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Volume 46 - Number 6

# \*Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

# The cancellation of Christmas



by Sean Cairney

hen most people receive this month's edition of the Scottish Banner, they will no doubt be looking at a busy month ahead with festive events, get-togethers with friends and family and perhaps just spending a little bit too much money on gifts, food and festive cheer. I remember as a child the excitement of going to bed on Christmas Eve and wondering what might be in some of those wrapped packages bearing my name on them. We were lucky to have as part of our family tradition the offer of opening a small gift on Christmas Eve before going to bed and getting some milk, cookies and of course carrots out for Santa and his loyal crew of reindeer.

# **Banning Christmas**

I am glad those traditions were part of my growing up and cannot imagine not having them as part of my childhood memories. However, for many years Scottish children did not have such traditions as part of their growing up experiences. Some may be surprised to learn that Christmas was actually banned in Scotland for centuries. Christmas had its early origins in Scotland when those fierce Vikings raided the land and made communities in Scotland from the 8<sup>th</sup> century, with them they brought the custom of celebrating the winter solstice in a pagan festival which became known as yule. Yule was a multiday celebration which honoured their ancestors in the darkest time of the year, this eventually became a Christian tradition. During the Reformation years Scottish Protestant kirks broke ties with the Catholic Church and thus began to cut ties with all things Christmas.

Christmas was abolished in 1640 by the Scottish parliament as it was seen as a Roman Catholic tradition and celebrating Christmas became illegal. The law was strictly enforced, and it was even illegal to bake a yule log or sing a Christmas carol. And though you would no longer be thrown into prison for celebrating Christmas, it did become just another working day

for many Scots well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Whilst some of the banned period may feel like part of medieval history it was not in fact until 1958 that Christmas even became a public holiday in Scotland, that is less than 70 years ago. Even more recently, Boxing Day did not become recognised as a holiday in Scotland until 1974. In some parts of the country, December 26<sup>th</sup> was Sweetie Scone Day, when the Lord or Lady of the estate would give cakes made with dried fruit and spices to their workers and the poor (who couldn't afford these luxurious ingredients).

Christmas was abolished in 1640 by the Scottish parliament as it was seen as a Roman Catholic tradition and celebrating Christmas became illegal.

# In this issue

The iconic Kinloch Castle is located on the Isle of Rum. Built in the late 1800s, the A listed Victorian mansion has quite a history and was once a playground for the rich, privileged and famous of England and Scotland. Sadly, the state of the Kinloch Castle has fallen in such bad shape it needs someone with very deep pockets to get it back on track. The small but passionate local Rum community also have their ideas on how Kinloch should be restored and managed. A buyer is needed who will be both sympathetic to the castle and the community.

Strathblane is in Stirlingshire but just outside of Glasgow making it an ideal commuter town. However, the rolling hills and green spaces that surround the area certainly let you know you are not in Glasgow. Visitors can enjoy walking and cycle trails, and picturesque drives. Not to mention the stunning hill ranges of the Campsies and a great whisky distillery. It is great we can highlight this lovely spot, and one that is quite easy to get to when you are next in Scotland.

# Hogmanay

Scots of course were not completely deprived of fun and cheer during the festive period. They would whole heartedly embrace New Year's Eve, or as we all know it Hogmanay, as back in the day Scots could not celebrate Christmas itself. Some amazing Scottish customs also have been developed over the years which still take place today. Many Hogmanay celebrations still light up the dark cold night with fire, from torchlight processions to fire ball ceremonies Scotland holds on to these unique celebrations which signify the Winter Solstice, ancestors and the rejuvenating energy of the sun.

Speaking of fire some Scots still practice the tradition of burning a twig from a rowan tree during the festive season. It is believed that burning rowan gets rid of jealousy or mistrust between family, friends and neighbours. Hundreds of years ago it was popular to burn a Yule log and the ashes were considered lucky and would protect the house for the year ahead. From this tradition some Scots today burn a candle in the window as a welcome to family, friends and even strangers.

Of course, Christmas is a joyous time for most of us today, however some will be doing it tough this holiday season. Some will be alone, some sick, some working, or just missing someone special who is not around the table this holiday season and I always think of them at this time of the year. I hope you and yours have a safe, wonderful and happy holiday season. We also thank all our readers, customers, subscribers and advertisers for all their support in 2022. Merry Christmas, or as some may know in Scots Gaelic, Nollaig Chridheil!

Do you practice any Scottish Christmas or Hogmanay traditions? 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

The Scottish Banner is more reliant than ever on our readers helping us to provide you with our unique content by buying a copy of our publication, regardless of if by print or digital subscription or at a retail outlet. You may also make a donation to the Scottish Banner via our website.

We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



Gracing our front cover: Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum. Photo: Lorne Gill/NatureScot.



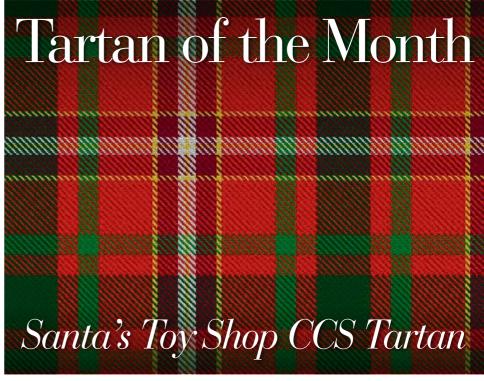
To test your know Scotland? To test your knowledge, we have assembled ten fun questions on its geography, history and culture - but if you get stumped, the solutions can be found underneath. Good luck!

- 1) 1) Where does the River Clyde rise?
- 2) Which country has received the most Scottish immigrants? a) New Zealand, b) Australia or c) Canada?
- 3) Who is the most famous member of the Bachelors' Club in Tarbolton, Ayrshire?
- 4) In which Scottish city's shipyards were the polar exploration ships of both Scott and Shackleton built?
- 5) Which 19th century Glasgow merchant controlled one-tenth of the entire world tea trade?
- 6) Bridge of Weir, to the west of Paisley, lies along which river?

- 7) Name the world's best-selling brand of Scotch whisky?
- 8) What is the Scotichronicon?
- 9) In which Scottish town is Robert Burns buried?
- 10) To which Scottish island did the missionary Findbarr of Cork give his name?

#### **Answers**

- 1) In the Southern Uplands, west of Moffat.
- 2) c) Canada.
- 3) Robert Burns.
- 4) Dundee.
- 5) Thomas Lipton.
- 6) River Gryfe.
- 7) Johnny Walker Red Label.
- 8) A medieval history of Scotland.
- 9) Dumfries.
- 10) Barra



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).

tartan for members of the 'Clan Claus Society' (CCS). The Society registered their first tartan over 10 years ago, Claus of the North Pole (SRT #5816), and they felt it was the right time to design a new one. The Clan Claus Society embodies the desire to preserve and perpetuate the history, ideals, traditions, family values, and heritage of the Scottish Santa Claus persona. This tartan (reference: 13111) was designed by Donald J 'Kona' Gant and registered in April, 2021.

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends and very happy and safe Christmas!



Register now at www.scotlandstradefairs.com

# SCOT POURRI

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

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

# Thistles in the Heartland

Like fugitives do thistles stand Outside the law in this fair land But purple warriors make their home Upon the hillside where I roam

The lord of the land would destroy them again Yet he sees not what lies beyond his ken And where knife and shovel do not go There does the outlaw thistle grow

The proud flowers thrive where they ought not dare And they can be prickly beyond compare But so lovely, so in their purple hue

I will forgive them the hurt that they do And I know if he comes to take them down They'll fight like heroes to hold their ground For tall and mighty they are today Against all odds the other way

And will not tell of their camps so near Except in these words, which he will not hear And a health to the wild barbarian flowers That grace this domestic hillside of ours

And far afield their seeds are blown And purple families find new homes God speed them on their windswept way May they live to grow another day.

Maria Anthony



## The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



I really enjoyed reading about the Canadian and Australian pipe bands that performed at this years Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (The Scottish Banner, October, 2022). I adore the pipes and drums and what a great experience for those band members to be on the world stage at the Tattoo. I know several people in pipe bands and they have commented to me about some of the great experiences and friendships they have had due to being in a pipe band. I would think marching through the gates of Edinburgh Castle onto the Castle Esplanade to the cheering of thousands of people must certainly be a highlight of anyone's pipe band career. These folks must have put a great deal of time, practice and their own money to get there and they must be commended for their dedication and doing their home nations proud.

I really enjoy the Scottish Banner each month and always look forward to the next issue. Ianette Anderson Brockville, Ontario Canada

# Pillar Box War

The Banner does a sterling job in reporting on issues of interest in Scotland to its diaspora readership in different parts of the world. For this reason I really enjoy reading the Scottish Banner each month. That is until the current October edition, in which I was very disappointed that you, and/or your editorial team, made a major historical error that is offensive to many Scots. I assume that the error was made in ignorance rather than design.

On page 1, and repeated on pages 2 and 3, the paper, in lavishing praise on the recently dead monarch, called her Elizabeth 11 when in fact there never was a Scottish Queen Elizabeth before the Union of the Scottish and English Crowns in 1603. Only in England and Ireland was there a Queen Elizabeth prior to this time.

There was a precedent when naming the first monarch of the combined crowns. James V1 of Scotland, who acceded to the English Crown upon the death of the Virgin Queen Elizabeth I of England in 1603, became King James 1 of Britain and Ireland. Although there had been six King James of Scotland, there had never been a King James of England.

I am old enough to remember the start of her reign in 1952, when the insignia E11R appeared on Scottish post boxes, vans, and other post office material, and thus began the Pillar Box War, in which post boxes were defaced, and some were blown up in protest at this insult. The designation Queen Elizabeth 11 was challenged in the Scottish Courts and was debated in the British Parliament. It was argued she should be known as Elizabeth 11 and 1, or Elizabeth Regina. Only to be defeated by the ruling that the sovereign was free to adopt any insignia she wanted. And that is what she did for 70 years, in spite of the Scottish opposition to it. Bear in mind that she was descended from the German House of Hanover dynasty, unlike Elizabeth 1 of England who was an English House of Tudor Queen.

However, the British Government relented to some extent in about 1953, when the insignia E11R was permanently removed from post office boxes and vans in Scotland to be replaced by what they called the Scottish Cypher, the Crown of Scotland. And that continues to be the case today. Indeed in 2018, a post box with the offensive E11R mistakenly appeared on a new post box in Dunoon, which met with much opposition, and was quickly replaced with the Scottish Cypher, plus apologies from the post office.

Seems strange that the late Queen, whom the Scottish Banner says loved Scotland and the Scots, continued to use the offensive Elizabeth 11 insignia until she died. The use of Elizabeth 11 was and is seen as disrespectful to Scotland. given that it was a union of the crowns of two independent countries, and not a conquest by England.

Which perhaps explains why she was never as popular in Scotland, as she was in England. Unfortunately other countries, which have large populations of the Scottish Diaspora, such as in Australia, New Zealand, USA, and Canada, also mistakenly call and called her Elizabeth 11. Alexander Sibbald Dunedin, New Zealand

Tales of the Sma' Glen



What a charming story, Tales of the Sma' Glen, you had in the October issue of the Scottish Banner. I go back to Scotland on a fairly regular basis and am always on the lookout for something different to try when I am there. I love to hire a car and simply end up in all sorts of places, and really do prefer getting off the beaten track. The images in this article certainly make this look like the type of place I would love to see myself in.

The history of this area is also really intriguing, and I must admit I had not heard of this Perthshire gem before. I have friends and family in Scotland who are also unaware of this location and I promised them I will take them when I am next over, sometimes it takes a visiting tourist to get a local to see their very own backyard.

I also really enjoy your *Tartan of the* Month feature, I have learnt about countless tartans from the Banner which I had not heard of before, it really is incredible the variety of tartans that have been created over the years and the meaning behind each and every one. I must admit there so far is very few I do not like, must be the Scot in me!

I am a long-time reader of the Scottish Banner, there is simply nothing else like it, and for that I thank all involved. Randy R Young Chula Vista, California

## Scottish LP's

I have some very old Scottish LP's and was wondering if any readers would like to buy them? They have a few scratches, and the jackets are a bit tatty but they play well and still sound great. I remember singing along to Jimmy Shand when I was little and I'm 70 now, still brings a tear to my eyes when I hear Auld Lang Syne. I can't play them now as I had to downsize, but would like to see them go to someone who will enjoy them as I did, especially at Hogmanay.

I have: Roaming in the Gloaming Favourite Songs by Sir Harry Lauder, Jimmy Shand's Party, Scotland on Parade with the Gordon Highlanders, Golden Grove Highland Fling-The Alexander Brothers and Scottish Sing-Along by Ivor Raymonde. Heather Masterton PO Box 209 Budgewoi, NSW 2262 Australia

# FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA (1)





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

**Highland Coo** 



Someone's loving summer in Scotland! The Kilted Photographer

**Linlithgow Palace** 



Looking towards the palace from Linlithgow Loch. Paul Watt Photography

**Aberdeen Harbour** 



Trip to Aberdeen Harbour. Derek A Grist

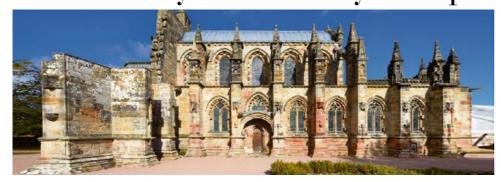
The Kelpies



Beautiful sky over The Kelpies. Mik Coia

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!

# Share a Story about Rosslyn Chapel



eople around the world are being invited to share a story about Rosslyn Chapel, as part of Scotland's Year of Stories 2022, with the aim of adding a variety of personal reminiscences to the Chapel's archive.

