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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 48 Number 11 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS May 202

# The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

showcases the best of Scotland

» Pg 14



How sheep conquered Scotland

» Pg 25

Volume 48 - Number 11

# \*Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

# Big news for Scotland in Miniature



by Sean Cairney

remember the very first time I stepped foot on the Isle of Arran, it was a misty autumn morning when I got off the ferry to explore the island which sits just off the Ayrshire coast. Many travelling around the Ayrshire mainland will have no doubt have seen Arran in the not too far distance. Getting there is really easy, and close, but at the same time it really is a world away from many other parts of Scotland. Arran is in fact the largest island in the Firth of Clyde and the seventh largest island in all of Scotland and has the unique and fitting nickname as 'Scotland in Miniature'.

Arran offers a blend of the Scottish Lowlands and Highlands as it sits on the Highland Boundary Fault and provides a diverse range of topography, fauna and flora. From rugged mountains to lush valleys, a stunning coastline, wildlife and even quite a bit of historical sites there is much to keep any visitor busy. Arran is Scotland's only island which has the 'Big Five' wildlife (red squirrel, red deer, golden eagle, otter and harbour seal), an array of bird life with over 150 different species calling it home, as well as a huge variety of marine life from basking sharks to dolphins and whales.

#### **UNESCO Global Geopark**

The Isle of Arran has recently been recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and awarded as the UK's 10<sup>th</sup> Global Geopark, and only the third in Scotland. As a UNESCO Global Geopark, the Isle of Arran will focus on promoting geotourism, environmental awareness and community engagement.

The Arran Geopark will offer visitors a range of activities and educational programs and also initiatives to maintain and protect this beautiful natural environment for generations to come. Arran Geopark joins the North West Highlands Geopark and Geopark Shetland in Scotland as places of outstanding geological heritage value and its benefit to local people through tourism and education.

The Isle of Arran has been recognised by UNESCO for its rich biodiversity and incredible landscapes.

Scotland is known the world over for its natural beauty and Arran certainly punches above its weight in that as the island offers not just rich biodiversity, but it is set amongst dramatic cliffs, stunning beaches and rugged landscapes.

#### In this issue

A follow on from last month's interview with the CEO of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo as this iconic event celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A team from The Tattoo last month travelled to the US to feature in some Tartan Day events and share our incredible Scottish culture and traditions with US audiences which we are featuring in this edition.

I have done quite a bit of train travel around Scotland and one of my favourite things to do as I roll across the rural landscape is to take in the many sheep which can be found across the countryside. They stand out across the green fields of Scotland but what do we know of the background of sheep in Scotland? This unique topic has been highlighted in this edition, and we hope you enjoy learning about their unique role in Scottish history.

Glasgow Art School graduate
Dudley D Watkins may not be a name
which jumps out for many, however
he has had a big impact on many
Scottish children. Known as a pioneer
for modern British comics Watkins
created Scottish classics such as *The*Broons, The Dandy and Oor Wullie.
Dudley D Watkins worked at Dundee's
DC Thompson for 40 years and
entertained and inspired generations
of kids, and adults, and it is our
pleasure to highlight him in this issue.

#### Arranach's

Whilst the Isle of Arran has rightly been recognised by UNESCO for its rich biodiversity and incredible landscapes it also offers some outstanding visitor attractions. As you would expect from a place called 'Scotland in Miniature' the island boasts castles (a visit to Brodick Castle is a must), whisky distilleries, the prehistoric standing stones of Machrie Moor, Neolithic chambered cairns and the Arran Heritage Museum which showcases the social history of this incredible island. It is often mentioned Arran is a great day trip from Glasgow, which can be done, but a few days on the island can also be filled quite easily.

The island's cultural traditions are also maintained by the locals, known as Arranach's, who enjoy a slower pace of life amid a temperate climate and known for their friendliness.

The local paper on the island of course strikes a chord for me as *The Arran Banner* last year celebrated its incredible 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in keeping locals and visitors up to date. I also recall a lady telling me she went to Arran to specifically purchase a sweater and only then realised Aran Sweaters come from the islands off the Irish coast, not Scotland.

However, the various villages around the island will offer great and fresh produce and food, pubs and businesses and a welcoming smile. Perhaps if you choose to visit you too will get a smile from experiencing all that 'Scotland in Miniature' offers...

Have you been to the Isle of Arran or would like to visit? Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or: #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner.

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We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



Gracing our front cover: Highland Dance in Times Square. Photo: The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.







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# SCOT POURRI

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

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

#### Fraser Highlanders at Quebec, 1759

After 'The '45,' many Clan Frasers were forced to flee to France for their survival. But, remaining true Scots, there was a longing to return to Scotland and their native heath near Inverness. Hence, with the Seven Years War raging in 1758, both in Europe and in what is now North America, the Chief, Lord Lovat, approached King George II with a proposition. If he, Lovat, raised a regiment of Frasers to fight on his behalf in North America, would he grant those that wished it, leave to return to Scotland after such service? King George, pressed by too few troops already and major costs of maintaining his armies, agreed to such a proposal. Thus a few hundred Frasers, the 78<sup>th</sup> Regiment, were gathered at Stirling, awaiting transport to Nova Scotia and the St. Lawrence, where General Wolfe was stymied trying to capture the well fortified French capital at Quebec.

While that coterie were housed in that steeply castled fortification, no doubt not well fed in the least, some Frasers heard that quite a supply of cheeses were stored in an upper and outer strongroom of the fort. Hence, one dark night, a Fraser managed to scale the outer wall of that stronghold, break in through a window, and seize a significant supply of the cheese for his comrades. None of the local authorities were able to discover exactly who had stolen the cheeses, except it must have been one of the Frasers!

In the meantime, their transport had arrived, hence the Highlanders were marched off to board them, joining Wolfe's forces in the final assault (before winter set in) on the French occupied fort. On the mid-September dark night of the attack involved, Wolfe's troops rowed quietly as possible upstream from their transports to the chosen small brushcovered landing strip at the foot of a

steep hundred foot or more steep, rocky, goat path up to the Plains of Abraham above, about half a mile from the fort's walls. The Frasers, in the van of the very mixed group of attackers, were to lead the way upwards. Their Commander, not himself a Fraser, spoke quietly to the leading file, it is quoted: "'Right, I know your lot are pretty good climbers, after that affair of the cheeses at Stirling. You go first!" On arrival at the top, from amongst the small trees and bushes of the rocky hillside (still there to this day), a French sentry nearby, heard a sound and challenged: "Qui va la?" But, as the Frasers had spent some earlier years in France, the Highlander responded, in French "Un piquet" or some such, and was able to seize the man before any alarm. The rest followed him as well. And the remainder of the troops landed clambering up behind him. Before the French could determined what was occurring, enough attackers had deployed on the field to form battle lines and attack the surprised French. While both commanders. General Wolfe and the Marqui de Montcalm, were killed in the subsequent day's battle, the fort was taken, and Canada became English rather than the French of it's former occupiers.

As a final touch, the Frasers, understandably dubious of King George's word of leniency to them and a return of their Scottish land, tended to remain in Canada - and in North America - becoming part of a fairly common name there. Even to the extent it is not uncommon to see names such as Adelard Fraser or Jacques Fraser in town listings - a Scottish heritage with a French touch.

And there is a display 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Regiment in period dress there to this day. Fraser M. McKee Quebec, Canada

including, at the end of the delivery, a few loud cries of 'Freedom'!

However, knowing that the majority of the audience would not understand the language, dialect and colloquialisms, at the end of my presentation I provided an English equivalent of what I had just said. Many of the attendees, approached me afterwards to express their admission that they had not understood one word of it, but with the English translation, it made perfect sense. Maybe your readers may be interested, and enjoy my small contribution, to harmonizing today's Australian society.

Aye, Right then, - Noo, - See Yuuz, - Hod yer Wheesht! - an' len us yer Lugs, an keep the heid, - ye ken Naw - its nane a' that - Naw the Noo, - its Aye the Noo, So, geez Uuz - sum o' yer time, the Noo Lay it doon, oor Bonnie Past, Yuuz and Uuz - huvta say Aye - th'gether An' raise oor Claymores, Pibrochs and Chants to say - Aye, th'gether Tae the Gadigal Mob frae the Eora Nation - hoo wur the first Clan to say Aye - on this bonnie Land and Watter's Auch, yer' awricht, an' Yuuz see, - we aw' innit th'gether, - on this braw hame caw'ed Australia We seez Yuuz, and Yuuz seez Uuz, and

that's hoo - we noo huvtae tae follow

Gadigals, we ken this land wuz yours,

Aye, aw Uuz, say it noo – Yuuz the

Aye, Slainte **English Translation** Hello, if we could have your attention please, we would like to say something important and

enormously significant to you.

Peace - 'coz weez luv' Yuuz aw'

It is time for us, the newcomers to this Land to state loud & clear without any further delay, about our mutual history together

we ken yer Gallus - and yer Mob were the

first foots, an' lang ma 'yer lums reek'

Noo, - gonna'e geez Uuz aw' - sum

With the utmost respect and recognition, we acknowledge that your people were in fact, the first original Nation to occupy these beautiful Lands

And as we recognise you, we ask that you, humbly recognise ourselves as mutual cohabitants of this Land and we genuinely wish that we can live together in harmony.

We declare it now that the Gadigal Mob are extremely proud people, and we wish you every success in your future endeavours

And now, now that recognition has been given, can we now all move forward with a productive and mutually respectful friendship

Sincerely, Slainte, Yalamundi. Cheers, Too Roo and Yani Yani Brian Griffin Sydney, NSW Australia

**Tartan Day Parade** 



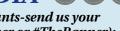
I am submitting a selection of photographs from the Tartan Day Parade held in Manhattan on April 5, 2025. The event was a vibrant celebration of Scottish heritage, featuring traditional music, dance, and attire along Sixth Avenue. Best regards, Wassim Serhan USA

wassimserhan.com

#### **Australia - Traditional Recognition Statement read** in an Old Scots Dialect

As a fervent reader and subscriber to the Scottish Banner, I always read with interest every edition, requesting news or worthwhile contributions that other Scottish Banner readers may also be interested in. Recently, in Australia, as a Scot, I was courteously asked if I would provide the Traditional Recognition Statement to a Government Department, spoken in Old Scots Dialect. Before accepting, I contacted the Office of Aboriginal Affairs to confirm if this was respectable & acceptable. Not only was the request approved, it was enthusiastically encouraged, that the Recognition Statement, was being translated into other historical dialects. Consequently, I passionately and sincerely presented my Statement to the audience, and it was met with rapturous applause -

#### FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA & O O O



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

**Northern Lights** 



The Aurora Borealis over the Cloch Lighthouse. Mik Coia

The Kelpies



The Kelpies lighting up the evening. The Kilted Photographer

#### **Edinburgh**



Edinburgh sunset. Craig Duncan Photography **Corpach Shipwreck** 



The Corpach Shipwreck with Ben Nevis as its backdrop. Soul of Alba Photography

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

#### Harrison Ford becomes the face of Glenmorangie Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky



'Unconventional' campaign sees Hollywood icon star alongside distillery team.

lenmorangie Highland Single
Malt Scotch Whisky has revealed
a new global campaign starring
cinematic icon, Harrison Ford.
Legendary for his countless iconic movie
roles, the Hollywood actor brings his
trademark wry humour to the fore in a
series of episodic films directed by actor
and film-maker Joel Edgerton.

Once Upon a Time in Scotland takes us behind-the-scenes as Harrison Ford journeys to Glenmorangie's Highland home, to discover the skill and craftmanship that goes into making each bottle of its complex and elegant whisky. It sees the actor enjoy the authentic Scottish experience — from getting to grips with the nuances of Scottish pronunciation and kilt etiquette, to bonding with locals over a dram of single malt — all shot in an unconventional, deliberately 'off-script' style.

Filmed in the picturesque north-east Highlands of Scotland, the campaign captures the natural beauty of the local area: from the historic distillery in Tain where Glenmorangie has been created for over 180 years, to the storied 19<sup>th</sup>century Ardross Castle, and the dramatic landscapes surrounding Loch Glass. Appearing alongside Ford are the real Glenmorangie distillery team - who embraced their first experience of acting under the guidance of a global cinematic legend — while the brand's flagship whiskies, Glenmorangie Original 12 Years Old and Glenmorangie Infinita 18 Years Old also take on a starring role. Edgerton's 12 episodes and hero film are complemented by still images shot by acclaimed fashion photographer Lachlan Bailey. They feature Ford as he's never been seen before: donning a stylish Scottish kilt designed by streetwear brand Palace.

#### True global icon

Caspar MacRae, President & CEO of The Glenmorangie Company, said: "Harrison Ford is the real deal: a true global icon, and a genuine whisky lover. It was a dream come true to collaborate on this campaign, and welcome him to our home in the Highlands to discover more about Glenmorangie. He is someone who has honed his craft over decades, which gives him a real appreciation for the dedication and skill of our distillery team. Like us, he's not afraid to laugh at himself - and I think Joel has perfectly captured his authentic warmth, alongside his roguish sense of humour. We hope whisky lovers around the world will enjoy exploring the episodes, and learning more about the real people and places behind our whiskies, through Harrison's eyes."

Glenmorangie's whisky makers use endless imagination and five key ingredients – wood, water, barley, yeast and time – to dream up delicious single malt whiskies. They've been honing their craft for more than 180 years. They create a delicate and fruity spirit in Scotland's tallest stills to allow for more taste and aroma. Led by Director of Whisky Creation Dr Bill Lumsden, this pioneering crew are on a mission to bring new flavours and possibilities to the world of single malt.

Harrison Ford, star of *Once Upon a Time in Scotland*, said: "I loved working with the team at the Distillery — they were all great. The whole process of filming was full of unanticipated joys: little unexpected moments. It's a tribute to Glenmorangie's sensibilities that they let us be less than totally serious. I think what Joel has produced has a certain charm to it, because it's unpretentious and just amusing."

Joel Edgerton, Director, *Once Upon a Time in Scotland*, said: "I've spent my whole life watching commercials that follow an expected format and so I really like it when things are a little disruptive, fun, and irreverent. It was nice that we got a chance within the very traditional industry of whisky to get behind the scenes, to subvert the seriousness that often goes into an advertising campaign and have fun with that. I hope that people get to see the short film and the full-length episodes – and enjoy them and share them around."

Once Upon a Time in Scotland will roll out globally during 2025 spanning online video, connected TV, out-of-home formats, experiential, PR and social media.

Six full-length episodes and an array of behind-the-scenes content will initially be available to view on glenmorangie.com, with the rest released throughout 2025.

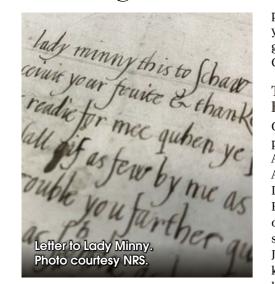




Striking projections of Hollywood legend Harrison Ford lit beauty spots across the Scottish Highlands, to mark the latest episode drop of single malt Glenmorangie's *Once Upon a Time in Scotland* film series. Captivating visuals of acting legend Harrison Ford, wearing his now iconic kilt, illuminated Scottish landmarks and landscapes, including the Three Sisters of Glencoe, Castle Stalker and Dunrobin Castle.

The spectacle celebrates the release of Ford's favourite episode *The Mountain" in the Once Upon A Time in Scotland* series, directed by Joel Edgerton - which launched in March, and is available to watch on glenmorangie.com, and YouTube.

# Historic Royal Records features in King James VI & I Exhibition



he first known letter written by King James VI of Scotland, penned when he was no more than seven years old, has gone on show in Edinburgh as part of a new exhibition. This rare document held by National Records of Scotland (NRS) joins other treasures on display to mark 400 years since the king's death. *The World of King James VI & I* is now on at the National Galleries Scotland: Portrait until September 14<sup>th</sup>. The exhibition brings together precious documents with artworks, clothing and jewels to create an immersive experience.

