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the Scottish Banner

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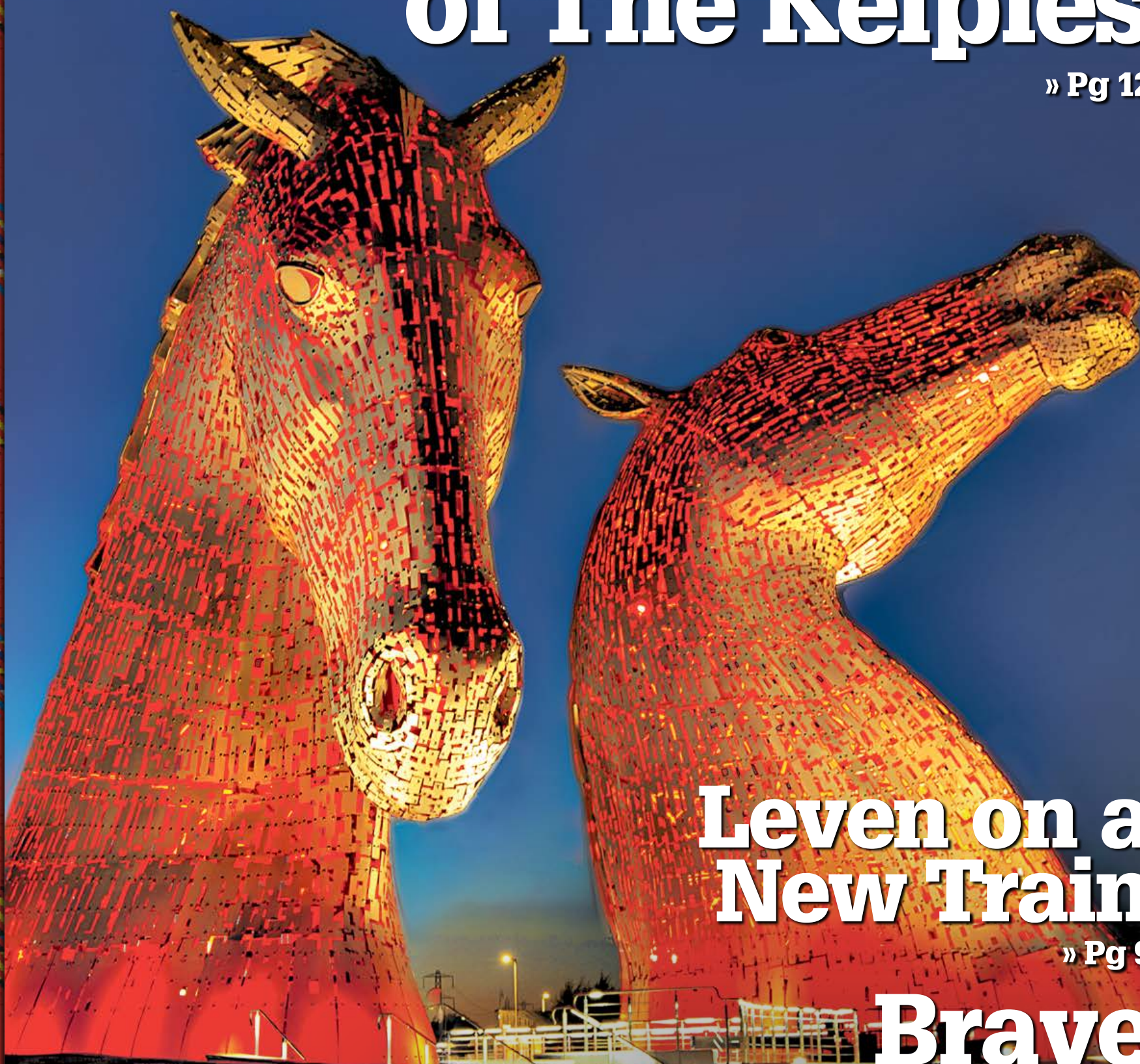
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August 2024

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**the
Scottish Banner**

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The Banner Says...

Investing in Scotland's tourism



by Sean Cairney

As we release this issue the busy tourist season is in full swing in Scotland, with August being one of the biggest months for tourists coming to Caledonia. Sure, you may have to pack that umbrella, or dare I say even a jacket, but the summer months in Scotland are full of world class events, long days of light and nature in full bloom.

2023 was a bumper year for Scottish tourism with a surge in international visitors after what can only be described as several dire years during the Covid pandemic. Scotland welcomed with open arms nearly four million international visitors last year, a figure which tops the nations pre-pandemic records. Visitors from the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia and China had some of the biggest jumps. And who can blame people for wanting to visit such an outstanding place, Scotland has so much to offer. The history, people, scenery, events, nature and culture are just some of the drawcards that has meant Scotland has outperformed the rest of the UK in tourism growth. Readers of *the Scottish Banner* hardly need reasons to visit, or to be sold to do so. We all generally know what those millions of other people are so enthralled by!

Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill

However, all those visitors that will spill into Edinburgh's historic streets this month for the many festivals,

hit the Highlands, or drive across the Isle of Skye do put pressure on local councils and can cause a strain on local facilities and infrastructure. Therefore, after many years of lobbying, the Scottish Government have approved the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill. The Visitor Levy will allow local authorities to apply a levy on overnight stays (hotels, B&B's, holiday lets) with all funds raised to be reinvested in services and facilities largely used by tourists and business visitors. The fee would be an add on to your accommodation rate and help local councils maintain and improve roads, car parks, public toilets, parklands and public spaces. This will benefit not only the visitor but those locals who live there.

The notion of a tourist levy is not new, and you will already find it in place in cities across Europe and beyond. In the UK Manchester just recently introduced one and Wales is also preparing to finalise theirs later this year. Cities such as Venice, Barcelona, Amsterdam and Paris have not reported any significant impact on tourism numbers, in fact numbers continue to climb. It's not just Scotland welcoming the world this month with Paris hosting the Olympics and they used some of that levy to fund transport costs associated with the Games.

The levy in Scotland is not expected to come into place until the spring of 2026 which will give the industry time to prepare for it. Edinburgh, the most popular tourist destination in the country, has already stated they intend to be one of the first to implement the tax and keep the city as welcoming and enjoyable as possible for everyone.

In this issue

This year marks the 10th anniversary of The Kelpies, the largest equine sculptures in the world located between Falkirk and Grangemouth. Many will be familiar with them whether they have seen them

in person or across any number of platforms. They have without question become one of Scotland's most photographed pieces of modern public art. We are again very fortunate to have the opportunity to speak to Andy Scott, the creator of The Kelpies whose work is celebrated much beyond these iconic pieces of art.

Something we have only touched on in previous editions would be the role of healing wells in pre-modern Scotland. Scots for years have placed importance on the healing powers of water and several ancient rituals took place at these sites to heal people of their ailments.

It was 80 years ago this month that Flying Officer John Cruickshank was awarded the Victoria Cross, the UK's highest award for gallantry, for his incredible contribution during the Second World War. The Aberdeen pilot sustained seventy-two separate injuries while sinking a U-boat and is today the last living recipient to have been awarded the VC from that war, and we are so very honoured to highlight him in this edition.

The land of our ancestors

Tourism is one of Scotland's key economic contributors bringing in huge revenue and providing many jobs. In our modern world it is so easy now for many to jump on a plane and visit the land of our ancestors. Scotland has always been a welcoming place and as more people discover it, more pressure is put on local infrastructure. Not all councils may wish to charge this levy, but you can see why some of the regions in Scotland would want to.

No one likes to pay more for things but if the revenue that this 'tourist tax' would bring in, then be invested back into the community, then it is a win for the visitor and locals alike and make being in Scotland that much better. 🍷

What are your thoughts on the impending Visitor Levy? Will it change your travel plans to Scotland? 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.



Edinburgh Scotland's most popular tourist destination.
Photo: VisitScotland.



Gracing our front cover:
The Kelpies at night.
Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

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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?

St. Giles' Cathedral



Located in the heart of Edinburgh, St. Giles' Cathedral, also known as the High Kirk of Edinburgh, is a majestic symbol of Scotland's religious heritage. Established in the 12th century, this iconic cathedral has witnessed over 900 years of history. Originally a small parish church, it was dedicated to St. Giles, the patron

saint of cripples and lepers. The church gained prominence in the 14th century when it became a collegiate church, and later, in the 16th century, it played a pivotal role in the Scottish Reformation under John Knox, a key figure in Protestant Reformation.

St. Giles' unique crown steeple, added in the late 15th century, is one of Edinburgh's most recognizable landmarks. The Thistle Chapel, added in the early 20th century, showcases stunning craftsmanship and serves as the home of the Order of the Thistle, Scotland's foremost Order of Chivalry. You can also see Arthur's Seat towering in the distance.

Thomas Lamont
The Kilted Photographer
Falkirk, Scotland

The Heart of Dunfermline



I've just read your piece about Dunfermline in the June edition of *the Scottish Banner* and loved it! This is our home town and you have done a wonderful job in promoting its history. We grew up spending many a 'summer' day in Pittencrieff Park (known locally as The Glen). Andrew Carnegie left funds for an annual children's gala which culminated in a picnic and races in The Glen. The gala still takes place to this day. Mr Carnegie bought The Glen after being refused entry by the owner, at the time, when he was a young boy. Andrew was born in a cottage next to The Glen and would often stand at the boundary fence wishing he could explore the park. He bought it for the enjoyment of Dunfermline's children so that they would never miss out on having fun in the park, as he did.

Peacocks hold a special place in my heart having grown up in Dunfermline. Sadly, there was a terrible incident a couple of years back when the Peacock's home was broken into late at night and they were targeted by some violent individuals. The local community was in an uproar and a huge amount of money was raised to help with vet fees and rebuilding their home to make it secure. Such is the love of our Peacocks. In fact, my cousin, who still lives in Dunfermline, is now a volunteer looking after them.

I also have fond memories of Carnegie Library. My older sister would take me there on a Saturday morning and I would eagerly wait until the entry rope was removed and rush up the stone staircase to sit on the orange plastic children's seats which were popular then (back in the '70's). I can still remember the pleasant smell of the library and visited it just last year while we were visiting family. It still has the same smell! Must be the books.

We would often combine our trip into town with a visit to Carnegie Swimming Baths (also funded by Mr Carnegie). This was his first gift to Dunfermline in 1902. They have since undergone renovations and extensions, but you can still see the original swimming pool and the ornate surrounds. Carnegie Hall in Dunfermline has hosted many entertainers and we've enjoyed lots of shows in the Hall.

Brass rubbings of Robert the Bruce's plate covering his burial place in Dunfermline Abbey were mandatory when on a school trip to the Abbey. Nowadays there is a barrier around the grave site (quite rightly) to discourage visitors from stepping onto it.

Thank you again, for invoking wonderful childhood memories of my beloved home town.

Laura Veitch
Tamborine Mountain, Queensland
Australia

Ed note: Thank you, Laura, for your wonderful note and sharing your memories and more information on Scotland's newest city.

Georgetown Pipe Band



I was scanning through the May edition when I saw a photo promoting the recently concluded Northumberland Scottish Festival. In the background is the drumhead of the band to which I belong, the Georgetown Pipe Band, and if you look closely at the right-hand edge of the photo, you might see my tenor drum and my beaky old nose above it! Many thanks for this brush with greatness, and as an aside, our drum corps placed second in Grade 4 this year. Cheers,

Ron Hanlin
Georgetown, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Thanks Ron and glad to have had you grace our pages and congratulations to the Georgetown Pipe Band.

Perthshire



Thank you for the informative articles on both Perth Museum and Scone Palace (*the Scottish Banner*, July, 2024). These were in fact quite timely for us as my husband and I are off to Scotland in September and have now decided to include both in our itinerary. In fact, we are now using Perth as a base (as suggested by Lord Stormont in the article) and are really looking forward to our stay. I was aware of Scone Palace and have always wanted to visit and somehow the new Perth Museum missed my radar. We have been to Scotland several times and always try and stay somewhere new and take in new things. I have never seen the Stone of Destiny and that will be special for us to take in this important piece of Scottish history.

We are fortunate to be going for over three weeks and plan to visit not only for Perthshire but Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oban, Skye, Rum and Mull. Of course, we may add more and if we do not visit each spot, we will be back. Scotland is such a special place, the landscape, people, culture and light. I always feel like I am home when there and that will never change.

Love *the Banner* and thank you for always being there with so much great information.

Lynn Mackenzie
Wilmington, Delaware
USA

Ed note: Have a great trip Lynn and enjoy everything that Perthshire, and Scotland, has to offer.

Culross



The beautiful and colourful village town of Culross. Notable and historic buildings in the burgh include Culross Town House, the 16th century Culross Palace and the remains of the Cistercian house of Culross Abbey. Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald, spent much of his early life in Culross, where his family had an estate. A bust in his honour, the work of Scott Sutherland, can be seen outside the Town House. He was the first Vice Admiral of Chile.

JT Photography
Falkirk, Scotland

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Doune Castle



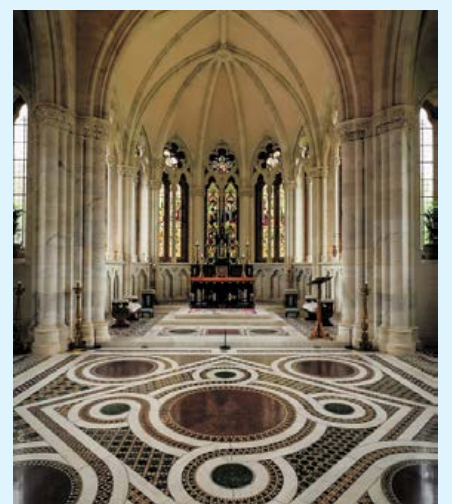
Late 13th /early 14th century Doune Castle. As well as it's esteemed history, the castle featured in *Outlander* as Castle Leoch, *Game of Thrones* as Winterfell and *Monty Python* and *Holy Grail* movie.
Fly - Caledonia @FrancisMcC33178

Eilean Donan Castle



High above Eilean Donan Castle.
Ryan Shiels Photography

Mount Stuart



Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute. The Chapel part of the house is amazing.... especially the floor!
Derek A Grist

Glencoe



Open space at Glencoe.
Mick Coia

Floral clock blooms in honour of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's bicentenary

Images courtesy of the City of Edinburgh Council.



Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh Robert Aldridge, City of Edinburgh Floral Clock team and RNLI representatives.

Edinburgh's Lord Provost has officially opened this year's incarnation of the Floral Clock. Work has finished to complete this year's design on the world's oldest Floral Clock in Edinburgh's West Princes Street Gardens. For 2024, the hugely popular landmark celebrates 200 years of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). A team of three gardeners took just six weeks to plant over 35,000 flowers and plants used to create the clock, which will be in bloom until October. There are 20 different plants included in this year's design such as antennaria, crassula, echevaria, sedum, saxifrage and annuals such as pyrethrum, begonias and geraniums. Former Botanical Services Manager, David Dorward, has been planting

the clock for 42 years, and despite being retired he continues to return to supervise the effort and to train new staff members in the tradition.

The Floral Clock was first created in 1903 by then Edinburgh Parks Superintendent, John McHattie, and is the oldest of its kind in the world. It initially operated with just an hour hand, with a minute hand added in 1904, followed by a cuckoo clock in 1952. Until 1972 the clock was operated mechanically and had to be wound daily. Since 1946 it has been designed in honour of various organisations and individuals, including the Girl Guides Association, Robert Louis Stevenson and the Queen, for her Golden Jubilee. In the clock's centenary year in 2003 it won a Gold Medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Saving lives at sea

The Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh Robert Aldridge said: "It's important that we honour organisations and individuals that have a positive impact on our communities. The RNLI volunteers and staff work tirelessly to save lives at sea daily, and after 200 years they have saved over 146,000 lives. I'd like to thank our fantastic colleagues who have been working on this year's Floral Clock that we see before us. It is a very special occasion to be here today to recognise the impact they have made on thousands of lives, through the 2024 floral clock."

Associate Director of the RNLI, Angela Rook said: "It is a great honour for the RNLI to feature in this year's Princes Street Gardens Floral Clock, in what is a defining year in our history. For 200 years, selfless volunteers

around the UK and Ireland have been saving lives at sea. Our crew and volunteers are the lifeblood of our charity; from our fundraisers who work so hard in funding our lifesaving mission, to our water safety volunteers who deliver vital messaging to help keep people safe – they will all be thrilled to be recognised in this way. It is our hope that those passing by this incredible floral display will take a moment to commemorating those who have gone before us, celebrate the contribution of our dedicated volunteers, and help us inspire the next generation of lifesavers as we look forward to saving lives at sea for the next 200 years."

