



the Scottish Banner



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November 2024

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Publisher
Scottish Banner Pty Ltd.

Editor
Sean Cairney

EDITORIAL STAFF
Eric Bryan
Brian Diamond
Nick Drainey
Neil Drysdale
Lady Fiona MacGregor
David McVey
The National Piping Centre
Jim Stoddart
Judy Vickers
David C. Weinczok

Contact:
The Scottish Banner
PO Box 6202
Marrickville South
NSW, 2204
Australia
Tel: (02) 9559-6348
info@scottishbanner.com

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The Banner Says...

Scots at War



by Sean Cairney

November is often a busy month for many with St Andrews Day events taking place, US Thanksgiving, springtime and all the events coming on in the Southern Hemisphere and the festive season just about to start.

However, for one minute on one day this month I always stop and reflect. On the 11th hour, on the 11th day, on the 11th month, I will join so many people around the world as they too pause and remember all those who gave their lives in service to their country.

Domestic battles

Scots have never been one to back down from conflict and Scotland itself has an incredible, tragic and mighty history of warfare. From years of 'domestic battles' where Scots fought on home ground with the English, or amongst themselves, to incredible acts of bravery in international conflicts Scots have been there. One of Scotland's most celebrated battles must be the Battle of Bannockburn which took place in June 1314 and saw Robert the Bruce and his men defeat the much larger English forces in Stirling. The battle remains a symbol of Scotland's fight for independence today.

The Battle of Culloden in 1746 was the final Jacobite rising and the last battle ever fought on Scottish or British soil. The Jacobites were no match for the Hanoverian army with the battle lasting not even an hour, and the Scottish army was brutally crushed with over 1,200 dead within minutes.

Anyone who today visits Culloden Battlefield cannot help but feel moved by this hallowed ground which still today weeps for those lost.

Ladies From Hell

On the battlefields of Europe during WW1 the words 'Die Damen aus der Hölle' could heard be spoken. This German phrase translates to 'Ladies from Hell' which was the nickname German troops gave to the revered, and kilted, Scottish Highland battalions. Scottish regiments were especially feared as an opposing force, however tragically an estimated 20 percent (nearly 150,000) of Scots who went to war in WW1 never came home, leaving a lasting and immense scar across Scotland. However, the reputation of the 'Devils in Skirts' remains part of European military folklore. Scottish troops played a large role in both World Wars and also the world's more recent conflicts and they today are respected the world over.

Visitors to Edinburgh can visit the Scottish National War Memorial which commemorates the Scots who lost their lives in conflicts. This moving memorial was built in the 1920s and is located within the walls of Edinburgh Castle, its displays the Roll of Honour for Scots, which names every Scottish casualty killed in conflicts. Several craftspeople were commissioned to create sculptures and stained glass for the memorial, which is today regarded as one of Scotland's most sacred buildings.

In this issue

Scottish Australian Archibald Clark Kerr was a key figure in British foreign policy and played a major role in bringing WW2 to a close and bringing many Scots and others home. He also played a significant role in the founding of NATO, and we are happy to shine a light on him this month.

This year the historic city of Stirling is celebrating the incredible milestone of its 900th anniversary.

Founded by King David I in 1124, the Royal Burgh of Stirling is one of the oldest burghs in Scotland. Since then, the now city has witnessed some incredible moments in Scottish history. It is today a great city to visit with much to do and a programme of events and celebrations are taking place until April 2025.

Another city which is celebrating its 900th anniversary is Edinburgh. Edinburgh is Scotland's most visited city and offers so much for visitors to explore. It has stunning views and incredible history around every corner with visitors experiencing the famous castle, Royal Mile and more. This month we highlight some of the lesser-known locations, which you can hopefully incorporate on your next visit to the Scottish capital.

Instrument of War

Think bagpipes and most will quickly link to Scotland. The pipes of course are a global instrument but for Scots they do take on a much deeper cultural and historical importance. One thing the Scottish regiments did have to boost morale during unfathomable times was bagpipes. Pipers served across all the regiments and not only were a great source of moral boosting for the troops, but the haunting sounds also put fear in the enemy.

The British Army however did not allow playing of bagpipes during combat because they were thought to expose the piper and troops to danger. The bagpipe is the only musical instrument ever to be considered as a tool of warfare. Scots have long history with the bagpipes used during warfare dating back hundreds of years. Today, the pipe bands remain deeply associated with Scottish military traditions and still linked to several military institutions.

Regardless of where you find yourself this month, I hope you find time to pause and remember all the men and women who gave their all, for all of us. Lest we forget. 🇬🇧

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.



Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, Flanders, 1914-1915.



Gracing our front cover:
King Street, Stirling.
Photo: Fraser MacDonald.

The 2024 Braemar Royal Highland Gathering

All images courtesy of the Braemar Royal Highland Gathering.



King Charles and Queen Camilla.



Greg Walker on the Caber.

Glorious weather across the Cairngorms boosted a huge crowd for the annual Braemar Royal Highland Gathering on the first Saturday in September. More than 15,000 folk headed to the highland village and the Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park in Braemar, the permanent home for the Gathering, amongst them their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla, and some stars of stage and screen.

A warm welcome

And, they were all in for a few treats as above the normal track, field, heavy events, dancing, piping, tug-o'-war and massed

pipe bands the afternoon's programme included the first ever visit of the Band of the Royal Marines Scotland along with the Atholl Highlanders and their pipe band. The Atholl Highlanders are Europe's only surviving private army and were attending the Gathering to present their Colours to HM King Charles, in doing so pledging their allegiance to The Crown.

By lunchtime there was barely an empty seat in the stands surrounding the main games arena and there was plenty vocal support for the athletes in heavy and other events. Traditionally noon marks the first march of the massed pipe bands, selected from towns and institutions across the north east of Scotland and as they entered

the arena through the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Arch they were greeted with loud applause. The King and Queen received a warm welcome from their Scottish neighbours when they arrived at the Gathering mid-afternoon - the band of the Royal Marines Scotland leading the crowd in the national anthem.

Heavy events

Welcoming them to the event the Gathering's commentator, Dr Robert Lovie, reflecting on the health issues that had faced the Royal Family over the past year, said "I know I speak for everyone here when I say how much we have thought about our Royal Family this year. Please know that the communities at home and around the country and all those who take part in the Highland games, send you all our best possible wishes." The massed bands led off what was the busiest part of the day's programme which saw the Royal Couple in jovial mood as they watched youngsters in sack races and their own tug-o'-war team from Balmoral in action against neighbouring estate Invercauld.



Atholl Highlanders on parade at Braemar Gathering.

The heavy events, in particular the Caber and 56lb Weight over the Bar competitions were attracting enthusiastic support from the crowd and cheers went up as Czech athlete Vlad Tulacek broke his own Braemar record he set back in 2019. Earlier in the summer, at the Drumtochty Highland Games, Vlad set a new world record in the same event. He attempted to even better that record at Braemar but a great attempt was later discounted on account of weight regulations.

The next Braemar Royal Highland Gathering will take place on Saturday 6th September 2025. For further details see: www.braemargathering.org



Huntly & District Pipe Band enter the arena through the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee archway.



Balmoral Castle tug-o'-war team in action.



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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?

Brisbane's Standing Stones



Here's a wee poem, one year on from the inauguration of the Celtic Nations monument 'Brisbane's Standing Stones' at

Auchenflower, we now have the inaugural Brisbane Celtic Festival there with the Standing Stones as the backdrop. The festival celebrates the cultural traditions of Scotland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, Galicia, and Asturias, post covid it has been such a big effort to put these events together for the organisers, so looking forward to seeing my fellow Scots there for a blether. I hope you enjoy my wee poem paying tribute to our shared heritage through the stones.

*The Celtic Stones of Brisbane, in Bonnie Auchenflower
Reach toward the Southern Sky, with all their craggy power
Yet rooted in dear Mother Earth, like our stones of yesteryear
And carried as a vision, in our Elder's hearts so dear*

*A monument to our kith and kin, and their footsteps to this land
And in communion with her custodian sons, who walked her ancient sands
Emblazoned like the Southern Cross, beneath the stars came hither
Standing proud majestically, they're cast as cosmic mirror*

*A gathering place of song from heart, of dance, of pipe, of drums
Of ancient tales and customs, from Australia's Celtic sons
In homage to their father's toil, enduring bold attrition
And remembrance of their fortitude, their honour and traditions*

*So come along and close your eyes and let your troubles go
Feel their reverence, feel their love, feel their celestial flow
And slip into their dreamtime, their past eternal glory
The standing stones of Brisbane, and Australia's Celtic story*

Andy Heaney - Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Ed note: Thank you Andy for your poem on these great new monuments to Celtic Australians.

Alan Cumming



Thank you for the article on Alan Cumming (*Alan Cumming-Living the High Life, the Scottish Banner, October, 2024*). Alan is one of my favourite actors and

he is such a chameleon of an artist with so many roles, he is certainly not one to be stereotyped. I loved him in *The Traitors* and he was clearly a cut above those contestants and was great to see him in tartan finery accepting the Emmy this year. And though many will know him from the big and small screen I really think it his live shows that really show his talents. Alan appears to be one that has not conformed and made his own rules, which I love. He clearly loves, like so many of us, Scotland and is a great ambassador for the Scottish arts scene.

Scotland is the land of my ancestors, and I am so very proud to be a daughter of Scotia.

**Jan Muir
Boston, Massachusetts
USA**

The Kelpies



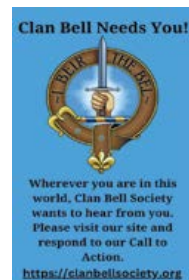
I really enjoyed reading your interview with Andy Scott (*Celebrating 10 years of The Kelpies, the Scottish Banner, August, 2024*) and his amazing creation of The Kelpies. I finally got to visit these amazing structures this year and wow what an impact they have as you approach them.

I had seen countless pictures and videos of them but for me none did them justice until pulling up in my car to see them in all their might. I also enjoyed reading about some of Andy's other great works of art dotted around Scotland and will be sure to visit them on future trips. I am a bit of a traditionalist, but this modern art is so impressive and something future generations will undoubtedly enjoy. I am sure, and hope, Andy's work will also inspire other artists and local governments to take on such projects as no doubt they bring local pride and visitors, like me!

The Scotland has heritage and historic sites in spades and that is why many want to go there, but these modern icons are really a great asset to the tourist trail and congratulations to Mr Scott and the whole team behind The Kelpies.

**Jen Grant
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada**

Calling all Bells and Bell descendants-Your Clan needs you



Your voice is needed to demonstrate that Clan Bell is worthy of taking its rightful place among the many time-honored clans of Scotland. Clan Bell is referred to as an armigerous clan, or in simplest terms a clan without a current chief.

William "Redcloak" Bell, who died approximately 1628, is generally recognized as the last chief of our name. The chiefship of Clan Bell has remained dormant since then. To aid in the public's understanding of these matters, the Court of the Lord Lyon

published a Guidance Note pertaining to the chiefship of a clan or family. We encourage Bells everywhere to give this document a thorough read and familiarize themselves with the processes involved. In June 2019, a Bell Family Convention was held in Gretna Green, Scotland, to select a candidate for the position of commander. Having an individual named to this position is an important step for Clan Bell as it would help us remedy the dormancy of our clan chiefship. Unfortunately, that 2019 meeting did not produce a suitable outcome.

In his subsequent decision on the matter, the Lord Lyon opted not to name a commander and stated several reasons why he felt Clan Bell was not yet ready for this step, namely that insufficient canvassing was performed in relation to the appointment of a commander or who that commander should be. Only 16 votes were cast, with 13 of them coming from North America. As part of his decision, the Lord Lyon deferred selection of a commander for the Name of Bell for a period of three years. After that, the clan could resubmit its petition for consideration. Clan Bell Society began operations shortly after this with our launch in January 2020. Since that time we have been working to bring Bells together, raise the profile of our clan, and lay down a solid foundation upon which to build. Now entering our fourth year, we have taken great strides toward this end, but there is much work yet to be done.

While the prescribed three-year deferment has passed, holding another Bell Family Convention at this time would be premature. If Clan Bell wants to be successful in its next attempt, we simply must get the word out. In a recent meeting, the board members of Clan Bell Society discussed this topic and a plan was devised to better reach Bells all around the world. As part of our outreach efforts, we need to first establish majority agreement on the need for a commander. Once we have established agreement in significant numbers, we can move forward with the process of selecting a suitable candidate for the position of commander, and then submit this individual's credentials to the Court of the Lord Lyon for approval. A commander's duties would include identifying all viable candidates for the chiefship and aiding in the preparation of their petitions to the Court of the Lord Lyon, as well as representing Clan Bell's interests at the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. If no viable candidate for chief can be identified within a prescribed period of time, there is a pathway for the commander to become chief, but this would also require approval from the Court of the Lord Lyon.

Wherever you are in this world, Clan Bell Society wants to hear from you. Kindly send us a note below with your name, general location, email address, and thoughts on this endeavor. Your voice matters and will go a long way toward achieving this goal.

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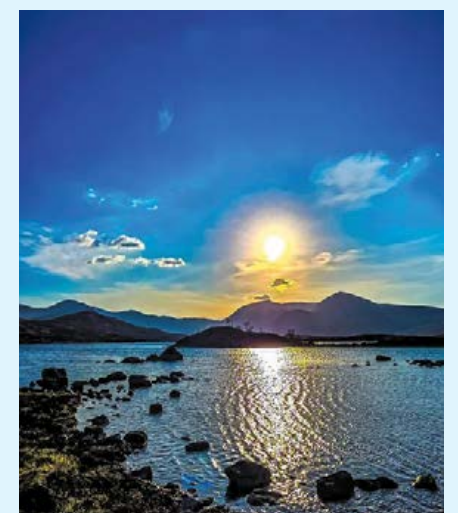
The Royal Scots Greys Statue on Princes Street in Edinburgh, with the beautiful Assembly Hall building in the background.
J T Photography Scotland

The Leadhills and Wanlockhead Railway



The Leadhills and Wanlockhead Railway-This narrow gauge railway operates between Scotland's highest villages, Leadhills and Wanlockhead.
Derek A Grist

Rannoch Moor



A Rannoch Moor sunset...
eadietam

Crail Harbour



Colourful Crail Harbour, Fife.
Fly - Caledonia

'Remarkable' Pictish ring discovered at Moray fort after more than 1,000 years in the ground



The Pictish ring photographed by National Museums Scotland.



John Ralph with the ring.



A reconstruction of Burghead (Alice Watterson).

A 'remarkable' Pictish ring with an intricate setting has been uncovered at a Moray fort previously thought to have been 'archaeologically vandalised' by the construction of a new town. The kite-shaped ring with a garnet or red glass centre had lain undiscovered for more than a thousand years at the Burghead fort before it was uncovered by a volunteer in a dig led by the University of Aberdeen.

Although known as a Pictish site, its historical value was widely assumed to have been lost when the town of Burghead was constructed in the 1800s, covering over much of the fort and dismantling the stone that remained for building.

Among the families encouraged to relocate to the new town to support the fishing industry were the ancestors of John Ralph – a former engineer and graduate of the University of Aberdeen. When he retired, John signed up as a volunteer for the Burghead digs after seeing a social media post by the University's Professor of Archaeology, Gordon Noble.

Something really exciting

Professor Noble has led excavation work, funded by Historic Environment Scotland, over the last three years which has shed new light on the importance of the site and enabled the development of 3-D reconstructions of how it might once have looked. John, who describes himself as an 'enthusiastic amateur' had many

moments over the two-week excavation – his third dig at the site – where he thought he had discovered something, only to for the experts to tell him he had a knack for finding 'shiny pebbles'. So when, on the last day of the final dig, he found something that looked interesting, he didn't hold out much hope. It was only when he showed it to a fellow volunteer and his eyes lit up that he realised he might 'have something'. Professor Noble says that what he was presented with was 'truly remarkable'. "John was digging and then came over and said, 'look what I've found'. What he handed over was incredible," he added. "Even before the conservation work, we could see it was something really exciting as despite more than a thousand years in the ground we could see glints of the possible garnet setting. There are very few Pictish rings which have ever been discovered and those we do know about usually come from hoards which were placed in the ground deliberately for safekeeping in some way. We certainly weren't expecting to find something like this lying around the floor of what was once a house but that had appeared of low significance so, in typical fashion, we had left work on it until the final day of the dig."

The ring is currently with the National Museum of Scotland's Post-excavation Service for analysis and John, who grew up in Burghead, is delighted to have added his own piece to the puzzle in understanding the region's Pictish past. "It is a real thrill to dig up an artefact in the knowledge that you are probably the first person to see it

for 1,000-1,500 years," he said. "It becomes a real guessing game of who owned it, what did they use it for and how was it lost."