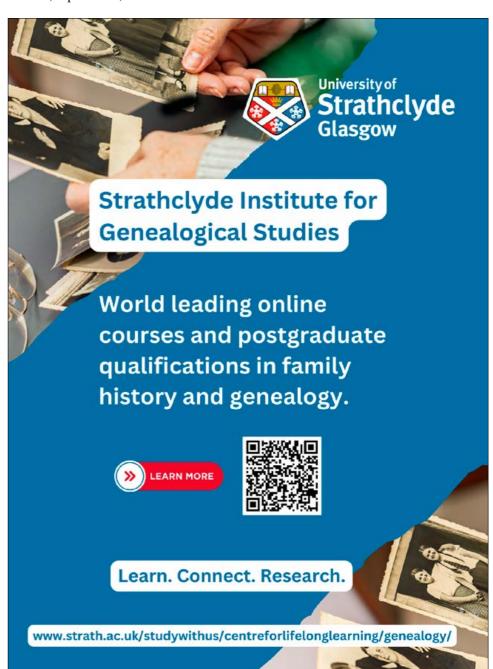
The display offers a special look into the life of the king who became the first to unite the crowns in 1603. Among the

papers going on show is a childhood thank you letter. In it, young James expresses gratitude to his guardian's wife, the Countess of Mar, for sending him fruit.

#### The oldest known letter in his own hand still in existence.

Other documents to be displayed include papers about the coronation of Queen, Anne, and letters between James and Anne's brother Christian, King of Denmark. Dr Alan Borthwick, Head of Medieval and Early Modern Records at National Records of Scotland, said: "These records are rarely seen in public. They help us understand James's remarkable story, from becoming king of Scots as a baby, his mother's exile, his childhood and going on to become the first monarch to rule Scotland, England and Ireland." The young James became king when he was just 13 months old, after his mother Mary, Queen of Scots was forced to abdicate. These documents help tell his story from those early days through to his time ruling his much wider kingdom. King James VI of Scotland wrote this letter when he was six or seven years old. It is the oldest known letter in his own hand still in existence. King James VI & I died in England on 27 March 1625.

The World of King James VI & I is now open at National Galleries Scotland: Portrait, Queen Street, Edinburgh. For further details see: www.nationalgalleries.org/ exhibition/world-king-james-vi-and-i



# **SCOTSPEAK**

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



"We've tried several attempts to attract members but we're competing with too many local bands. They're in similar situations as well. We're not alone in having these problems with numbers. We can't attract younger members. The people that are remaining are 60plus, so we've got a few years in us yet, but we're the wrong age to be trying to keep this going. Being in a band, you have to do some big commitments, which clash with work, with home life. I think we're all quite relieved not to have that anymore."

Kenny Campbell of Tranent and District Pipe Band said the East Lothian band, with a 30-year history, will carry out its final engagement this August as a lack of new and younger members means it is no longer viable to keep the band together.

"Scotch Whisky's global reputation means that there are many who want to take advantage of it by suggesting that their products are Scotch Whisky when they are not. Strengthening protection around the world and taking action to prevent the sale of fake products to protect Scotland's national spirit is a key priority for the SWA. We thank the UK government and our local lawyers in different markets for their support in securing legal protections around the world, giving consumers confidence in the authenticity and quality of Scotch Whisky sold in their local market."

Alan Park, Director of Legal Affairs at the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA), said SWA has increased legal protection for Scotland's national spirit around the world. These protections mean that the description "Scotch Whisky" can only legally be used on whisky wholly produced and verified in Scotland under the terms of the Scotch Whisky Regulations 2009 and Product Specification for Scotch Whisky.



"The footprints at Prince Charles's Point provide a fascinating insight into the behaviours and environmental distributions of meat-eating theropods and plant-eating, long-necked sauropods during an important time in their evolution. On Skye, these dinosaurs clearly preferred shallowly submerged lagoonal environments over subaerially exposed mudflats."

Tone Blakesley, Palaeontology and geobiology masters graduate, School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh, said T. rex ancestors mingled footprints show. Despite being prehistoric predator and prey, massive meat-eating and

plant-eating dinosaurs drank together from shallow freshwater lagoons on the Isle of Skye, 167 million years ago, according to newly identified tracks. The 131 footprints at Prince Charles's Point on Skye's Trotternish Peninsula makes the site one of Scotland's largest and, thanks to the dominance

megalosaurs - cousins and ancestors of

T. rex – one of the rarest in the world.

of footprints from carnivorous



"This is just amazing - overwhelming. To be judged as making the best black pudding in the whole of the UK is such an honour. We faced some amazing talent from the rest of the country and came out tops - that's just fantastic. It's a recipe we inherited from Doug Robertson, a former owner of the business. The recipe book came with the shop. We reckon it dates back to before the Second World War and although our customers have been enjoying it for generations, I decided to dust it down and give it a

Arbroath butcher Steven Bennett said as his shop was crowned the UK's "Champion of Champions" for black pudding. Black pudding is a traditional Scottish sausage made from animal blood and ingredients such as suet or fat, cereals, grains and often onions. The winning recipe remains a secret but is thought to date back to pre-World War Two.

"Sadly, we lost founding member Alan Longmuir in July 2018 and lead singer Les McKeown in April 2021. Les' wife Peko asked us to help her fundraise for a bench in Princes St Gardens during the planning of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Event. The location of the benches is perfect, overlooking the Ross Fountain, practically

in the shadows of iconic Edinburgh Castle and very close to the Ross Bandstand - where Alan and founding member brother Derek performed in public for the first time as schoolboys at the weekly Saturday Show Time."

Gail Shackley said at the launch of a new commemorate bench for two member of the iconic Scottish group the Bay City Rollers. Fans and visitors to Edinburgh are now able to celebrate members Alan Longmuir and Les McKeown at memorial benches located in Princes Street Gardens. The Scottish pop rock band became an international tartan phenomenon in the 1970s and had hits such as Shang-a-lang and Bye Bye Baby.

"This initiative will breathe new life into Burns's work, connecting it with contemporary themes of identity, equality and cultural heritage. I believe it will be more than a play - it will create an experience that reimagines Burns's legacy for modern audiences. We aim to invite diverse audiences to experience Scotland's heritage in an interactive, meaningful way."

Theatre performer and writer James Clements said he is working with the National Trust for Scotland to create a new theatrical production inspired by the life and works of Robert Burns. *The Burns* Project will run during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe from 2-9 August 2025.

"The story of the Iolaire is deeply moving. It is a multi-layered story of grief, trauma, incredible bravery and faith. It is a story of survivor guilt and of a silence surrounding the disaster that would last for decades. We were incredibly honoured to have been asked to create 'An Treas Suaile' and delighted now to be working closely with the Iolaire Centre to develop our ideas further."

Musician, Duncan Chisholm, said that An Treas Suaile, written by accomplished Gaelic musicians Julie Fowlis, and Duncan Chisholm, tells moving stories of those lost in the Iolaire disaster through music and visual presentation. An Treas Suaile (The Third Wave) tells the story of *HMY Iolaire* lost at the entrance to Stornoway Harbour with the loss of 201 servicemen on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1919.

wee tweak or two for today's palette."

## **SCOTWORD**

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

#### CLUES ACROSS

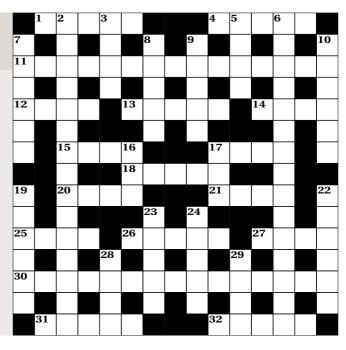
- 1) Scotland's only venomous snake (5).
- 4) It goes wi' tatties (5).
- 11) Famous Scottish song (6, 1, 3, 5).
- 12) Related by blood (4).
- 13) Whisky measures (5).
- 14) Advantage on the border (4).
- 15) Mr Breck! (4).
- 17) Useful at St Andrews! (4).
- 18) Cathedral city on River Lossie (5).
- 20) Montrose is on what coast? (4).
- 21) Variable star (4).

- 25) Mormon territory (4).
- 26) They talk Scots! (5).
- 27) Get infected by a Scot (4).
- 30) Ghostly container! (6, 2, 7).
- 31) Scots kids (5).
- 32) A passageway to a tenement (5)

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 2) MacBeth's fortress (9, 6)
- 3) Old measures (4)
- 5) She's a flower (4)
- 6) Scottish lassies (10, 5). 7) A broad Scottish valley (6).

- 8) Dull to a Scot (5)
- 9) Suffer in Scots (5)
- 10) Wee islands (6).
- 16) It's the aim in soccer (3).
- 17) Small hotel (3).
- 19) Hallowe'en bangers (6).
- 22) Skilled worker (6).
- 23) Part of the Highland dress (5).
- 24) A hip one is handy! (5).
- 28) Highland family (4).
- 29) Spin round in Scots (4).



#### The Caledonian: A New Era for the Scottish District Families Association



he Scottish District Families
Association (SDFA) has proudly
unveiled the name of its newly
revitalized newsletter—*The*Caledonian—marking a renewed
commitment to celebrating Scottish
heritage, traditions, and the deep-rooted
connections among Scottish families.
The SDFA serves the estimated 70% of
Scots who do not belong to a clan because
their name is not associated with a
recognized clan. Many Scottish families
have deep ancestral roots but lack formal
ties to specific clans. The SDFA ensures
that these individuals still have a place to

celebrate their heritage, engage in Scottish traditions, and connect with others who share their cultural background.

The choice of *The Caledonian* pays homage to Scotland's ancient identity, drawing inspiration from the land once inhabited by the Caledonii, a Roman Latin name that has long been synonymous with Scottish pride and resilience. With this new name, the SDFA aims to strengthen the sense of unity and cultural pride among its members, ensuring that the vibrant stories, histories, and traditions of Scottish families continue to be shared for generations to come.

#### Renewing the Legacy of the Caledonia Tartan

Alongside the launch of *The Caledonian*, the SDFA is also reinforcing the significance of the Ancient Caledonia tartan, a design that embodies the heritage and identity of Scottish families with deep ancestral ties to Scotland. The tartan, with its distinctive weave of blues, greens, and reds, represents the natural beauty of Scotland's landscapes and the enduring strength of its people.

By bringing renewed attention to this tartan, the SDFA encourages members to embrace their Scottish roots through traditional attire, cultural events, and storytelling. The association hopes to inspire younger generations to take pride in their heritage and keep the traditions alive.

#### The Mission of the Scottish District Families Association

At the heart of the SDFA's mission is the preservation and promotion of Scottish culture, genealogy, and community engagement. The association provides resources for individuals to explore their ancestry, learn about Scottish customs, and connect with fellow Scots in a supportive and enriching environment. Through events such as Highland games, educational workshops, and historical lectures, the SDFA fosters a deeper understanding of Scotland's contributions to history and culture. The organization also works diligently to maintain

connections with Scottish communities worldwide, ensuring that no matter where they reside, Scots can always find a home among their kin.

Additionally, the SDFA is revitalizing and updating its website, www.scottishdistricts.com, to make it more useful and informative for its members. The improved website will feature expanded resources on genealogy, Scottish history, upcoming events, and ways to connect with the broader Scottish community.

#### **Looking forward**

The launch of *The Caledonian* and the renewed emphasis on the Caledonia tartan and a renewed website signal a bright future for the SDFA and its members. As the association continues to grow, it remains steadfast in its dedication to preserving the customs and stories that define Scottish identity.

For those interested in joining the Scottish District Families Association, contributing to The Caledonian, or learning more about their Scottish heritage, the SDFA welcomes all who share a passion for Scotland and its enduring legacy. Together, they stand united in celebrating the past, present, and future of Scottish heritage.

Visit the SDFA website for membership information www.scottishdistricts.com or contact Bill Boyd, Membership Secretary, sdfa.membership@gmail.com. The SDFA is a 501(c)(3) organization.





# **KINGS CASTLES AND**

Australian Jim Stoddart was born in a Glasgow Tenement and raised in a Glasgow Housing Scheme 1943-1965. Jim will be taking readers on a trip down memory lane, of a time and place that will never be the same again, and hopes even if only a "DURTY" WEE RASCALS few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.





#### Air Raids

They run like hell in Glesga whenever there's a raid,

They run like hell in Glesga because they are afraid,

That someone hurt in Glesga may be in need of aid,

They run like hell in Glesga, the police, and fire brigade,

The A.R.P, the nurses, although they cannot see,

They run like hell in Glesga from dark to break o' day.

And although it's hell in Glesga, they willnae run away.

Anonymous, 1940

ltogether, Clydeside suffered about a dozen major air raids during the war with the Kingston, Plantation and Kinning Park districts suffering their worst damage on the 13<sup>th</sup> March, the 7<sup>th</sup> April and the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1941.

The extensive dock and industrial facilities along the Clyde where my family lived were often targeted. After 1941 Germany's primary attention and resources were switched to the Eastern Front and the battle against Russia. However, single and small groups of bombers continued to make sporadic attacks on specific targets in and around the city and as I say one of those may have been the attack on the night I was born.

#### **River Clyde**

Our street ran south from Govan Road to Paisley Road West and lay only a stone's throw from the Prince's Dock, and just a bigger stone's throw from the Queen's Dock, lying on the other side of the River Clyde. A cursory glance at a map of central Glasgow, of that time, shows the extensive basins, quays and piers of these docks forming a distinctive hand-shaped structure which must have provided a wonderful landmark for German bomber crews on moonlit nights. The dark, oily waters of the Clyde would have reflected back the unmistakable shape of the massive dock complex. It's now known that long before the formal outbreak of hostilities the Luftwaffe undertook a major air reconnaissance of Britain targeting important industrial and economic targets, including those on Clydeside. Individual future targets were photographed and marked in a thorough and systematic manner by German Intelligence with

individual annotated photographs including the Hillington Industrial Estate, Parkhead Forge, Provan Gas Works, the Greenock Torpedo Factory, John Browns Shipyard and Glasgow's Docks included on the list. These aerial reconnaissance photographs, recovered after the war, were part of a cache of 200 images found by US forces near Berlin.

'Lord Haw-Haw', William Joyce, the traitor, who broadcast propaganda to the British people throughout the war, was heard to make threats during that time to shoot down the figure of the iconic golden angel that stood looking east on Ogg Brothers Store at Paisley Road Toll, less than a mile from where my family lived. He never managed to do so. But little did I realize during my early childhood that the vacant ground amongst the tenement buildings of Plantation, Kinning Park, Govan and Partick represented places devastated by that war. Many tenements were bombed to piles of rubble; some of the less damaged were repaired and rebuilt but the worst damaged were simply demolished. In my naïvety in early childhood, I accepted that these broken teeth, seen amongst the other sandstone tenements, in Glasgow's streetscapes were a normal part of the City of Glasgow's landscape. It was many years later, before I asked the questions that made me realize that the vacant land where the children played amongst the crushed bricks, sandstone blocks and weeds, were once people's homes and that the rubble had been created just a few years before by the bombs of the blitzkrieg. I then realized that families, just like mine, had once lived there and sometimes died there.

#### Key to Britain's supply routes

My father was of typical Clydeside stock with perhaps an Iberian element of his Scottish ancestry dominant, rather short, dark and wiry. At the outbreak of war he tried to enlist himself as a tail - gunner for a bomber crew in the Royal Air Force. As a very short man he said that he could have fitted easily into the cramped, but deadly, turret of a Lancaster bomber. But he was a riveter, by trade, and was unable to realize that wartime ambition. He was instead required to continue working in his reserved occupation, shipbuilding. He wasn't permitted to enlist and instead made his war effort helping to build and repair ships faster than they were being sunk by German U-boats in the North Atlantic, and by becoming part of that army of shipyard workers that helped build Britain's Victory Armada.

At the end of his shift in Fairfield's Shipyard he was a volunteer Air Raid Warden, policing the blackout, issuing gas masks and directing people to air raid shelters. Wardens had to judge the extent and type of bomb damage so that appropriate rescue services could be sent. The local knowledge of the Wardens was vital in getting survivors out as quickly as possible. During the course of the war, Glasgow was a reception port, for well over one million American GI's embarking into the 'tail of the bank' and into the docks of Glasgow en route to bases throughout the UK. Western ports, like the Clyde with direct access to the Atlantic, held the key

to Britain's supply routes from the U.S.A. because her Eastern ports were more prone to attack.

