdeen Journal* that he intended visiting the Wells every week and would pay due attention to convalescents dispersed in different hamlets for the benefit of the goat's milk.

A writer in 1825 maintained that some patients drank as-much as seven or eight quarts in a morning! But in no way should the quantity taken exceed two Scottish pints. For many years the Wells prospered and were soon honoured by Royalty when, in 1870, Queen Victoria paid a special visit to the thriving spa.

The name Ballater is believed to have emanated from a medieval hamlet by the name of Balader, that existed during the 15th century near to the Church of Tullich at the east end of the Pass of Ballater. The church is extremely old, having originally been dedicated to St Nathalan who lived in the 5th century, and the existing building dates from out 1450 AD.

In fact, it's claimed that the famous Reel of Tullich was conceived within the walls of the kirk on a very cold Sunday in winter, when the minister failed to turn up for the service and the congregation entertained themselves by dancing and swinging each other by the arms in order to keep warm. So, the Highland Dancing world gained the renowned dance that is a regular at every Highland Games programme today!

The Sights of Deeside

Close to Pannanich is Ballaterach, where the eminent Lord Byron stayed as a young boy, and it's alleged he was so often defined as a mischievous 'loon' that and of the residents, including the local wheelwright who closed his workshop and the miller who stopped his wheel, whenever Byron passed by!

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At the time when the hills are covered in heather, the forlorn and untamed Dinnet Moor is transformed into a glorious splash of purple crimson stretching as far as the eye can see. In truth, when the heather is in full bloom, Dinnet Moor is one of the top sights of Deeside.

But Dinnet has other claims to fame. Edward I encamped there with his army and in 1335 the Battle of Culblean took place nearby between David II, son of Robert the Bruce, and Baliol. The latter's forces were routed and any cairns in the district are possibly the burial places of those slain.

The actual site of the encounter is on the eastern slope of Culblean, close to Loch Davan. This loch and its sister, Loch Kinord, are beautiful stretches of water and the home to many wild fowl. Historians have found much of interest in the surrounding neighbourhood, including several prehistoric canoes and bronze and iron objects.

Spectacular beauty spots around Ballater

The largest wooded islet is said to have been the site of a castle in the days of Malcolm Canmore, some of these islets being artificial, constructed in the same style as the Crannogs of Ireland and were the homes of lake dwellers in the dim and distant past. Close to Loch Kinard is the "Vat," a cave through which water falls. Gilderoy, a noted freebooter, stayed here from time to time, and must have found it comfortable, for it is claimed he said that of all his retreats the Burn of Vat was the warmest, while the Glens of Cushnie were the coldest.

South-west of Ballater stands the ruins of Knock Castle, an ancient stronghold which was at one time owned by the famous Durward family and garrisoned to preserve the Royal Authority on Deeside.

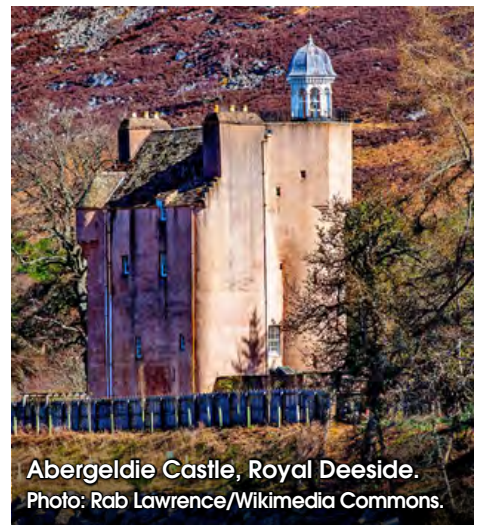
The peace and tranquillity of Glen Gairn make it a well-loved spot for those who like to rub shoulders with nature and is indeed a favourite resort of the Royal Family when they are in residence at nearby Balmoral Castle.

At Abergairn are old lead mines, but all attempts to work them proved a financial failure. Some miles up the glen is Rinloan, where once a hostelry plied liquid refreshment to the district, hut those days are long gone, and the refreshment today is free the cold, clear water of the hill burns.

Between Balmoral and Ballater stands Abergeldie Castle, where once upon a time its occupants made Birch Wine. It was a celebrated beverage, one writer describing it as being 'superior to the finest champagne'. It was partaken at the funeral of the Laird in 1831 and was actually sold at Birkhall until the year 1845 at the modest sum of one shilling a bottle.

Katie Rankine, a, well-known witch in the bad old days, suffered imprisonment in the castle dungeon, but was ultimately burned at the stake on nearby Creag nan Ban.

There are many other spectacular beauty spots around Ballater which the visitor will discover day by day. The legendary Lochnagar (the loch of the goats) lies high in the mountains at an altitude of 2575 feet. Loch Muick (pronounced Mick) too is almost as famous, while the beautiful little church at Crathie is known far and wide.


Abergeldie Castle, Royal Deeside.
Photo: Rab Lawrence/Wikimedia Commons.

Go online to explore Orkney's historic cathedral

Photo: VisitScotland.

Did you know you can take a virtual tour of St Magnus Cathedral? St Magnus Cathedral, started in 1137, is of international significance. Built from local red and yellow sandstone, the cathedral is mostly Romanesque in style. It is dedicated to St Magnus, Earl of Orkney in the 12th century, at a time when Orkney was part of the Kingdom of Norway. He was killed on the orders of his cousin and rival Hakon, and many miracles were reported after this death.

In 1137 Magnus's nephew Rognvald began construction of the 'fine minster' in honour of his saintly uncle; Magnus's relics remain interred in the pillars of the choir. The cathedral has stood firm against Reformers, Cromwellian troops and wartime danger, and is the most complete medieval cathedral in Scotland.

Remarkable history

But if you'd like to see more see www.orkney.gov.uk/St Magnus for a video tour that will take you to all parts of the building, including the upper levels where the bells and intriguing artifacts like a hangman's ladder can be found. The short videos are an accessible way to explore the Cathedral and discover more about its long and remarkable history.