Scotland's remarkably rich history

Professor Noble and his team will use the ring and other evidence uncovered on the dig to start to answer those questions. Professor Noble added: "We will now look at the ring, evidence of buildings and other artefacts to consider whether the ring was crafted on the site and who such an important piece of jewellery might have been made for. We have some other evidence of metalworking and the number of buildings we have uncovered is quite striking. This further indicator of the high-status production of metalwork adds to the growing evidence that Burghead was a really significant seat of power in the Pictish period."

Susan O'Connor, Head of Grants at Historic Environment Scotland, said: "Given Scotland's remarkably rich history, it shouldn't be surprising that that we are still uncovering important pieces of Scotland's past, even where we least expect it. We are proud to have funded and supported the excavation work conducted by the University of Aberdeen, and are delighted that volunteer John Ralph played such a pivotal role in bringing it to light - literally! Whilst the materials used themselves are not particularly valuable in today's monetary sense, this find is hugely significant for what it tells us about Pictish lives and society. We're excited to find out more once our colleagues in the National Museum have finished their investigations."







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SCOTSPeAK

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

"The Parallel Roads of Glen Roy are unique features in the British landscape. These features generated huge scientific interest in the 19th century when Darwin, Agassiz and Jamieson offered theories to explain how the roads came to exist. Darwin's theory they were marine shorelines were rejected in favour of the new concept of ice ages proposed by Agassiz, and that the roads were the shorelines of former glacial lakes. More recently, our understanding of how the lake systems changed through time has been advanced from detailed landform analysis and examining sediments. This has enabled annual chronologies of the glacial lakes allowing us to pinpoint when the lakes formed, for how long and estimate how quickly the ice retreated. This data will be used to predict how modern ice caps respond to future climate warming. It is fantastic that this hidden treasure in the Highlands of Scotland with such a rich heritage of scientific endeavour has been recognised by the IUGS in this way."

Dr Adrian Palmer, Senior Lecturer in Physical Geography in the Department of Geography at Royal Holloway, and University of St Andrews, said Glen Roy a special geological area in the Highlands of Scotland, has gained recognition from The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) Geological Heritage Sites. The area has been the foundation of ongoing research, teaching and outreach in both Royal Holloway and St Andrews, and in collaboration with other UK universities, for the last 25 years. Since the 1840s, research on the landforms, sediments and chronology of the area has played a major role in understanding the complexity, rapidity and trajectory of landscape evolution and environmental change at the end of the last glaciation.



“We are constantly pushing the boundaries of innovation to not only deliver the premium quality and iconic design our customers expect from us, but to do so in a way that reflects our sustainability ambitions. The paper-based bottle trial for Johnnie Walker Black Label

marks a significant step forward in our journey. This test allows us to explore new packaging in the high intensity environment of the on-trade. We are pioneering new packaging solutions and shaping the future of the industry."

Jennifer English, Johnnie Walker Global Brand Director, says Diageo is launching a first-of-its-kind 90% paper-based bottle trial for Johnnie Walker Black Label exclusively at Johnnie Walker Princes Street's 1820 bar, in Edinburgh. The bottle's design retains the iconic square shape of Johnnie Walker Black Label, whilst enhancing the premium appeal with unique facets cut into the sides of the bottle and embossing of the Striding Man on the bottle and closure. The trial bottle is made from 90% paper and a very thin plastic liner.

“This is a collective of 173 years of witch hunting in Scotland. We have documentation and articles directly from trials. There were witches right along the coast in every little fishing village. It’s brutal. This is a lasting testimony. My records I have are all full of these poor people who were killed for being associated with a witch. You could say I am going to accuse you of witchcraft because I had a dream you were a witch – this is what they were up against. They were blamed for any kind of calamity. Crop failures, death at sea, infant mortality. Midwives and medicine goers were chased down. This was the policy of finding your witch.”

Historian, author and museum curator Leonard Low said at the opening of a new museum dedicated to the Scottish Witch Trials which has opened in Leven, Fife. The Scottish Witch Trial Museum tells the stories of both the accused and the accusers. Thousands of people, mostly women, were tried and executed for witchcraft in Scotland in the 16th and 17th centuries.

"This was one of my toughest challenges yet, both physically and mentally. With the three rivers' tides impacting the swim, we had to time everything perfectly for a shot at the record. I've been struggling with illness leading up to the event, so it was really tough out there."

Scottish-Australian marathon swimmer Andy Donaldson said as he set a new record for swimming around New York's

Manhattan Island. Donaldson beat a 2011 record and completed the 45.9 km/28.5 mile swim in five hours, 41 minutes and 48 seconds. Last year Donaldson broke the world record for the fastest swim across New Zealand's Cook Strait. He completed the 22.5km/14 mile swim in 4 hours and 33.5 minutes.



"This is a great year for Stirling, with our 900 celebrations in full swing and our much-loved National Wallace Monument continuing to attract impressive visitor numbers from both home and abroad. Stirling is an ambitious, forward-thinking city and, of course, we also cherish our world-class heritage offering. I know residents and visitors will also enjoy the opportunity to study the fascinating architectural drawings of the Monument. Rothead's plans were submitted as part of a competition and his design was chosen from 106 entrants. The National Wallace Monument is not only a wonderful tribute to one of Scotland's greatest patriots, William Wallace, but to the design brilliance of Rothead himself."

Stirling Council leader, Cllr Chris Kane, said a rare opportunity to study the plans that led to the construction of the National Wallace Monument formed the centrepiece of a double birthday celebration during September and October. As Stirling celebrates its 900th anniversary, the iconic landmark that sits atop Abbey Craig and overlooks the city marks the 155th year since its grand opening on 11 September 1869. A digitised version of the drawings from renowned Victorian architect John Thomas Rothead will be on public display for the first time. They are a replica of the fragile originals, preserved in Stirling Council's archives. The idea for a monument to William Wallace was first conceived in Stirling in 1850 and construction work began with the laying of a foundation stone, overlooking Scotland's historic heartland, in 1861.

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SCOTWORD

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

CLUES ACROSS

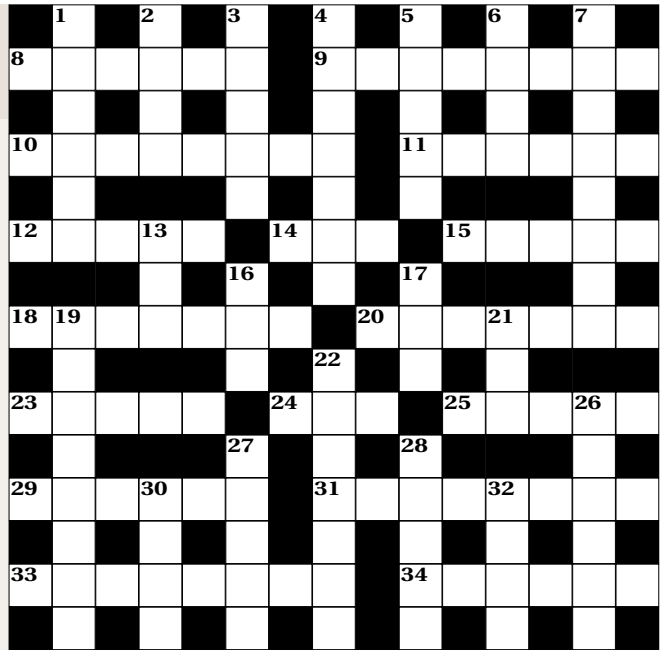
- 8) Town west of Peebles (6).
- 9) Chief town on Bute (8).
- 10) Birthplace of David Livingstone (8).
- 11) Type of scone (6).
- 12) Top peak! (5).
- 14) Scots roll (3).
- 15) Scotland's renowned author (5).
- 18) Scotland's second city (7).
- 20) Admin region of southeast Scotland (7).
- 23) Castle near Perth (5).
- 24) Anger (3).

- 25) A dishonest card! (5).
29) Search out this animal (6).
31) Town southwest of Barrhead (8).
33) Town near Linlithgow (8).
34) Glasgow river (6).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Tayside castle of the Ogilvies (6).
- 2) Once more in Scots (4).
- 3) The Royal Scots (5).
- 4) Top gathering village (7).
- 5) Party animals! (5).
- 6) ---- of Hermiston (4).

- 7) Village on the River Dee (8).
- 13) Short measures! (3).
- 16) Mountain pass (3).
- 17) Scots farm animal (3).
- 19) Tayside expanse of water (4, 4).
- 21) Northeast river (3).
- 22) A capital street (7).
- 26) It's a fiddle! (6).
- 27) In winter it's an ermine! (5).
- 28) Highland daggers (5).
- 30) Gather in the harvest (4).
- 32) Farm silage store (4).



UK 'return' for ancient aurochs 400 years after European extinction

All images courtesy of Grazlands Rewilding.



Tauros bull.

Huge wild cattle could be 'back from the dead' to rewild Highlands near Loch Ness.

Trees for Life has launched a project which could see the first introduction to the UK of a breed of huge wild cattle called tauros – effectively reintroducing the aurochs, the wild ancestor of all domestic cattle, four centuries after its extinction.

The muscular, long-horned tauros have been bred to be as similar as possible to the ancient aurochs – a mega-herbivore which for millennia played a vital role in shaping landscapes and boosting biodiversity across Europe, including Scotland. The rewilding charity aims to introduce a herd of up to 15 tauros from the Netherlands to its 4,000-hectare Dundreggan estate near Loch Ness in 2026, in a scientific research project to boost biodiversity and create opportunities for people, including education and eco-tourism.

"Introducing the aurochs-like tauros to the Highlands four centuries after their wild ancestors were driven to extinction will refill a vital but empty ecological

niche – allowing us to study how these remarkable wild cattle can be a powerful ally for tackling the nature and climate emergencies," said Steve Micklewright, Chief Executive of Trees for Life. "Our Tauros Project is about looking forwards while learning from the past as we restore nature-rich landscapes that support wildlife and people, and are resilient to future environmental challenges. We also want to give people the chance to experience in a safe way the awe and wonder of getting close to an animal that feels really wild."

A keystone species

Aurochs once roamed much of Europe as a keystone species, ensuring a rich mosaic of habitats including grasslands, forest, and wetlands. The animals are depicted in petroglyphs of the Côa Valley, dating back 30,000 years. One of Europe's largest land mammals – and the heaviest after the woolly mammoth and woolly rhinoceros – aurochs disappeared from Britain around 1300 BC. They later became globally extinct through habitat loss and hunting, when the last aurochs died in Poland in 1627. But aurochs DNA has survived in a number of ancient original cattle breeds. Uniquely, tauros have been 'back-bred' to genetically replicate, resemble and behave like the aurochs as closely as possible.

Scientists in the Netherlands have sought to bring aurochs back to life since the early 2000s, by interbreeding ancient

cattle breeds that are genetically and physically closest to the aurochs. This has been aided by the first sequencing of the aurochs' complete genome, in 2011. While classified as domestic cattle, tauros have no equivalent among other breeds. Bulls can reach up to 180cm and cows 150cm at the shoulder, similar in size to aurochs. They can live in a wide range of environmental conditions, with minimal human intervention. Research in Europe shows these modern-day successors to the aurochs can help create exceptionally rich habitats for wildlife through their size and behaviour – being bigger and more active than other cattle, and interacting with their environment more dramatically.

Herd of tauros move across landscapes in social groups, naturally grazing some areas intensively while leaving others untouched. This creates a mosaic of habitats that benefit a wide range of plants and animals, boost species diversity, and soak up carbon dioxide. One ecological game-changer is tauros's creation of 'bullpits' – bowls in the earth carved out by rutting bulls using their horns and hooves, or through strengthening their neck muscles by bashing their heads against one side of a pit. Bullpits form micro-habitats that support invertebrates, small mammals and birds, and allow pioneer plant species to establish.

Rewilding benefits

Tauros dung helps ensure healthy soils, and supports invertebrates which in turn are eaten by birds, small mammals and reptiles. Seeds are dispersed via the cattle's fur. There are already several hundred tauros in mainland Europe, in The Netherlands, Czechia, Croatia, Spain and Portugal. While no large animal – from deer to other cattle breeds – is entirely risk-free, people can coexist safely with tauros given appropriate precautions, public education about respecting their space, and good herd-management. Tauros are known to be placid, especially towards people, and have been bred from cattle breeds that are not unnaturally aggressive.

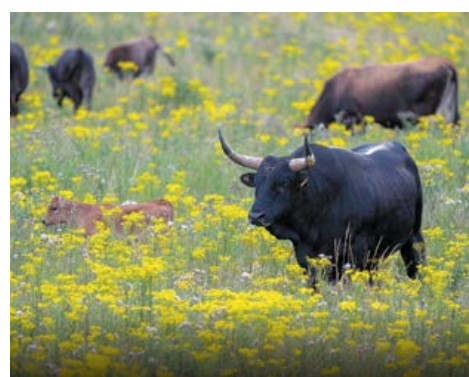
Being a cross-breed of cattle, tauros can be legally imported to Britain. Trees for Life intends to release the small herd in a way that lets the tauros behave as naturally as possible, and that balances rewilding benefits with conservation of recovering ecosystems. The five-year project will strictly adhere to the legal and animal welfare requirements of keeping cattle. The tauros will be treated as farm animals but live as wild a life as possible. Signage and safety protocols will allow people to encounter them in a managed way. The release will follow a further year of project development, including research, detailed habitat assessments, and securing full funding.

For more information, see:

www.treesforlife.org.uk/tauros.



Mother and calf, The Netherlands.





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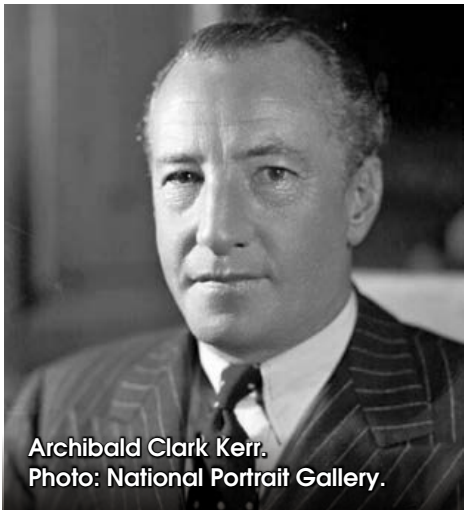
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The Scot who changed the world

By: Rob Wilkinson



Archibald Clark Kerr.
Photo: National Portrait Gallery.

Hidden away in the woodlands that skirt around the edge of glorious Loch Eck in Cowal, Argyll, lies the grave of a man that undoubtedly changed the world.

Chances are you'll have never heard of Archibald Clark Kerr but his careful coaxing of Winston Churchill and many liquor-fuelled liaisons with Joseph Stalin in Moscow played a big role in bringing World War 2 to a conclusion. His face features in the official photographs from the three key landmark conferences that straddled the end of hostilities. From Tehran to Yalta to Potsdam, Kerr was there in the background helping to bring the Allies and the Soviet Union around the table in order to finally see off the Nazi threat and define the new post conflict global order.

The greatest diplomat in the world

It's impossible to sum up the myriad achievements of Archie in one article. It needs a book, and it was to *Radical Diplomat* by Donald Gillies (1999) that I turned along with a number of online resources and countless vintage videos on YouTube. A career diplomat once described as 'the greatest diplomat in the world', Kerr was born in Sydney, Australia in 1882. He had strong Scottish family roots and regularly returned to his home in Inverchapel from his many foreign ambassadorial adventures. His family relocated to the UK in 1891 with Archie starting his schooling at Bath College a year later. His ambition was clear although it was always expressed with a degree of self-deprecating humour. He was only 20 when he wrote "I am thinking of getting made a peer. I should first...call myself Lord Inverchapel...Then I should be promoted to Viscount Inverchapel and finally Earl Kilmun." In 1906 he joined the Diplomatic Service with his first posting taking him to Berlin. He very nearly hit it off with Princess Sophie, sister of the Kaiser and twelve years his senior. She went on to marry the King of Greece. By 1910 it was time for Archie's diplomatic odyssey to quicken with postings in Buenos Aires and Washington, DC before heading to Rome just before the outbreak of the First World War.

He was desperate to enlist but his efforts were thwarted at every turn. In 1915 he was posted to Persia, now Iran and a

nation at the time that was undergoing its own crisis of identity given competing German/Turkish, Russian and British influences. He finally got the chance to sign up in June 1918, joining the Scots Guards as a Private but the war ended just as he finished his basic training. In 1919 he headed to north Africa with a posting in Morocco and then Cairo in Egypt where he almost became romantically involved with Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, later to become Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. In 1925 he returned to the Americas with a position in Guatemala. Despite political differences, Archie was nurturing a strong friendship with Winston Churchill and regularly sent him exotic butterflies for his private collection garnered from across central America. From there it was south to Santiago.