The RNLI have 46 lifeboats stations in Scotland, and two of the busiest are operated entirely by volunteers, at Queensferry and Kinghorn. These Lifeboat Stations responded to a combined 172 calls in 2023, rescuing 158 people. On Monday 4 March 2024, the RNLI marked its 200th anniversary, two centuries of lifesaving that has seen over 146,000 lives being saved. The charity saves lives at sea through lifeboat search and rescue, lifeguards, water safety education and flood rescue.



The 2024 Floral Clock.

Tartan of the Month

Edinburgh 900 Tartan

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

This tartan was designed for City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh 900 celebrations taking place in the city in 2024, which mark 900 years since Edinburgh became a royal burgh. Edinburgh 900 is a celebration of the nine centuries of history and traditions in Scotland's capital city since the founding of the royal burgh by King David I in around 1124. This colourway is based on the sett of the original City of Edinburgh tartan and the palette references one of the 10 celebratory themes, the 21st century - Edinburgh as a city of diversity. This tartan (reference: 14287) was designed by Kinloch Anderson Ltd. and registered in April, 2024.

Glasgowlife
presents



16 & 17 August
Glasgow Green

Experience the biggest pipe band competition on our livestream at
theworlds.co.uk/livestream



SCOTSPEAK

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



"Scotland's waterways are the lifeblood of whisky production, so while we use this precious resource responsibly, returning 96% of what we use to its source, we like to think there's a 'river within' each bottle. Many of our distilleries are built on the banks of treasured Scottish rivers and it's from these waters that our renowned whiskies are endowed with their unique spirit, essence and even their names. Just as we rely on the rivers, the rivers rely on us. The art of whisky making is a delicate balance, so too is the Scottish landscape

in which we craft it. That is why we are proud to launch this partnership with the three River Trusts to protect and build a resilient network of Scottish rivers and riverbanks that support biodiversity for generations to come."

Julie Gallacher, Head of Sustainability & Responsibility at Chivas Brothers, said the global Scotch whisky brand has unveiled a new, long-term programme to preserve, protect and improve the health of some of Scotland's iconic rivers and waterways. Waterways are a vital source

of life for Scotland's rich wildlife, as well as a key component and ingredient of whisky making, which depends on the health of the nation's rivers, banks, burns and springs.

"These guided tours will provide a rare opportunity to see part of Stirling's remarkable history that's been hidden away for more than 40 years. As we mark Stirling's 900th anniversary, this is a fitting moment to open up this medieval street to the public."

Stirling Council Leader, Cllr Chris Kane said as a hidden medieval Stirling street opened up for guided tours. The Stirling street that has been hidden under Thistles shopping centre in Stirling for over 40 years was recently opened up for special guided tours. Dirt Raw ran along Stirling's formidable city walls, which are some of the best preserved in Scotland and played a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of the nation. When Thistles was being constructed in the 1970s, it was built over the Dirt Raw sealing it away from the public. Stirling's City Walls were built during the 'Rough Wooing' in the 16th century to deter the English from forcing the infant Mary

"It's amazing that we've been able to measure the reaction of thousands of concert goers remotely through our data. The opportunity to explore a seismic activity created by a different kind of phenomenon has been a thrill. Clearly Scotland's reputation for providing some of the most enthusiastic audiences remains well intact!"

Callum Harrison, British Geological Survey seismologist, said that the tens of thousands of US singer Taylor Swift fans made the earth move by cheering and dancing at her three Murrayfield Stadium shows in Edinburgh.



"We're beginning to think about taking the Tattoo abroad which allows us to do things a little differently and open up creative options. Could we do a bit of a tour and tap into new audiences? For example, could we go to North America and bring that Scottishness and the Tattoo and its connection to another market? I think that would be a measure of our success and effectiveness."

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo's Chief Executive Jason Barrett said the brand will tread a fine line between modernity, authenticity, and heritage as it looks to its future and ensures it reaches new and broader audiences and the potential for further international touring. This month's Show Journeys will run from 2-24 August.

"It has been a remarkable sight to see the historic rudder lifted through the well of the ship. This marks a massive milestone in the works. I don't think any one of us present today will forget seeing the rudder lifted skywards in the same method that Robert Falcon Scott and his crew witnessed in Dundee, during Discovery's trials in 1901 before their famous Antarctic Expedition."

Ali Gellatly, Director of Ship and Facilities at Dundee Heritage Trust said as Royal Research Ship *Discovery's* 6-tonne rudder was lifted through ship's hull. As part of ongoing major conservation works aboard Captain Scott's Antarctic ship, the vessel's rudder has been lifted and placed onto the dockside at Discovery Point. It has been used to steer the ship, built in the dockyards of Dundee back in 1901. At 123 years old and having travelled all over the globe – including three voyages to the Antarctic – the ship now needs expert conservation to preserve its structure and legacy.



"Marking the city's 850th birthday is an opportunity that goes beyond celebrations and commemorations. It acknowledges the contributions of generations who have shaped the city, gives a platform to grow a shared sense of belonging and invites people to guide our future. This new Glasgow850 brand is an imaginative and inclusive way for people to take part and express what Glasgow means to them and helping them to tell their story."

Susanne Miller, Chief Executive of Glasgow City Council said as the Council has revealed the new brand behind its plans to mark the city's 850th birthday, in 2025. Throughout 2025 Glasgow will mark its 850th birthday by delivering a citywide programme that celebrates and reflects on the city's past, present and future.

DID YOU KNOW?



Looking to attend or promote a Scottish event? Did you know the Scottish Banner website houses the most diverse international Scottish events listing in the world? With hundreds of Scottish and Celtic events listed across Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Scotland and the USA, and updated on a regular basis, we host one of the most valuable international Scottish event resources available.

You can see our events page in this issue, or for a more advanced listing visit our website. Check out what is happening, near or far, or add your community event (a free service) at:

www.scottishbanner.com/events

SCOTWORD

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

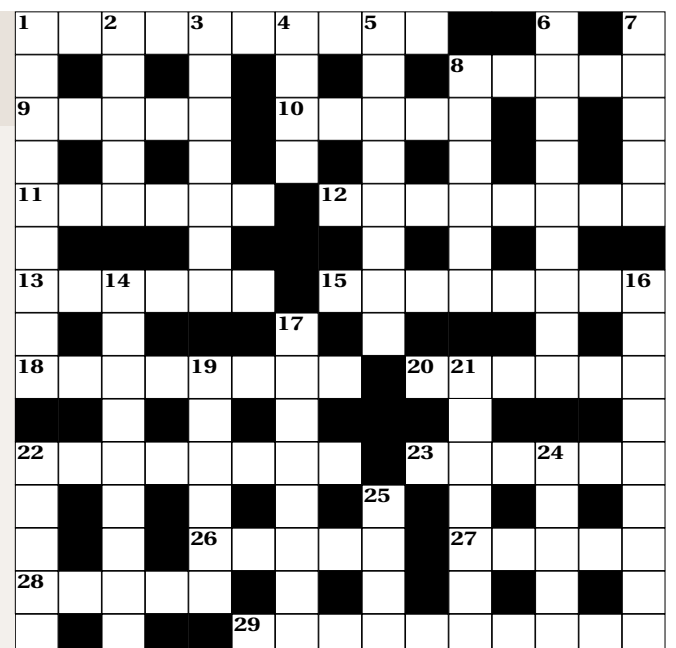
CLUES ACROSS

- 1) A wood to preserve the animals (4,6).
- 8) Scots cart without sides (5).
- 9) Highland town on Moray Firth (5).
- 10) Whisky producer (5).
- 11) Musical dramas (6).
- 12) Chained to kilts (8).
- 13) Scots fireplaces (6).
- 15) They mangle clothes (8).
- 18) Towards the compass point (8).
- 20) A place of refuge (6).
- 22) Can be Inner or Outer (8).

- 23) He and his regiment's for me! (6).
- 26) Sharp-eyed bird of prey (5).
- 27) Hopelessly insane (5).
- 28) Official in the kirk (5).
- 29) Town 4 miles S.W. of Coatbridge (10).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) He's from Scotland's fourth city (9).
- 2) Banish from the country (5).
- 3) A flourish of brass (7).
- 4) It goes with Cromarty (4).
- 5) Baffles to a Scot (8).
- 6) Gaelic mouth music (4-1-4).
- 7) Bounces in Scots (5).
- 8) Two shillings in other words (6).
- 14) A kind of scone (9).
- 16) Village 3 miles S.W. of Biggar (9).
- 17) Rushed forward recklessly (8).
- 19) A young cow (6).
- 21) It's bad for your health (7).
- 22) Talk nonsense in Scotland (5).
- 24) Current movement (5).
- 25) A fairy (4).



HM Royal Marines at the Tattoo



Band Lance Corporal Frank Rochford, first ever Royal Marine Lone Piper. Photo courtesy of Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

the magnificent sounds of His Majesty's Royal Marines Band and acts from across the globe bringing diverse cultures and vibrant energy to this highly sought-after spectacle.

Honouring the Navy

Warrant Officer First Class Chris Mace MVO said: "With the Royal Navy as lead service for The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Show this year, we are honouring the Navy service and it's brave personnel. While *HMS Queen Elizabeth* is docked for the summer, The Massed Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines has taken the opportunity to use this as their rehearsal space. We hope everyone around the Firth of Forth enjoyed their preview of what they can enjoy on the Esplanade."

The full line-up for 2024 includes: The Massed Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines, Pipes and Drums of 1st Battalion Scots Guards, Drums and Pipes 1st Battalion Irish Guards, Pipes and Drums of the Royal Gurkha Rifles, Combined Pipes and Drums of The Royal Tank Regiment and Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Pipes and Drums, Australian Federal Police Pipes and Drums, Brisbane Boys' College, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pipes and Drums, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Dancers, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Fiddlers, The Citadel Regimental Band and Pipes, Majesticks Drum Corps, United States Sea Service Band, United States Navy Ceremonial Guard and Teamwork Arts India.

His Majesty's Royal Marines Band Scotland have been putting the final touches together for their performance at this year's Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo – onboard the unique setting of the mighty *HMS Queen Elizabeth*. Anticipation is building until the Tattoo presents *Journeys* at The Edinburgh Castle Arena, with lead military service the Royal Navy. The performance will pay tribute to seafarers that brave the ocean to travel across continents bringing people and cultures together.

Led by their new Principal Director of Music, Lieutenant Colonel Huw Williams and Corps Drum Major, Warrant Officer First Class Chris Mace MVO, musicians and buglers from The Massed Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines will transport audiences on a musical voyage with sea shanties and traditional Naval tunes with a contemporary twist. Performed between the 2 - 24 August, audiences can expect

Ken your country



Stunning beaches of Benbecula. Photo: VisitScotland.

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

- 1) During the Second World War, where in Britain was the first German plane shot down?
- 2) What in Scots is a cushat?
- 3) Between which two islands does Benbecula lie?
- 4) Which Scottish town is known as the "Queen of the South"?
- 5) Where was Bonnie Prince Charlie born?
- 6) She was born in Moniaive in the Scottish Borders and became the subject of a well-known ballad - who was she?
- 7) How many horse racecourses are there in Scotland?

- 8) Does the statue atop the Glenfinnan Monument feature Bonnie Prince Charlie?
- 9) Which is Scotland's largest clan and is traditionally known as Lords of the Isles?
- 10) The town of Peebles stands beside which Border river?

Answers

- 1) Over the Forth Rail Bridge.
- 2) It's the old Scots word for a woodpigeon.
- 3) North and South Uist.
- 4) Dumfries.
- 5) In Rome, in Italy, in 1720.
- 6) Annie Laurie.
- 7) Five - Ayr, Hamilton, Kelso, Musselburgh and Perth.
- 8) The figure on top of the Glenfinnan Monument is a Highlander, representing just one of the many who followed the Prince.
- 9) The MacDonald's.
- 10) The River Tweed.



Directed by Peter Gallant

There's A Storm Coming!

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Taking the waters: *Scotland's healing wells*

By: David C Weinczok



St Bernard's Well, Edinburgh.



Clach-na-Cruich in Fearnan.

The idea that water can heal is older than any written record or folk memory. Across the world and in all eras, drinking, bathing in, or ritually using water as a way to banish a malady or restore vitality is a universal practice. In Scotland, this practice transcended cultural and religious paradigms and endures well into today, as seen every Hogmanay when thousands take a cold plunge into the sea to symbolise an annual reawakening. No iteration of this water-worship, however, carries quite the symbolic potency as the practice of drawing water from healing wells.

The reality of such places is quite different from what you may imagine. Overwhelmingly, healing wells were not built-up receptacles – the word ‘well’ is perhaps misleading, as most were really springs or, in many cases, natural vessels where water accumulated with no source of it within them. In the Gaelic-speaking world, such places can be identified on maps by the word tobairt or tobar. A great deal of them survive only in place names, having long since dried up or been destroyed by plough and sprawl. Often, what appears on a map to be a distinct and easily identifiable location proves to be badly overgrown or obscured, prompting a search through bracken and nettles.

Healing wells have their origins in pre-Christian antiquity. Animism was the prevailing belief of Scotland's ancient peoples, and this remains a vital way through which Gaels relate to the landscapes and storyscapes of their homelands. Almost any burn, river, waterfall, cave pool, or pond had beings

who guarded it and dispensed its benefits and dangers to those who sought them. When early Christian saints such as Columba, Cuthbert, and Blane learned of local traditions around water bodies, they began a process of syncretism in which old deities were paralleled with new ones. So, a spring with restorative properties which once may have been the domain of a water-spirit was imbued with the power of a saint and became identified with them. It was only, so far as we know, after this process of Christianisation that such water sources became exclusively known for their healing properties.

Miraculous properties

What kind of afflictions did people go to healing wells to cure? A series of sites around the eastern reaches of Loch Tay in Highland Perthshire are perfectly illustrative. A stone-lined spring across the River Tay from Taymouth Castle called An Tobar was especially renowned for curing toothache. Its stones have veins of white quartz, a sacred material thought to hold miraculous properties. Another nearby called Tobar Nan Dileag (Well of Drips) remedied whooping cough, a common affliction for children throughout the Middle Ages. Rainwater which pooled in a natural cavity atop a boulder at Fearnan, known as Clach-na-Cruich (Stone of the Vessel), was especially for curing measles. Waters collected in clefts in prominent stones were believed to be particularly effective for treating that condition.

The list of illnesses which a healing well could remedy is as long as the number of tragedies and nuisances any pre-modern community might deal with – rheumatism, consumption, warts, smallpox, headaches, tumours, dementia, and so on. The key to getting the maximum benefit from the waters was not as simple as imbibing them, however. How and when a person used a healing well, and the way the location was treated by the community, could make all the difference.

Certain times of year were seen as being especially effective. The 1st of May was particularly fortuitous, coinciding with a key turning point of the year. Sunrise and sunset were the optimal times of day to



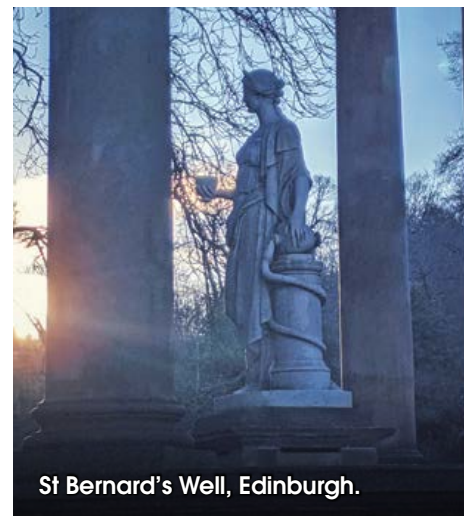
Shrine to Virgin Mary and Holy Well in Daliburgh, South Uist.

seek them, especially if it coincided with a celestial event such as a full moon or solstice. Small offerings of coins, cloth, or personal affects were often left at the wells, and on approach to them people would enact rituals such as walking silently around the well several times before drawing from its waters.

Ancient boundary

The location of the well mattered, too. Healing wells located at the ancient boundary between two territories were among the most sought-out, as were wells in locations primed to optimise the spectacle of the rising sun or where traditional held there to be a fairy mound or sacred site nearby. Some places held inherent specialness by virtue of their liminal nature existing as middle-grounds between worlds. Water dripping from certain caves, for instance, was thought to be extremely potent, as were wells located at the foot of venerated hills such as St Mary's Well at the base of the Eildons in the Scottish Borders. The fact that ancient artefacts such as Bronze Age axeheads are frequently found near such healing wells is testament to the enduring belief in their locations' significance.

