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The Banner Says...

'Coastodians' of Scotland's Solway Coast



by Sean Cairney

n the southwest border between Scotland and England lies the stunning Solway Coast. The Solway Firth hugs the Dumfries & Galloway coastline and is the third largest estuary in the UK, which was listed in 1964 as a Special Area of Conservation, and boasts coastal dunes, salt marshes, raised mires and agricultural land.

The region is home to an abundant variety of wildlife and is rich in natural heritage. The area is certainly one of the lesser visited parts of Scotland and those who are lucky enough to explore the region, just over 2 hours from Glasgow, can take in so much natural wonders from sea cliffs and sandy beaches to sheltered coves and also visit Scotland's most Southerly point the Mull of Galloway. Visitors to Scotland can take in the region by driving the South West Coastal 300, one of the country's newest driving routes.

Nature takes centre stage

Dumfries and Galloway is home to Scotland's last wild native oyster fishery on Loch Ryan and people have harvested the native oyster for centuries. Sadly, native oyster beds have declined by 95% in the UK since the 19th century. The region also has 25% of Scotland's saltmarshes, which are rich in food for both bird and marine life. Nature takes centre stage in this part of southern Scotland and the unique seascape needs to be protected for future generations to enjoy.

This diverse and stunning 210mile stretch of precious coastline and coastal waters will benefit from a ten-year large-scale funding awarded to SCAMP (Solway Coast and Marine Project) by The National Lottery Heritage Fund Landscape Connections. Up to £8million will be used to create 120 miles of new coastal trails which will be created to improve and better link the existing coastal path network, while also making the paths more accessible for more users of varying abilities.

Ten coastal gateway sites will also be enhanced; these improved facilities will allow more people to take in and learn about the incredible Solway Firth and greater coastline. Five key habitats will be targeted for improvements including seagrass meadows, native oyster reef, saltmarsh, coastal woodland and sand dunes.

Protecting our natural heritage

Not only in Scotland but across the world protecting our natural heritage is so very important. As climate change causes impacts to communities and economies, helping our planet whilst celebrating the beauty of this part of Scotland is a huge win for the region.

The Solway Firth has played a role in shaping Scotland's history, biodiversity, economy and culture, as a gateway to the world and an important natural resource. With rising sea levels and storm surges taking place across the globe as well as natural heritage under threat both on land and under the water we need to protect or coastal regions and take on nature-based solutions to make sure our seascape, and the communities which live amongst them, thrive well into the future.

The Solway Coast is the first area in the UK to benefit from The National Lottery Heritage Fund's Landscape Connections, and this is a testament to the rich, diverse and precious natural region this part of Scotland has. I look forward to learning how these projects will benefit the Solway land and seascape and hope many more of us get to experience this great region for years, and generations, to come.

In this issue

On Thursday 22nd May 1975 PS (Paddle Steamer) Waverley carried her very first passengers in her new career operating for her own company -Waverley Steam Navigation Co Ltd. Waverley originally entered service in 1947 and is without doubt one of Scotland's most famous vessels. This year marks 50 incredible years since the world's last seagoing paddle steamer was preserved and saved for generations of Scots to enjoy. We are so thrilled to have Douglas McGowan MBE, who has been instrumental in the ship's longevity and shares some of the history and his relentless passion with us.

Thousands of years ago the powerful and mighty Romans thought Scotland, or Caledonia, was literally at the end of the world. But did they ever conquer the lands which we all know, and love, as Scotland? This month we look at some of the history of the Roman invasions of Scotland and what impact they had and the story they left behind.

Argyll has a long history in whisky production, going all the way back to the 17th century. The area is home to 15 world class distilleries which celebrate the regions rich whisky heritage, which was once known as the 'whisky capital of the world'. The region's fertile soil, extensive peat bogs, and pure water—create ideal conditions for crafting exceptional whisky and I am sure many will say cheers to that!

Happy Birthday tae us!

This issue marks the commencement of our 49th year of monthly publication. With so many publications being lost during the global pandemic it really is the incredible support of our readers, advertisers, followers and friends that got us here. Without it, reaching this anniversary would not have been possible in such a challenging operating environment, so thank you so very much and I do hope you enjoy this edition.

Have you visited the Dumfries & Galloway coastline? 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.

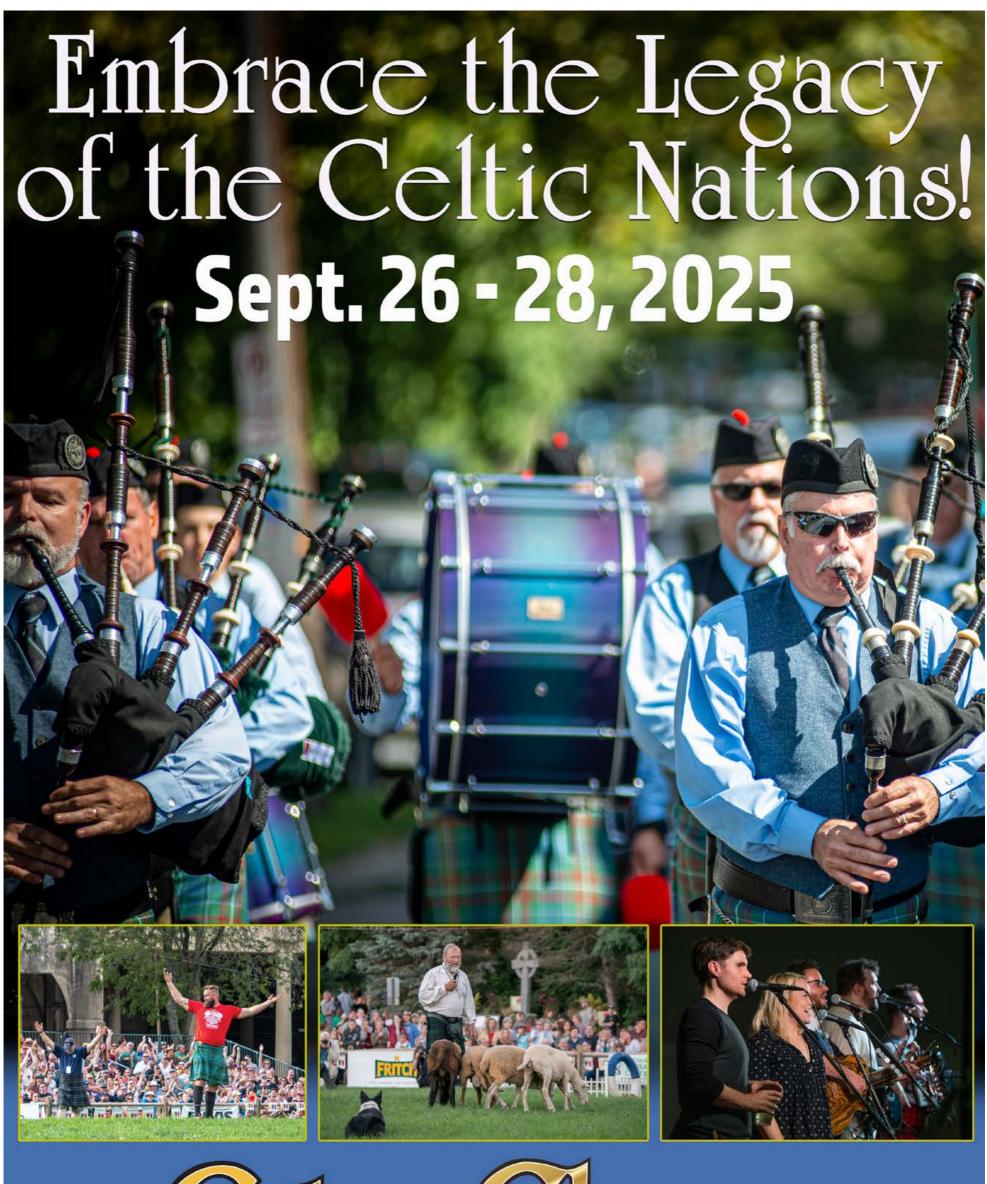
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We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



Gracing our front cover: PS Waverley given Water Cannon Salute to mark 50th anniversary of Preservation.