It was in the Chilean capital that he met his future wife, Maria Theresa Diaz Salas (Tita), 29 years younger and the daughter of a millionaire. In a speech to the St Andrew's Society of Valparaiso in late 1928 Archie was reported as saying: "Wherever he lives...the heart of the Scot is always in Scotland...Scotland is always home."

Stalin

Archie and Tita headed to Sweden for a new posting in Stockholm in 1931. He didn't hold back when describing the natives! "They are only interesting when stark naked. Dressed they are the worst of bores" he was reported to have said. He had just taken up sketching nudes in his spare time! In 1935 it was onward and eastward yet again with Baghdad, capital of the fledgling nation of Iraq, beckoning for Archie and with it, a host of tricky issues to resolve. By now a Sir, his trouble shooting reputation was growing and a posting to China followed in 1938. It was another 'hot spot' with Japanese and communist threats growing against the nationalist government. The war clouds were gathering yet again across Europe. Of the Munich Agreement Archie said: "The effect of the Munich accord on foreign opinion...is that perfidious Albion has been true to form and let down her friends again. The Chinese reaction is that we are entirely self-seeking and have merely been keeping them in play with fair words...our prestige is at a low ebb in the east."

In 1942, a year after he'd separated from Tita, he got a position in the USSR that really moulded his reputation in the midst of conflict. He was based in Kuibyshev, now Samara, in the Russian deep south. Diplomatic missions had been relocated there from Moscow given the Nazi threat to the Soviet capital. Whilst in China his flat in London had been destroyed in the Blitz, many of his personal belongings had gone down in a ship sunk by Japanese torpedos and he had lost his true love. His first meeting with the Stalin proved to be the stuff of legend despite being interrupted by an air raid on Moscow! He wrote: "My first surprise was the shape and size of him. I had expected something big and burly but I saw...a little, slim, bent, grey man with a large head and immense white hands. When he shook my hand, he looked almost furtively at my shoulder and not at my face."

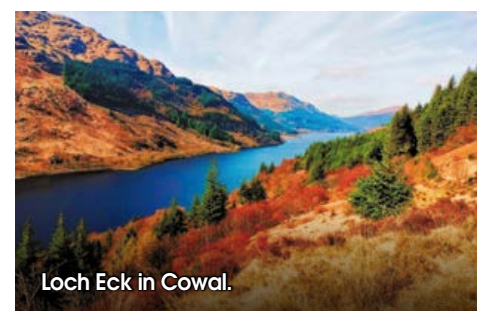
The pair found common ground in their passion for alcohol, tobacco...and sex! In a communication to Anthony Eden he wrote "It was probably no more than a juxtaposition of two old rogues, each one seeing the roguery in the other and finding comfort and harmony in it...and chuckling over it... chuckling all the more because of the governess presence of the boot faced Molotov."

He also wrote of Stalin... "I found him to be just my cup of tea. And now he has done something which the staff here declare to be without precedent. He has sent me a large quantity of his own pipe tobacco." Archie was fully aware of Stalin's murderous ways with the blood of more than 5 million Russians on his hands but he navigated a pragmatic approach with the Soviet leader... "...if we let ourselves be disturbed by backgrounds in Russia today we shall get nowhere..." Soviet secrecy and fear presented big obstacles to Archie's work and he became bored and disillusioned with life in the backwater of Kuibyshev. He hankered after the banks of Loch Eck. It was now four years since his last visit to his beloved Scotland.

His request fell on deaf ears. There was work to do in the USSR and a Treaty to sign that could hasten a conclusion to the hostilities that were crippling Europe and the Soviet Union. Donald Gillies, author of *Radical Diplomat*, wrote: "Clark Kerr's ability to establish a good working relationship with Stalin did prove crucial in smoothing out the many difficulties which arose during the war years...without Clark Kerr there is a good chance that the alliance with the Soviet Union would have foundered long before it actually did in the post war fall out. It's hard to imagine any other British diplomat being able to settle down to a drinking session, punctuated with bawdy jokes and coarse tales, with the Politburo!"

The alliance with the Soviets

In August 1942 Churchill visited Moscow to meet with Stalin. Archie described his arrival: "The first glimpse I had of the PM was a pair of stout legs dangling from the belly of the plane and feeling for terra firma. They found it and then came the plump trunk and finally the round football head."



Loch Eck in Cowal.



The resting place of Archibald Clark Kerr, Inverchapel Lodge in Cowal, Argyll.

Continued on the opposite page:

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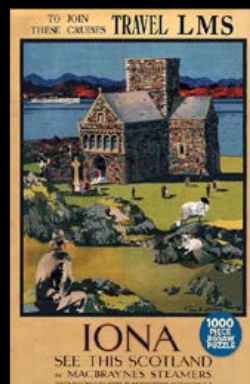
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Joseph Stalin, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill at the Teheran conference, 3 December 1943. Behind them are Mr Molotov, Avril Harriman, Sir Archibald Clark-Kerr and Anthony Eden. Photo: REDDIT.

And quite a normal hat. It was like a bull at the corrida when it first comes out of its dark pen and stands dazzled and bewildered and gazes at the crowd..." The talks were a rollercoaster with the two leaders not always seeing eye to eye... until Clark Kerr's finest hour!

Clark Kerr had a private chat with Churchill in the grounds of a dacha where the PM was staying. He was straight to the point with the British leader and told him that he was going about the talks in the wrong way. Churchill said of Stalin: "That man has insulted me. From now on he will have to fight his battles alone."

Clark Kerr suggested Churchill had made a mess of things: "You mean that you think it's all my fault," said Churchill. Clark Kerr replied: "Yes I'm sorry but I do." He persuaded Churchill to meet Stalin that

evening one to one. The pair had a very successful meeting, more of a social 'get to know you' chat than anything strategic. It started at 7PM and ended at 2AM when a final communique was agreed. They had connected, there had been a meeting of minds that seemed impossible just hours earlier. Churchill, previously grumpy and moody, was ecstatic that morning and openly (quite literally) got ready for his bath in front of Archie who provided the Foreign Office with a sketch of that memorable moment! Over the coming months, as war raged on, relationships were cemented further between Archie, Stalin and the Russians...although lubricated would be a better description!

At one event one of the Russians, after many vodkas, got out an unarmed tommy gun and asked Archie if he knew how to use it.

Archie accepted the challenge and proceeded to fire from the hip raking the bellies of Stalin, Molotov et al. Stalin then took the gun and fairly decimated the crowd, thoroughly enjoying the joke but paying special attention to many of his worried ministers!

Archie returned to Britain for three months leave in late 1942 but got the chance to broadcast on BBC radio immediately prior to his return to the USSR in February 1943. "The alliance with the Soviets was not only a solemn bond," pronounced Archie during his 15-minute speech "...but a human pact between two nations. We shall do all we can to see that it runs smoothly, and we shall do it with heart and soul." Churchill's final instructions to Archie were: "I don't mind kissing Stalin's bum but I'm damned if I'll lick his arse!"

Diplomacy walks a fine line

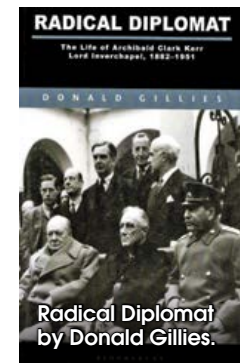
The expectations of the Russians from the start were that a second front should be opened up in western Europe and they were keen to pin down the post war arrangements in eastern Europe.

With the Normandy landings still some way off, Archie used all of his charm and charisma to keep the USSR on side helped immensely by his relationship with Stalin and lots of Russian alcohol! Towards the end of 1943 Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt met in Tehran to discuss the opening of the aforementioned second front and other issues. During a lunch meeting one of the party farted rather loudly.

Clark Kerr chuckled but was chided by Churchill who said: "Do not let the heat imparted by someone else's buttocks detract you from the discipline of a solemn matter."

The conference proved to be a great success. The winds of change were in motion! Diplomacy walks a fine line and Archie was an adept tight rope walker in that respect wherever and whenever he was called upon. The Yalta conference followed in early 1945 with the Nazi war machine in full retreat on all fronts.

Following the end of World War 2 the third great conference of Allied leaders took place with Churchill being replaced by Atlee halfway thru as a result of his defeat in the General Election. Truman made up the triumvirate. Once again Clark Kerr was at the centre of proceedings and was also becoming more realistic and honest in his assessment of the Soviets. In his final years Kerr was a pivotal character in the establishment of NATO and played his part in the start of the European Union project prior to his untimely death at the age of 69 in 1951. You do wonder what Archie would make of the parlous state of the world today with authoritarianism once again rife and a 'tribes in trenches' culture running riot. We hardly ever learn the lessons of history... but you can bet Archie learnt a few!



Radical Diplomat by Donald Gillies.



Archibald Clark Kerr's grave in Cowal.

Archaeological dig at Culloden Battlefield

In a thrilling quest to uncover secrets from one of Scotland's most significant historical sites, archaeologists and volunteers have begun a remarkable dig at Culloden Battlefield, where the course of British, European and world history changed dramatically nearly 280 years ago.

Experts armed with both traditional archaeology tools and cutting-edge technology are peeling back layers of earth to reveal

untold stories of the final clash of the Jacobite Rising in 1746. Led by the National Trust for Scotland's Head of Archaeological Services, Derek Alexander who said: "This project aims to facilitate further understanding of the final battle of the Jacobite Rising of 1746. It's always exciting to be working at Culloden Battlefield and so many of the artefacts have great stories to tell. Even small scale pieces of fieldwork can contribute to a better understanding of

how the battle unfolded." This excavation combines traditional archaeological methods, such as grid-based test pits, metal detecting and modern techniques to uncover more artefacts that could provide further insights into the Battle of Culloden. Areas such as the Field of the English will be targeted for metal detecting, utilising techniques applied during the excavation at the Battlefield of Waterloo, which maximised artefact recovery. The dig



Derek Alexander and the dig team. Photo: NTS.

will be conducted with great care, respecting the site's solemn history. Culloden Battlefield is a designated war grave, and the Trust ensures all activities at this significant site are designed with thoughtful care and respect.



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Former First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond dies aged 69

Former Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond has died while attending a conference in North Macedonia. Mr Salmond served as First Minister of Scotland from 2007-2014 and is considered to be the architect in taking the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) to become a mainstream political party in Scotland, which is still in power today. He served as the SNP MP for Banff and Buchan from 1987 and 2010 and was elected as SNP party leader in 1990. Salmond famously led the pro-independence referendum campaign in 2014, and resigned his position as First Minister after Scottish voters backed to remain in the UK by 55% to 45%.

Commenting on news that the former First Minister and SNP Leader has died, First Minister John Swinney said: "I am deeply shocked and saddened at the untimely death of the former First Minister Alex Salmond and I extend my deepest condolences to Alex's wife Moira and to his family. Over many years, Alex made an enormous contribution to political life - not just within Scotland, but across the UK and beyond. Alex worked tirelessly and fought fearlessly for the country that he loved and for her Independence. He took the Scottish National Party from the fringes of Scottish politics into Government and led Scotland so close to becoming an Independent country."

Mr Salmond joined politics in the early 1970's and more recently began his own political party, the Scottish nationalist and pro-independence party, the Alba Party in 2021 after leaving the SNP. The Alba Party issued a statement upon Mr Salmond's death which read: "Alba Party grieves the loss of our founder and Leader. Our thoughts are with Moira, and his family, and those across Scotland mourning the loss of former First Minister Alex Salmond. The dream he cherished so closely, and came so close to delivering, will never die." The news sent shockwaves across all sides of politics in Scotland and across the UK with flags at the Scottish Parliament lowered as a mark of respect.

Sir Chris Hoy announces he has terminal cancer



Sir Chris Hoy in Glasgow after the London 2012 Olympics. Photo: Mark Harkin, CC BY 2.0.

Sir Chris Hoy, one of Scotland's greatest-ever sportsmen, has revealed that he has cancer which is terminal. The 48-year-old

IN SCOTLAND TODAY

Olympic champion had revealed earlier in the year he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer after finding an ache in his shoulder. Tests revealed it was in fact a tumour and that he had Stage 4 cancer. The Edinburgh born sporting great has won six gold medals and a silver and was at that time Britain's most decorated Olympian. He was given a knighthood by Queen Elizabeth in the 2009 New Year Honours List and was voted his nation's sports person of the year.

Sir Chris Hoy retired from competitive cycling in 2013, and the velodrome built for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow is named in his honour. The father of two has sadly announced that doctors have advised his cancer is terminal and given two to four years to live, he however remains positive stating on his social media: "You may see in the news some articles about my health, so I just wanted to reassure you all that I'm feeling fit, strong and positive, and overwhelmed by all the love and support shown to my family and me. Onwards!" An outpouring of support has been coming for Sir Chris since his announcement from politician's, sporting greats, celebrities and everyday people from across Scotland, the UK and internationally with millions of people now cheering him on

Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games dates confirmed



Glasgow is set to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games after the Australian state of Victoria pulled out of hosting the international sporting event. The Games will consist of an 11-day event from 23 July to 2 August 2026, with a 10-sport programme, fully integrating para competitions, and including athletics and swimming as mandatory sports. Commonwealth Games Scotland and the Commonwealth Games Federation are finalising remaining sports to be announced, with the multisport venues identified providing a number of options to the organisers. The Games will be hosted across four competition venues in Glasgow - Emirates Arena/ Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, Scotstoun Stadium, Tollcross International Swimming Centre and the Scottish Events Campus. Competition would be contained within the venue footprint, with no road-based events.

There are no plans for the creation of an athlete's village, with existing accommodation being used city wide for athlete's and delegates. Glasgow has a well-earned reputation as a sporting city with the expertise, excellence and innovation required to stage these Commonwealth Games. While the look and feel of these Games will be different to Glasgow 2014, staging these Games provides Glasgow with an opportunity to sustain and enhance the sporting, economic, social

and environmental legacy achieved through its hosting of previous major sporting events. In July 2023 the then Premier of Victoria announced that as a result of projected cost overruns the state was withdrawing from hosting the Games. Victoria later agreed to make a compensatory payment of \$380m (approx. £190m) to the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), Commonwealth Games Federation Partnerships and Commonwealth Games Australia. Chair of Commonwealth Games Scotland, Ian Reid CBE said: "The Games will undoubtedly look and feel different to the historic events of 10 years ago. However, the circumstances facing us are remarkably different - the 2026 Games hang in the balance and the UK finances are facing tough decisions. But the Games presents a real opportunity for Glasgow and Scotland, giving us the chance to bring wide-ranging benefits to the country and public purse."

Their Majesties The King and Queen attend 25th anniversary celebration at Holyrood



His Majesty the King and Queen Camilla attend the 25th Anniversary of the Scottish Parliament. Photo: Katielee Arrowsmith.

Their Majesties, The King and The Queen, attended a special 25th anniversary celebration at the Scottish Parliament. The event marked 25 years since the Scottish Parliament was reconvened and included special performances from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Sistema Scotland, Còisir Alba and Calum McIlroy, showcasing Scottish music and culture. MSPs also nominated "local heroes" to attend the event. These are constituents from their local area who have made an extraordinary contribution to their communities.

Ahead of the event Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP said: "25 years of the Scottish Parliament marks a significant milestone in the country's political journey. I am delighted that Their Majesties The King and The Queen will join us to mark this special occasion. This anniversary offers the perfect opportunity for us not only to reflect on the last 25 years but to look to the future and consider how Parliament can continue to best meet the needs of those it serves. A cornerstone of this commemorative event will be about recognising the extraordinary contribution people from right across Scotland have made, and continue to make, to their own communities.

King Charles said in his speech to Parliament, "We are all, at the end of each day, united by our love of Scotland. Because of its natural beauty, of course, but also because of its strength of character, based as it is on the extraordinary diversity of its peoples, whose range of ideas, skills, energy, passions, and frequently deeply-held beliefs, never cease to inspire me.

From the central belt, to the North Highlands, across the islands, in Ayrshire, in the Borders, the cities, towns, and

villages, or the coastal communities, who, I wonder, could not fail to be moved by this complex Caledonian Kaleidoscope? Speaking from a personal perspective, Scotland has always had a uniquely special place in the hearts of my family and myself. My beloved Grandmother was proudly Scottish. My late mother especially treasured the time spent at Balmoral, and it was there, in the most beloved of places, where she chose to spend her final days."

The King and The Queen have a long association with The Scottish Parliament. The King attended the official opening in 1999 and the 20th anniversary celebrations in 2019, and Their Majesties attended the opening ceremony in 2021 and most recently the motion of condolence for the Late Queen in 2022.