Between 1939 and 1945, more than 3,500 British and Allied merchant ships were sunk during incessant attacks on Atlantic convoys. It was these massive losses that had to be made up by Clydeside and other British shipyards during the war years. The Clyde was also the reception point for the build-up of the invasion fleet for North Africa when British, Allied and American troops were loaded on to 300 ships from the Gareloch and at King George V Docks for the 'Torch landings'. The place where I was born was certainly a busy, bustling place during the war and as I was to discover later Glasgow often conjured up fond memories in the minds of those who had visited her during that time and recognised the warmth of her hospitality.

#### **Wartime Glasgow**

Some years ago the father of one of our friends in Australia, who was stationed in Glasgow for a short time during the Second World War, related to me how he and some soldier mates had spent an evening in a Glasgow public house. They were surrounded by a large number of clothbunneted and seemingly dour working men who largely ignored their presence during the course of much of the evening. Nevertheless, later that evening these same men, with some quiet nods and fewer words, put rounds of beers on the bar for

all of them, in recognition that these young men in uniform were doing their bit for the war effort. That was something that they were not allowed to do in their reserved occupations in heavy industry. Mr Dent's simple recollection of that experience in a Glasgow public house somehow defined something about the city of my birth. It was the quiet, unpretentious way that these young English soldiers were made to feel welcome and respected that stuck in his memory.

Not surprisingly, Scotland had a few firsts to its credit for the City of Glasgow Royal Air Force squadron apparently shot down the first enemy aircraft, a Scottish rabbit was the first death by bombing and the first person killed in the war was a Scot. After the war, as a four-year-old, I played with my father's black painted helmet with its prominent white W. It sat amongst the gas masks on a shelf in the lobby cupboard. It lay amongst the other paraphernalia of wartime Glasgow, empty Ministry of Food, dried milk and dried egg tins, a stirrup pump and bucket and the covers of old ration books. As I began to spend my first formative years in Govan I was to learn that this city into which I had been born was a very special place, always fiercely loved and supported by those of us who knew her well, often the target of criticism and misunderstandings by those who had little knowledge of her history, yet proudly never to be an unknown entity, especially throughout the Englishspeaking world.

#### Historic photographs in new online exhibition



new online exhibition has been launched featuring forty historic photographs of the Midlothian village of Roslin. The photographs, part of The Bryce Collection, include archive images of Rosslyn Chapel, Rosslyn Castle and the village, and can now be seen in the first online exhibition on Rosslyn Chapel's website.

#### The Bryce Collection

From around 1880 to the 1940s, two generations of the Bryce family lived and worked in a draper's shop and post office on Roslin Main Street. One of the family married a keen amateur photographer, Thomas Ritchie and, in the early years of the twentieth century, Ritchie took many photographs in and around the village, some of which were made into postcards and sold in the post office. By the 1940s, Meg Campbell (nee Bryce), the great niece of George Bryce, moved from Glasgow and took over the family business in Roslin. The collection of photographs had been stored away and largely forgotten but, in

1993, Mrs Campbell donated the collection to Midlothian Local Studies and stipulated that it should be known as 'The Bryce Collection'. Subsequently, members of the Roslin Heritage Society researched and identified many of the locations.

The Bryce Collection images are used with permission from Midlothian Council Libraries and Archives and forty photographs are now on display in the online exhibition. Ian Gardner, Director of Rosslyn Chapel Trust, said: "We are delighted to launch this fascinating exhibition on our website and, very appropriately, to feature these historic photographs of the Chapel, Castle, Glen and village from The Bryce Collection. This is the first exhibition on our online gallery, which has been funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, administered by Midlothian Council, and we look forward to adding more exhibitions there in the months ahead."

The exhibition can be viewed free of charge at www.rosslynchapel.com



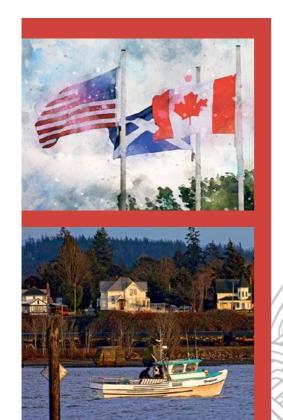
All images courtesy of the Midlothian Council Libraries and Archives.



# BELLINGHAM SCOTTISH GATHERING

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Marine Park & Semiahmoo Spit · Blaine, WA, USA





A full day celebrating the sites and sounds of Scotland.



- A stones throw from the Peace Arch and border crossing into Canada.
- Waterfront views of Semiahmoo Spit,
   Mount Baker and White Rock, B.C.

Made possible in part by Tourism Promotion Grants from the City of Blaine and Whatcom County.











# www.ScottishDanceSociety.org







# Highland black grouse numbers on rise



abitat restoration is creating an upwards trend in black grouse numbers in the Highlands – offering hope for the endangered birds and for wider biodiversity, a study has found.

The first year of a new citizen science study in the Affric Highlands rewilding landscape near Inverness has found black grouse populations are recovering well at sites carrying out large-scale nature recovery, including restoration of native woods, peatlands and wetlands.

Black grouse are an important indicator species for ecosystem health, and use a wide variety of habitats for feeding, shelter, nesting, lekking and rearing chicks.

#### Restoring a mosaic of habitats

But the spectacular birds have suffered long-term UK-wide decline, due to threats such as habitat loss and intensive land management. They are now locally extinct in many regions, with surviving populations often badly fragmented. A new community-focused programme of black grouse surveys

has been launched this year by the Affric Highlands initiative and RSPB Scotland, working together with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) and local landowners. The project builds on previous surveys by RSPB Scotland in the area since 2007, and includes a team of volunteers for the first time. "Our initial findings are a cause for optimism. Restoring a mosaic of habitats to health appears to be offering much-needed hope for black grouse numbers - and so for nature more broadly," said Nicola Williamson, Field Officer for Affric Highlands. "The project has been a constant source of inspiration - including the positive engagement of the local community and landowners, the nature recovery action underway at several estates, and the amazing team of volunteers who have made the study possible."

#### One of the UK's most rapidly declining bird species

Black grouse populations are measured by counting numbers of males attending mating

display sites called leks. Between April and May 2024, 14 sites in the Beauly area were assessed, with trained volunteers studying five square kilometre plots. The study recorded 405 lekking males – a slight increase since the last survey in 2021, and the highest recorded over the past 17 years. In 2007, 250 lekking males were counted. With black grouse numbers fluctuating over time, and data lacking for some past years, the project aims to confirm through future surveys whether the overall rise is steady. The team also found that numbers of lekking black grouse males have risen or declined - sometimes significantly at different individual sites due to changes in available habitat.

Nature restoration appears to be the key factor at sites where numbers are up. Excluding herbivores such as deer to reduce overgrazing and over-browsing, for example, is allowing habitats to bounce back through the growth of healthy shrub layers and young trees. The black grouse is one of the UK's most rapidly declining bird species, and on the 'Red' list of conservation concern. It needs a mosaic of habitats including woodlands and moorlands. A fresh UK-wide survey of black grouse is long overdue. The last, in 2005, estimated the UK population to be 5,100 males - with 3,400 in Scotland, 1,500 in England and 200 in Wales. Affric Highlands is the UK's largest rewilding landscape, led by Trees for Life and Rewilding Europe.

The 30-year community-focused initiative aims to restore habitats over half a million acres from Loch Ness to the west coast – tackling the nature and climate emergencies, and supporting re-peopling and nature-based economic opportunities.

# Community owned Holy Loch pub hopes to jog memories



beloved former Holy Loch watering hole of American forces and their families stationed in and around Dunoon has recently been acquired by the local community following two years of closure. The new owners, the Oakbank Community Inn Sandbank (OCIS), are now looking to hear from ex US Navy personnel about their memories of the pub that sits just yards from the loch shoreline. An ongoing share scheme, combined with a significant grant from the Scottish Land Fund, has recently seen the 150-year-old inn transferred into community ownership with OCIS planning to open it up to the public by early summer following urgently needed renovations.

#### Long lasting friendships

Sue McKillop of OCIS commented: "We know this pub was very popular with US servicemen and women for over 30 years and have heard many happy memories being recounted by local people about how the inn helped to build long lasting friendships between local residents and the US military. We are always on the look out for more recollections of this significant time for the town and surrounding settlements. There are bound to still be more folks who can recall good times spent at the inn and it will all go towards us building up a history of the pub from 1960 to 1990 which we will share as part of a pub heritage programme. We would also welcome any US veterans interested in becoming shareholders for what promises to be a fantastic new chapter for a pub that is now owned by the community of Sandbank. We have a rich shared history with our American friends and we want this fine inn, sitting at the gateway to the southern Scottish Highlands, to build on that."

For more information please visit www.oakbank.pub or email Sue direct sue.mckillop@ocis.org.uk.



#### 250-million-year-old fossil seen anew with modern technology



etails of an ancient cousin of modern-day mammals are being revealed for the first time by modern imaging technology.

Hi-tech scanning of an ancient fossil, which was captured in sandstone around 252-254 million years ago, is giving experts valuable insight into the animal's anatomy and evolution. The pig-like, tusked animal, which belonged to a species called Gordonia traquairi, lived in a time before the dinosaurs, when Earth was comprised of a single land mass known as Pangea.

It is from an extinct group of species known as dicynodonts, which are characterised by their squat bodies, beak and tusks. These creatures lived relatively soon before the worst mass extinction event in history, the Great Dying, which occurred about 252 million years ago and eliminated much of life on Earth.

#### The Elgin Marvel

The specimen, known as the Elgin Marvel, is among the best preserved of a series of fossils collected close to Elgin in the north-east of Scotland. These are collectively called the Elgin Reptiles, even though some of them, such as Gordonia, are more closely related to mammals. A team of experts led by the University of Edinburgh carried out micro-CT scans - high resolution, 3D imaging – of a cavity formed by the animal in a sandstone rock, before its bones degraded. Their scans offer a three-dimensional representation of the anatomy of the skull, including details of the brain.

These insights can aid understanding of the animal's likely behaviours and the biology underlying them, offering clues on the evolution of this and other species. The animal shares many physical characteristics with similar fossils found in China, indicating that the dicynodonts were diversifying across the globe shortly before the cataclysmic Great Dying. Elgin Reptiles represent the only known example of this type of fossil in Western Europe.

#### A fascinating fossil

Researchers hope that the increasing use of micro-CT scanning as a tool to examine fossils in detail, in combination with a trend towards open sharing of data, will offer opportunities to add to the body of knowledge in the discipline. Hady George, former Masters in Palaeontology and Geobiology Research Student, School of GeoSciences, currently of the University of Bristol said: "The Elgin Marvel is a fascinating fossil of an ancient mammal relative that is among the best preserved of the world-renowned Elgin Reptiles. These famous fossils were mostly found over a century ago, and it's only now that new technologies are allowing us to final reveal them in detail, and glean valuable insights into their skull and brain anatomy as well as their genealogy."

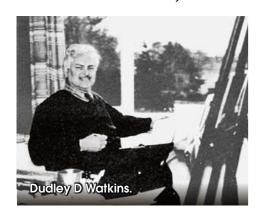
Professor Steve Brusatte, Professor of Palaeontology and Evolution, School of GeoSciences, added: "As hard as it is to imagine, around 250 million years ago Scotland was a desert covered in sand dunes, and primitive cousins of mammals such as Gordonia had dominion in this world. By studying them, we can learn about some of the earliest phases of our own evolution."

# The illustrator for generations of Scots

Dudley D Watkins created comic strips for The Broons and Oor Wullie, which have appeared weekly in The Sunday Post since 1936. He also produced strips for The Beano, The Dandy and The Beezer, also D.C. Thomson titles, and entertained generations of Scots as Neil Drysdale explains.

By: Neil **Drysdale** 





e was the artist who brought some of the most famous Scottish characters in cartoon history to glorious and enduring life. Yet Dudley D Watkins, whose gifts ensured The Broons and Oor Wullie became household names across the world nearly 90 years ago was actually an Englishman from the Midlands. And even now, there is mystery about this man with a mischievous sense of humour who was also deeply religious and spent his Second World War drawing patriotic strips of Willie and the Broons fighting the Nazis even as he served, Dads Army-style, in a Home Guard unit.

When he died in the summer of 1969 in Dundee, aged 62, there were no major tributes or large-scale obituaries. But, as the years passed, people began to wake up to the qualities of this endlessly inventive, imaginative and industrious figures in his domain. After all, he also gave us Desperate Dan, Lord Snooty, Biffo the Bear and a host of other characters during a career which stamped Watkins out as one of the greatest cartoon artists of any generation.

Who says? More to the point, who doesn't? "There is robust humour, confident line and a remarkable amount of action in every single frame," declared George Perry, the author of a comprehensive book on comic art in the United Kingdom. "It sounds corny, but his creations are immortal and Watkins really was one of the few British comic geniuses." It's an opinion now shared across the generation gap, political spectrum or indeed any normal distinctions of race, gender or class, and, in the intervening decades, Watkins has been accorded due honours in recognition of his gifts.

#### Sheer brilliance

Indeed, his reputation has risen the more time has elapsed, whether in the starchlywritten Dictionary of Scottish Art and Architecture - "Beneath his simplification lay a confident draughtsmanship, a capacity for effective compositions and a profound instinct for well-selected detail". Elsewhere, we can detect myriad signs of his influence. What about Bart Simpson, the brainchild of America's Matt Groening, whose overactive imagination and general distrust of authority carry resonances with Watkins' own enfant terrible? There's the Simpsons episode which commenced with Bart huffily scribbling the lines on a blackboard: "I will not eat things for money." A unique

concept? Well, why not turn to the pages of one of the collections of the best of The Broons and Oor Wullie from the 1950s and you'll soon unearth the latter mimicking a variation on that very ploy in swallowing a shilling to hoodwink his hapless buddies, Fat Bob and Soapy Soutar.

It's incredible how much things have changed since the initial launch of the Sunday Post Fun Section in 1936 through to the wonderfully-depicted visions of Paw and Granpaw Broon reacting incredulously to the arrival of teddy boys in the Fabulous Fifties, and Oor Wullie contemplating romance in the hubbub of the Swinging Sixties. The journalist and author, George Rosie, was one of the multitude who marvelled at Watkins' works. He said: "The fact is that Dudley Watkins was a major figure whose sheer brilliance has never been properly recognised. He crossed all barriers and transcended all boundaries. Whether you were right-wing or left-wing, an atheist or a devout church-goer, he had the great gift of being able to make you laugh. And he was incredibly prolific with it.'

Just how prolific is breathtaking. There were illustrated versions of Treasure Island, Oliver Twist, Robinson Crusoe, King Solomon's Mines and Kidnapped. Numerous postcards, calendars, annuals, summer specials and nativity scenes. An intensely-serious young man when he first arrived in Dundee at the age of 18 in 1925, he's remembered as an enigma wrapped inside a riddle; a puzzle which nobody could crack. Why did he leave Nottingham when the local educational authority had decided while Watkins was still at school that he was "an artistic genius for his age?" Apparently, nobody has a clue. Why did he opt to push a pencil and an inkingpen for almost 10 years as an anonymous draughtsman, supplementing his modest wage by teaching life-drawing at Dundee Art College, when there were better offers elsewhere? Again, it's a mystery which might tax Hercule Poirot.

#### A memorable seam of images

Curiously, too, his cartoon protagonists never exude piety or sanctimony - on the contrary, school swots, mincing choir members and prissy ministers are regularly pilloried and lampooned. Yet their artist was brought up in a strict Baptist household, and Watkins was never happier than during his expeditions to the Holy Land, where he and Doris could discuss the Gospels, preach to disadvantaged children, and evade the grimy reality of poverty and war. And what did he do in the fight against Hitler? "Well, to be honest, I'm not really sure," responded James Barnes, the son of the late Albert Barnes, editor of the Dandy from 1937 to 1982. "I do know that he produced a huge amount of cartoon strips which were specifically designed to raise morale and bolster the Home Front. Digging for victory and so on."