Conversely, it was possible for healing wells to lose their powers. Allowing an animal such as a cow to drink directly from one would instantly nullify its properties. Washing one's dirty hands in a healing well caused this, too. Loss of healing powers could also occur if the stream which a healing well sat alongside was diverted, or if a structure was built too close in proximity to it. The Reformation sought to quash the practice of healing wells, as it held them to be idolatrous. An Act of Parliament in 1581 decried the “pervers[e] inclination ... of pilgrimage to sum chappellis wells”. This did little to curb everyday belief in their powers, however, in much the same way that the spread of Christianity did not erase peoples' belief



St Bernard's Well, Edinburgh.

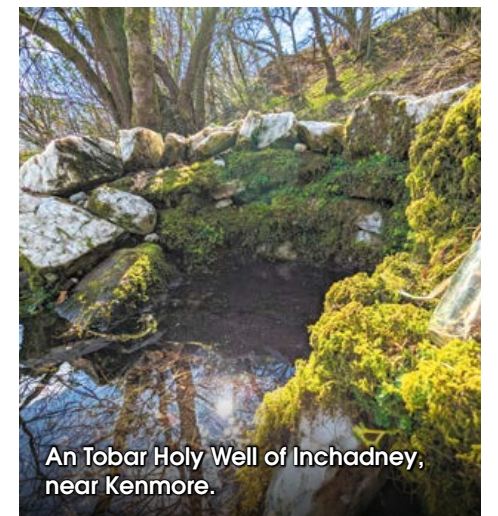
in decidedly undogmatic phenomenon such as faeries, water-horses, or household familiars known as brownies. In fact, some brownies were famously associated with sacred waters and healing wells, and their tempers determined how effective treatment would be.

Spiritual significance

By the late 17th century, the source of healing wells' power was held by some to be a matter of the chemical properties of the water. Certain flavours were sought out as being indicative of healing properties, notably heavily mineralised waters and peculiar flavours such as a smoky or even, perhaps counterintuitively to us, sulphurous notes. The latter was the case with St Bernard's Well, perhaps Scotland's best-known healing well thanks to its location along the high-traffic Water of Leith between Stockbridge and Dean Village in Edinburgh. A natural spring was found there by schoolboys in the 1760s and quickly gained fame for its waters, which tasted “like washings from a foul gun barrel”. The site had spiritual significance long before this, as the 12th century monk St Bernard of Clairvaux is reputed to have lived in a nearby cave. The spring was capped by a Neoclassical temple adorned by a statue of the Greco-Roman goddess of hygiene, Hygieia, and was even visited by Dr Frankenstein in Mary Shelley's eponymous classic.

In the 19th century the Victorian craze for mineral baths and spas took off, with mountain waters in places like Pitlochry piped into hydropathic hotels explicitly marketed for their healing and aesthetic qualities. The focus shifted firmly to the purity and mineralisation of the bath waters, with the older emphases on landscape context, visiting time, and imbibing rituals entirely removed. Meanwhile, many of the settlements around ancient healing wells were cleared of their people, the wells themselves falling into disuse and out of community memory. Yet, there are still hundreds of very old healing wells to be found across Scotland, from seemingly inauspicious bowls worn into boulders to moss-strewn pools quietly bubbling away on Highland and Lowland hillsides alike.

Humble though many may be, they are one of the oldest connections we have to the relationship past peoples had with their landscapes, and to the universal human desire to alleviate the suffering of ourselves and those we love.



An Tobar Holy Well of Inchadney, near Kenmore.

Leven on a New Train

By: David McVey



Photo: ScotRail.

In the 1970s I was spoiled for choice in the buses I could use to get home to Kirkintilloch from Glasgow. Their ultimate destinations included Kilsyth, Falkirk, Dunfermline and, mysteriously, Leven in Fife. I can't imagine how long the full journey to Leven must have taken. I wish I'd tried it before it was axed. Many years on, Leven has become a little more accessible again. The town's railway line re-opened in June 2024.

It is hoped that it will help regenerate the area by giving local people more travel opportunities while also bringing in visitors. Leven was once a popular seaside resort, while its neighbours Buckhaven and Methil were industrial towns; since the 1980s, all three have fallen on hard times.

Leven Station

Leven-Methil-Buckhaven (often, thankfully, shortened to 'Levenmouth') was Scotland's most populous urban area without a passenger railway. Not anymore. Soon after the re-opening I made the trip to Leven to see what doors the new railway opens up. The new station has the River Leven on one side and Leven's town centre on the other. First, however, I took a diversion to Methil. East Fife FC's New Bayview Stadium used to be one of Scotland's furthest football venues from the rail network but is now one of the closest, only a few minutes' walk from Leven Station.

The Station neighbours the town's swimming pool and leisure centre and is also just two minutes' walk from Leven Bus Station. From there you can continue by bus to the fabled seaside towns of the East Neuk of Fife; Largo, Elie, St Monans, Pittenweem, Anstruther and Crail. Until 1960s trains continued from Leven through these towns and villages, and on to St Andrews.

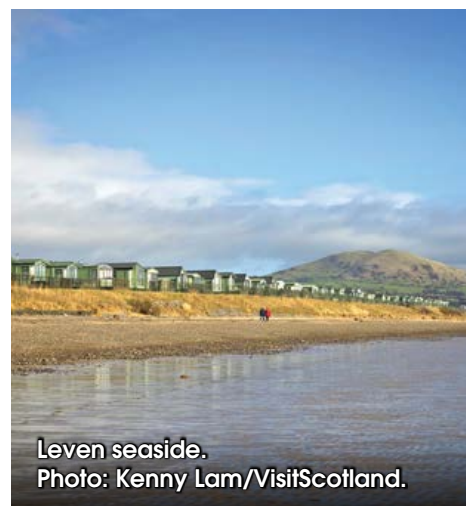
The thing you really notice about Leven is its beach. Long and straight and stretching way beyond the town itself. It had only a few dog-walkers on my visit, but it was a chilly June day (yes, June is the height of summer, but this is Scotland) with a nasty breeze and a hint of rain. It's still impressive though and there are views south across the Firth of Forth towards Edinburgh and Arthur's Seat, and to North Berwick Law and the Bass Rock. Largo Law, on the same northern shore as Leven, draws the eye, an impressive low hill that towers over the twin villages of

Upper and Lower Largo. Largo is famed as the home town of Alexander Selkirk, the model for Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe.

Gardens

The beach area has all the usual attractions in terms of cafes and playparks. Right next to the Beachcomber Amusements arcade is Leven Festival Gardens, a small and attractive public park. The gardens themselves are fine, though the more exotic plants seemed to be shivering a bit during my visit. However, the park also features two memorials to the Polish troops that were stationed nearby during the Second World War. In this area they prepared for the unsuccessful assault on Arnhem in 1944. The tall, narrow stone near the entrance has an inscription that reads: *To commemorate the Scottish-Polish friendship begun in 1940-1944 when the First Polish Independent Parachute Brigade was formed and trained in Leven and District. This monument was unveiled on the 20th anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem September 1964.*

No doubt many who attended the unveiling ceremony arrived in Leven by train. On the 60th anniversary of that unveiling, they'll be able to do so again. The chunkier monument at the far end of the park names General Stanislaw Sosabowski, who commanded the Polish unit. He was a veteran of the First World War and actually carried out his first parachute jumps while commanding the unit - at the age of 49! There's another curiosity in the gardens; a largely circular design of inscribed stones flush with the lawn in which they're set. A display board explains that this is an 'analemmatic sundial' and gives instructions on how



Leven seaside.
Photo: Kenny Lam/VisitScotland.

to position yourself so that you take the place of the usual pointer. On a gloomy day like the one on which I visited it was impossible to use it and, anyway, it's quicker just to glance at your phone or watch.

The Fife Coastal Path

Further outside the town is Silverburn Park, a former estate that came into council ownership in the 1970s and is now being restored for the local community and as a visitor attraction. It's already a welcoming green space with a café, campsite and woodland walks and it will be worthwhile to keep an eye on developments as the former flax mill on-site is restored and transformed into a community resource.

The Fife Coastal Path runs through Buckhaven, Methil and Leven, and no doubt the stretch eastwards from here will become more popular with the ease of access the railway brings. However, it isn't walking that Fife brings to mind for many people. Leven is within reach of several golf courses and the worldwide home of golf is just a short drive or bus ride away. If you travel on the new railway in the months to come, you are likely to see several of your fellow-passengers lugging their clubs off on arrival at Leven. It's not a passion I share or understand but it's one that will play a big part in regenerating Levenmouth and its surrounding area. The new railway will also have a significant role. Currently, trains run



The memorials in Leven located in the Festival Gardens.

hourly to Leven from Edinburgh Waverley but the frequency is scheduled to double from December. I had quite a while to wait for my return train but there's a small coffee shop, Colliers Coffee Roasters, not far away, so I had a takeaway flat white to keep me warm (in June, remember!) while I waited. Give Leven's new railway a try yourself - but choose a warmer day, if you can...



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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and First Minister John Swinney in Edinburgh. Photo: Scottish Government.

First Minister welcomes Prime Minister to Bute House

First Minister John Swinney welcomed Sir Keir Starmer to Bute House for one of his first engagements after being appointed as the new UK Labour Prime Minister. Following an introductory telephone call the two leaders met in Edinburgh to emphasise their joint commitment to working collaboratively on areas of shared interest. They discussed a range of issues and areas where both the governments can work together, including advancing the Scottish Government's core priorities of eradicating child poverty, growing the economy, prioritising net zero, and ensuring the delivery of effective public services. Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes and the new Secretary of State for Scotland Ian Murray joined the First Minister and Prime Minister for talks.

First Minister John Swinney said: "I was pleased to welcome Sir Keir to Bute House so soon after his appointment as UK Prime Minister. We continued our conversation about areas of shared interest. I believe there is an opportunity for collaborative working that can make a difference to people's lives and I hope to work with Sir Keir's new Government to deliver progress for the benefit of people in Scotland. Following our talks, I am confident we have established the foundation for a productive relationship between our two governments based on renewed respect for the devolution settlement. On a personal note, having been First Minister for two months and a minister for many years, I am very aware of the demands of office. I again offered Sir Keir and his family my congratulations on his appointment and my best wishes for what will be a demanding start to his term in office."

Labour won a landslide victory in Scotland with 37 seats (increase of 36), followed by The SNP who won just 9 (decrease of 39), The Liberal Democrats with 6 (increase of 4) and the Scottish Conservatives with 5 (decrease of 1).

Eden Project Dundee given the green light as planning application is approved



Eden Project Dundee has been granted planning permission. The decision comes following an intensive period

of community engagement and co-creation which saw the Eden Project team host events across Dundee with comments and feedback on the project being incorporated into the planning application. The scale of the development – on the site of the former gas works on East Dock Street - meant that the application was approved by a meeting of the full council following a pre-determination hearing at the planning committee. Blair Parkin, the Eden Project's Chief Experience Development Officer, said: "We are delighted that Dundee City Council has granted us planning permission for Eden Project Dundee. This is a major milestone for the project and the culmination of years of hard work by the Eden Project team, our partners in Dundee and the community who have engaged with us so generously. This is a project for Dundee, by Dundee and we are incredibly proud of the work we have undertaken together to get the project to this stage. We will allow ourselves a moment of celebration but we are well aware there is still lots to do to make Eden Project Dundee a reality. We will now concentrate on working with all our partners, progressing the design, securing investment and continuing to deliver our community programmes in the city."

Dundee City Council leader, Councillor John Alexander, added: "The Eden Project is a further example of the city's ambitious regeneration drive. The project will help deliver hundreds of jobs, huge visitor numbers and tens of millions of pounds for the local economy. But it will also provide new educational opportunities and seek to build work on efforts within our communities, well beyond the site boundary. It will attract people from far and wide, as well as being very much for the citizens of Dundee. It was great to see so many locals helping to shape the proposals which were approved tonight."

Eden Project Dundee will be a landmark development for the city, transforming the former gasworks on East Dock Street into a beacon for regeneration and green tourism. It will encourage visitors to think, feel and act differently by revealing how we can learn from and be inspired by nature. The project will combine exhibits, performance, learning, play, immersive experiences, world-class horticulture, live music, art, and food, beverage and retail spaces, all integrated as essential parts of the overall experience. Work to

create an Eden Project on this site would include the conversion of the existing gasholder, demolition of other buildings on the site and the construction of a pedestrian bridge. The project is inspired by Dundee's Nine Incorporated Trades and will introduce a new set of contemporary Guilds. These Guilds will be underpinned by the perspectives and skills needed for a regenerative future. Guild Embassies – both physical and virtual - will be rooted in communities and enable activities that will be brought together and showcased at the main attraction.

Legacy trains leave Glasgow Subway service



The Glasgow Subway's long-serving Metro-Cammell trains, introduced to passenger service on 16 April 1980, completed their last loops of both the Inner and Outer Circles at the end of June. After more than 44 years of service, the last two trains from the last 1970s modernisation period have now terminated service. This is after completing an estimated 2.6million miles each in passenger service which is some 400,600 loops of the system. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Chair, Councillor Stephen Dornan said: "It is a sad day for the Subway as we say goodbye to this much-loved fleet. They have served us well for many decades. I know many of the staff, current and retired, and many passengers have been keen to come along over the last couple of weeks for one last loop round the system. One of the legacy cars has made its way to the Riverside Museum so there is still an opportunity to view these train and remember it in all its glory."

Thirty-three Metro-Cammell trains were introduced as part of the Subway's second modernisation which started in May 1977 and resulted in a three-year shut-down of the Subway. Eight additional centre-trailer carriages built in 1992 were later added to the trains to make all the trains three carriages long, which have been the trains in service until the introduction of the new fleet in December 2023. The complete second modernisation programme included a massive refurbishment of all 15 stations with flank platforms introduced (two platforms, one for each circle) at six stations; the introduction of automatic ticket equipment; escalators and a travelator at Buchanan Street station; as well as a public address system.

The Subway is currently undergoing its third modernisation of its lifetime which has seen new smart ticketing introduced; a refurb of all 15 stations on the network; new rolling stock with a new signalling and communication system alongside a new state-of-the-art control room all being introduced. Dubbed the "Clockwork Orange" Glasgow Subway is the third oldest underground system in the world.

Highland teenager breaks Caber Toss World Record

Eighteen-year-old Andrew Murphie, from Grantown-on-Spey, has entered the record books after breaking the World Record for Caber Tossing. Murphie successfully tossed 26 cabers each weighing 40kgs/88lbs and measuring 5 metres/16ft 6 inches in under three minutes. The previous record was 16 cabers set by Canadian athlete Daniel Frame in Nova Scotia in 2018. Andrew Murphy had been training for years for the historic day after taking up the sport over five years ago. Each caber had to flipped over end to end and land straight ahead. The next challenge for Murphie is to work towards breaking the current World Record of most cabers flipped in an hour. The current record is 161, set by another Canadian champion Highland Heavy athlete Jason Baines in 2021.

Scotland's capercaillie population offered extinction lifeline



In the woods setting the fake nests.

Researchers might have solved the riddle of how to save one of Scotland's most iconic protected species from eating another. The capercaillie is a ground-nesting bird that, with just over 500 left in the wild, is in danger of extinction in the UK. One contributor to its decline is the eating of eggs and chicks by predators including another protected species, the pine marten. Now a trial in the Cairngorms which involved placing artificial nests filled with chicken's eggs and leaving deer meat in strategic locations to feed hungry predators and discourage them from further foraging during the breeding season, has seen an increase of 83% in nest survival. The research, newly published in the *British Ecological Society's Journal of Applied Ecology*, shows this sort of diversionary feeding could be a significant contributor to saving the capercaillie from extinction. As a result of the study, it is already being rolled out by Forestry and Land Scotland, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland and other partners in Deeside.

Working in partnership with land managers in the Cairngorms National Park, the team placed 720 artificial nests filled with chicken eggs in historic capercaillie habitat. Half of them had diversionary feeding stations with deer carrion set up nearby and the survival of the nests were monitored over an eight-week period. Richard Mason, site manager at RSPB Scotland Abernethy, said "Capercaillie are struggling in Scotland and we need innovative solutions to be developed and implemented quickly for their populations to recover. Through dedication and collaboration, this project has been conceived, delivered, tested and rolled out on a landscape scale in less than four years. We are delighted that RSPB Scotland Abernethy Forest was included in the trial area. The number of capercaillie here has been increasing in recent years and diversionary feeding has likely contributed to this increase. We hope that, alongside habitat restoration and other work, diversionary feeding helps to secure a future for Capercaillie in Scotland."