Loganair confirms exclusive partnership with Heart Aerospace to develop sustainable regional air travel



Glasgow based Loganair, the UK's largest regional airline, has joined with Swedish hybrid-electric airplane manufacturer Heart Aerospace, to launch a new and exclusive partnership dedicated to decarbonising regional air travel. As part of the agreement, Loganair and Heart Aerospace will exclusively collaborate on establishing use-cases for hybrid electric aircraft within Loganair's extensive Scottish and UK network. Heart Aerospace is developing the ES-30, a hybrid-electric aircraft with the capacity to carry up to 30 passengers. The ES-30 has the potential to significantly reduce carbon emissions while offering cost-effective and accessible air travel. Luke Farajallah, Chief Executive Officer, Loganair, said: "This is a very exciting and significant moment for Loganair and for the future of sustainable UK regional flying. This exclusive collaboration with Heart Aerospace brings together two organisations who share a passion to see aviation emissions reduce in a realistic and meaningful way, and we definitely see the ES-30 as being a strong contender to emerge as one of the leaders in this space. At Loganair, we are very proud of our environmental work and achievements to date, and we see this as the next logical step along the path to a greener future for UK regional aviation." As part of the partnership, Loganair and Heart will work together to explore use cases for the ES-30 as well as engaging with the Scottish and UK Governments and airports, to promote and highlight the benefits of this innovative form of propulsion. The ES-30 will have a fully electric zero-emissions range of 200 km and an extended hybrid range of 400 km with 30 passengers on board. With 25 passengers on board, the aircraft has the potential to achieve a range of 800 km. Loganair will also join Heart Aerospace's Industry Advisory Board, which includes a range of airlines, governments, leasing companies, and airports from all over the world committed to supporting the electrification of air travel.

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Thistle & The Shamrock

Mark your calendars for *Thistle & The Shamrock*, a sensational tour gracing New Zealand stages from 13 January to 14 February 2025. This invigorating celebration of Irish and Scottish music promises to transport you to the heart of Celtic traditions. Prepare to be swept away by the infectious energy and soul-stirring melodies performed by an outstanding ensemble of talented artists.

The lineup features beloved fiddler Marian Burns, whose exciting performances will leave you spellbound. Joining her are the exceptional accordionist Tracey Collins and a collection of renowned vocalists, including Bonaventure Allan-Moetaua, Karl Perigo, Alex Foster-Winder, and the celebrated West End star Russell Dixon. Operatunity's own director, Susan Boland, adds her unique flair to the performances, all accompanied by the masterful pianist Paul

Carnegie-Jones. Together, this dynamic group will take you on a musical odyssey filled with everything from rousing patriotic anthems and haunting ballads to lively jigs and whimsical tunes. This tour is a feast for the senses, promising an unforgettable celebration of the rich tapestry of Celtic music.

Tickets for this concert tour are available for purchase on our website, www.operatunity.co.nz, or you can reach our friendly concert team toll-free at 0508 266 237. Don't miss the chance to be part of this extraordinary musical experience!

An Adventure Awaits: Celtic Celebration Scotland & Ireland

If you find yourself enchanted by *Thistle & The Shamrock*, then brace yourself for an even grander adventure! Join us for our spectacular 25-day *Celtic Celebration - Scotland & Ireland* tour, taking place from 25 July to 21 August, 2025. This cultural journey offers numerous musical experiences, guided by our talented hosts, including Bonaventure Allan-Moetaua, Karl Perigo, and fiddler Marian Burns.

Throughout the tour, you will experience the legendary *Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo*, enjoy intimate private concerts, visit lively pubs with local musicians, and revel in the beauty of traditional shows. Highlights include a magical cruise featuring live performances, the delightful *Taste of Scotland* show, and captivating performances of Riverdance and a medieval show at the historic Bunnratty Castle. This adventure isn't just a journey through breathtaking landscapes;



it's a deep dive into the proud history and rich cultural heritage of Scotland and Ireland.

To secure your place on this unforgettable tour or for more information, visit our website www.operatunity.co.nz, call our dedicated travel team toll-free at 0508 886 489, or email us at travelbookings@operatunity.co.nz.

**Please note that tickets for concerts and spaces on tours are limited. Contact us today to ensure you don't miss out on these incredible musical experiences!*



In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae, May 1915

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

The poem was written by a Canadian Medical Corps doctor, Major John McCrae, who was serving with a Field Artillery Brigade in Ypres. The death of one of his friends in May 1915, buried in the cemetery outside his dressing station, affected him severely and he wrote his poem as a way of expressing his anguish at the loss.

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare during the First World War.

Monday November 11th marks the 106th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18).

Every year at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, millions around the world pause in silence to remember the sacrifices many have made so we can enjoy life today. Remember those who gave their lives in the two world wars and all who have died in combat since. Lest We forget.



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Celebrating Stirling 900

By: Fraser MacDonald



Stirling Castle above the city of Stirling. All images courtesy of Fraser MacDonald.

2024 marks Stirling's 900th anniversary as a Royal Burgh with a variety of events taking place until April 2025. The city is steeped in history and with some impressive buildings and stunning landscapes and it is a photographers dream. Stirling local, and photographer, Fraser MacDonald loves his home town and shares with us just some of the amazing places to visit when next in Scotland.



Stirling Castle.

Nestled between the Scottish Highlands and Lowlands, Stirling is a city steeped in history and surrounded by natural beauty. As a photographer, I've found that there's



The Tolbooth, Stirling.

no better place to explore with a camera in hand—its cobbled streets, medieval architecture, and breathtaking landscapes offer endless inspiration. This year marks the city's 900th birthday. Stirling inspired me to take up photography. I've lived here all my life and can't see that ever changing. I'd often snap photos of the picturesque city using my iPhone. One day I decided to buy a camera, and I have never looked back.

Stirling acted as the perfect training ground for me. It's a place often overlooked by passing tourism. But I think it has more than enough beauty to rival popular stops such as Edinburgh and Glasgow. Stirling was granted city status in 2002, but don't let that fool you. It still very much has that small-town vibe. There's something unique about this place. It's pretty hard to explain.

It offers something rare: a place where time feels suspended, and yet every moment is fleeting and ready to be captured. It's a city that invites you to slow down and appreciate the beauty of its environment.

A pivotal location in Scottish history

Stirling Castle stands proud on a volcanic rock, its elevated presence visible from every corner of the city. Many battles of time gone by have been lost and won here. When the sun sets, the soft light dances off the castle's ancient walls, creating a photographer's dream. This is my favourite subject in Stirling to shoot. There are so many different angles you can capture, each one offering something unique and magical.



Stirling Old Bridge.

Stirling 900

It is thought that the original creation of the burgh of Stirling by David I was given as a verbal instruction so no written record exists. The earliest charter is held by Stirling Council archives issued by David II in 1360 that confirmed an earlier charter of King Alexander II given on 18 August 1226.

Burgh status elevated an existing settlement into something more distinctive. The king granted his burgesses or freemen privileges. These included: holding their land and property directly from him, having the right to elect a council, holding their own court, levying local taxes and holding markets. The Stirling 900 celebration will take place between April 2024 and April 2025, to coincide with the coronation of King David.



River Forth.



Old Town Cemetery.

The misty mornings over the old bridge evoke a sense of reverence. If you get there early enough, you can capture the stunning reflection that bounces off the River Forth. Every inch of this bridge is steeped in history. It was an integral part of William Wallace's victory during the first war of Scottish independence. A pivotal location in Scottish history that reverberates through the ages. The National Wallace Monument was built in 1869 and stands 220ft tall. Towering over the River Forth, it really is a sight to behold. There's no better place in Stirling to capture the sunset. There is something so majestic when the golden rays shine perfectly through the monument's crown. It reminds me of a solar eclipse and that the world is trying to tell us something.

Something magical about this sleepy old town

Pretty backdrops are an essential part of every photo. In autumn, the Ochil Hills burn with golden and red tones, while in winter, the first frost turns them into a winter wonderland. This ever-changing landscape offers photographers new perspectives with each passing day. In the morning, you can tell how the weather will play out just by looking into the mountain's soul.

Stirling's people bring the town to life. Whether it's the lively gatherings at the annual Stirling Highland Games or the vibrant energy of the university campus, capturing the spirit of the town's residents adds depth and warmth to the historic backdrop. In every face, you can see a connection to Stirling's rich past and hopeful future. In every photograph, I

aim to encapsulate Stirling's narrative, celebrating both its historical brilliance and modern ambition while sharing my passion for photography with a broader audience.

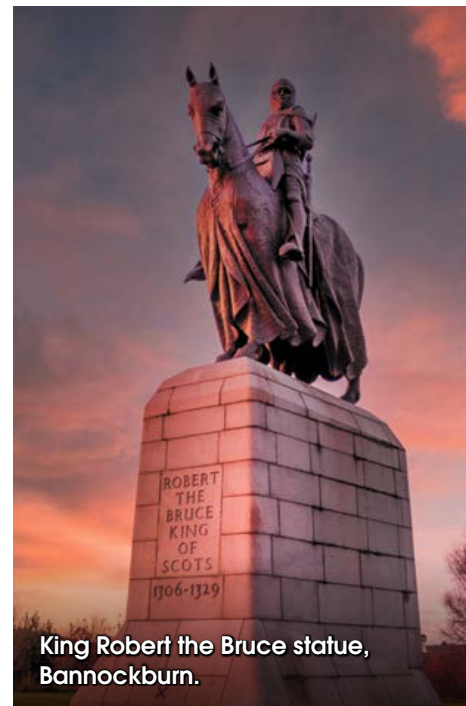
I've been fortunate enough to travel to some incredible places over the years. I've hiked the Hollywood Hills and shot the famous sign, I have stood in the shadow of the Empire State Building and captured its greatness and I have also flown over the Nevada desert and photographed the dazzling lights of Las Vegas. But nothing compares to my hometown. I've never taken it for granted and never will. There's something magical about this sleepy old town...

Follow Fraser MacDonald photo journeys across Stirling and beyond at: www.instagram.com/thecanonkid

For more information on Stirling 900 and the list of events visit: www.yourstirling.com/whats-on/stirling-900



Cambuskenneth Abbey.



King Robert the Bruce statue, Bannockburn.

Did you know? Stirling

- The name Stirling probably comes from the Gaelic or Cumbric for "land enclosed by a stream or river" Sruighlea. The origin of the name is uncertain although others claim it comes from a Gaelic or Scots word meaning "Place of battle/Struggle." It also may come from the Brythonic name for "dwelling place of Melyn."
- Stirling is the smallest city in Scotland and a former ancient burgh. The town was originally created as a royal burgh by King David I in 1124 which it remained until 1975. In 2002 Stirling was granted city status as part of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.
- Stirling was originally a Stone Age settlement as suggested by the presence of the Randolphfield stand stones and the Kings park prehistoric carvings. Stirling has always been a strategically important place in Scotland due to its defensive crag and tail hill and its position at the foot of the Ochil hills on the border between the lowlands and the Highlands.
- Stirling is dominated by the castle and the medieval old town. The city was the location of several major battles during the wars of Independence. You can still visit the site of the battle of Stirling Bridge (1297) and Bannockburn, where Robert the Bruce defeated the English in 1314, is a nearby town.
- In 1507 the first attempt of flight in Scotland took place at Stirling Castle. An Italian believed he could fly using feathered wings and jumped from the castle battlements, breaking his thigh in the process as he fell to earth.
- Mary Queen of Scots was crowned at Stirling Castle in 1542.

Monstrous disturbance recorded at Loch Ness

Deepscan sonar picks up potential Nessie reading.



The radar recorded a sizeable reading that's sparking curiosity.

On Thursday 3rd October, The Loch Ness Centre had a finding whilst onboard the vessel *Deepscan*, which has advanced sonar technology to explore the depths of Loch Ness daily. The radar system recorded a sizeable reading that has sparked intrigue and speculation among researchers and enthusiasts. The radar system, specifically designed to detect underwater objects and formations, identified a distinct anomaly in the loch. While the exact nature of these readings remains under investigation, preliminary analysis suggests they could represent substantial underwater presences or potentially large aquatic creatures inhabiting the loch.

Radar records unexplained disturbance on loch bed

The reading on Thursday 3rd October at n57°14.850 w004°31.688 suggests there was a disturbance on the loch bed. At the

time, the team were out on the loch with Aberdeen University for their first official deployment of weeHoloCam and they were passed Urquhart Castle and were heading down to Fort Augustus when their equipment spotted the disturbance on the loch bed. *Deepscan* cruise uses cutting-edge technology to investigate the unique underwater environment of Loch Ness.

With the use of sonar and radar systems, a hydrophone and most recently a state-of-the-art holographic camera, *Deepscan* has been able to provide The Loch Ness Centre with a detailed understanding of the loch to date. Nagina Ishaq, General Manager of The Loch Ness Centre, said: "These radar readings have raised many questions about what lurks in the depths of Loch Ness. Our *Deepscan* cruise has consistently aimed to deepen our understanding of the loch's ecosystem, and this finding shows that there are still many unknowns about the loch. We are currently working with Loch Ness researchers to conduct further analysis of these readings which hopefully mark a major milestone in the search for Nessie."



Loch Ness Project research vessel Deepscan.



The National Wallace Monument.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Bank of Scotland founded by an Act of the Scottish Parliament. **1695**

1 - Scotland made a serious bid to enter the lucrative English sea-trading market. The Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies issued a subscription list to stockholders in London. Later known as The Darien Company, £300,000 sterling was quickly raised, but London merchants saw it as a threat to their own East India Company. They put pressure on the King, and the English subscriptions were withdrawn at the behest of their government. **1695**

1-12 - The city of Glasgow hosts the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26), a major United Nations climate summit and put the city on the world stage for 12 days. **2021**

2 - Jack Alexander MBE of The Alexander Brothers died. The Scottish folk singer began his career in the 1950s with his brother Jack and was born in Cambusnethan, Lanarkshire in 1935. **2013**

3 - The Scottish expedition to Darien landed at 'New Caledonia'. The expedition left Leith on the 12th July 1698, heading for the isthmus of Panama. The enterprise began in 1695 when the Scottish Parliament passed an Act for the establishment of the 'Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies'. **1698**

3 - Queen Elizabeth officially opened an underwater pipeline to bring the first North Sea oil ashore. **1975**

4 - Birth of King William III. **1650**

5 - Opening of the original Mitchell Library, Glasgow, now the largest public reference library in Europe and is home to one of the world's finest collections of Robert Burns materials. **1877**

5 - The Commercial Bar in Fraserburgh receives a direct hit from a German bomb, killing over 30. **1941**

6 - Celtic Football Club formally constituted in Calton, Glasgow, to alleviate poverty in Glasgow's East End parishes. The first Celtic Park was established on a vacant lot next to St Mary's Church. **1887**

7 - Writer and World War Two garrison commander Eric Linklater died in Orkney. **1974**

8 - Scholar and philosopher John Duns Scotus died. His dry subtleties led to the word "Duns" or "dunce" meaning dull and incapable of learning. Beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1993. **1308**

9 - In Edinburgh, Sir James Young Simpson delivered Wilhelmina Carstairs while chloroform was administered to the mother, the first child to be born with the aid of anaesthesia. **1847**



9 -The Royal Yacht Britannia left the Clydebank shipyards to begin her speed trials. Built by John Brown's shipbuilders, she was famously luxurious and entertained countless dignitaries in opulent style. The *Britannia* carried the royal family on more than 1000 visits to over 600 countries. Today she is moored at Ocean Point, Edinburgh. **1953**

9 - Dorothy Dunnett, the cult Scottish novelist, died. The writer of intricate and meticulously researched historical novels, she attracted a devoted following with her multi-volume sagas. **2001**

10 - Journalist Henry M Stanley found the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone with the classic "Dr Livingstone, I presume". **1871**

11- Today is Martinmas, Scottish Quarter Day. The feast of St Martin of Tours was traditionally the day for slaughtering livestock and salting it for preservation through the winter.



11 - Armistice Day, marking the end of hostilities in World War I. The guns were finally silenced on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Though Scots made up only 10% of the UK population at the time, a total of 147,609 Scots were killed during the war, a fifth of Britain's total dead. **1918**

11 - Edinburgh City Council announces they will be the first city in Scotland to make pavement parking illegal, the law came into effect in January 2024. **2023**

12 - St Machar Day, patron saint of Aberdeen.