Rosslyn Chapel, which was founded in 1446, has featured in a number of stories, most notably Dan Brown's novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, which led to a large increase in visit to the Midlothian site. The Chapel has, though, attracted visitors for generations, with early visitors recording their stories in travel journals. In one of the earliest, Thomas Kirk describes the story of the Apprentice Pillar in his Tours in Scotland, dated 12 August 1677. Now, Rosslyn Chapel Trust is looking to add stories and memories of more recent visits to its archives.

Ian Gardner, Director of Rosslyn Chapel Trust, said: 'We often hear stories and memories about Rosslyn Chapel and now we want to record these for the future as part of our archive. This year, designated Scotland's Year of Stories 2022, provides the perfect opportunity for us to do that. Whether you have visited in the past, or attended an event, a church service, wedding or concert, please share your story with us so that we can pass it on to future generations'.

Stories can be emailed to learning@ rosslynchapel.com or shared through Rosslyn Chapel Trust's Facebook page. A selection of stories will be published on the Chapel's website.

Rosslyn Chapel was built for Sir William St Clair and was incomplete when he died in 1484. The beauty of its setting and the mysterious symbolism of its ornate stonework have inspired, attracted and intrigued visitors ever since. The Chapel came to worldwide prominence when it featured in the novel *The Da Vinci Code* and the subsequent film. The Chapel is open to visitors daily and tickets can be booked on the Chapel's website www.rosslynchapel.com

Led by VisitScotland, the Year of Stories 2022 sustains and builds upon the momentum of preceding Themed Years, showcasing a nationwide programme of major events and community celebrations. Scotland's Year of Stories 2022 spotlights, celebrates and promotes the wealth of stories inspired by, written, or created in Scotland.

# Scottish Murders Podcast presents Scottish Collaboration

odcasts, in 2021 it was reported that there were between 850,000 and 1 million active podcasts, and over 48 million total podcast episodes out there, with the majority of podcasts coming from the United States of America. However, just like with the breath-taking scenery and mouthwatering food, Scotland too boasts some fantastic podcasts and content. One such podcast is Scottish Murders, which is hosted by Scottish sisters Dawn and Cole, and have been releasing regular podcast episodes since July 2021. Scottish Murders is a podcast dedicated entirely to murders of Scottish people or murders that have taken place in Scotland. While Scottish Murders covers some truly barbaric murders and highlights a darker side to Bonnie Scotland, it also ensures to showcase some good points about the area where a murder took place too.

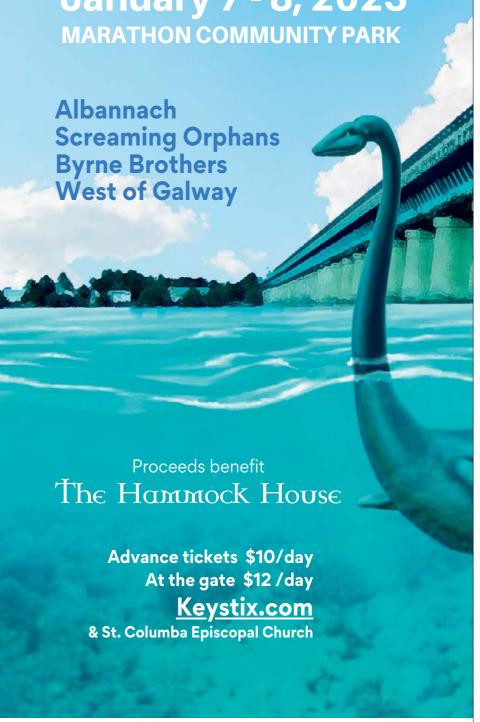
Dawn, one of the hosts of Scottish Murders, had the idea to bring together as many Scottish podcasters as possible and for them to collaborate together, to really showcase some fantastic Scottish podcasts from genres such as comedy, sport, news, society and leisure, television and film, education, arts and of course true crime. The Scottish Collaboration is an online event that has been organised to take place from

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022. However, once Dawn had begun the journey of contacting Scottish podcasters to bring them together for this event, the scope broadened slightly, and now small Scottish businesses and musicians will also be taking part in the event so their products and talents can also be showcased.

All information about the Scottish Collaboration as well as details of all participants taking part, can be found at www.scottishmurders.com/collab and a full daily schedule of what's happening on each podcast will be available there closer to the event taking place. Follow Scottish Murders on social media or check out #scottishcollab to ensure you don't miss a thing.



# Celtic Fest Vall January 7 - 8, 2023





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# **SCOTSPEAK**

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

"Residents, businesses and everyone who comes to Byres Road will enjoy the benefit of this work, which will significantly improve the public realm there, raising the quality of pavements and public spaces, and making it easier for people using different modes of travel to get around this great Glasgow street."

Councillor Susan Aitken, leader of Glasgow City Council and chair of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, said that a plan to upgrade the quality of the Byres Road streetscape in the city's west will commence in January. The plans include more pedestrian space, cycleways, environmental improvement to make the road a key retail, food and drink destination. Work is expected to be completed by the summer of 2024.



"We have been trying hard to find a way to bring the Torchlight Procession into Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations this year, however we are very disappointed to confirm that due to the current economic climate, and the drop in available funding, we are unable to go ahead with this event in 2022. Our full programme of events, including activities for families and children, over the three days of Edinburgh's Hogmanay will be announced later. We very much hope to bring back the Torchlight Procession to the Edinburgh's Hogmanay programme in 2023."

A statement from event organiser
UniqueAssembly said that the Torchlight
Procession, one of the headline events
in the annual Edinburgh's Hogmanay
celebrations, has been cancelled for
this year. The organisers have been trying
hard to find a way to bring the Torchlight
Procession into Edinburgh's Hogmanay
celebrations this year, however they are very
disappointed to confirm that due to the
current economic climate, and the drop
in available funding, they are unable to go
ahead with this event in 2022.

"It's a big deal because it's something I've been doing with my dad since I was four. Sometimes when the weather was bad I thought 'why are we up here?' I didn't know if I could stand up but I managed to."

10-year-old Quinn Young from Inverness said after she climbed all of Scotland's 282 Munros with her father. Munros are Scottish peaks of more than 3,000ft (914m). Quinn is one of the youngest people to ever complete the challenge which takes many years to complete.



"We know that world production of industrial hemp has been on the decline since the 1960s due to an unfavourable cultivation and use of the crop as well as legislation. However, the hemp plant has the potential to be a cost-effective, carbon neutral, and environmentally friendly crop for farmers. The UK is among the top five countries launching hemp-based products in the world. The majority of the products launched are in the category of snacks, nutritional drinks and beverages, health care, breakfast cereals, and baked goods."

political climate regarding the

Dr Wisdom Dogbe of the Rowett Institute said that hemp has the potential to make Scotland's agricultural sector carbon neutral as well as providing huge economic benefits. Hemp was once widely grown in Scotland and its cultivation dates back more than 6000 years. It has many uses including offsetting carbon dioxide, as a food, and as an eco-friendly fertiliser and pesticide. It is currently being used in building materials, as a biofuel, textile fabric and even as an alternative to plastic. As a food source it is high in protein, fibre and micronutrients, as well as having an exceptional fatty acid profile.

"We want to encourage people to walk or cycle more and we hope these trail guides help people to get out there and find out what's in the city at the same time. We have many green areas and stunning buildings so it's fantastic these new trail guides have been produced showing even more of our fascinating heritage. We live in a beautiful city with a rich and interesting history so it's great the trail guides show people what there is, from our stunning and award-winning parks and gardens to quirky little anomalies found all over the city."

The Lord Provost of Aberdeen Dr David Cameron said that two new trail guides for Aberdeen have been launched recently, which will help locals and visitors discover places full of history, heritage, and beautiful green spaces. The new trail guides, many routes of which can be cycled, mean there is now a total of 24 in the series covering many historical and natural gems around the city. Items in the new trail guides include a WWII pillbox, a 250-year-old elm tree, a former steam engine which is now a playpark, the oldest and second-

oldest bridges in Scotland, a 'super scurry (seagull)' public art mural, the secondlargest granite building in the world, and a former fishing village.



"Perth Museum will be one of Scotland's leading tourist attractions and together with the redeveloped Art  ${\it Gallery, will\ bring\ thousands\ of\ people}$ to Perth and will also be two amazing venues our residents can enjoy all year round. There was great enthusiasm from the public in naming the new museum, which will be home to the Stone of Destiny, and Perth Museum was clearly the favourite choice. The transformation of the former City Hall is now well underway and choosing the name is a significant step towards 2024, when Perth Museum will open its doors to the public for the first time. We already have a thriving cultural sector and Perth Museum and the revamped Art Gallery will add to that, making Perth an even better place to live, work and visit."

Perth & Kinross Council leader Councillor Grant Laing said that a public search to name the new museum being developed in Perth City Hall has concluded, with more than 60% of the respondents voting for a name that encapsulates the stories and the history of the building and the name will be simply Perth Museum. Alongside this change, the existing muchloved Perth Museum and Art Gallery on George Street will be rebranded as Perth Art Gallery. The two institutions will complement each other to enable a richer and more inclusive exploration of the region's past, present, and future. Perth Museum will tell the story of Perth & Kinross' ancient roots through social and natural history with the iconic Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone, at its heart. Perth Art Gallery will focus on modern Scots through the development of art and design in the region up to the present day.



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Our new look site now features online articles and news, with new content added weekly.

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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**

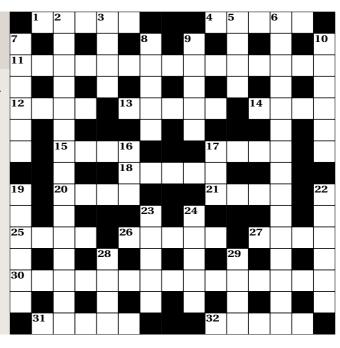
- 1) A Scots tell-tale(5).
- 4) Land by a riverbank (5).
- 11) Kintyre waterway (11, 4).
- 12) Accompanies haggis (4).
- 13) Underground basics! (5).
- 14) Bounce a ball in Scotland (4).
- 15) Its chief town is Tobermory (4).
- 17) Porridge essentials (4).
- 18) Grampian cathedral town (5).
- 20) Columba's isle (4).
- 21) A pass between hills (4).

- 25) A reverberation! (4).
- 26) A top cape! (5).
- 27) Goes with a hoop! (4).
- 30) Ruined Grampian fortress (9, 6).
- 31) A Scots piedish (5)
- 32) Town on Largo Bay (5).

# **CLUES DOWN**

- 2) Lothian heights (10, 5).
- 3) Taverns (4).
- 5) The Princess Royal (4).
- 6) National emblem (8, 7).
- 7) They're baked on girdles (6).

- 8) Town on north side of River Forth (5).
- 9) East coast river-mouth (5).
- 10) Location near Wishaw (6).
- 16) Meadow land (3).
- 17) A choice to a Scot (3).
- 19) A Scotsman's trousers (6).
- 22) For a Scot's rubbish (6)
- 23) Scotch measures (5).
- 24) Scots supports! (5).
- 28) A Scots gradient (4).29) Vegetable soup (4).



# TENEMENT TALES

By: Brian Diamond

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

# Places to Play and the Teflon Kid



s an adventurous child growing up in Springburn, the school summer holidays, eight whole weeks with no school was the highlight of our young lives. Our parents never seemed to worry too much about us as there was always a neighbour on hand to monitor the back yard and make sure that all was well. Now after a while the back yard got boring and so we had to look elsewhere for adventure, looking back at some of the things that I did, God alone knows how I am still around to pen these stories.

I lived on Keppochhill Road just past the big iron gates leading into Sight Hill Cemetery, and for a child, this was positively the most magic place in the world to play games, with just a little imagination you could turn this sombre setting into anything that caught your fancy. Boys played cowboys & Indian's, hide & seek, cops & robbers, while the

girls tidied up the graves, had tea parties and rearranged the flowers, all of this with respect and never a thought of vandalism on our mind.

#### Forbidden place of wonder

Upon crossing the vast graveyard following the railway line, one emerged to a grass field often referred to the Rushy Park, a fascinating place to play as there was a swamp at the base of the hill. The swamp was high in reeds and bull rushes hence its name, and no matter how many time my parents warned me not to, I always had to try and cross the swamp wearing my white summer sandshoes, which inevitably got horribly stained, requiring a creative story to cover up, I guess that the devil made me do it. Beyond the swamp was a massive hill (a mountain to us kids) comprised of chemical waste from the nearby ICI Chemical plant, it was referred to as Jack's Mountain, or The Salt Waste.

It was another forbidden place of wonder for a nomadic kid like me, I climbed that mountain from every angle, made caves in the mountain and fearlessly slid down it sitting on pieces of cardboard and getting the chemical waste firmly lodged in my pants and shoes. Knowing that this was a definite "NO NO" I would make my way to Pinkston Power Station for a quick clean up visit to The Steamy Canal.

The water in this canal always had a mist hovering over it as it came from cooling the generators in the power plant, it was remarkably clear, lukewarm, and not at all deep, a perfect place to wash my shoes and clean my pants before heading home.

# For a child this was positively the most magic place in the world to play games.

To go home I had to pass yet another place of wonder, the slaughterhouse, a must-see stopover for an adventurous kid. The smell from the place was overpowering, and the building was so old and dilapidated that one could quite easily see through the broken windows to where the animals were shot, our own local version of *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*.

Quite often, as the trucks rolled in the animals seemed to sense that this would be their last ride into the sunset and they became quite skittish., I often witnessed horses, bulls and cows make their last bid from freedom by shaking off their handlers and running for the salt mountain slopes with my best wishes that they would escape. On the other side of the mountain was another death-defying piece of the local

scenery, The Stinky Ocean, this was a large body of water which drained off the mountain to form a pond which reeked of sulphur, better known as a rotten egg smell. This pond was rather deep and could support a raft made from oil cans and wood all strapped together with wire and rope, and once you got over the smell was a great place to play.