In truth, Watkins spent the Second World War, safely ensconced in a Fifebased Home Guard company, clock-

watching on duty and proving much more valuable when he was allowed a break from gas-mask training and watching out for strangers or black-marketeers. Typically, though, one would never have guessed his mundane role from the vivid strips of Spitfires, bomb shelters and patriotic pieces of Nazi-bashing which stamped his work from that period. But it was the humour and anarchistic streak which stuck out. Watkins was the man who produced such a memorable seam of images over 40 years and whose lustre shines as brightly as it did at the apotheosis of his powers.





"I used to drive down to (his house) Winsterley on an old Triumph motorbike and hand in the scripts, which were always late, but I was usually greeted by Mrs Watkins," said David Donaldson, who joined DC Thomson's cherished comics section in 1962. "I was so in awe of Watkins that it was almost an honour to be allowed down to the house." Dudley and Doris Watkins had one son, Roger, who went to Fettes College and became a doctor in the west of Scotland. But his fame will exist forever thanks to a spiky wee lad who's still sitting on a bucket and getting ready to raise a glass next year to his 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



#### Holland Waterfront Celtic Festival and Highland Games returns



elebrating all things Celtic, the Holland Waterfront Celtic Festival & Highland Games is a celebration of Irish, Scottish, Welsh, and other Celtic nations' culture, music, dance, food, history, sports, and more. Sponsored by Guinness and scheduled for June 20 & 21, 2025, the 4<sup>th</sup> annual event is bigger and better. Come see a full schedule of Highland Games with 60 athletes! Listen to 19 performances by 18 live Celtic bands on two stages while enjoying a pint of Guinness (or a wee dram of whisky).





Wander through the Scottish Clan village, watch a dozen Irish and Scottish dance performances, thrill at the bagpipes and drums, shop among Celtic vendors, visit the kid's area, and enjoy Fish & Chips, Shepherd's Pie, Scotch Eggs, and other Irish and Scottish foods, & explore your Celtic family history. Friday's 21 & older "Ceilidh" opens at 4:00PM with a Happy Hour from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM (reduced drink ticket prices) and four live bands playing until 11:00PM. Saturday's hours are 9:00AM until 11:00PM for all ages, with 15 live bands on two stages! Friday's wristband includes free admission on Saturday! Saturday tickets are just \$12, but those 15 and under are always free. The Holland Celtic Festival is a production of the Holland Celtic Society, a 501(c)(3)

For full details see: www.HollandCelticFestival.org



#### IN SCOTLAND TODAY

# Historic clan lands up for sale



One of the largest and most historic estates on the Isle of Skye is being put up for sale, with a price tag of offers above offers over £6.5m. The sale includes the vast the 20,000-acre estate and Armadale Castle which is one of the island's top tourist attractions and includes a museum and walled gardens. The Clan Donald Lands Trust (CDIT), has announced it is selling its landholdings.

The site is currently managed by the Trust which was formed in 1971 to preserve the clan lands. The estate once formed part of the traditional lands of Clan Donald, considered one of most renowned of all the Highland clans of Scotland. In 1971 these lands came up for sale following the death of Alexander Godfrey Macdonald, 7<sup>th</sup> Lord Macdonald and High Chief of Clan Donald. A charitable trust was founded by Clan Donald members local and worldwide in order to buy out part of the old Macdonald Estate to preserve and promote the history, heritage and culture of Clan Donald. Clan Donald itself encompasses over 400 surnames in addition to the commonly known Macdonald, McDonald and MacDonell.

In 1971, the last remaining lands to be held by one of the Clan chiefs came up for sale. These were the lands in Skye of which the subjects now for sale as the Trust has faced an increase in the costs of running and maintaining Armadale Castle leading to the decision to sell the land. Just under half of the lands were purchased by the CDLT with the remaining majority being purchased by prominent Scottish businessman, the late Sir Iain Noble.

Clan Donald is still the largest clan in Scotland and the descendants of thousands of Macdonald's who emigrated also make it the largest in the world. In a statement, the Trust stated with the sale it wanted to focus on giving grants to Clan and indigenous Highland heritage projects.

#### Medals for the Orkney Island Games are unveiled



Beautifully crafted medals for the 2025 Orkney Island Games have been unveiled in all their glory with less than 100 days to go until the Games begins. The medals for the first International Island Games to be held in Orkney will feature an image of the islands' famous standing stones.

The medals have been kindly sponsored by leading Orkney jewellery designer, Sheila Fleet OBE. Famed globally for her distinctive designs, Sheila's jewellery is inspired by the breathtaking Orcadian landscape. Excitement and anticipation for the Games is increasing. The Island Games, an international multi-sport competition, will bring together athletes from islands across the world to compete in a wide variety of sports. Orkney, known for its stunning landscapes and rich cultural heritage, is gearing up to host athletes, coaches, and spectators from dozens of island nations, creating an event that is as much about community and camaraderie as it is about competition. From 12-18 July 2025, Orkney will welcome around 2,000 athletes from 24 island groups across the globe to compete in 12 sports: Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Cycling, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Sailing, Squash, Swimming, and Triathlon.

This marks the first time Orkney has hosted the Games, making it a landmark occasion for the island. Kirsty Talbot, Director of Orkney 2025, said, "Orkney is a thriving hub for creatives, attracting artists, writers, musicians, and craftspeople from across the globe. It is therefore extremely fitting that the medals designed for the athletes of Orkney 2025 celebrate Orkney's iconic landscape and will be a perfect tribute to the winning athletes who compete in our Games. With only 100 days to go until we welcome the world, excitement is building and we are very much looking forward to creating positive memories which will last a lifetime." The Games kick off with a spectacular Opening Ceremony and Athletes' Parade in Kirkwall on Saturday 12 July and will be hosted by Lorraine Kelly.

Some of the highlights throughout the week include the triathlon in Stromness, cycling road races through the West Mainland, and the half marathon in Kirkwall, every venue will be alive with activity, showcasing the talent and determination of athletes while creating memories for spectators and participants alike. The Opening Ceremony and all of the sporting events are free and open for all to attend.

#### Cancer gene linked to Scottish island



People with grandparents from a remote Scottish island are more likely than the rest of the UK population to have a version of a gene that increases cancer risk. One in 40 people with heritage from the island of Whalsay in Shetland have the same variation in the BRCA2 gene – one of the commonest genes linked to breast and ovarian cancer in women, and breast and prostate cancer in men. This genetic change can be passed down from parent to child, affecting multiple members of the same family. The findings suggest that the variant first arrived in an individual who helped found the population on Whalsay more than 300 years ago.

University of Edinburgh scientists explored how common the variant is by studying genetic information from more than 2,000 volunteers with three or more Shetlandic grandparents, in their Viking Genes study. They worked with a team of geneticists from the NHS North of Scotland Genetics Service, who repeatedly found the same single change present in the BRCA2 gene among families from Shetland with breast, ovarian and/or prostate cancer. They discovered the BRCA2 variant in nine volunteers, or 0.4 per cent of those tested, equivalent to one in 230 people. This is 130 times higher than the general UK population, in which 1 in 30,000 people have the same BRCA2 variant.

The findings follow earlier research from the Viking Genes study that found a cancercausing variant in the related BRCA1 gene, common among people from Orkney. Early detection of BRCA variants can offer the opportunity to reduce future risk of cancer through lifestyle advice, regular breast screening and risk-reducing surgery, experts say. Professor Zosia Miedzybrodzka, Professor of Medical Genetics at the University of Aberdeen and Director of the NHS North of Scotland Genetic Service, said: "Developing cancer is not solely down to carrying the BRCA2 variant, there are many complex factors, and some people with the gene variant will not get cancer. However, we know that testing and the right follow-up can save lives. Many people who carry a gene variant are unaware of it. Biological relatives of people with the BRCA2 variant are encouraged to consider being tested."

#### Research funding announced to help shed new light on Orcadian shipwreck



Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has awarded £21,000 to Wessex Archaeology and Dendrochronicle to carry out further research of the Sanday Wreck, an intact section of shipwreck timbers uncovered on Sand o'Erraby earlier this year. The funding will support in-depth analysis of the wreck including dating, reporting and archiving to help shed light on this remarkable discovery. Last February, winter storms and coastal erosion revealed the shipwreck on a beach in Sanday, Orkney Islands.

The section of wooden hull measuring 8 x 5 m and weighing around 10 tons had become exposed within intertidal sands, catching the attention of the local community who alerted the authorities. HES commissioned Wessex Archaeology who undertook rapid assessment and recording of the wreck. They also worked with Dendrochronicle, an organisation that specialises in dendrochonology (a dating technique that utilises tree rings to provide precise dating and provenance information for historic timber) for archaeology, to sample 19 timbers from the

wooden wreck. In September, the wreck was carefully transferred into a freshwater conservation tank funded by the National Heritage Memorial Fund with the help of Wessex Archaeology's marine specialists and members of Orkney Island Council's Culture Team. Working with community researchers and the Sanday Heritage Centre the project will look at the archive material relating to wrecks in Orkney to better understand the overall resource and bring together an island-centric archive of wrecks. This work will be crucial for identifying the significance of the wreck, including where it came from, when it was built and what it can tell researchers about the networks of maritime trade and exchange which flowed through and around Orkney and connected the islands to the world. Susan O'Connor, Head of Grants at HES, said: "The wreck on Sanday is an incredible and rare finding, providing an exciting opportunity to study and preserve a unique facet of Orkney's past. We're thrilled to be supporting the work of Wessex Archaeology as they carry out this work, whilst also providing a rare opportunity to engage local and wider audiences with marine archaeology."

#### Historic mill restored



A historic Carnoustie mill is producing flour for the first time in 40 years after restoration work was made possible by a mystery £2.4 million donation to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS). The unique water-powered Barry Mill in Angus operated as a mill for almost 800 years until 1982. Barry Mill is again milling flour after extensive restoration work on the mechanical system was completed.

The restoration was made possible by a member of the NTS who was inspired by the project and choose to donate £2.4 million, the largest single gifts by a living donor in the National Trust for Scotland's history, to save the pre-industrial building for future generations to enjoy. The donation was for NTS projects across the north-east of Scotland, which Barry Mill was a benefactor. The current building dates to 1814, after the previous mill was destroyed in a serious fire, but milling has taken place on this site since at least 1539. Barry Mill has been in the care of the NTS since the late 1980's. More restoration work has been planned at the only waterpowered mill left in Scotland.

Mike Metcalfe, the National Trust for Scotland's Visitor Services Supervisor at Barry Mill, explains: "Barry Mill is perhaps now the only working example of a water-powered mill left in Scotland, and it's wonderful that we are restoring and maintaining this wonderful and now-rare example of engineering heritage for future generations." Throughout the summer visitors can take special milling tours on Fridays to see the mill in use.

# Queen Victoria picnic cottage saved





picnic spot enjoyed by Queen
Victoria on her visits to Balmoral has
been saved from ruin by the National
Trust for Scotland. The picnic cottage
in woodlands near Linn of Quoich on Mar
Lodge Estate, Scotland's largest national

nature reserve, close to Braemar, has been restored to its former glory with contractors completing the building work during autumn. Moxon Architects helped Scotland's largest conservation charity to develop the plans for the restoration work early last year that were well received by Aberdeenshire Council's planning department, with listed building consent granted in September 2023.

Contractors Bruden Joinery were brought on board to carry out the work and started in June 2024. They initially focused on clearing rubble from inside the dwelling, before repointing mortar and harling on the cottage walls, dismantling dormer windows and installing doors, windows and floors to make it watertight and accessible. In addition to repairing the

fabric of the building, a covered wooden porch was added to the exterior of the property to help reinstate the cottage's original features that were discovered during research for the project.

#### **Engage with its history**

David Frew, National Trust for Scotland Head of Mar Lodge Estate, said: "Our archival research and subsequent archaeological survey showed that there used to be a porch on the property, with our archaeologists discovering post holes for the structure during research on site. We have tried to reinstate this sympathetically with the help of our architects Moxon and archival architectural drawings, so that it's in keeping with the rest of the property and the 19<sup>th</sup>century period when it was originally constructed. The cottage, built by Princess Louise, the granddaughter of Queen Victoria, around 1850, was saved from disrepair after it was placed on the Buildings at Risk register. The property was in a poor state when the Trust acquired Mar Lodge Estate in 1975, and subsequent works had taken place to stabilise its condition including fixing walls and installing a new roof and shingles in the past. The building is a fascinating look back at how the royals used to spend their free time and we're incredibly proud to see it restored to how it was in its heyday when Queen Victoria and the royal family would holiday in Balmoral. We're excited to welcome visitors to experience the new

cottage when it officially reopens in 2025 where they will be able to engage with its history. New information boards will be added, and specially commissioned furniture created where they can relax and immerse themselves in the surrounding woodland and nature. I'd like to say a huge thank you to our members and supporters as well as the generosity of our colleagues at the NTS USA Foundation who have made this project possible. This project contributes to the Trust's objective, outlined in our 10- year Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone strategy, to stabilise and improve the condition of our heritage buildings and structures, ensuring their longevity through restoration and conservation to ensure that they survive for the enjoyment of future generations."

The cottage is accessed by a footpath leading from the car park at the end of the public road on the estate.

Further information about Mar Lodge Estate is available on the National Trust for Scotland website, www.nts.org.uk/ visit/places/mar-lodge-estate.





# The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo showcases the best of Scotland in America





Royal Edinburgh Military

he Royal Edinburgh Military
Tattoo visited Washington DC
and New York City to celebrate
Scottish heritage during Tartan
Week and performed for the first time at
the Washington Tattoo. Thirty performers
from The Royal Edinburgh Military
Tattoo including Pipers, Drummers,
Fiddle players and Highland Dancers
have accompanied the Secretary of State



for Scotland, Ian Murray, on his visit to the United States. They kicked off with a performance at Washington's iconic Capitol building to mark the beginning of Tartan Week.

Tattoo Pipers, Drummers, Dancers, and Fiddle players made their Washington D.C. debut, joining the cast for this year's Washington Tattoo. The Washington Tattoo celebrates international music



and dance, presented in the traditional style of military Tattoo's around the world. Mark Reilly, President and CEO of The Washington Tattoo, said: "We are honoured to partner with The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo for this landmark performance. This event will highlight the cultural and musical bonds between our nations while celebrating the artistry and service of military musicians worldwide."







#### Showcasing the rich Scottish heritage

In the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the Tattoo is playing a key role in promoting the rich culture of Scotland in America and on an international stage. Jason Barrett, Chief Executive of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, said: "In our 75<sup>th</sup> year, we are absolutely thrilled to be taking the Tattoo state side for some small-scale performances and strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders within the US. Working with The Washington Tattoo and organisers of New York Tartan Week, our performers are excited to perform alongside some of those US performers we've welcomed to Edinburgh over the years. In partnership with VisitScotland and Brand Scotland, we're honoured to be able to represent Scotland. It's so important for us to highlight Scottish and military tradition around the globe and encourage those across the pond to come and see the Tattoo in Edinburgh for themselves."

Alan Lane, Creative Director of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, added: "We've travelled with thirty of our Tattoo Performers to take their talent on tour to Washington and New York. The opportunity for our performers to collaborate with such a variety of musicians in America, whilst showcasing the rich Scottish heritage, is one we're all really excited about. It's great to spread the word of the Tattoo across the globe in our 75<sup>th</sup> year, and the brilliant performance company on this trip is but a fraction of the power of the full-scale Tattoo production people can see this August on the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade."

Following the Tattoo's successful performance at Hoolie in the Hydro in Glasgow last December, the team also joined the Hoolie cast Stateside for Scotland's Hoolie in New York. Hosted by Alan Cumming, the Hoolie was staged at the iconic Carnegie Hall in Midtown Manhattan on Saturday 5 April. The Tattoo team performed alongside talented Scottish musicians, Julie Fowlis, Dougie Maclean, Mànran, and the Oban High School Pipe Band.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will run from 1-23 August 2025. For details see: www.edintattoo.co.uk

# Sottish brothers begin historic 14,000km Pacific row in memory of sister



trio of Scottish brothers have departed Lima, Peru, on a 14,000km, non-stop and unsupported row across the Pacific Ocean — cheered on by hundreds of supporters, a flotilla of boats, the Peruvian Navy brass band and the wail of bagpipes. The Maclean brothers — Ewan, Jamie and Lachlan — launched their custom-built carbon fibre vessel Rose Emily from Yacht Club Peruano on Saturday 12 April at 16:30 local time (22:30 UK), beginning their bid to become the fastest recorded human-powered team to row the full Pacific Ocean, from Peru to Sydney, Australia.