HIGHLAND GAMES & FESTIVAL

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania



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?

Lochranza Castle, Isle of Arran



Lochranza Castle was originally built in the 13th century, likely by the MacSween's, and later came under the control of the powerful Stewart family. It played a key role in local power struggles and clan disputes over the centuries. In the 1490s, James IV used the castle during his campaign to suppress the rebellious Lords of the Isles. Later, it became the property of the Hamilton's, one of Scotland's most

influential noble families. The castle's position on Arran made it a valuable asset for controlling access to the western seas, and it was frequently caught up in the shifting alliances and rivalries between clans and the crown.

Thomas Lamont The Kilted Photographer Falkirk, Scotland

Call for Wallace Day



We, the Society of William Wallace, call upon the Scottish Government to officially recognise the 23rd of August as Wallace Day. A National Day

of Remembrance and celebration in honour of Sir William Wallace, one of Scotland's most iconic figures in the struggle for freedom. Sir William Wallace was executed on the 23rd of August 1305 for leading the fight for Scotland's independence. His courage, sacrifice, and unyielding commitment to Scottish sovereignty have echoed through centuries and remain an enduring symbol of national pride and resilience. While monuments, books, and films have kept his memory alive, there is no formal day set aside to honour the man who became a cornerstone of Scotland's national identity.

Why Wallace Day matters:

- It offers a moment of reflection on Scotland's long and hard-fought journey.
- It encourages historical education and civic pride, particularly among young Scots.
- It provides a focal point for cultural events, heritage tourism, and local community gatherings.
- It unites Scots across political and cultural lines around shared values of courage, resistance to oppression, and national dignity.

By officially recognising Wallace Day, Scotland would take a meaningful step toward preserving and celebrating its rich heritage—ensuring future generations understand and honour the sacrifices that shaped the nation we know today.

Let us mark August 23rd not just as a date of martyrdom, but as a National Day of Remembrance, unity, and inspiration. Please sign the petition at: www.change. org/p/wallace-day The Society of William Wallace

Clan Estate sale under Trust



Feelings of disbelief, betrayal, sadness resonate among those in the Sleat community on the Isle of Skye and Clan Donald members worldwide with the unexpected decision by trustees and CEO of Clan Donald Lands Trust. The Clan Donald Lands Trust, which owns a large estate on the Isle of Skye, including Armadale Castle, has recently announced the sale of its land and property assets, including Armadale Castle and the Sleat Estate. The estate covers much of the island's southern Sleat peninsula, comprising about 20,000 acres. This decision, made due to the trustee's claim of financial challenges and their reliance on charitable grants that have recently been withdrawn, has been met with protests and criticism from local communities and Clan Donald members from Canada, Australia, Germany and the U.S. as well as worldwide. The sale came as an unpleasant surprise to both people living in the south of Skye, and those abroad affiliated with the many Clan Donald Associations, who have criticised the lack of involvement of

the very people they have been vested with preserving the trust for in the decision.

Trustees blamed a large increase in the costs of running and maintaining Armadale, in a statement, the board of trustees said: "Due to the high-cost, low-income nature of Armadale, we have always been reliant on external grant funding to cover our operating costs. On the Armadale website, they make the comment that the "visitor business has never been viable." The Trust said it wanted to focus on giving grants to "Clan and indigenous Highland heritage projects." And most recently stating; "The Trustees' objective is to find suitable buyers who will bring serious investment, prosperity, training, and employment to the community for the long term,...The CDLT will at the proper time expand on exciting plans for a more engaging, efficient, affordable, and internationally purposeful Clan Donald HQ, which of course could still be on Skye".

The lands, properties, museum, and castle have been in trust since 1971 by the Clan Donald Lands Trust. This charity was formed by clan members from around the world, who gave of their own funds, following the death of Clan Chief Alexander Godfrey Macdonald, the 7th Lord Macdonald. The current High Chief of Clan Donald, 8th Baron Macdonald, Lord Godfrey James Macdonald of Macdonald has stated; "I believe the proposed sale of the Clan Donald Centre would be

both a tragedy for the Clan and for the local community. There is absolutely no doubt that the beneficiaries of the original trust are the clan pure and simple."

It has been widely agreed that the retention of Armadale Castle, Clan Donald Heritage Center and Gardens is of most importance to many people who feel a deep connection to their MacDonald heritage and most do not agree with the trustee's posted comment regarding "non-viability". They see the trustee's actions over several years' time as having contributed to the situation they claim they are now in and feel they are very out of touch with their responsibilities to the trust, and to all who claim connection to Clan Donald, as a whole.

In response to the appalling actions of the Trust, a global Save Armadale - The Clan Donald Campaign has been formed to counter the sale of Armadale Castle, Gardens, Museum, Cafe, and Visitor Centre, to resist the dismantling of the Clan Donald Heritage Archive, Museum, Estate Lands, and Genealogy Centre and to call for the removal of the current trustees who are not Scottish residents. A GoFundMe campaign has been started to Save Armadale, visit: https://gofund.me/b1e8958e The Trustees have already sold Kingsburgh House, a property that was willed to the trust by Miss Amelia Colbourne. Michael MacDonald, Clan Donald member Mebane, North Carolina

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA (1900)



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

Edinburgh



Beautiful Edinburgh! Craig Duncan Photography

Kilchurn Castle



Beautiful view of Kilchurn Castle. Travelling Scot Photography

Tantallon Castle



Incredible view of Tantallon Castle, in East Lothian, with Bass Rock in the distance. Jamie Taylor Photography

Calanais Standing Stones



Did you know the Calanais Standing Stones on the Isle of Lewis were erected between 2900 and 2600 BC, making them older than Stonehenge. Mik Coia

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

Edinburgh International Festival breaks boundaries in a year exploring 'The Truth We Seek'





his August Edinburgh International
Festival presents a hand-picked
selection of leading international and
local artists in the world's Festival
City, with 24 days of world-class opera,
dance, music and theatre. The Festival's 2025
programme offers opportunities to experience
world-class artists in thought-provoking
and unconventional ways – including an
eight-hour choral extravaganza, a distinctive
outdoor promenade dance piece and a
circus infused opera. Audiences can also get
involved in many Festival performances, from
an outdoor mass-singalong to interactive



concerts where the audience chooses the repertoire. Two major world premiere productions in UK theatre and dance: *Make It Happen*, an eye-opening take on the 2008 financial crisis set in Edinburgh, starring Brian Cox and *Mary, Queen of Scots*, an iconic story of one of Scotland's most famous women, that blends classicism with modernity. In a landmark year for choral music, marking the 60th anniversary of the Edinburgh Festival Chorus, this renowned chorus of singers from around Scotland performs at the monumental Opening Concert.

Now in its third year under Festival Director and celebrated Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti, the 2025 programme welcomes over 1,700 artists from 42 nations to Edinburgh —including 600 from Scotland—across 133 performances. *The Truth We Seek* is the theme underpinning the 2025 Edinburgh International Festival, inviting audiences to explore their relationship with truth - within themselves, between one another and in understanding our place in the world.