12 - Edinburgh University first admitted women to the study of medicine. Sophia Jex-Blake and her friend Edith Pechy were the first to attend the prestigious medical school. Though Jex-Blake passed her exams, she was not allowed to graduate as regulations prevented women from actually serving on the wards. **1869**

13 - King Malcolm III (Canmore), last of the Celtic kings was killed at the Battle of Alnwick. Succeeded by Donald III. **1093**

13 - The birth of Robert Louis Stevenson, author and poet, in Edinburgh's New Town. His books included *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. He died in Samoa, aged 44. **1850**

14 - Speed limit for horseless carriages was raised from 4mph (2mph in towns) to 14mph. **1896**



15 - Statue to Greymfriar's Bobby, who stayed by his master's grave for 14 years, was unveiled in Edinburgh. **1873**

15 - The Stone of Destiny was finally returned to Scotland. Legend has it that the stone is a relic from the Holy Land and once belonged to the biblical Jacob. From an early date the kings of Scotland were inaugurated sitting on a royal chair with the stone in its base. In 1296 Edward I removed the stone and installed it at Westminster Abbey. It remained there until it was kidnapped by Scottish nationalist students in 1951. They managed to hide the stone in Scotland for four months until it was found and returned to Westminster. It was moved from there to Edinburgh Castle in 1996 amid much celebration. **1996**

16 - James Macpherson, the famous fiddling freebooter, was hanged at Banff. The town clock was said to have been advanced to forestall a messenger carrying a reprieve for his hanging. Legend has it that before the notorious outlaw musician was hanged for sheep and cattle stealing he treated the crowd to one of his own compositions, *Macpherson's Rant*, and then broke the fiddle over his knee. When Burns heard of the tale he wrote the song *Macpherson's Farewell*. **1700**

16 - Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show opened in the East End Exhibition Buildings, Duke Street, Glasgow. **1891**

17 - David Livingstone reached Victoria Falls in Africa. Livingstone was born at Blantyre, south of Glasgow and went on a mission to reach new peoples in the interior of Africa and introduce them to Christianity. **1855**



17 - Tam the Gun - the soldier who famously fired Edinburgh Castle's One o'Clock Gun for more than 25 years died. Staff Sergeant Thomas McKay, 60, lost a year-long battle against bowel cancer. **2005**

18 - Sir David Wilkie who later became a well-known painter of historical and religious works as well as portraits, was born near Pitlessie, Fife. **1785**

18 - Robin Hall, the Scottish folk singer and musician, died. Hall achieved national fame in the sixties along with fellow Scot, Jimmie Macgregor, on the BBC TV show, *Tonight*. Hits included *The Mingulay Boat Song* and schoolboy favourite, *Ye Cannae Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus*. **1998**

19 - King Charles I born. **1600**

20 - James Bruce, 8th Lord Elgin, the Scottish Liberal statesman and diplomat, died. During his career he served as Governor-General of Canada, 1847-54, and India, 1862-63 and was special envoy to China and Japan. During a visit to China he burnt down the emperor's famous Summer Palace in Beijing, destroying thousands of priceless works of art, in order to intimidate the emperor and force him to sign an unratified treaty. **1863**

20 - Nicola Sturgeon is officially sworn in as First Minister of Scotland at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, in front of senior judges. Scotland's longest-serving and first ever female First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon resigned from office after more than eight years in the role in February 2023. **2014**

21 - King James VII married Mary of Modena. **1673**

22 - Birth of Mary of Guise, the French Queen Consort of James V. She was regent of Scotland during the minority reign of her daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. **1515**

22 - Jack McConnell elected First Minister of Scotland, succeeding Henry McLeish who had resigned. **2001**



23 - Historical novelist Nigel Tranter born in Glasgow. He was the most prolific Scottish writer of all time, writing mainly factual and fictional books related to Scottish history and was also a columnist for many years for *the Scottish Banner*. **1909**

23 - The Supreme Court rules that the Scottish Government cannot hold a second Scottish independence referendum without the UK government's consent. **2022**

24 - David II (aged 7) crowned at Scone. **1331**

24 - The Scots army defeated at the Rout of Solway Moss. King James V had sent a huge force of 10,000 men into England which was defeated by an English force under the command of Sir Thomas Wharton. James died shortly afterward, and was succeeded to the throne by his baby daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. **1542**

24 - The high court in Glasgow imposes a minimum sentence of 27 years for Al Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi, the Libyan national convicted of bombing Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, which resulted in 270 deaths. He was released on compassionate grounds by the Scottish Government on 20 August 2009 and died on 20 May 2012 in Libya. **2003**

25 - General Tam Dalyell raises a regiment to suppress Covenanters which later became the Royal Scots Greys. **1681**

25 - Steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie born in Dunfermline. Carnegie became a powerful businessman and a leading force in the American steel industry. Carnegie believed that the wealthy had an obligation to give back to society, so he donated much of his fortune to causes like education and peace. **1835**

25 - Helen Duncan the last person to be jailed in the UK under the British Witchcraft Act of 1735 was born. **1897**

25 - Scotland becomes the first country in the world to make it a legal duty for period products to be available to anyone for free after the Period Products (Scotland) Bill is approved. **2020**

26 - Death of John McAdam, inventor of "macadamisation" road surface with a smooth hard surface with a camber to ensure rainwater rapidly drained away. **1836**

26 - Elsie Inglis, the Scottish nursing pioneer and suffragette, died. Inglis is perhaps best remembered for her role in the First World War, where, convinced that women could play an active role in the conflict, she led volunteer medical units of women who served in France and in Serbia, where Inglis herself was taken prisoner. Winston Churchill wrote that Inglis and her nurses "would shine in history". **1917**

27 - The greatest storm on record hit Britain with the loss of 8,000 people in 24 hours. **1703**

27 - The first deaths from an E.coli outbreak in Lanarkshire were reported. The outbreak was subsequently traced back to a butcher's shop in the town of Wishaw, and by early 1997 twenty people, mostly senior citizens, had died, making this the world's worst outbreak of E.coli poisoning. **1996**

28 - Battle of Rullion Green on the Pentland Hills, south-west of Edinburgh, in which the King's army led by Sir Tam Dalyell defeated the Covenanters. **1666**

28 - W.Oliver Brown, the candidate for the fledgling National Party of Scotland (NPS), polled 4,818 votes in the Renfrew East By-Election. In doing this he became the first NPS candidate to save his election deposit.

The National Party of Scotland amalgamated with the Scottish Party in April 1934 to form the modern Scottish National Party/SNP. **1930**

29 - Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII of England was born. She later married King James IV of Scotland in the "Union of the Thistle and the Rose". It was due to her bloodline that King James VI of Scotland was able to inherit the crown of England in 1603, after the death of his cousin, Queen Elizabeth I. **1489**

29 - Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons granted its charter by King James VI. **1599**

29 - Thomas Edison demonstrated the phonograph publicly for the first time. **1877**

30 - St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais') – celebrate the patron saint of Scotland. St Andrew, according to Christianity's teachings, was one of Jesus Christ's apostles, the twelve followers chosen by him.

30 - World's first international football (soccer) match, Scotland V England at West of Scotland Cricket Ground. Result was 0-0. **1872**

30 - *HMS Vanguard*, Britain's biggest and last battleship, was launched at Clydebank. **1944**



30 - Stone of Destiny, stolen from Scone by King Edward I of England in 1296, returned to Scotland and installed in Edinburgh Castle. The stone had previously been taken from Westminster Abbey in London by university students in 1951. It is now housed at the new Perth Museum. **1996**

30 - Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh officially opened. **1999**

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Oatcakes

Ingredients:

1 cup oatmeal
¼ cup hot water
1 tsp. fat
¼ tsp. baking soda
Salt

Method:

Mix together the oatmeal, baking soda and a good pinch of salt. Melt the fat in hot water and add to make soft paste. Place on a baking board, sift oatmeal over it and knead well until smooth. Roll out into a round, very thinly, and cut into four pieces. Brush off surplus and bake on hot griddle/pan. Turn over when the edges start to curl up. Instead of hot water and fat, buttermilk may be used.

Tomato Bridie

Ingredients:

700g/1½ lbs. of lean lamb
1 large onion
Pinch cinnamon
2 tsp. brown sugar
A little dripping
1 tin peeled plum tomatoes
Salt & pepper to taste
1 tbsp. capers

Method:

Heat a frying pan (coated with oil). Sauté the meat until cooked. Add chopped onions

and tomatoes, plus liquid from tin and all seasonings. Stir for 10 minutes cooking slowly. Transfer all to a casserole dish and bake in slow oven 150C/300°F for 2½ hours. Add capers during the last thirty minutes of cooking.

Flank Steak Dundee

Ingredients:

3.5 kgs/8 lbs. flank steak In one piece cut very thin
8 slices bacon
¼ cup wheat germ
Grated parmesan cheese
Oregano
2 hard-boiled eggs (chopped)
Chopped parsley
Garlic salt
Salt & pepper
Olive oil
1 can/450ml/15oz. tomato sauce
1 cup of water

Method:

Pound steak until very thin. Line with strips of bacon, then sprinkle with wheat germ. Over wheat germ sprinkle grated cheese, a little oregano, then chopped eggs and parsley. Season with garlic salt and salt and pepper. Roll up steak and tie with string. Brown on all sides with some olive oil. Add tomato sauce and water, cover and simmer 1-1 ½ hours turning often. Makes four servings.

Highland Mushroom Roll Ups

Ingredients:

1 loaf white bread, thin sliced
450g/1lb. mushrooms (chopped)

1 large onion (chopped)
60g/2 oz. cream cheese (room temp)
2 tablespoons butter
Additional butter (melted)

Method:

Heat oven to 175C/350° F. Remove crusts from bread and flatten with rolling pin. Sauté onion in butter. Add mushrooms. Cover and cook mixture for 5 minutes. Spread mixture on bread. Roll. Brush with melted butter. Cut each roll in half and place on a cookie sheet. Bake for 30 minutes.

Athol Brose

Ingredients:



300ml/ ½ pint extra thick double cream, whipped to a soft peak stage
1 can sweetened condensed milk
15ml/1 tbsp. whisky
15ml/1oz. (steel-cut/pinhead) oatmeal
225g/8oz. frozen raspberries, thawed
Fresh mint sprigs, to decorate

Method:

In a bowl combine condensed milk, whisky and half the oatmeal. Layer into a glass with the raspberries and chill for 30 minutes. Sprinkle into the glass the remaining oatmeal and decorate with fresh mint. Serves 4.

Mary Jane Gingerbread

Ingredients:

Cream together:

¼ cup of butter
½ cup of sugar
1 egg, beaten
¼ cup of molasses (dark)

Sift together:

1 cup of flour
Pinch of salt
½ teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
¼ teaspoon clove

Method:

Mix well and add to first mixture alternately with ½ cup boiling water. Turn into a greased 20cm/8in square pan and bake in 205C/400° F oven for 35-40 minutes.

Mary Queen of Scots

Ingredients:

1 lemon quarter
Caster sugar
2-3 ice cubes
30ml/1fl.oz. scotch whisky
15ml/1/2fl.oz./1 tbsp Drambuie
15ml/1/2fl.oz./1 tbsp. green chartreuse
1 cocktail cherry

Method:

Rub the rim of a cocktail glass with the lemon then dip the rim into caster sugar to coat. Allow the frosting to dry. Crack the ice (but don't crush it into too small pieces) and place in a shaker together with the Scotch, Drambuie and Chartreuse. Shake well and strain into the frosted cocktail glass. Spear the cherry onto a cocktail stick and use to decorate.

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Tartan of the Month

Remarkable Aircraft Markings 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).

As we honour those that serve this month on November 11th, we feature this tartan which celebrates the brave air forces during D-Day.

This tartan was inspired by the aircraft of the Allied air forces during D-Day as part of Operation Overlord. Friendly aircraft were painted with white and black stripes on the fuselage and wings, the colours have been incorporated into this design. Other colours are green, grey and brown intended to represent the aircraft's upper sides; blue for the sea and grey for the ships of the naval forces which transported the land forces to the 5 brown beaches of Normandy where so many fell, indicated by the black threads.

The threadcount includes numbers of significance intended to represent; air force personnel; the date June 6, 1944 and the 5 beaches. This tartan (reference: 14290) was designed by Edgar Van De Crommert and registered in May, 2024.

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The island chain of Scotland's Outer Hebrides lies at the edge of Europe. From white shell sands, peaty moors and mountains to heather hills, sea-green lochs and mysterious ancient monuments, these are places of unrivalled beauty. This book is an invitation to discover Lewis and Harris, Berneray, North Uist, Grimsay, Benbecula, South Uist, Eriskay, Bara and Vatersay, as well as the vibrant Gaelic culture of the islanders. With insights, hidden gems and helpful information, it offers meaningful travels and experiences in these islands. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**

The Colouring Book of Scotland

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

Robert Burns: A superb collection from Scotland's finest lyrical poet

Robert Burns, poet and lyricist is widely regarded as the National Poet of Scotland – and much of his work has become part of everyday modern language. Often credited with writing the lyrics for *Auld Lang Syne*, he almost single-handedly inspired the movement that preserved Scottish music and lyrics which had been handed down the generations vocally for centuries, thereby maintaining Scots culture and language. A cultural icon and pioneer of the Romantic movement. This collection includes some of his best-loved, most beautiful work. **Price: \$19.95 Plus postage**

Ashes and Stones: A Scottish Journey in Search of Witches and Witness

Roaming the coasts and remote villages of Scotland, take a moving journey in search of those women accused of witchcraft in the 17th century. Follow the traces their stories have left on the landscape of contemporary women to the horrors of the past. A powerful record of resilience and remembrance, untangling the myth of witchcraft and giving voice to those erased by it. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**

The Borders: A History from Earliest Times

This book tells the story of a part of Scotland that has played a huge role in the nation's history for hundreds of years. The hunter-gatherers, who first penetrated the virgin interior, the Celtic warlords, the Romans, the Northumbrians and the Reivers, who dominated the Anglo-Scottish borderlands for over 300 years, have all had their part to play in the constantly evolving life of the area. It is the people of a place that make its history, and Alistair Moffat's book is a testament to those who have made the Borders their home and who have created the traditions, myths and romance that define it so strongly. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**

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

Pipers takes the reader inside the world of the performer community of Scottish piping, introducing the instrument itself and the various different repertoires. It also discusses piping techniques as well as information on some of the great piping dynasties and individual pipers. Since pipers have often been skilled also on the fiddle, keyboards and small-pipes, or as singers or dancers, their story offers fascinating insights into the whole traditional music and song repertoire of Scotland. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**

My First Colouring Book: Scotland

Age range 3+. Young children will love these colouring books featuring simple illustrations of a variety of Scottish themes. Contents feature: Castles, Unicorns, Scottish Country Dancers, Bagpipes, Loch Ness Monster, Fort Rail Bridge, Tartan and more. **Price: \$19.95 Plus postage**

Columba: Pilgrim, Priest & Patron Saint

St Columba is one of the most important figures in the early history of the British Isles. A native of Donegal and a nobleman of royal ancestry, his outstanding religious career spanned both sides of the Irish Sea. On the Scottish island of Iona he founded his principal monastery where he served as abbot until his death in AD 597. Iona eventually became the centre of a powerful federation of monasteries that preserved a memory of Columba and nurtured the saintly cult that grew around him. This book traces Columba's achievements and legacy. **Price: \$34.95 plus postage**

A History of Scotland

Historian Neil Oliver presents a compelling new portrait of Scottish history, peppered with action, high drama and centuries of turbulence that have helped to shape modern Scotland. Along the way, he takes in iconic landmarks and historic architecture; debunks myths surrounding Scotland's famous sons; recalls forgotten battles; charts the growth of patriotism; and explores recent political developments, capturing Scotland's sense of identity and celebrating her place in the wider world. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**

The Picts

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

Islands of The Evening 14 centuries ago, Irish saints journeyed to the Hebrides and Scotland's Atlantic shore. They sought spiritual solitude in remote places, but their mission was also to spread the word of God to the peoples of Scotland. Columba was the most famous of these pioneers who rowed their curraghs towards danger and uncertainty in a pagan land, but the many others are now largely forgotten. Moffat sets off in search of these elusive figures. As he follows in their footsteps, he finds their traces not so much in tangible remains as in the spirit and memory of the places that lay at the very edge of their world. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**

Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors

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

Queen Macbeth A thousand years ago in an ancient Scottish landscape, a woman is on the run with her three bosom companions – a healer, a weaver and a seer. If the men hunting her find them, they will kill her because she is the only one who stands between them and their violent ambition. She is no lady: she is the first queen of Scotland, married to a king called Macbeth. Shakespeare fed us the myth of the Macbeths as power-hungry murderous conspirators. But now Val McDermid drags the truth out of the shadows, exposing the patriarchal prejudices of history. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**