The brothers will likely spend more than 120 days at sea, rowing in two-hour shifts around the clock with no resupplies or safety boat — just three brothers, one 280kg boat, and an estimated four million oar strokes through extreme weather, sleep deprivation and isolation, all to raise £1m for clean water projects in Madagascar.

#### **The Maclean Foundation**

The brothers, who broke three world records rowing across the Atlantic in 2020, departed after being delayed more than a month by customs issues holding their boat and 500kg of food in port. Lachlan Maclean, who will turn 27 at sea, said: "I'm still shaking. I can't believe the buzz of leaving that atmosphere. I've never heard bagpipes alongside a brass band before, but I think it could catch on. We've been like coiled springs this past month. Being stuck with our boat and food held in customs could have been incredibly stressful — but the team at Yacht Club Peruano gave us a place to sleep, store our gear and stay sane. Now we're just excited to be on the water. It's definitely daunting, but we've prepared so long that we're desperate to get going. In many ways we're a bit weird - I'm probably happier on the water. I've never been good at replying to emails, and now I have the best excuse in the world."

The Rare Whisky 101 Pacific Row aims to raise over £1 million (approx. \$1.25m USD) for The Maclean Foundation — the

clean water charity the brothers founded with their father, whisky writer Charles Maclean MBE. The Foundation has already helped fund boreholes for more than 5,000 people in Madagascar. They pulled an all-nighter the evening before departure: eldest brother Ewan was fixing a broken watermaker, while Lachlan was vacuumpacking loo roll to save valuable cabin space.

Ewan Maclean, 33, a former Dyson engineer, said: "When the watermaker broke I thought the game was up – we couldn't find another part, but thankfully I managed to fix it. All those years working as an engineer have come in handy. We usually forget things when we're going away for the weekend, so preparing for 120+ days at sea has not been without its challenges. But here we are, and we're so happy to be on the water. During our last row, we started thinking about how we could spend more time at sea and help

more people, and this daft challenge was born. The more we looked into rowing the Pacific, the more we realised why so few attempt it – you have to bring an awful lot of food to sustain yourselves for that period of time, which gets pretty heavy. And it's an awful long time. But if we want to raise a million pounds for a cause that means so much to us, we had to go for something big. During our visits to Madagascar, we've seen what access to clean water can do — it helps kids get an education, helps entire communities thrive. That's what drives us."

#### **Rose Emily**

Their record attempt is dedicated to the sister they never knew, Rose Emily, who was lost during pregnancy. The boat is named in her honour, with the name hand-painted by their mother, Sheila, a watercolour artist. Jamie Maclean, 31, added: "We never got to meet our sister, but she's always been part of our family. We wanted to honour that. Our mum hand-painted her name, Rose Emily, on the back of the boat — so she's with us every mile. In the quiet moments - and there will be plenty, assuming Ewan and I can find somewhere to hide Lachlan's accordion — we'll know she's right there. We know this will be hard for Mum and Dad, having all three of us isolated at sea. But they've been incredibly supportive. They've worked just as hard as we have to prepare — and we can't wait to see them when we row into Sydney Harbour."

Their 280kg boat — believed to be the lightest and strongest ocean rowing boat ever made — was designed and built with support from official boat partner M Yachts.

On board are over 500kg of freeze-dried food, including 75kg of oats and a menu of highcalorie comfort meals prepared by Jamie in his old school kitchen and preserved with the help of Dundee farm Arbuckles. Meals include Scotch beef chilli, Thai red curry, and haggis, neeps & tatties for Lachlan's birthday in June — with the hope of adding fresh fish caught en route. The brothers also trained for the voyage with elite sport performance consultant Chloe Lanthier, a performance physiologist for NASA and professional athletes including Rafael Nadal and Paris Saint-Germain. Her capsize drill video — preparing the team for 30ft waves and potential flips — has received more than 11m views on instagram. The Macleans first made headlines in 2020 when they became the fastest and youngest trio to row the Atlantic Ocean, raising more than £200,000 for charity. This expedition is considered one of the most remote and physically demanding open-water rows ever attempted.

Their route from Lima to Sydney spans roughly 14,000km (9,000 miles), depending on conditions. The rugby fans aim to arrive before the British & Irish Lions' third test in Sydney on 2 August.

Follow their journey and support the campaign at www.themacleanbrothers.com or on Instagram and TikTok at @themacleanbrothers.





## THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 England declared war on both Scotland and France. 1522
- 1 Act of Union of English and Scottish parliaments proclaimed, the Union was brought about in spite of opposition by the majority of Scots.  $1707\,$
- 1 Glasgow band Deacon Blue release their debut album  $\it Raintown.~1987$
- 2 Edward Bruce, brother of King Robert the Bruce, crowned High King of All Ireland. 1316
- 2 King James I crowned at Scone. 1424
- 2 Mary, Queen of Scots, escaped from Loch Leven Castle and revoked her abdication. She soon gathered an army and moved towards Dumbarton Castle. 1568



- 2-Loch Ness monster is sighted. Although accounts of an aquatic beast living in Scotland's Loch Ness date back 1,500 years, the modern legend of the Loch Ness Monster is born when a sighting makes local news on 2 May 1933. The newspaper *Inverness Courier* related an account of a local couple who claimed to have seen "an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface." 1933
- **3** John Knox began the Reformation in Scotland. **1557**
- 3 Nearly 300 miners are arrested outside Ravenscraig in clashes with police as they try to stop lorries laden with coal entering. The steel works was the site of some of the most violent conflicts of the strike of 1984 and 85. Bottles, stones and missiles were thrown with both workers and police suffering many injuries. 1984
- 3 The Pan Am Flight 103 bombing trial opens at the Scottish Court in the Netherlands. Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988, after a bomb was detonated. All 259 people on board were killed, and 11 people on the ground also died. **2000**
- **4** Marquis of Montrose victorious at Battle of Auldearn. **1645**
- 5 King Charles I surrenders to Lord Leven and was later passed to the Parliamentary forces. 1646
- **5** King George VI officially opened the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow. Glasgow's Bellahouston Park played host to over 13 million people who came to visit the Empire Exhibition, a celebration of the achievements of the British Empire. **1938**



- **6** Last major bombing attack on the Clyde area by the Luftwaffe; Greenock was badly hit with 280 dead. **1941**
- 6 Icelandic gunboats fired live rounds at British fishing trawlers, many of them from Scottish ports, during the Cold War over fishing rights.  $1959\,$
- **6** The election of the first Scottish Parliament since 1707. Elections were held for the Scottish Parliament and the 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) took their seats on 12 May 1999. **1999**
- $7\,\hbox{-The Earl of Hertford invaded Scotland in an attempt to force the marriage of Edward, son of Henry VIII, and Mary, Queen of Scots. \,1542$

- 7 James Naysmith, engineer and inventor of steam hammer, died. 1890
- 7 First broadcast of the BBC television variety show *The White Heather Club* which airs nationally until 1968. **1958**
- 8 Scottish-born pirate "Captain" William Kidd tried for piracy at London's Old Bailey. He was hanged on 23 May. **1701**
- 8 V.E. (Victory in Europe) day marked the end of World War II in Europe. Over 50,000 Scottish servicemen lost their lives during the conflict. 1945
- 9 J M Barrie, author of *Peter Pan* born. **1860**
- 9-The Marquis of Montrose and his Royalists camped at Auldearn near Nairn, enroute to attack Inverness. The Covenanters, reinforced by troops withdrawn from England because of the threat from Montrose, gathered at Inverness before marching overnight in an attempt to surprise Montrose at Aldearn. The Royalists won a fierce fight, killing 2000 Covenanters for the loss of 200 of their own men. 1645
- 10 Rev Henry Duncan opened the world's first savings bank in Ruthwell, near Dumfries. 1810



- 10 Rudolf Hess crash-landed in Scotland after his bizarre solo flight from Nazi Germany. Hitler's most trusted official and friend, he crash-landed a stolen plane at Eaglesham in an inexplicable effort to negotiate an end to the war. He died in 1987 after apparently trying to hang himself with an electrical cord. He was 93. 1941
- 10 Donovan, Scottish pop and folk singersongwriter, was born. Upon his emergence during the mid-'60s, Donovan was anointed "Britain's answer to Bob Dylan". 1946
- 11 Covenanter martyrs, Margaret Lachlane, or McLachlan, and Margaret Wilson, refused to take an oath of loyalty to Charles II that acknowledged his authority on everything, including religious matters. They were tied to stakes in the Solway near Wigtown where they drowned as the tide rose. A reprieve had been sent from Edinburgh but never reached Wigtown. 1685
- 12 The Black Watch regiment was commissioned under General Wade to police the Highlands. The force was known in Gaelic as Am Freiceadan Dubh, "the dark" or "black watch". The regiment's motto is Nemo Me Impune Lacessit (No One Assails Me With Impunity). 1725
- 12 Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, daughter of the Earl of Strathmore, was crowned Queen of the United Kingdom with her husband King George VI. Queen Elizabeth was raised at Glamis Castle in Forfar. Queen Elizabeth reigned until 1952 and became known as the Queen Mother as her daughter, the current Queen Elizabeth, took the throne. 1937
- 12 The Scottish Parliament reconvened with Dr Winifred M Ewing MSP as acting Presiding Officer. Her first words to the Parliament were: "The Scottish Parliament which adjourned on the  $25^{\rm th}$  of March in the year 1707 is hereby reconvened." 1999
- 13 The forces of Mary Queen of Scots are defeated at Battle of Langside by a confederacy of Scottish Protestants under James Stewart, the regent of her son, King James VI of Scotland. During the battle, which was fought out in the southern suburbs of Glasgow, a cavalry charge routed Mary's 6,000 Catholic troops, and they fled the field. Three days later, Mary escaped to Cumberland, England, where she sought protection from Queen Elizabeth I. 1568
- 13 James Kirk was executed near Dumfries as a Covenanter refusing to swear the oath, one of the last of the wave of deaths of the "Killing Times". 1685



- $14 \hbox{-St Andrews Society of Golfers constituted. In} \\ 1834 \hbox{it became the Royal and Ancient Golf Club.} \\ Thus began the foremost club in both Scottish golf history and world golf in general. 1754$
- 15 Mary, Queen of Scots, married Earl of Bothwell - at 4am. Mary's third marriage to James Hepburn, the Earl of Bothwell took place in the Chapel of Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh. 1567
- 15 Bobby Murdoch, Scottish footballer, died. Murdoch was a key figure in Celtic's European Cupwinning side of 1967, dubbed the Lisbon Lions. 2001
- 15 Stagecoach Group launches a driverless bus service on the Forth Road Bridge, believed to be the world's first, 2023
- $16 \hbox{-} \hbox{Biographer James Boswell met Samuel} \\ \hbox{Johnson for the first time.} \ 1763$



- 16 The Bay City Rollers form in Edinburgh. Called the "tartan teen sensations from Edinburgh", The Bay City Rollers sold 120 million records worldwide. 1966
- 17 King James V established paid judges to sit as the Court of Session, the highest civil court in Scotland. 1532
- 17 Robert Tannahill drowned himself in a Paisley canal. A compassionate poet, he explored themes of love, friendship and empathy, and often used his surroundings as inspiration, taking long walks in the country around his home. He was prone to bouts of melancholy. 1810
- $\bf 18$  Robert the Bruce invades Isle of Man.  $\bf 1313$
- 18 The Free Church of Scotland was founded by dissenting members of the Church of Scotland. 1843
- ${\bf 19} \hbox{ Death in Auchinleck of James Boswell,} \\ biographer of Dr Johnston. \ {\bf 1795}$
- 20 Battle of Dunnichen (also known as Nechtansmere), south of Forfar in Angus, as a result of which the Picts stopped the advance northwards of the Angles of Northumbria. 685
- 20 The Earl of Argyll sailed from Holland to Campbeltown with 300 men in an attempted uprising. After its failure he was executed. The rebellion was designed to place Charles II's illegitimate son, the Duke of Monmouth, on the throne. The failure of this revolt led to a close bond between the Stewart monarchy and the enemies of the Campbells in the Highlands, which was to become more apparent in the subsequent Jacobite uprisings. 1685

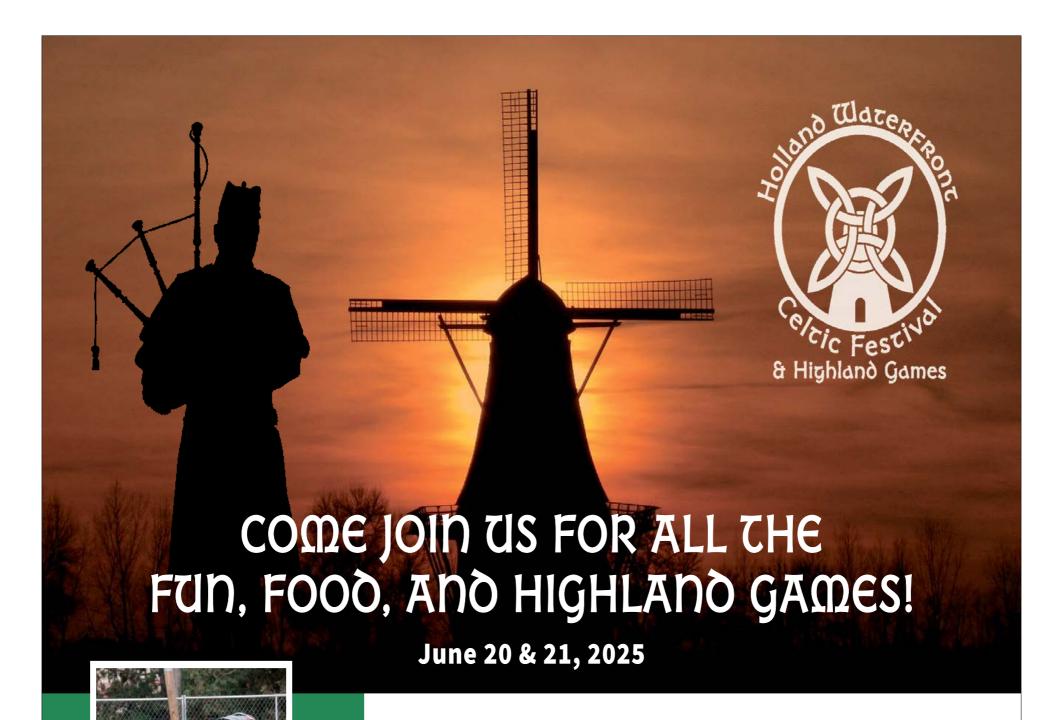


20 - Dunfermline, Fife, is among a record number of locations to have won prestigious city status through a competition, as part of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Dunfermline became the eighth Scottish city, joining Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness, Stirling and Perth. 2022

