

The 2023 World Pipe Band Championships

FOR GLOBAL

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Rum rocks to play a key role in Mars O space mission

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New records reveal lives of lightkeepers.....» Pg 9

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The Banner Says...

Scotland's connection to bridges



by Sean Cairney

ooking at some of the dates in this edition's *This Month in Scottish History* page, I could not help but notice some of Scotland's premier bridges get a mention. We all know why bridges are built, to help link two places and very much serve a function.

A bridge is a key part of any nations infrastructure and assist in linking communities, improving travel times and building business. However, bridges are so much more than just being functional. A bridge can have a strong historical or cultural importance and become part of the scenic landscape of a place. Scotland has bridges of all shapes, sizes, ages and lengths found across the country.

The Forth Bridges

Perhaps Scotland's most famous and iconic bridge would have to be the incredible Forth (Rail) Bridge. The oldest of Scotland's Forth Bridges this incredible bridge opened in March 1890 and was at the time the longest single cantilever bridge span in the world. I have travelled across this marvel of Scottish engineering several times and have been fortunate to get some great aerial views on flights out of Edinburgh. The Forth Bridge took seven years to build and is made with red steel and around six million rivets. The bridge spans 8,094 feet or 2.5kms and was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 2015. This bridge, and the Sydney Harbour Bridge, must be my favourite bridges in the world that I can look at and never tire of seeing.

Today the Forth Bridge is kept in good company as it shares the Firth of Forth estuary with both the Forth Road Bridge and the Queensferry Crossing. The Forth Road Bridge opened 59 years ago this month, in 1964, and the bridge's two main towers include a fitting St Andrew's Cross design. This bridge was born due to an influx of cars on Scottish roads to link the Edinburgh region to the north of Scotland. The Forth Road Bridge is now only used by pedestrians, cyclists, emergency services and public transport.

Six years ago, this month, The Queen opened the latest and longest transport addition to the Forth bridges, The Queensferry Crossing. This bridge was planned for today's volume of cars and replaced the Forth Road Bridge as the main road route between Edinburgh and Fife and can carry 24 million vehicles a year.

Bridges are so much more than just being functional.

One bridge I have walked and driven across numerous times is Glasgow's Clyde Arc, or as affectionately known locally as the 'Squinty Bridge', which opened this month in 2006. This bridge spans the River Clyde connecting Finnieston in Glasgow's West End with Pacific Quay and Govan on the south side of the city. The bridge looks fantastic day and night as it reflects the Clyde and compliments the many modern iconic buildings you now find in this part of Glasgow such as the Scottish Exhibitions Centre, The Hydro and the Glasgow Science Centre, whom all sit amongst one of my favourite Glasgow icons the Finnieston Crane.

In this issue

So much of the pipe band world recently descended on the streets of Glasgow for this year's World Pipe Band Championships, and PipingLive! The dedication of these performers to not only consistently practice to such a high level but also represent their country on the world stage is something to admire. For many bands this also included a hefty flight and travel costs. We are delighted to feature a highlight of the World's in this issue.

Think of wildlife in the Scottish Highlands and you may perhaps think of Highland coo's, deer, birdlife or even an illustrious monster! However, at the Highland Wildlife Park you can also get up close and personal with various native animals like the Scottish wildcat, as well as species from across the globe such as snow leopards, Amur tigers, Japanese macaques and Scotland's only polar bears (which includes one baby). All amongst the incredibly stunning scenery of Cairngorm National Park, the UK's largest National Park.

It was over 150 years ago the third Duke of Sutherland, who was a railway enthusiast, brought a railway to Brora in Sutherland. The Duke also built his very own railway station at Dunrobin Castle, near the village of Golspie. Dunrobin station remains in the ownership of the Sutherland Estate and is believed to be the only such station on the UK rail network to have been planned, paid for and opened by just one person.

Connects us all when in Scotland Scotland of course has far too many bridges to mention in this article. From the very famous and picturesque Glenfinnan Viaduct where the Jacobite steam train runs from Glenfinnan to Fort William and Mallaig, and made famous by the Harry Potter franchise. To the controversial Skye Bridge, which links the Scottish mainland with the stunning Isle of Skye. This bridge which was once considered the most expensive road toll in Europe is now free for all to enjoy a drive 'over the sea to Skye'. Right down to the small, but so photographed, Swilcan Bridge found on the 18th hole at the Home of Golf, St Andrews. Perhaps you have a bridge that means something to you, a bridge whose engineering marvels you, or has simply helped you get around Scotland a little easier?

We would love to hear readers comments on their favourite bridges that quite literally connects us all when in Scotland.

Do you have a favourite Scottish bridge? Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or: #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner

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We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



Gracing our front cover: The 2023 World Pipe Band Championships. Image courtesy of Alan Harvey/ SNS Group and Glasgow Life.



National Museums Scotland acquires contemporary Highland dress



ational Museums Scotland has revealed a new collection of contemporary Highland dress, documenting a vibrant industry in Scotland today. Eight outfits have been added to National Museums Scotland's world class holdings of tartan and Highland dress, enabling it to tell the story of Scotland's iconic costume in the 21St century. These important acquisitions mark the culmination of a five-year project supported by the William Grant Foundation, which has fostered groundbreaking research into the Museum's unparalleled collection of historic tartans and Highland dress.

The latest stage of the project offers a snapshot of the variety of approaches to making and wearing Highland dress in the 21st century. From innovative new makers

like Prickly Thistle and Acme Atelier, to long established brands including Kinloch Anderson and Chisholms Highland Dress, these eight outfits celebrate some of the modern craftspeople, designers and outfitters working in Scotland. A new online hub has launched on nms.ac.uk, offering detailed images and descriptions of the new acquisitions along with three new films featuring interviews with designers and makers. In 2021, kilt-making and sporran-making were added to the Heritage Craft Association's red list of endangered crafts, and sgian dubh-making was added in 2023. The pieces collected for this project are representative of a specialist but vibrant industry which is attracting new makers, creating jobs and utilising technological advancements whilst preserving the knowledge of



traditional techniques. Now held in the National Collection, the outfits document these highly-specialised skills as they continue to evolve and adapt.

A flourishing living tradition
William Grant Foundation Research Fellow,
Rosie Waine said: "There is a perception that
Highland dress never changes, but through
working with contemporary makers, this
project highlights a flourishing living
tradition that continues to adapt and evolve.
These new acquisitions showcase incredibly
skilled makers and production from across
the country. They join our existing collection
to provide a comprehensive timeline of
Highland dress from the 17th century to the
modern day, highlighting its role as an icon
of an ever-changing Scotland."

Once considered an emblem of clan society, the more modern tartan fashions reflect contemporary concerns. Lochcarron of Scotland's 'Hame' tartan was designed during the COVID-19 pandemic to capture feelings of homecoming and comfort. These designs highlight a 21st century approach to production with most new

tartan being created through Computer Assisted Design (CAD) programmes such as ScotWeave. Sustainability and efficiency throughout the design process is a key concern for modern mills and makers. A tartan t-shirt and kilt by Prickly Thistle Scotland offer a fresh take on Highland dress for women whilst promoting small batch production. National Museums Scotland has also acquired an antique boat shuttle (a tool used in the weaving process) from the firm, laser engraved with the B Corp Certification mark which they were awarded in 2021. A focus on zero waste design is demonstrated by a sgian dubh acquired from Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers. The traditional knife is made from offcuts of African blackwood left over from the bagpipe-making process.

National Museums Scotland holds objects spanning over five centuries of Highland dress in its collections, some of which are currently on loan to the V&A Dundee for their ground-breaking exhibition Tartan which demonstrates an enduring appetite for the iconic pattern.

Visit the online hub www.nms.ac.uk/TartanToday



Port Stephens the pipes are calling once again



lans on the Coast is a Celtic festival that has previously been held in Nelson Bay New South Wales. Started by Ron Swan OAM heading a committee of likeminded people the first Clans on the Coast was held in 2007. COVID 19 forced the festival to go into a long hiatus. The committee is now trialling a new location in 2023, as Raymond Terrace is more centrally located. Adam Nicholas one of the event organisers has long thought that this would be a logical move to keep the traditions of the Celtic culture alive in a modern era of screen addictions. Celtic people were amongst the first settlers in the Hunter Region.

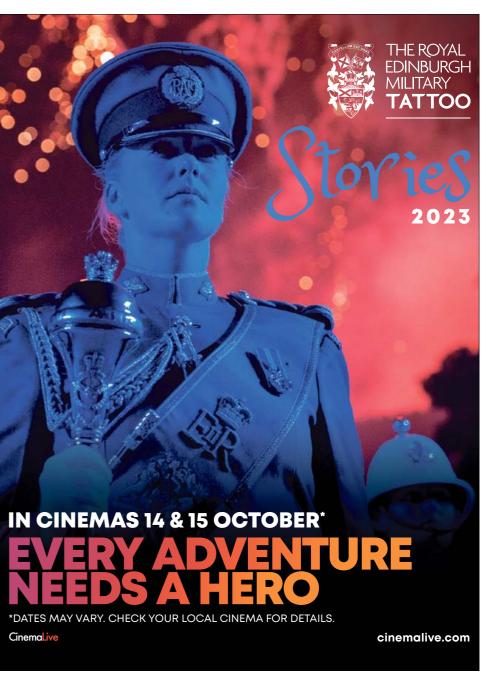
Something for everyone

With a fresh outlook on the event, the festival is to be held at Lakeside Sports Complex. Lakeside is a larger venue allowing the festival to be spread out across two football fields. This event provides a family day out, encouraging the involvement of local and regional amateur artists, community groups and service clubs. Opening the day with a

massed pipes and drums and the calling of the Clans' festival goers are encouraged to wear something Celtic to help with the atmosphere of the day. Schools are being invited to march in the opening and the best dressed Celtic student will win some prize money to be equally split with the school they attend. The long running dog competition will not be on this year unfortunately due to ground restrictions as dogs are not allowed in the complex. All the crowd favourites will be there with the strong men, the reenactors, dancers, clans and bands. Pick through the stalls and enjoy the great food. This event will have something for everyone even rides for the children. Following the close of the day with another massed pipes and drums and the award ceremony is the evening event of the ceilidh.

This year the ceilidh is being held in the Raymond Terrace Bowling Club. The *Oxford Dictionary* definition explains a ceilidh as a social event with Scottish or Irish folk music and singing, traditional dancing, and storytelling. There will be marching a pipe and drum band through the bowling club on the night, you can expect a two-course meal, experience the *Address to a Haggis* by Robert Burns with a bit of pageantry. Haggis will be optional to try with a side helping of bashed neeps (turnip) and The Ukulele Scotsman will also be playing at this event.

Clans on the Coast takes place on Saturday September 23rd. Tickets are now available online for both the festival and the ceilidh at: www.clansonthecoast.com.au.

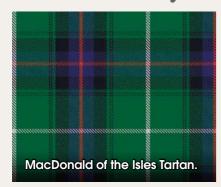


SCOT POURRI

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?

Scottish family ties



In the April issue of the Scottish Banner, you asked readers if they had a favourite tartan and what tartan meant to them. Although a second generation Australian, my Scottish family ties are very strong.

I proudly wear both my MacDonald of the Isles Tartan, and that of my Keppoch branch. To me, it represents my heritage, my family connections, my very origins which are so precious to me. My male line is MacDonald, and my great granny, born a MacDonald, married into my paternal side. Many centuries ago, my MacDonald name came to be changed from MacDonald to Michie, my maiden name. Some time prior to the 16th century, my ancestor Michael MacDonald committed a heinous crime and on finding he lacked the expected

Needless to say, 14 weeks later I'm now the

owner of a kilt in the Graham of Montrose

tartan with accessories. Thanks Steve and

Banner for alerting me to your business.

Alistair Graham Melbourne, Victoria

The Floral Clock

Australia

Ann for fitting me out as well as the Scottish

The Cloth of a Nation

Clan support, fled, with some of his Clansmen in hot pursuit. Upon escaping he changed his name from MacDonald to Michie and from then on, his descendants were Michie's. Well known Scottish actor, John Michie (of Taggart fame) made a documentary on all things Scottish and in it he sought confirmation on what he knew of the origin of his name.

The genealogist in Glasgow supported what we knew except left one major detail out. It transpired that my ancestors had been unable to face the truth, and had cleaned up their story somewhat, by recording that Michael MacDonald had been forced to flee the Clan, due to a 'family feud', whereas John Michie knew the correct story. Michael MacDonald murdered his eldest brother in as power struggle. Despite the evil origin for changing the name, most of Michael MacDonald's descendants have made a good contribution to our world, and since I was a wee girl, I have been extremely proud to carry the Michie name. Love the Scottish Banner and look forward to receiving it each month. Mrs Margaret Michie Benny Craigieburn, Victoria Australia

Ed note: Thank you Margaret for sharing your proud family story with us.

this year's honoring the Flying Scotsman is I read with interest your article in April's just so fitting and makes me wish I could paper on the history of "The Cloth of have seen it in person. I hope to get back to Scotland soon, likely 2025, and will make a a Nation". Recently I became the proud owner of such a piece of cloth. Whilst visiting beeline for the Floral Clock and enjoy the family in Sydney, I decided to visit one of incredible workmanship that goes into it your long-term advertisers, the Scottish each and every year. Would you happen to Accessories Shoppe in Croydon.

know the theme for the 2025 presentation? I really enjoy your articles and thank you for sharing so much of Scotland with so many.

Ken Sheppard Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Ed note: Ken glad you enjoyed the images and hope you return in 2025 to take in the clock yourself, sorry we do not know what theme the clock will be for 2025, but it should be as beautiful as ever.

The Cairngorm Mountain Railway



How wonderful to read about the return of the Cairngorm Mountain Railway (Back to the Top-The Cairngorm Mountain Railway, the Scottish Banner, July, 2023). I visited the Cairngorms region some years back and enjoyed riding it then and taking in such a stunning part of Scotland. The region itself, for any who have yet to visit, is absolutely stunning. We drove around various parts around the Cairngorms

National Park, which is not only Scotland's but the UK's largest national park. It is so diverse and scenic with lovely wee towns to also visit. We visited in summer and took the railway up for a bite to eat and walk around. We were so very fortunate to also be up there on a lovely day with blue skies and warm weather. We have always talked about returning and if we do, we will most certainly ride the railway to top of Scotland again.

Enjoy the Banner so much. Eileen Gray Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada

UK adventure

I have always had a dream to visit Scotland, as my grandmother came from Dumfries, and in May this year I was able to make that dream come true. I embarked on a 22-day coach tour which ventured as far north as the Orkney's. After leaving Scotland we made our way across the sea to Ireland where my great grandmother was born then back to Wales and Cornwall. Scenery and history were amazing. A magical trip and I can now relate, in a more knowledgeable way, when I read articles about different places in the Banner. Wendy Gordon Alexandra Hills, Queensland

Australia Ed note: Glad you had a great trip Wendy

and hope we can continue to inspire your next visit to Scotland.