The world's Festival City

Nicola Benedetti, Festival Director, Edinburgh International Festival said: "Our 2025 Edinburgh International Festival invites you to explore The Truth We Seek—a journey into the elusive nature of truth, in our personal and public lives. In an era of 'alternative facts' and manipulated narratives, the arts offer us something deeper: a poetic and metaphorical wisdom that is both more nuanced and more precise. This Festival born in the city of the Enlightenmenthas championed artistic expression as a means of discovery, insight, and mutual understanding. This year, we proudly present seven world premieres, exceptional international and Scottish artists, and celebrate 60 years of our Festival Chorus as well as the brightest emerging talent. Join us this summer as we seek and find truth together. Your curiosity will be rewarded with thought-provoking, and potentially transformational, experiences that you simply won't find anywhere else."

Edinburgh International Festival is the original festival. It's the one that started it all, the igniting spark that established Edinburgh as the world's Festival City. The Edinburgh International Festival was founded in 1947, the inspired idea of Rudolf Bing, a cultural pioneer and Jewish refugee, working with a group of

civic and artistic leaders. Together, they created a festival that transcends political boundaries through a global celebration of the performing arts. Over the following 77 years the International Festival's handpicked programme of world-leading dance, opera, music and theatre has continued to bring people of different cultures and viewpoints together every August.

Meanwhile, the International Festival's sister festivals have grown up around it – each of them contributing to the atmosphere of unparalleled excitement that transforms the city each summer. Shining far beyond what you see on stage, the International Festival also offers yearround pathways for people of all ages and backgrounds to discover and participate in live performance.

The Edinburgh International Festival takes place from 1-24 August 2025, at venues across the city. Learn more at: www.eif.co.uk.





SCOTSPEAK

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



"Summer strike action looms over Edinburgh and Glasgow airports because the pay offers on the table from Menzies Aviation aren't good enough. Menzies Aviation has the ability to improve its offers and they can easily resolve this pay dispute without any disruption to the travelling public. If the company fail to table a better offer to our members, Unite will have no option but to ballot our members for strikes over the summer holidays."

Industrial officer Carrie Binnie said strike action could be possible at Scotland's two largest airports over the busy summer season. Approximately 300 Menzies Aviation work at each airport and have rejected current pay offers.

"Road safety is a key priority for us and I'm glad that we're moving ahead with this important process. Whilst this has taken longer than we initially anticipated, I'm confident that these measures will make many of our roads across the city safer. The evidence is clear - lower speed limits make roads safer for everyone. A pedestrian or cyclist has twice the chance of surviving a collision at 30mph compared to 40mph. Any action that we can take to make sure all road users are safer is a positive step."

Edinburgh Transport and Environment Convener, Councillor Stephen Jenkinson said a 40mph to 30mph speed limit reduction implementation has begun across the city. The 19 roads in Edinburgh due to have their speed limit cut will be rolled out throughout June and July.



"Scotland's coastline offers something for everyone – from the historic streets of St Andrews to the island charm of Rothesay and Millport. While some of the most sought-after locations continue to command premium prices, there are still plenty of affordable options for buyers willing to look beyond the traditional hotspots. Coastal property prices in Scotland have risen over the past year, reflecting strong demand and the enduring appeal of seaside living. But it's also important to recognise the diversity of these communities - while some are thriving, others face real challenges linked to housing affordability, seasonal economies and access to services."

Isla Benzie, Head of Bank of Scotland Mortgages, said Scotland's most expensive place to buy a home by the sea is St Andrews, with an average property price of £458,381.

St Andrews is one of Scotland's most famous and desirable towns, internationally renowned as the birthplace of golf and home to Scotland's oldest university.

"A very special bird who had touched the hearts of millions who saw her both on TV and in the wild. As Frisa got on in years, I dreaded the day I would visit her territory and find her gone. Sadly, that day has come and I feel like I've lost a friend. She was a true icon for White-tailed Eagles and she'll always hold a special place in my heart."

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Ambassador Dave Sexton, said that Frisa, the UK's oldest wild White-tailed Eagle, has died aged 32. Frisa appeared on TV shows and raised several chicks on Mull. Frisa long term partner Skye is now the oldest wild Whitetailed Eagle in the UK at the age of 31.



"With the City Deal we're quite literally building bridges between our communities along the Clyde. Our expectations that the Govan-Partick Bridge would reconnect these historic communities have been exceeded with these fantastic figures. It's quickly became a key landmark in the city and a tremendously well-used travel route and will be critical to the continuing regeneration of our riverside and its surrounding communities in the years

Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council and Chair of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, said the Govan - Partick Bridge in Glasgow has been a tremendous success, with more than one million pedestrian and cyclist crossings since opening on 7 September 2024. The Glasgow City Region City Deal project, the Scottish and UK Governments each provided £12.685 million in funding for the Bridge,

re-established the historic connection between Govan and Partick. One of the longest opening pedestrian/cycle bridges in Europe, the Govan - Partick Bridge has a width of six metres and two spans.

"Scotland was the first nation in the UK to commit to taking action on single use vapes. It's estimated that over half of disposable vapes are incorrectly disposed of each year in Scotland - creating a fire risk and littering our beautiful environment. They also contain nicotine which is highly addictive. This change to the law fulfils a Programme for Government commitment and will help tackle the threat that single-use vapes pose to our environment as well as to our public health."

Scotland's Acting Net Zero Secretary Gillian Martin said single-use vapes will no longer be stocked or sold in Scotland under new legislation which came into force on June 1st. The UK-wide ban has been introduced to prevent the environmental damage disposable vapes cause and to address health concerns associated with vaping as Scotland moves towards a tobacco-free generation by 2034. An estimated 26 million disposable vapes were thrown away in Scotland in 2023.

"It is a tremendous privilege and honour for the Royal Navy to be granted the unique opportunity, for the first time in history, to mount the ceremonial guard at both Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. These men and women, having so proudly represented the Royal Navy during the VE Day commemorations, now carry that same sense of duty and pride into the heart of Edinburgh. This historic moment follows a remarkable period in which the Royal Navy took centre stage as the lead service at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo - another proud chapter in our enduring relationship with the city and its traditions."

Warrant Officer 1 Glynn Moffat, the Royal Navy's State Ceremonial Training Officer, said recently sailors from across the Royal Navy had the honour of guarding Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse for first time ever. The duty is normally carried out by British Army soldiers of The Royal Regiment of Scotland who traditionally guard the castle and Royal residence in their iconic tartan kilts and Glengarry headdress.



SCOTWORD

Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try! If you're stuck, answers can be found on page 24.

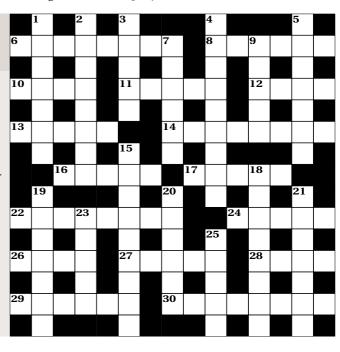
- 6) Cathedral town on Allan Water (8)
- 8) Town 23 miles west of Aberdeen (6).
- 10) Scots stair landing (4).
- 11) The sound o' the pipes (5).
- 12) Measures of land (4).
- 13) Walk furtively (5).
- 14) Clergyman (8)
- 16) Church council (5)
- 17) Smokes in Scotland! (5).
- 22) UK checkers (8).