## **Nomadic urchins**

Now as I recite all of this, I start to wonder, what on earth was in that chemical dump? Why did my sandshoes rot away and the soles fall off so quickly? And what caused the backside of my pants to disintegrate earning me a thick ear for lying about where I had been. Was there ever such a thing as The EPA, , also known as the Environmental Protection Agency back then?

What kind of chemical junk was I playing in? Perhaps I should have listened to my parents. Back in those days, apart from a few special local friends, nomadic urchins like me made friends with whomever they came across at whatever the activity of the day was, so against this backdrop, let me introduce Mr Clean, or as he would for sure be known today as The Teflon Kid, as nothing ever stuck to him. This is a true story which reflects fate, coincidence, the value of social networking, and the size of the world we live in.

# Winner of the Glenfiddich Piping Championships crowned, making history in the process

he overall champion of the prestigious Glenfiddich Piping Championship has been named as Willie McCallum. The win marks a record ninth win for Willie, extending his record of having the most overall wins ever. Willie McCallum, from Campbeltown, went up against nine of the world's greatest solo players at the renowned 49<sup>th</sup> annual competition at Blair Castle to claim the title. Callum Beaumont was crowned runner-up and Fred Morrison was third overall.

Callum Beumont was named the Piobaireachd winner, and the March, Strathspey and Reel (MSR) competition was also won by Willie McCallum. The 2022 Balvenie Medal Winner was Tom Brown. Tom was an inspirational piping tutor for generations of young people at Lochgelly High School. The Balvenie Medal was introduced the Glenfiddich Piping Championship in 1985 and is awarded for "Services to Piping".

# Pinnacle of solo piping competition

The competition played out in front of a live audience in Blair Castle's Victorian ballroom and hundreds from around the world who watched the spectacle online. Overall winner Willie McCallum said: "It's such an honour to be taking home the Glenfiddich trophy. It was a fierce competition and everyone played their absolute best so it means a lot to have been named as the overall winner."

The National Piping Centre's Director of Piping, Finlay MacDonald, said: "It's fantastic to be back at Blair Castle

for the 49<sup>th</sup> annual Glenfiddich Championship. This is the pinnacle of solo piping competitions and all of this year's competitors upheld their reputations as the best in the world. They all should all be extremely proud of themselves, it was incredible to watch them all perform in this magnificent venue." Competitors travelled from near and far to take part, including 2021 champion Jack Lee from British Columbia, Canada, Jamie Forrester from London, the USA's Nick Hudson, Connor Sinclair from Crieff, and Fred Morrison from Renfrewshire.

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship was established in 1974 to inspire the world's finest exponents of Ceòl Mòr or Piobaireachd (the great music) and Ceòl Beag or light music (the little music). Run by The National Piping Centre, the world centre for excellence in bagpipe music, and funded through the William Grant Foundation, the event is held annually at Blair Castle in Blair Atholl, Perthshire.





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# New green recovery trails in the home of the UK's first ever Mission Blue Hope Spot



ive exclusive new Scottish nature-based trails, featuring insider tips from the local community, have been launched to help visitors 'slow down', travel responsibly and find some unique natural discoveries at sea and in the sky along the Argyll and the Isles coast in the west of Scotland - home to the UK's first ever Mission Blue Hope Spot and four internationally recognised dark sky sites.

Part of an innovative pilot green recovery Slow Tourism initiative, the self-led Above and Below touring routes, revealed earlier this month, showcase the most unique and idyllic coastal locations in Argyll and the Isles (Scotland's Adventure Coast). The trails are designed for those who love adventure or simply want to escape the hustle and bustle of

everyday life, and feature key sites for wild swimming, snorkelling, beach hunts, sunsets and some of the darkest skies in Europe.

# Natural world above and below the land

Argyll and the Isles is a unique area to explore above and below, and soak in the wonders of the sea and the stars. The region's Hope Spot, encompassing the Sound of Jura, Firth of Lorn, Sound of Mull, Loch Sunart and Loch Linnhe, has been scientifically identified as critical to the health of the ocean. Following a proposal by the local Coastal Communities Network (Scotland), Mission Blue (a global marine protection network) selected the region for its "intricate coastline of sea lochs,

peninsulas, deep water sounds, narrows and islands, encompassing existing Marine Protected Areas, Special Areas for Conservation and a host of Priority Marine Features." In addition to this, four sites in the region have been recognised as being among the best places in the world for stargazing free from light pollution – there are three Dark Sky Discovery Sites in Argyll, and the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) has officially designated the Isle of Coll as an International Dark Sky Place.

Launching the new Above and Below guides, Cathy Craig, CEO at the Argyll and Isles Tourism Cooperative said: "Located on the west coast of Scotland, warmed by the gulf stream, Argyll and the Isles is known globally for its stunning idyllic scenery, great outdoor adventure, and rare and endangered wildlife. Often referred to as Scotland's Adventure Coast, there is so much to discover here, with a wide range of experiences to suit almost every interest. Our marine environment is internationally significant, and our night skies are some of the darkest in the world. It's the perfect place to really slow down and immerse yourself in authentic local experiences and the wonders of our natural world above and below the land. With some fantastic insider tips shared by experts in our community, our Above and Below guides are designed to do just that. By following these guides and taking the time to explore the area in these ways, visitors will make a

positive impact on our local environment and gain a better understanding of how they can continue to do so elsewhere. We're delighted to have been involved in such an innovative green recovery project."

The trails were produced in collaboration with the local community, who shared insider information about the coastal sites they treasure and tales of the marine wildlife, sunsets and dark sky experiences on offer.

An interactive map and downloadable guide with more information can be found at wildaboutargyll.co.uk/see-do/nature-and-wildlife/above-and-below.





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# The Florida Keys Celtic Festival is back in celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year





anuary 7 and 8, 2023 the Keys kick off one of the most anticipated events of the year, The Florida Keys Celtic Festival. Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the festival is bringing back some of the favorite bands, including, Screaming Orphans, Albannach, West of Galway, The Byrne Brothers and the Police Pipe and Drum Corps of Florida. There will be plenty of Celtic food with a variety of teas and ales.

Highlights of the two-day event include: vendors with Celtic themes, Irish dancing, a parade, a fabulous children's Glen, sheep dog herding and Women's Highland Athletic Competition.

## Perfect for the whole family

This festival is perfect for the whole family and supports the Hammock House, a free after school educational and nutritional program.



Tickets are available for \$10 per day at www.KeysTix.com if purchased in advance and \$12 at the gate.

You can get further information by going to their website: www.floridakeyscelticfestival.com, email: theo@theoandadproconcierge.com, or contact St Columba Episcopal Church at 305 743-6412. Keep up to date on their Facebook page, Florida Keys Celtic Festival.





£10,000 needed to establish the Falkirk Wallace trail to tell the story of Sir William Wallace in Falkirk

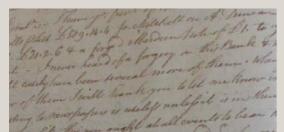


alkirk plays a huge part in the Wallace story, from his mother's Connection to Grangemouth to his uncle preaching at Dunnipace as well as his closest friend hailing from the area. The Battle of Falkirk itself played a huge role in Falkirk's history. While Wallace would ultimately lose at Falkirk this would set up Wallace future and is grisly murder

The Wallace Trail wants to bring the multitude of stories that weave the fabric that is not only history of Falkirk buy also Scotland itself. From the 600 men of Bute to the heroism of Macduff of Fife, Graeme and Stewart to the theory of betrayal. The project aims to bring schools and community groups into creating a Wallace trail that will not only bring history to life but also encourage the community to contribute and get involved on its creation.

If you can help bring history to life see: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thewallacetrail

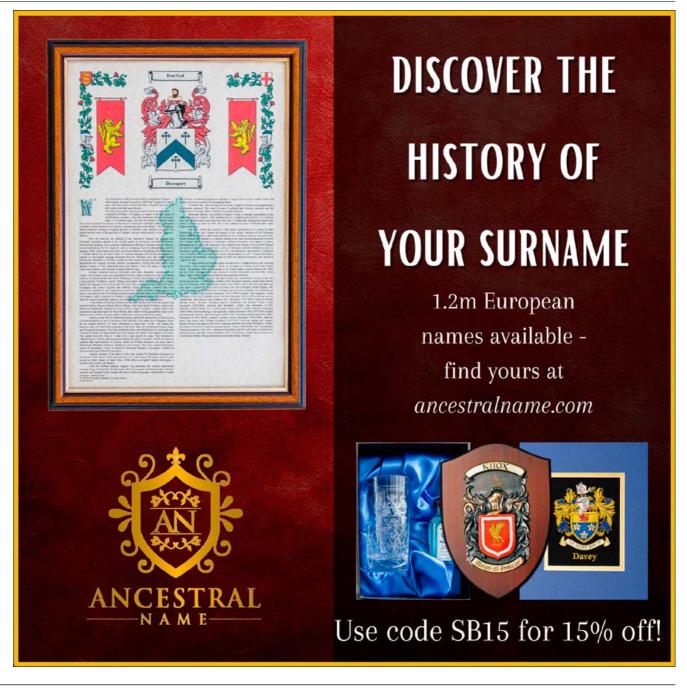
# Long lost letters highlight life in the Scottish Borders in the 1800s



A collection of letters from a prominent lawyer which were first discovered in 2015, with a further discovery in 2019, will soon be published in a new book. George Craig (1783-1843), baron bailie of Galashiels, was a law agent, banker, insurance agent and factor. His clients included both Sir Walter Scott and James Hogg. The rediscovery of some Craig's letter books sheds new light on his own and other communities across the Scottish Borders in the period between 1821 and 1840. The letters are considered of historical importance due to the details and insight of border life and society in the 1800s.

Approximately 3,000 letters have been discovered which include people off all walks of life with correspondence from across Scotland, the UK and further afield to places like America, Australia and the Caribbean. John Finlay, Professor of Scots Law at the University of Glasgow, presents a series of online pages looking at different aspects of that world through a selection of Craig's letters. It is part of a project, in conjunction with Scottish Borders Archives, to make Craig a better-known figure and to recognise his formative influence on the area. The letter books form the basis of a new book, expected to be published in 2023.

If you have any information about George Craig, you can contact Professor John Finlay via email at: john.finlay@glasgow.ac.uk



# IN SCOTLAND TODAY



# New 250-mile Coast to Coast cycle route gets green light

An exciting new 250 mile on-road cycle route covering the length of the South of Scotland has received the green light to progress to delivery stage. The Coast to Coast route will run from Stranraer to Eyemouth, making it one of the longest in the UK and a new challenge for experienced cyclists. Walking and cycling routes can deliver significant economic, environmental and community benefits, and early projections are that the new South of Scotland Coast to Coast route could attract up to 175,000 new visitors to the region, with a direct spend of £13.7million per year. The project is aiming to be delivered in time for the 2023 UCI World Championships in Glasgow and across Scotland. Three of the 13 Championships are taking place in the South of Scotland in August next year, allowing visitors to the South to try the new route during or after the Championships.

Riders who want to test themselves can tackle the Coast to Coast Challenge route over four days but are highly recommended to slow down, immerse themselves and enjoy more of what the South of Scotland has to offer by completing the Explorer route over eight days or more. The Coast to Coast announcement follows the launch of the first ever South of Scotland Cycling Partnership Strategy in September, which aims to ensure cycling becomes the most popular choice for shorter, everyday journeys by 2032. The Strategy also has a vision for the region to be recognised as Scotland's leading cycling destination and a world-class cycling destination of excellence. Councillor Scott Hamilton, Scottish Borders Council's Executive Member for Community and Business Development, said: "The development of this route could deliver very significant benefits to communities all the way from Eyemouth to Stranraer and we continue to work closely with the partners involved to bring it to fruition. It is through initiatives such as this that we can really build upon the region's cycling heritage and already significant reputation for cycling and truly make the South of Scotland the 'Home of the Bike'." Tourism Minister Ivan McKee added: "The South of Scotland is already recognised as a destination that offers a wide range of experiences and activities for visitors including walking and cycling. The creation of the Coast to Coast cycling route will support the Scottish Government's ambition of delivering economic, environmental and community

benefits to our regions through sustainable tourism. The route is part of the momentum building towards the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships in August, which is bringing three of the 13 Championships to the South of Scotland and encouraging participation in cycling across the region."

# Edinburgh Film Festival ceases trading



The Edinburgh International Film
Festival, alongside its sister organisations
- Filmhouse Cinema and Café Bar in
Edinburgh and Belmont Filmhouse in
Aberdeen - and parent charity, Centre for
the Moving Image (CMI), have all ceased
trading with the loss of over 100 jobs. CMI is
facing a perfect storm of sharply rising costs,
in particular energy costs, alongside reduced
trade due to the ongoing impacts of the
pandemic and the cost of living crisis. The
combination and scale of these challenges
is unprecedented and means that there was
no option but to take immediate action.