Skipinnish kick-start 25th anniversary year with new music by Runrig guitarist



Skipinnish. Photo: Andrew King.

Runrig's Malcolm Jones recently joined Celtic music icons Skipinnish on stage last month to debut a performance of his new tune written to mark the band's 25th anniversary. *The Silver Voyage* was performed live by the guitarist along with Skipinnish at the band's two headline concerts in Inverness and Edinburgh in July that started a year of celebrations for Skipinnish. Malcolm Jones's involvement is also symbolic as he has been by Skipinnish's side through their quarter century career. The new tune captures the significance of the band's anniversary and the journey Skipinnish has been on since 1999. It is also symbolic of the thread that runs through the band's music reflecting the impact the sea, island life, fishing and the Gaelic language has had on their songwriting and their sound.

With hits such as *Walking on the Waves*, *The Island*, *Alive* and more recently *Fuadaichean (Clearances)*, Skipinnish have put their Highlands and Islands and Gaelic roots front and centre in their repertoire. *The Silver Voyage* is a celebration of their work and that 25-year voyage to the very top of the Celtic music scene. Skipinnish was formed in 1999 from a friendship between accordionist and songwriter Angus MacPhail of the Isle of Tiree and piper Andrew Stevenson from Lochaber, during their years studying at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. The early days saw them perform in village halls across their familiar turf of the west Highlands and Islands.

The top tier of Scottish bands

Now a seven-piece, multi-instrument band they have taken their music international, performing at festivals and venues across

Europe, whilst remaining true to their Highlands and Gaelic roots in all that they create. Malcolm said: "I've had the pleasure of knowing Angus and Andrew since their inception as Skipinnish twenty-five years ago, watching their steady progress as musicians, songwriters and band leaders, to their current position in the top tier of Scottish bands. To celebrate

this milestone, I thought it would be appropriate to compose a new tune for the occasion – *The Silver Voyage*. I'm looking forward to celebrating the anniversary and playing this tune with Skipinnish."

Angus MacPhail said: "This is a highlight of our 25 years and is a great honour. To have one of Scotland's foremost musicians, and someone we personally hold in such high regard, compose a tune to mark our silver anniversary is something very special. Malcolm is a big part of our 25-year story. He's been a mentor, advisor and friend from our early days and still influences our music. Without his guidance and advice over the years, we would not have had the very fortunate voyage we've had. This new tune captures the Skipinnish story perfectly - the ups and downs of the long journey from the pubs and village halls of the west Highlands and Islands to the unbelievable feeling of headlining in Inverness and Edinburgh Castle, playing to over 13,000 people within six days. That is something that was beyond our wildest dreams in 1999."



Photo: Andrew King.



Runrig's Malcolm Jones (L) alongside Skipinnish's Andrew Stevenson (centre) and Angus MacPhail performing in the early days of the band. Photo: Skipinnish.

The 37th Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival



Returning for the 37th celebration, the Celtic Classic is the largest free Celtic festival in North America. Presenting the U.S. National Highland Games Championship means the top ten professional highland athletes will be competing for the title.

Also featured is Grade 3 and Grade 4 pipe band competitions, more than forty Celtic retail merchants, and Celtic Heritage Hollow with Clan Village, lectures, demonstrations and children's activities. Opening ceremonies will include the Showing of the Tartan Parade through Historic Downtown Bethlehem, concluding on Highland Field. Visitors will enjoy five stages of world-renowned Celtic music

featuring Ally the Piper, The Byrne Brothers, The Prodigals, Conor Mallon, On the Lash and many more. Thirty food vendors will tempt you with a variety of treats from fish-n-chips, pasties, bangers & mash to bratwurst, corn on the cob, poutine and much more.

The Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival will take place in Bethlehem, PA, September 27th – 29th 2024, for more information see: www.celticfest.org.



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Celebrating 10 years of The Kelpies

The Scottish Banner speaks to Andy Scott

The original 1:10 scale Kelpies Maquettes. Photo: Sculptor Andy Scott.

Sculptor Andy Scott was born and raised in Glasgow and is a graduate of the Glasgow School of Art. His works can be seen across Scotland, as well as other parts of the UK and internationally including in Australia and the USA. His most iconic work are The Kelpies, the world's largest equine sculptures, which are celebrating their 10-year anniversary this year. Andy took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner on the challenges of implementing such a project, creating a landmark for Scotland and how his home of Glasgow forever stays with him.



Andy Scott at The Kelpies 10th anniversary celebrations.
Photo: Martin Shield Photography.

2024 marks the 10th anniversary of The Kelpies. Can you tell us briefly how the concept two landmark 30 metre steel horses in Falkirk came to be?

I was approached by Scottish Canals who wanted to create a large piece on a new development to compliment the already popular Falkirk Wheel. They had wanted something mythological, but I decided to try something to do with horses and the heritage they have played in central Scotland's industrial past. It took an incredible amount of effort, as you can imagine, and was an expensive project. This all started about 18 or 19 years ago, so it took a long time to come to fruition.

How many logistical challenges did you face drawing up your plans for The Kelpies from your Glasgow work studio to actually implementing the largest equine sculptures in the world?

The easy part was the design stuff and working out how they would look and be created. We engaged an excellent structural engineering company from Yorkshire, and they took over the reigns on many things. We did have the challenges with logistics, infrastructure and bureaucracy. This also was not just the sculptures themselves, but a major parks redevelopment with the creation of

The Helix and the whole project was a very complicated undertaking. The creation of the sculptures themselves was not as difficult as some other challenges we had, but we got there in the end, and it was a major triumph, and it was all worth the effort.

For those who are not aware each statue has a name, can you tell us how the names Duke and Baron came to be?

The names came from when I did the first small scale models of The Kelpies. When I was fine tuning those early models, I was fortunate to have two Clydesdale horses called Baron and Duke come and visit me at my studio in Maryhill in Glasgow. As Baron and Duke were my models for the project their names were inherited, and it is a lovely they have now been immortalised in this way.

The Kelpies have been seen by millions of people and are now one of Scotland's iconic attractions. How does that make you feel to know your work has had such a positive impact on Scottish tourism and culture?

It really makes me feel really proud. Of course it was not just me that was behind this project, there were hundreds of people, and I am simply the figurehead. I feel like I just scored the winning goal as there was a whole team behind me.

There is almost a day that does not go by where we do not get to see pictures of The Kelpies, it is so popular with photographers in Scotland and that makes me so proud to have been part of this unique project. I am immensely proud how The Kelpies have been received by the people of Scotland and beyond. I am also particularly proud of how the people of Scotland, and in particular the Falkirk and Grangemouth area, have embraced The Kelpies and really taken them to their hearts.

I am immensely proud how The Kelpies have been received by the people of Scotland and beyond.

You are most known and celebrated for The Kelpies, however that project was by far you're most challenging. Knowing what you know now of what you went through to complete The Kelpies, and also how well they have now been received across the world, would you do it all again?

I think the answer to that would be never say never. It really did have challenges, but then again, any big project does. We had many hurdles to get through, but we also had an amazing team helping to push the project as we went. I think if the right elements were in place I could, and you never know what the future holds. I look back at how the project went and for my career it was quite the achievement.

Outside of The Kelpies you have created many amazing pieces which include animals, what is it about recreating animals that inspires you so much?

I do like to work with animals, and I think most people can relate to animals at some level. There is a stronger connection for many with an animal, or a human form, than an inanimate object. I try not and over analyse it too much, but I have done many animal works and horses have clearly been a theme of my work. I feel an animal or human encourages more interaction with the audience. Using animals can have more meaning than you may think, in Aberdeen I did a

leopard sculpture which some may know that the leopard is a heraldic symbol of Aberdeen, and it has been a part of the city's history for centuries and some may just think it is a sculpture of a cat. But that is art. My head is bursting with all kinds of ideas, and some will never come to light, but I think many artists can relate to that.

You clearly thrive working with steel. What is about steel that you find so compelling to create with?

I am not sure it may be just the way I am made. Coming from Glasgow with all that industrial shipbuilding heritage it may just be in my DNA. Over the years I have worked with steel and really enjoyed it. I find it nearly a more gentle and easier thing to work with and it really does provide great results.

You are a proud son of Glasgow, what is it about your home city you love and now miss as you live in the USA? Also, as a graduate of the Glasgow School of Art how did it make you feel to make the world's first public statue of the school's creator and Glasgow icon Charles Rennie Mackintosh?

I now live in California but get back to Glasgow from time to time and I always know it is where I am from. I still have family there and great friends and I am very proud of the city. The architectural heritage of the city is incredible, the Victorian and Edwardian, and never leaves me. There is also a great art scene, music and there is great pubs and food there. Glasgow will always be with me, I sometimes think if they cut me open some the River Clyde will simply run out of me, plus I have a Glasgow accent so there is not getting rid of that!

It really was amazing project to do the Charles Rennie Mackintosh statue. Being a graduate of the Glasgow School of Art, this project created an extra layer of excitement for me. I had a hard time getting that one off the ground as Glasgow City Council nor the Glasgow School of Art were interested in it. The artwork was in fact commissioned by the Sanctuary Group, a social housing provider, to mark the regeneration of Anderston in Glasgow. This statue is long overdue, and I was really pushing to do him and his wife. Sadly, my client's budget could only go so far but I hope we can also do Margaret Macdonald one day as she also did so much for Glasgow and art.



Andy Scott at The Kelpies. Photo: Sculptor Andy Scott.



Glasgow's Charles Rennie Mackintosh statue. Photo: Sculptor Andy Scott.



Aberdeen's Poised sculpture. Photo: Virginia Beckett.



International Clan MacNicol Gathering Skye 2024

The International Clan MacNicol Gathering in Portree Skye, October 3rd to 6th, 2024.

Donnie Nicolson has put in place an itinerary which can be viewed at - www.scorrybreac.org/clan-gathering-2024.html

From Thursday the 3rd October
Welcome drinks at Skeabost Hotel - 7.30pm till 9pm
With a great programme all weekend until Sunday 6th October
10am - Going away brunch at Skeabost Hotel
11.30am - A gentle walk to St Columba's Isle (A 10min walk from the Hotel)

For more information or to register email Donnie Nicolson: donnie@jans.co.uk



Andy and his Minotaur sculpture. Photo: Sculptor Andy Scott.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Death of Queen Anne; George I, Elector of Hanover becomes king. **1714**

1 - Proscription Act introduced, banning tartan and the carrying of weapons. The penalty for a first offence was six months in jail and a second offence resulted in transportation for seven years. **1747**

1 - University of Dundee which was incorporated into the University of St Andrews (as Queen's College) in 1890, constituted as a separate university. **1967**



1 - The UK's first mail drone delivery service begins, with Royal Mail and Skyports establishing a daily inter-island mail distribution between three islands on Orkney. **2023**

2 - Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, died in Nova Scotia. Although he is best known for this invention Bell was also well known for his work on deafness. **1922**

3 - William Wallace is captured near Glasgow. Wallace is tried in London on 23 August, then executed. **1305**

3 - King James II killed by an exploding cannon at the siege of Roxburgh Castle. **1460**

3 - Sir William Kirkcaldy of Grange executed, after defending Edinburgh Castle on behalf of Mary Queen of Scots from May 1568 to May 1573. **1573**

3 - The 2014 Commonwealth Games (officially the XX Commonwealth Games) closing ceremony took place in Glasgow, Scotland. **2014**

4 - Birth of the entertainer Sir Harry Lauder, his hits included *Roamin in the Gloamin'* and *Keep Right on to the End of the Road*. Lauder died in 1950 at the age of 79. **1870**

5 - James, Earl Douglas, died out of sight of his army, in a bush, at Battle of Otterburn in which Scots defeat Henry Percy, (Hotspur) but with the loss of the Earl of Douglas. **1388**

5 - The Scottish Parliament established a General Post Office. **1695**

6 - First Glasgow/Edinburgh coach service began from White Horse Inn, Edinburgh. **1678**

6 - Donald Alexander Smith - later Lord Strathcona - born in Forres. A pioneer of the Hudson Bay Company in the North-West, he later championed the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway across Canada and drove the last spike at Craigellachie, British Columbia. **1820**

6 - Birth of Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin. **1881**



7 - The first train arrives in Fort William on the newly opened West Highland Line. **1894**

7 - Lord Kitchener, the war minister, began a mass recruiting campaign, three days after Britain declared war on Germany. By the war's end a total of 147,609 Scots had been killed, a fifth of Britain's dead from a country that made up only 10% of its population. **1914**

7 - Air services begin from Barra Airport, the only beach airport anywhere in the world to be used for scheduled airline services. **1936**

8 - King Edward I removed to England the Stone of Destiny on which generations of Scottish kings had been crowned. **1296**

8 - King James IV married Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII of England. The marriage was known as the Union of the Thistle and the Rose. **1503**

8 - Former World flyweight boxing champion Benny Lynch died. **1946**

9 - Civil engineer Thomas Telford born in Dumfries. Telford became known as 'the godfather of civil engineering'. **1757**

9 - Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire opened after David McIntyre set up Scottish Aviation Ltd. Aircraft had been flying from the area since 1913. **1935**

10 - King James III crowned at Kelso Abbey. **1460**

10 - Education (Scotland) Act passed, providing elementary education for all children. **1872**

10 - Perth Museum and Art Gallery opened by the Duke and Duchess of York. **1935**

11 - Andrew Carnegie, the Dunfermline-born steel industrialist and philanthropist, died. Throughout his later life Carnegie established a number of foundations for education and research such as the Carnegie Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. **1919**

12 - Roy Williamson, the Scottish folk musician and songwriter, died. Williamson was one of the famous duo, The Corries, along with Ronnie Browne. **1990**

12 - A passenger train derailed after striking a landslip near Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire, causing 3 deaths. **2020**

13 - Explorer Alexander Gordon Laing became the first Christian to reach Timbuctu, Africa. **1826**

13 - Birth of John Logie Baird, developer of television. **1888**

13 - Scotland's first nuclear power station at Dounreay went "critical" ushering in the generation of power from atomic reactions. **1957**

14 - King Duncan I killed in battle at Pitgavney by Macbeth. **1040**

14 - King Robert III born at Scone. **1337**

14 - King Robert III crowned at the Augustinian abbey of Scone. **1390**

14 - University of Strathclyde was constituted in Glasgow, based on the Royal College of Science and Technology. **1964**

15 - Macbeth killed in battle by Malcolm at Lumphanan. **1057**

15 - Novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott born. Synonymous with the Scottish Borders Scott wrote classics such as *Waverley* and *The Bride of Lamermoor*. **1771**



15 - Foundation stone for the Scott Monument to Sir Walter Scott laid in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. The monument for the author is the second largest in the world for a writer and has been dubbed "The Gothic Rocket". **1840**

15 - Scotland becomes the first country in the world to make free sanitary products available to women after legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament comes into force. **2022**

16 - Birth of Carolina Oliphant (Lady Nairne), poet and author of many Jacobite songs, including *Charlie is my Darling*. Her songs are second only in popularity to Burns. **1766**

17 - Visit of George IV to Edinburgh began, orchestrated by Sir Walter Scott. **1822**

17 - First Edinburgh International Festival opened. **1947**



17 - Death of Bill Millin, British Army soldier and piper during WWII (born 1922). Widely known as Piper Bill, he was personal piper to Simon Fraser, 15th Lord Lovat, commander of 1 Special Service Brigade at D-Day. **2010**

18 - Arthur Elphinstone, Lord Balmerino, the Jacobite noble, was executed. Balmerino was captured along with Lord Kilmarnock after the Battle of Culloden and the pair were tried for treason in London and beheaded in the Tower of London. **1746**

18 - The Tay Road Bridge opened, linking Dundee city centre with Fife. The Tay Road Bridge carries the A92 road across the Firth of Tay from Newport-on-Tay in Fife to Dundee. **1966**

18 - 45 years after forming in 1973, folk rock band Runrig performs their last show against the backdrop of Stirling Castle. **2018**

19 - Mary Queen of Scots lands at Leith on her return from France, after the death of her husband, King Francis II. **1561**

19 - Charles Edward Stuart, raises his standard at Glenfinnan, at the start of the '45 uprising. **1745**

19 - Scottish aviator Jim Mollinson landed after the first East/West solo flight of the Atlantic from Portmarnock, Ireland to Pennfield, New Brunswick. **1932**