Aberdeenshire county flag



I was interested to read in *the Scottish* Banner about the new flag for Aberdeenshire (Aberdeenshire celebrates new county flag at Castle Fraser, the Scottish Banner, June, 2023). Though the flag is striking, and I love the purple, but I found the flag to look more like it represents an organisation or attraction more than a whole region. I have family in various parts of Aberdeenshire and am aware of the region being a 'hot spot' for castles. In fact, it is Scotland's Castle Trail with nearly 300 on offer so the place to go if you are after a bit of castle touring. But there is much to discover in Aberdeenshire such as a stunning coastline, Aberdeen itself has much to offer (if it is your thing, I recommend a visit to Trinity Cemetery and read the history in those stones) and of course the incredible Cairngorms and Loch Muick.

I will certainly look out for the flag on my next visit and hold final judgement until then, regardless I simply love Aberdeenshire. Emily McIntosh Hamilton, New Zealand

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA (1900)

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

Glenfinnan Viaduct



The Jacobite steam train on the Glenfinnan Viaduct. Mik Coia

Perth



Perth's purple highlights along the River Tay. IG orsayoban

Arria



Arria holding the moon in Cumbernauld. @eadietam



Sunset at Stirling Castle. The Kilted Photographer

Banner, August, 2023). I will not be able to see it in person this year unfortunately and really enjoyed being able to view the images, as an avid gardener I always make a pit stop to see this lovely agricultural feat each summer I am in Edinburgh. It is such a unique attraction and always so beautiful and lovingly maintained. Of course, Edinburgh is always a great place to visit but the clock is something I really treasure.

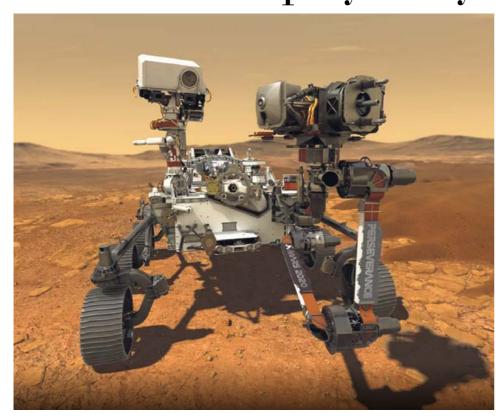
On top of that I am a railway enthusiast so

How wonderful to read about Edinburgh's

Floral Clock (Floral Clock blooms in honour of 100 years of Flying Scotsman, the Scottish

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!

Rum rocks to play a key role in Mars space mission



ncient rocks from the Isle of Rum are playing an important role in an international space mission to discover more about Mars.

A group of scientists have been collecting samples of rock from the NatureScot National Nature Reserve (NNR) as part of the NASA and European Space Agency (ESA)'s Mars Sample Return Campaign.

The campaign is assembling a defined set of rock samples from around the world that are comparable to rock samples

from the Red Planet that are scheduled to be brought to Earth in 2033. Due to its unique geology, Rum off the west coast of Scotland has been selected as the only UK site for sampling, as some of its igneous rocks have a very similar mineral and chemical content to those that have been collected by NASA's Perseverance Rover during its exploration of an ancient crater on Mars.

An intensive study of the rocks from Rum and other high-priority sample sites

will crucially help scientists understand what methods of testing and analysis will work best in readiness for when the Martian rocks are brought to Earth. As the first samples from another world, the Mars rocks are thought to present the best opportunity to reveal clues about the early evolution of the planet, including the potential for past life. The Rum sampling is being led by Dr Lydia Hallis, a geologist and planetary scientist from the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences at the University of Glasgow, and a member of the campaign's Science Group. The field team also included Dr Luke Daly from the University of Glasgow, Professor Helen Williams and Dr Simon Matthews from the University of Cambridge, Professor John Bridges from the University of Leicester, and Dr Mariek Schmidt from Brock University in

Scotland's world-class geology
Dr Hallis said: "These Rum rocks are
an excellent comparison to a specific
geologic unit on Mars - the igneous
Séítah Formation within the Jezero
crater – which is characterized by the
mineral olivine, and which the NASA
Perseverance Rover explored and
sampled. Not only is the mineralogy
and chemistry similar, but the two rocks
appear to have a similar amount of
weathering. This seems strange when
we think how wet and warm Rum is
compared to present day Mars, but
billions of years ago when the Séítah

Formation crystallised on Mars the difference in environment would not have been so pronounced. At this time Mars was much wetter and warmer, with a thicker atmosphere that may even have produced rain (though not as much as we get in Scotland!). Over time the Martian atmosphere thinned leaving the surface much dryer and colder, essentially halting any further weathering within Séítah and preserving the rocks at Jezero Crater for us to investigate today. The rocks on Rum are younger geologically than those that have been collected on Mars by Perseverance, but their exposure to the Scottish elements has produced roughly the same amount of weathering as was produced in the Séítah Formation during Mars' early wet and warm climate. Because of all these similarities, analysis of the Rum rocks should give us a good head start and help the samples from the Red Planet achieve their full potential when they are returned to Earth."

Lesley Watt, NatureScot's Rum NNR reserve manager, added: "With its extinct volcanoes and dramatic mountains, Rum has always been one of the best places to discover Scotland's world-class geology, but we didn't quite realise that the rocks here were of interplanetary significance as well. It has been fascinating to learn more about the NASA/ESA mission, and really exciting for the island to play a small part in this truly historic endeavour to find out more about Mars. We hope it will add yet another element of interest for visitors to this special place."

Being a kid never gets old, as Beano celebrates 85th birthday



cotland's longest running comic is celebrating its 85th birthday with a collectible front cover and comic strip. Created to celebrate the best bits of being a kid in 2023, the comic was edited in collaboration with thousands of kids - the most ever in Beano's history. Stormzy, Harry Styles and David Attenborough are the stars of *Beano's* 85th anniversary edition. The special commemorative issue also features King Charles and Queen Camilla, alongside celebrities from the world of music, cinema, TV and sport. The front cover and comic strip has been specially drawn by Beano artist, Nigel Parkinson. It sees the celebrities assist the Beanotown kids in stopping Mayor Brown from carving his own face into Mount Beano for the birthday celebrations.

The pulse of the playground
The comic cover showcases King
Charles wondering if he's the
monarch in Beanotown, as Queen

Camilla happily informs him that kids rule in the iconic fictional town. Each of the celebrities featured will become a proud owner of a Golden Dennis & Gnasher Fan Club badge to commemorate their role in *Beano's* birthday celebrations. The comic is still the pulse of the playground after eight decades of jokes and comic capers.

A nationwide poll of 3,000 kids aged 7-14 determined which celebrities would be included and who would make the front cover. Mike Stirling, Director of Mischief at *Beano* said, "As Beano proudly celebrates its 85th anniversary, it continues to champion the power and joy of childhood by doing what it's always done, showing kids being kids. Here's to the next 85 years, and we dedicate this birthday issue to every child out there, because being a kid never gets old."



SCOTSPEAK

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



"Fife's award-winning beaches are integral to the lives of both residents and visitors to Fife, who play an important part in keeping our 'Fringe of Gold' pleasant to visit. Our dedicated FCCT team take great pride in delivering the high standard that visitors and locals alike have come to expect. And it's a privilege to work with partners such as Keep Scotland Beautiful, Fife Council and the RNLI to meet those standards and achieve award-winning beaches."

Jeremy Harris, CEO at Fife Coast and Countryside Trust said, the beautiful Fife beaches that they manage have once again struck gold in the prestigious Scotland's Beach Award. Fife once again boasts the highest number of award-winning beaches including Elie Harbour Beach, Leven, Burntisland, St Andrew's East Sands, Aberdour Black Sands, Crail Roome Bay, Kingsbarns, Elie Ruby Bay, Billowness in Anstruther, Kinghorn Pettycur Bay, Kirkcaldy Seafield and Kirkcaldy Pathhead Sands. Scotland's Beach Award

is the only national benchmark for local environmental quality celebrating clean, well-managed and sustainable beaches.

"I opened the first page to see it was a first edition and thought it may be worthy of sending to the eBay team. I thought we'd get a maximum of £500 if we were lucky, so I couldn't believe it when I heard a few months later it had sold for over £10,000. To my knowledge this is one of the most valuable items donated to one of our stores."

Dundee charity shop manager Adam Carsley said a very rare first edition copy of *The Hobbit* was discovered in with donated items at the store. The cult fantasy novel was published in 1937, it is one of 1,500 copies from the original run that features black and white illustrations by author JRR Tolkien.



"This is a rare opportunity to live the dream lifestyle, in one of Scotland's most stunning rural areas. The surrounding area is renowned for its spectacular mountains, coastline and sea lochs and the creation of the North Coast 500

route has significantly boosted tourism to the area. The hostel is being sold fully equipped and thus the purchasers will be able to start welcoming guests soon after purchase. Anyone who has toyed with the idea of creating a tourism business in Scotland would be well advised to view the property and its extraordinary setting."

Agent Phiddy Robertson of the Galbraith Group said at the launch of the Stoer Hostel in Sutherland, considered one of the last great wildernesses in Europe. Stoer Hostel is located in the scattered hamlet of Stoer near Lochinver, on the North Coast 500, a popular tourist route and voted one of the world's most beautiful road trips. The hostel is in a stunning setting with views over an unspoilt landscape and towards Loch Neill Bhain. It has been advertised at offers over £275,000.

"People underestimate the importance of Kilmarnock. The reason the federation based itself here is because we recognise that had it not been for Kilmarnock, you certainly wouldn't have Burns as a name on your tongue. He had to be printed somewhere and that somewhere was Kilmarnock."

Marc Sherland, of the Robert Burns World Federation, said the East Ayrshire town of Kilmarnock is very important to the story of Robert Burns. The town recently held a festival featuring the poetry and music of Robert Burns to mark the 240th anniversary of his first

book, Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect, being published there. The Kilmarnock Edition is still considered today as one of his greatest works.



"The viaduct is an iconic landmark which attracts visitors from across the world, so we've worked hard to develop a solution which protects the structure while minimising the visual impact of our work. We explored a range of options to address the repair and the bracket we will install offers the best technical and visual solution that can be delivered in a way that will not disrupt passenger services on the line."

Alan Ross, director of engineering and asset management for Scotland's Railway, said as cracks have appeared on the iconic Highland landmark-the 122-year-old Glenfinnan Viaduct. The single-track viaduct at Glenfinnan spans 21 arches, each 15 metres in length and has been made recently for appearing in the Harry Potter film franchise.

READER GIVEAWAY



The Scottish Banner is pleased to offer 5 lucky readers a chance to see Deacon Blue in their nearest capital city. Courtesy of the Live Nation we have a double pass up for grabs for the following shows: Regal Theatre, Perth-Fri, Nov 24, Hindley Street Music Hall, Adelaide Tues Nov 28, The Forum, Melbourne, Nov 30, Enmore Theatre, Sydney, Dec 2 and Fortitude Valley Music Hall, Brisbane, Dec 5.

To enter simply email: competitions@scottishbanner.com, enter via our website or post (sorry no telephone entries) our Sydney office, our full contacts can be found on page 2. Please ensure you include your full postal address and email/phone details. Winners will be notified directly, good luck!

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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) Scottish "reels!" (5).
- 4) Comet routes (6).
- 8) Lively Scottish dances (5).
- 9) Tayside town takes the biscuit! (9).
- 11) North-East fishing port (9).
- 12) Slackened off (5)
- 13) No backbone! (9)
- 16) As far as (5).
- 18) A dancer's low joint (5).
- 19) Non-voter (9).
- 21) A sickening strain (5).

- 23) He's a Lowlander (9).
- 26) Proposes (9).
- 27) Listlessness (5).
- 28) Jolly good in Scotland (6).
- 29) Tartan patterns (5)

CLUES DOWN

- 1) West coast airport (9).
- 2) Elevator! (5).
- 3) A sudden rise of water (5).
- 4) Excessive medicines (9).
- 5) Island of many lochs (9).

- 6) Dancing costumes (5).
- 7) Vine berries (6).
- 10) A mountaineering chant! (5).
- 14) Don't forget these mammals (9).
- 15) Shoulder this badge! (9).
- 17) Flats of many storeys! (9).
- 18) Its chief town is Brodick (5).
- 20) Top Gaelic group (6).
- 22) Time for a song! (5). 24) Talks imperfectly (5)
- 25) Behind in Scotland (5).

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reetings from Scotland where it has been - guess what – raining! Though there is some merit in living in a damp climate. For one thing, it's good for the complexion.

A lack of sun means fewer wrinkles all round... Which is helpful when you are still appearing on TV... Which I am, and about to make a film about an amazing woman: someone who features on a Scottish banknote - and who deserves the recognition she is now getting. It's one hundred years since the death of Flora Murray. Born in the south of Scotland in the mid-Victorian age, Flora was one of

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

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



the UK's first female doctors. Working at a medical centre, she set up a women and children's hospital. Then when the first world war broke out, she and her partner, Louisa Garrett Anderson, decided to do something really courageous. In 1914 they travelled to France to offer to care for wounded soldiers. It was a bold move. Defence chiefs were highly sceptical of female effort, and, up to then, men had only been treated by male doctors. Nevertheless, the pair set up two hospitals - which were so successful that the war office asked them to return to London to run another military hospital. There in the city they recruited a team of nurses and other female doctors. Over the course of the conflict some fifty thousand injured servicemen would be cared for.

Through their efforts, countless lives were saved. In 1917 the ladies were honoured by the King with CBE medals. For her part, Flora was made a lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Army Medical Corps, making her the highestranking woman in the British armed forces. Yet the interest doesn't end there. Throughout all this Flora was a leading light in the suffragette movement fighting for women to have the right to vote. Moreover, today she is seen as something of a gay icon: living openly as she did in a relationship with another woman. It was a brave decision at a time when such behaviour was unthinkable

to many. After the war she and Louisa lived in a country cottage with their two little dogs. Flora was just 54 when she died. The inscription on her gravestone read, 'we have been gloriously happy.'

The Dalmally Stones

And happy, too, is the MacGregor clan here in Scotland. Because a project that was conceived more than twenty-seven years ago has finally come to fruition. Yes, it was nearly three decades ago that the Clan Gregor Society began to look at the idea of saving a series of ancient burial artefacts lying in a west Highland churchyard. The Dalmally Stones are around six hundred years old. They feature knights in armour and floral patterns and are incredible examples of the Loch Awe school of carving. Originally, they would have lain around the altar in the nearby original medieval church and would once have been used to cover the graves of the earliest MacGregor clan chiefs. At some stage, though, they were taken outside where time and the elements were doing their worst.