The Edinburgh International Film Festival was founded in 1947 by the Edinburgh Film Guild film society and bills itself as the world's oldest continually running film festival, with 2022 marking its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The board of the CMI has issued the following statement: "We have been proud to have led the CMI through incredibly challenging times, and in particular during the worst days of the pandemic. Unfortunately, the combination of sharply increasing energy and other costs, together with both the lasting impacts of the pandemic and the rapidly emerging cost of living crisis affecting cinema attendances, means that we have had no other option but to appoint administrators at this time. We would like to put on record our immense gratitude to the entire staff team whose passion for film as an artform and for the audiences and communities we work with and serve has remained undented by the challenges of recent years. We're fully aware that this will be an exceptionally stressful time for them." Archaeologists' collaborative excavations find evidence of human habitation 10,000 years ago in Scottish Highlands



Archaeologists who have carried out excavations in the Scottish Highlands have found the earliest evidence of human habitation in the area as far back as 8,100 BC. The experts working on the project have also discovered that hunter-gatherers lived in this remote part of Britain during a period of abrupt climate change around 8,000 years ago. Excavations at sites on the Mar Lodge Estate, deep in the Cairngorms National Park in north Scotland, have yielded radiocarbon dates that have established that there was a human presence in the area around 8,100 BC. A partnership between archaeologists and environmental scientists from University College Dublin (USD), University of Aberdeen, University of Stirling, University of Durham and the National Trust for Scotland established the Upper Dee Tributaries Project in 2013 to develop understanding of the estate's prehistory. The partnership also contributes to the management of these fragile and little understood archaeological sites.

As part of the project, a team of archaeologists from UCD, led by Dr Graeme Warren, who is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Archaeology, University College Dublin, have excavated a remote site in Glen Geldie – a broad upland valley flanked by snow-covered mountains in the area. The archaeologists excavating the site have found stone tools manufactured from flint and evidence of a fire. Radiocarbon dates from the tools show human occupation of the site at around 6,200-6,100 BC. The finds are fascinating because they coincide with the most dramatic climatic deterioration since the last ice age.

Dr Warren, who is the excavation director, said: "One of the really striking things is that the site (Glen Geldie) that the UCD team is on is very remote. From what we know during that period 8,200 years ago there was a major climate change event where the average annual temperature fell by one to three degrees. Now that might not sound like much, but three degrees is a very significant fall in annual average temperatures, especially up here in the mountains."

The National Trust for Scotland said the excavations have revealed a complex pattern of settlement, showing that people gathered by the riverside in the area thousands of years ago, possibly only a few hundred years after communities began to move back into Scotland when the ice retreated. Dr Warren said stone tools made of flint found in the Geldie Burn area nearby have also provided archaeologists with fascinating clues as to where the early inhabitants in the area originally came from and what activities they undertook. "We found a scatter of flint stone tools – they are the remains of toolkits for a variety of different uses – hunting, fishing or

maybe even drilling wood," he continued.
"Flint isn't found in the Cairngorms and was probably carried with people as they moved into the mountains. The chances are that people were moving through here because it was a major communication route, or that it was used for hunting for things like red deer, and these are also some of the best rivers for salmon fishing in Scotland."

"We also have a scatter of stone tools across a hillside at Geldie Burn and within that we have a smaller cluster of around 100 artefacts scattered around a fire, including tools, broken tools and waste from making tools," he added. A high proportion of these stone tools from the Mesolithic period, which are known as microliths, often suggests a specialised function for the site, and a common interpretation of upland sites is that they are hunting locations.

## £21.6million impact of 'Gaelic Economy' in Glasgow outlined in new report



A new report shows the impact of the 'Gaelic Economy' in Glasgow, bringing in £21.6million to the city, as well as supporting 700 jobs. The council - supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig - commissioned a research study into the value of the 'Gaelic Economy' in Glasgow. The aim of the study was to demonstrate the value, growth, and impact of Gaelic in Glasgow. The study considered the economic value of Gaelic, the growth in its use, and how the language and culture impacted on the wellbeing of Glasgow. The vast majority of this impact was made in three sectors: Creative Industries; Education and Learning; and Tourism, Hospitality and Events. Of the 700 'Gaelic Economy' jobs supported in the city, 58% of these are in the education and learning sector, with 23% in the creative industries, and 16% in tourism, hospitality and events.

These jobs contribute £21.6million to Glasgow's economy every year. The study examined the economic impact of festivals and events where Gaelic plays a key role (including Celtic Connections, Piping Live!, the World Pipe Band Championships, and the Scottish Gaelic Awards) and found that the overall annual economic impact of these festivals and events that can be attributed to Gaelic is estimated to be £7.2million.

The use of Gaelic was also found to contribute positively to wellbeing in a number of ways, including a greater range of job opportunities, increased engagement in physical activity, the development of local and national pride, a sense of identity, and improved mental health and happiness. Shona MacLennan, CEO of Bòrd na Gàidhlig said: "We are delighted to read the findings of this report which strengthen the fact that the Gaelic language and its culture generate opportunities across many sectors of the Scottish economy. This is of course in addition to its benefits to people's wellbeing in everyday life. As we move forward to the next national plan for Gaelic, the messages are stronger and clearer than ever - the language and the economy benefit each other."



















# Saving Kinloch Castle

Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum is an ornate castle which was built by George Bullough, son of a rich industrialist and friend of the Japanese emperor in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was once a place where the fashionable set of the day, including aristocrats and actors, would visit. Now frozen in time but slowly crumbling despite all sorts of plans over the years, including intervention by the then Prince Charles, the castle is looking for help to secure its future as a key part of the small island community as Judy Vickers explains.





In fairy tales when a knight in shining armour arrives at a castle for a rescue, it's generally a princess locked up inside who needs his assistance.

In real life, however, on the Hebridean island of Rum, it's the castle itself which needs help – and the knight in shining armour isn't being welcomed by everyone.

The castle in question is next to the island's tiny village of Kinloch. It is a pink-stoned turn-of-the-century crumbling pile owned by NatureScot, Scotland's government-owned nature agency which has been trying to find a buyer and secure a viable future for it for years. The knight is multi-millionaire businessman Jeremy Hosking, who is said to be willing to buy it, stump up the millions to restore it and put it into a trust in order to open it to the public.

The news of Mr Hosking's involvement earlier this year was welcomed by

politicians, heritage experts and the campaign group Friends of Kinloch Castle. But some of those living in Kinloch aren't so keen on the prospective new owner and have convinced a government minister to put a hold on the sale.

It's just the latest twist in the tale of the castle which was once a playground for the rich with Gaiety Girls allegedly dancing on the grand piano and hummingbirds filling the conservatory but which is now more of a castle under a spell, its opulent Edwardian interiors frozen in time, waiting for a knight with deep pockets to stop their slow decay.

# The most ostentatious shooting lodge ever

Kinloch is now the only inhabited settlement on the island of Rum (sometimes written Rhum or Rùm). The diamond-shaped island is one of the four main Small Isles of the Inner

Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland. The others are Eigg, famous for its community buyout 25 years ago; Canna, owned by the National Trust for Scotland; and Muck, privately owned by the MacLean family -Lawrence MacLean, who died in May, was known as the Prince of Muck. Rum has always been at the whim of its wealthy owners. When the kelp industry - used to make soda ash for explosives - dried up after the Napoleonic Wars, the island was given over to sheep farming and within less than 40 years a population of more than 400 had been cleared by the owners, the Macleans. It was then owned by a succession of wealthy landowners, when it became known as the Forbidden Island as uninvited island visitors were discouraged - there was no ferry service in those days. In 1884, John Bullough, a mill owner from Lancashire in England, became the latest of those rich landlords. He bought the castle to create a shooting pleasure park, introducing deer



and game birds, and when his son George inherited it in 1891 he built perhaps the most ostentatious shooting lodge ever – Kinloch Castle.

The castle took three years to build, from 1897 to 1900, with pink sandstone imported from the island of Arran and 250,000 tons of soil for the gardens. It was state-of-the-Edwardian-art with a hydro-electric scheme, one of the first at a private residence in Scotland, allowing electric lights and air conditioning - there was also double glazing and an interroom telephone system, as well as a lavish interior décor with mahogany panelling, stags' heads, tiger skins and Eastern exotic treasures, many gifts from the Emperor of Japan, whom George had struck up a friendship with while sailing the world on his 221-ft yacht the Rhouma.

# Its opulent Edwardian interiors frozen in time, waiting for a knight with deep pockets to stop their slow decay.

A special German-built orchestrion, an elaborate electric pipe organ designed to simulate the sound of an entire orchestra, had originally been ordered by Queen Victoria, destined for Balmoral Castle, but her death saw it diverted to join the other extravagances at Kinloch. Outside, a domed glasshouse – which later blew down in a storm – was full of hummingbirds, turtles and alligators (the latter in heated tanks), while the walled garden was lined





with hothouses containing peach and fig trees. While the scratches on the grand piano were actually made when a brass incense burner was knocked over rather than the heels of dancing London chorus girls, the castle's heyday did see parties full of bright young things fill the ballroom, billiard room, galleried hall, dining room, drawing room, morning room, squash court, bowling green or small golf course – and of course out on the hills shooting for the fashionable "Highland season".

# Opulent grandeur has been quietly decaying

It was a brief moment in the sun, however. There was little time, money or manpower for such frivolities in the aftermath of the First World War. George – Sir George from

1901 when he was knighted for turning his beloved yacht into a hospital ship during the Second Boer War - died in 1939. His widow, Lady Monica Bullough, sold the island to the Nature Conservancy Council, a forerunner of NatureScot, in 1957 "to be used as a nature reserve in perpetuity and Kinloch Castle maintained as far as may be practical" and Rum became a National Nature Reserve the same year. Only the family's mausoleum remains in their ownership. The island's natural assets have since thrived - sheep and cattle were taken off the island and the natural woodland scrub allowed to return. The island's famous red deer now form part of an internationally important study and eagles, both white-tailed and golden, as well as otters, dolphins and basking sharks are among the wildlife frequently spotted on land, sea and air. Kilmory bothy from the sea.
Photo: JLaurie Campbell/NatureScot.

The introduction of the Small Isles ferry in 2004, complete with a new pier on Rum at Kinloch, means the once forbidden isle is now popular with tourists keen to hillwalk the Rum Cuillin, wildlife spot or enjoy its quiet beaches.

Even the population, which dwindled from 100 in 1900 to 28 in 1951 and remained at just over 20 for many years, has seen an increase in recent years. The Isle of Rum Community Trust has seen some of village transferred to community ownership and has built new homes, successfully attracting new families in 2020 and boosting the population to around 40.

But the last half a century has not been so kind to the castle and, despite some restoration by NatureScot, its opulent grandeur has been quietly decaying.

The servants' quarters were used as a hostel up until 2015 but now even that is closed and leaks, with dry rot and woodworm having taken hold. The castle's appearance on the 2003 TV programme Restoration highlighted its plight and there were various schemes proposed including one from The Prince of Wales's Regeneration Trust. But all have come to nothing so far. NatureScot has warned the public purse cannot afford its upkeep and a solution must be found soon. So will Mr Hosking, a noted railway enthusiast who has funded many steam heritage projects, be the saviour this sleeping beauty castle has been searching for, with the islanders' fears over access roads and energy supplies overcome? Only time will tell.

# Auld lang syne



erhaps Burns's most famous song, these lines are sung across the world on Hogmanay. However, this is not Burns's original work. It was one of the traditional ballads he heard as he travelled around Scotland, and he wrote it down (with the music) in 1788. Burns reworked the piece (quite how much is unknown) and sent it to George Thomson in 1793 to be published in A Select Collection of Original Scotish Airs for the Voice. In a letter to Thomson, Burns described 'the old song of the olden times, & which has never been in print, nor even in manuscript, untill I took it down from an old man's singing.' An earlier version of the song also appeared in Jame Johnson's Scots Musical Museum.

One of Burns's greatest legacies (in addition to his own works) was this transcription of hundreds of traditional ballads, which may otherwise have been lost. *Auld lang syne* roughly translates as 'for old time's sake', a fitting song to be sung at the end of the year and other big occasions such as Scottish ceilidhs, weddings and, of course, Burns Suppers.

It has become traditional in Scotland to hold hands in a large circle for the first five verses and then, at the end of the fifth verse, singers cross their arms (still holding their neighbours' hands!) and run into the middle of the circle.

# Auld lang syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And auld lang syne?

# Chorus:

For auld lang syne, my dear, For auld lang syne. We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne!

And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp! And surely I'll be mine, And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne!

# Chorus

We twa hae run about the braes, And pou'd the gowans fine; But we've wander'd mony a weary fit, Sin' auld lang syne.

# Chorus

We twa hae paidl'd in the burn, Frae morning sun till dine; But seas between us braid hae roar'd Sin' auld lang syne.

# Chorus

And there's a hand, my trusty fere! And gie's a hand o' thine! And we'll tak a right gude-willie waught, For auld lang syne.

# Chorus

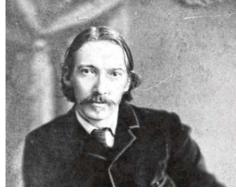
Handy glossary: pint-stowp = tankard of ale; pou'd = pulled; gowans = daisies; braid = broad; fere = companion; gude-willie waught = good hearty swig.



# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 The first volume of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was published in Edinburgh, edited by William Smellie. 1768
- 1 First lighthouse in Scotland opened (at Kinnaird Head, Fraserburgh). It was built by Thomas Smith and Robert Stevenson.  $1787\,$
- $1 \text{English writer Jo (JK) Rowling moves} \\ \text{to Edinburgh where she works on her} \\ \text{first $\textit{Harry Potter}$ novel.} \\ 1993$
- 1 Report of discovery of fossilised dinosaur footprints on the Isle of Skye.  $2015\,$
- 2 Mary Slessor, West African missionary, born in Aberdeen. Slessor was adopted by an African tribe, who called her "ma". 1848



- **3** Robert Louis Stevenson died in Samoa. The Edinburgh born author penned classics such as *Treasure Island* (1883), *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886) and *Kidnapped* (1886). **1894**
- 3 His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen opened and soon became the city's leading centre of entertainment. 1906
- 4 King William I (Lion) died at Stirling and was succeeded by his son Alexander II. 1214
- 4 Treaty of London, releasing James I from his 18 years captivity in England. 1423
- 4 Essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle, best known for his *History of the French Revolution* born in Ecclefechan. 1795
- 4 Cartoon character Desperate Dan first appeared in the *Dandy* comic. **1937**
- **5** King Francis II of France, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, died. **1560**
- $\bf 5$  Death of Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the Brechin-born inventor of radar.  $\bf 1973$
- 6 King Alexander II crowned at Scone. 1214
- 6 The Battle of Dryfe Sands took place near Lockerbie, Scottish Borders, resulting in many casualties, it was a battle between the clans of Clan Maxwell and Clan Johnstone. Many were wounded by downward sword strokes known as "Lockerbie Licks". 1593
- 6 Charles Edward Stewart's entry into Derby. A reluctant Charles and his Jacobite army was forced to withdraw from Derby only two days later. 1745



- **6** The last 12 permanent residents leave the Island of Stroma. **1962**
- 7 -The birth of Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, the Anglo-Scottish aristocrat and second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary married Henry, her first cousin, on the 29 July 1565, to be the uncrowned "King Henry". Darnley was the second husband of Mary and father of King James VI of Scotland and James I of England. He was assassinated in February 1567 by person unknown, although Mary's third husband James, Lord Bothwell, was seriously implicated in the murder. 1545

- 8 Mary, Queen of Scots, born Linlithgow Palace. The only surviving child of James V and Mary of Guise, Mary ascended to the Scottish throne following her father's death when she was only six days old. Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England for her complicity in a plot to murder Queen Elizabeth I at the age of 44 years. 1542
- 9 King Malcolm IV, King of Scotland, died at Jedburgh Castle.  $1165\,$
- 10 The death of Duncan Forbes of Culloden, the Lord President of the Court of Session. As a prominent Whig, like many Scots Forbes supported the Hanoverian cause and used his influence to dissuade a number of clans from joining the Jacobites. 1747
- 10-1928-Designer and architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. Known for his 'Glasgow style' with works such as the House for an Art Lover, the Scotland Street School, and the Glasgow School of Art. 1928
- $10\,\text{-}\,\text{King}$  Edward VIII abdicated and King George VI acceded to the throne.  $1936\,$
- 11 David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope born. 1781
- 11 Architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. 1928
- 12 Anne of Denmark, wife of King James VI, born. 1574
- 13 William Drummond, poet, born. Drummond was one of the first notable Scots poets to write exclusively in English after the Union of the Crowns in 1603. 1585
- 13 The death of Thomas Glover, an industrial pioneer in Japan. Born in Fraserburgh, he is considered a national hero in Japan. Fraser brought the first steam train to Japan, and created the shipyard in Nagasaki which would eventually form the Mitsubishi Corporation. 1911
- 13 New Lanark is designated as a World Heritage Site. The New Lanark cotton mills opened in 1786 and are one of six UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Scotland. 2001
- 14 James V died at Falkland Palace. Mary Queen of Scots succeeded him. 1542



- 14 Glasgow District Underground opened, powered by electricity. 1896
- 14 Will Fyfe, comedian, died. 1947
- 14 University of Stirling instituted by Royal charter. 1967
- $15\hbox{-} \hbox{The Zoological Society of Glasgow} \\ \hbox{was founded on this day.} \\ 1936$
- 16 Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland. Cromwell was the only invader of Scotland to conquer the whole country. 1653
- 16 Thomas Blake Glover, founding father of Japan's industrialisation (including Mitsubishi) and Japanese Navy, born Fraserburgh. 1838



16 - Scotland's largest airline, Flyglobespan, goes into administration. The airline flew routes from Scotland to Europe and North America. 2009

- 17 Marriage contract between James IV and Margaret Tudor signed by King James.  $1502\,$
- 17 Lord Kelvin, scientist and inventor, died. 1907
- 17 Petrol rationing was imposed following the Suez crisis and the closure of the canal.  $1956\,$
- 18 Many Scottish historical records were lost when the ship *Elizabeth of Burntisland* sank off the English coast. The records had been taken to London by Oliver Cromwell and were being returned to Edinburgh. 1661
- 18 Society of Antiquaries founded and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1783, the Society's purpose is "to investigate both antiquities and natural and civil history in general, with the intention that the talents of humanity should be cultivated and that the study of natural and useful sciences should be promoted". 1780
- 18 Death penalty for murder was formally abolished in Britain. 1969
- 18 Inverness was awarded city status. It was one of three regions in the UK to become a city marking the new milennium and the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Prior to Inverness Dundee was the last Scottish town to receive the distinction in 1889. 2000
- 19 *The Scotsman* newspaper moves to new offices at North Bridge in Edinburgh, remaining there until 1999. 1904
- 20 First General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. 1560
- 20 Entertainer Andy Stewart was born in Glasgow. Stewart is perhaps best known for his STV show, *The White Heather Club*, which began in 1960, and his songs *Ye Canna Shuv Yer Granny Off A Bus* and *Donald Where's Yer Troosers*. He died in 1993. 1933
- 20 Aberdeen beat European Cup Winners Hamburg 2-0 to become the first Scottish club to win the UEFA Super Cup. 1983
- 21 Robert Liston, who was born in Linlithgow in 1794, performed the first operation in a British hospital using anaesthetic (ether). 1846
- 21 A Pan Am 747 blew up and crashed at Lockerbie, Dumfries, killing 243 passengers, 16 crew and 11 Lockerbie residents.

  The Pan American jumbo jet bound for New York was blown out of the sky by a terrorist bomb and crashes onto the Scottish town of Lockerbie killing all 259 passengers and 11 people on the ground. 1988
- 22 James Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, son of James II, the deposed Catholic King of England, arrived at Peterhead in north-east Scotland to lead a Jacobite rebellion. 1715
- 22 Pop star Madonna married movieproducer Guy Ritchie at Skibo Castle, putting Dornoch into the media spotlight. The couple has since divorced but helped create a Scottish wedding boom. 2000
- $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{23} \text{-} \, \text{Major outbreak of cholera} \\ \text{in Scotland.} \, \textbf{1831} \end{array}$
- 23 Fife born accordionist Jimmy Shand died. Shand's recordings are famous throughout the world due to his distinctive playing style on the button accordion, and later on the BBC with *The White Heather Club*. 2000
- $24 \text{King William I (Lion)} \\ \text{crowned at Scone. } 1165$
- 24 Edinburgh Castle surrendered to Oliver Cromwell. 1650
- 24 General George Wade was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British army in Scotland after he had reported on the need for military roads in the country. 1724
- 25 Stone of Destiny removed from Westminster Abbey. Used as the coronation stone of the Scottish kings from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the stone was removed by four Scottish university students whose story became a book and movie. The ringleader Ian Hamilton is a former contributor to the Scottish Banner. 1950



- ${\bf 25}$  Christmas Day becomes a public holiday in Scotland. It was abolished in 1640.  ${\bf 1958}$
- 25 The Jacobite army reached Glasgow. The military campaign to return a Catholic Stewart king to the throne in place of the Hanoverian Protestant King William III. 1745
- 26 Alexander III, the King of Scots, was married to Margaret, the daughter of Henry III, King of England, in York. 1251
- 27 King Charles I, imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle, reached an agreement with the Scots who offered military aid in exchange for a promise to establish Presbyterianism in England (but only for three years). 1647
- 27 Premiere of J M Barrie's play *Peter Pan* at the Duke of York Theatre, London. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir in 1860. 1904
- 28 James IV who liked to gamble played 'bylis' (similar to billiards) with a man described in records as "John Anderson that wantis the feit and handies". There's also a note mentioning that the king gave Anderson 14 shilling.  $1501\,$
- 28 Scotland's famous outlaw, Rob "Roy" MacGregor, died. He was immortalised in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Rob Roy*. 1734
- 28 The Tay Bridge disaster occurred. 75 passengers were killed when the structure collapsed under a train during a storm. 1879
- **29** Charles Macintosh, who patented waterproof fabric, born in Glasgow. **1766**
- 29 William Ewart Gladstone, UK Prime Minister on four occasions, born 1809. 1809
- 30 Rangers' first match at their new Ibrox Stadium, with capacity of 75,000. It was a 3-1 victory over Hearts in the Inter-City League. 1899
- 30 The Albion Motor Company was established. At first the firm made motor cars and commercial vehicles, but from 1913 concentrated on the latter. 1899
- 31 Prince Charles Edward Stewart, The Young Pretender, was born in Rome. Known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie", after the Gaelic pronunciation of his name, he led the 1745 Jacobite attempt to overthrow the Hanoverian monarchy. Bonnie Prince Charlie or the Young Pretender, was the son of James, the Old Pretender. 1720
- **31** 72 killed at Glen Cinema Fire, Paisley. **1929**



 $\bf 31$  - The farthing coin (aquarter of an old penny) ceased to be legal tender.  $\bf 1960$ 



undee Heritage Trust has reopened the doors unveiling a dramatic upgrade to the gallery and previously inaccessible dome area of the iconic Riverside exhibition. The space now includes a highly visual and virtual experience, the Discovery Dome, transporting visitors through historic Dundee, with Alan Cumming's recognisable voice narrating the journey. Renovations began in Summer 2021, transforming the layout of the gallery space within the visitor centre. A well-known silhouette on the Dundee cityscape, the vaulted dome area, inaccessible until now, has had a suspended floor, elevator, staircase and impactful art installation, Gaia, installed in the upper cupola of the Discovery Point building. The investment creates a new public gallery with a 360° panoramic view over the city and the River Tay.

**Photo: John Pow** 

Embarking on an inclusive, educational experience, voiced by Scottish actor Alan Cumming, visitors are transported back to 1901, exploring Dundee's rich industrial history and recognisable landmarks through visual CGI technology. Over two million visitors have visited the Dundee landmark, the *Royal Research Ship Discovery* and the gallery's Recognised Collection of National Significance of over 150 objects since its launch in 1993.

The new Discovery Dome is expected to attract a significant increase in footfall, contributing to the city's latest tourism focus. Adding to the visual experience, one of renowned British artist Luke Jerram's famous Gaia designs, which typically tours around the UK, will be permanently housed in the dome, set to wow visitors for decades to come.

The National Fund for Acquisitions and Art Fund supported the Trust with the acquisition of Gaia, a 3D Globelike artwork measuring 3.75 metres in diameter and created from 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface. The artwork provides the opportunity to see the glowing planet floating in three dimensions, allowing guests to clearly visualise Antarctica and the distance of the expeditions *Discovery* made.

# The first ship specifically designed for scientific research

Ali Gellatly, Operations Manager at Dundee Heritage Trust, said: "The Discovery Dome sessions are also a unique opportunity to take in panoramic views across the city, never seen before. Dome sessions last 30 minutes, and only 12 guests are permitted per session, adding to the experience, as it allows the opportunity to take in the views from all angles with an exclusive setting."

The launch of the new and improved attraction coincided with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dry docking of the vessel when the ship was moved from the Tay into the purpose-built dry dock, where it remains on display today. Built in Dundee in 1900, the RRS Discovery was the first ship specifically designed for scientific research in Antarctic regions and was first launched from Dundee a year later in the first of three major scientific expeditions. Caroline Warburton, VisitScotland Regional Leadership Director, said: "It's fantastic to see further investment being made to support Dundee's vital tourism industry. RRS Discovery is one of the city's most popular attractions, bringing to life an important part of our history. This new upgrade will enhance Dundee's outstanding offering and adds a truly unique element to the entire experience. I am sure it will be enjoyed by visitors from across the region and beyond."

Discovery Dome sessions start at 10:15, showing 12 times per day, accommodating 12 people at a time, with the last showing at 17:15. Tickets can be booked online at: https://accessvam.accessacloud.com/ DundeeHeritageTrustBookings





- First footing The 'first foot' in the house after midnight is still very common in Scotland. To ensure good luck, a first footer should be a darkhaired man. Fair-haired first footers were not particularly welcome after the Viking invasions of ancient times. Traditional gifts include a lump of coal to lovingly place on the host's fire, along with shortbread, a black bun and whisky to toast to a Happy New Year. These days shortbread and whisky will suffice. Showing up empty handed is not only very rude but also bad luck!
- Redding the house Rather than a Spring clean, the Scots have a New Year's clean to welcome in the New Year. Starting the New Year with a dirty house is bad luck. When open fires were common, people would clear the ashes and lay a new fire for the New Year. Cleaning one's house also extends to clearing one's debts. An old Scottish superstition states that you should try to clear all your debts before the stroke of midnight.
- Bonfires and Fire Festivals Scotland's fire festivals at Hogmanay and later in January may have pagan or Viking origins. The use of fire to purify and drive away evil spirits is an ancient idea. Fire is at the centre of Hogmanay celebrations in Stonehaven, Comrie and Biggar and has recently become an element in Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebration.
- The singing of Auld Lang Syne all over the world People sing Robert Burns' version of this traditional Scottish air. How it became the New Year's song is something of a mystery. At Edinburgh's Hogmanay, people join hands for what is reputed to be the world's biggest Auld Lang Syne.
- The Saining of the House This is a very old rural tradition that involved blessing the house and livestock with holy water from a local stream. Although it had nearly died out, in recent years it has experienced a revival. After the blessing with water, the woman of the house was supposed to go from room to room with a smouldering juniper branch, filling the house with purifying smoke.

# IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



# Glazed Christmas ham

# **Ingredients**

## For cooking the gammon

2-4kg/4lb 8oz.-9lb unsmoked boneless gammon joint, tied 2 onions, halved 2 carrots, unpeeled, cut into 5cm/2in pieces 2 celery stalks, cut into 5cm/2in pieces 4 bay leaves

12 black peppercorns

# small handful cloves For the glaze

4 tbsp. runny honey

4 tbsp. English mustard

# Method:

Place the gammon joint into a large, lidded saucepan, cover with cold water and bring to the boil over a high heat. Drain the water from the saucepan, add fresh cold water, add the onions, carrots, celery, bay leaves and peppercorns and bring to the boil once more. Reduce the heat, cover with a lid and simmer the gammon and vegetables gently for 20 minutes per 500g/1lb 2oz. (If your pan is not quite large enough to cover the joint completely, turn the gammon over halfway through the cooking time.)

Remove the gammon from the water and set aside to cool for fifteen minutes. (The cooking liquid can be strained and reserved for making soup for another time.)

Pre-heat the oven to 200C/400F/ Gas 6 and line a large roasting tin with aluminum foil.

Use a small knife to remove the rind from the gammon joint, leaving as much of the fat intact as possible. Score the fat in a diamond pattern and push a clove into the centre of each 'X'.

Place the gammon into the foil-lined roasting tray, ensuring that the sides of the foil come halfway up the joint to contain any roasting juices.

For the glaze, mix the honey and mustard together and brush half of it evenly over the gammon, including one side of the joint. Roast in the centre of the oven for ten minutes, then take the joint out and brush the top and remaining side with the rest of the glaze. Return the gammon to the oven for a further 10-15

minutes, rotating the roasting tin so that the opposite side of the gammon faces the back of the oven.

The gammon is ready when the fat on top is glossy and golden brown. Cover loosely with foil if the top begins to look too brown. Remove the gammon from the oven and set aside to rest for 15 minutes before carving.

Pour any juices that have collected in the aluminum foil into a small pan, and warm through gently.

Carve the gammon, serve on a large platter and spoon over the warmed juices.

# Festive roast potatoes



# **Ingredients:**

2 pinches sea salt

10 large King Edward potatoes, peeled, cut into large chunks 50g/1¾oz. lard, dripping or vegetable oil

# Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.

Simmer the potatoes in a large pan of salted boiling water for 4-5 minutes, or until the outside of the potatoes are beginning to soften.

Thoroughly drain the potatoes and briefly shake them around in the colander or pan to roughen up the edges.

Melt the lard in a deep flameproof roasting tray on a high heat and fry the potatoes on each side until they begin to brown.

Sprinkle with salt, to taste, and roast for 30 minutes, or until starting to colour.

Turn the potatoes and return to the oven for a further 20-30 minutes, or until golden-brown and crisp

# Christmas carrots

# **Inaredients:**

4 star anise

9 medium carrots, peeled, topped and tailed 250g/9oz. butter 150g/5½oz. sugar 3 tsp salt

#### Method:

Use a clean scourer to smooth the carrots and remove any peel marks (optional).

In a pan combine 400ml/14fl oz. of water, the butter, sugar, salt and star anise. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat to a gentle simmer and add the carrots. Cook until the carrots are tender (approximately 45 minutes) and the volume of liquid has reduced by half.

Serve the carrots as a side dish with the reduced cooking liquid poured over.

# Sherry trifle



## **Ingredients:**

1 packet trifle sponges, broken into 5cm/2in pieces
½ packet of amaretti biscuits or 150g/5oz macaroons or ratafias
150ml/5fl oz. sweet sherry
1 tbsp cognac
4 tbsp blackberry or raspberry jam
450g/1 lb. fresh blackberries
450g/1 lb. fresh raspberries

# 600ml/1 pint ready-made custard For the syllabub topping

85g/3oz toasted flaked almonds

125ml/4fl oz. sherry 2 tbsp brandy 1 lemon, juice only 55g/2oz. caster sugar 425ml/15fl oz. double cream freshly grated nutmeg

# To garnish

2 oranges, grated zest only 85g/3oz. flaked almonds

# Method:

Lay the sponge pieces and biscuits in the base of a deep glass dish. Spoon over the sherry and cognac and leave to soak in for a few minutes.

Warm the jam until it is runny then pour over the soaked sponge and biscuits. Sprinkle the fruit and flaked almonds on top then pour over the custard.

To make the syllabub topping, place the sherry, brandy and lemon juice into a bowl and stir in the sugar until it dissolves.

Pour in the cream with a pinch of nutmeg. Whisk together using a wire balloon whisk until it holds its shape. Don't over-whisk, or whisk too vigorously, as the cream may split.

Spoon the syllabub over the trifle and chill, preferably overnight.

Just before serving, scatter with the grated orange rind and/or flaked toasted almonds.

# Black Bun

# Ingredients: For the pastry:

300g/10½oz. plain flour 75g/3oz. lard, cubed 75g/3oz. butter, cubed pinch salt ½ tsp baking powder 1 free-range egg, beaten, for glazing For the filling: 200g/7oz. plain flour

200g/7oz. plain flour 300g/10½oz. raisins 300g/10½oz. currants



This month gather friends and family around and eat perhaps a bit more than you should and celebrate Christmas and Hogmanay with a great range of food and drink. From our table to yours-Happy Holidays!

½ tsp. ground ginger

½ tsp. ground cinnamon

½ tsp. ground allspice

½ tsp. mixed spice

¼ tsp. ground black pepper

100g/3½oz. dark muscovado sugar 100g/3½oz. mixed peel, chopped

½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

2 tbsp. whisky

1 free-range egg

3 tbsp buttermilk

## Method:

For the pastry, sift the flour into a bowl and rub in the lard and butter until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the salt, baking powder and four tablespoons of cold water and mix to a soft dough. Turn out and knead into a ball. Wrap in cling film and leave to chill in the fridge while you make the filling.

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4 (fan 160C).

For the filling, mix all the ingredients together in a large bowl.

Line a 900g/2lb loaf tin with baking parchment. On a lightly floured surface, roll out two thirds of the pastry to a rectangle large enough to line the tin. Drape into the tin and press up against the sides. Spoon the filling into the tin, pressing down to compress.

Roll out three quarters of the remaining pastry to a rectangle large enough to cover the tin. Dampen the edges of the pastry with water and press the pastry lid on top to seal. Trim the edges and crimp using the tines of a fork. Roll out the remaining pastry, along with any trimmings, and use to make a bow to decorate the top, then attach with a little water.

Glaze with beaten egg and bake for two hours. Remove from the oven and leave to cool in the tin before turning out.

# Spiced mulled wine

# **Ingredients:**

½ bottle red wine

2 star anise

2 cloves

1 orange, sliced

1 lemon, sliced

50g/1¾oz. brown sugar

# Method:

Place all of the ingredients into a saucepan and simmer gently for 6-8 minutes, without boiling. Alternatively, place the ingredients in your slow cooker and cook on low until warm (1-2 hours, depending on your slow cooker).

To serve, pour the mulled wine into heatproof glasses.

# Neolithic culinary traditions uncovered

associated with lipid residues for dairy products in pots, suggesting they may have

been cooked together as a milk-based gruel.

The research was led by Drs Simon

of Bristol's Department of Anthropology

and Archaeology. Dr Hammann said: "It's

very exciting to see that cereal biomarkers in

pots can actually survive under favourable

conditions in samples from the time when



team of scientists, led by the University of Bristol, has uncovered intriguing new insights into the diet of people living in Neolithic Britain and found evidence that cereals, including wheat, were cooked in pots. Using chemical analysis of ancient, and incredibly well-preserved pottery found in the waters surrounding small artificial islands called crannogs in Scotland, the team were able to discern that cereals were cooked in pots and mixed with dairy products and occasionally meat, probably to create early forms of gruel and stew. They also discovered that the people visiting these crannogs used smaller pots to cook cereals with milk and larger pots for meat-based dishes.

# **Cereal cultivation**

Cereal cultivation in Britain dates back to around 4000 BCE was probably introduced by migrant farmers from continental Europe. This is evidenced by some, often sparse and sporadic, recovery of preserved cereal grains and other debris found at Neolithic sites. At this time pottery was also introduced into Britain and there is widespread evidence for domesticated products like milk products in molecular lipid fingerprints extracted from the fabric of these pots. However, with exception for millet, it has not yet been possible to detect molecular traces of accompanying cereals in these lipid signatures, although these went on to become a major staple that dominates the global subsistence economy today.

Previously published analysis of Roman pottery from Vindolanda (Hadrian's Wall) cereals can survive absorbed in archaeological pottery preserved in waterlogged conditions and be detectable through a high-sensitivity approach but, importantly this was 'only' cereals were well-known to have been present. The new findings reported now show that cereal biomarkers can be preserved for conditions. Another fascinating element of this research was the fact that many of the pots analysed were intact and decorated which could suggest they may have had some sort of ceremonial purpose. Since the actual function of the crannogs themselves is also not fully understood yet (with some being research provides new insights into possible ways these constructions were used.

# Culinary traditions of early farmers

During analysis, cereal biomarkers were widely detected (one third of pots), providing the earliest biomolecular evidence for cereals in absorbed pottery residues in this region. The findings indicate that wheat was being cooked in pots, despite the fact that the limited evidence from charred plant parts in this region of Atlantic Scotland points mainly to barley. This could be because wheat is under-represented in charred plant remains as it can be prepared differently (e.g., boiled as part of stews), so not as regularly charred or because of more unusual cooking practices. Cereal markers were strongly

demonstrated that specific lipid markers for 2,000 years old and from contexts where thousands of years longer under favourable far too small for permanent occupation) the

Our lipid-based molecular method can complement archaeobotanical methods to investigate the introduction and spread of cereal agriculture." Dr Cramp added: "This research gives us a window into the culinary traditions of early farmers living at the northwestern edge of Europe, whose lifeways are little understood. It gives us the first glimpse of the sorts of practices that were associated with these enigmatic islet locations."

Crannog sites in the Outer Hebrides are currently the focus of the four-year Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded 'Islands of Stone' project, directed by two of the papers' authors (Duncan Garrow from the University of Reading and Fraser Sturt from the University of Southampton) along with Angela Gannon, Historic Environment Scotland. The next stage of the research at the University of Bristol is an exploration of the relationship between these islets and other Neolithic occupation sites in the Hebridean region and beyond as well as more extensive comparative study of the use of different vessel forms through surviving lipid residues.







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# 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 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



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Hon Chief: Mr Lindsay McDonald Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldvarraville.com

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States

Email us: info@clancumming.us



# 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 Richard Harvey, Secretary Email: c2100575@uon.edu.au



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

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www.familyofbruceinternational.org



# Clan Davidson Society in

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

# **CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY**

Membership invited to all who share the Sept names:

Duncan, Robertson, Reid, etc.

<u>UK</u>: London & Southern Counties \* Rannoch & Highlands Canada: Ontario \* Western Canada Australia: New South Wales \* Victoria \* Queensland \* Western Australia New Zealand: New Zealand

Europe: Spain South Africa

Arizona \* Carolinas \* Florida \* Gulf Coast \* Mid-Atlantic \* New o \* 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 roject, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you

http://www.donnachaldh.com/ Facebook: The Clan Donnachaidh Society
Email: ivc@donnachaidh.com



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

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



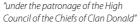
# National Clan Cameron Australia Inc.

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



**High Commissioner** 

**State Commissioners** NSW Qld

SA

Mr John Currie Mr A. Neil Macdonald Mr Michael Murphy Mr Norman A Macdonald Ms Pamela McDonald

Mr A. Neil Macdonald

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



or variations:- Edmiston/e, Edmondston, Edmanson, Edmeston, Edmonson, Edmundson, etc. Chieftain Sir Archibald Edmonstone Bt of Duntreath

> 3 Laguna Ave Kirwan, Qld, 4817 61 (0)7 4755 4370

# www.clangalbraith.org



**Contact: Mal Edmiston** m.edmiston@bigpond.com

# Clan Gregor Society 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

or membership contact Keith MacGregor P.O Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876

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 Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald Ph: 0412 090990 Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au Web: www.clandonaldgld.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



6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland

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"



# 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 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 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 Farguharson and descendants of Sept family names. Please contact the association by mail to:

## The Secretary: Clan Farguharson **Association Australia**

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



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

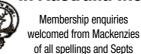
Clan Chief Peter Lamont of that Ilk resides in Sydney Australia.

> For all enquires about the Clan and Membership contact :-

President Ian McLucas Email ianandbevmclucas@bigpond.com

mobile 0448 778 799

# Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.



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

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



FOR INFORMATION: WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

A.L. MACLEOD 3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84120-6880

# **Clan Hay Australia**



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

looking for new members to illustrious Clan. All descendants and supporter's Alderston: Aver: Bagra: Beagrie: Conn (Aberdeenshire only): Constable: Delahaye; Delgaty; Du Plessis; Dupplin; Errol; Garrow; Geary; Gifford; Hayde Haye; Hayle; Haynes; Hays; Hayton; Hayward; Hey; Hye; Kinnoul; Laxfirth; Leask\*; Leith; Locherworth; Logie; Macara; MacGaradh; McKester; Peebles; Phillips (Aberdeenshire only); Slains; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester; Zeste

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

clanHavAustralia@Facebook.com



Welcoming Little/Lyttle/Lytle and the like.

- · Promoting our Scottish heritage
- · Hosting tents at Scottish games
- · Connecting our families
- Maintaining our genealogy and DNA

## www.clanlittlesociety.org

Registered in the State of Georgia, USA Proud Member of **COSCA** 



Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

Information about the Clan and application for CMSA 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



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

New Second Edition!