20 - Ronald Ross, the first Scot to win a Nobel prize (in 1902) dissected a mosquito and established the link with malaria. **1897**

21 - Battle of Dunkeld when the newly formed Cameronians defended the town against 3,000 Highlanders. **1689**

21 - Birth of William Murdoch who pioneered the use of coal-gas lighting in 1792 in partnership with James Watt and Mathew Boulton. **1754**

21 - Birth of Donald Dewar, former Secretary of State for Scotland and First Minister in the new Scottish Parliament. **1937**

22 - Battle of the Standard at Northallerton in which King David I was defeated by the English. **1138**

22 - Devorgilla, Countess of Galloway founded Balliol College, Oxford. She was mother of John Balliol (who acceded to the Scottish throne in 1292). **1282**

22 - King Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham, initiating a Civil War in England between the Royalists (also known as Cavaliers) and Parliament (Roundheads). **1642**

23 - Sir William Wallace was executed in London. Wallace was captured after being betrayed by Sir John de Menteith and was transported to London. King Edward I had devised a new method of execution for one of his arch-enemies, and Wallace became the first person to endure the agonies of being hanged, drawn and quartered. **1305**



23 - Work begins on the rebuilding of Eilean Donan Castle. It took until 1932 to complete. The castle is today one of the most photographed in Scotland. **1913**

24 - Berwick on Tweed finally ceded to England (Edward IV) after changing hands 12 times. **1482**

24 - The first Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama opened. The festival was inspired by the arts festivals organised in Salzburg before the Second World War but has grown to become the largest event of its kind in the world. It has also spawned a book festival, film festival and the festival fringe. The festival was also responsible for the creation of Scottish Opera and forced a greater amount of funding from the Arts Council to be given to Scotland. **1947**

25 - James Watt, developer of steam power, died. Watt was known as the 'father of the industrial revolution'. **1819**

25 - Actor Sir Sean Connery born. Connery famously went from an Edinburgh milk man to global movie superstar, best known for playing James Bond 007. Sean Connery died at age 90 in the Bahamas in October, 2020. **1930**

25 - Glasgow Zoo, or Calderpark Zoo, closed. The was a 99-acre (40 ha) zoological park in Baillieston, Glasgow was established in 1947 by the Zoological Society of Glasgow and West of Scotland. The zoo was located on the lands of the former Calderpark Estate and closed due financial losses and reports of animal cruelty. **2003**

26 - Mary Queen of Scots leads an army out of Edinburgh to suppress a rebellion led by her half-brother James Stewart, 1st Earl of Moray, who is opposed to her marriage. She puts the rebellion to flight in what becomes known as the Chaseabout Raid. **1565**

26 - The Donibristle Mining Disaster occurred in the Fife coalfield. The disaster occurred when part of Mossmorran peat bog near Cowdenbeath collapsed on sixteen miners 360 feet underground. Four miners were lost, as was a four-strong rescue party. All the bodies were eventually recovered but some remained underground until the December of that year. **1901**

26 - A search for the Loch Ness Monster, described as the largest in 50 years, gets underway around Loch Ness itself, and also online globally via webcams. There were sounds heard by some watchers, however no recording were made. **2023**

27 - James Thomson, the Scottish poet, died. Thomson's most famous works include the anthem, *Rule Britannia*. **1748**

27 - First balloon ascent in Britain by James Tytler, Edinburgh. **1784**

27 - The trial began in Edinburgh for Deacon William Brodie, a cabinetmaker and member of the town council, who also was a notorious criminal. On 1 October 1788 he was hanged for theft in the Lawnmarket in front of a crowd that was the largest seen in living memory. **1788**

28 - Edward I of England held a parliament at Berwick to which he summoned all Scottish landholders to sign the Ragman Roll. **1296**

28 - The Battle of Newburn on Tyne. The battle was fought between Leslie's veteran Scottish army and a hastily assembled English force. The Scots had invaded northern England in response to the attempts of Charles I to impose an Anglican prayer book upon Scotland. **1640**



Photo: National Trust for Scotland.

29 - The population of St Kilda were evacuated from the island. The island was evacuated on economic grounds at the islander's own request as the population had dwindled from 73 in 1920 to only 37 in 1928. The island had been populated since Bronze Age times, but from the latter part of the 19th century, the islanders had begun to lose their means of self-sufficiency and the fate of the resident population was sealed. The island was sold to the Marquess of Bute, a keen ornithologist, who bequeathed it to the National Trust for Scotland in 1957. **1930**

30 - Birth of golf course designer Dr Alister Mackenzie; he was responsible for Augusta National and Cypress Point, among others. **1870**

30 - *The Royal Research Ship (RRS) Discovery* reaches the Falkland Islands on a mission to rescue polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, to find he has already been rescued. **1915**

30 - Liz McColgan won the World Athletics Championship 10,000 metres in Tokyo by a margin of 20 seconds. **1991**

30 - The Queensferry Crossing opens to traffic. The 1.7 miles (2.7km) crossing was the biggest infrastructure project in Scotland in a generation and carries about 24 million vehicle journeys a year. **2017**

31 - The first Edinburgh Film Festival opened. The festival was officially opened on this date by the Lord Provost at the Playhouse Cinema. The festival was originally known as the International Festival of Documentary but has now grown to become recognised as one of the great worldwide film festivals. **1946**



Meeting a Shetland pony. Photo: Long Island Retreats.

Scotland is known throughout the world for its stunning landscapes and rich scenery as well as its produce, from whisky to Scottish beef and lamb, from this natural environment.

With increasing global awareness in food provenance and sustainability, agritourism - tourism or leisure on a working farm or croft producing food or fibre - provides unique and memorable countryside experiences. Vicki Miller, Director of Marketing and Digital at VisitScotland, Scotland's national tourism board says: "In recent years, particularly during the pandemic, agritourism has become a growing travel trend, with visitors seeking out authentic rural experiences that connect them to the countryside and Scotland's natural larder." Here's just a flavour of agritourism experiences that can be enjoyed in Scotland.

Long Island Retreats, South Uist, Outer Hebrides

Visiting a beautiful Scottish island is always a special experience, but at Long Island Retreats on the island of South Uist, owners Donald and Lindsay offer activities to make your stay particularly memorable. On a walking tour of the croft, you'll meet wild red deer and farm livestock, hear how the island's crofting heritage and culture has shaped the place and its people, and even learn some Gaelic, all against the backdrop of stunning Hebridean scenery. Take a tour of the unique eco-system of the largest Machair area in Europe, explore the croft in the company of a herd of delightful Shetland ponies, enjoy a sheep-shearing demonstration, or explore the island more widely on a 4x4 vehicle tour. www.longislandretreats.co.uk

Kitchen Coos & Ewes, Dumfries and Galloway

Kitchen Coos & Ewes is run by Neale and Janet McQuistin at Airyolland Farm in the rolling countryside of Dumfries and Galloway. The farm is located within the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere, recognised internationally as a world class environment for people and nature.

Board the farm tour trailer to tour the surround hills; home to herds of iconic Highland cattle and Beltex sheep, enjoy the skill of a sheepdog demonstration, and even enjoy the unique hands-on experience of grooming a young Highland calf! Join a knowledgeable guide on a

walking tour meeting farm animals, visiting the remains of a Bronze Age hut circle, and learning about the creation of drystone dykes. Tours include home baking, and you can even book a delicious cream tea. www.kitchencoosandewes.com

Old Leckie Farm, Stirling

Old Leckie Farm lies close to the historic city of Stirling, and indeed the farm has a unique history of its own. This land once belonged to Robert the Bruce, and you'll be walking in the footsteps of Bonnie Prince Charlie who visited the 16th century Grade A listed farmhouse. The farm has been home to the Younger family for over 100 years and today owners Fergus and Alison Younger and their three young daughters enjoy welcoming visitors from all over the world. The family lead bespoke farm tours to meet their herds of Highland cattle, sheep, pigs and free range hens. Visitors can learn about sustainable farming in Scotland, and book a farm tasting to sample Old Leckie's award-winning seasonal range of farm produce: free range eggs, Highland beef, outdoor reared pork and lamb. www.oldleckie.co.uk

Wilson's Farm and Kitchen, Scottish Borders

Cowbog Farm has been home to the Wilson family since 1938, with three generations managing and protecting the land that is set in the historic and beautiful Scottish Borders. The family provides walking tours of the farm which vary with the season. Hear the history of the farm and the local area, and an overview of what the farm produces. Learn how they have developed biodiversity, meet their



Newton Farm. Photo: VisitScotland / Graeme MacDonald.

award-winning herd of Hereford cows, and spot local wildlife. After the tour, enjoy a delicious, seasonal, home cooked meal featuring produce from the farm and other local providers. www.wilsonsfarmandkitchen.com

Newton Farm Tours, Angus

Newton Farm Holidays enjoys an idyllic setting in rural Angus. Graeme and Louise Nicoll, together with their two and four legged family members, provide authentic, guided farm experiences, enabling visitors to explore daily life on a Scottish farm, and produce throughout the seasons. Experiences include walking with alpacas and Highland cow grooming.

During lambing season, educational sessions for adults and fun family activities such as lamb bottle feeding and lamb cuddling are also on offer! Guests can also stay on the farm, either in the ensuite family room in the main farmhouse with a delicious Taste of Angus breakfast, or on a self-catering basis in the well equipped three-bedroom farm cottage. www.newtonfarmholidays.co.uk

Aberdeen Highland Beef, Banchory, Aberdeenshire

In the heart of lovely Royal Deeside, Grace Noble farms Highland cattle at Lochton of Leys Farm, Banchory, providing visitors with a unique and authentic farm to fork experience. Tour the farm with Grace as she shares her passion for this iconic breed. Visitors can get up close and personal with the herd, and even enjoy the change to groom Duchess, one of the herd's award-winning mums. There is also the opportunity to sample some succulent

prime Highland beef. At certain times of year, visitors can enjoy the experience of sheering sheep under one-to-one supervision from experienced farm hands, or of cuddling delightful Scottish lambs. www.aberdeenshirehighlandbeef.com

Go Rural Scotland is a thriving community of Scotland's farmers and crofters, passionate about producing the highest quality food and drink, and committed to caring for the environment and protecting Scotland's landscapes for everyone to enjoy responsibly. It's a close-knit network of quality agritourism businesses, located throughout the Scottish countryside, offering locals and visitors alike high quality and memorable experiences.

For more information on agritourism experiences across Scotland visit the Go Rural Scotland website: www.goruralscotland.com. Be sure to book in advance!



Kinlune Estate. Photo: VisitScotland / Mat Hay.



IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Chilled tomato pipers bisque

Ingredients:

1 slice white country bread, crusts removed and broken into large crumbs
2 tsp sherry vinegar
½ garlic clove, peeled and finely chopped
1 tsp caster sugar
½ red chili, seeded and finely diced
30ml/1fl oz. extra virgin olive oil
225g/8oz plum tomatoes, peeled and seeded
2 tsp tomato ketchup
200ml/7fl oz. tomato juice
2 spring onions, finely sliced
½ red pepper, roasted or grilled, peeled, seeded and diced
¼ large cucumber, peeled, seeded and roughly diced
2 tsp pesto
salt and freshly ground black pepper
frozen olive oil cubes (place olive oil in ice cube moulds and freeze)

Method:

Place the bread in a food processor or blender. With the machine running add the vinegar, garlic, sugar and chili, and blend until smooth.
Add the extra virgin olive oil until the bread will absorb no more than, a little at a time, add the tomatoes, tomato ketchup, tomato juice, spring onions, red pepper, cucumber and pesto. Continue to blend to form a smooth emulsion. Season to taste with salt and black pepper. Serve with frozen olive oil cubes.

Snare drummers' lobster baked potato

Ingredients:

1 red rooster potato
1 tbsp olive oil
200ml/7fl oz single cream
1 heaped tspn Dijon mustard
1 lemon, zest and juice of half
2 free-range yolks
35g/1¼oz grated parmesan
2 tbsp chopped fresh basil
salt and freshly ground black pepper
sugar
1 x 500g/1lb 2oz lobster, meat removed and diced

For the salad:
1 cucumber, peeled, seeds removed, diced
2 tbsp chopped fresh flatleaf parsley
200g/7oz cherry tomatoes, quartered
1 red onion, finely sliced
3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 lemon, juice only

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Bake the potato for 1-1¼ hours or until tender. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool slightly. Cut the potato in half and scoop out the flesh.
Heat the cream, Dijon mustard, lemon zest and lemon juice together in a pan until boiling.
Whisk in the egg yolks until well combined, then stir in half the parmesan and all of the basil. Season, to taste, with salt, sugar and freshly ground black pepper and continue to cook until the sauce thickens. Stir in the lobster meat.
Increase the oven to 225C/450F/Gas 8. Spoon the lobster mixture into the potato shells, sprinkle over the remaining parmesan and bake for 3-4 minutes. Meanwhile for the salad, mix all of the ingredients together in a bowl until well combined. Serve a spoonful of salad alongside the potato.

Flying Scotsman

Ingredients:

5 fresh chicken fillets
1 haggis
1 tbsp. whisky
100ml/3.5fl oz. double cream
100ml/3.5fl oz. of chicken stock
2 tsp. corn flour
2 tbsp. whisky
Knob of butter

Method:

Preheat oven to 180°C/350F/Gas 4. Clean and flatten the chicken. Place the haggis in a bowl, pour the whisky over and leave to marinate for a few minutes. Make a patty of haggis per portion and wrap with chicken and bacon.
Drizzle with olive oil / butter, then place on a baking tray and cook at 180°C/350F/Gas 4 for 40 mins.
Whilst the haggis is cooking, make the sauce.

Add the corn flour to the stock and slowly bring to the boil until it thickens. Add whisky and simmer for 5 minutes. Slowly add cream over a low heat. Serve with the whisky sauce in a jug, with neeps and tatties.

Cheese scones



Ingredients:

225g/8oz. self-raising flour
pinch of salt
55g/2oz. butter
25g/1oz. mature cheddar cheese, grated
150ml/5fl oz. milk

Method:

Heat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Lightly grease a baking sheet. Mix together the flour and salt and rub in the butter. Stir in the cheese and then the milk to get a soft dough. Turn on to a floured work surface

and knead very lightly. Pat out to a round 2cm/¾in thick. Use a 5cm/2in cutter to stamp out rounds and place on the baking sheet. Lightly knead together the rest of the dough and stamp out more scones to use it all up. Brush the tops of the scones with a little milk. Bake for 12-15 minutes until well risen and golden. Cool on a wire rack.

Shortbread Biscuits



Ingredients:

225/8 oz. plain flour
100g/4 oz. custard powder
100g/4 oz. caster sugar
225g (8 oz.) butter
Caster sugar, to dust

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas Mark 5 and have ready 2 greased baking sheets. Rub all the ingredients together until a soft dough is formed (this may be done in a food processor). Roll the dough out and use a selection of cutters to make different-shaped biscuits. Place the biscuits on the baking sheets and bake in the pre heated oven for 15 to 20 minutes until the shortbread is crisp. Remove from the oven and dust with caster sugar. Allow to cool on the baking sheets before transferring to a cooling rack. Makes approximately 20 biscuits.

Edinburgh Tattoo Fog

Ingredients:

1 cup/8oz. or ½ pint double cream
28g/1 oz. castor (fine granulated) sugar
56g/2 oz. small macaroon biscuits
Almond essence
Drambuie liqueur to taste
28g/1oz. flaked almonds

Method:

The cream should be whipped until it is stiff, and the sugar added to your own preference. Crush the macaroon biscuits and mix well with the cream. Add a few drops of almond essence and Drambuie liqueur (or rum, whisky or brandy) to taste. Serve well chilled as a luxury dessert.

The Lone Piper

Ingredients:

1 tsp lemon juice
35ml/1fl oz. blended whisky
15ml/0.5fl oz. peach liqueur
20ml/0.7fl oz. pressed apple juice
cream soda
peach and apple wedges, to garnish

Method:

Mix the lemon juice, scotch, peach liqueur, apple juice in a mixing glass with a handful of ice.
Strain the mixture into a highball glass and top with cream soda. Garnish with the peach and apple wedges.

Clan Macfie

The search for a clan commander (Ceann-cath) & settling the name of the clan.

The Clan that comprises the surnames MacAfee, MacDubhsith, MacDuffie, Macfie/MacPhee, and certain other cognates* is currently without a Chief or a Clan Commander (*Ceann-Cath*). The worldwide search is on to find a suitable candidate for the vacant post of Commander, who will provide leadership, forward development of the Clan, and drive the process to identify a suitable Chief. The Clan is also in the process of settling the name of the Clan.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland has authorised a Family Convention to be held May 17, 2025 at which nominees for the position of Commander will be considered by eligible individuals of the entire Clan.