- 24) Try writing a composition! (5).
- 26) Net (4).
- 27) Town 6 miles east of 30 Across (5).
- 28) Enjoyable to a Scot (4).
- 29) Mountain hollow (6)
- 30) Historic Central castle (8).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) The roaring game (7).
- 2) Late news! (8)
- 3) 14 Across's house (5).
- 4) Town 14 miles NW of 30 Across (9).

- 7) A mystery (6).
- 9) Water crossings (5).
- 15) Ross and Cromarty waterway (4, 5).
- 18) Birds of prey (8).
- 19) Wallace's fighting war-cry (7).
- 20) Scottish hymns (6).
- 21) Central loch (7)
- 23) Wedding seater! (5).
- 25) Song thrush (5).



The world's biggest week of bagpipes returns to Glasgow with two iconic events



The newly imagined Piping Live! festival and World Pipe Band Championships are set to stage another summer spectacular showcasing the country's national instrument.

lasgow is preparing to host the world's biggest week of bagpipes this summer, with the return of Piping Live! from Monday 11th to Sunday 17th August, and The World Pipe Band Championships on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th August. Renowned as a UNESCO City of Music, the city is tuning up for the events that attract attendees and participants from across the globe.

The world's biggest piping festival

The world's biggest piping festival, Piping Live! - which is organised by The National Piping Centre and is now in its 22nd year - attracts over 30,000 attendees annually to Glasgow for an eclectic programme of entertaining events at venues across the city to celebrate the contemporary and traditional sounds of Scotland's national instrument. This year, organisers are proud to unveil a show-stopping reimagined outdoor ticketed space at their home on McPhater Street, complete with a Centre Stage, The Bothy (an acoustic tent) and other exciting new additions to the already hugely successful event that shines a global spotlight on Scotland.

Piping Live! Artistic Director, Finlay MacDonald, said: "We are very proud and delighted to present this year's edition of Piping Live! to the people of Glasgow and beyond. Thanks to the supporters, funders, performers, participants and attendees who continue to invest their time into our festival, we can continue building on our diverse, inclusive and engaging programme that showcases the breadth and depth of piping traditions and contemporary influences. This year, we are so looking forward to festival goers and performers experiencing our enchanting and newlyimagined festival site at McPhater Street. Expanding upon our popular Street Café, we know this new investment will allow us to bring an even wider variety of talent to Glasgow: with an array of emerging talent, international performers, live events and showcases planned for the festival's run. There are opportunities for pipers and spectators of all levels and ages – from 'come and try' sessions, high-level competitions, enjoying street performances or at our Big Band event - you don't have to be a piper to enjoy the wonders of Piping Live! The countdown is now on to August for when the city will be awash with the sounds of pipes and host to performers from every corner of the world."

This year's Piping Live! festival, which aims to be a celebration of diversity and culture in piping, is delighted to be welcoming pipers and performers from all walks of life to participate in its dynamic programme.

Across its seven-day run, it will offer everything from fierce competitions between globally recognised musicians, to captivating concerts, reel-y enchanting recitals and more – with musicians from Australia to Ukraine and everywhere in between, showcasing their talent and skills in the captivating offering of free and ticketed events - before the week comes to a fitting crescendo with The World Pipe Band Championships at Glasgow Green.

The pinnacle highlight of the international competitive pipe band calendar



Meanwhile, The World Pipe Band Championships – organised by The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association and delivered by the city's culture and sport charity Glasgow Life – is an iconic event the city first hosted in 1948 and has staged every year since 1986. As the pinnacle highlight of the international competitive pipe band calendar, it attracts thousands of spectators from near and far every year to watch the world's best talent compete in the ultimate 'battle of the bands'.

Glasgow City Council Convenor for Culture, Sport and International Relations, and Chair of Glasgow Life, Bailie Annette Christie, said: "Scotland is renowned as the global home of piping, and Glasgow's reputation as a fantastic destination for music lovers is also recognised widely by its designation as a UNESCO City of Music. And with the city hosting both the world's biggest piping festival and the premier competitive pipe band event - there's definitely nowhere better to enjoy worldclass piping than Glasgow in August during the city's 850th birthday year. Offering great entertainment and memorable experiences celebrating our nation's culture, heritage and music, Piping Live! the World Pipe Band Championships are much-loved highlights of our city's cultural programme. Both events are very valued by Glasgow; they make a significant contribution to our visitor economy, attracting many thousands of pipers and spectators, as well as the attention of the world's media, to further enhance the city's profile. It's a pleasure and privilege for Glasgow to host these incredible piping extravaganzas, and we look forward to welcoming attendees from near and far this summer."

The World Pipe Band Championships - a much-loved event that's hugely popular with competitors, supporters and spectators alike – always attracts thousands of visitors to Glasgow to experience the stirring sights and sounds, and memorable atmosphere, of the event. Attendance at last year's premier pipes and drums showcase reached around 35,000 – with huge viewing figures online too - watching an impressive line-up of nations competing. That included countries as far afield as Australia, Oman and Hong Kong; the biggest contingent of bands (119) was from Scotland, the second largest was from Northern Ireland, and the third largest was from the USA.





Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Chief Executive, Colin Mulhern, said: "The World Pipe Band Championships is an iconic event that is incredibly important to the global piping community. Bringing together in Glasgow the very best bands in the world, it's always spectacular and an unforgettable experience for competitors and spectators alike. Last year's Worlds saw 204 bands from 13 countries taking part, and more than 7,000 pipers and drummers taking to the field at Glasgow Green to compete in the ultimate 'battle of the bands'. We can certainly expect another wonderful showcase of piping and drumming at this year's event, with a hard-fought contest for all of the categories and of course, the title of this year's world champions. As always, tickets will be in great demand, so we'd encourage everyone planning to come along to book their tickets as soon as possible.'

Piping Live! 2025 programme highlights – from Monday 11th to Sunday 17th August - are at www.pipinglive.co.uk.

More information on the World Pipe Band Championships 2025 – on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th August – is available from www.theworlds.co.uk.



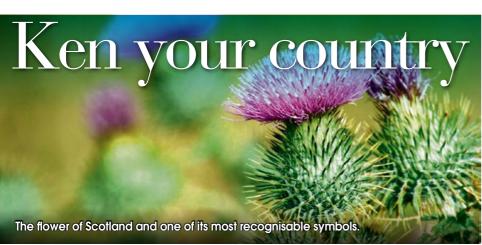
Scottish Heritage USA celebrates 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee





ixty years ago, five founding fathers of today's Scottish Heritage USA filed in New York for incorporation of a non-profit organization to "recognize and enhance original bonds of ancestral and national character among the peoples of Scotland and of North America; to disseminate knowledge of their respective cultural heritages, and to support the preservation of historic sites and maintain of centers of artistic and literary endeavor."

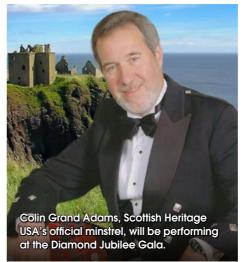
From the genesis of Scottish Heritage USA's founding in 1965, the organization has been committed to supporting a strong relationship with the National Trust for Scotland (NTS). It began with Scottish Heritage underwriting student exchanges between NTS's Threave Gardens in Scotland and Longwoods Gardens in Pennsylvania. In 1974, the board approved \$12,000 for an information center at the Georgian House at No. 7 Charlotte Square in Edinburgh, and later \$30,000 to NTS for



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

The flower of Scotland and one of its most recognisable symbols.