A History of the Clan Macnachtan Paperback available through



# Clan Hay



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

The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquires from descendants of: Hav(s): Have(s): Havne(s): Hev(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.clanhav.com

# McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

## DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!

Contact: membership.macailpein@gmail.com Website: https://macailpein.com/

Clan MacDougall Society of

North America, Inc

Valerie McDougal

N5Z 3B2



# 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

# The MacEanruigs, proud sons of Henry, invite you to join! **Clan Henderson Society**

Purposes of the Society

- Foster Scottish culture and activities
- 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

Contact

jeffh@bigpond.com 0439 330 012

Alistair of Fordell Jeff Henderson

www.clanhendersonsociety.com













# CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

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







# Clan 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



Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson PO Box 243 **GYMEA NSW 2227** 

www.clanmacnicol.org







# 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



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

MacWilliam Beaton MacAskill MacCorkill Bethune MacAulav MacCrimmon Norie Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallum Norman Harold MacCaig MacHaigh 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 • Fmail: neter macleod@exemail.com au



For information about local activities visit our web site www.clan-macpherson.org/branches Africa. Derek Macpherson African.Chairman@clan-macp phone +265 999 512 620 Australia. John L Macpherson

Canada. Denise Lagundzin Canada Chair@clan\_moorb phone +1 519 507 4465 Europe. Will Tulling

England & Wales. William Macpherso EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.o phone +44 7877 363 507 lew Zealand. Tony McPherson

Scotland & Northern Ireland. Annie Le Rov-Lewis USA. Robert T McPherson SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7793 317 387 UnitedStates.Chairman@c phone +1 360 701 8133

The Clan Macnherson Museum is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE



# **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



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



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

rthomnyprdcan@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

# NESBITT - NISBET SOCIETY

NORTH AMERICA

Clan Nisbet, a Borders family, welcomes new members worldwide. Whether you're a Nesbit, Nisbet, or one of the nany other spelling variations we encourage you to inquire

Head to our official website to learn about our proud heritage. Our must-read section, "Notable Nisbets" chronicles Alexander Nisbet Scotland's famous author of heraldry and other renowned







# **OLIPHANT CLAN** & FAMILY ASSOCIATION of North America



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

Oliphant - Olyphant - Oliphint Olifant -Olifent and all descended

ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org

descendant of Pollock, Pollok, Pook, Polk, Polke, Paulk, Poalke, Poulk, Poolke, Pogue - you are cordially invited to contact:

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



# **Clan Ross**

for information contact Commander Des Ross (Bv 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 Ross America



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

# www.clanross.org

**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 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

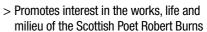


# Clan Sutherland **Society of North** America Inc.

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.



> 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

# 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

# Clan Wardlaw Association

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

Wardlaw ivermair!

www.clanwardlaw.com Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

**Scottish Associations and Societies** 



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



The American-Scottish Foundation

# The Scottish Australian **Heritage Council**



Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

For information please contact members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au Find us on Facebook

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



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

# **Caledonian Society**

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

www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com



www.standrewsociety.com

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

Víctorian Scottish Union Inc

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

**Brunswick Scottish Society** Clan Donald Victoria Clan Grant Clan Hay Clan Macdonald of Yarraville Clan Sinclair Geelong Scottish Dance

Glenhrae Celtic Dancers Maryborough Highland Society Scottish Country Dance Society of Victoria Robert Burns Scottish Festival Camperdown The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Warrnambool & District Caledonian Society 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



# 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



# 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

# Highland Games in heart of Scotland to showcase the future of 5G TV production

Highland Games in the heart of Scotland is at the forefront of a pioneering project trialling future television production in remote locations using 5G and involving world-leading broadcasters. While this year's Pitlochry Highland Games in Perthshire took place in September, some of the action was transmitted live using a local private shared spectrum 5G network to the International Broadcasting Conference (IBC) in Amsterdam – where an estimated 40,000 dedicated technologists and engineers from the worldwide media community attended the show.

The breakthrough project aims to demonstrate just how portable and flexible a private 5G 'Network in a Box' can be for live television production use cases, by taking it to some truly remote global locations, as well as to the IBC show itself. The project is trialling production over 5G for broadcasters, including BBC Research & Development, BTSport, BT Media & Broadcast, TV2, Paramount, Olympic Broadcasting Services and RTÉ. The private 5G stand-alone network has been designed and engineered and integrated by local technology spin-out, Neutral Wireless Ltd, working alongside the University of Strathclyde's Software Defined Radio (StrathSDR) engineering team and the Scotland 5G Centre rural testbed project.

# Celebration of Scottish identity

The technology will be housed in an unassuming box with antenna, situated in a corner of the balcony at the main event



pavilion. As dancers perform to bagpipes and cabers fly through the air, the games will be provided with a dedicated bandwidth using shared spectrum, with no interference or capacity issues affecting the quality of transmission - even in big crowds where many consumers and visitors are using their mobile phones and the local WiFi.

Paul Coffey, CEO of The Scotland 5G Centre said: "It is great to see that 5G capability can communicate the celebration of Scottish identity at the Pitlochry Highland Games to our broadcast colleagues in Amsterdam. This is a significant use case from our partners at the University of Strathclyde as it demonstrates the portability of a private 5G standalone 'network-in-a-box' and opens up numerous possibilities for future use of 5G technology in live televsion broadcasts."

Mark Smith, Head of the IBC Accelerator Media Innovation Programme, added: "Pitlochry will help us show that 5G remote production can happen anywhere. We are trialling in four remote areas of the world, in Ireland, in Kenya, New Zealand, as well as Pitlochry, which provides the perfect opportunity to focus on a private 5G network, relaying the learnings to the worldwide media & entertainment technology community."

# New survey to map island connections

ow do islanders maintain connections to their communities when they are living elsewhere? This is one of the questions being asked by University of Aberdeen/James Hutton Institute researcher Kirsten Gow as she explores how those with island connections could play a part in the future of island life, including through return migration. Kirsten, who is based on the Isle of Jura, is keen to hear from people who have lived on a Scottish island in the past, or who have strong links to a Scottish island but who don't live on one at the moment. As part of her research she has set up a short survey to learn more about how people stay connected to island life and whether or not they would consider living on an island in the future.

"I know from personal experience that you don't necessarily stop being part of an island community just because you move away," explained Kirsten. "I believe that it's important to pay attention to the strong connections people have with Scottish islands even when they are living elsewhere. It potentially tells us a great deal about island culture and identity, but it also might help us understand how we can make the most of these continued links to build sustainable futures for our islands."

# Ongoing connection people have to islands

Kirsten's research started with looking at strategic objective one of the National Islands Plan - addressing population decline and ensuring a healthy, balanced population profile in Scotland's islands. The 2019 plan noted that the global trend for urbanisation has led to long-term depopulation and a shrinking working age populations in many island areas, highlighting that 'depopulation has an adverse

effect on community confidence and service sustainability, increasing the vulnerability of communities already experiencing higher costs of service provision and market access'. In addition, some have pointed to the cultural impact of depopulation, with the loss of Gaelic language and local knowledge threatening unique ways of life in the islands.

"Research already tells us that, if we want to make sure our islands have a sustainable future, many of them will need to maintain or increase their populations by encouraging more people to move there," explained Kirsten. "But it's not just about numbers. Return migration - people with connections to an island moving 'back' to the island - can potentially help tackle depopulation while also helping us retain the cultural and local knowledge which is a key part of building resilient and sustainable communities." In the first stage of her research Kirsten's survey is designed to help her understand the ongoing connection people have to islands, even while living elsewhere. In later stages she intends to speak to those who are actively interested in moving back to an island, and those who have already made the move, in order to understand the aspirations and realities of return.

Further information on Kirsten's research and a link to the survey can be found at https://islandsresearcher.uk/take-part/



# Castle of Light returns to the capital this winter with all new illuminated trail

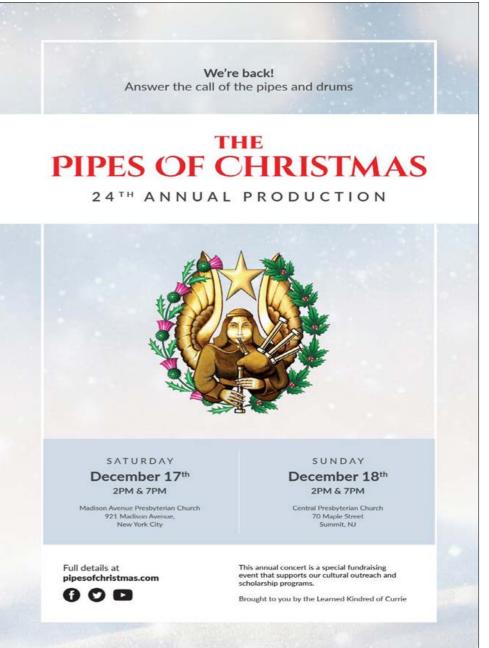


dinburgh Castle will transform into a 'Kingdom of Colours' this winter as the capital's most iconic landmark is illuminated with stateof-the-art projections to highlight stories from Scotland's history. Guests can expect a truly immersive experience as Edinburgh Castle is brought to life once again through spectacular light and sound displays to brighten up the darker months. Bursting with colour and spectacular illuminations, the Kingdom of Colours theme promises to offer visitors the chance to see the castle in a whole new light this winter. Set to showcase the castle's stories as 'defender of the nation', the historic moments dating back 800 years will be displayed through many thematic zones.

Drawing inspiration from kaleidoscope patterns, this year's projections include a mix of geometric designs depicting stories from Scotland's past, transforming the castle with light, sound and wonder like never before. Stephen Duncan, Director of Marketing and Engagement at Historic Environment Scotland, which operates Edinburgh Castle, said: "We're excited to be back for another year but this time we're bringing together even more storytelling, music and extraordinary displays to build our biggest show to date. We felt it was important that we continued to bring light and joy to the capital during the darker months. We hope that much of the community and visitors to the city are able to experience the wonder of Castle of Light in 2022."

Castle of Light is now on until Friday 30 December 2022. For more information visit: www.castleoflight.scot.





# WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

Enjoy North America'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 Australasia) or add your event at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

# Canada

#### **DECEMBER 2022**

#### Sons of Scotland Pipe Band Ceilidh 3, Ottawa, ON

The Sons of Scotland are pleased to be hosting their annual St. Andrew's Day Ceilidh with music, dance, dinner and more at Location Royal Canadian Legion, Eastview, 294 Cyr Ave. Info: www.sospb.com

#### **Christmas Highland Dance Competition** 3, Moncton, NB

The Greater Moncton Scottish Association is thrilled to announce the return of its popular Christmas Highland Dance Competition at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Info:www. monctonhighlandgames.com/competitions-1

#### St. Andrew's Day Ceilidh Ottawa, ON

Family friendly Ceilidh with renowned fiddler Anna Ludlow celebrating our Scottish origins, meal, highland and ceilidh dancing at Saint Patrick Basilica. Info: www.eventbrite. ca/e/st-andrews-day-ceilidh-at-saintpatrick-basilica-tickets-444403050487

#### St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society Lecture 3, Vancouver, BC

In this illustrated online lecture, art historian Professor Viccy Coltman (University of Edinburgh) discusses a number of images, objects and textiles associated with the third generation Jacobite claimant, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, dating from the decades in and around the mid eighteenth century. The lecture portion of this event can be viewed online (on Zoom) or in person at SFU Vancouver, Harbour Centre Campus, Room 1410. Info: www. eventbrite.ca/e/st-andrews-and-caledoniansociety-lecture-tickets-461103782827

#### The Next Best Thing-Graham Lindsey Live 6, Ottawa, ON

Graham Lindsey released his second album of Celtic music, The Next Best Thing, in 2020 - and now you can help celebrate its release at The Gladstone Theatre. Info: www. thegladstone.ca/the-next-best-thing

#### Happy Christmas/A Blithe Yule/Nollaig Chridheil 25, Nationwide

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas!

# Happy Hogmanay

31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023!

# **Hogmanay Dance**

31, London, ON

Join RSCDS London Ontario Canada and celebrate Hogmanay at Colborne St. United Church. Info: www.rscdslondoncanada.org

# Hogman-eh!

31, Ottawa, ON

New Year's Eve celebration with the Scottish Society of Ottawa. This is a family friendly way to close off the past year and to ring in the new. Info: www.ottscot.ca/hogmanay

# Scotword answers from page 6

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Across:	Down:	
1 Clype	2 Lammermuir Hills	
4 Carse	3 Pubs	
11 Campbeltown Loch	5Anne	
12 Neep	6 Scottish Thistle	
13 Roots	7 Scones	
14 Stot	8 Alloa	
15 Mull	9 Forth	
17 Oats	10 Shotts	
18 Elgin 20 Iona	16 Lea	
20 Iona 21 Yett	17 Ony	
25 Echo	19 Breeks	
26Wrath	22 Midden	
27 Gird	23 Drams	
30 Kildrummy Castle	24 Stays	
31 Ashet	28 Brae	
32 Leven	29 Kale	

## **IANUARY 2023**

#### Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas **British Columbia Tour**

## 6-12, Various venues

Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser and brilliant Californian cellist Natalie Haas blend Scottish tradition with cutting-edge string explorations with gigs in Courtenay, Victoria, Qualicum and Vancouver. Info: www.alasdairandnatalie.com

## A Celebration of Robbie Burns with Blackthorn 14, Coquitlam, BC

Fiddler, Rosie Carver, with Celtic band Blackthorn and a special guest piper feature the musical traditions of Scotland with a special focus on Burns' songs and poems at Place des Arts 1120 Brunette Ave. Info: www. eventbrite.ca/e/a-celebration-of-robbie-burnswith-blackthorn-tickets-392870725917

# **Burns Night Dance**

20, London, ON

Join RSCDS London Ontario Canada and celebrate Robert Burns at Elmwood Ave. Presbyterian Church. Info: www. rscdslondoncanada.org