- 21 Clocks and watches went forward for one hour as the Daylight Savings Act brought in "British Summer Time" for the first time. 1916
- 22 Britain's worst train disaster at Quintinshill (near Gretna Green) in which three trains collided, with the loss of 227 lives. A troop train carrying the Seventh Royal Scots Regiment hit a stationary train and the night express from London then hit the wreckage. Two signalmen were later jailed. 1915
- 22 The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland voted in favour of women ministers. Soon after four women were accepted as candidates for the ministry by the Presbyteries of Edinburgh, Irvine, and Kilmarnock. 1968
- 23 Captain William Kidd, the notorious Scottish pirate, died. Born in Dundee, around the year 1645, Kidd became one of the best known pirates of his age. 1701
- 23 "The Unknown Bairn": The drowned body of a young boy is found washed up onshore at Tayport; he is never identified.  $1971\,$
- 23 A major fire at the Glasgow School of Art causes severe damage to the main building, designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. A further fire took place during the restoration in June, 2018. 2014
- 24 King David I died at Carlisle and Malcolm IV crowned at Scone. 1153
- 24 Glasgow Rangers became the first Scottish side to win the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, when they defeated Dynamo Moscow in Barcelona. 1972
- 25 John Stuart, Earl of Bute, Britain's first Scottish Prime Minister, born. 1713
- 25 Celtic FC become the first British football club to win the European Cup. The winning team was made up of eleven Scots, all born within a thirty mile radius of Glasgow. 1967
- 25 St. Enoch Centre shopping mall opened to the public in Glasgow city centre. The building is notable for its massive glass roof, the largest glass-covered enclosed area in Europe, and is affectionately nicknamed "The Glasgow Greenhouse". 1989
- 26 The parliament convened by King James I approved the arrest of a number of the Scottish nobility and also banned the playing of football. 1424
- 26 -Dunnottar Castle, the last Royalist stronghold in eastern Scotland, surrenders. Dunnottar Castle had been under siege for eight months by Cromwell's forces. Although the castle fell, the defenders managed to smuggle out the Crown Jewels of Scotland to nearby Kinneff Church. 1652
- 27 Maiden voyage of liner *Queen Mary* from Southampton to New York. Built by John Brown & Company in Clydebank, Scotland and was a luxury ocean liner for three years until 1939, when it was transformed into a troopship for the Second World War. She resumed passenger service in 1947, where it continued until 1967, when it docked permanently in Long Beach, California. 1936
- 28 Papal Bull signed by Pope Alexander VI confirming the marriage of King James IV and Margaret Tudor and the "Treaty of Everlasting Peace" between Scotland and England. 1503
- 29 King Charles II born. 1630
- 29 King Charles II returned to England. Royal Oak Day. 1660
- 30 Thomas Chalmers, the Presbyterian cleric, theologian and social reformer, died. Chalmers was a popular figure within the Kirk and held a keen interest in improving social welfare. 1847
- $31\,\text{-}\,\text{The Royal}$  Bank of Scotland was formed from a company of debenture holders.  $1727\,$



- 31 Start of passenger services on Edinburgh Trams. Trams previously ran in the Scottish capital from 1871 to 1956. 2014
- 31 A huge wildfire covering 30 square miles (80 km2), thought to be the largest ever seen in the UK, is brought under control by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service at Cannich in the Highlands. 2023



#### Friday, June 20, 2025 4:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Happy Hour and an Irish/Scottish
Cèilidh in the Pub Tent with Live Bands

#### \$20 Admission / Cash Bar

(Friday tickets include FREE admission all day Saturday)

#### Saturday, June 21, 2025 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Highland Games begin 9:30 AM. (Music continues until 11:00 PM)

\$12 for 16 & older 15 & under - FREE

#### HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

18 Live Bands | Traditional Irish and Scottish foods

Celtic Genealogy Assistance | Vendors of Celtic goods | Whiskey Bar

Irish Pub tent | Scottish Clan Tents | Kids area | Highland Games





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**Ottawa County Fairgrounds** 

**W**GUINNESS

Sponsored by:

June 20 & 21, 2025

#### IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN

## Salmon with whisky



#### **Ingredients:**

250 g/8 oz. de-boned salmon 2 tbsp lemon juice ½ tbsp sugar 1 tsp chopped chives 1 tsp chopped dill 2 tsp Scotch whisky

#### Method:

Freeze the salmon for 1 hour. Slice the fish as finely as possible (use a very sharp knife for this), and place the fish slices into a shallow dish.

Drizzle the lemon juice and Scotch whisky over the salmon then sprinkle the sugar, chives and dill on top.

Leave the salmon to marinate overnight. Baste the salmon with the sauce until the majority is absorbed by the fish. Serve cold with fresh vegetables. Add pepper if preferred.

#### Whisky flapjacks

#### **Ingredients:**

55g/2oz. oats 2 eggs, beaten 55g/2oz. self-raising flour 55g/2oz. caster sugar vegetable oil 1 miniature whisky To serve:

2 segments orange fresh mint sprig

#### **Method:**

Mix together the main ingredients, except the oil and whisky, and shape into three patties. Heat a pan with a drop of oil and fry for two minutes on each side. Add the whisky to the pan, warm and carefully set alight to flambé for a few seconds. Serve on a warm plate with the orange segments and mint sprig.

#### Whisky chicken

#### **Ingredients:**

2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cut into 1/2 pieces 2 tablespoons soy sauce ¼ teaspoon garlic powder 1 cup pineapple juice 3 tablespoons bourbon whisky 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper 1 tablespoon brown sugar

#### **Method:**

Sauté the chicken in a large pan over medium high heat until cooked through (no longer pink). In a small bowl, combine

the soy sauce, garlic powder, pineapple juice, whiskey, pepper and sugar. Stir until sugar is dissolved and pour over chicken. Let simmer for 10 to 15 minutes, or until sauce is thickened to taste.

#### Whisky marmalade



#### **Ingredients:**

1 small grapefruit 2 lemons 1 sweet or Seville orange

1.75 litres/3 pints water 1.4kg/3lb 1oz. granulated sugar 75ml/5 tbsp. whisky

#### Method:

Juice the fruit and pour the juice into a large, lidded pan with a capacity of 6-8 litres/10-14 pints. Add the water. Scrape out the inner membranes and pips from the fruit with a small sharp knife.

Put the membranes into a food processor or mini chopper and chop finely. Put the chopped membranes, and any pips, into a muslin bag or a piece of muslin tied with string. Add to the pan. Shred the peel to your preferred thickness and add it to the pan. Set aside to allow the peel to soak for a few hours or, if possible, overnight. Bring the lidded pan to boil, reduce the heat and simmer very gently for two hours. The peel should be very tender. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 140C/275F/Gas 1. Pour the sugar into a baking dish and warm in the oven for a few minutes. Remove the muslin bag from the pan and squeeze the liquid from the bag into a bowl. Pass through a sieve and add to the pan. Weigh the contents of the pan - it should be no more than 1.4kg/3lb 1oz. If you have more than this, return the contents to the pan and simmer to reduce the liquid until the correct weight is achieved.

Add the warmed sugar to the pan and stir until dissolved. Gradually bring the pan to a rolling boil. After seven minutes, test the setting point by scooping out a large spoonful of the marmalade. Allow the mixture to cool a little, then slowly pour it back into the pan. If it is at the setting point, the drops will run together to form a hanging flake (this is known as the flake test). It can take up to 30 minutes to reach setting point, so keep testing. Leave the marmalade to cool for 5-10 minutes (a skin should form on the surface). Remove any scum from the surface and add the spirit of your choice to the pan. Gently stir the marmalade to evenly distribute the peel and the alcohol. Pour the marmalade into sterilised jars and seal. Leave the jars upright and undisturbed to set.

#### Cranachan with raspberries, whisky and cream

Whisky Month

Celebrate Whisky Month in May with

flavour using "the water of life". You can of

 $course \,omit \, Whisky \, if \, preferred, enjoy \, and \,$ 

Slainte mhath! Your very good health!

these recipes which add a splash of



#### **Ingredients:**

3 tbsp. soft brown sugar 75g/21/2oz. porridge oats 250ml/9fl oz. double cream, whipped until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed 75g/2½oz. cream cheese 1 tbsp. plain yoghurt 1 tbsp. icing sugar dash whisky 50g/13/4oz. dark chocolate, chopped 30g/1oz. fresh raspberries sprig fresh mint, to garnish

#### Method:

Gently heat the sugar in a frying pan until golden and completely melted.

Add the oats and stir well, then pour the mixture onto a non-stick baking sheet and leave to cool. When completely cooled, break into small pieces.

Place the whipped cream, cream cheese, yoghurt, icing sugar and whisky into a bowl and mix well, then fold in the chocolate.

To serve, place half of the caramelised oats into the bottom of a serving glass. Top with half of the cream mixture, then half the raspberries. Repeat the layering with the remaining oats, cream mixture and raspberries and garnish with a sprig of mint.

#### Hot Toddy



#### Ingredients:

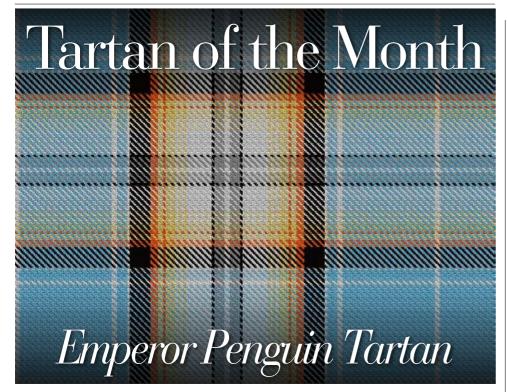
50ml/2 fl oz. whisky 3 tsp honey 1 cinnamon stick, snapped in half

1 lemon, half juiced, and half sliced 2 cloves

#### Method:

Whisk the whisky and honey together and split between 2 heatproof glasses. Add half of the cinnamon stick to each, then top up with 200ml/7 fl oz. boiling water.

Add a splash of lemon juice to each, then taste and add more to your preference. Finish each with a slice of lemon, studded with a clove, and serve immediately.



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).

Inspired by the majestic emperor penguin, this design is intended to reflect the contrast of its black and white plumage, accented by the yellow and golden-orange hues that grace its neck. The silvery-grey was inspired by the down of penguin chicks, which blends seamlessly into the icy Antarctic landscape, along with white to evoke the vast snowfields and frozen seas that is their home. A soft, glacial blue represents the ancient ice that shapes their world and the pristine beauty of their frozen habitat.

This tartan (SRT #14735) was designed Dr. Carol A. L. Martin and registered in March, 2025.

# Steamship Sir Walter Scott celebrating 125 years



Scotland's most famous maritime heritage icons, has sailed on Loch Katrine since 1900 and has begun her 125<sup>th</sup> season and is gearing up to carry thousands of passengers on scenic loch cruises in the heart of the National Park. Named after the renowned Scottish author whose works helped shape the nation, this milestone marks the Steamship's remarkable history and role sailing on one of Scotland's most beautiful lochs.

#### The Lady of the Lake

Loch Katrine's rich heritage and dramatic landscapes have captivated visitors for centuries. Immortalised in Sir Walter Scott's celebrated poem The Lady of the Lake which has resulted in the loch being credited as the 'Birthplace of Scottish tourism'. Loch Katrine's combination of outstanding natural beauty and unrivalled cultural significance is home for the vessel that has become a national treasure. Steamship Sir Walter Scott was built in 1899 by shipbuilders William Denny and Brothers in Dumbarton on the River Clyde. Commissioned to replace the ageing Rob Roy II, it embodied the elegance of the Edwardian era with sleek lines and a powerful engine. However, getting the vessel to the landlocked Loch Katrine presented a unique engineering challenge, and Denny's lost money on the project due to the high cost of transporting her to Loch Katrine.

Once constructed and tested, she had to be broken and transported to the land-locked loch in sections by barge along the River Leven and up Loch Lomond to Inversnaid. From there, the pieces were hauled overland to Stronachlachar by horse-drawn wagons, navigating rugged and steep terrain. Once reassembled by the loch, the Steamship was launched in 1900, a massive moment in the 180-year history of Steamships at Loch Katrine.

"Little did the Steamship's builders at the end of the 1800s think that she would still be in service in 2025," said James Fraser, CEO of the Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust. "What they couldn't have foreseen was just how special this Steamer would become and that, ultimately, she would be owned by a charitable trust set up to protect her unique heritage for the nation. She is cruising during this special anniversary year thanks to the generous donations from the public and

grant funding support for the recent 2023 restoration appeal. We are delighted to welcome visitors from all over the world to Loch Katrine, and their support is vital, as all income generated is reinvested to preserve this national maritime treasure for the enjoyment of the public. There are daily cruises at Loch Katrine yearround, and from June 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a Steamboat Festival, a weekend packed with activities to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Steamship Sir* Walter Scott. There will also be a series of Steamship Live music events and in early October we will be hosting some bands on the steamship as part of Callander's annual Jazz and Blues Festival."

#### Role in shaping Scottish tourism

Passengers aboard the Steamship enjoy live commentary telling the captivating story of the vessel's construction, history, and role in shaping Scottish tourism, as well as the nature and wonders of this unique loch. They can also view the engine room during a voyage. At the pier, where passengers depart for a cruise, there is an immersive exhibition showcasing the history of Loch Katrine's steamships. The exhibition includes the human stories of the captains, crew and key people over the 125 years, whose dedication contributed to the Steamship's success and ensured her safety through two World Wars before the challenges of ownership around her 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, thankfully







resulting in the transfer to a dedicated and independent charitable trust in 2007.

The latest addition to the popular Trossachs attraction is a newly opened tower overlooking the pier. This spectacular vantage point, which inspired Sir Walter Scott during his visit to Loch Katrine in 1809 to write The Lady of the Lake, offers panoramic views of the loch's dramatic glens, mountains and tranquil waters, with iconic landmarks like Ellen's Isle, all described so vividly in his romantic story. Published in 1810 to great acclaim, visitors flocked to see the landscapes for themselves, and tourists have been coming ever since to admire these unspoilt views, now part of Scotland's first National Park and a Natural Nature Reserve the size of Glasgow, Scotland's largest city. The Steamship Sir Walter Scott is fully accessible to wheelchair users, ensuring passengers with reduced mobility can experience Loch Katrine's dramatic mountain skyline whilst cruising into the Scottish Highlands. Many passengers opt to combine a cruise with walking and cycling routes, allowing them to explore the area's natural beauty in an environmentally conscious way.

For more details visit: www.lochkatrine.com

#### Did you know?

- According to Sir Walter Scott's biographer Edgar Johnson, Loch Katrine was visited by fifty or sixty carriages a year before *The Lady of the Lake* was published in 1810; within the first six months after publication, the number rose to 297, and it became more fashionable to see the Trossachs than to make the Grand Tour of Europe.
- Hail to the Chief was initially titled Boat Song and was a part of Sir Walter Scott's long narrative poem The Lady of the Lake. Boat Song was put to music by James Sanderson in 1812 and became a part of American culture in 1815 when it was played to honour George Washington (Hail to the Chief) and has subsequently been used to introduce all US Presidents.
- Rowing boats accommodated the early visitors before being replaced by steamships in 1843. In 1900, the recently restored *Steamship Sir Walter Scott* began service and is still in operation today.
- The Steamship is the iconic symbol of Loch Katrine, which in 1859 became the water supply to much of West and Central Scotland. Through ingenious Victorian engineering, 23.5 miles of aqueducts and tunnels carried clean water for the first time to Glasgow, transforming the health of its vast population.

#### Blair Castle's Atholl Highlanders parade in Washington



s part of their tour of the United States, the Atholl Highlanders, the UK's only private Army, raised and commanded by the Dukes of Atholl, and based at their ancestral home of Blair Castle in Highland Perthshire, have paraded at the British Embassy in Washington.

In what is the fourth tour of the States undertaken by the Atholl Highlanders in its long and proud history, and having last toured there as a regiment in 2012, the 62 strong contingent of Atholl Highlanders, including its Pipe Band and support staff, visited Washington, Boston, and the Massachusetts town of Athol, which claims a historical connection to the Atholl Highlanders, along with New York City.

Having performed parade marches many times in the States as part of other US tours, the Atholl Highlanders also marched for the very first time in the New York Tartan Day Parade. Their packed itinerary saw them go on to the Massachusetts town of Athol, with whom they enjoy close links. Along with attending a Black Rose Dinner, and enjoying a Legion Spaghetti Supper, they took part in a local River Race whilst staying with host families.

Commenting on the march at the British Embassy in Washington, Abigail Wise, Protocol Visits and Events Officer, said: "We issue a huge thank you to the Atholl Highlanders from everyone here at the British Embassy Washington. The performance was wonderful, and we all enjoyed the National Capital Tartan Day Association luncheon. We wish the Highlanders well with the rest of their US tour."