Clan Gregor Society decided to act. Money was raised from members. Grants were applied for from heritage groups like Historic Environment Scotland, the Pilgrim Trust and the Strathmartine Trust. Leading the project was the society's chairman, Professor Richard McGregor, and American representative, Keith MacGregor, although it soon became a team effort: USA and German members arriving to help. Others from closer to home turning up to offer refreshment and encouragement. Eventually the stones were lifted by conservators and under the eagle eye of an expert archaeologist, they were taken to Edinburgh for cleaning and restoration work. And now they are back, this time inside the Argyll church. You can see from the picture how majestic they are. How many clan societies can boast such an ambitious project, I wonder?! Well done Clan Gregor!

Donald MacLaren of MacLaren

Finally, condolences to another clan who are mourning a great loss. A former ambassador, Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, the pipeplaying, kilt-wearing Donald MacLaren of MacLaren was a tremendous character and a great cheerleader for Scotland.

Donald was also a good friend. And so, the MacGregor and I find ourselves in Perthshire in the Balquhidder Glen. It is a typical Highland funeral. A mix of kilts, a sea of umbrellas as the rain falls on the ancient kirkyard. There are MacLarens from America and Australia. Clansmen and women who have crossed oceans to say farewell. Not yet seventy, Donald died too young. But he left his mark. He was a gentleman and a true Highlander. We are lucky, and proud, to have known him...



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).

his tartan was created to celebrate human achievements of discovery and exploration of Mars from Galileo Galilei who first discovered Mars back in 1610 to the Mars Rover perseverance which landed on Mars in 2020 and ongoing research.

The colours are intended to reflect the planetary terrain and minerals found on Mars. This tartan (reference: 13953) was designed by the Paul Mark Moffat and registered in July, 2023.



IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Oatcakes Ingredients:

175g/6 oz. medium oatmeal 50g/2 oz. fine or pinhead oatmeal ½ teaspoonful of salt ¼ teaspoonful of baking powder 25g/1 oz. butter, melted 50-75ml/2-3 fl. oz. boiling water

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 325F/170C/Gas Mark 3. Place all the dry ingredients in a bowl and stir. Pour in the melted butter and enough boiling water to form a fairly stiff dough. Sprinkle some fine or medium oatmeal over a board and gently roll out the mixture into a thin circle, about 23 to 25 cm (9 to 10 in.) in diameter. Cut into 8 wedges and carefully transfer to a buttered baking tray. Bake in the oven for about 20 minutes, until just firm. Carefully transfer to a wire rack to cool.

Drover's Soup

Ingredients:

2 level tablespoonfuls medium oatmeal ½ pint milk

1/4 pint cream

1 tablespoonful parsley, chopped, for garnish Salt and pepper, to season

1 large onion

1 pint chicken stock or a dissolved stock cube 1 tablespoonful butter or margarine

Method:

Melt the butter, chop the peeled onion finely and cook it in the butter until it is soft but not browned. Add the oatmeal and seasoning and cook for a few minutes. Add the stock, stirring, but not too briskly. Bring to the boil, then cover and allow to simmer for 30 minutes. Put through a sieve or liquidise for 1 minute. Return it to the pan and re-heat with the milk and cream added. Serve with parsley as garnish. Serves 4 to 6.

Honeyed Shetland Lamb

Ingredients:

1 leg lamb

4 to 6 sprigs fresh thyme 2 tablespoonfuls clear honey 15g (½ oz.) butter

1 glassful red wine

Salt and freshly-ground black pepper, to taste Knobs of butter $\,$

Serve vegetables of your choice Garnish: sprigs of fresh thyme, optional.

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 400F/200C/Gas Mark 6. Smear the lamb with butter and place in a roasting tin. Spoon over the honey and add the herbs and wine. Season to taste. Place in the oven and roast for 1 hour 10 minutes, then remove from the oven. Pour the juices into a shallow, heavy-based saucepan and reduce by half. Stir in a little butter and bubble until glossy. Carve the meat and serve with the juices poured over it. Accompany with vegetables of your choice, and garnish, if liked, with thyme. Serves 4.

Cranachan



Ingredients:

125g/4½ oz. jumbo oats (large rolled/porridge oats) 75g/3 oz. light muscovado sugar 250g/9 oz. mascarpone cheese 3-4 tablespoonfuls malt whisky, plus extra to serve 300ml/10 fl oz. double cream, lightly whipped

250g/9 oz. raspberries Runny heather honey, optional

Method:

Put oats and sugar on a large sheet of foil and place under a hot grill for 3-4 minutes, stirring every 30 seconds or so. They burn quickly so watch carefully. Remove and leave to cool. Put the mascarpone in a bowl, add the whisky to taste, and beat until smooth. Fold this into the whipped cream with the cooled oat mixture. Once thoroughly combined, gently fold in the raspberries, taking care not to break them up. Tip into a glass bowl and cover and serve at once-, or chill for no more than an hour. Offer an optional drizzle of whisky — and heather honey, if desired. Serves 6.

Sporran breeze

Ingredients:

1 orange wedge 50ml single-malt whisky 2 tbsp. passion fruit syrup 25ml1fl oz. fresh apple juice 25ml/1fl oz. cranberry juice ¼ apple, to garnish Method:

Put the orange wedge, whisky, passion fruit syrup, apple juice and cranberry juice into a cocktail shaker. Add a handful of crushed ice and shake hard.

To serve, strain the cocktail into a highball glass fill with crushed ice. Garnish with the apple.

1

THE 2024 SCOTTISH CALENDAR RANGE



Scottish Maps Calendar 2024

Scottish Maps Calendar 2024

This calendar features beautiful maps of Scotland. From the early representations of Scotland in the second century AD, through the first printed maps of the 16th century and the achievement of the Ordnance Survey in the 1920s and 1930s to the most recent satellite imagery. \$25.00 plus \$13.50 postage.

Hebridean Calendar 2024



Features distinctive full-colour paintings of the natural beauty of the Hebrides throughout the seasons. Mairi Hedderwick's drawings capture the unique character and diversity of Hebridean land and seascapes, from wind-swept moors and dramatic cliffs to rolling hills and secluded woods \$25.00 plus \$13.50 postage.

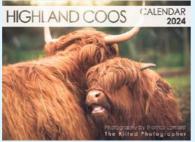
Majestic Scotland Calendar 2024



**Stock due by September, pre-order now available! Featuring Highland coos, castles, the Kelpies, lochs & much more. Enjoy a stunning Scottish view every month! Beautiful colours and practical calendar, lots of room for notes on 250 GSM paper, A4 wire bound, opening to A3.

\$19.95 plus \$5.50 postage (for up to 2 calendars).

Highland Coos Calendar 2024



**Stock due by September, pre-order now available! Why not grab yourself this beautiful Highland Coo calendar to hang on your wall all year round? This calendar features some gorgeous hairy coos from Scotland. Beautiful colours and practical calendar, lots of room for notes on 250 GSM paper, A4 wire bound, opening to A3. \$19.95 plus \$5.50 postage (for up to 2 calendars).

Kilty Pleasures 2024 16-month Calendar



**Stock due by October, pre-order now available! Indulge in a little kilty pleasure with these handsome Highland hunks! Each month features a different luscious lad showing off his finely sculpted physique, and his favourite tartan, of course. Paired with tongue-in-cheek sayings about men in kilts, if these images don't get your heart racing, you may want to check your pulse! Spend the year with these hunky men and find yourself dreaming of Kilty Pleasures. \$25.00 plus \$13.50 postage.

Outlander 2024 16-month Wall Calendar



**Stock due by October, pre-order now available! Follow Jamie and Claire as they fight for their family and home amidst the birth of America and the Revolutionary War. Spend the year with your favourite stars from *Outlander* — an alchemy of romance, time travel, and historical drama! \$25.00 plus \$13.50 postage.

Outlander 2024 Boxed Daily Calendar



**Stock due by October, pre-order now available!
The Outlander series has become a phenomenon, loved by fans around the world. This daily calendar is filled with gorgeous photos and trivia from all six seasons. Perfect for any fan!
\$25.00 plus \$11.00 postage.

The Romance of Scotland 2024 16-Month Wall Calendar



**Stock due by October, pre-order now available! Scotland is a magical place that tops the bucket list for so many travellers. Even if you've never been there, images of untamed landscapes and rugged beauty come to mind. This calendar showcases the beauty of Scotland in gorgeous full-colour photography which captures the breathtaking enchantment that is the very essence of Scotland. \$25.00 plus \$13.50 postage.

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



he employment records of more than one thousand lighthouse keepers are now available to see online for the first time on genealogy website ScotlandsPeople. Over 2,000 new scanned images of the records of the Northern Lighthouse Board give details of over 1,300 lightkeepers working in 92 lighthouses between 1837 and 1921.

Lightkeepers had hard working lives: long days and nights maintaining light and fog signals, as well as cleaning and ensuring the upkeep of their isolated stations in harsh conditions. Many keepers lived in cramped spaces for long periods, often with only basic washing facilities or toilets. They could be isolated from family and friends while they did their crucial work maintaining the safety of shipping around the Scottish coast.

Shine a light on the working lives The records cover all of Scotland, from Muckle Flugga near Shetland to the most southerly at Drumore, Mull of Galloway. They also include Bell Rock, the world's

1900, presumed drowned. Jocelyn Grant, NRS Outreach and Learning archivist, said: "The last lighthouse was automated in 1998 and these records shine a light on the working lives of over 1,300 men in a profession that has now mostly passed into history. The Northern Lighthouse Board records are frequently requested by visitors to our buildings. If your ancestor worked in a Scottish lighthouse, there's a good chance you will find them here. This is the latest in a series of popular record sets added to the National Records of Scotland genealogy service ScotlandsPeople as part of our wider programme making more of our archive holdings accessible to people across the country and around the world."

ScotlandsPeople is the country's official family and social history research website. Record indexes are free to search, with charges for viewing some images. For more details see: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk.



New records reveal lives of lightkeepers oldest working sea-washed lighthouse, and the three keepers of the Flannan Isles who disappeared following a storm in The Hororata Highland Cames is calling



estled in the Canterbury foothills the tiny Hororata village is again preparing to welcome over 10,000 people to celebrate their Scottish roots. Kilts will swish, bagpipes will cry, cabers will turn and the haggis will be tamed at the 12th Hororata Highland Games to be held Saturday 11th November 2023. The Hororata Highland Games sees all the traditional Scottish competitions take place over one massive day at the Hororata Domain. The festival hosts New Zealand's biggest one day Highland Dancing competition, top level Pipe Bands, Solo pipers and Drummers, Tug O'War teams and of course the strong men and women competing in the Heavy events. The Junior Warriors sees primary school aged children competing in light versions of the Heavy events while the Kilted Mile provides an opportunity for the fleet footed to gain a coveted Hororata Highland Games trophy.

Visitors don't just sit on the side lines they can have a go at tossing cabers, hurling haggis, eating pies, Tug O' War,

running a Kilted Mile or donning on the tartan for the best dressed lad and lassie.

New for 2023 there will be a massed Scottish Country Dance where everyone can join in. This dance has been especially choregraphed for Hororata and a video will be released closer to the event so people can learn it. Once people get through the gates there is heaps of free activities to have a go at, no matter your age. Families often say it is the one event everyone right from grandparents to toddlers and even teenagers can enjoy together. There are also musical performances, Scottish story time and have a go bagpipes in amongst a huge range of quality market stalls as well as over 30 food trucks, don't miss the haggis burgers or black pudding.

Discounted tickets for the Hororata Highland Games 11th November are on sale now, there will be no gate sales this year. Kids under 16 years are free. Held in the Hororata Domain, 45 minutes inland from Canterbury. All profits from the event are invested back into the community. www.hororatahighlandgames.org.nz





IN SCOTLAND TODAY

Orkney commences the UK's first drone post services



Royal Mail and Skyports Drone Services have announced the launch of the Orkney I-Port operation, a drone delivery project established in partnership with Orkney Islands Council Harbour Authority and Loganair. Royal Mail and Skyports Drone Services have established a daily inter-island mail distribution service between three islands on Orkney. The project will initially operate for three months, with the intent to extend in the future. This is the first UK drone delivery project which can be conducted on a permanent basis under existing regulatory frameworks, using a multirotor drone is capable of carrying payloads of up to 6kg. This is due to the unique landscape of Orkney and the proximity of the islands to one another. This allows for flights to be conducted using extended visual line of sight (EVLOS) permissions rather than beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) permissions. Letters and parcels will be transported from Royal Mail's Kirkwall delivery office to Stromness, from where Skyports Drone Services will conduct drone deliveries to Royal Mail staff on Graemsay and Hoy. From these locations, postal workers will then carry out their usual island delivery routes. The weather and geography of Orkney can impact the ability to provide an uninterrupted delivery service.

For example, pauses in the ferry schedule – by which some mail is transported - are common during poor weather due to the challenges of docking safely. The I-Port operation significantly improves service levels and access for rural communities, significantly shortening delivery times to Graemsay and Hoy. The use of electric drones for inter-island delivery will also bring significant safety improvements, ensuring postal workers can deliver between ports and marinas throughout Orkney without risk. There will also be emission savings. Rt. Hon. Alistair Carmichael MP for Orkney and Shetland said: "I was glad to attend the drone tests and see their development for myself. Obviously these schemes are still at trial stage and so we should temper our expectations. Even so, anything that helps to maintain the universal service, especially in areas of the isles which are more difficult to reach, is something that we should give a chance to support. Royal Mail remains a critical part of keeping the isles connected - and local knowledge and care are vital to that network." HMS Unicorn receives donation of over £1 Million to secure ship's future



The Unicorn Preservation Society, the charitable trust behind national treasure, *HMS Unicorn*, has received is biggest single

donation to date. Its first seven-figure sum of £1,110,930 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) will fund the necessary and urgent work required for the continued preservation of Scotland's oldest ship and much-loved Dundee Museum and visitor attraction. The generous grant from NHMF, which provides financial assistance towards the acquisition, preservation, and maintenance of some of the UK's most important objects and landscapes, has provided 95.69% of the total financial investment needed for immediate conservation repairs to HMS Unicorn.

Following consultation with engineers Fenton Holloway and shipwrights T. Neilsen and Company, the works will secure the future of the vessel in-line with National Historic Ship's advice on historic ship preservation. Fenton Holloway has extensive experience in the stabilisation and repair of large historic ships, most notably HMS Victory and SS Great Britain. Neilsen are traditional shipwrights, well-known for their work in maintaining large historic timber vessels like RRS Discovery, HMS Victory and HMS Trincomalee. he preservation work will look to restore strength and robustness to HMS Unicorn's hull and thereby improve her resilience at her current berth and ready her for her projected move to the nearby East Graving Dock. The work will range from the targeted enhancement of key parts of the structure through to replacement of rotten modern timbers in the hull of the ship. As the most original old ship in the world, the focus is to retain as much of the 1824 fabric as possible. The project looks to improve the long-term durability of the ship in a robust way, one that does not carry a complicated or expensive future maintenance burden.