- 1 Scotch whisky must be matured for a minimum of how many years to become an official whisky?
- Just outside of Blairgowrie in Perthshire is home to the world's tallest what?
- What is the capital of Shetland?
- Which is older Orkney's Neolithic tomb Maeshowe or the Egyptian Pyramids?
- What famous Scottish landmark is built on an extinct volcano?
- gain the Hebrides in 1266?
- What is the motto inscribed on the coat of arms of the City of Glasgow?
- In Scots what does the word Oxter mean?
- 9 What does "Gies a bosie!" mean? 10 What is Scotland's national flower?
- From which country did Scotland



Georgian House renovations. That same year, the joint sharing of a tent at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games at MacRae Meadows near Linville, North Carolina. That tradition continues to this day, along with Scottish Heritage USA donating over \$1.5 million to the National Trust for Scotland and its USA Foundation in the intervening years, including \$300,000 for the Culloden Visitor's Center, \$250,000 for renovations of the Dwight Eisenhower suite at Culzean Castle and Gardens, and support for projects such creation of the online Robert Burns Library Collection, St. Kilda and Arran archeology, restoration of Hill House and Falkland Palace, the Glencoe Restoration project and numerous renovations to NTS properties, lands and museums for public access and use.

Supported many heritage and cultural projects

"Scottish Heritage USA's work has not been limited to National Trust for Scotland projects. The organization has supported many heritage and cultural projects here in the US such as An Crios Greine global piping contest, Blue Ridge Pipes and Brass, Mill Prong Preservation, the Tartans Museum in Franklin NC, The Pipes of Christmas in New York, New Jersey and Boston, and American Scottish Foundation's Tartan Week concerts at Bryant Park," according to Scottish Heritage USA President Peter McC. Wilson IV. "One of our most visible projects in the US has been

the sponsorship and management of the Scottish Cultural Village at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games each July. We also set aside a portion of our member funds to support summer camp scholarships for disadvantaged youth in highland dance, pipe and drum and Scottish fiddling."

Scottish Heritage USA is holding a special Anniversary Gala Dinner on July 13 at the end of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games to celebrate the organization's Diamond Jubilee. A festive dinner, traditional Scottish music and song by Scottish Heritage minstrel Colin Grant Adams and Master Fiddler Jamie Laval, stories of Robert Burns from the National Trust for Scotland's Learning Manager Chris Waddell, and recognition of Scottish Heritage USA's decades of success will make this an evening to remember for all. The reception and dinner costs \$85 per person for members and \$100 per person for non-members. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to www.ScottishHeritageUSA.org

Scottish Heritage USA was founded in 1965 to recognize and strengthen the bonds of friendship between the peoples of Scotland and the United States. The nonprofit association has members across North America, supporting partnership with the National Trust for Scotland as well as a variety of cultural and heritage programs, places, educational events, and scholarships.



Jink and Diddle School of Scottish Fiddling students Paula Johnannesen Desimone of Saint Charles, IL and Rebecca Longhenry of Henrico, VA received scholarships from Scottish Heritage USA.



- 1 Scotch Whisky must be matured in oak casks for a minimum of three years, and is often matured much longer.
- 2 Recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the highest hedge in the world, the Meikleour Beech Hedge was planted in 1745 and is one third of a mile long (530 m) and 100 ft (30 m) high.
- 3 Lerwick which became the capital of Shetland in the 1830s.
- 4 The chambered cairn Maeshowe was built around 2,800 BC making it approximately 200 years older than the Great Pyramids of Giza.
- 5 Edinburgh Castle.
- 6 Norway.

Answers:

- 7 Let Glasgow Flourish. The city gained its coat of arms in 1886.
- 8 The armpit.
- 9 This Doric saying from Aberdeen means "give me a hug!"
- 10 The thistle, which can be found right across Scotland.

Edinburgh's Floral Clock celebrates 200 years of braille



he Lord Provost of Edinburgh has officially opened the newly completed Floral Clock in Edinburgh's West Princes Street Gardens.

This year, the landmark celebrates the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and 200 years of braille, the tactile code that enables blind and partially sighted people to read by touch.

The Lord Provost was joined by representatives from RNIB and visually impaired members of the community to mark the completion of the new design, which takes three gardeners six weeks to create. More than 35,000 flowers and plants are used in the clock, which will be in bloom until October. This includes plants like antennaria, crassula, echevaria,

sedum and saxifrage and annuals such as pyrethrum, begonias and geraniums.

Edinburgh's Lord Provost Robert Aldridge said: "Seeing the floral clock take shape is a wonderful annual tradition and this year doesn't disappoint, with a beautiful display in honour of a worthwhile cause. The RNIB provides essential support to blind and visually impaired people, and in 2025 they mark a real milestone with the 200th anniversary of braille. I hope the clock's design will give people pause to reflect on just how important braille is to all those to use it. Thanks to the hard-working parks team who have spent the past six weeks creating the clock, which will be enjoyed by many thousands of people throughout summer."

The 200th anniversary of the invention of braille

The RNIB is the UK's leading sight loss charity which offers practical and emotional support to blind and partially sighted people, their families and carers.

This year, the RNIB is marking the 200th anniversary of the invention of braille, a code based on six dots used to represent the alphabet and numbers. James Adams, Director of RNIB Scotland, added: "It is a great honour that RNIB has been chosen for this year's floral clock. It marks the 200th anniversary of the invention of braille which opened

up opportunity for blind and partially sighted people to be able to access the written word, and with that came the liberation of being able to also receive information that is taken for granted by wider society. Braille is a system that endures, and continues to transform the lives of blind and partially sighted people, offering them privacy, independence, and opportunity. RNIB was brought into existence to improve tactile literacy and we still work every day to widen access for blind and partially sighted people. Therefore, we are delighted to have Braille200 so prominently marked in the heart of Edinburgh and give everyone the opportunity to celebrate braille and include accessibility in their lives.'

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

Rare historical prisoner photos and records now online



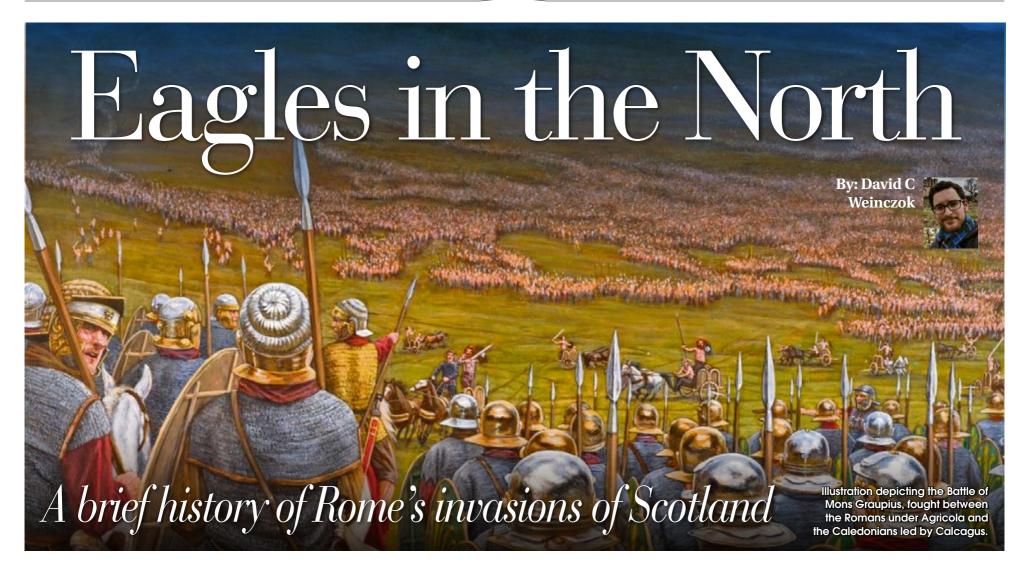
ase notes of patients in Victorian Scotland's only prison unit for offenders with mental illnesses have gone online. Perth Prison had Scotland's only department for people who were both prisoners and patients. The records for patients admitted between 1846 and 1902 are now on the Scotland's People website. There are case notes available for over 400 prisoner-patients, some of which include photographs.