Scottish Quotations

The Scots have always had a reputation for clarity of thought and also for the vigour with which it is put into words. This collection spans the entire gamut of a nation's recorded thought and experience from Roman Scotland to the present day. It covers a vast range of subject matter and demonstrates a remarkable variety of moods and tones, from the literary to the colloquial and bawdy. Packed with sharp observation and humour, it sounds other notes too. Meditative, triumphant, tragic, accusing, tender – and often hilarious – it reveals the spirit of Scotland in a truly unique way. **Price: \$19.95 Plus postage**

The Bone Cave: A Journey through Myth and Memory

A vivid account of a journey through the Scottish Highlands, The Bone Cave follows a series of folktales and myths to the places in which they're set. Travelling mostly on foot, and camping along the way amid some of Scotland's most beautiful and rugged landscapes, Dougie Strang encounters a depth of meaning to the tales he tracks – one that offers a unique perspective on place, culture, land ownership and ecological stewardship, as well as insights into his own entanglement with place. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**

Clans and Tartans of Scotland

The Scots are a remarkable race with a justifiably proud history and culture which they have successfully passed on through generations. This compact book sets out to identify the larger Scottish clan and family names, their tartans, septs (dependent family names), heraldic crests, mottoes, ancestral lands and allegiances. This book features full colour photographs of each tartan as opposed to digital reproductions, allowing readers to see both the textures and patterns. **Price: \$19.95 Plus postage**

Picts, Gaels and Scots: Early Historic Scotland

Early historic Scotland, from the 5th to 10th century AD, was home to a variety of diverse peoples and cultures, all competing for land and supremacy. Yet by the 11th century it had become a single, unified kingdom, known as Alba, under a stable and successful monarchy. How did this happen, and when? At the heart of this mystery lies the extraordinary influence of the Picts and of their neighbours, the Gaels – originally immigrants from Ireland. This book establishes the nature of their contributions, the origins of the Picts and Gaels, their religion, symbols, warfare, settlement and more. **Price: \$39.95 Plus postage**

Glasgow: The Autobiography

This book tells the story of the fabled, former Second City of the British Empire from its origins as a bucolic village on the rivers Kelvin and Clyde, through the tumult of the Industrial Revolution to the third millennium. Including extracts from an astonishing array of contributors the result is a varied and vivid portrait of one of the world's great cities in all its grime and glory – a place which is at once infuriating, inspiring, raucous, humorous and never, ever dull. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**

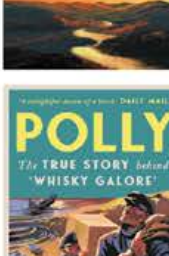
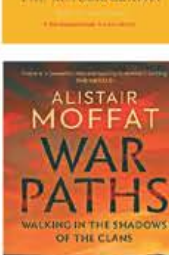
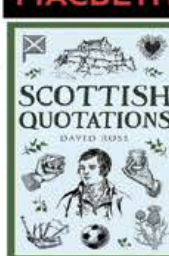
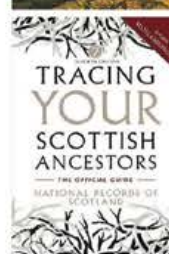
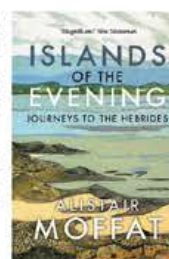
War Paths-Walking in the Shadows of the Clans

Alistair Moffat sets off in the footsteps of the Highland clans. In 12 journeys he explores places of conflict, recreating as he walks the tumult of battle. As he recounts the military prowess of the clans – surely the most feared fighting men in western Europe – he also speaks of their lives, their language and culture before it was all swept away. The disaster at Culloden in 1746 represented not just the defeat of the Jacobite dream but also the unleashing of merciless retribution from the British government which dealt the Highland clans a blow from which they would never recover. This is an exploration of many of the places and events which define a country's history. **Price: \$39.95 Plus postage**

POLLY The True Story Behind 'Whisky Galore'

In 1941, the ship SS Politician ran aground in the Outer Hebrides. Among its cargo were 260,000 bottles of whisky destined for America – a godsend to the local Eriskay islanders whose home-grown supply had dried up due to rationing. The story is known through Whisky Galore. This book tells the true story of one of the most bizarre events to have happened in Scottish waters. **Price: \$19.95 Plus postage**

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Nature Notebook: Highland Cow

This notebook features a stunning cover with artwork by acclaimed nature artist Jane Smith. It contains lined paper, a head-and-tail band, a ribbon marker and band to keep it securely fastened. Blank pages for your personal notes. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

The Hebrides

Paul Murton has spent half a lifetime exploring some of the most beautiful islands in the world – the Hebrides. He has travelled the length and breadth of the Scotland's rugged, 6,000 mile coast line, and sailed to over 80 islands. This new edition visits each of the Hebridean islands in turn, introducing their myths and legends, history, culture & natural beauty. He also meets the people who live there and learns their story. A vivid account of the Hebrides and serves as unique guide to the less well-known aspects of life among the islands. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**

The Highlands

Paul Murton journeys the length and breadth of the beautiful Scottish Highlands. In addition to bringing a fresh eye to popular destinations such as Glencoe, Ben Nevis, Loch Ness and the Cairngorms, he also visits some remote and little-known locations. He meets a host of modern Highlanders, from caber tossers & gamekeepers to lairds to pipers. He uncovers some strange tales, myths and legends along the way: stories of Jacobites, clan warfare, murder and cattle rustling fill each chapter – as well as some hilarious anecdotes based on his personal experience of a place he loves to call home. **Price: \$44.95 Plus postage**

Tall Tales and Wee Stories: The Best of Billy Connolly

In December 2018, after fifty years of belly-laughs, energy and outrage, Billy Connolly announced his retirement from live stand-up comedy. It had been an extraordinary career. This book brings together the very best of Billy's storytelling for the first time and includes his most famous routines including, The Last Supper, Jobba Shampoo, Incontinence Pants and Shouting at Wildebeest. With an introduction and original illustrations by Billy throughout, it is an inspirational, energetic and riotously funny read, and a fitting celebration of our greatest ever comedian. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

Scottish Folklore

Scotland has one of the richest traditions of folklore in the world, and the nation's greatest writers have been influenced by the country's abundance of customs, superstitions, ghost stories and folktales. This book traces the roots and traditions of Scottish folklore and introduces all its key parts, combining a huge range of material from gypsy-lore and Arthurian legend to tales of magical beasts, demons and witches and lore associated with the natural world. **Price: \$19.95 Plus postage**

Everyday Gaelic: With Audio Download

This new and expanded edition of the best-selling Everyday Gaelic has been compiled by an author with many years' experience in teaching the language to adults and children. In addition to basic words and phrases, it also includes more complex and idiomatic material, all arranged thematically and covering topics such as meeting & greeting, travelling, the weather and eating & drinking. There are also clearly explained sections on grammar and imitated pronunciation for all Gaelic words and phrases. The result is an accessible and useful book which will be of benefit to all levels and ages of Gaelic learners. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**

Scottish Gaelic in Twelve Weeks: With Audio Download

Written both as a self-tuition course for beginners and also for use within the classroom. You may want to learn Gaelic because of a general interest in Celtic or Scottish history and culture, or because it was the everyday language of your ancestors. Each lesson in the book contains some essential points of grammar explained and illustrated, exercises, a list of new vocabulary (with a guide to pronunciation, using the International Phonetic Alphabet), and an item of conversation. This new edition includes an audio download link to hear pronunciation. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**

Gaelic-English/English-Gaelic Dictionary

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

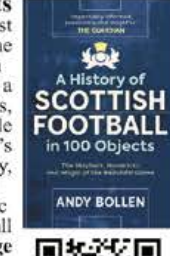
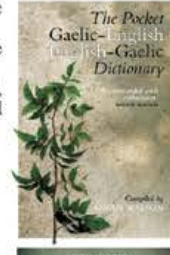
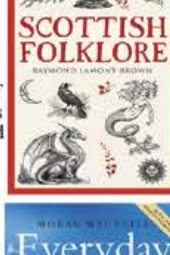
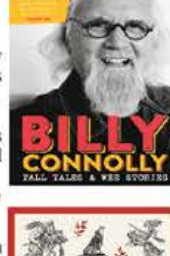
The Eagle and the Bear: A New History of Roman Scotland

For over 3 centuries, the inhabitants of North Britain faced the might of Rome, resulting in some of the most extraordinary archaeology of the ancient world. This book considers many of the controversies surrounding Roman Scotland. From a reassessment of the loss of the Ninth Legion and the reasons for building and maintaining Hadrian's Wall, to considering what spurred at least four Roman Emperors to personally visit the edge of the Empire. This informed view of what it was like to be at the dark heart of imperialism and slavery, and to be on the receiving end of Rome's merciless killing machine. **Price: \$44.95 Plus postage**

History of Scottish Football in 100 Objects

From Socrates to Arthur Montford, via Bovril, Buckfast and, of course, pies, this is a unique journey through the extraordinary world of Scottish football. Packed with anecdotes and observations, Andy Bollen wallows in a nostalgic haze, a time of hatchet-men with moustaches, a magic sponge that should have been granted miracle status and big-money strikers who couldn't hit a cow's posterior with a banjo. Opinionated, forthright and funny, Bollen reluctantly concedes that tattoos, hair weaves and VAR are now part of the game. This idiosyncratic ride through the wonderful absurdity of Scottish football with chime with every fan. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**

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Holyrood reception held to mark bicentenary of Scotland's oldest ship



A Scottish Parliamentary reception was held recently, hosted by Michael Marra MSP and the Unicorn Preservation Society (USP), to mark the bicentenary of Scotland's oldest ship, *HMS Unicorn*. MSPs and other VIPs were invited to the evening reception to hear about the ship's incredible 200-year history and, going forward, the ambitious plans to secure her future. *HMS Unicorn* was launched on 30 March 1824, originally constructed as a 46-gun frigate at Chatham Royal Dockyard. The ship was moved to Dundee in 1873 as a training ship for the Royal Naval Reserves and has been moored on the city's waterfront ever since and is now one of the six oldest ships in the world.

Project Safe Haven

A much-loved Dundee tourist attraction and accredited museum, those gathered at Holyrood were told of the exciting plans

for the *HMS Unicorn*'s future, Project Safe Haven, a major development which will secure the future of *HMS Unicorn*, ensuring she doesn't succumb to the wear and tear of time. Project Safe Haven will also improve the tourism experience in Dundee, bringing more economic benefit and helping those within the city to thrive through the creation of more jobs and opportunities.

A significant injection of funding is required for major preservation work on *HMS Unicorn* to ensure its existence for future generations. Work has already begun on phase one of the work, to restore strength and robustness to *HMS Unicorn*'s hull and thereby improve her resilience at her current berth and ready her for her projected move to the nearby East Graving Dock.

The vision and mission of the Unicorn Preservation Society, established in 1968 to protect and preserve *HMS Unicorn*, is to deliver a world class museum experience, safeguard the future of the

ship, inspire those who visit and work with the charity and offer lifelong learning and engagement opportunities for the charity's local communities and beyond. Project Safe Haven, which will see the development of a Maritime Heritage Centre at the heart of Dundee, is the vehicle through which this will be achieved. Project Safe Haven will see a purpose built, environmentally sound Heritage Centre for visitors, learners and the community and will house collections, events and larger group activities.

Astonishing 200-year history

Michael Marra MSP said: "*HMS Unicorn* is a precious, beautiful and beloved artefact in our nation's maritime history. She deserves the care and attention that outstanding volunteers and professional museum staff are now providing. I was glad to be able to bring her unique story to the attention of fellow members of parliament on this 200th anniversary. In common with so many Dundonians *HMS Unicorn* played a part in my

childhood with days out with grandparents and I am glad to still be able to take my own children along to enjoy learning about our past. The challenge we must all now rise to is to secure *HMS Unicorn*'s future as an asset for the city and the country."

Museum Director, Matthew Bellhouse Moran, said: "A Scottish Parliamentary reception to celebrate *HMS Unicorn*'s bicentennial year seemed a fitting tribute to mark an astonishing 200-year history as one of the oldest ships in the world still afloat today, and certainly the oldest ship in Scotland still afloat today. *HMS Unicorn* has been part of the fabric of life in Dundee over the last 151 years and is held in great esteem. As we move forward, we are now looking to secure the future of *HMS Unicorn* for the next 200 years. As a charity we have made good progress towards raising the necessary funds, but we need more significant funding to secure the much-needed preservation work to fulfil our vision of Project Safe Haven. Without this her existence for future generations is in serious question."



To support the preservation of *HMS Unicorn* and to help Project Safe Haven come to life by becoming a 'Shipmate' of *HMS Unicorn*, please visit: www.hmsunicorn.org.uk/hms-unicorn/supporting-us



Colourful Portree.

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) Portree is the capital of which Scottish island?
- 2) Which flight in Scotland is the world's shortest scheduled airline service?
- 3) Edinburgh resident Major General Sir Nils Olav III, Baron of the Bouvet Islands, is famous for what?
- 4) Name the loch overlooked by the town of Stranraer?
- 5) Name the Scottish island nicknamed the 'roof of the world'?
- 6) Off which Hebridean island is Kisimul Castle, seat of Clan MacNeil?
- 7) In Old Scots if you were said to feel sicker or siccar, how would you feel?

- 8) Scotsman William Paterson (1671-1729) founded which financial institution?
- 9) Which area of Scotland has the largest concentration of whisky distilleries?
- 10) What is Scotland's most popular paid tourist attraction, which was built on an extinct volcano?

Answers:

- 1) The Isle of Skye.
- 2) The flights from Westray to Papa Westray in Orkney (or vice versa), which is about 1.7 miles or 2.7 km apart, it will only take you less than a minute to travel.
- 3) Being the only knighted penguin in the world and lives in Edinburgh Zoo.
- 4) Loch Ryan.
- 5) Easdale, off the coast of Argyll. It received this nickname due to the slate, used for roofing, it exported around the world.
- 6) The Isle of Barra.
- 7) Safe.
- 8) The Bank of England.
- 9) Speyside.
- 10) Edinburgh Castle.

THE 2025 SCOTTISH CALENDAR RANGE

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Start 2025 with some of Scotland on your wall!

Majestic Scotland



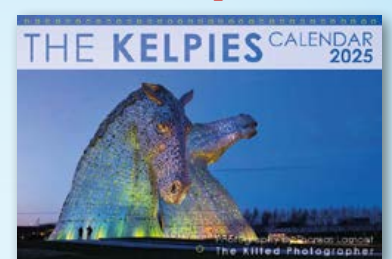
Featuring castles, lochs, The Kelpies, Highland Coos and more-a celebration of the beauty and diversity of Scotland.

Highland coos



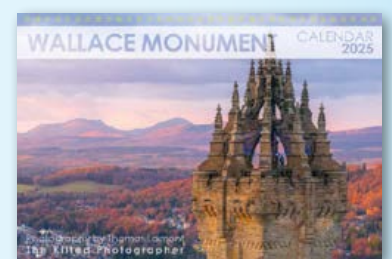
This calendar features some gorgeous hairy coos from Scotland. Full of hair, horns and cuteness!

The Kelpies



Standing 30 metres tall The Kelpies pay homage to the Clydesdale horses that worked in Scotland. One of Scotland most photographed pieces of art.

The National Wallace Monument



This calendar features one of Stirling's and Scotland's most iconic sites, commemorating the nations national hero-Sir William Wallace.

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Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

In addition to the Society newsletter and the opportunity to associate with fellow clansman members may query the Society 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



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 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.clandonaldivic@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.

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

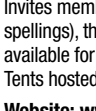
Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com

Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>

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

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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

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)

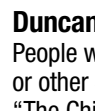
Contact: Kim Polley OAM

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 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

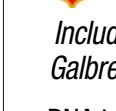
"The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.

For information and membership application,

contact Richard Harvey, Secretary

Email: lh100@tpg.com.au

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

The Blair Society for Genealogical Research



Collect, preserve, and disseminate genealogical and historical knowledge and information concerning the Family of BLAIR in its various lines of descent and in all parts of the world.

www.blairsociety.org



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
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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 GREGOR SOCIETY

Est: 1822 in Edinburgh Scotland

Patron: Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor Bt

Membership enquiries for USA: usa@clangregor.com

Rest of the World:

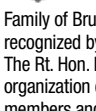
membership@clangregor.com

Web: www.clangregor.com

6 The Esplanade
Broughty Ferry
DUNDEE, DD5 2EL
Scotland UK



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 descent, or by recognized septs: Carlisle, Carruthers, Crosby, Randolph and Stenhouse.

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

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

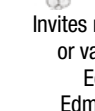
Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.