This work follows recently completed repairs to the ship's unusual original roof to the value of £100,000 to help prevent rainwater causing further internal damage. Ray Macfarlane, Deputy Chair and Scotland trustee of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, said: "HMS Unicorn is a spectacular surviving relic of our maritime heritage. Holding nearly 200 years of history within its hull, it is not only the oldest ship in Scotland but one of the oldest in the world, and incredibly one of the last remaining warships from the age of sail, still afloat. The National Heritage Memorial Fund is proud to support the Unicorn Preservation Trust with a grant of over £1 million to sustain this great ship for public display." A £20,000 donation by American entrepreneur and self-made billionaire, John Paul DeJoria, in November 2022 and a £100,000 grant received from The Headley Trust in February provides the remaining funds required to carry out the immediate conversation work. HMS Unicorn will remain open to the public during this time, with minimal impact expected on visitor experience. The work will be completed in advance of the ship being moved to dry dock at East Graving Dock in Dundee for further major conservation works, as part of Project Safe Haven. First launched in 1824, HMS *Unicorn* is the third oldest ship in the world and has been under the care of the Unicorn Preservation Society since 1968. Scotland's only preserved warship, the Unicorn Preservation Society is working to protect and preserve HMS Unicorn for future generations to enjoy. To support the preservation of HMS *Unicorn*, please visit: www.hmsunicorn. org.uk/hms-unicorn/supporting-us

Exxon site transformation takes another step forward for City Deal



A major industrial and commercial development proposed for West Dunbartonshire has been approved after consideration by City Deal officials. The full business case for the £44m project was submitted to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet and outlined how the ExxonMobil site in Bowling will be transformed into a mixeduse development, with storage, distribution, industrial, business and office space. The project will also include a number of road improvements connecting to the site, including the addition of a 1.95km relief road through West Dunbartonshire. Of the 150 acre site, 47 acres is planned for development, with green network and green infrastructure enhancements including a waterfront pedestrian and cycle path being proposed. In addition, a heritage area has been identified around listed structure Dunglass Castle.

Following the final seal of approval, West Dunbartonshire Council can now progress with the project, which is expected to provide up to 980 full time jobs as well as an additional 660 jobs during the construction stage. It is expected to bring £43.8m of additional private investment, and £520.8m net additional GVA by 2037. Council Leader, Councillor Martin Rooney, said: "This approval from the City Region cabinet brings us another step closer to delivering on this hugely ambitious project, which will benefit our area for years to come. This project is expected to bring a huge amount of jobs in our area, as well as a return 26 times greater than our investment, which will be fantastic for West Dunbartonshire and the City Region as a whole. Residents will also see the benefits of a site which has been lying idle for years coming back into productive use." The Glasgow City Region City Deal is an agreement between the UK Government, the Scottish Government and eight Local Authorities across Glasgow and the Clyde Valley.

Mainland Britain's most remote pub reopens



An iconic and remote pub dating back to the 1700's has reopened in August following a refurbishment campaign. The Old Forge underwent a makeover and update thanks to some passionate locals who set up a community owned group in 2021 to save the historic pub. The pub was open last year but closed its doors in early 2023 to improve the structure and space. The Old Forge Community Benefit Society raised over £1 million through crowdfunding and grants to

undertake the purchase and improvements to the community hub, which include a new bar, roof and structural improvements. Located on Scotland's west coast, in the village of Inverie on the Knoydart Peninsula in Lochaber,

The Old Forge is only accessible by either walking 18 miles/29km. through tracks or by a 7 mile/11km. water crossing from Mallaig. Under the community ownership model, profits made at the pub will be reinvested back into business, not shareholders, and to projects that deliver wider community benefit to the local population of just over 100 people.

Spirits braced for inflation fuelling tax hike



As the largest duty increase on Scotch Whisky in 40 years comes into force, the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) has said the UK government has failed to keep the commitment it made when it promised to "ensure the tax system is supporting Scottish whisky." The double-digit tax rise takes the tax burden on the average priced bottle of Scotch Whisky from 70% to 75% and the reforms HM Treasury have implemented on the UK's duty system deepens the competitive disadvantage faced by distillers in pubs, bars and restaurants. Following the Spring Budget, the SWA launched the #KeepTheCommitment campaign to urge the Chancellor to reconsider the duty increase. Despite the campaign, and the HMRC revenue data that shows that spirits duty revenue to the Treasury has increased by 40% over the past decade following cuts and freezes to spirits duty, the UK government has chosen to continue with the duty hike. This will further fuel inflation at a time when businesses are trying to continue to invest in future growth and households are struggling with the rising cost of living. Ahead of a further budget in the autumn, the SWA has called on the Chancellor to rule out a further tax increase over the duration of this Parliament, and work with the industry to ensure the tax breaks available to beer and cider in the on-trade are open to the spirits industry.

Commenting on the tax increase, SWA Director of Strategy Graeme Littlejohn said: "The 10.1% duty increase is a hammer blow for distillers and consumers. At a time when inflation has only just started to creep downwards, this tax increase will continue to fuel inflation and make it more difficult for the Scotch Whisky industry to invest in growth and job creation in Scotland and across the UK supply chain. HM Treasury had a choice to make. Rather than choosing to back an industry which the UK government promised to support through the tax system, the government has chosen to impose the largest duty increase in almost half a century, increasing the cost of every bottle of Scotch Whisky sold in the UK by almost a pound and taking the tax burden on the average priced bottle to 75%. We urge the Chancellor to ensure that there are no further tax rises on Scotch Whisky for the remainder of this Parliament and work with the industry to repair some of the damage inflicted on Scotland's national drink."

Outlander author gives fascinating insight into her creative writing process



Dr Diana Gabaldon wearing the University of Glasgow tartan in the Cloisters at the University of Glasgow. Photo: Martin Shields.

The author revealed in her talk at the University of Glasgow's Outlander conference that her career as a published author nearly finished before it began.

utlander author Diana Gabaldon opened the 1st international Outlander conference at the University of Glasgow recently and gave a fascinating insight into her creative writing process. Expert scholars and Outlander fans joined Dr Gabaldon to tackle themes such as Jacobite history, screen production, Scottish tourism, Gaelic and Scots, costume design, fandom, Claire Fraser's medicine, and witchcraft.

The *Outlander* literary series is made up of nine thrilling instalments and tells the tale of a post-Second World War nurse who accidentally time travels to Jacobite Scotland.

Outlander has now become one of the bestselling book series of all time and spawned the hugely popular TV series, currently in its seventh season.

The nature of Scottish history
Dr Gabaldon's talk was entitled, "Why
Scotland? Why Not Mexico?" Genes,
Borders, Culture and Fiction: Why
They Matter and When They Don't'.
The author, who was awarded an
honorary doctorate by the University
of Glasgow last year, revealed that her
career as a published author nearly
finished before it began.

She said her first book almost got cancelled due to the difficulty in how to categorise it, adding: "It took the publishers 18 months to figure out what to do with it.

I learned later that they came very close to cancelling the contract and giving me back the book because they couldn't decide how to sell it. This was before Amazon where a book can be classified as several things at once and people can pick off the web what they want, and they still get the same book. Whereas back in the day it was only bookstores, you had to put a book on a certain shelf, the shelf had to have a label and the book also had to have that label.

"My agent finally called me up and said they had decided to publish it but sell it as a romance. I said, 'What?' that isn't what I wrote. He pointed out that a best seller in fantasy fiction was 50,000 copies in paperback while in romance it is 500,000 copies. So, we sold it as romance. My first editor said to me early on these have to be word of mouths books because they are too weird to describe, which is totally true and that is also true about the word of mouth. So that being the case it made total sense to expose the book to 500,000 people in the romance category who will go out and tell their friends and the word will spread. So, we did that and that is exactly what happened."

She also explained why she picked Scotland as the location of *Outlander*. Dr Gabaldon said: "Why Scotland? What I learned from my research and contact with Scots is that Scots are and historically were very literate. They wrote down things. They also have a very strong oral culture; they told their stories. They also have a

lot of history available. Then there is the nature of Scottish history, it has a lot of heroes and heroines as well as conflict which is what you need for a good story."

Vivid and visceral

Professor Willy Maley, Professor of Renaissance Studies (English Literature), at the University of Glasgow's School of Critical Studies, said: "We are delighted to welcome Diana Gabaldon back to the University of Glasgow. Diana Gabaldon's Outlander series has had a transformative impact on Scottish culture, generating global interest in the history, languages and landscapes of Scotland. Richly researched, the books open up question about eighteenth-century Scotland and pivotal events like Culloden to a world readership, at a time when new scholarship suggests that some of this history has still to be written or is in need of revision. A notable feature of Outlander is its frank treatment of female sexuality and sexual relations on the whole, including sexual violence. Vivid and visceral, Outlander is an otherworldly but never unworldly phenomenon that takes a time-travelling nurse-turned-doctor and propels her from 1946 to 1743, two worlds of war that collide in an elaborate and painstaking reconstruction that make the series much more than historical fiction and more an innovative and pioneering rethinking of how we excavate and examine the narratives of the past. Shot entirely in Scotland Outlander has also been a brilliant boost for the Scottish film industry."

New podcast shares Scotland with the world

T's a case of mistaken identity. For 35 years, Eamon O'Flynn thought he was as Irish as they come. Inspired by his enthusiastic grandfather, he spent his life studying Irish history, reading Irish stories and, just generally, embracing his Irish heritage. The whole family celebrated it almost exclusively. And then he took a DNA test and it came back 63% Scottish. "It came as a surprise. I knew I had some Scottish heritage, of course, but I could never have guessed it'd be that much," says Eamon. "I can't walk around acting like the second coming of Liam Neeson."

After getting over the initial shock and surprise of his new-found heritage, he began to wonder what he could do to understand and celebrate his Scottish side. He checked out books about Scotland, listened to podcasts and began to develop an interest in whisky. It was a start, but he wanted more. "You can find out what Scotland is like, but it's harder to find out what it's like to be Scottish. I realized that I needed to talk to real, live Scottish people," he says.

What it means to be Scottish

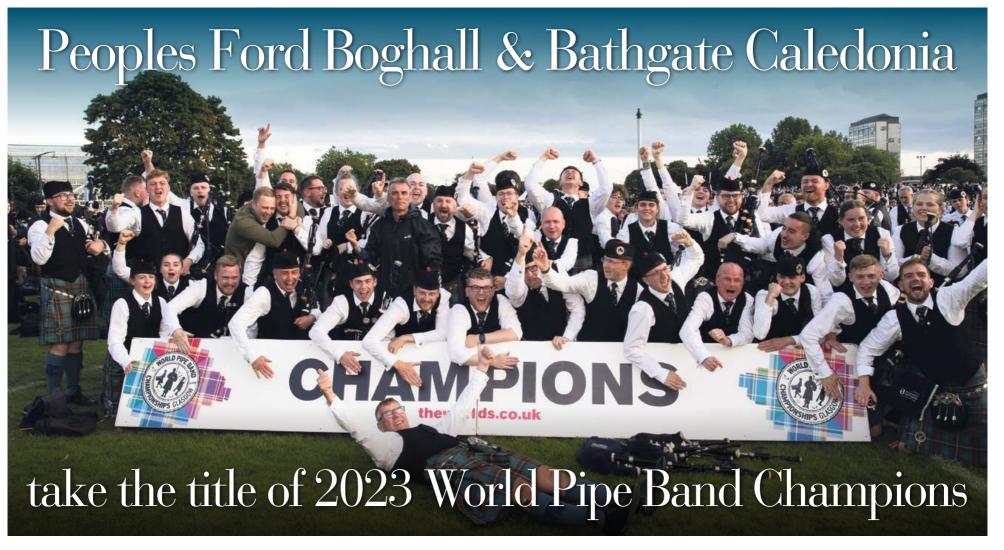
Podcasts – free online radio programs, essentially – provide the opportunity to discuss topics at length and can be created by anyone with a little technical know-how. An experienced podcaster with an existing show about music, Eamon was familiar with the medium and its potential for informing and entertaining. Not only could it provide him with a unique window into what it means to be Scottish, but he'd be able to share this experience with others, too. "I have a podcast and I work in communications, so I'm comfortable with this sort of thing. I also have degrees in history and political science that give me some confidence in terms of discussing things like Culloden or Independence," says Eamon. "But I also have a level of ignorance – having not studied Scotland – that positions me well to ask questions that most non-Scots might like to have answered."

The new podcast, called "63 Percent Scottish," launched on August 22. The earliest episodes tackled subjects like William Wallace, the Isle of Lewis and whisky. Future episodes will discuss Scottish football, independence, women in Scottish history and more. The interviewees include award-winning journalists like *The Scotsman's* Rosalind Erskine, best-selling authors like Coinneach MacLeod and prominent podcasters like Owen Innes. "I can't believe the calibre of guest we've attracted to the show – and they're all absolutely lovely people" says Eamon. "We also have incredible partners in sharing it with the world. *The Scottish Banner* has been very supportive, of course.

St. Andrew's Societies and Scottish Societies all around the world – Toronto, Ottawa, New York, Los Angeles and Singapore – are sharing episodes with their memberships. The sense of community just from creating this show is simply overwhelming."

63 Percent Scottish is free on *the Scottish Banner* website scottishbanner.com and at 63 percentscottish.com. It's also available on all major platforms – Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and Amazon Music. New episodes are available each week.















he spectacular finale of The World
Pipe Band Championships saw
Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate
Caledonia Pipe Band crowned the
winners of the renowned international
contest. It is the long-established Scottish
pipe band's first-ever World Champions
title. Based in Bathgate, West Lothian,
Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia
fought off stiff competition from runnersup, and 2022 champions, Field Marshal
Montgomery Pipe Band of Lisburn,
Northern Ireland. Last year's runners up,
Inveraray and District Pipe Band, finished in
third place.

Around 35,000 spectators descended on Glasgow Green to watch 190 bands compete for the world champions title.

This year's 'ultimate battle of the bands', which took place on Glasgow Green yesterday and today, attracted around 35,000 spectators. The highly anticipated championships represent the pinnacle of the competitive pipe band calendar.

The event always attracts thousands of pipers and drummers to Scotland, reflecting the level of worldwide interest in our national instrument. Glasgow, a UNESCO City of Music, first hosted the World Pipe Band Championships 75 years ago in 1948, and has hosted the event every year since 1986.