Prior to this date the Clan will also settle on a Clan name.

The Clan requires a candidate with the right skill-set and knowledge and who is also well acquainted with the history of the Clan and Scotland's history and heritage generally. That person must also have the time, energy, ability, resources and enthusiasm to attend Scottish Games and Gatherings and to promote the Clan at these and other public events. The Commander is a crucial leader and ambassador for the Clan as it plans its future. Any Commander must be able to work closely with the various Clan Societies and Associations worldwide.

To this end, the Clan is seeking applications from suitable qualified persons bearing one of the Clan surnames. There is more information, guidance regarding participation and the necessary documentation at the following: www.clannameandcommandersearch.com

Contact: clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com

**For the avoidance of doubt, the original Warrant from the Lord Lyon included the line: "...the Family comprising the surnames MacDuffie, MacDuffee, MacDuffy, MacFee, MacFie, MacPhee, MacPhie and other accepted cognates..."*

Any dispute will be resolved according to the law of Scotland and the Scottish courts have sole jurisdiction.

Sept. 27 - 29, 2024



Celtic Classic

HIGHLAND GAMES & FESTIVAL

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Always a Classic

- 5 stages of Celtic music
- Irish step dancing
- U.S. National Highland Games Championship
- Cultural area with lectures,
- Clan Village & children's activities

www.celticfest.org

Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

Clan Baird Commander

Richard Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood
Rickarton House, Stonehaven, Scotland.

Hereditary President of Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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



CHISHOLM

Clan Chisholm
Society of Australia Inc

Membership is invited from Clan Chisholm descendants of all spellings of the name (Chisholm, Chisolm, Chism, Chisum, Chisam, etc)
Contact: Kim Polley OAM
PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301

Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com

[www.clanchisholmsociety.org/
public/AUSmembership.php](http://www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/AUSmembership.php)

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald

Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com

Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mr Lindsay McDonald

Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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



WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG

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SIGN UP FOR A FREE
NEWSLETTER!

For more information:
Membership@Clan-Forbes.org



CLAN BELL

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

Website: www.ClanBell.org

Online membership: <https://clanbell.org/membership.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell>

Email: President@clanbell.org

Clan Bell North America

49 Greystone Lane NW

Cartersville, GA, 30121



Learned Kindred
of Currie

A leading Scottish non-profit cultural and educational organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Scottish and Highland heritage and the arts through a wide variety of programs.

contact@curriekindred.com
www.learnedkindredofcurrie.com



Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid

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

For information and membership application,
contact Richard Harvey, Secretary
Email: Ih100@tpg.com.au

Clan Fraser Society of Australia



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

All members receive a copy of our quarterly
newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts

Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com

Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/](https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/)

482236358590288



Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce President 1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Stillwater, Minnesota 55082	Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary 5561 Earl Young Road Bloomington, IN 47408 www.familyofbruceinternational.org
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Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

CHIEF Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing the name Davidson or one of the Septs shown on the member application form available from the Clan's Facebook Group link
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/360160657504253/>
or by contacting the Hon. Secretary:

Dennis Hill, PO Box 519
Baulkham Hills NSW 1755
E: dhill1@bigpond.net.au, P: 0431 527 662

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

Membership invited to all who share the Sept names:

Duncan, Robertson, Reid, etc.

UK: London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands

Canada: Ontario * Western Canada

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

New Zealand: New Zealand

Europe: Spain

Africa: South Africa

USA: Arizona * Carolinas * Florida * Gulf Coast * Mid-Atlantic * New

Mexico * Mid-West * Northeast * Northern California * Pacific Northwest *

Rocky Mountains * South * Southern California * Texas * Upper Mid-West



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

<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>

Facebook: [The Clan Donnachaidh Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheClanDonnachaidhSociety)

Email: ivc@donnachaidh.com



Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

www.clangalbraith.org



ARE YOU A BURNETT,
BURNET, BURNETTE,
BARNET, BARNETT,
BARNETTE, BERNIT,
BERNAT, BURNAP,
BURNAT, MACBURNET,
OR OTHER SPELLING
VARIATION; MARRIED TO
A BURNETT, OR A
DESCENDANT?

HOUSE OF BURNETT INTERNATIONAL, INC.

THE WORLDWIDE BURNETT SOCIETY
www.houseofburnett.org

Clan Donald Australia

"Under the patronage of the
High Council of the chiefs of Clan Donald"

High Commissioner John Angus Currie

State Commissioners

NSW	John A Currie
Qld	A. Neil Macdonald
SA	Michael Murphy
Vic	Norman A Macdonald
WA	Pamela McDonald

clandonald.com.au

clandonaldnsw.au@gmail.com

We are a family of many names, come & join your family!



Edmonstone Clan Society

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

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



National Clan Cameron Australia Inc.

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

President: Alistair Cameron

Secretary: Terry Cameron

secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com

www.clan-cameron.org.au



Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald

Ph: 0412 090990

Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au

Web: www.clandonaldqld.org

ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald
Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald,
OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald,
OR with a connection through family lineage.

There is no joy without Clan Donald



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

Direct inquires to: Marianne Elliott,
Membership Chair

Email: marianne@mmelliott.com

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com



Clan Gregor Society Australasia

All MacGregors and Septs of our clan are
invited to join the Clan Gregor Society Est 1822
If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please
contact our clan representative:

Frank McGregor

PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002

Email: clangregoraustalia@gmail.com

Web: www.clangregor.com

"Royal is our Race"



CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-

HEREDITARY CHIEF AND SOCIETY PATRON
Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains
Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers

Cordially invites all Carruthers and their
descendants to join us in preserving our Clan
and Family heritage.

Clan Carruthers Society - International
officially representing Carruthers worldwide

www.clancarrutherssociety.org
clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com



Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

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

www.clandonaldusa.org



Clan Farquharson



American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909 Membership inquiries
welcomed from MacGregors
of all spellings and Septs

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

Contact our registrar: Jeanne P. Lehr
11 Ballas Crt.

St. Louis, MO 63131-3038

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



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

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

For all enquiries about the Clan and
Membership contact :-

President Ian McLucas.
Email ianandbevmlucas@bigpond.com

mobile 0448 778 799



Clan MacInnes

Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

*Worldwide, we welcome descendants
of all spelling variations, including*

*(Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis,
(Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Kinnis,
(Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.*


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

Clan MacLellan

Kevin S Gates
Treasurer
2610 Kuykendall Dr.
Arlington, TX
76001-6726
Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net



Clan Hay

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

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

www.clanhay.com



Clan Little Society, Inc.

Welcoming Little/Lyttle/Lytle and the like.

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

www.clanlittlesociety.org

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

**Clan Mackenzie Society
in Australia Inc.**

 Membership enquiries
welcomed from Mackenzies
of all spellings and Septs 

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

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

Clan MacLeod

Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling) and descendants. **Septs:** Askey, Beaton, Bethune, Caskie, Harold, Lewis, MacAndie, MacAskill, MacAulay, MacCabe, MacCaig, MacCaskay, MacClure, MacCorkill, MacCrimmon, MacGillechallum, MacHaigh, MacRaild, MacWilliam, Norie, Norman, Tolmie, Williamson



- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - Rhonda MacLeod 0411 227 330
- South Australia - Alex MacLeod 08 8327 0925
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334

● *Email:* peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

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

Clan Henderson Society

Purposes of the Society

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

Alistair of Fordell

Contact: Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
0439 330 012

An Eirean Ceann Einnidh

www.clanhendersonsociety.com

McAlpin/e
and variant spellings

Commander. Michael T. McAlpin

DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!

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





Clan MacKenzie Society of New Zealand

We welcome all MacKenzies
All spellings and from all Septs

Secretary.clanmackenzie@gmail.com
www.clanmackenzienz.org



Clan MacKenzie

 **THE** 
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RICH IN HIGHLAND
TRADITIONS
FOR INFORMATION:
WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG
A.L. MACLEOD
3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B
WEST VALLEY CITY, UT
84120-6880



Clan Hope
of Craighall Society
 INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA

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

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

CANADA
Commissioner: Scott Hale
commissionercanada@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org

SCOTLAND
Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope
commissioner4scotland@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org

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

Clan MacDougall Society of North America

Clan MacDougall

Clan MacDowall

www.MacDougall.org

**MacDougalls, MacDowalls,
& ALL Associated Families**

YOU are invited to join CMSNA!

We would love to share
Scottish heritage and
traditions with YOU!

Learn MORE at
www.MacDougall.org



MacLaren

Clan Labhran

Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

Information about the Clan and application for CMSA membership is available on the website or via the email address below.

Membership is open to MacLarens (all spellings), Septs, individuals and families with an association to the Clan.

<http://clanmaclarenau.org/>
clanmaclarenau@gmail.com

 **Clan Macnaughtan**
Association Worldwide

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

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CLAN IRVING

HEREDITARY CHIEF AND PATRON

Rupert Christopher Irving of Bonshaw
Chief of the Name and Arms and 20th Clan Chief

Cordially invites all **Border Irvings & Irvines**
and variations of the Name to join in
preserving the Clan and Family history!

DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!


clanirving.com



Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Invites anyone interested in our Clan and its ancestral heritage to contact us. Various Clan names include McPhee, MacFee, Macfie, McAfee, Fee, Phee, McDuffy, Duffy, McCathie and many more.

For more information please email:
colonsay@bigpond.net.au, visit us at
facebook.com/clanmacfieaustralia or our
website: <https://clanmacfie.com.au>



Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President
President@clanmaclarenna.org





**Clan MacNeil Association
of Australia**


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

21 Coopers Avenue, Leabrook, South Australia 5068

Phone: 08 833 33990

Email: malcolmjmcneil@outlook.com



Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron

Alexander H.R Irvine of Drum,
27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name

Mary Erwin, Chairman

155 Hattaway Road, Calhoun, LA, 71225
mary.erwin@clanirwin.org

www.clanirwin.org

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And the many other spellings of the Name

INTERNATIONAL **EST. 1911**

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www.clanmaclellan-worldwide.com



CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

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







Clan MacNicol

**Chief: John MacNeacail
of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac**
Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson
55 Arcadia Ave
GYMEA BAY NSW 2227
www.clanmacnicol.org

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, MacLulich and Vass.

BECOME A MEMBER, CONTACT RAY MUNRO

munro.ray@hotmail.com
0410 663 760

Clan Ross America

Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.



Michael Ross, President
Nancy Ross-Anderson, VP Membership
18865 Cooper Street, Apple Valley, CA92308
membership@clanross.org
info@clanross.org

www.clanross.org



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

Email: clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com

'Wardlaw ivermail!'

www.clanwardlaw.com

Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

Scottish Associations and Societies



Clan Macpherson Association

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

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

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

Europe. Bodo Bernd Schmitz
Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +0152 538 19 355

Scotland & Northern Ireland. Moray G Cattanach
SandN.I.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +44 7810 860 528

Australia. Pam Rhenrev
Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +61 407 789 924

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

New Zealand. Tony McPherson
NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +64 274 587 812

USA. Dave McPherson
UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +1 408 781 5199

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



Membership cordially invited from those who are connected with this great Clan, i.e., Morrison, Morison, Gilmour, Gilmer, Gilmore, Murrison or descendants of eligible name.

www.clanmorrison.net



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

For further info contact

President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174

Secretary : Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263

E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com

www.clansinclairaustralia.com



The 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: clanmacraeastnz@gmail.com

NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth
email: sue.treg1@gmail.com

Discover Your Nesbitt/Nisbet Ancestry



ibydeit.org
nesbittnisbet.org.uk



Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary

clansutherlandsocietyaustralia@gmail.com
<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus>
Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



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



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**

720-793-7530

brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com

OLIPHANT CLAN & FAMILY ASSOCIATION of North America



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ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com

www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org



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



Scots Canada

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Find out more and how to belong at scotscanada.com

Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada



Clan Maitland Society

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

North America: Rosemary Maitland Thom
rthomnvrpcan@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 Pollock

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

A. D. Pollock, Jr.

PO Box 404

Greenville, KY 42345

e-mail: apollockis@comcast.net



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@clanyoungaustalia.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



www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Clan Muirhead Society



A NON-PROF. CORP.

Muirhead, Muirhede, Morehead, Moorhead
and all Variant Names

www.clanmuirhead.com

Rev. Ret. Chev. Raymond L. Morehead, GOTTJ, FSA Scot,

Chief Officer Elect Clan Muirhead Society

Email: raymondktj@msn.com or raymond@clanmuirhead.com



Clan Ross in Australia

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

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

Contact: Commander Des Ross at
lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853

YOUNGS OF SCOTLAND



Membership inquiries:

Ms. Laura Young,
33 McKeen Street,
Jarvis, Ontario,
Canada N0A 1J0

4scottishthistles@gmail.com

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.

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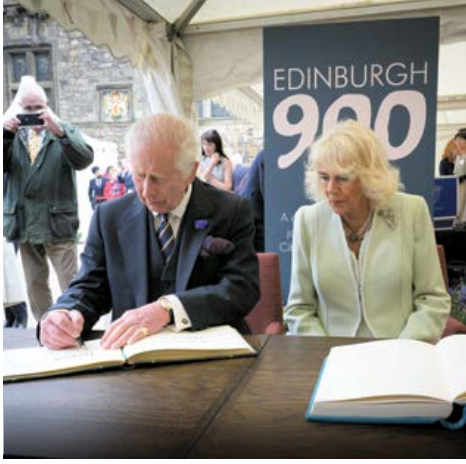
www.scottishheritageusa.org

email: shusa457@gmail.com

(910) 295-4448

A royal reception for Edinburgh 900

Photos: Historic Environment Scotland.



Their Majesties The King and Queen attended a celebration of Edinburgh 900 at Edinburgh Castle in July. Edinburgh 900 explores and celebrates the nine centuries of history and traditions in Scotland's capital city, since the founding of the Royal Burgh by King David I around 1124. The King and Queen were greeted by a colourful and dynamic display of the very best of Edinburgh, featuring performances from Dance Base, Scotland's National Centre for Dance, music from a local accordion player, and Bhangra dancers. There was also an array of local and national civic and community organisations represented including the Edinburgh Local Heritage Network, The Hub, Herbie of Edinburgh, Historic Environment Scotland, Barnardo's and The Prince's Trust. The renowned author Alexander McCall Smith performed a short poem written for Edinburgh's 900th birthday, his adopted home.

Celebrate 900 years of Scotland's capital city

The Lord Provost Robert Aldridge then delivered a specially produced loyal address to The King and Queen. Concluding the celebrations, The King and Queen were invited to cut an Edinburgh 900 themed cake baked by 2020 *Great British Bake Off* winner and Edinburgh-born, Peter Sawkins. The Lord Provost Robert Aldridge said: "It was wonderful to welcome Their Majesties to Edinburgh to celebrate 900 years of Scotland's capital city. The interest shown by The King and Queen highlights the importance of 900 years of our shared history and showcased local organisations exhibiting the very best of Edinburgh in the modern day which we're rightly proud of. I'm really looking forward to seeing how Edinburgh 900 develops in the months ahead. The full programme will delve into how Edinburgh came to be over the centuries. The programme will also celebrate Edinburgh in the present day and look ahead to our future ambitions and aspirations."



Did you know?

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

- The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo first performed in 1950.
- The word 'Tattoo' comes from the Dutch phrase 'doe den tap toe' meaning 'turn off the taps'. The phrase was a call used at closing time in 17th century bars. The stationed British army adopted the practice and it became a signal, played by a regiment's drum corps each night, that tavern owners should stop serving sweet ales so that the soldiers would return to barracks.
- The Tattoo is performed to a live audience of 220,000 annually on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle with a further global TV audience of +100M. Performers from over 50 countries have taken part.
- In 2010, the event was renamed The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo after Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth bestowed the Royal title in honour of its 60th birthday.
- HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, is the Patron of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.
- The Tattoo has donated over £12.5million to Services and Arts organisations since 1950 from The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Charities) Limited - its charitable parent company.
- As part of the Edinburgh Festivals, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo helps contribute £407m economic impact to Edinburgh, and £313m to Scotland (2022).
- The Tattoo has performed overseas on five occasions, most recently Australia in October 2019.
- This month's show *Journeys* will run from 2-24 August 2024.