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

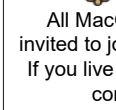
Edmonstone Clan Society



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

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

Clan Gregor Society 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"



HOUSE OF BURNETT INTERNATIONAL, INC.

THE WORLDWIDE BURNETT SOCIETY
www.houseofburnett.org

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

Clan Donald Australia

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

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Qld	A. Neil Macdonald
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clandonald.com.au
clandonaldnsw.au@gmail.com

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





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



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



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.
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FORBES

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For more information:
Membership@Clan-Forbes.org



Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society.

Inquiries to be sent to:
Sheri Lambert, Treasurer
P.O. Box 5399
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
visit our website:
www.clanhamilton.org

Clan Hay Australia

A' Hay A' Hay
A callout to all Hay's and our name variants, descendants, and supporters. Clan Hay looking for new members to join our illustrious Clan. All descendants and supporter's welcome.
Alderston; Ayer; Bagra; Beagrie; Conn (Aberdeenshire only); Constable; Delahaye; Delgaty; Du Plessis; Dupplin; Errol; Garrow; Geary; Gifford; Hayden; Haye; Hayes; Hayle; Haynes; Hays; Hayton; Hayward; Hay; Hye; Kinnoul; Laxfirth; Leask; Leith; Locherworth; Logie; Macara; MacGaradh; McKester; Peebles; Phillips (Aberdeenshire only); Slains; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester; Zester
For more information, please contact:
Australian Clan Hay convenor, Chris Hay McMor Fairbank
PO Box 70, Darrinallum, Victoria, 3325, Australia
E: clanhayAustralia@outlook.com
clanHayAustralia@Facebook.com



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• Maintaining our genealogy and DNA
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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

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WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

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

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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
www.clanhendersonsociety.com

McAlpin/e
and variant spellings
Commander: Michael T. McAlpin
DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!
Contact: membership.macalpein@gmail.com
Website: https://macalpein.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 Macnachtan 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 Hope of Craighall Society INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA
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highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org
Membership Chair: Cynthia Hope Henderson
membership@clanhope.org
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Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope
commissioner4scotland@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org
https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClanHopeofCraighall

Clan MacDougall Society of North America
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MacLaren
Clan Labhran
Clan MacLaren Society of Australia
Information about the Clan and application for CMSA membership is available on the website or via the email address below.
Membership is open to MacLarens (all spellings), Septs, individuals and families with an association to the Clan.
https://clanmaclarenau.org/
clanmaclarenau@gmail.com

Clan 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 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!
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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

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CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, to join us in celebrating our heritage!
website: **ClanMacNeilUSA.us**
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram
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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

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Clan MacLellan
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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 MacNicol
Chief: John MacNeacail
of MacNeacail and Scurrybreac
Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson
55 Arcadia Ave
GYMEA BAY NSW 2227
www.clanmacnicol.org

CLAN LAMONT SOCIETY AUSTRALIA invites membership from Sept names refer to Web Site **www.clanlamontaustalia.com**
Clan Chief Peter Lamont of that Ilk resides in Sydney Australia.
For all enquires about the Clan and Membership contact :-
President Ian McLucas.
Email **ianandbevmclucas@bigpond.com**
mobile 0448 778 799

Clan MacInnes
Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)
Worldwide, we welcome descendants of all spelling variations, including (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis, (Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.
Scott Mcinnis, Member Services: **scott@macinnes.org** or visit **www.macinnes.org**

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia
Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling) and descendants. **Septs: Askey, Beaton, Bethune, Caskie, Harold, Lewis, MacAndie, MacAskill, MacAulay, MacCabe, MacCaig, MacCaskey, MacClure, MacCorkill, MacCrimmon, MacGillechallum, MacHaigh, MacRaild, MacWilliam, Norrie, Norman, Tolmie, Williamson**
• NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
• Victoria & Tas - Rhonda McLeod 0411 227 330
• South Australia - Alex McLeod 08 8327 0925
• Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334
• Email: **peter.macleod@exemail.com.au**

Clan Macpherson Association
Clan Macpherson welcomes enquiries from Macphersons and members of our Associated families. For information about local activities visit our web site **www.clan-macpherson.org/branches**
Africa: Derek Macpherson African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +265 999 512 620
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 SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7810 860 528
Australia: Pam Rhenrov 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/**



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: clanmacraeausnz@gmail.com

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

OLIPHANT CLAN & FAMILY ASSOCIATION of North America



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and all descended

ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com
www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org



YOUNG Youngs of Scotland in Australia

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

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

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

Founded in 1905

www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com

Scottish Gaelic Language Classes

Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm during school terms
at Kathleen Syme Community Centre,
251 Faraday St, Carlton and on Zoom.

Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria

Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:00 pm during school terms
at Kathleen Syme Community Centre,
251 Faraday St, Carlton and on Zoom.

Enquires: scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com



Clan Maitland Society

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

North America: Rosemary Maitland Thom
rthomnvpdcan@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



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

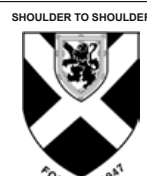
Worldwide organization for all Wardlaws or related families. We invite you to join us.

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Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books



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Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association

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

Clan Muirhead Society



A NON-PROF. CORP.

Muirhead, Muirhede, Morehead, Moorhead
and all Variant Names

www.clanmuirhead.com

Rev. Ret. Chev. Raymond L. Morehead, GOTJ, 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



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



Email: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au
Website: <https://scotsofaus.org.au>
Facebook: [Facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria](https://www.facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria)

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, VISIT

www.clanmunroassociation.org.au

memberships@clanmunroassociation.org.au

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



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in Newcastle, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas.

Members and interested people are welcome to attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night, St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.

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

St Andrew Society of W.A.



Promoting Scottish dancing, singing, literature & other cultural activities.

For further information contact:

secretary@saintandrew.org.au

<https://saintandrew.org.au/>

Celebrating All Things Scottish



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: clansincliraustalia@hotmail.com

www.clansincliraustalia.com

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.



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

For Membership Information contact:

Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973

Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au



Victorian Scottish Heritage Cultural Foundation

email: info@vshcf.com.au

website: <https://www.vshcf.com.au/>

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Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary

clansutherlandsocietyaustralia@gmail.com

<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus>

Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in 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

Victorian Scottish Union Inc

Established 1905

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

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

Chief : Mr Grant McKinna
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Contact details:

Email: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com

Mobile 0438 584 930

Address: PO Box 116, Cobden, Victoria 3266

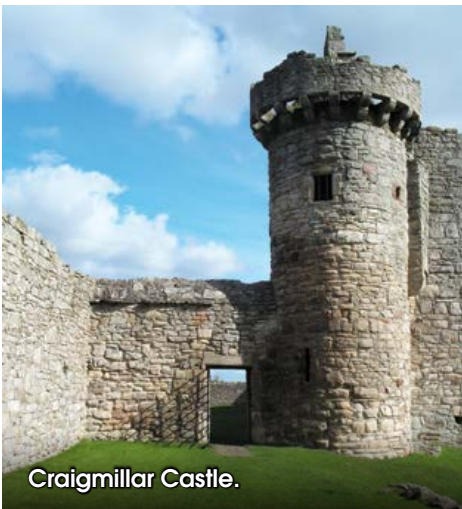
www.victorianscottishunion.com

Unknown Edinburgh

In September we looked at some of the curiosities and lesser-known attractions of Glasgow. Fair's fair; now for a similar look at Edinburgh.

By: David McVey

Edinburgh's other castle



Craigmillar Castle.

Everybody knows Edinburgh Castle, one of the most recognisable (and busiest) attractions anywhere in the world. But Edinburgh has other castles and one of them is also in the care of Historic Environment Scotland (HES). At Craigmillar Castle you won't have to queue to photograph anything. The castle is about three miles southeast of the city centre, from which several bus routes run from Old Dalkeith Road, a short walk away. Parking at the castle is limited.

Any building of any age in Scotland seems to have been visited by Mary Queen of Scots and she knew Craigmillar Castle well, and enjoyed a lengthy stay there in 1563. In June 1567 she gave birth to the future James VI in Edinburgh Castle and that November Mary and little James sought peace at Craigmillar Castle. The Queen enjoyed hunting and falconry in the surrounding countryside, now a country park where we're all free to roam where Mary did.

Two impressive yew trees grow in the gloom of the castle's inner courtyard, outside the original tower. The later parts of the castle were built in the 1660s. The Gilmour family bought the estate from the Prestons in 1660 and built these new ranges. Craigmillar has something for everyone; small children will love the spooky dark passages and spiral staircases; even sullen teenagers will giggle at the long-drop latrine closets.

Dunbar's Close



Dunbar's Garden.

The Royal Mile suffers from overtourism, and it can be exhausting just walking through the crowds. The historic closes that lead off it are often fascinating and

none more so than Dunbar's Close which opens on the left as you walk down the Canongate towards Holyrood. It's probably named after David Dunbar, a lawyer who owned properties here in the 18th century.

The close leads to a small green space designed to resemble a 17th century garden. It's small but endlessly fascinating. When the lavender is in bloom there's a sleepy buzzing of bees. In its present form, remarkably, the garden only dates to 1976, when a charity called the Mushroom Trust acquired the ground, employed the landscape architect Seamus Filor to design a garden, and gifted the result to the city on completion in 1978.

Drop into Dunbar's Garden to enjoy peace and greenness. But not all at once. Let's preserve the atmosphere.

The Old Botanics

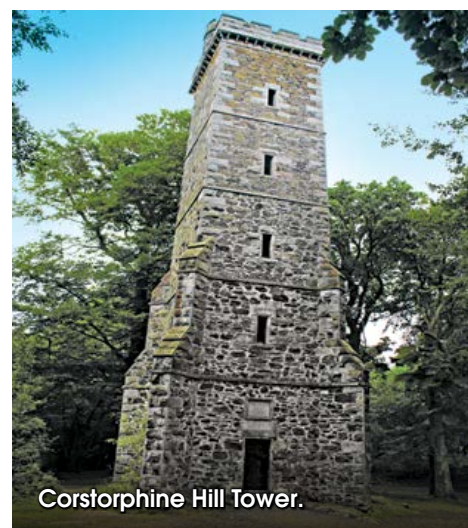


Hopetoun Crescent Garden.

Another corner of Edinburgh, another garden. Hopetoun Crescent Garden is just off the grand thoroughfare of Leith Walk, near MacDonald Road tram stop. It is partly a relic of what is now the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The city's first 'physick garden' appeared in the 17th century near Holyrood Abbey, moved to what's now Waverley Station (just imagine that!) and then to the area around Hopetoun Crescent in the 1760s. It made its final move (so far...) to the present Inverleith site in the 1820s but this lovely little garden remnant survived.

It's impossible to be sure which trees survive from the Botanic Garden era, but there are some surprisingly large examples for a city garden. Great credit is due to the Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden who have transformed a site that was a neglected eyesore by the 1990s into a beautiful community greenspace.

The Other Scott Monument



Corstorphine Hill Tower.

The Scott Monument in Princes Street Gardens has now been demoted to the world's *second* largest monument to a writer (the Jose Marti monument in Havana has replaced it) but the city has plenty more memorials to Scott.

He's commemorated in the Writer's Museum in the High Street, quotations from his work bedeck Waverley Station (named after his first novel, of course), and you can see paintings and sculptures of the man himself in the city's galleries. But there's another Scott Monument, on Corstorphine Hill; and it's nearly as tall as the one in Princes Street.

Corstorphine Hill Nature Reserve lies to the west of the city centre, a quick bus run (12, 26, 31) from Haymarket or Princes Street. A path begins from Corstorphine Road near the zoo, climbing steeply, but the angle soon eases. You reach a viewpoint, the Rest and be Thankful; this is the spot where Alan Breck and Davie Balfour part at the end of their hazardous journey from Mull in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*.



Corstorphine Hill Tower.

On the heavily wooded summit, you find an impressive tower that's just the sort of thing a wandering hero in a Scott novel might come upon in a thunderstorm as hostile redcoats close

in upon him. It has the alternative names Corstorphine Hill Tower, Scott Tower or Clermiston Tower and was built in 1871 for the 100th anniversary of Scott's birth. Thanks to volunteers from the Friends of Corstorphine Hill you can go inside and enjoy the view from the parapet on summer Sunday afternoons.

Trinity House, Leith

Trinity House, Leith, is just a short distance from the Foot of the Walk tram stop and is another HES property. It was the home of the Incorporation of Mariners and Shipmasters, an organisation that collected port dues and worked in the interests of the local seafarers; incredibly, the Incorporation dates from 1380. It was based on this site from the late 1500s and when the present late Georgian building was constructed in 1818 some parts of the older buildings were included: the north wall incorporates a stone with the date 1555. It's now a museum celebrating Leith's maritime history featuring many original fittings and items of furniture with artworks and other exhibits. It usually closes for winter at the end of September but in October 2024, to mark Black History Month, there was a special exhibition on Leith's Black History.

These are just some of the lesser-known features of Edinburgh. There are of course, many more, and the same is true for Glasgow. Seek them out for yourself, and tell *the Scottish Banner* about them.

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WHAT’S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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

NOVEMBER 2024

2024 NSW PBA State Pipe Band Championships 3, Maitland, NSW

Bands from around NSW competing at Maitland Regional Sports Ground 9am-3pm. Featuring competing pipe bands, the HVGs Wind Ensemble Group, along with our award-winning Town Crier Stephen Clarke as MC, stalls and more. Info: City of Maitland Pipes & Drums, Greg Queenan: 0409 918 260, john.queenan@bigpond.com or www.maitlandpipeband.org.au.

Perth Scottish Fiddlers-Music of the Highlands and Islands 3, Perth, WA

Perth Scottish Fiddlers presents a concert of Scottish fiddle music, with tunes from the Shetlands, across Scotland to the Highlands, as well as Sweden and Ireland at St Andrew's Church hall 259 Barker Rd, Subiaco. Info: www.perthscottishfiddlers.com.au

Scotland Unbound

7-20, Various locations

For his Australian debut, guitarist Sean Shibe celebrates his Scottish heritage in a thrilling ride through the Highlands and beyond. With Shibe on classical guitar and Tognetti directing the strings of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the concert opens with a Scotland steeped in lore. Touring to Wollongong, Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. Info: www.aco.com.au/whats-on/2024/scotland-unbound

Scots On Show

9, Bendigo, VIC

Inaugural Scottish festival and pipe band contest at the Bendigo Showground. Info: www.goldencitypipeband.org.au

2024 Celtic Council of Australia Celtic Honours Luncheon 9, Glencoe, NSW

The award of Honours is made by the Celtic Council of Australia to recognise members of Celtic communities who have performed significant service for the Celtic cause at Red Lion Tavern 8025 New England Highway. Info: www.celticcouncil.org.au

Southern Fling/Southern Fringe

22-24, Melbourne, VIC

Southern Fling is a weekend of Scottish country dance for young people and is open to dancers aged up to 40. Running parallel to the Fling is The Southern Fringe weekend aimed at dancers aged 41+ who have danced SCD for 2 years or more. All those attending can look forward to a fantastic weekend of dancing, socialising and making friends. Info: www.rscdsmelbourne.org.au/southern-flingsouthern-fringe

Wauchope Highland Gathering

23, Wauchope, NSW

Band displays, massed bands, quintet competitions, Highland dancing, Highland games at Wauchope Showground, High St. Info: www.facebook.com/PMWRSLPipeBand

Brisbane Bayside Ceilidh

23, Wynnum, QLD

An unforgettable evening of Scottish tradition and fun hosted by the Wynnum RSL Pipe Band at the Wynnum RSL Club, 174 Tingal Rd. Experience the joy of a lively ceilidh featuring a talented ceilidh band, and spirited dance caller to guide you through the steps, as well as some Highland dancing and piping performances. Info: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1292758

St Andrews Night

23, Canberra, ACT

Join the Canberra Burns Club in celebration of Scotland's patron saint, 28 Kett St, Kambah. Info: www.burnsclub.com.au

The Royal Scottish Country Dance

Society-Dance Around the World

23, Nationwide

Taking dancers on a journey from Scotland around the world and back, the programme features 12 dances with connections to six continents through devisers, themes and locations, before bringing everyone together with The Homecoming Dance. Dance Around the World will mark one year since the RSCDS Centenary and on this day we want to fill the internet with photos, videos and stories of Scottish dancing (#DanceScottish). Info: <https://rscds.org/blog/dance-around-world>

A Highland Day Out

24, Mt Gambier, SA

Highland dance performance by Bell Studio of Highland Dance, at Wehl St Theatre. Info: Info: 0438 252 317 or bellstudiohd@bigpond.com.