Incredible display of talent and skill

The 2023 championships saw 15 countries represented. With 190 bands taking part in this year's Worlds, just under 9,000 pipers and drummers took to the field to play over the two days. The nations featuring in this year's line-up of contenders included Australia, Canada, USA, England, Northern Ireland, Israel, Malaysia, and Zimbabwe. The largest contingent of bands – a total of 116 - came from Scotland.





Glasgow's Lord Provost Jacqueline McLaren, Chieftain of The World Pipe Band Championships, said: "It has been wonderful for the city to host the Worlds once again, bringing together the planet's finest and most talented pipers and drummers. It's a contest of huge importance to the global pipe band community and a firm cultural favourite here. Our thanks go to all the musicians and, of course, congratulations to Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band on bringing the World Champions title back home to Scotland."

Kevin Reilly, Chairman of The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, added: "All of the pipers and drummers who gathered in Glasgow for this year's championships did their bands and their countries proud. They treated our audiences to an incredible display of talent and skill, making the event a huge success and unforgettable experience. Huge congratulations go to our 2023 World Champions Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band - they are very deserving winners."







The planet's flagship pipe band contest As the planet's flagship pipe band contest, the annual event brings together thousands of pipers and drummers from all over the world for the ultimate 'battle of the bands'. It attracts thousands of supporters and spectators to experience the contest live.

Around 35,000 spectators descended on Glasgow Green to watch 190 bands compete for the world champions title in August. The event - which is filmed by BBC Scotland and streamed over the internet - also attracts huge virtual international audiences, reflecting the level of global interest in Scotland's national music. Competition for the 2023 Worlds were more fiercely contested than last year as the number of bands and nations taking part increased.



2023 World Pipe Band Championships facts:

- 190 bands, representing 15 countries, taking part. The A to Z line-up of nations competing, from Australia to Zimbabwe, features: Australia (5 bands), Belgium (2 bands), Canada (12 bands), Eire (8 bands), England (6 bands), France (2 bands), Israel (1 band), Malaysia (1 band), Netherlands (1 band), New Zealand (4 bands), Northern Ireland (21 bands), Oman (2 bands), Scotland (116 bands), USA (8 bands) Zimbabwe (1 band).
- Around 8,850 pipers and drummers amassing on Glasgow Green (based on average number of band members) - all resplendent in their band uniforms of kilts in a variety of vibrant tartans, worn with sporrans and Glengarry bonnets.
- Just under 40,000 metres/40 km/25 miles of tartan kilt fabric. (Based on premium, traditional length. The length of material used in a kilt can vary from between 5 metres to around 7.5 metres).
- · Competitors ranging from juveniles and novice juveniles to experienced seniors. Around 40% of the competitors are under 21; the youngest are in their early teens and the oldest are in their 70s.
- Bands playing a wealth of traditional Scottish musical pieces. Playing requirements differ according to the band's grade, from march time signatures at lower levels to MSRs (a set of tunes consisting of a march, a strathspey and a reel; three different simple time metres) or musical medleys of varying durations, at higher levels. Grade 1 bands play MSRs and a medley.
- 103 trophies awarded across the 9 contest grades - plus the ultimate World Champions title.

2023 World Pipe Band Championships results

Grade 1

1st Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia (Scotland)

2nd Field Marshal Montgomery (Northern Ireland) 3rd Inveraray & District (Scotland)

4th Simon Fraser University (Canada) 5th Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia (Scotland)

6th St. Laurence O'Toole (Republic of Ireland)

7th Police Scotland Fife (Scotland)

8th ScottishPower (Scotland) 9th Manawatu (New Zealand)

10th Canterbury Caledonian Society (New Zealand)

11th Johnstone (Scotland)

12th Police Scotland & Federation (Scotland)

13th 78th Fraser Highlanders (Canada) 14th St. Thomas Alumni (USA)

15th Auckland & District (New Zealand)

16th Closkelt (Northern Ireland)

Drumming: Simon Fraser University (Canada)

1st Royal Burgh of Annan (Scotland)

2nd Buchan Peterson (Scotland)

3rd Manorcunningham (Republic of Ireland)

4th Portlethen & District (Scotland)

5th Ravara (Northern Ireland)

6th Uddingston (Scotland)

7th North Stratton (Canada)

8th City of Edinburgh (Scotland)

9th Peel Regional Police (Canada)

10th Ulster Scottish (USA)

11th Glasgow Skye Association (Scotland) 12th St. Joseph's (Republic of Ireland)

13th Brieg (Brittany)

14th MacMillan (USA)

15th Los Angeles Scots (USA)

16th Kilchoman Distillery Isle of Islay (Scotland)

17th Highland Granite (Scotland)

18th Oban (Scotland)

19th Worcester Kiltie (USA)

20th City of Discovery (Scotland)

Grade 3A

1st Tullylagan (Northern Ireland)

2nd Robert Malcolm Memorial (Canada)

3rd Vale of Atholl (Scotland) 4th Coalburn IOR (Scotland)

5th McNeillstown (Northern Ireland)

6th Clogher & District (Northern Ireland)

7th Major Sinclair Memorial (Northern Ireland) 8th Deeside Caledonia (Scotland)

9th Kildoag (Northern Ireland)

10th City of Newcastle (England)

11th College of Piping (Canada) 12th City of London (England)

Grade 3B

1st Haileybury (Australia)

2nd Cullybackey (Northern Ireland) 3rd Macanta (England)

4th Ross & Cromarty (Scotland)

5th Methil & District (Scotland) 6th Lower Clyde (Scotland)

7th Aven & District (France)

8th Ayr Society (Scotland)

9th Mid-Argyll (Scotland)

10th Arbroath (Scotland)

11th Niagara Regional Police (Canada)

12th Belgian Blend (Belgium)

13th Tweedvale (Scotland)

14th Scottish Borders (Scotland)

Grade 4A

1st Burntisland & District (Scotland) 2nd Syerla & District (Northern Ireland)

3rd Cape Breton Island (Canada)

4th Cloughfin (Northern Ireland)

5th Gransha (Northern Ireland)

6th Rothesay & District (Scotland)

7th Raphoe Ulster Scots (Republic of Ireland) 8th Kintyre Schools (Scotland)

9th Sri Dasmesh (Malaysia)

10th Ballyboley (Northern Ireland)

11th Kilbarchan (Scotland)

12th Uddingston Strathclyde (Scotland)

Grade 4B

1st Scots School Albury (Australia) 2nd Royal Army of Oman (Oman)

3rd Letterkenny & District (Ireland)

4th Govan Community (Scotland)

5th City of Aberdeen (Scotland)

6th City of Discovery (Scotland)

7th Altnaveigh Memorial (Northern Ireland)

8th Irvine Memorial (Scotland)

9th Bready Ulster Scots (Northern Ireland)

10th Barrhead & District (Scotland)

11th Dunoon Argyll (Scotland) 12th Fraserburgh Royal British Legion (Scotland)

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Death of St Giles, patron saint of Edinburgh (and Elgin). $714\,$
- 1 The sole remaining gas streetlamp in Glasgow was lit for the last time. $1971\,$

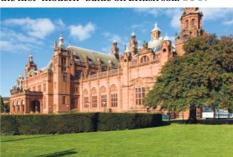


- 1 Cairngorms National Park created and the UK's largest National Park, it was Scotland's second national park after Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, created in 2002. ${\bf 2003}$
- 2 Death of engineer, road, bridge and canal builder Thomas Telford. He was buried in Westminster Abbey. 1834
- 2 Bill Shankly, arguably the greatest football manager ever, was born in Glenbuck, Ayrshire. His early career saw him winning seven caps for Scotland as a professional footballer. At the age of 33, Shankly was approaching the end of his playing days, so when the 1946 47 season brought professional football back post war, Shankly embarked on a new career as a manager, he was appointed chairman of Liverpool in 1959. At this time Liverpool was languishing in the Second Division. Shankly turned this situation around and elevated Liverpool to the top of the league, the envy of all other clubs. Shankly died of a heart attack in 1981. 1913
- $\begin{array}{l} 3 \text{ Prince Charles Edward Stuart} \\ \text{proclaimed his father as King James} \\ \text{VIII of Scotland at Perth. } 1745 \end{array}$
- 3 Rioting on the streets of Glasgow, as weavers expressed their anger at wage cuts. Workers burned their looms in the streets, and bricks were thrown at magistrates and soldiers, in protest at the city manufacturers' proposal to reduce the scale of wages. The disorder resulted in soldiers opening fire on the insurgents and six people were killed. 1797



- 4 The last of the famous green and yellow tramcars ran in Glasgow. The final scheduled tram ran from Dalmuir to Auchenshuggle in the city's East End, and marked the demise of a transportation system dating from August 1872. More than 200,000 Glaswegians turned out to bid a poignant farewell to the trams. 1962
- 4- The Forth Road Bridge was opened to the public. Construction had begun in 1958, and at 6,156 feet long, with a centre span of 3300 feet, the suspension bridge spanning the River Forth at South Queensferry outside Edinburgh was the longest in Europe at that time. $1964\,$
- 4 Queen Elizabeth officially opened the Queensferry Crossing. She was accompanied by Prince Philip as she cut the ribbon on the £1.35bn road bridge exactly 53 years after she opened the Forth Road Bridge. The 1.7 miles (2.7km) structure is the longest three tower, cable stayed bridge in the world. 2017
- 4 5 Margaret Thatcher becomes the first serving Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to visit Shetland. $1980\,$
- 5 John Home, the Scottish playwright, historian and minister, died. Home outraged the Church when his verse tragedy, Douglas, enjoyed a successful run in Edinburgh after its first performance in 1757. 1808

- 6 The Earl of Mar unfurled the standard of the "Old Pretender" in Braemar at the start of the first Jacobite Uprising. 1715
- 6 Rail transport returns to the Scottish Borders after 46 years with the reopening of the Waverley Route between Edinburgh and Tweedbank, under the name of the Borders Railway. 2015
- 7 Sir Simon Fraser, the "Scottish Patriot", who fought alongside Wallace and Robert the Bruce, was executed by the English and his head displayed in London alongside that of Wallace. 1306
- 7 The birth of Henry Campbell Bannerman, the British Prime Minister. Born in Glasgow and educated at Glasgow and Cambridge, Bannerman became the Liberal MP for Stirling in 1868, a position he held until his death. He climbed the parliamentary ranks, , before becoming leader of the Liberal Party in 1899. Bannerman became Prime Minister in 1905 following Balfour's resignation, and led his party to a landslide victory in the 1906 general election. **1836**
- 8 The hanging and beheading of John Baird and Andrew Hardie in Stirling, following the Battle of Bonnymuir in April. The Radicals, who were on strike from the weaving communities in outrage at decreased wages, had marched from Glasgow towards the Carron Iron Works in Falkirk. 1820
- **8** Queen Elizabeth dies at Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire. Her reign of over 70 years is the longest of any British monarch and the longest reign of any female head of state in history. **2022**
- 9 James IV and the flower of Scotland's nobility were killed in battle at Flodden Field, near Branxton, in the English county of Northumberland. $1513\,$
- 9 Mary Queen of Scots was crowned in the security of Stirling Castle. Although only six days old at the time, Mary's coronation took place in the castle chapel following the death of her father, James V. 1543
- 9 MS Norsea launched at Govan, the largest passenger ship built on the Clyde and last large passenger ship built in the UK. 1986
- 10 The Scots were defeated by the English at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh, or Falside, near Edinburgh. The battle was sparked by the "Rough Wooing"; the English demands that the ten year old Edward VI should marry Mary Queen of Scots, aged five. The military campaign by Henry VIII on the Borders followed the reneged agreement by the Scots Parliament that the two crowns would be united by marriage. The battle was fought at Pinkie Cleugh (cleugh meaning narrow glen in Gaelic) outside Musselburgh and can be regarded as the first "modern" battle on British soil. 1547



- 10 HRH Duke of York opened the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow. 1897
- 11 Battle of Stirling Bridge, Wallace (as famously portrayed by Mel Gibson in ${\it Braveheart})$ and Andrew de Moray led Scotland to victory against the forces of England's King Edward I. 1297
- 11 The Referendum on Devolution in Scotland which approved the creation of a new Scottish Parliament. In the 1990s, the Labour Party had revived the idea of devolution and, on their return to power in 1997, the first moves were made. The referendum received an overwhelming "Yes" vote in favour of establishing a Scottish assembly with tax raising powers, with 74.3 per cent voting for a Scottish parliament and 63.5 per cent in favour of it having tax raising powers. The Scottish Parliament was formally opened by the Queen on 1 July 1999, with Labour politician Donald Dewar invested as the first minister, at the helm of a Labour Liberal Democrat coalition government. 1997
- 12 Jacobites defeated government forces at Battle of Sheriffmuir. 1715

- 12 The death of William McNab, the curator of the Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden. McNab was one of the greatest of 19th century Scottish gardeners, responsible for reviving the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh, elevating it from a state of neglect into one of the world's great plant collections. 1848
- $13 \hbox{ Battle of Aberdeen, in which the Marquis} \\ of Montrose captured the city. 1644$
- 14 Bonnie Prince Charlie, Charles Edward Stuart, occupied Edinburgh. 1745
- 15 The *Hector* from Loch Broom, near Ullapool, arrives at Pictou, Nova Scotia, carrying emigrants escaping from the Clearances. It is estimated that today there are more than 140,000 descendants of these emigrants living in Canada and the United States. 1773
- 15 V&A Dundee, designed by Kengo Kuma, opens as a museum of design transforming Dundee's waterfront precinct. The V&A Dundee is the first design museum in Scotland and the first Victoria and Albert museum outside London. 2018
- 16 Jacobite forces routed Hanoverian dragoons on the outskirts of Edinburgh in what was known as the Canter of Coltbrig. At the beginning of September Charles had entered Perth. He had then crossed the Forth unopposed at the Fords of Frew and, after passing through Stirling and Linlithgow, he arrived within a few miles of Edinburgh. 1745
- 16 Scottish explorer David Livingstone discovered Lake Nyasa, Africa. 1859
- 17 David Dunbar Buick was born in Arbroath. Buick emigrated to the USA with his parents at the age of two and founded the Buick Manufacturing Company which later became General Motors. 1854
- 18 Theatre Royal, Glasgow, became the first theatre in Britain to be lit by gas. The Queen Street Theatre's consent to be "illuminated with sparkling gas" in the presence of a large and fashionable audience was a significant advance. 1818