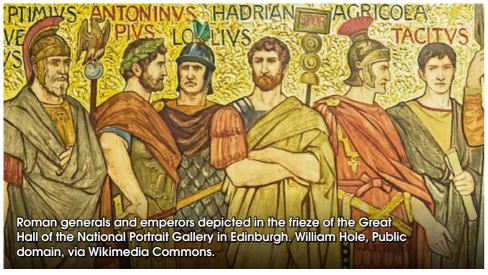
Some of the cases involve serious crimes, including murder. These records could be upsetting for some readers. The language used in the records reflects the attitudes of the time. National Records of Scotland Chief Executive Alison Byrne said: "These records preserve important aspects of our history. They document how ordinary lives could unravel, often with devastating consequences. They show how doctors understood and treated mental illness in Victorian times. We are making these records available on Scotland's People to widen access to more researchers."

Records of over 900 Perth Prison general population admissions for the years 1922-1924 are also now available online.

Read more about Perth Prison's history or search the records at the Scotland's People website: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

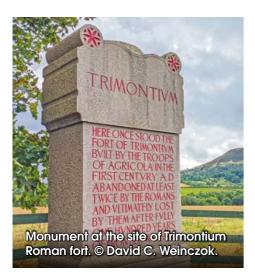






hey came, they saw, but did they conquer? That's the first question on many peoples' minds when considering Rome's efforts to subdue Scotland. Pseudo-histories and long-busted myths still endure in the popular imagination, while even Scotland's foremost historians and archaeologists debate the extent and nature of Rome's brief but dramatic presence north of Hadrian's Wall.

Leading on from last month's summary of the history of Scottish castles, I'm here to put all our legionaries in a row when it



comes to the fundamentals. When did they arrive? Why did they leave? Did Scotland truly remain unconquered by them? Read on for a crash course in the Roman invasions of Scotland. The first coordinated incursion into what is now Scotland occurred in 78 or 79AD under the Governor of Britannia, Gnaeus Julius Agricola, though scouting parties no doubt ranged north for several years before then.

As far back as Emperor Claudius' invasion of Britannia in 43AD, Roman navies circumnavigated the British mainland and reached even allegedly received submission from the king of Orkney.

The reach of Rome

Fresh from annihilating local druidic resistance in Wales, Agricola proceeded into southern Scotland to extend the reach of Rome to the limits of the known world. Beyond Britannia was, they believed, *ultima thule*, the most distant point on earth. If Rome could conquer Britannia, nowhere on earth would be beyond its grasp.

The campaign of the late 70s and early 80sAD saw the only large-scale pitched battle yet known between Romans and Caledonians. According to Tacitus, Agricola's son-in-law and biographer, it

occurred at a place called *Mons Graupius*, the Graupian Mountain. A transcription error in the 15th century led to the Graupians being spelled to this day as the Grampians. This is the battle that gave us the Caledonian chieftain Calgacus' epic speech extolling the "last of the free" to defend their homeland against Roman tyranny – though Calgacus was almost certainly invented by Tacitus to give Agricola a worthy, named adversary.

No one knows precisely where this battle was fought, but Tacitus records that some 10,000 Caledonians were slain while fewer than 300 Roman auxiliaries fell. Propaganda aside, the Highland tribes were scattered but not wholly defeated. Their time for revenge would come. Meanwhile, Agricola fought an insurgency and never again managed to lure the locals into a pitched battle. Southern Scotland as far as the Tay had been secured for Rome and the tribes to the north had been cowed, but not for long.

The story of the Roman invasions of Scotland has captured imaginations for centuries.

The Antonine Wall

By 90AD all Roman forts north of the Forth-Clyde line were abandoned, as too were some major forts further south. Evidence from several forts show signs of burning, though whether this was done by Romans wishing to deny local tribes any spoiled or by the tribes themselves in anger, no one yet knows for sure. The legions returned within a few years though made no major progress until the late 130s and early 140s AD when the Antonine Wall was built, stretching from Bo'ness on the Forth to Old Kilpatrick on the Clyde.

The Antonine Wall was a major undertaking, comprising 17 forts with a total garrison of some 7,000 legionaries and auxiliaries. Significant remains can still be seen at Rough Castle in Falkirk, Croy Hill, and the bathhouse at Bearsden. It was occupied for only 20 years before the Romans had to withdraw south once more, though not before they dealt some devastating blows to the locals. A massive assault was orchestrated on the native hillfort of Burnswark near Lockerbie, with stone and bolt-throwing siege engines, massed slingers and archers, and thousands of legionaries arrayed against the Selgovae tribe on the hilltop. None were spared, a terrible lesson in the price of defying Rome's ambitions.

Another campaign was mounted in the 180s under the Emperor Commodus, though by the end of that decade many Roman forts from the Tay to the Tweed were again burnt – this time, almost certainly by native hands hoping to drive the invaders out forever. The final confirmed campaign of any scale came with the Emperor Septimius Severus and his sons, Caracalla and Geta, in 208-211AD. Severus gave Caracalla explicit orders to annihilate men, women, children, and animals alike, and archaeological evidence bears out that these orders were followed with ruthless comprehensiveness.

However, Severus' death in York in 211 halted the campaign, and Hadrian's Wall once again became Rome's northernmost frontier in Britannia. A possible campaign was mounted in the early 4th century, but no conclusive evidence for this has yet been found. So, far from never invading Scotland or making much progress in it, Rome mounted at least five major periods of campaigning which brought imperial troops as far north as the Moray Firth near Inverness. For those who believe that Rome under-invested in its northern invasions, in the late 2nd century AD 1 in 5 Roman soldiers in the entire empire were stationed in northern Britannia.



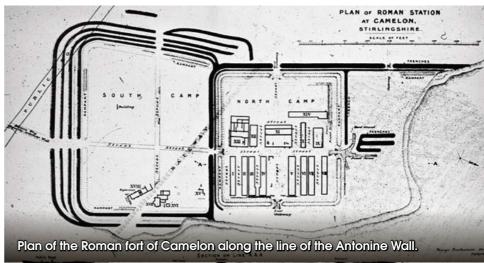
Military occupation

Their reasons for withdrawing are hotly debated to this day. Rome extracted raw materials from Scotland as well as countless enslaved people, but the area's riches were nothing like the silver veins of Iberia or the spice and salt roads of the eastern Mediterranean. Some argue that the Caledonians were simply too ferocious for the Romans, or that the Highland topography proved too challenging. Yet, Rome conquered equally warlike peoples in Germania, the Balkans, Cappadocia, and elsewhere, and met with even more challenging terrain in the form of the Pyrenees, North African deserts, and indeed among the Alpine Gauls in northern Italy.

There is simply no single answer or cause for why Rome failed to conquer Scotland, just as there is no single answer for why modern empires such as the United States or Soviet Union failed to conquer Afghanistan. The Roman occupation of Scotland was intended to

be permanent, with Roman towns and the locals converted to Roman ways, but in the end it amounted to purely military occupation. There were no *civitas* (towns), grand villas, or civic infrastructure projects like aqueducts – only forts, marching camps, roads to facilitate the movement of troops, and defensive lines in the proverbial sand such as the Antonine Wall and Gask Ridge system west of Perth. Tribes who revolted against the Romans or who merely got in the way of conquest were subjected to brutal punitive campaigns and massacres.