Overnewton Castle Scottish Celebration

24, Keilor, VIC

Spend a lovely Sunday soaking up the vibrant atmosphere and sampling the very best Scottish products, food and drinks at Overnewton Castle. Info: www.overnewtoncastle.com.au

R U Brown Piobaireachd Society of South

Australia Silver Chanter Competition

24, Payneham, SA

This competition consists of three grades: Open (players of gold medal and clasp standard), Restricted (players of silver medal standard and below) and Beginners (novice and bronze medal standard) at Payneham RSL, 360 Payneham Rd. Info: www.rubrown.org.au

The Queensland Piobaireachd Group Monthly Gathering 24, Ipswich, QLD

A monthly gathering of pipers and piobaireachd enthusiasts who play, listen to, and enjoy the ceòl mòr. Free event at City of Ipswich Pipe Band Hall, Selwyn Edwards Dr. Info: www.pipebandsqld.com

St Andrew's Day Business and Culture Awards 2024

26, Melbourne, VIC

Join the Scottish Business Network Victoria and celebrate some of the best of talented Scot's in Australia at 113 Newlands Rd, Coburg North. Info: www.scottishbusinessnetworkvic.com.au

St Andrews Day Ball

29, Perth, WA

Come join the St Andrew's Society of WA at The Rendezvous Hotel Scarborough. Entertainment includes the Coastal Scottish Pipe Band, Perth Academy of Highland Dance & the Heel N' Toe Ceilidh Band. Tickets will go on sale mid-September 2024, through the website: www.saintandrew.org.au

St Andrew's Eve Dinner

29, Brisbane, QLD

Join the Society of St Andrew of Scotland Queensland for a celebration of Scottish heritage and community at the Pullman Mecure Hotel Brisbane. Info: www.ssaqls.tidyhq.com

The Melbourne Tartan Festival St.

Andrew's Ceilidh Dance 2024

29, Melbourne, VIC

Dance the night away with music by the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club. Celebrate r St. Andrew's Day with this high energy ceilidh dance at Collingwood Town Hall. Info: www.trybooking.com/CVWJZ

Happy St Andrew's Day

30, Nationwide

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

Caledonian Society of WA St Andrews Day Ceilidh

31, Inglewood, WA

Music by the Heel n Toe Ceilidh Band. Come and enjoy a really fun night out at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beaufort St. All ages welcome. Info: John: 0427 990 754 or www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

St Andrews Day at Fox & Hounds

30, Wongawallan, QLD

Celebrate Scotland's patron saint with Scottish food and pipers, drummers and dancers from Brisbane City Pipe Band at Fox & Hounds Country Inn, 7 Elevation Dr. Info: 07 5665 7582 or www.foxandhounds.net.au

St Andrews Shindig

30, Sydney, NSW

Come celebrate St Andrews with some awesome Scottish tunes and ceilidh dancing in the heart of Sydney, at Redfern Town Hall. Info: www.shindig24.eventbrite.com.au

DECEMBER 2024

Daylesford Highland Gathering

7, Daylesford, VIC

This Gathering includes a captivating Street March in the Main Street of Daylesford and a full days Drumming, Piping and Dancing at Victoria Park, also a variety of Scottish Clans and clubs, stalls and more. The end of the day is heralded spectacularly with the Massed Bands, which is a spine-tingling experience. Info: www.daylesfordhighland.com

Pipes of Christmas Concert

20-31, Virtual event

Bringing together musicians, soloists, and performers for a stirring celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. International concert highlights-watch from anywhere in the world. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com

Claymores Celtic Christmas

21, Melbourne, VIC

Celtic rockers Claymore's annual A Celtic Christmas is back by popular demand, guests include one of Melbourne's finest Irish bands Saoirse and the world class Glenbrae Celtic Dancers, at MEMO Music Hall, 88 Acland St, St Kilda. Info: www.claymore.org

Happy Christmas

25, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers, followers and friends a very Merry Christmas!

Happy Hogmanay

31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2025!

Caledonian Society of WA Hogmanay Ceilidh

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Hogmanay Hootenanny 2024

31, Trevallyn, TAS

Prepare to kick off the New Year in true Scottish style at Tasmania's most electrifying Hogmanay Ceilidh! This year, we're going bigger and better, ensuring an evening filled with energetic dances, traditional music, and unforgettable merriment at Max Fry Memorial Hall, 60 Gorge Rd. Info: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1242805

New Zealand

NOVEMBER 2024

Scottish Fiddle Club

1, Auckland

Celtic music group meeting at St Lukes Church, 130 Remuera Rd, Remuera. Info: 021 473 402 or learnScotsfiddle@gmail.com.

Hacklemania Concert

2, Lower Hutt

A variety concert fundraising for the Wellington Red Hackle Pipe Band. Highland and Irish dance performances. A celebration of music with a range of instruments together with our pipe bands at Knox Presbyterian Church (Lower Hutt). Info & tickets: WRHPB.events@gmail.com or www.wellingtonredhackle.com

Hororata Highland Games

9, Hororata

A Scottish Festival with a Kiwi twist! Pipe bands, Scottish dancers, stalls, Clans, heavy events and more at the Hororata Domain. A great family day out with lots of chances to take part and have a go in Scottish events. 45 minutes inland of Christchurch. Info: www.hororata.org.nz/highland-games

Pipe Band Workshop

9, Auckland

The RNZPBA Auckland Centre are proud to be teaming up with tutors from the Auckland & District Pipe Band to bring you a free workshop covering topics on the following instruments: bagpipes, snare drum, tenor & bass drum and drum majoring at St Francis School, 2 Montrose St, Point Chevalier. Info: www.facebook.com/akcentre or auckland.centre@mzpbpa.com.

Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh

9, Wellington

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

Miner's Hooley

16, Oamaru

Join us for a night of fun and old-fashioned dancing. Let your hair down and have a knees-up until the midnight hour. Dunedin's Scottish Fiddle Orchestra will provide the music and call the dances to help you romp through the evening at Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St. Info: www.trybooking.com/nz/events/landing/13244

The Royal Scottish Country Dance

Society-Dance Around the World

23, Nationwide

Taking dancers on a journey from Scotland around the world and back, the programme features 12 dances with connections to six continents through devisers, themes and locations, before bringing everyone together with The Homecoming Dance. Dance Around the World will mark one year since the RSCDS Centenary and on this day we want to fill the internet with photos, videos and stories of Scottish dancing (#DanceScottish). Info: <https://rscds.org/blog/dance-around-world>

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30, Nationwide

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DECEMBER 2024

Scottish Fiddle Club

6, Auckland

Celtic music group meeting at St Lukes Church, 130 Remuera Rd, Remuera. Info: 021 473 402 or learnScotsfiddle@gmail.com.

Thistles: Scottish Genealogy Special Interest Group

10, Whangaparaoa, Auckland

Calling all Scots: the HBC Genealogy Branch of NZ Society of Genealogists introduces: Thistles. This Scottish, special interest, genealogy group will meet at Whangaparaoa Library, 9 Main St, Whangaparaoa to listen to speakers and discuss Scottish history topics. Come along and give it laldy! Info: Garry Phillips 021-902-715 or garryphillips2010@gmail.com.

Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh

14, Wellington

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

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20-31, Virtual event

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Happy Christmas

25, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers, followers and friends a very Merry Christmas!

RSCDS NZ Branch Wellington Summer School 2024/25

28-January 5, Wellington

Join RSCDS NZ at Scots College, Strathmore, Wellington for a packed programme of Scottish country dance classes, socials and formals. Info: www.nzsummerschool2024.nz

Happy Hogmanay

31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2025!

Waipu Highland Games

31, Waipu

New date for 2024. With pipe bands, solos, Highland dance, athletics, Clans and more at Caledonian Park. Info: www.waipuhighlandgames.co.nz

Wellington Region Hogmanay

31, Wellington

Scottish country dance event as part of NZ Branch Summer School being held at Scots College, Strathmore Park. Info: www.wellingtonscd.org.nz/event/wellington-hogmanay

Scotland

NOVEMBER 2024

The Autumn Gathering 2024

1-3, Edinburgh

The Autumn Gathering provides an opportunity for Scottish country dancers from across the world to gather over a weekend in Edinburgh. Info: www.rscds.org/events

The Stirling Whisky Festival

2, Stirling

Established in 2012 The Stirling Whisky Festival continues to be a crowd pleaser attracting the best of the best from Scotland and beyond. Info: kenny@stirlingfolkclub.co.uk

Alloa Real Ale and Cider Festival

8-9, Alloa

Now in its 31st year, this festival has over 40 beers from across Scotland including local beers, plus live music, hot food and soft drinks. Info: www.forthvalley.camra.org.uk

Elevate 2024-Celebrating Dance in the Highlands

11, Inverness

A dance platform celebrating the participatory dance sector in the Highlands, at Eden Court. Info: www.eden-court.co.uk

Oban Winter Festival

15-24, Oban

Ten days of activities, films and light shows to celebrate the winter season. The coastal town gets festive with a series of activities, films and light shows to celebrate the fluffy white season that carries the year to a close. Info: www.obanwinterfestival.com

Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra Fiddlers Rally

16, Glasgow

The Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra is joined by players from around Scotland to perform reels, strathspeys, airs, jigs and much more, at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Info: www.glasgowconcert halls.com

Push the Boat Out: Edinburgh's

International Poetry Festival

22-24, Edinburgh

A festival where a diagram of artforms come together, cross-pollinate and collide: poetry, spoken word, live music, hip hop, songwriting, film, sound, gaming, visual art and concrete poetry, at Edinburgh's iconic Summerhall. Info: www.pushtheboatout.org

The Royal Scottish Country Dance

Society-Dance Around the World

23, Nationwide

Taking dancers on a journey from Scotland around the world and back, the programme features 12 dances with connections to six continents through devisers, themes and locations, before bringing everyone together with The Homecoming Dance. Dance Around the World will mark one year since the RSCDS Centenary and on this day we want to fill the internet with photos, videos and stories of Scottish dancing (#DanceScottish). Info: <https://rscds.org/blog/dance-around-world>

Edinburgh's Magical Christmas

24Edinburgh

The Lauriston Christmas magic show is back! Witness startling magic and uplifting mystery, inspired by history and legends of the city of Edinburgh, in the lavish, historic setting of Lauriston Castle. Info: www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/Venues/Lauriston-Castle.aspx

Happy St Andrew's Day

30, Nationwide

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

Drambuster Whisky Festival

30, Dumfries

A festival celebrating the water of life. Meet the makers and celebrities of the whisky world and have a wee dram of a range of malts and other spirits. Info: www.drambusters.com

MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards

30, Inverness

The single most important awards ceremony for folk and trad musicians, bands and artists- a celebration and showcase Scotland's flourishing traditional music scene at Inverness Leisure Centre. Info: www.projects.handsupfortrad.scot/scotstradmusicawards

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:

8 Biggar;
9 Rothesay;
10 Blantyre;
11Girdle;
12 Nevis;
14 Bap;
15 Scott;
18 Glasgow;
20 Borders;
23 Scone;
24 Ire;
25 Knave;
29 Ferret;
31 Neilston;
33 Armadale;
34 Kelvin.

Down:

1 Airlie;
2 Agin;
3 Greys;
4 Braemar;
5 Stags;
6 Weir;
7 Ballater;
13 Ins;
16 Col;
17 Co;
19 Lochearn;
21 Don;
22 Princes;
26 Violin;
27 Stoat;
28 Dirks;
30 Reap;
32 Silo.

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Peterhead Prison - From Scotland's toughest jail to tourist attraction

By: Neil Drysdale



Alex Geddes at Peterhead Prison Museum.



Alex Geddes meeting King Charles at the annual Garden Party at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh in July.

Alex Geddes has never been somebody to shirk a challenge. And that's just as well given the scale of the project which he accepted more than a decade ago. After working with Grampian Police for many years, he left the force the day before the creation of Police Scotland and wondered what next might be on his radar. However, just a few weeks later, he received a phone call from Score Group, the company which had originally purchased the former Peterhead Prison – which closed in December 2013 – to ask if he was interested in converting it into a museum.

And, though there were many issues to resolve while transforming the former Hate Factory – a place which kept many of Scotland's worst criminals behind bars for decades – into a venue which tourists might love to visit, Alex knuckled down to the task. In the role of operations manager, he dealt with different agencies, sought help and advice from local and national bodies and the consequences were extraordinary when the venue opened its doors in the summer of 2016.



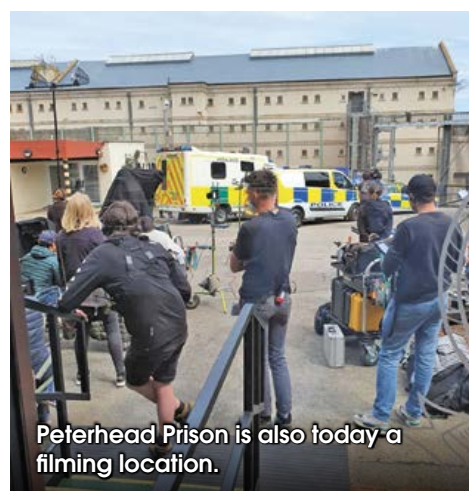
Alex Geddes (centre) at the Peterhead Prison Museum.

As he said: "The task of taking it from an empty shell to a five-star visitor attraction within three years had me facing various challenges, along with many ups and downs. Yet the day that the grading officer from VisitScotland announced we had secured our five-star rating saw the tears flow as my dream from day one was finally achieved."

The former Hate Factory – a place which kept many of Scotland's worst criminals behind bars for decades.

Incredible stories

Alex and his colleagues have worked with everybody from Robert Gordon University to Westhill Men's Shed and the producers of the Channel 4 drama series *Screw*, and have been involved in a diverse range of exhibitions, forays into what's described as "dark tourism" and educational initiatives with schools in the region. He said: "One visitor I met on week one of our opening summed it up when I asked him if he had enjoyed his visit. He stopped and gazed at the main halls and said: 'I've always wanted to see in it, but never wanted to be in it'. The one thing which has given me most satisfaction is speaking to former officers that worked here and hearing their stories converted onto our award-winning audio tour. Too often in the past, their incredible stories were never heard, but I hope we have given them all a voice for future generations to enjoy and learn from."



Peterhead Prison is also today a filming location.



Prisoners playing football.

It's now time for Alex to hand over the day-to-day running of the popular museum to a new business manager while he moves into a public relations role. But there's no question of this redoubtable fellow stepping away entirely from his cherished site. He said: "As you may imagine, for a small charity with huge overheads, funding is always a challenge as we try to keep the former prison intact. Given that the prison was originally built in 1888 and only closed in 2013, we have to do a lot just to keep the place wind and watertight alone. So, I do hope I can now focus mainly on ensuring our good name is maintained while securing funding to keep the museum alive and moving forward."

For information on Peterhead Prison Museum visit: www.peterheadprisonmuseum.com

Did you know?



Prison guards in 1952.

- Peterhead Prison opened in 1888 and closed as a working prison in 2013.
- HM Convict Prison Peterhead was the only convict prison in Scotland.
- Britain's first state owned passenger carrying railway transported the convicts between the prison and granite quarry, for Peterhead Red Granite, for their daily work between 1888-1958.
- The prisoners also helped in building Peterhead harbour's breakwater.
- The early cells of 1888 were just 5 ft x 7 ft x 7 ft high, and hung with a hammock-style bed.
- Over the years Peterhead has housed some of the hardest and most violent criminals in Scotland including serial killers, thieves and gangsters.
- A five-day prisoner riot broke out in October 1987 which resulted in the inmates taking over part of the building and holding guard's hostage.
- Peterhead Prison Museum is open year-round in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

B&W photos courtesy of Peterhead Prison Museum.

Outlander returns



The popular time-travelling fantasy drama *Outlander* returns this month for the final season over eight episodes. Coming off the first half of *Outlander* Season 7, we find Claire, Jamie and Young Ian leaving the colonies and arriving in their beloved homeland: Scotland.



The perils of the Revolutionary War force them to choose between standing by those they love and fighting for the land they have made their new home. Meanwhile, Roger and Brianna face new enemies across time, and must battle the forces that threaten to pull their family apart. As loyalties change and painful secrets come to light, Jamie and Claire's marriage is tested like never before. With their love binding them over oceans and centuries, can the MacKenzies and Frasers find their way back to each other?

The *Outlander* television series is inspired by Diana Gabaldon's international best-selling books, which have sold an estimated 50 million copies worldwide, with all nine of the books gracing the *New York Times* best-seller list. The television series has become a worldwide success with audiences, spanning the genres of history, science fiction, romance and adventure in one amazing tale.

***Outlander* Season 7 Part 2 will premiere in Australia on Foxtel on Saturday, 23 November.**



Images courtesy of Starz.

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