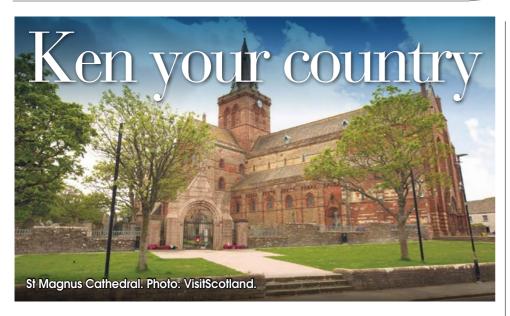
- 18 The Clyde Arc, a pedestrian/ cycle bridge over the River Clyde at Finnieston, is officially opened. 2006
- 18 Scotland holds a Referendum on independence. More than 3.6m people turned out to answer the referendum question: 'Should Scotland be an independent country?' 55.3% voted no and 44.7% voted yes. 2014
- 19 The Great North of Scotland Railway opened, running from Aberdeen to Huntly. $1854\,$
- 20 Liner *Queen Elizabeth II* launched at John Brown's shipyard at Clydebank. The ship was not named after the Queen, but rather was the second ship to bear that name. This is why the Arabic '2' is used in the name rather than the Roman numerals used by the Queen. The ship made its maiden voyage in 1969. 1967
- 21 King James V crowned at Stirling Castle. 1513
- 21 Prince Charles Edward Stuart emerged victorious at the Battle of Prestonpans.
 The Jacobite army of just over 3,000 under Bonnie Prince Charlie heavily defeated the English Royal forces led by Sir John Cope. 1745
 22 Alex Salmond defeated Margaret Ewing by 486 votes to 186 to become National Convenor of the Scottish National Party (SNP). Salmond is credited with improving the credibility of the SNP by projecting a moderate image and presenting the party as a realistic alternative to the Labour Party. He would go on to become First Minister of Scotland. 1990



- 23 The Earl of Mar was commissioned to raise a regiment nicknamed "Earl of Mar's Gray Breeks" which later became the Royal Scots Fusiliers. 1678
- 24 Edward Balliol, son of John Balliol, crowned at Scone. He was deposed by supporters of David II in December 1332, restored in 1333, deposed again in 1334, restored in 1335 and finally deposed in 1341. 1332
- 25 The first telephone cable connecting the UK and North America "went live". 2,240 miles long, the cable ran from Gallanach Bay, near Oban in Argyll and Bute, to Clarenville, Canada. 1956
- 25 The last steam locomotive built in Scotland, by Andrew Barclay Sons & Co. of Kilmarnock, is despatched to its customer in Sumatra. 1962
- 26 Queen Margaret, Maid of Norway ("Eiriksdotter") died, enroute from Norway to Scotland. 1290
- 27 Scotland's first passenger railway, between Glasgow and Garnkirk, opened. The formation of the Glasgow to Garnkirk line stemmed from that need for transporting industrial goods. However, the success of the line was due to its having been specially constructed to also carry passenger traffic. 1831



- 27 The 80,000 ton liner *Queen Elizabeth*, then the largest passenger ship ever built, launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank. 1938
- 27 The first episode of the sitcom *Rab C.*Nesbitt starring Gregor Fisher in the title role, is broadcast on BBC Two. The programme would run until 1999. 1990
- 28 "Battle of the Clans" between clans Chattan and Kay on the North Inch, Perth, in front of King Robert III. Clan Chattan was declared victorious. 1396
- 28 Ayrshire born Sir Alexander Fleming invented penicillin, today it is the most widely used antibiotic in the world. Sir Alexander Fleming won The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1945 and died in 1955. His ashes are interred at St Paul's Cathedral in London. 1928
- 29 Charter granted to Sir William Alexander of Menstrie to colonise the "Baronetcy of Nova Scotia". 1621
- 29 John Cobb made an attempt at the world water speed record on Loch Ness which ended in tragedy as the boat crashed and Cobb was killed. Cobb was a racing driver who had broken the land speed record in 1938, 1939, and 1947, when he became the first man ever to attain a speed of 400 miles per hour on land. In 1952 he made an attempt on the water speed record. On his first run, he became the first person to break the 200 miles per hour barrier, but his boat crashed shortly afterwards and he was killed. 1952
- 30 John Rae, explorer and surveyor of Canada's northern coastline was born in Orkney. Several Orkney born explorers worked in the Canadian Arctic in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, but Rae was the most outstanding. Rae was recently granted a posthumous Freedom of Orkney from the local officials. 1813
- 30 Announcement of the discovery of penicillin by Ayrshire born Sir Alexander Fleming. $1928\,$



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

- 1) Name the stretch of water that separates the Orkney Islands from mainland Scotland?
- 2) Who wrote The 39 Steps?
- 3) When was the Forth and Clyde Canal opened from sea to sea a) 1920, b) 1840 or c) 1790?
- 4) According to legend how many times may the Clan MacLeod call on the help of their Fairy Flag - once, twice or three times?
- 5) Where is St Magnus Cathedral?
- 6) Scotland's longest river runs for 120 milesis it the Clyde, the Tay or the Spey?
- 7) The *New York Herald* was founded in 1840 by which Scotsman?

- 8) In old Scots what would the term "Iowan drouth" mean?
- 9) Name the Scot who discovered the sources of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers in 1784?
- 10) A runrig, the name adopted by the Scots rock group, was common in Highland villages - what was it?

Answers

- 1) The Pentland Firth.
- 2) John Buchan.
- 3) C) 1790.
- 4) Three times.
- 5) Kirkwall, Orkney.
- 6) The River Tay.
- 7) James Gordon Bennett.
- 8) A burning thirst.
- 9) Botanist James McKay.
- 10) A strip of agricultural land.

The Highland Gathering and Perth Kilt Run is back for 2023



oin the City of Armadale to celebrate all things Scottish at the largest Highland Gathering event held in Western Australia that has people saying things like...

"Don't miss it. It's an incredibly unique experience that is all about community."

"It was a sensory feast of the sights and sounds of Scotland."

"Omg everything was so well planned! And the diversity of things to see and do is amazing." The morning of Sunday October 8 begins with the fun and quirky Perth Kilt Run, the biggest and only fun run in Australia that's done in a kilt! Register for the 2.5km Classic or the 5km Warrior challenge, BYO kilts or purchase one with registration. It's a charity fun run with a difference and you're guaranteed to have a good time! Both courses are open to walkers and runners, and the 2.5km Classic is accessible for prams and wheelchairs.

As you'd expect... the excitement doesn't stop there. Following the Perth Kilt Run, we roll straight into the Highland Gathering where you'll have the rest of the day to experience highland dancing, pipe bands and heavy event competitions, meet and greet Scottish dogs, explore Clan histories, friendly battles between the medieval groups in the arena, live music and test your taste buds with the variety of Scottish delights, and lots more!

This is a family friendly and smoke/vape free event hosted by the City of Armadale. Further details are available at www.perthkiltrun.com.au.





Lord Reay inaugurated as 29th Chief of Clan Mackay at ceremony in Sutherland

he inauguration of the Chief of the Clan Mackay took at Strathnaver Museum in Sutherland, on Saturday 19th August. The recently refurbished museum is located in the heart of traditional Mackay territory and is home to the Clan Mackay Centre. During the inauguration, Aeneas Simon Mackay, 15th Lord Reay was officially appointed as the 29th Chief of Clan Mackay. He inherits the title and related responsibilities of Chief of Mackay following the death of his father, Sir Hugh William Mackay (14th Lord Reay) in 2013. Organised by the Clan Mackay Society, the inauguration ceremony was conducted in accordance with ancient Highland customs and traditions dating back to pre-Christian Scotland.

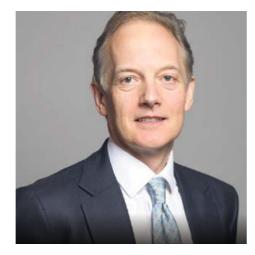
The ceremonial gathering was centred on and incorporate the Farr Stone, which is an ancient standing stone carved with Celtic symbols. It has been a monument in Farr since at least the 9th century. Following a procession of pipers and banner bearers the Chief was officially inaugurated by the clan in a ceremony with centuries-old roots. In assuming the leadership responsibilities of Chief of Mackay, Lord Reay will ensure that the traditions and customs of Clan Mackay which have been passed down for generations are respected and preserved for future generations.

The importance of ancestral history
As Lord Reay (Chief of the Clan Mackay)
commented: "The role of the Clan Chief in
modern times, although largely ceremonial,
consists of representing the clan and its

heritage to the wider world. The Chief, as I see it, is responsible for ensuring that the next generation understands the importance of their ancestral history. As such, the role is somewhat ambassadorial in nature, representing the clan in a positive light whilst preserving and promoting its cultural heritage".

The Chief and his family were joined at the ceremony by hundreds of Clan Mackay members from across the globe, representatives of the local community, invited dignitaries and Clan Chiefs. A weekend of celebrations in the local area to commemorate the event included a meet and greet reception at Bettyhill Village Hall; traditional ceilidh and music at Strathy Hall; a service in Melness Church; and visits to Clan Mackay sites of historical significance.

For more information on the Clan Mackay Society see: www.clanmackaysociety.co.uk



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Spectacular sights and sounds at the Scottish Pipe Band Championships



nousands of spectators flocked to Levengrove Park to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Scottish Pipe Band Championships in July. More than 100 bands from all over Scotland and the UK gathered to compete, joined by bands who had travelled even further afield including from Sydney, Australia. There were celebrations on the day for Field Marshal Montgomery, from Northern Ireland, who took the Grade 1 winners' title.

The band was presented with their award by Councillor Lawrence O'Neill, who was acting Chieftain of the event, before they led all the bands in parade. Councillor O'Neill said: "A wonderful day was had by all at Levengrove Park. Yet again, crowds turned out to enjoy the spectacular show of traditional Scottish culture performed by world class musicians. Over the years, the Scottish Pipe Band Championships has become one of the highlights of our events calendar because it combines competition, colour, culture and history with great fun for competitors, their families and all visitors and officials. We're always proud to show off

our beautiful Levengrove Park too. Sitting in the shadow of Dumbarton Rock and Castle, it's such a special setting for this event."

Scottish culture at its finest

Colin Mulhern, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, added: "We are immensely proud of the show all the bands have put on today, and their hard work and dedication to compete in this important tradition is evident. I want to congratulate each and every band on their performance and thank all of our visitors and guests for turning out to celebrate Scottish culture at its finest." Competitors and spectators came from far and wide to enjoy the world class music. They included members of the Scots School Albury Pipe Band from New South Wales, Australia, who competed in the Grade 4B final, performing songs including The Barren Rocks of Aden. The event was the first stop on a five week Scottish tour for the 27-strong band and was a successful start after coming first in their grade for their efforts. Scott Nicolson, the band's coordinator said: "We love Scotland, and this is our first time back at the Scottish Pipe Band Championships since 2017. It's a great experience to be among so many different bands. Being part of the Pipe Band is really popular among our students, we even have little ones aged five being taught the pipes, so it's an important part of our school life.'

A full list of winners from the event is available here: https://rspba.org/results/bands/contests/ 2023-scottish-championships-dumbarton/

All The Old 45s: Deacon Blue announce additional shows for Australia & New Zealand



ive Nation are excited to announce additional shows on the forthcoming Deacon Blue tour which sees the band in Australia and New Zealand for the first time since their highly successful shows in 2019. With 2 shows already sold out in Perth, the band have added a new show on Friday November 24 at the Regal Theatre, and an additional show on Sunday December 10 at Auckland's Powerstation.

A Greatest Hits show with a difference Thirty-five years since their debut single, Dignity, and millions of record sales since, Deacon Blue are digging out all their old 45s - the Top 10s, the favourites, the sing-along rarities and touring Australia and New Zealand in November and December 2023. The band have always thrived onstage, but they've never played gigs quite like this. They'll go electric for a raucous trip across their hits and play some of their favourites in an intimate acoustic section of the show. Vocalist and songwriter Ricky Ross is raring to go on this celebration of Deacon Blue's brilliant and

loyal fans, roaring the Caledonian gospel from the South Coast to the Uplands. "We've decided to play a Greatest Hits show with a difference,' he says. 'Yes, we intend to play all (or nearly all) the old 45s, but we also want to play some songs acoustically too. We really can't wait to come back to Australia and New Zealand, we always love visiting these amazing countries."

Kicking off in Perth the band then play in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane in Australia before heading to play New Zealand for shows in Auckland and Christchurch, the first time the band have played the South Island. Ross, co-vocalist Lorraine McIntosh, Dougie Vipond (drums), Jim Prime (keyboards), Gregor Philp (guitar) and Lewis Gordon (bass) will breathe new life into wellloved songs like Dignity, Loaded, Wages Day, Real Gone Kid, I'll Never Fall In Love Again, Your Swaying Arms, Twist & Shout, Your Town, The Hipsters and City Of Love. And so many more.

Tickets are now on sale. For complete tour, ticket and VIP experience information, visit: www.livenation.com.au or www.livenation.co.nz.

See our ticket reader giveaway on page 6.

Being Scottish is Bags of Most bag styles also include a

Ditch plastic-go Scottish!



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The Multi Scottie **Dog Canvas Bag**

The sturdy canyas bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish Terrier Dogs. Includes an interior key/coin pouch and strong black webbed handles.



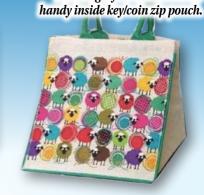
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Duke of Sutherland's Coal Mine



By: Anne-Mary Paterson

he arrival of the railway at Brora,
Sutherland in June 1871 was a
special day especially for the 3rd
Duke of Sutherland who had
great plans for Brora. He was interested in
engineering, particularly steam engines,
and had spent some time at the London &
North Western Railway works in England at
Wolverton, north of Milton Keynes so that
he could learn about railways.

Another project was the coal mine at Brora. How is there a mine so many miles from the Carboniferous coalfields in Fife and Central Scotland? Dorset and Devon are world famous for their Jurassic Coast, but there is another around Brora on the north east coast of Scotland. The Beatrice Oilfield off the coast of Caithness, the only production platform visible from mainland Britain, is part of this geology. What we know about Brora Jurassic coal is that it is not very good quality and contains sulphur so is smelly when burnt. On a still winter day in the 19th and 20th century, Brora might have had an unpleasant odour of bad eggs emitting from its chimneys!

Passion of railways

The 3rd Duke with his passion of railways, was chairman of the Sutherland Railway which was authorised to go as far as Brora but ran out or money and only reached Golspie. He was so anxious for the railway to go further north that he financed it himself to go to Helmsdale and including a private station for Dunrobin Castle. By November 1870 the line was complete from Dunrobin to Helmsdale, but difficult engineering work meant that there was a gap between Golspie and Dunrobin. Until the line was fully open in June 1871, a twice day service which could be used by the public, ran between Dunrobin and Helmsdale.