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 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



from Baird, Barde, Bard, Beard, Beaird, Brd, Bayard, Bardt, Barth and Biard or varied

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

#### 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



# Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

#### Membership inquiries should be directed to:

1051 Eagle Ridge Trail

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

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

#### HOUSE OF BURNETT INTERNATIONAL, INC.

THE WORLDWIDE BURNETT SOCIETY www.houseofburnett.org

#### **National** Clan Cameron

Celebrates those who trace their ancestry to Clan Cameron or are connected to the Clan through marriage or partnership or are from families

> President: Alistair Cameron Secretary: Terry Cameron

secv.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com www.clan-cameron.org.au

#### 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 Chisholm

Membership is invited from Clan Chisholm

Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com

www.clanchisholmsociety.org/

(Chisholm, Chisolm, Chism, Chisum, Chisam, etc)

descendants of all spellings of the name

PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301

public/AUSmembership.php

Contact: Kim Polley OAM

CHISHOLM

**Society of Australia Inc** 

#### CLAN DONALD CLAN CARRUTHERS in VICTORIA

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com

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

#### CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

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

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



#### 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 Fraser Society** of Australia

and Fraser septs

to join our clan society. All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves Membership enquiries to Don Chitts Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com

Website: http://clanfraseraustralia.org Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/ Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/ 482236358590288



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

contact@curriekindred.com www.learnedkindredofcurrie.com

Society in

vites 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

Dennis Hill. PO Box 519

Baulkham Hills NSW 1755

E:dhill1@bigpond.net.au, P: 0431 527 662

Septs shown on the member application form

available from the Clan's Facebook Group link

#### **CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY**

Membership open to all who share the Sept names Robertson, Duncan, Reid (and others) and anyone who has an interest in Clan Donnachaidh, its clanlands, history and heritage

Visit our website for more information on the Society, our Clan Museum and Struan Kirk in Scotland, our DNA project, and to locate a branch near you.



Website: www.donnachaidh.com

E-mail: admin@donnachaidh.com

Facebook: Official Clan Donnachaidh page (Robertsons Reids, Duncans and others)



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

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

#### **Edmonstone Clan Society** Clan Davidson Australia Inc. CHIEF Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially in-

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

# www.clangalbraith.org

**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 DUNĎEÉ, DD5 2EL Scotland UK





or by contacting the Hon. Secretary:

"Under the patronage of the

High Council of the chiefs of Clan Donald" John Angus Currie **High Commissioner** State Commissioners

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

#### 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 Fmail: marianne@mmelliott.com

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com



#### **Clan Gregor Society** Australasia

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

PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002 Email: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com Web: www.clangregor.com

"Royal is our Race"

#### Clan Donald Australia Inc.

Clan Donald USA is a nationwide organization of over 2,000 families who trace their ancestry acknowledged as Septs of Clan Cameron. to any of the branches of Clann Domhnaill. We embrace all of the MacDonalds, no matter how spelled, and other surnames that are recognized





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



as branches or adherents of the greatest of the

# 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

# McAlpin/e

Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

#### **DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!**

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



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

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 AMERICA

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

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





#### Clan Hay



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

www.clanhay.com



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#### Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President President@clanmaclarenna.org



#### Clan MacNicol

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

www.clanmacnicol.org

#### Clan Hope of Craighall Society INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA

President & Commissioner: Steph

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

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

SCOTLAND Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope w.clanhope.org

fi https://www.facebook.co



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



Kevin S Gates Treasurer 2610 Kuvkendall 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



For information about local activities visit our web site www.clan-macpherson.org/branches

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

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

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

Scotland & Northern Ireland. Moray G Cattanac SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7810 860 528

Australia. Pam Rhemrev England & Wales. William Macphersor EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.or phone +44 7877 363 507

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

ach USA. Dave McPherson phone +1 408 781 5199

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/



**Rupert 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 our Clan and Family history!

**DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!** www.clanirving.com

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



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Clan MacLeod



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www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com

#### The Clan MacRae **Society of Australia** and New Zealand

If your surname is MacRae,

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

Australian Contact: Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: clanmacraeaustnz@gmail.com

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





**Clan Irwin Association** 

**Chief and Patron** 

Alexander H.R Irvine of Drum.

27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name

www.clanirwin.org

IRWIN • IRVINE • IRVIN • IRVING • ERWIN

We welcome all: no matter the spelling.



# Society in Australia



Visit our website for further information www.clanmackenzie.org.au



and descendants. Septs: Askey, Beaton, Bethune, Caskie, Harold, Lewis, MacAndie, MacAskill, MacAulay, MacCabe, MacCaig, MacCaskey, MacClure, MacCorkill, MacCrimmon, MacGillechallum, MacHaigh, MacRaild, MacWilliam, Norie, 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 MacRae Society of North America

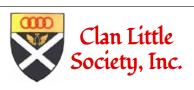
Granted Arms in 2008

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

www.macrae.org

Need more info? Contact: Bruce McRae, President 720-793-7530

brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com



Welcoming Little/Lyttle/Lytle and the like.

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

#### www.clanlittlesociety.org

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

#### **Clan MacKenzie Society** of New Zealand We welcome all MacKenzies

All spellings and from all Septs Secretary.clanmackenzie@gmail.com www.clanmackenzienz.org





FOR INFORMATION: WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84120-6880



#### Clan Maitland **Society**

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

#### **YOUNGS OF SCOTLAND**



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

4scottishthistles@gmail.com





www.clanmuirhead.com

Ret. Chev. Raymond L. Morehead, GOTJ, FSA Scot, Chief Officer Elect Clan Muirhead Society

raymondktj@msn.com or raymond@clanmuirhead.com

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#### www.clanross.org

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Membership and inquiries from all Sinclairs.

Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants.

For further info contact

President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174

Secretary: Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263

E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com

# The Scottish Australian

#### **Clan Wardlaw Association**

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The American-Scottish Foundation

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**Heritage Council** 

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au





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

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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



#### **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



#### **St Andrew Society** of W.A.

Promoting Scottish dancing, singing, literature & other cultural activities. For further information contact: secretary@saintandrew.org.au

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



#### **Hunter Valley** Scots Club Inc

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.



# Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture

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Email: resource\_centre@scotsofaus.org.au Website: https://scotsofaus.org.au



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



Invites all those of the name of Young, or descended of a Young, to join our international collective organisation.

Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot membership@youngsofscotland.au

www.youngsofscotland.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 Burns Supper, Poetry Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

For Membership Information contact: Secretary: Melissa Ventre - 0405 182 458 Email: rbcmelb@gmail.com



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# WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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

#### Canada

#### **MAY 2025**

#### VE Day 80 Ottawa 3, Ottawa, ON

The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band of Ottawa welcome pipers, drummers, and guests to join them on May 3 in Ottawa to help mark the 80th anniversary of the Victory in Europe Day. 80 pipers will line Wellington Street starting at 3 pm at the Canadian War Museum and each play a tune of their choosing for 1 minute and at 5 pm the last piper will play at the National War Memorial. The pipers will be joined by 20 drummers at the War Memorial to play some tunes at 5:30 pm before heading to Deacon Brodie's Pub for a tune and a reception. Registration is open now on the Sons of Scotland website and we hope you can join us for this very special event: www.sospb.com

#### The 2025 West Toronto Ball 10, Toronto, ON

Scottish country dance event. The programme contains a lovely selection of dances suited to delight both newer and experienced dancers, to the live music of Scotch & Soda, at the banquet hall at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 101, 3850 Lake Shore Blvd W. Info: www.dancescottish.ca

#### Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario-Ottawa Indoor Contest 10, Ottawa, ON

Enjoy solo piping and drumming competitions in the morning, followed by quartet and pipe band competitions in the afternoon. Info: www.ppbso-ottawa.org/indoor-highland-games

#### Saskatchewan Highland Gathering and Celtic Festival

17, Regina, SK

Saskatchewan's premier Scottish festival with pipe bands, Clans, dancing and more at Victoria Park. Info: www.saskhighland.ca

#### Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival 17-18, Victoria, BC

A family-focused weekend of Scottish and Celtic arts and culture including pipe band competitions, Scottish Highland dancing competitions, Heavy Events, Clans and more at Topaz Park. Info: www.victoriahighlandgames.com

#### World Whisky Day

17, Nationwide

World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Events are taking place all over the globe. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

#### **Halifax Celtic Festival** 21-25, Halifax, NS

A celebration of Celtic culture and music at Spatz Theatre. Info: www.hfxcelticfest.ca

#### Spirit of Scotch

24, Gravenhurst, ON

The Spirit of Scotch is an evening filled with five of the finest Scotch whiskies paired with sumptuous food at the Gravenhurst Centennial Centre. Savour the rich flavours of exclusive Scotches from five distinguished Scottish distilleries and participate in an auction of unique and hard to obtain whiskies. Info: www.gravenhurstrotary.org

#### **JUNE 2025**

#### **Gathering of the Scots Festival** 5-8, Perth-Andover, NB

Highland Games, pipe bands, Celtic entertainment, clans and more. Info: www.gatheringofthescots.com

#### Scotword answers from page 6

	1 0
Across:	Down:
1 Adder	2 Dunsinane Castle
4 Mince	3 Ells
11 Tangle O'The Isles	5 Iris
12 Akin	6 Caledonian Maids
13 Gills	7 Strath
14 Edge	8 Dowie
15 Alan	9 Thole
17 Iron	10 Islets
18 Elgin	16 Net
20 East	17 Inn
21 Nova	19 Squibs
25 Utah	22 Artist
26 Gaels	
27 Smit	23 Jabot
30 Bottle of spirits	24 Flask
31 Weans	28 Clan
32 Close	29 Birl

#### Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival 10-14, Moncton, NB

Highland dance, pipes & drums, heavy events, and sword competitions as well as demonstrations, workshops, live entertainment, and cultural exhibitions at the Hal Betts Sportsplex. Info: wwww.monctonhighlandgames.com

#### 1000 Islands Celtic Roots Festival 13-14, Mallorytown, ON

A weekend of Celtic music and celebration at Happy Green Acres. Info: www.happygreenacres.com

#### Georgetown Highland Games 14, Georgetown, ON

Celebrating 50 years of Scottish tradition at the Georgetown Fair Grounds. Info: www.georgetownhighlandgames.com

#### Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games 20-21, Port Hope, ON

A celebration of Scotland with pipe bands, clans, entertainment and more for the whole family at Port Hope Agricultural Park, 62 McCaul St. Info: www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca

#### ScotFestBC

20-21, Coquitlam, BC

British Columbia Highland Games with piping, drumming & pipe bands competitions, highland dancing, heavy events, massed pipe bands, whisky school, cultural workshops and more at Town Centre Park. Info: www.scotfestbc.com

#### **Manitoba Highland Gathering** 21-22, East Selkirk, MB

Pipe Bands, Highland Dancers, Heavy Games, Canoe/Kayak Races, Sheep shearing, Clan booths, Sword demos at Legacy Park. Info: www.manitobahighlandgathering.org

#### Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo

27-July 1, Halifax, NS, Canada

There's something for everyone at the Tattoo: marching bands, acrobats, dancers, military displays, pipes and drums, and much more at the Scotiabank Centre. Info:www.nstattoo.ca

#### KitchenFest-Féis a' Chidsin 27-July 5, Cape Breton, NS

Concerts and céilidhs, pub nights and square dances-a celebration of Gaelic

#### Kingsville Highland Games 28, Kingsville, ON

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Kingsville-Essex Highland Games announces the postponement of their 2025 event. The organizing committee has begun working on a new immersive Scottish experience for 2026. Info: www.kingsvillehighlandgames.ca

#### **Red Deer Highland Games** 28, Red Deer, AB

Clans, pipe bands, kilted run, heavy events, Celtic market and more at Central Middle School, 5121-48 Ave. Info: www.reddeerhighlandgames.com

#### USA

#### **MAY 2025**

#### **Decatur Celtic Festival**

2-3, Decatur, TX

Music, clans, food and more at Wise County Fairgrounds. Info: www.decaturcelticfestival.com

#### KVMR Celtic Festival 2-4, Grass Valley, CA,

A weekend of Celtic celebration with entertainment, Clans, Scottish Games and more. Info: www.KVMRCelticFestival.org

#### Savannah Scottish Games

3, Savannah, GA

A grand celebration of Scottish heritage, with Celtic music, Scottish clans/societies, pipe bands, Highland dancing, heavy athletic events, children's activities, sheep herding, falconry, genealogy, food, refreshments and fun for the entire family at Bethesda Academy. Info: www.savannahscottishgames.com

#### **Union County Celtic Festival** 3, Clark, NJ

Experience the excitement of piping and drumming contests, explore Gaelic Football and Hurling exhibitions, and savor delicious food from a diverse selection of vendors at Deutscher Club of Clark. 787 Featherbed Ln. Info: www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/615f08a1-9bb7-4c6b-976c-7f69a872e89c

#### Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival

**3-4, Albuquerque, NM**Celebrating seven Celtic nations with Celtic music and entertainment, marketplace, Clans and more at Albuquerque's Balloon Fiesta Park. Info: www.celtfestabg.com

#### Loch Badin Celtic Festival

10, Badin, NC

Free event with Celtic music, Clans, crafts, game demonstrations, Highland Cows, 24 Falls Rd. Info: www.better-badin.org

#### World Whisky Day 17, Nationwide

World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Events are taking place all over the globe. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

#### Fair Hill Scottish Games

17, Elkton, MD

A day of athletics, music, dancing, food, and arts celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture at Fair Hill Fairgrounds. Info: www.fairhillscottishgames.org

#### St. Louis Scottish Games

17, Manchester, MO

Immerse yourself in the rich Scottish heritage and witness incredible displays of strength, skill, and tradition at Schroeder Park, 359 Old Meramec Station Rd. Info: www.stlouis-scottishgames.com

#### Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games 17-18, Townsend, TN

Scotland in the Smokies at Tennessee's oldest festival of Scottish, Irish and Celtic culture at the Townsend Visitor Center, 7906 E. Lamar Alexander Pkwy. Info:www.smokymountaingames.org

#### Alma Highland Festival 23-25, Alma, MI

A full weekend of Scottish entertainment, events and displays at Alma College. Info: www.almahighlandfestival.com

#### Greenville Scottish Games 24, Greenville, SC

A celebration of Scotland Memorial Day Weekend at Furman University. Info: www.gallabrae.com

#### Scottish Fest

24-25, Costa Mesa, CA

Experience two days of world class Celtic music, piping and drumming competitions, Highland dancing contests, Scottish heavy athletics at Orange County Fair & Event Center. Info:www.scottishfest.com

#### Stirling Classic & Scottish Festival 30-June 1, Yukon, OK

A unique celebration of Celtic culture, complete with music, dance, food, and good 'old-fashioned Scottish fun, at the Mollie Spencer Farm. Info: www.thestirlingclassicsf.com

#### **Port City Highland Games** 31, Wilmington, NC

The event benefits paws4vets and features professional athletes (including the East Coast Women's Championship competition), clan tents, vendors, food trucks, music, Highland dancing, herding dog demonstrations, sword fighting and more at 3600 Randall Parkway. Info: www.portcityhighlandgames.com

#### **Eugene Scottish Festival**

31, Eugene, OR

A vibrant celebration of Scottish culture at the Irving Grange. Info: www.eugenescottishfestival.org

#### **JUNE 2025**

#### **Bellingham Scottish Gathering** 7, Blaine, WA

The annual festival features the City of Bellingham Open Highland Dancing Championship, bagpipe, drum and band competitions, food and merchandise vendors, clan tents, athletics, Scottish breed animals and the Scotland FOREver Golf Tournament. Nestled between Seattle, WA and Vancouver, BC, and adjacent to the Peace Arch border crossing. Enjoy waterfront views of the Salish Sea, Mount Baker and Semiahmoo resort where whale and bird watching are popular. Info: www.scottishdancesociety.org

#### **Garrett County Celtic Festival & Highland Games**

Celebrating Celtic cultures in Appalachia since 1988. Enjoy an entire day of entertainment across multiple stages in the riverside Friendsville Community Park, with pipe bands, dancing, Celtic entertainment, vendors and food. Info: www.gccelticfestival.com

#### Georgia Mountain Scottish Festival & Highland Games 7-8, Hiawassee, GA,

dancers, Scottish athletes, family clans, bagpipes and drums and traditional musicians will come to celebrate their heritage at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. Info: www.gamtnscottishfestival.org

#### Chicago Scottish Festival & Highland Games 13-14, Wheaton, IL

A celebration of Scotland at Dupage County Fairgrounds. Info: www.chicagoscots.org/festival

#### **Celtic Fest Ohio**

14, Waynesville, OH

Celtic & Scottish music, dance, food, and history at Renaissance Park, 10542 East State Route 73. Info: www.celticfestohio.com

#### Holland Celtic Festival and Highland Games

20-21, Holland, MI Scottish & Irish music, Clans, Highland

#### Games, Celtic food and more at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds, 1286 Ottawa Beach Rd. Info: www.hollandcelticfestival.org

#### **Prosser Scottish Fest & Highland Games** 21, Prosser, WA

This annual event promises a vibrant celebration of Scottish culture, featuring everything from Heavy Athletics and Clan gatherings to Celtic bands and Highland dance at Prosser Wine & Food Park. Info: www.prosserscottishfest.org

#### West Virginia Wild and Wonderful Celtic Festival and Highland Games

21, Beverly, WV Where Celtic traditions come to life through music, dance, and exciting competitions.