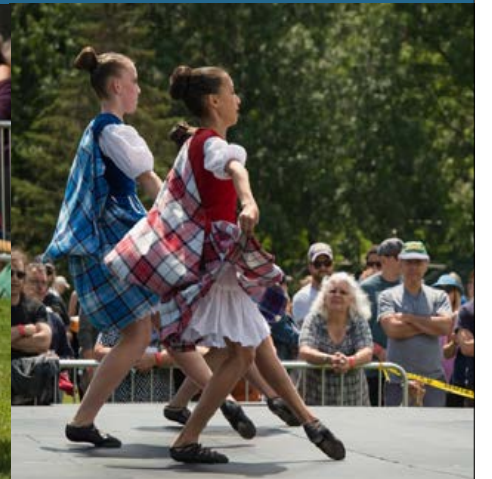


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WHAT’S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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

Canada

AUGUST 2024

75th Glengarry Highland Games

2-3, Maxville, ON

One of Canada's top Scottish events and including the North American Pipe Band Championships. Witness an outstanding display of music, dance, sports, fiddling, pageantry, and tradition. Info: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

Montreal Highland Games

4, Montréal, QC

Every year, the Games brings together Montrealer's of all backgrounds to celebrate Scottish sport, music and culture at Douglas Hospital. A great family fun day out. Info:www.montrealhighlandgames.com

Clan MacAulay International Gathering

7-10, Cape Breton, NS

We welcome Macaulay's of all spellings and friends, and friends of friends, to join us at our 2024 International Gathering in Baddeck. Meet Macaulay's and friends from around the world. Info: www.clanmacaulay.org.uk/2024-clan-gathering-annoucement

Fergus Scottish Festival

9-11, Fergus, ON

An annual three-day event that celebrates local Scottish heritage and features world-renowned talent and entertainment. Featuring: Heavy Events Competitions, Pipe Band Competitions, Highland Dancers, over 50 Clans & Heritage Village, Whisky Tasting, McKiddie's Centre, Celtic musicians and international vendors featuring Scottish wares and more. Info: www.fergusscottishfestival.com

Goderich Celtic Roots Festival

9-11, Goderich, ON

An annual celebration of the music, craft, and culture of the seven Celtic nations, at Lions' Harbour Park on the shores of Lake Huron. Info: www.celticfestival.ca

Margaree Highland Games

10-11, Margaree, NS

Hosted in the beautiful Margaree River Valley - a meeting place of Scottish, Irish and Acadian cultures - the games blend traditional heavy events with bag piping & highland dancing, running races, children's games and more. Info: www.margareehighlandgames.com

National Capital Highland Games

17, Ottawa, ON

Scottish events such as pipe bands, dancing and athletics at Rideau Carleton Raceway Casino 4837 Albion Road South. Info: www.nationalcapitalhighlandgames.com

North Lanark Highland Games

24, Almonte, ON

A one-day outdoor festival in picturesque Almonte, featuring Scottish Dance, Heavyweight Athletic competitions, Pipes and Drums, vendors, FREE kid's admission and activities including Mini-Highland Games. Info: www.almontehighlandgames.com

Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival

24, Sedgewick, AB

A fun filled day of Highland festivities such as piping, drumming, Highland dancing, food, music, artisan vendors, and more. Info: www.flagstaffscottishclub.com

Canmore Highland Games

31-Sep 1, Canmore, AB

A celebration of Celtic culture and tradition in the beautiful Rockies, on Labour Day Weekend. Info: www.canmorehighlandgames.ca

SEPTEMBER 2024

Québec City Celtic Festival

7-8, Québec, QC

A celebration of Celtic culture in beautiful Québec City. Info: www.festival-celtique.com

An Introduction to Scottish Country Dancing

11, Hamilton, ON

The main purpose is to have fun while learning the basic steps and technique of Scottish Country Dancing. The most common steps and formations are taught, and these are put into dances at Melrose United Church, 86 Homewood Ave. Info: www.rscdshamilton.org/beginner

Scottish Social

12, Dartmouth, NS

Join the Federation for Scottish Culture Nova Scotia for a Scottish Social. Info: www.fscns.ca

RSCDS Kingston Ontario Branch

Welcome Ceilidh and Registration

14, Kingston, ON

If you have never done Scottish social dancing, come and enjoy a new experience at St. Luke's Church Hall, Nelson St. Info: www.rscdskingston.org

Fall Celtic Festival

21, Oakville, ON

A showcase of Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Cornish music, dance, art, food, and sport at Toronto Rock Athletic Centre, 1132 Invicta Dr. Info: fallcelticfestival@gmail.com

USA

AUGUST 2024

North American Clan MacLeod Gathering 2024

1-3, Livonia, MI

The first Post Covid North American Gathering will take place at Livonia (near Detroit) . It will be centred at the Detroit Marriott and clansfolk will have a variety of activities on offer, including a Highland Games. Info: www.clanmacleodusa.org

St. Andrew's Society of Detroit Highland Games

2-3, Livonia, MI

Traditional Scottish Games at Greenmead Historical Village, 20501 Newburgh Rd. Info:www.highlandgames.com

Spokane Scottish Highland Games

3, Spokane, WA

Enjoy the traditional features of Scottish Highland Games, such as massed bands, pipe band exhibitions, individual piping, heavy athletics, and highland dancing at Spokane County Fair & Expo Center. Info: www.spokanehighlandgames.net

Mòd Chesapeake

3, Laurel, MD

At Mòd Chesapeake, attendees will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Gaelic language and song through a series of workshops tailored for both beginners and advanced learners. Led by experienced instructors, these workshops offer a unique avenue for participants to deepen their understanding of Gaelic culture and elevate their language skills, at St. Vincent Pallotti High School. Info: sgoilgaidhlig.org/mod-chesapeake.

Colorado Scottish Festival

3-4, Sedalia, CO

Pipe bands, Clans, Scottish dance, Celtic entertainment and more at Denver Polo Club, 6359 Airport Rd. Info: www.scottishgames.org

Sparta Celtic Festival

9-10, Sparta, MI

Highland Games, three stages filled with music and dancing, historical encampments, Scottish clans and more at Rogers Park, 152 N. State St. Info: www.spartacelticfest.org

Ohio Celtic Festival

9-11, Painesville Township, OH

A weekend of great music, Celtic magic and family fun at Lake County Fairgrounds. Info:www.ohiocelticfestival.com

Albany Scottish Festival & Highland Games

10, Albany, OR

Bringing Celtic culture to the Valley at Timber-Linn Park. Info:www.facebook.com/AlbanyScottishFestival

CNY Scottish Games

Syracuse, NY

Pipe band competition and Celtic activities at Long Branch Park on Onondaga Lake. Info:www.cnyscottishgames.org

Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering

17-18, Hamilton, MT

Continuous live music concerts on two stages, dancing, pipe bands and more at Daly Mansion. Info: www.bcgg.org

Maggie: A New Musical @ The Goodspeed

23-October 20, East Haddam, CT

The American premiere of Maggie: A New Musical. A Scottish mother's unbreakable love for her three sons is tested in an inspirational new musical about family bonds and changing times. After suffering the unthinkable loss of her husband, Maggie must rely on her strength, sense of humor and fiercely loyal friends to protect her family from a harsh world. Featuring music by award-winning Scottish-Canadian songwriter and recording artist Johnny Reid with Matt Murray and Bob Foster. Info: www.maggiethemusical.com

Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival

& Gathering of the Clans

23-24, Mayville, NY

A celebration of Celic culture with Scottish clans, Celtic music, pipe bands and more at Mayville Lakeside Park. Info: www.96thhighlanders.com/festival/Festival.html

Wisconsin Highland Games

30-Sep 1, Waukesha, WI

Labor Day Weekend with Clans, Heavy events, Highland dance, pipe bands and more at Waukesha Expo Center. Info: www.wisconsinscottish.org

Capital District Scottish Games

31, Altamont NY, United States

Pipe band and Highland dance competitions, Clans, Celtic entertainment, Scottish dogs and more at Altamont Fairgrounds, 129 Grand St. Info: www.scotgames.com

158th Scottish Highland Gathering and Games

31-Sep 1, Pleasanton, CA

A Bay Area tradition since 1866, California's largest Scottish Games celebrates the very best of Scottish competition, culture and entertainment for all the family to enjoy. Labor Day Weekend at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Info: www.thescottishgames.com

Virginia Scottish Games

31-Sep 1, The Plains, VA

A celebration of Scotland on Labour Day Weekend at 5089 Old Tavern Road. Info:www.vascottishgames.org

SEPTEMBER 2024

Edinboro Highland Games and Scottish Festival

5-7, Edinboro, PA

Revel in the rich traditions of Scotland on PennWest Edinboro's picturesque campus during the 30th annual event. Info: www.edinboro.edu/events/highland-games

Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival

6-8, Estes Park, CO

A celebration of Celtic culture in the beautiful Colorado mountains. Info: www.scotfest.com

Union County NJ Celtic Festival

7, Clark, NJ

Family friendly event celebrating Celtic culture and heritage at Oak Ridge Park. Info:www.unioncountycelticf.wixsite.com/union-county-celtic

Kalamazoo Scottish Festival

7, Parchment, MI

Full fare of fun - including music, piping, dancing, children's games, Highland athletics and more at Kindleberger Park, 122 N Riverview Dr. Info: www.kalamazooscottishfest.org

Middle Tennessee Highland Games & Celtic Festival

7-8, Hendersonville, TN

Celtic bands, athletics, Clans, Pipe bands and more at Sanders Ferry Park. Info: www.midtenngames.com

Columbus Scottish Festival

7-8, Columbus, IN

A weekend of Scottish entertainment, competition, history and more at Bartholomew County Fairgrounds. Info: www.scottishfestival.org

Flathead Celtic Festival

13-14, West Kalispell, MT

A celebration of Celtic culture with pipe bands, clans and more at Centennial Farm, 563 McMannamy Draw. Info: www.flatheadcelticfestival.com

Oregon Celtic Festival

13-15, Canby, OR

Immerse yourself in the magic of the festival as you explore an array of Celtic crafts, indulge in delicious traditional delicacies, and join in the spirited ceilidh dances, at Clackamas County Fairgrounds 694 NE 4th Ave. Info: www.orcelticfest.com

Ligonier Highland Games

14, Ligonier, PA

Pipe bands, Scottish dogs, Clans, Highland dance, athletics and more at Ildewild Park. Info:www.ligonierhighlandgames.org

Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games

14-15, Lockport, NY

Be immersed in the traditions and pageantry of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and all things Celtic at Niagara County Fairgrounds, 4487 Lake Ave. (Rte. 78). Info: www.niagaraceltic.com

Kelso Highlander Festival

14-15, Kelso, WA

Come taste a wee bit o' Scotland in the city named after its ancestral roots. Experience pipe bands, heavy Scottish games, Scottish dance competition, food and craft vendors, and musical guests such as the Wicked Tinkers. Free entry and parking. Info: www.kelso.gov/visitors/highlander-festival or www.facebook.com/highlanderfestival

Spanish Peaks International Celtic Music Festival

19-22, La Veta, CO

The festival celebrates the living legacy of the worldwide Celtic cultures and traditions with opportunities to experience the diversity of Celtic spirit through creative interaction, education and performances. Info: www.celticmusicfest.com

New Hampshire Highland Games

20-22, Concord, NH

A celebration of Scottish heritage at Loon Mountain Resort with: Scottish music, dance, food, and fun to heavy athletics, sheep dog trials, and crowd-favorite, massed bands. Info: www.nhscot.org

Boise Scottish Heritage Festival

20-22, Boise, ID

Be a part of Scottish culture and experience music, dance, athletics, sporting events, food and vendors of Scottish related goods at Expo Idaho, 5610 North Glenwood St. Info: www.scottishsocietyswi.org

Fresno Highland Gathering & Games

21, Fresno, CA

A celebration of Scotland at Kearney Park. Info: www.fresnoscottishsociety.com

Central Kentucky Celtic Festival & Highland Games

21-22, Eminence, KY

A weekend of Celtic events, entertainment and friendship at 955 Elm St. Info:www.kyrenfaire.com

Celtic Classic

27-29, Bethlehem, PA

The largest free Celtic festival in North America. Info: www.celticfest.org

North Georgia Highland Games

28, Clayton, GA

Clans, athletes, vendors, entertainment at Rabun County Civic Center, 201 West Savannah St. Info: www.northgeorgiahighlandgames.com

Outlandish Hillsborough Scottish Festival

28, Hillsborough, NC

Clans, pipe bands, vendors and more Info: <https://historichillsborough.org/outlandish-hillsborough>

Scotland

AUGUST 2024

Fringe by the Sea

2-11 North Berwick

A 10-day arts festival taking place in North Berwick, offers up 250+ music, comedy, book, family events and more from its hub in The Lodge Grounds. info: www.fringebythesea.com

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

2-24, Edinburgh

The 2024 show is called Journeys and will feature the military at the heart of the showcase. Audiences can expect the magnificent sounds of the Massed Pipes and Drums filling up the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade alongside performances from the incredibly talented Tattoo Pipes and Drums and Tattoo Dancers. Info: + 44 (0)131 225 1188 or www.edintattoo.co.uk

Edinburgh International Festival

2-25, Edinburgh

The International Festival presents some of the finest performers and ensembles from the worlds of dance, opera, music and theatre at venues across the city. Info: www.eif.co.uk

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

2-26, Edinburgh

For three weeks in August, the city of Edinburgh welcomes an explosion of creative energy from around the globe, the single greatest celebration of arts and culture on the planet at venues across Edinburgh. Info: www.edfringe.com

Piping Live!

10-18, Glasgow

Piping Live! returns in full force to the streets of Glasgow in the run up to the World's once again as Glasgow hosts the world's biggest week of piping! This year is the 21st edition of the festival which attracts performers and audiences from across the world to venues across Glasgow. Info: www.pipinglive.co.uk

Edinburgh International Book Festival

10-15, Edinburgh

The largest public celebration of the written word in the world. With hundreds of authors and illustrators joining from across the world to share their stories, ideas and perspectives. Info: www.edbookfest.co.uk

Perth Highland Games

11, Perth

See all the traditional Highland events in the heart of Scotland. Info:www.perthhighlandgames.co.uk

European Pipe Band Championships

11, Perth

Pipe bands from Scotland and beyond compete at South Inch. Info: www.rspb.org

The World Pipe Band Championships

16-17, Glasgow

Thousands of pipers and drummers in all grades from across Scotland, the UK and globe compete at the annual competition held at Glasgow Green. Info: www.theworlds.co.uk

Stirling Highland Games

17, Stirling

A cherished annual cultural sporting extravaganza nestled in the heart of central Scotland, seamlessly blending tradition, athletic competition, and entertainment at Stirling Sports Village. Info: www.stirlinghighlandgames.com

Bute Highland Games

24, Rothesay, Isle Of Bute

Experience at first hand the magic of a traditional Highland Games set on a beautiful Scottish island, at The Stadium, High St. Info: www.butehighlandgames.org

Gathering of the Local Clans & Families

24, Annan, Dumfriesshire

Annan the History Town welcomes you to the Gathering of the Local Clans & Families, Featuring local Clan Chiefs in attendance, pipe bands, Highland dancing, Scottish Country Dancing, Teviot Steel Bonnets bring the Border Reiver experience and more at The Everholm. Info: www.annanthehistorytown.org

Carruthers Clan and Family Gathering

24-25, Annan, Dumfriesshire

Join the Chief and fellow Clan members for the first ever Carruthers Gathering, at the Carruthers ancestral lands, at the Annan Festival. Info: www.clancarrutherssociety.org

Cowal Highland Gathering

29-31, Dunoon, Argyll

World-class pipers, dancers and athletes competing in this unique, friendly atmosphere and stunning Highland location. Includes the World Highland Dancing Championships. Info:www.cowalgathering.com

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:

1 Deer forest
8 Float
9 Nairn
10 Still
11 Operas
12 Sporrans
13 Ingles
15 Wringers
18 Northern
20 Asylum
22 Hebrides
23 Gordon
26 Eagle
27 Idiot
28 Elder
29 Uddingston

Down:

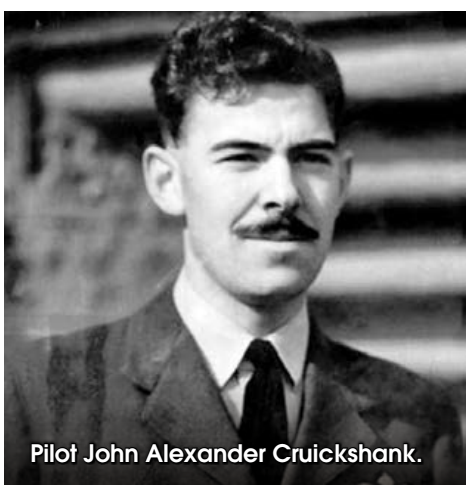
1 Dundonian
2 Exile
3 Fanfare
4 Ross
5 Slippers
6 Portabeul
7 Stots
8 Florin
14 Garibaldi
16 Symington
17 Breenged
19 Heifer
21 Smoking
22 Haver
24 Drift
25 Peri

Brave Scot-Flying Officer Cruickshank

By: Neil Drysdale



A Catalina flying boat.