In September 1870 the Duke had an inauguration ceremony for his station when Princess Helena, Queen Victoria's daughter and her husband, Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein travelled with the Duke's locomotive bedecked in flowers, to Helmsdale and back. Once complete the railway from Golspie to Helmsdale opened on 19th June 1871 and Dunrobin Station became private. Not content with that the Duke had got together funding for the railway to go the far North Coast at Thurso and Wick

which opened in 1874. The building on the platform at Dunrobin Station had a somewhat Wild West appearance and the signal box was across the signal line. There was a shed to keep the duke's railway carriage and a siding to park it when it was going to be used. His engine lived at Golpe where there was a workshop. The building at the station today was built by the duke's son, the 4th Duke in 1901.

Steam plough

The rather English looking building incorporated the signal box in the lower north facing extension. With the arrival of the railway the 3rd Duke decided that the time had come to reopen the mine and brickworks which had been set up by the 1st Duke as their output could be transported to Inverness and the South. Perhaps they would be more profitable than in the past,

He reconstructed the old tramway together with a new branch that went to the station. However, the railway on the approaches to Brora from the south runs along a raised beach so the goods yard and the station were higher than the existing tramway. The branch line had to climb at a gradient of one in ten and then continue on the level to the station. A further short branch went to the duke's engineering works which was capable of manufacturing anything from a nut to a steam engine. Horses and sometimes a small 0-4-0 saddle tank steam locomotive called Florence, chugged back and forth drawing the hutches loaded with coal on the journey to the station.

Edward James, the colliery manager from Staffordshire commenced production of coal from early 1874 producing between twenty-five and thirty tons per day. This development cost the duke just over $\mathfrak{L}9,600$, quite a sum for those days. Another project was a steam plough.





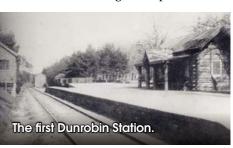
The duke was concerned that a lot of the land on his estate was so poor, the farms did not produce enough to support the human and animal population. He was impressed when in Egypt by the steam ploughs which had brought into production previously unusable land.

In 1871, he arranged for a fifty-acre field at Uppat, near Dunrobin to be ploughed using a special plough from Fowlers of Leeds, presumably transported there by rail. Very satisfied with the results, by 1878 some 28,000 acres had been developed in Sutherland involving work for five hundred men. One large area was by Loch Shin, near Lairg. The duke built a lunch box there so that he could show off his ideas for improving the land.

The industrial town of the Highlands

In 1874, the duke invited a group of mining and mechanical engineers including David Jones, Highland Railway Locomotive Superintendent, to see some of his enterprises including the work at Loch Shin. They travelled north as far as Georgemas, near Thurso on the line from Helmsdale and viewed a machine for converting peat into charcoal. They descended into the coal mine where a four-foot seam was being worked and finally saw a display of dynamite. Finding workers for the mine and brickworks may have been a problem. In the main street of Brora there is a row of very English looking brick terrace houses that the duke built for his staff. As the coal was not very good quality, it was mixed with better coal from the south which was transported by rail to Brora. The mixture was then sent south by rail to be sold to the public in Inverness and elsewhere. During this period Brora became the industrial town of the Highlands.

The 3rd Duke died in 1892 aged sixty-three and was succeeded by his son, Cromartie who carried on some of his Father's enterprises including the replacement of the old station building and driving the railway engine. The coal mine and brickworks continued under different father ownership until 1974. In the 21st century, a heritage centre explains further about these interesting developments.





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

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Debra J. Baird, Ph.D. FSA Scot, CBSW Convenor Email: djbaird4@gmail.com Website: clanbairdsocietyworldwide.co.uk



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Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President President@clanmaclarenna.org



Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: John McNeil

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



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> For all enquires about the Clan and Membership contact:

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The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

If your surname is MacRae,

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

Australian Contact:

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

Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

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

www.macrae.org

Need more info? Contact Bruce McRae, President 303-670-9611 bruce waynem crae@gmail.com



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

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

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



Scottish Gaelic Language Classes:

Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm during school terms at Faraday Street, Carlton and on Zoom.

Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277 Email:scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

Founded in 1905

https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com

Clan Maitland Society

Chief: lan Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale! We are all related! Contact your local society North America: Rosemary Maitland Thom rthomnvprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Amanda Maitland clanmaitlandaustralia@gmail.com 12 Settlers Way, Westleigh, NSW, 2120

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

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

Clan 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



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

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

www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

Còisir Ghàidhlig Bhictòria

Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria

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

Tuesday 7-9pm during school terms, Term 1 2023 beginning 31st January at Kathleen Syme Community Centre, 251 Faraday St, Carlton and on Zoom.

Contact Michael McNab Ph: 0439 869 061

mmcnab@scottishgaelicvictoria.org.au

CLAN MUNRO ASSOCIATION

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



We would be pleased to welcome as a member, anyone interested in their Clan heritage with the names; Munro, Monro, Monroe and the septs, Foulis, MacCulloch, Dingwall, MacLullich and

BECOME A MEMBER, CONTACT RAY MUNRO

munro.ray@hotmail.com **Q** 0410 663 760

NESBITT - NISBET

SOCIETY OF MORTH AMERICA

Clan Nisbet, a Borders family, worldwide. Whether you're a Nesbit, Nisbet, or one of the many 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 ancestors



₩WW.IBYDEIT.ORG

ENISBET @IBYDEIT. ORG



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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

www.clansinclairaustralia.com



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



The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited ABN 30 093 578 860 Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association

The Secretary, P.O. Box 352, Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122 www.standrewsociety.com

Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

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

The Robert Burns Club 👩 of Melbourne Inc.



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

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



Suite 87, 139 Cardigan St Carlton Vic 3053

Email: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au Website: https://scotsofaus.org.au Facebook: Facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria

OLIPHANT CLAN & FAMILY ASSOCIATION of North America



The only home for all Clan Oliphant in the Americas.

Oliphant - Olyphant - Oliphint Olifant -Olifent and all descended

ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org

YOUNG **Youngs of Scotland** in Australia

Invites membership from all those with the name of Young or ancestral ties to the name.

Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot E: membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/ https://clanyoungsociety.com/australia

The Scottish Australian **Heritage Council**



Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

For information please contact members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Facebook

Victorian Scottish Union Inc

Established 1905
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

Glenbrae Celtic Dancers Maryborough Highland Society
Scottish Country Dance Society of Victoria
Robert Burns Scottish Festival Camperdown The Robert Burns Club of Melbourn 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

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

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



Clan Wardlaw Association

Worldwide organization for all Wardlaws or related families. We invite you to join us.

> Email: clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com 'Wardlaw ivermair!'

www.clanwardlaw.com Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

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

Youngs of Scotland Society



will be hosting a Family Convention in Edinburgh Sept 2nd to elect a commander For more info contact:

ryoung18@virginmedia.com

Bonnie Prince Charlie: recreation shows face of Jacobite rising



e is one of Scotland's most famous historical figures but more than 200 years after he died, Bonnie Prince Charlie has been given a new lease of life by experts at the University of Dundee. A team at the University's Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification (CAHID) has recreated the face of the Prince as he would have looked at the time of the Jacobite rising, his unsuccessful attempt to restore his father, James Francis Edward Stuart, to the British throne. Aged just 24 at this time, this new recreation has been produced using death masks of the Prince, which have been painstakingly photographed and mapped by Dundee

researchers. Subsequently, 3D models were produced with state-of-the-art software allowing experts to "de-age" the Prince to create a representation of him from the period he is best remembered.

Jacobite rising

"I have looked at previous reconstructions of historical figures and was interested as to how these could be done differently," said Barbora Veselá, a Masters student who initiated the project and whose work featured as part of the University of Dundee's annual Masters Show, which opened to the public in August. "I wanted to create an image of what he would have looked like during the Jacobite rising.

There are death masks of Bonnie Prince Charlie that are accessible, while some are in private collections. We also know that he suffered a stroke before he died, so that made the process of age regression even more interesting to me." Born to the exiled Stuart King James III of England and Ireland and VIII of Scotland, Prince Charles Edward Stuart sought to regain the Great British throne for his father in the Jacobite rising of 1745.

Despite some initial successes on the battlefield, his army was defeated by government forces at the Battle of Culloden, near Inverness, in April 1746 and he spent the next five months as a hunted man before eventually fleeing to France. He spent the rest of his life on the continent and died in Palazzo Muti, Rome, at the age of 67. Since his death, Bonnie Prince Charlie has continued to inspire writers and historians and has come to the attention of a new generation of admirers through depictions in modern media, including television shows such as *Outlander*.

Following his death, a cast of the Prince's face was taken, as was common for notable figures at the time. The Dundee team examined copies of two these masks - located at Highlife Highland's Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, and The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, creating a composite over several months. Barbora took photographs from all around the masks and then utilised photogrammetry software to establish a 3D model. In total, she estimates that almost 500 images have been taken of both masks as part of the recreation process.

New insight into European history "It has been a pleasure to work with these artefacts," she continued. "The access I have been given has been incredible. There are moments, when you are working with the masks, that it suddenly strikes you that this was once a living person. We don't tend to think about the age of people when we study history, but Prince Charlie was just 24 years-old when he landed in Scotland and to visualise how young he was at this pivotal moment in history is fascinating. He has some interesting features. Beauty is a very subjective thing, but Bonnie Prince Charlie does have distinctive features, such as his nose and his eyes, that encourage you to study him. Hopefully this recreation encourages people to think about him as a person, instead of just a legend. At the same time, it is important not to romanticise him or the era of history. There are many accounts of him but having a face to look at helps us to view him as a human and not just a name from history."

CAHID's Dr Tobias Houlton, who specialises in craniofacial identification and forensic imaging, said that this new image would bring new interest in the life of the famous Prince. "This has been a hugely exciting project," he said. "Through many hours of hard work, Barbora has given us an exciting new insight into European history. This recreation will undoubtedly fascinate the public and the added dynamic of using artificial age-regression to bring him back to the Jacobite era, when he was most famous, showcases the range of expertise we have here at the University of Dundee."





AUSTRALIANS OF CELTIC DESCENT AND FRIENDS ALL WELCOME

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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

Australia

SEPTEMBER 2023

Learned Kindred of Currie Social
5, Sydney, NSW
Calling all MacMhuirich Bardic Families of the Learned
Kindred of Currie (the Scottish Clan Currie) to a social event in Sydney. Please advise your interest to: Ned Currie: ECurrie@curriejohnson.com and Malcolm Buchanan: president@scottishaustrlaianheritagecouncil.com.au.

Mandurah Highland Gathering 9, Mandurah, WA

Pipe band competition, Highland Games, massed bands, Medieval fighting, stalls and more at Hall Park. Info:www.facebook.com/mppipeband

Scotch Pipes & Drums Concert

15, Hawthorn, VIC Featuring Scotch College Pipe Band and Highland dancers as well as the Hawthorn Pipe Band in what promises to be an exciting and entertaining evening of Scottish music at 7:30 pm in the Geoffrey McComas Theatre at Scotch College, 1 Morrison St. Tickets: www.trybooking.com/1095698

Irish and Celtic Music Festival

15-17, Yass, NSW The festival celebrates Irish, Celtic & Australian music and related arts with music, poetry, dance, Celtic markets. Info:www.irishcelticmusicfestival.com

Clans on the Coast 23, Raymond Terrace, NSW

New location for 2023 with Pipe Bands, Celtic band, variety and Celtic Stalls and more at Lakeside Sports Complex. Info:www.clansonthecoast.com.au

46th Australian Winter School

24-October 1, Kiama, NSW

Come and join us in Kiama on the beautiful shores of the south coast of New South Wales. There will be Scottish country dance classes in the mornings, a variety of interesting afternoon sessions, a social or special event in the evenings, culminating in the Centenary Ball, Info: www.svdnevwinterschool2023.com

Australian Juvenile Pipe Band Championships 28-October 1, Warwick, QLD This inaugural event will commence with focused

development opportunities such as workshops and recitals for developing youth Pipe Band organisations and will culminate to showcase Australia's best pipers and drummers in the Australian Piping and Drumming Solo Championships, followed by the Australian Juvenile Pipe Band Championships at the SCOTS PGC College ground. Info:www.scotspgc.com.au

Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh 30 Inglewood, WA

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

30-October 1, Warwick, QLD

CelticFest Warwick celebrates the Southern Downs' rich Scottish and Irish heritage as well as contemporary Celtic culture and the natural beauty of the region, bringing 'All things Celtic' together at the Warwick Showgrounds. Info: www.celticfestqld.com.au

OCTOBER 2023

WAYO the Brave

Bagpipes, drums, and a massive orchestra unite in a spectacular fusion to perform some beloved Scottishinspired classics. In an electrifying performance, the WA Youth Orchestra join forces with the pipes and drums of the WA Police Youth Band at Perth Concert Hall. Info: 08 9231 9999 or https://wayo.com.au/event/2023-wayo-the-brave

University of Queensland Scottish Society Highland Games 3, Brisbane, QLD

There will be a multitude of games for people to try out, we would love to be authentic, but this is our first attempt and games might be improvised in order to conduct them with our finite resources and time. Spectators are free to attend with no cost, but competitors will need to buy a ticket either online or on the day. 12pm at Great Court, Mansfield Place, Saint Lucia. Info: https://clubs.getqpay.com/?s=7169

2023 Canberra Highland Gathering

7, Canberra, ACT

Pipe bands will mass in Canberra to compete in the ACT pipe band championship as well as the community pipe band elements. Highland dancers will compete in the Canberra City Championship. There will also be other music types throughout the day, massed pipe band performances and other historic re-enactments and displays. A free community event at Kett St, Kambah. Info:www.canberragathering.com.au

Armadale Highland Gathering and Perth Kilt Run 8, Armadale, WA

Celebrate all things Scottish at the largest Highland Gathering event held in Western Australia at Minnawarra Park. Pipe bands, Scottish dancers, Clan Village and the Perth Kilt Run - the only charity fun run in Australia that's done in a kilt! Info: www.perthkiltrun.com.au

The 2023 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Cinemas 14-15, Various venues

Returning to cinemas with its brand new 2023 show, a musical journey entitled 'Stories'. As ever, military acts will play a prominent role in the show, with the Royal Air Force (RAF) as the lead service. Set against the spectacular backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, the Tattoo Arena will play host to impressive cultural showcases from Norway, The United States, Australia, Trinidad and Tobago and Switzerland, alongside acts from across the UK and Ireland. Info: www.cinemalive.com