#### Robbie Burns Dinner 20, Hamilton, ON

Join Hugh Murray Lodge to celebrate the life and legacy of the Immortal Robbie Burns, poet, philosopher and the "Bard of Scotland". Info: www.parkbench. com/event/robbie-burns-dinner-2

# **Annual Burns Dinner**

21, Toronto, ON

The St. Andrew's Society of Toronto looks forward to holding their traditional Burns Dinner in conjunction with the University Club of Toronto. The event follows the time-honoured format with the Address to a Haggis, The Immortal Memory and Toasts to the Lassies and Laddies, Musical entertainment will be provided by Old Man Flanagan's Ghost. Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

#### Robbie Burns Night 2023 21, Sarnia, ON

Come and celebrate Scotland's most cherished poet. Haggis, Pipes, Highland dancers, and much more at Sarnia Legion Branch 62, 286 Front Street North. Info: www.sarnialegion. com/event/robbie-burns-night-2023

#### Burns Night 2023: The Bard & His Ballads 22, Campbell River, BC

Join songsmith Bruce Coughlan with special guests Daniel Lapp, fiddle & piano and René Cusson, pipes & whistles and celebrate Burns Night with them in-person or watch from anywhere - virtually through Livestream available for 48 hours until Robbie Burns Day. Info: www.songsmith.ca

#### Happy Burns Night 25. Nationwide

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

# **Burns Statue Celebration**

25, Toronto, ON

Everyone is welcome to celebrate of the birthday of Scotland's national bard. There will be piping, haggis, neeps, tatties, singing, and good cheer at Robert Burns Statue (Allan Gardens - Sherbourne and Carlton). Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

#### **Robbie Burns Celebration** 25, Cobourg, ON

Presented by the Cobourg Highland Games Society, a traditional Scottish meal, including Haggis. Entertainment by the Cobourg Legion Pipes and Drums and Highland Dancers at the Best Western Plus Cobourg. Info: www.cobourghighlandgames.ca

# Vancouver Ceilidh

# 27, Vancouver, BC

At the Scottish Cultural Centre Free lesson 7pm-7:45 Dancing 8pm to 10:30pm, Admission \$15 for adults, \$10 for students. Everyone welcome, no experience or partner required. Loads of fun and live music too with the resident Ceilidh Band Calanais. Info: www.vancouverceilidh.org

# 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Robbie Burns Dinner

28, Edmonton, AB

Join Clan MacNaughton Pipe Band for dinner, entertainment, an address to the haggis, and more in celebration of Robbie Burns Day at Dutch Canadian Club 13312 142 St. Info: www.eventbrite.ca/e/51st-annual-robbieburns-dinner-tickets-424291416047

# USA

#### **DECEMBER 2022**

#### Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend 2-3, Alexandria, VA

For more than 50 years, Campagna Center has celebrated Alexandria's Scottish heritage during the holiday season. Proceeds from all events of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend benefit our core programs that help children and families in Alexandria from cradle to career. Info: www.campagnacenter.org/event/scww

#### The Fire's Very Scottish Christmas 4, San Pedro, CA

California's favorite Scottish music trio returns to the Annex with their Very Scottish Christmas. Enjoy David Brewer's unparalleled mastery of the Great Highland Bagpipe, Rebecca Lomnicky's internationally awarded Scottish fiddling, and Adam Hendey's warm-emotive voice over a lush foundation of guitar and reed organ. The Fire's Very Scottish Christmas showcases Scottish and Irish dance and seasonal folk ballads dating back to the 1300s alongside beloved holiday favorites. Info: www.grandvision. org/event/the-fire-scottish-christmas

# Scottish Christmas Party

13, New York, NY

American-Scottish Foundation & Burns Society of New York invite you to a braw wee Scottish Christmas Celebration, with traditional Scottish songs and Christmas carols, at Union Club 101 E 69th St. Info: www.americans cottish foundation.com

# The Pipes of Christmas

17-18, New York, NY The 24<sup>th</sup> Pipes of Christmas, a celebration for the soul with Celtic festive performances. The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. One show in NY and another in NJ, both dates at 2 & 7 PM. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com

#### Happy Christmas/A Blithe Yule/Nollaig Chridheil 25, Nationwide

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas!

## Happy Hogmanav 31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023!

# **JANUARY 2023**

## Florida Keys Celtic Festival 7-8, Marathon, FL

A celebration of Celtic culture and entertainment at Marathon Community Park, MM49 US Hwy 1 Ocean Side. Info:

www.floridakeyscelticfestival.com

# Winter Storm Weekend

12-15, Kansas City, MO

The Pipes and Drums event in Kansas City. World-class concerts, competitions, and master classes. Info: www.mhaf.org

# Central Florida Scottish Highland Games 14-15, Winter Springs, FL

Experience traditional highland athletics, dance, art, music, culture, food and a Gaelic spirit at Central Winds Park, Info: www.flascot.com

#### The 27th Annual ASF Burns Night Gala Celebration 20, New York, NY

Celebrate Scotland's National Bard, Robert Burns. Hosted by the American Scottish Foundation and University Club, New York. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

#### The Saint Andrews Society of **Jacksonville Robert Burns Dinner** 21, St. Augustine, FL

Traditional haggis, bagpipes and drums, Scottish dancer, Scottish poetry, and all the fun toasts that come with celebrating Robert Burns, including the Salute to the Haggis at Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Dr. Info: www.jaxsaintandrews.org/burns-dinner

# **Robert Burns Supper**

21, San Diego, CA

Presented by the San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering of the Clans, celebrate the bard! Info: www.sdhighlandgames.org

#### **Burns Supper** 22, Naples FL

Burns Supper at Long Shore Lakes Clubhouse with the Saint Andrew's Society Naples. Info: www.saintandrewssocietynaples.com

# **Happy Burns Night**

25, Nationwide

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

#### Robert Burns Supper 28, Los Angeles, CA

Join the St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles in celebrating the bard with food, music and more. Info: www.saintandrewsla.org

# SASSF Burns Supper

28, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Commemorating the 263<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Robert Burns with The Scottish Society of South Florida. A full night of entertainment with the traditional Address to a Haggis, Toasts, Immortal Memory and more at Tropical Acres Steakhouse, 2500 Griffin Rd. Info: www.sassf.org/Burns-supper

#### **Burns Night Supper** 28, Camp Hill PA

Celebrate the life, poetry, and music of Robert Burns. Sit-down dinner with an address to a haggis, toasts, reflection on Burns, and musical entertainment provided by Charlie Zahm and Tad Marks at Penn Harris Hotel. Info: www.pennscots.org

# **Scotland**

## **DECEMBER 2022**

The Proclaimers Scotland Tour 1-17, Various venues

Scottish twins Craig & Charlie Reid aka The Proclaimers tour Glasgow, Kilmarnock, Edinburgh, Perth, Inverness and Aberdeen.

Info: www.the.proclaimers.co.uk/the-gigs

## The Edinburgh Christmas 10k Walk 3, Edinburgh

Join in the festivities of Edinburgh's annual Christmas festival by taking part in this charitable 10k walk. This event is for any age and any ability, since it is all about having fun, getting in the Christmas spirit and raising money for charity. Info: www.letsdothis.com/gb/e/the-edinburghchristmas-charity-festival-10k-walk-2022-189717

#### The 20th Anniversary MG ALBA **Scots Trad Music Awards**

4, Dundee

The 20th annual MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards returns to the Caird Hall, showcasing and celebrating Scottish traditional music at its very best to folk fans from across the country. Known as the Folk Oscars, the 2022 MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards will feature performances from some of Scotland's leading Scottish musicians and singers. Info: https://projects. handsupfortrad.scot/scotstradmusicawards

#### Eddi Reader - 40 Years Live 5. Aviemore

Celebrating almost half a century of music, the 40 Years Live tour will see Eddi bring her signature vocals to Macdonald Aviemore Resort. Info: www.eddireader.co.uk/gigs

#### Hoolie in the Hydro 17, Glasgow

The world's biggest ceilidh will feature some of the top musicians on the Scottish and Irish traditional music scene, at The Ovo Hydro. Info:www.sec. co.uk/events/detail/hoolie-in-the-hydro

## Happy Christmas/A Blithe Yule/Nollaig Chridheil 25, Nationwide

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas!

# Edinburgh's Hogmanay 30-January 1, Edinburgh

Hogmanay is one of the big celebrations in Edinburgh and a bucket list experience for people from around the world. With celebrations including ceilidhs to the street party, fireworks and Loony Dook on 1 January, it's the ultimate way to say goodbye to the old and welcome in the new year. Info: www.edinburghshogmanay.com

# Happy Hogmanay

31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers. advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023!

# Strathblane-Between the Ranges





grew up in Kirkintilloch. Until the 1980s the town had a two-hourly bus service to Strathblane. In half-an-hour it swept us from our declining post-industrial hometown, westwards along the wooded lower slopes of the Campsie Fells, to a prosperous rural village squeezed between two hill ranges. To the west were the Kilpatricks, to the east, perhaps the most impressive face of the Campsies. In every direction there was promise for outdoor enthusiasts. I was a regular on the Strathblane bus. It was my escape to adventure.

In 1933, the prolific travel writer Ian C Lees wrote that 'The rich valley of the Blane... is the finest place for trampers within easy reach of Glasgow.' It was true then; it was true in the 1980s and it is true now. And I wish we still used the word 'tramper'. Today, though, it is perhaps easier to find peace and quiet there



than in the 1930s, as the real enthusiasts hurtle north in their cars to Glencoe, the Trossachs or Arrochar.

A word about names. Blanefield (the ultimate destination of that bus from Kirkintilloch) and Strathblane are conjoined villages that straddle the A81 between Aberfoyle and Glasgow. Strathblane is the village; the valley is Strath Blane, drained by the Blane Water, a river that finally runs via the Endrick into Loch Lomond.

# An outdoor paradise

At the heart of Strathblane, where the A891 joins the A81, is the Kirkhouse Inn. It is said to date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and happily has survived Covid. When the Kirkhouse was new, Strathblane, protected by a belt of high ground to the south, must have felt especially remote. However, in the 1860s the arrival of the railway brought the village into the Glasgow commuter belt. Owing to that high ground to the south, the trains arrived circuitously, via Kirkintilloch and Lennoxtown, and the line eventually extended to Balfron and Aberfoyle. The railway lost its passenger service in 1951 and was closed completely in 1959 (our bus from Kirkintilloch, now also gone, originated as its partial replacement). But, as we will see, it's still an important travel route today.

Just north of Strathblane/Blanefield is Duntreath Castle, the home of the Edmonstone family who remain significant landowners here. The castle is private though its gardens are sometimes open to the public. In 1909 crowds flocked to Blanefield Station when King Edward VII arrived there for a visit to Duntreath. He was greeted by Sir Archibald Edmonstone of Duntreath and the Duke of Montrose. Crowds also turned out to see the King when he attended Strathblane Parish Church on the Sunday. Edward had visited Duntreath before, when he was Prince of Wales. There's speculation that he may have made other, more clandestine visits; Mrs Alice Keppel, with whom he had a long affair, was Sir Archibald's sister. Duntreath had its own small railway siding, and it has been suggested that Edward travelled on ordinary service trains and had them stop here so that he could make secret visits to Mrs Keppel at her birthplace. I am sceptical about this; the king, travelling on a humble local train that stops unexpectedly in the middle of nowhere so that he can hurry away? That would surely attract attention, not avoid it?

Nowadays the trackbed of the railway east of the village is a walking and cycle path that runs all the way to Kirkintilloch while the West Highland Way also follows the railway north-west through Strath Blane. The John Muir Way uses the path from Kirkintilloch to Strathblane and then climbs up to Mugdock before continuing through the Kilpatrick Hills. These routes all help to make Strathblane an outdoor paradise. Mugdock is also home to a much-loved country park. And then there's The Pipe Track.

Feels remote, even though it is not The Pipe Track begins as a quiet suburban drive, climbing steeply from Strathblane's War Memorial. A couple of hours on the track, with spectacular views ahead to the hills around Loch Lomond, will take you to the village of Killearn, from where you can take a bus back to Strathblane. But on the walk you will notice some odd stone towers and bridges. These are associated with the Loch Katrine Aqueduct which takes sweet fresh water from the Trossachs to reservoirs at Milngavie. This astonishing civil engineering project was carried out in the 1850s with the intention of providing Glasgow with clean water. Today, with an extension dating from the 1870s, it still does. The Pipe Track was originally a service road for the building of the aqueduct.

The farm of Blairquhosh, just beyond Blanefield, was famous in the early days of Scottish tourism for its Muckle Tree - sadly no longer with us except as a sad roadside stump. Further on is a current tourist draw, the Glengoyne Distillery, famous for its single malts. It is a picturesque facility with the peak of Dumgoyne towering above. Many visitors must think they are in the Highlands. The B10 bus serves Glengoyne from Glasgow and Strathblane and you can walk there using either the West Highland Way or the Pipe Track.

Returning to Strathblane's War Memorial, just across the road are some rows of cottages that were built for people who worked in a massive now vanished calico works that once dominated the area. In 1941, during the Second World War, two landmines fell on the village. The Clydeside Blitz was raging, and it is probable that the German bombers were simply shedding their loads before heading for home. One of the landmines landed just across the road from the war memorial and destroyed a block called 'Sunnyside'. Four people were killed, including a mother and her two children who had been evacuated from Clydebank to avoid air raids. A plaque near the parish church commemorates the tragedy.

The Campsies are the dominating feature of Strathblane, with the pointy green alp of Dumgoyne and the mighty crags of Slackdhu. If Slackdhu seems familiar, it may be because you are a Monty Python fan. They stood in for South Africa in the Zulu sequence of *Monty Python's Meaning of Life*. You would not ever really mistake Strathblane for the veldt. Yet it feels remote, even though it is not.





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