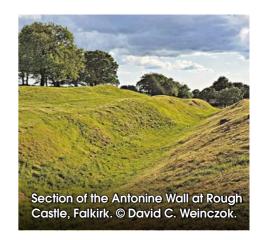
The military nature of the occupation left little love lost between natives and invaders. Only a handful of dragonesque brooches, hallmarks of Romano-British culture, survive in the southeast at locations like Trimontium, one of the hubs of the invasion effort. In southern Scotland there are only the merest hints of anything resembling the entrenched Romano-British culture which emerged further south.



The blink of an eve

Locals in what is now the Scottish Borders, Lothians, and Dumfries and Galloway certainly traded with the Romans, while some tribes accepted bribes meant to keep them out of the way. The most famous example is the Traprain Treasure, a hoard of Roman silver hacked up and given to the Votadini tribe whose capital was atop the whaleback hill of Traprain Law in East Lothian.

The story of the Roman invasions of Scotland has captured imaginations for centuries despite only occurring for what is, in historical terms, the blink of an eye – around 140 years from first incursion to the final withdrawal. Increasingly, more scholarly and popular light is being shone not on the invaders, but on the native peoples who resisted them and who lived their lives with the shadow of the Empire looming over them.

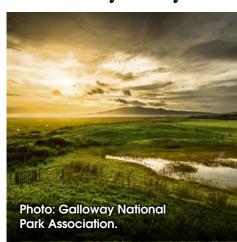


This is the focus of the work being done by organisations including the Trimontium Trust in the Scottish Borders and the Scottish Crannog Centre in Perthshire. Both have many fantastic online resources where you can continue your journey of understanding the legacy of the Roman invasions of Scotland, and how – albeit for a brief time – they contributed to the Scotland we know today.



IN SCOTLAND TODAY

New National Park decision-No designation for Galloway and Ayrshire



Scottish Ministers have decided not to pursue a proposal to designate Galloway and Ayrshire as a National Park. Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon confirmed that opposition to the nomination and the Reporter's recommendations against it meant that the region in southwest Scotland would not join the Cairngorms and Loch Lomond & the Trossachs as the country's third national park.

Speaking in the Scottish Parliament, Ms Gougeon said: "While there is substantial support for a National Park and what it could deliver for the southwest of Scotland, there is also significant opposition. I realise that this decision will be very disappointing for those who have been campaigning for a new National Park in Galloway over many years. I also recognise the huge amount of work and time that has been invested by a great many people throughout this process. The consultation raised some really important issues that local people care deeply about and we now have the opportunity to look at how we can address these. The Scottish Government remains committed to our existing National Parks and the vital leadership role that they play in tackling the climate and biodiversity crises, promoting sustainable land management and supporting the economic and social development of local communities. Our National Parks are achieving for people and nature."

The proposal to designate a new National Park in Galloway and Ayrshire was jointly put forward by the Galloway National Park Association and the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere, in response to the Scottish Government's invitation to communities and organisations across Scotland to nominate their area to be considered for designation as a new National Park. Five nominations were received through that process – from Galloway and Ayrshire, Lochaber, Loch Awe, Scottish Borders and Tay Forest.

Following an initial period of engagement with local communities, over 5,000 surveys were completed and more than 1,000 people attended events that were held across Galloway and South and East Ayrshire – with the final results showing around 54% of responses opposed the National Park proposal and around 42% of responses supported it.

Royal blessing for new frigate as HRH The Princess of Wales names HMS Glasgow



Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, Sponsor of HMS Glasgow, gave her blessing to the Royal Navy's newest warship. Smashing a bottle of whisky against the hull for good luck, Her Royal Highness formally named HMS Glasgow, the first of eight Type 26 frigates at the leading edge of naval warfare. To cheers from hundreds of friends, family, workers, VIP guests and the 45-strong ship's company at BAE Systems shipbuilding facility in Scotstoun, The Duchess of Rothesay, as she is known in Scotland, declared the time-honoured words: "I name this ship Glasgow. May God bless her and all who serve in her." Her Royal Highness was accompanied throughout her visit by The Prince of Wales. Proceedings opened with an inspection of the Royal Guard, followed by the 25-minute naming ceremony, during which Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Sir Martin Connell thanked Their Royal Highnesses for their support and all those involved in the Type 26 endeavour to reach this milestone in the programme.

Vice Admiral Connell said: "From the first ever HMS Glasgow, sailing under the Royal Navy flag at the end of the 17thcentury to the ship we see here in the 21st century, HMS Glasgow has evolved and adapted to meet the warfighting and operational demands of its day. Each metamorphosis saw shipbuilders adapting materials and designs so that crews could operate each successive HMS Glasgow on operations and in conflict and war. The result of this being 11 battle honours -HMS Glasgow's pedigree is awe inspiring." He hailed the latest ship as "a pure-bred Anti-Submarine Warfare platform, setting the standard for naval warfare", ready to "meet the global and geopolitical challenges of today." He continued: "HMS Glasgow and her class represent the next chapter of naval innovation, safeguarding the UK's interests and contributing to national prosperity."Her Royal Highness accepted the honour of Royal Sponsor - historically, the title has served to bestow good luck and divine protection upon a ship - to HMS Glasgow four years ago. Although the Princess of Wales has hosted members of the Ship's Company at Windsor Castle, she had never seen the 8,000-tonne warship until the ship's launch.

Grand Prix win for Gaelic language drama An t-Eilean



MG ALBA has achieved a major international milestone, taking home the coveted Grand Prix at the Prix CIRCOM 2025 awards – the highest honour in the prestigious European television awards. The Grand Prix win was awarded to Black Camel Pictures' acclaimed Gaeliclanguage crime thriller *An t-Eilean (The Island)*, which had already been named winner of the Drama and Entertainment category earlier in the evening at the gala award ceremony in Barcelona. In a surprise announcement, the series was also revealed as the overall winner across all genres.

Set against the elemental landscape of the Outer Hebrides, *An t-Eilean (The Island)* is a compelling crime story that follows a family caught up in a murder investigation very close to home. When their mother is found murdered in the family castle, four adult children return to the Scottish island of their birth as their father is questioned over her death. The drama premiered in the UK on BBC ALBA in January 2025, becoming the best performing Gaelic programme since the channel's inception.

David Smith, Director at Screen Scotland, said: "This is a fantastic win for the *An t-Eilean* team. The popularity of this ambitious series and the recognition it has received, including this award, is an incredible vote of confidence in the strength of Gaelic language drama." John Morrison, Chair of MG ALBA, added: "Winning a top European award from our television peers is wonderful news for *An t-Eilean* and for Gaelic language broadcasting. It shows that stories told in Gaelic can compete with the very best entertainment and drama across Europe."

Aberdeen city centre turned into a sea of red and white during Dons' parade



Around 100,000 Dons fans crowded Aberdeen city centre to watch the open-top bus parade by the first team after winning the Scottish Cup in May. Aberdeen Football Club supporters lined the streets to watch the parade as it made its way to the Town House for a balcony appearance by first team players with the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Dr David Cameron. Led by Texo Deeside Caledonia pipe band, the parade started at Albyn Place, travelling down Union Street, Union Terrace, Schoolhill, and Broad Street going past the historic Marischal College before finishing at the Town House.