Royal Caledonian Society Chief's Dinner/Ceilidh 14, Felixstow, SA

Featuring displays by the oldest civilian Pipe Band in the Southern Hemisphere - the Pipes & Drums of the Royal Caledonian Society of SA, Garrick Stewart Highland Dancers & Scottish Country Dancers. Find your tartan, grab your friends and family for an evening that celebrates the rich Scottish culture in a lively evening of Scottish music and dance at Fogolar Furlan 69 Briar Rd. Info:www.eventbrite.com/e/royal-caledoniansociety-chiefs-dinnerceilidh-tickets-679304607367

Illawarra Scottish Fair 15, Kanahooka, NSW

Pipe band competitions, Scottish dancing, food and stalls at Dandaloo Hotel. Info: illawarrapipeband@gmail.com

Caledonian Society of WA Halloween Ceilidh 28, Inglewood, WA

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

Williamstown Highland Celtic Gathering

28, Williamstown, VIC
A celebration of the Highland and Celtic culture at Seaworks in Williamstown. There will be dancing, music, displays, food and merchandise to enjoy. Book at: https://www.trybooking.com/CJVEW Info: https://melbournehighlandgames.org.au/ williamstown-highland-celtic-gathering/

Society of St Andrew of Scotland, Darling Downs Branch 2023 Gala Dinner 28, Toowoomba, QLD

Society of St Andrew of Qld (Darling Downs Branch) proudly holding their Gala Dinner. Displays of Highland Dancing & Piping. This year awards are to be presented to a couple of talented & promising young students. A Bursary from the Leslie Clan given to St Andrew's Hospital Toowoomba. This year a first, a Hand-fasting ceremony by Rev Graeme McKay. The Haggis Ceremony addressed by Neil and a small verse from Robert Burns Poetry. Cost \$115.00 pp, & \$110.00 for Society members, at Burke & Wills Hotel. Info: Marg 0429 700 217 or www.facebook.com/people/Society-of-St-Andrew-of-Scotland-Darling-Downs-Branch/100083273444264/

Glenbarr Highland Gathering

29, Strathalbyn, SA

Pipe bands, sword fighting displays, wine tasting showcasing the local wine industry, as well as the chance

to sample the traditional Scottish haggis at Glenbarr homestead. Info: www.glenbarr.com.au

Zealand

SEPTEMBER 2023 Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh

9, Wellington

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

Auckland Biannual Ceilidh

A fantastic family friendly night out of Scottish dancing, no experience needed, at Te Atatu Peninsula Community Centre, 595 Te Atatu Rd. Info: www.facebook.com/

Scottish Research Day

24, Auckland

Starting 10.30am, free admission, guided research until 1pm at Whare Wananga, Central Library, Level 2, 44 Lorne St. Info:ScottishIG@genealogy. org.nz or www.eventfinda.co.nz/2023/scottishinterest-group-nzsg-research-day/auckland

VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group 28, Wellington

An early Scottish tradition - fostering children's education to read and write. Remarkable - a very high percentage of men and women in the country have long been able to at least sign their name. Stuart Hudson (retired Head of English) will explain how the Education Act in 1872 greatly extended this education, building on a plethora of schooling endeavours over several centuries at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay. Info: https://wellyscots.wordpress.com

OCTOBER 2023

The 2023 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Cinemas 14-20, Various locations

Returning to cinemas with its brand new 2023 show, a musical journey entitled 'Stories'. As ever, military acts will play a prominent role in the show, with the Royal Air Force (RAF) as the lead service. Set against the spectacular backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, the Tattoo Arena will play host to impressive cultural showcases from Norway, The United States, Australia, Trinidad and Tobago and Switzerland, alongside acts from across the UK and Ireland. Info: www.cinemalive.com

Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh 14, Wellington

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

Canterbury Caledonian Society Highland Ball 28, Christchurch

This ceilidh-style event will feature live music from a talented ceilidh band, as well as the presentation of the Society's young adults. A continuous light supper will be available throughout the evening along with a Haggis ceremony at Canterbury Caledonian Society Hall. Info: www.ticketfairv.com/event/CCSHighlandBall

VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group 28, Wellington - New Zealand Wellington, New Zealand

Reeling for 100 years! The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and NZ. Dance styles come and go; in 1923 a group of enthusiastic Scottish Country dancers met in Glasgow and set up what became the Royal SCD Society (branches now all over the world). The story of this dance in Scotland will be told - maybe with a reel or two! As usual - this being the last meeting of the year, we shall start with a brief review of 2023 and look forward to 2024 at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay. Info: https://wellyscots.wordpress.com

Scottish Research Day

29, Auckland

Starting 10.30am, free admission, 'Tips and Tricks of Research'. until 5pm at Whare Wananga, Central Library, Level 2, 44 Lorne St. Info:ScottishIG@ genealogy.org.nz or www.eventfinda.co.nz/2023/ scottish-interest-group-nzsg-research-day/auckland

Scotword answers from page 6

Down:

2 Riser

3 Spate

6 Tutus

7 Grapes

10 Yodel

18 Arran

20 Runrig

22 Tempo

24 Lisps

25 Ahent

1 Prestwick

4 Overdoses

5 Benbecula

14 Elephants

15 Epaulette

17 Tenements

Scotland

SEPTEMBER 2023

The Hebridean Whisky Festival 1-9, Hebrides

Across:

1 Pirns

4 Orbits

8 Reels

12 Eased

16 Until

18 Ankle

21 Retch

27 Ennui

28 Sonsie

29 Setts

9 Abernethy

11 Peterhead

13 Spineless

19 Abstainer

23 Lallanman

26 Nominates

A week-long festival celebrating the whisky distilleries along the Hebridean Whisky Trail. Info: www.hebrideanwhisky.com

1-November 10, St Andrews, Fife
Decorated by local artists and communities, more than 30 giant Scottie sculptures will appear across St Andrews & The Northeast Fife Coast, forming a free 10-week art trail of discovery for locals and visitors of all ages to explore and enjoy. Info: www.scottiesbythesea.com

The Braemar Gathering

2. Braemar

One of Scotland's most famous Games, often frequented by members of The Royal Family, at The Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial

Young Family Meeting 2, Edinburgh

Those of the name Young or descended from the Young family in Scotland are invited to join us for a meeting at The Melting Pot, 15 Calton Road, Edinburgh or online. Info: www.trybooking.com/CJAIQ

Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games

3, Blairgowrie

A blend of spectacle and fun in beautiful Perthshire at Bogles Field. Info: www.blairgowriehighlandgames.co.uk

Pitlochry Highland Games

Piping, dancing, heavy events and more. Info: www.pitlochryhighlandgames.co.uk

Bowhill Highland Games

10, Bowhill

Traditional games at Wallsgreen Park. Info: lindawerskine@yahoo.co.uk

Ceòl Cholasa

14-17, Isle of Colonsay

A four-day feast of top-quality traditional music on the beautiful Inner Hebridean island of Colonsay. Info: www.ceolcholasa.co.uk. **Bloody Scotland**

covering a range of criminal subjects from fictional

15-17, Stirling Scotland's International Crime Writing Festival,

forensics, psychological thrillers, tartan noir, cosy crime and many more. Info: www.bloodyscotland.com Scots Language Awards 16. Johnstone The Scots Language Awards recognise the amazing efforts

and work of the people and organisations who all use

and speak Scots' unique culture, music and words at Johnstone Town Hall. Info: www.scotslanguageawards.com

25th Wigtown Book Festival 22-October 1, Wigtown

Brings together leading authors, poets, journalists, scientists, politicians, singers and a multitude of others for hundreds of events in and around Scotland's National Book Town-Wigtown, Dumfries and Galloway, southwest Scotland. Info: www.wigtownbookfestival.com

Moffat Eagle Festival

Now in its third year, this year's festival programme includes a family fun day, an Eagle Hill Fell Run, a motorbike event, a chainsaw demonstration by Moffatbased award-winning carver Peter Bowsher, live music, wildlife and author talks, and more in the UK's first official

Clan Macfie Gathering 2023

27-29, Glasgow

Clan Macfie is commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the death of their Chief - Malcolm MacPhee who was shot in 1623 on the island of Colonsay by Cool Was short in 102 of it the island of Coolinsay by Cool Keitach MacDonald. There is a Meet and greet reception on the 27 of September 2023 A Clan business meet on the 28th, and a formal Clan Dinner the evening of the 28th at Golden Jubilee Hotel and Convention Center, Beardmore St. On the 29th several members of the Clan are travelling to the Island of Colonsay. Info: www.facebook.com/Glen.Evan.Cathey

Glasgow Cathedral Festival 28-October 1, Glasgow

A week-long programme of music, tours, exhibitions, dance and film, bringing the city's oldest building to life and finding fresh perspectives on Glasgow's cultural heritage. Info: www.gcfestival.com





www.wellingtongaelicclub.org.nz

9, Auckland

Wild Highlands - The Highland Wildlife Park



By: Eric Bryan

n a 260-acre expanse of land near Kingussie, Highland in the Cairngorms National Park, you'll find a menagerie of animals ranging from small Japanese snow monkeys to colossal polar bears. Welcome to the Highland Wildlife Park, operated by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) since 1986. Established in 1972, this safari park originally featured native Highland species. But in 2007 the RZSS expanded its scope to include animals from mountainous and tundra regions around the globe. The intent was to not only attract more visitors, but also provide refuge for endangered species which would be protected in the Highlands. In the 1980s the park gained fame by becoming home to Felicity, a puma reportedly captured locally by a farmer, and several of the mysterious Scottish Kellas cats.

Endangered species from places around the world

Visitors can drive through the Safari Park (Main Reserve) to see bison, elk, Bactrian camels and yaks. Then in the walk-round enclosures they'll find Scottish wildcats, wolves, red pandas (temporarily resident at the Edinburgh Zoo), wolverines, forest reindeer and others. Originally featuring native Highland animals, in 2007 the RZSS began to shift the emphasis of the park's theme to endangered species from places around the world similar in landscape and climate to the Highlands. This move proved controversial as some locals and regular visitors to the park regarded it as a place to see native animals in their natural habitat. Some native species removed during these alterations were red foxes, Highland cattle, Soay sheep, European polecats and badgers. The park is divided into sectors which include Woodland Walk, Entrance Reserve, Wolf Wood and Drive-Through Reserve. Scottish wildcats lurk in Woodland Walk, while Bactrian camels and yak roam the Entrance Reserve.

A European wolf pack and herd of European reindeer inhabit Wolf Wood, and in the Drive-Through Reserve European bison and elk wander and have the right of way over vehicles. As the most northerly inhabiting primate (excepting humans), the Japanese macaque or snow monkey is ideally suited to the Highland climate. A large troop of macaques is resident at the park. This has been a successful breeding population, with five individuals born in 2020 and another in 2022. Macaques figure prominently in Buddhist folklore, including in the story *The Three Wise Monkeys*. The European red squirrel is the only squirrel native to Britain.

But this animal is very rare now in Britain, with the vast majority of the remaining population inhabiting woodland pockets in Scotland. The red squirrel is critically endangered due to the presence of the imported grey squirrel, which takes over the territory of and spreads disease to red squirrels. Free range red squirrels roam the park's Wolf Wood and Forest Habitat, and regularly visit the feeding station in the latter location.

Showcase tales of Scottish wildlife
Other species resident at the Highland
Wildlife Park includes the Amur tiger,
arctic fox, Eurasian elk, Himalayan tahr,
northern lynx, red deer, snow leopard,
Bukhara deer and Przewalski's wild horse.
Amongst the park's birds are Himalayan
monal, great grey owl, Eurasian eagle owl
and Eurasian crane. Under construction at
the park at the time of writing is Scotland's
Wildlife Discovery Centre. Scheduled to
open in spring 2024, the centre will



comprise three hubs situated around the park. The primary discovery hub will use digital technology to showcase tales of Scottish wildlife from the past (such as legends about 'Highland tigers') to the present. The centre's learning hub will promote conservation via STEM, outdoor education and science as practised by private citizens. Planned to focus on Scottish wildcat conservation, the hilltop hub will offer views of the park's Saving Wildcats breeding centre. The work will also encompass the remodelling of the park's existing visitor centre. Situated seven miles south of Aviemore, visitors can reach the park via a combination of rail and bus. Travellers can catch regular trains from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth or London, detrain at Aviemore, then take Stagecoach bus 39/M39 to the bottom of the park's entrance road, between Kincraig and Kingussie. There remains a half a mile walk to the park's ticket kiosks. There are also railway stations in the area at Dalwhinnie, Carrbridge, Kingussie and Newtonmore. Kingussie is four miles away from the park.

More information and live animal cams are accessible on the park's website: www.highlandwildlifepark.org.uk.





The Kellas Cat



ormerly regarded as a myth or hoax until one was caught in a snare in 1984, the Kellas cat is a hybrid of the domestic cat and Scottish wildcat. Discovered in the village of Kellas, Moray, the animal is mostly black, 61-110cm long and weighs up to 7kg. It has long rear legs ideal for swift running, and the coat is commonly flecked with white on the flanks and has a white patch on the chest or under the throat. The appearance of the Kellas cat is similar to the description of the cat-sìth, the fairy cat of Scottish folklore. Unlike Scottish wildcats, Kellas cats have been observed hunting in pairs. Some of the sightings of reported Kellas cats are possibly of black melanistic Scottish wildcats, though the existence of the latter is disputed by some scientists and researchers.

The crew of the BBC's *Tomorrow's World* TV programme succeeded in the first known live capture of a Kellas cat in spring, 1986 near Kellas. This female individual, confirmed by chromosomal analysis to be a hybrid of a wildcat and domestic cat, became an inhabitant of the Highland Wildlife Park. Mounted specimens are in the Zoology Museum of the University of Aberdeen, Elgin Museum, and Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh.

Scottish wildcats

group of 22 Scottish wildcats born in 2022 at the Saving Wildcats breeding centre at Highland Wildlife Park were released into the Cairngorms Connect territory of the Cairngorms National Park in early June 2023. Each wildcat wears a GPS-radio collar for tracking and monitoring the animals. This programme, intended to replenish the population of this critically endangered species in Scotland, will see some 60 wildcats released over the next few years.

Five more kittens were born in April 2023. Colloquially referred to as the 'Highland tiger', the number of Scottish wildcats living in the wild had fallen to just a handful due to persecution, road accidents and breeding with domestic and hybrid cats. The 22 individuals freed in June 2023 were first introduced into large enclosures where they could develop naturally and practise their survival skills, to prepare them for living in the wild. The release of this first batch of wildcats is considered a trial run. Close monitoring of these 22 individuals will provide data which will assist in subsequent releases of Scottish wildcats. If successful, the Saving Wildcats programme will result in the repopulation of Scotland's only remaining native feline species.

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TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER
HINDLEY ST MUSIC HALL
ADELAIDE

THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER FORUM MELBOURNE

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER
ENMORE THEATRE
SYDNEY

TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER
FORTTUDE MUSIC HALL
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OPERA HOUSE

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