Pilot John Alexander Cruickshank.

It will be 80 years this month since Aberdeen's John Alexander Cruickshank won the Victoria Cross for incredible heroism during a raid on a German U-boat. Remarkably, John is still alive at 104, the last surviving VC recipient from the Second World War and one of Aberdeen's war hero's. John Alexander Cruickshank is no ordinary Scotsman.

On the contrary, the Victoria Cross he was awarded 80 years ago this summer marks him out as somebody special, not

that you would ever guess it from meeting such a modest individual. In plain terms, he is the Aberdonian who sank a German U-boat, defied being injured more than 70 times, and flew himself and his comrades back to Sullom Voe during the Second World War. It sounds like a *Boy's Own* storyline and the ordeal faced by Mr Cruickshank during a mission over Norway in 1944 was highlighted in a Commando-style cartoon strip in the 1980s.

One of the most audacious acts of the conflict

The former Aberdeen Grammar school pupil was involved in one of the most audacious acts of the conflict when he steered his Catalina aircraft through a torrential hail of flak. And, although his first pass was unsuccessful, he brought it around for a second sortie, this time straddling a U-boat and sinking the vessel. However, the German anti-aircraft fire proved fatally accurate in response, killing the navigator and injuring four others, including both Flight Lieutenant Cruickshank and Flight Sergeant Jack Garnett. The Granite City pilot, who was just 24, suffered scores of different injuries while he and his comrades were engaged in sinking the German submarine, and,



A Scottish hero, John Alexander Cruickshank.

although they had succeeded in their first objective, there was another huge task in trying to return home safely to Shetland. From a distance of 80 years, it still seems miraculous that Mr Cruickshank survived in the hours which followed.

He was hit in 72 places and suffered serious lung injuries and 10 penetrating wounds to his lower limbs. Yet, despite this panoply of pain, he refused medical attention until he was sure that the appropriate radio signals had been sent and the aircraft was on course for its home base. Even at that stage, he eschewed morphine, aware that it would cloud his judgement and potentially jeopardise the rest of the men on board. Flying through the night, it took the damaged craft five-and-a-half hours to get back to Sullom Voe, with Flt Sgt Garnett at the controls and his colleague lapsing in and out of consciousness.

Incredible bravery

Eventually, though, as another major hurdle came into the equation, he returned to the cockpit and took command of the aircraft. And after deciding that the light and the sea conditions for a water landing were too risky for his inexperienced colleague, Mr Cruickshank kept the craft in the air for as long he could, circling for an extra hour, as the prelude to bringing it down successfully on the water and ferrying the plane to an area where it could be safely beached.

It was an astonishing act of bravery, and yet Mr Cruickshank has always shunned the limelight or refused to take any credit for his actions. As one of his RAF colleagues later recalled, he felt he was one of the lucky

ones to survive the conflict, unlike so many of his friends who perished.

The Press and Journal reported in 1944 how Mr Cruickshank had become the recipient of the VC and carried the details of the citation which outlined why he had been given the honour. It said: "Flying Officer Cruickshank was struck in seventy-two places, receiving two serious wounds in the lungs and 10 penetrating wounds in the lower limbs. His aircraft was badly damaged and filled with the fumes of exploding shells. "But he did not falter. He pressed home his attack, and released the depth charges himself, straddling the submarine perfectly. The U-boat was sunk."

Those of us who attended the First World War production *Far, Far from Ypres* at His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen in 2018 could scarcely have imagined we had a real-life hero in our midst. However, sitting there, in the audience, was Mr Cruickshank, who appeared rather abashed when the MC announced he was present.

One of his friends said later: "I had the privilege of meeting him at a dinner and it was an unforgettable experience for everybody who was there. There was a stunned silence for 45 minutes while he spoke, because everyone present recognised the incredible bravery which he had demonstrated. And yet, one of the things which struck us was that he didn't want a big fuss made about it. After everything he had endured, when he regained consciousness in the Catalina, the first thing he said was: 'How are my crew?'"

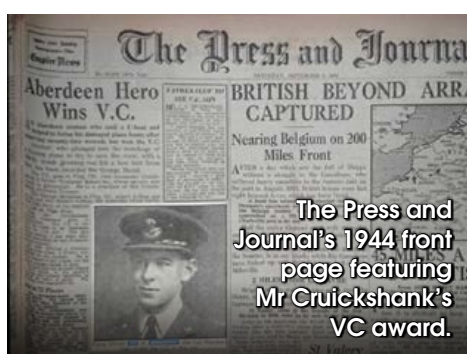
There aren't many of these brave men left from the Second World War. But they deserve our utmost respect.



Mr Cruickshank's Victoria Cross honours.



John Cruickshank's story was told in the Victor comic in the 1980s.



The Press and Journal's 1944 front page featuring Mr Cruickshank's VC award.

World Famous Scottish Highland Dress Uniform Products & Accessories including Pipe Band Products & Accessories. Hand Embroidered Blazer Badges, Family Crests & Coat of Arms, Machine Made Badges, Leather Uniform Accessories, Laces, Braid, Ribbons, Highland Dance Products & Accessories, Leather Sporrans, Caps & Hats, Wooden Flag Pole & Accessories.

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SERVING THE WORLD OF PIPING SINCE LAST 35 YEARS WITH QUALITY AND SATISFACTION

Canmore Highland Games two-day event for the first time ever



Massed Pipe Bands in the Rocky Mountains at the Canmore Highland Games.
Photo: © CanmoreAlberla.com.

Get ready to experience Celtic culture over the course of two full days instead of one as Canmore's Highland Games celebrates its 33rd year on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 2024 at Canmore's Centennial Park. What better way to spend Labour Day weekend than in one of Canada's most beautiful mountain towns? The Canmore Highland Games originated in 1991 armed with a mandate to foster and encourage its Celtic culture and tradition in all its forms – dance, music and sports - and to establish the Canmore Highland Games as an entertainment/cultural destination event. It is fitting that the Highland Games would be hosted in Canmore, as one of the first Highland Games known was organized by King Malcolm III Canmore (1058-1093).

Scottish and Celtic traditions

Canmore is Gaelic for "big head" or "chief". The bagpipes, the kilts, the heavy sports and the piping, drumming and music have become emblematic of Scotland and the Highland Games blends those core

Scottish and Celtic traditions with the picturesque landscape of Canmore. With an expanded slate of events from Saturday morning to Sunday night, participants and spectators alike will be provided with non-stop entertainment. All events are steeped in rich Gaelic traditions, and will provide a unique experience to visitors. With the additional day added, Canmore Highland Games president Sandy Bunch says, "This year's Games features more events, extra activities and no shortage of family-friendly experiences for people to enjoy all weekend". Tickets sell quickly for the main events, which include the Taste of the Highlands and the Canmore Highland Games on Saturday, the Scotch Tastings, the Canmore Highland Games Day 2, and the popular Canmore Ceilidh, all on Sunday.

What's On

The Canmore Highland Games

Aug. 31, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

and Sept. 1, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The weekend is packed full of exciting new events and favourite activities from the past

such as the Heavy Highland Sports contest, Highland Dance competitions, Piping and Drumming competitions, Tug-of-War contests and the British Car & Motorcycle Show. Additional attractions include the Clan Village, Celtic Market and food vendors, beer garden, sheep dog demonstrations, Highland Cattle, and tug of war contests.

Taste of the Highlands

Aug. 31, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Held at the Spring Creek Festival Tent, the Taste of the Highlands features a Celtic lounge atmosphere where event goers can experience tastes of whisky, micro-brews and unique wines. Tastings run from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Scooter's Bar will be available 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Admission includes 10 taste tickets to start your night. (Adults Only)

Scotch Tastings at Scooter's Bar

Sept. 1, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Next to the Spring Creek Festival Tent, Scooter's Bar provides a unique tasting experience featuring a choice of premium and ultra-premium single malts (Adults Only). In addition to purchasing a ticket for a tasting, you must also have a Games entry ticket.

The Canmore Ceilidh

Sept. 1 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

This evening event at the Spring Creek Festival Tent brings a full night of Celtic entertainment celebrating music, dance and song. On tap as the headline act, The Rollin Drones close out the night with a dynamic performance. This 6-piece bagpipe pop band from Glasgow, specializes in taking modern songs and infusing them with traditional flavour. Additional acts include Seanachie, Irish

Step Dancers, Highland Dancers and a special guest appearance by the Slainte Social Club Pipe Band.

Scots and wannabe Scots at the Highland Games

Come to learn about new sports, listen to music and taste new foods with the stunning backdrop of the Rockies. Advance Tickets and Bundles are available live on the website's Tickets page. Admission starts at \$12 (\$6.25 for children) and includes all daytime events taking place in Centennial Park, except for the afternoon Scotch Tasting on Sunday, which requires an additional ticket. Evening ticketed events include the Taste of the Highlands (\$33.75) and the Canmore Ceilidh (\$55.50).

The organizers have arranged free, secure off-site parking just off the #1 TransCanada Highway at Exit 89. Free shuttle buses will operate on both days to and from Centennial Park from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Volunteers for all areas are still required. Volunteers receive free admittance to the Canmore Highland Games, gift bag, T-Shirt and a free meal. Duties include event set-up and take down. Sign up online at: canmorehighlandgames.ca/volunteering "It's thrilling to see Scots and wannabe Scots at the Highland Games celebrating the music, food and sports of the culture. I love when people hear the bagpipes for the first time and fall in love with Celtic music, and when they enjoy the traditional sports, and Highland dancing," Bunch says.

For the full schedule and online tickets, visit the website at: www.canmorehighlandgames.ca.



Aug 31
Sept 1

Celebrating Celtic culture in
the Canadian Rockies!

CANMORE
HIGHLAND
GAMES

CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES

SAT AUG 31, 9 AM - 4 PM | SUN SEPT 1, 8 AM - 5 PM

TASTE OF THE HIGHLANDS

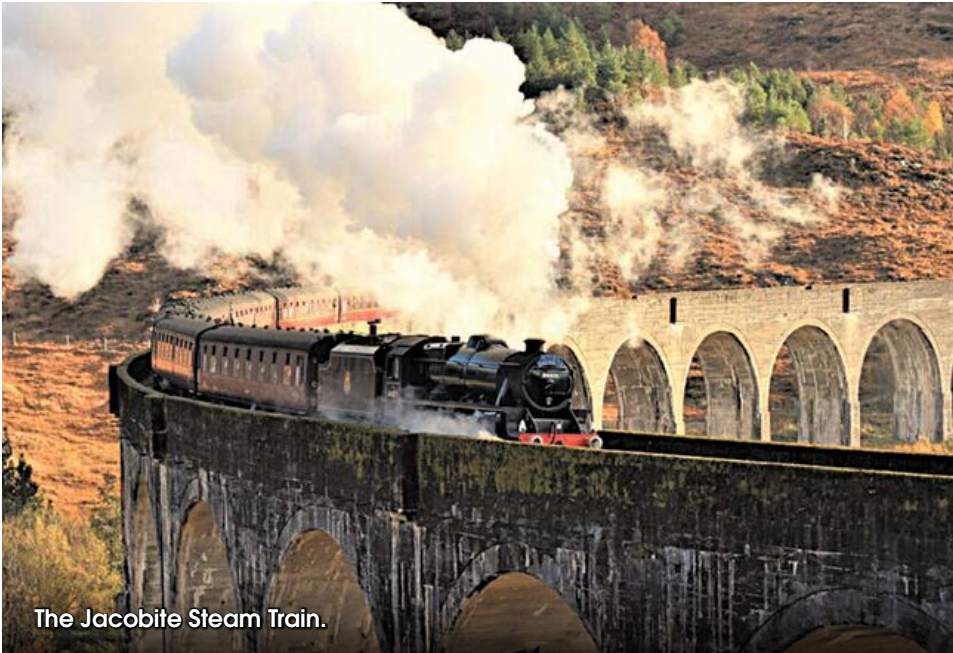
SATURDAY, AUG 31, 5 - 9 PM

THE CANMORE CEILIDH

SUNDAY, SEPT 1, 6 - 11 PM

See all information at: canmorehighlandgames.ca

Eight amazing things to do in Glenfinnan



The Jacobite Steam Train.

Glenfinnan is a wee community with a big history, made extra famous after featuring in the *Harry Potter* films, where the 'Hogwarts Express' is seen crossing the Glenfinnan Viaduct, and the loch view doubles as a dramatic setting for the famous wizarding school. However, there's more to Glenfinnan than *Harry Potter*, so here's our guide to eight things you mustn't miss when you visit.

1. Arrive or leave by train

Make the same journey Harry did over the imposing 21-arch railway viaduct – a marvel of Victorian engineering and ambition, framed by high hills and a deep glen. The local Scotrail service between Fort William and Mallaig gives you the chance to enjoy the incredible views for an affordable, car-free day out, all year-round.

2. Watch 'The Jacobite' steam train puff across Glenfinnan Viaduct

This is a popular spectacle to see from a variety of viewpoints around the village, several times a day, spring to autumn.

3. Discover the story of the 'Raising of the Standard'

Glenfinnan's most celebrated moment came back in 1745, when Charles Edward Stuart (or 'Bonnie Prince Charlie') gathered the Jacobite clans here to raise the Royal Standard, beginning his daring attempt to regain the throne for the Stuarts. What started

with great optimism in Glenfinnan ended in defeat less than a year later at the Battle of Culloden. This story is shared in a fascinating Jacobite exhibition in the free Visitor Centre, as well as remembered at the Glenfinnan Highland Gathering – a traditional sporting and cultural event that takes place every August around the anniversary of Charles's visit.

4. Climb the steps to the top of Glenfinnan Monument

Cared for by the National Trust for Scotland since the 1930s, this 60ft tower was built in memory of the clansmen who lost their lives in the '45 Rising. You'll emerge high above the shoreline for a 360° panorama of Glenfinnan, one of the most exhilarating experiences the Highlands has to offer and a must-do for any adventurous traveller.

5. Soak up the sights on a wander around the village

Discover the historic Glenfinnan Railway



Church of St Mary and St Finnan.

Station, now an award-winning wee museum dedicated to the West Highland Line, and the Gothic masterpiece of the Church of St Mary and St Finnan. This church was designed by Edward Pugin, the son of the architect who built London's Houses of Parliament.

6. Immerse yourself in nature

Paddle your toes or go swimming in the loch, climb mountains up the glen, or take a boat trip with Loch Shiel Cruises for a chance to spot nesting eagles and other wildlife.

7. Refuel with tasty treats

There is a choice of cafés, restaurants or hotels, including the Viaduct View Café or the historic Glenfinnan Dining Car. Take home a local souvenir, like the evocative scents of Glenfinnan Candles, from the gift shop.



Loch Shiel Highland Cruises.

8. Stay longer

Make the most of the opportunity to have Glenfinnan to yourselves after the crowds leave and witness the sunset between the mountains at the far end of Loch Shiel. From loch-side pods and sustainable bothies with wood-fired hot tubs, to a railway sleeping car and luxury historic hotels, there is something for every overnight budget.

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



Glenfinnan Monument, Loch Shiel.



The Glenfinnan Visitor Centre.

ARGYLL HOTEL GLASGOW



Use the discount code: **secretclub** to receive a 10 percent extra discount when booking direct!

Planning to visit Glasgow?

The Argyll Hotel Glasgow is a 3 star hotel providing accommodation in Glasgow city centre. This Glasgow hotel is a family-run, traditional Georgian built hotel, recently refurbished to a very high standard. All our ensuite rooms offer their own charm and individuality, and whether it's business or pleasure that brings you to Glasgow, you will find a warm friendly atmosphere at our hotel. We are located on Sauchiehall Street within easy reach of both Glasgow city centre, close to Glasgow University and Glasgow's famous West End, within walking distance of Kelvingrove Art Gallery, SECC Glasgow, The Hydro Arena, Buchanan Galleries, West End Theatres, Glasgow Science Centre.

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Also available

The Argyll Guest House
Glasgow-Budget Bed and Breakfast accommodation in Glasgow.



Glenfinnan Railway Station.