#### Info: www.wvcelticfestandgames.com **Ohio Scottish Games & Celtic Festival**

27-28, Berea, OH The Games highlight the traditional dance, music and athletics of the ancient Highland Games, at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. Info: www.ohioscottishgames.com

#### San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering of the Clans-Cancelled 29-29, Vista, CA

It is with deep disappointment that the Board of the San Diego Scottish Highland Games, Inc. announces the cancellation of the 2025 Games. This difficult decision comes as a result of sudden and significant cost increases associated with securing our previous venue. Info: www.sdhighlandgames.org

#### Alaska Scottish Highland Games 28-29, Palmer, AK

Featuring all things Scottish-Bagpipes, Heavy Athletics, Celtic Dance, Drumming, Kilted Mile, Scotch tasting, Salmon Tossing, Highland Coo, Tug-Of-War and more at the Alaska State Fairgrounds. Info: www.alaskanscottish.org

#### **Scotland**

#### **MAY 2025**

Tartan Parade Scotland 10, Edinburgh

This exciting new event will bring together tartans, pipe bands, dancers, musicians, organisations, and individuals from Edinburgh, as well as across Scotland, and beyond - to celebrate the country's rich heritage, tartans, culture and inclusivity. Info: www.handupevents.co.uk/tartan-parade-scotland

#### World Whisky Day

17, Nationwide

World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Events are taking place all over the globe. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

#### 2025 Gordon Castle Highland Games 18, Fochabers

From the Highland Games events to the Country Sports arena, local trade stands and food galore, Gordon Castle Highland Games is a day out for all the family. Info:www.gordoncastle.co.uk/highland-games-2025

#### The Quest 2025

22-25, Loch Ness

Four captivating days, uniting individuals and organisations in a collective exploration to solve the mystery of Loch Ness and its elusive monster. Through a series of engaging events, you'll search, debate, and delve into the mysteries that shroud this legendary loch. Info: www.lochness.com/the-quest

#### Orkney Folk Festival

22-25, Stromness, Orkney

Audiences can look forward to performances at the festival by artists from islands including Shetland; Skye: Arran; the Isle of Man; Ireland; Cape Breton; Prince Edward Island; Australia; and Manhattan. The similarities and differences of music from Orkney and Cape Breton in particular will be celebrated as part of this year's Gathering, as artists from each side of the Atlantic join forces. Info: www.orkneyfolkfestival.com

#### 2025 Gathering of the Clan Hannay Society 23-25, Sorbie, Dumfries and Galloway, United Kingdom

Clan events for those who bear the Hannay name (and its variants Hannah, Hanna and Hanney) at Sorbie Tower. Info: www.clanhannay.org

#### Fèis Ìle – The Islay Festival 23-31, Isle of Islay

An annual gathering of whisky and Islay fans from across the globe, a ten-day event that defines the whisky calendar. Info: www.feisile.co.uk

#### **Atholl Gathering**

25, Pitlochry

There are plenty of other attractions, such as highland dancing, tug o' war, solo piping, trade stands and refreshments to provide a fun day out for all the family, at Blair Castle. Info:https:// atholl-estates.co.uk/events/atholl-gathering

#### Skerryvore XX 31, Kelso

Scottish stars Skerryvore launch biggest show to date for  $20^{\hbox{th}}$  anniversary-celebrating two decades at the forefront of Scotland's music scene at Floors Castle. Info: skerryvore.com/xx.

# How sheep conquered Scotland

By: David C Weinczok

Their court case, heard in Edinburgh, was

ultimately victorious, though many in the

in much of Scotland today, of sprawling

fields surrounding a single farmhouse and

hundreds of sheep grazing all throughout,

centuries. Before, the countryside was far

from farmtouns and homesteads rising

of many of the hedges and enclosures

up at every turn and the land itself absent

that now parcel it out. Far more than any

conquering army or ambitious king, sheep

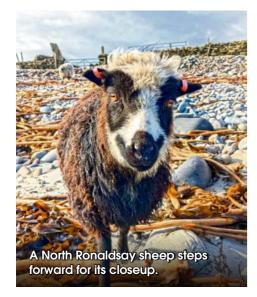
more populous and patchwork, with smoke

has only existed for a little over two

Tory press fomented hostility towards them.

The reality is that the landscape you see





magine in your mind's eye a quintessential rural Scottish landscape. What do you see? I'd wager that high, craggy peaks loom over it, and perhaps a cascading burn runs along the dappled floor of a glen. Heather colours the foreground, and on upon a distant hillside the outline of a kilted figure tends his flock – that flock, of course, being sheep.

So engrained are sheep in the classic imagery of Scotland that it is hard to imagine the place without them. Yet, it wasn't always so. This is the story of how sheep conquered Scotland. The very first sheep to graze on Scottish grass arrived in the Neolithic, roughly 4,100-2,500BC. They came with a new type of people farmers - who also brought new styles of pottery and created permanent settlements. Their sheep were much smaller than those of today, often described as 'dog-like' and with dark brown-black wool and large horns. A living relic of these Neolithic sheep survives in the Soay breed still found in St Kilda. In fact, when the Norse arrived in St Kilda they called Hirta, the largest island in the archipelago, Saudaey, meaning 'Island of the Sheep'.

The very first large-scale sheep farms in Scotland emerged in the late thirteenth century AD from what at first may seem an unlikely source - monks and their abbeys. The enterprising monks of Melrose Abbey in the Scottish Borders acquired parcels of land throughout the south of Scotland and used much of them as pasture. In the 1280s their flock was 13,000 strong, the largest in the country by far. The monks' logic was that by accumulating wealth they could better serve God's will – a slippery slope if ever there was one. While the monks may have increased their numbers, sheep remained very marginal to the Highland economy until well into modernity. The quantities of wool and mutton each provided was very modest. Far more important were black cattle, which stood at the centre of rural life, economy, and food production. There was no sheep equivalent in scale to the trysts, where tens



of thousands of cattle were guided south from the Highlands to the bustling market towns of Crieff and Falkirk.

#### **Evermore sheep**

The levees broke with the introduction of the Blackface breed in the eighteenth century. Their yields were far higher than the native sheep, and their hardiness helped them endure life in the marginal uplands. Landowners soon realised that they could profit far more from flocks of Blackface sheep than they could from rent-paying tenants. This profit motive, along with the violent de-peopling of the Highlands in the wake of the Battle of Culloden, gave rise to the countryside we see throughout much of Scotland today – relatively few people where once there were many, a handful of large farms where once there were dozens of smallholdings, and sheep galore where once there were black cattle.

From the 1790s onwards the Blackface sheep were, in turn, usurped by the kings of modern pastures - the Cheviot breed. Both breeds were known to the Gaels as Na Caoraich Mora, 'the big sheep'. It was not just their size that was big, but their appetites and demands for land. Their need for access to low-lying ground during winter pushed out the black cattle which once vastly outnumbered them. Cheviot sheep especially require far more ground for grazing than their predecessors, leading to an economy of scale: large landowners reared large flocks, while small and middling landowners were squeezed out. Immense amounts of capital were required for large-scale sheep farming, and the industry remains heavily subsidised to this day.

It is no exaggeration to say that Cheviot sheep changed both the landscapes and culture of Scotland. For example, from the 1770s the Marquis of Breadalbane in Perthshire, one of the largest and wealthiest landowners in Scotland, mass-converted his deer forests into sheep farms. Not only were the new, southern breeds of sheep introduced, but so too were new, southern farmhands, many of them coming from Scots and

English-speaking areas like the Lothians into an area which was otherwise almost universally Gaelic-speaking. A linguistic gulf emerged between those tending to the laird's sheep and the majority of people living on their estates. When clearances were enacted, these Lowland managers had little sympathy for the Gaels they evicted to make way for evermore sheep. This was also the case on the lands of the 1st Duke of Sutherland, whose clearances were notoriously brutal.

#### Year of the Sheep

The Gaels fought back as best they could.
1792 was Bliadhna Nan Caorach, the 'Year of the Sheep'. Skyrocketing wool prices, partially driven by demand for clothing for the millions of enslaved people in the Caribbean labouring and dying under Scottish whips, accelerated landowners' clearance efforts. Armed insurrections emerged across the Highlands and Islands, notably in Easter Ross, Skye, and the Outer Hebrides. On several occasions, impoverished tenant farmers fought bodily against squads of police sent to quash them.

One of the best and latest examples of resistance was in Barra and Vatersay. In 1835 all the people living in Vatersay and the Bishop's Isles to the south were evicted on the order of General Gordon of Cluny explicitly to make way for sheep farms. Lady Gordon Cathcart, Barra and Vatersay's callous and absentee landlord, consolidated all of Vatersay into a single sheep farm. This spurred on the 'Vatersay Raiders', who landed in Vatersay from Barra to resettle cleared settlements and establish new ones.

transformed the very face and character of Scotland.

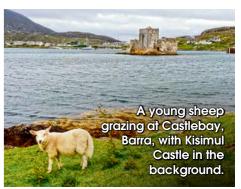
Two starkly opposed quotes speak to how sheep are viewed, and by whom.

Inside the inn in Kenmore on the Marquis of Breadalbane's estate, Robert Burns scribbled a poem waxing lyrical about the romance of the countryside:

"Admiring Nature I her wildest grace, These northern scenes with weary feet I trace; O'er many a winding dale and painful step, Th' abodes of covey'd grouse and timid sheep"

To Burns, sheep were synonymous with the land and ranked among the prize possessions of the aristocracy alongside grouse. For Ian MacCodrum, a Gaelicspeaking Highlander who watched his people be drained away, sheep had a very different legacy. In his poem *Òran do na Fògarraich* (A Song to the Exiles), he lamented: "It's sad to reflect How the land's being enslaved – Our people suddenly went And sheep came in their place"







#### Charity appeals for Footpath Fund donations as countryside visitors increase



he National Trust for Scotland has launched its annual Footpath Fund appeal to raise funds to support the maintenance and repair of more than 300 miles of paths as 2024 visitor numbers to the charity's countryside locations increased by 10 percent.



The conservation charity's team of five path makers and specialist contractors ensure the 275 miles of upland footpaths, and a large section of the Trust's 155 miles of low-level paths, remain accessible and in good condition for the millions of people who visit the countryside properties each year. This work not only prevents erosion scars and protects the fragile ecosystems where walkers may inadvertently stray from paths, but it also makes visiting these places more accessible for more people.

The ongoing maintenance and repair of the footpaths is vital as they face numerous challenges. Year on year, millions set out to enjoy Scotland's outdoors. Visitors to the Trust's countryside properties have increased from 900k in the first half of 2023 to just over 1m in the first six months of last year. Three of the Trust's most visited countryside places include Ben Lomond, which has grown 27% since 2022 with over 31k visitors; Grey Mare's Tail, which has increased 34% over the same period to 25k; and St Abb's Head, which has grown by 86% to 51k visitors - an increase of 24k people.

High footfall naturally wears the paths down and when coupled with the Scottish weather's swings from sun to snow in a single day, erosion is exacerbated, which risks lasting damage to the countryside and its vulnerable biodiversity. Additional funding is necessary to support these crucial ongoing works.

#### **Delicate ecosystems**

Bob Brown, Upland Path Manager for the National Trust for Scotland, said: "Our footpaths lead visitors to Scotland's nature, heritage, and beauty so it's crucial we provide our footpath team with the resources they need to maintain them. Their work is vast and wide-ranging, including recent rebuilding work at Grey Mare's Tail where flash flooding blasted holes into the path. Walkers inadvertently carved new routes through delicate ecosystems as they strayed from the flooded path into the surrounding habitats, endangering native flora and fauna. The footpath team not only repaired the damaged sections, but they also helped protect it in future by improving drainage systems to mitigate increased flooding. This is often made especially challenging due to many of the sites we work on having important geological and

botanical attributes and Special Scientific Interest categorisation. Rather than use existing but protected materials on site, all rebuilding materials are acquired elsewhere and airlifted in. By maintaining and repairing footpaths that blend seamlessly into the landscape, they ensure everyone can enjoy the unique beauty of our hills and mountains, both today and for those that follow in our footsteps."

Donations to the Footpath Fund help the Trust to progress its ambitious mountain path restoration plan to tackle damaged sites at Ben Lawers, Ben Lomond, Glencoe, Goatfell, Torridon, and Kintail. They also support pre-emptive work to counter the effects of increased visitor numbers and climate change on natural habitats and footpaths; conduct audits on the state of lowland paths and develop a plan of work to ensure they're maintained to the highest standards; and trial new repair techniques to ensure work continues to be as effective and sustainable as possible.

For more information or to make a donation, visit: www.nts.org.uk/footpath



## Tartan, talent, and tradition: Dressed to Kilt returns to NYC in spectacular style



The Devil's Brigade Band performs during DTK.

ressed to Kilt, the world-famous celebration of Scottish fashion, music, and culture, made a triumphant return to New York City on the evening of Saturday, April 5, 2025, delivering an unforgettable night of glamour, heritage, and heart. Held at the stunning Church of the Heavenly Rest on Fifth Avenue, this year's event was themed "Country Couture: From the Scottish Highlands to Fifth Avenue," transforming the runway into a dynamic showcase of outdoor lifestyle fashion—from rugged countryside looks to elegant eveningwear.

The runway dazzled with a blend of tradition and modernity, featuring spectacular collections from renowned designers such as Red Label Kilts, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Kilts, Prophetik, Campbells of Beauly, Totty Rocks, Walker Slater, Molly Kathryn Wade, Dubarry of Ireland, Hannah Macdonald, Aida, and King's Foundation designer Graeme Bone. In true Dressed to Kilt style, the show wasn't without surprises—a majestic falcon even made a dramatic runway appearance, captivating the crowd.

#### Collaborative energy

Notable personalities took center stage, including viral New York creator Caleb Simpson, *Summer House* star West Wilson, and both current Miss Scotland Amy Scott and 2023 Miss Scotland Chelsie Allison. The show was brilliantly hosted by Dressed to Kilt co-founder Geoffrey Scott Carroll and Scottish actor James Robinson, whose charm and wit carried the evening. Other celebrity walkers included Olympian Nicole Yeargin, Oscar-winning screenwriter Lesley Paterson, and acclaimed artist and author Timothy Goodman.

The crowd was treated to unforgettable live performances from powerhouse singer Natalie Dredd, high-energy favorites
The Devil's Brigade, and *Britain's Got Talent* winner Jai McDowall, whose voice brought the house down. Sunbelt Rentals, the evening's title sponsor, even sent a representative down the runway, further highlighting the event's community spirit

and collaborative energy. Guests sipped on fine Ardbeg whisky as they mingled and danced the night away following the show. As always, Dressed to Kilt's mission extends beyond fashion. Proceeds from the evening will support the Navy SEAL Foundation, a cause that remains close to the hearts of the organizers and audience alike





Images by JP Yim/Getty Images for Dressed to Kilt.

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