The Lord Provost said: "The Dons supporters created a fantastic atmosphere as the bus slowly made its way through the city centre – the streets were turned into a sea of red and white. The fans were singing and playing drums and, along with the pipe band, made the event into something very special for everyone. It was a fantastic and emotional occasion and a very fitting way to mark the Dons winning the Scottish Cup."

The Lord Provost also praised fans' behaviour as the event was very family-friendly with supporters of all ages turned out in the Aberdeen sunshine.

Bannockburn decision welcomed



The National Trust for Scotland has welcomed the decision of Scottish Ministers to overturn planning permission for a horse-trotting track on the site of the historic Bannockburn battlefield. The Trust has previously asserted that the planning process had been flawed and that Stirling Council should not have approved the scheme, given its visual and other impacts on the historic battlefield.

The proposed trotting track, car parking, fencing and buildings, in green fields adjacent to the battlefield centre and parkland managed and cared for by the Trust, would have been directly visible from the Rotunda, which acts as a national monument to commemorate the 1314 battle which changed the course of Scottish history. Stirling Council approved the application in July last year despite many objections, and it was subsequently 'called in' by Scottish Ministers.

The Trust's Acting Director of Conservation & Policy, Diarmid Hearns, said: "This is very welcome news for the Trust and all who care about Scotland's heritage and history. Ministers' conclusions closely accord with our stated views that this development was simply in the wrong place and would have badly impacted upon the setting of the battlefield. We hope that this decision brings this matter to an end and that the developer withdraws to a new site elsewhere that will not impinge on places of historical importance."















Celebrating Celtic culture in the Canadian Rockies!

34th Annual CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES

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Celebrating 50 years of the PS Waverley preservation



2025 marks the incredible 50th anniversary of the PS Waverley's first sailing in preservation. Waverley is the world's last seagoing paddle steamer and named after Sir Walter Scott's Waverley novels. The Scottish Banner spoke with Douglas McGowan MBE, President of the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, on this milestone year for one of Scotland's most iconic and historic vessels to have ever sailed.





August 8th 1974, James Watt Dock, Greenock: from L to R: Terry Sylvester, Waverley Steam Navigation Co, Douglas McGowan, WSN Co, Sir Patrick Thomas, Chairman Scottish Transport Group, John Whittle, General Manager, Caledonian MacBrayne.

Douglas for those that do not know, can you tell us a bit about the history of the iconic *PS Waverley?*

DM: The *Waverley* was built in 1946 on the Clyde for the London and North Eastern Railway Company to replace the

The Waverley had become not only the last Clyde paddle steamer but the world's last seagoing paddle steamer.

previous *Waverley* which was sunk by enemy action at Dunkirk in 1940. She was built primarily for the Craigendoran to Loch Goil and Loch Long service, calling at Arrochar to connect with the Loch Lomond paddle steamer *Maid of the Loch*. During her career in public ownership, she was also used at peak periods to assist on the main ferry routes such as Wemyss Bay-Rothesay and Gourock-Dunoon.

She lost her striking red white and black funnels with nationalisation of the Clyde steamer fleet in 1948 when her funnels became buff with a black top. During the 1950's and 60's and up until 1972, she was owned and operated by the Caledonian Steam Packet Company

mainly on a variety of Clyde cruises but in 1973, the CSP Co was amalgamated with MacBraynes to become Caledonian MacBrayne Ltd (CalMac). The new funnel colours to reflect this change of ownership became red with a black top and red lion rampants on the sides of the funnels. By this time, *Waverley* had become unique in her maritime status: she was now the world's last seagoing paddle steamer.

You were involved in the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society purchasing the *Waverley* for just £1 in 1974. Can you tell us how this came about and what it was like to receive such an offer and what do you think would have happened if the Society had not taken on the *Waverley*?

DM: My colleague Terry Sylvester and I, representing the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, had struck up a good relationship with the General Manager of CalMac. From 1970, we had various meetings at their Head Office at Gourock, suggesting various ways to improve the marketing and public awareness of Waverley as a unique vessel within their fleet. Several of our proposals were implemented and a mutual trust and

respect grew between us. For example, we suggested they paint the funnels a different colour from the rest of their fleet of car ferries. They also painted the paddleboxes black: both of these initiatives were suggested to improve standout from the rest of their fleet.

However at the end of the 1973 season, as we expected, Waverley was withdrawn from service as she was losing money and required considerable expenditure on her boiler, paddle wheels and timber decks. I received a phone call from the CalMac General Manager in November 1973 asking if I could attend a meeting in his office. I expected the worst.....to be told "thank you for all your efforts in supporting us to keep the Waverley sailing but sadly, we have to take her out of service and sell her to the highest bidder." The evening before that fateful meeting, Terry phoned to tell me that he wouldn't be joining me at the meeting. "I don't see much point in travelling all the way from south Wales to Gourock just to be presented with the ship's bell as a memento."

And so, it was just the two of us at that meeting. Looking back now, 52 years on, it certainly was a surreal moment when I

was told that CalMac's parent company, the Scottish Transport Group, had decided that in view of all the support and assistance offered to CalMac, their Board had decided to gift this historic ship to our preservation society (PSPS). You could have knocked me down with a feather! At first, I thought it was a wind up! A 700-ton paddle steamer which had a passenger certificate (then) for 1,350 passengers.....as a gift! But, then came the bad news, "You will have to give us £1 to make the deal legal!" I phoned Terry that evening and told him "Well, you were absolutely right, they want to give us the ship's bell BUT they are giving us the rest of the ship as well!"

The rest as they say is history. But had we declined this amazing "Paddler for a Pound" offer, she would have been sold to the highest bidder....and that could have resulted in razor blades! Perish the thought!

The Waverley is synonymous with sailing down the Clyde and "Doon the Watter". What is it about the magic of Waverley do you feel have captured the imagine of generations of Scots?

DM: The *Waverley* had become not only the last Clyde paddle steamer but the world's last seagoing paddle steamer. In the early 1970's, the PSPS proactively marketed her as a very special ship. The cruise down the river Clyde to Dunoon, Rothesay and the famous Kyles of Bute has been loved by generations of Glaswegians and became known as "Doon the Watter". When *Waverley* became the "last of the line" she was synonymous with this special voyage that their parents and Grandparents had done before them, keeping the tradition very much alive.

There is something magical about leaving the narrow confines of the River Clyde in Glasgow and 2 hours later experiencing the beautiful scenery of the Firth of Clyde.

Waverley's maiden voyage was on June 16, 1947. Waverley has been lovingly restored with new decks, cabins and engines over the years. What features of the ship are you most proud of and why?

DM: The *Waverley* has to comply with all modern regulations which includes an annual drydocking. Her amazing original 1947 triple expansion engines are at the very heart of *Waverley*. I'm very proud of playing my part in her preservation and when I see Fathers with their captivated





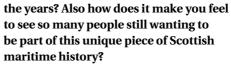
sons and daughters watching these cranks whirling round and taking in the intoxicating aroma of hot oil and steam, yes, I say to myself it's all been worthwhile!

2025 marks the 50th anniversary since the *Waverley's* first sailing in preservation. Can you tell us what special events are planned during this milestone year, and did you ever envisage marking 50 incredible years of service?

DM: It is quite amazing to think that *Waverley* is celebrating 50 years as a preserved steamer this year and carried over 6 million happy passengers in the process! Looking back to 1975, our first year of operating *Waverley*, we did have a number of unexpected operating issues to deal with. There were some days when I thought we'd be doing well to keep her going for 50 days, never mind 50 years!

We are marking our 50th anniversary with calls at "new" piers for the first time such as Salen on the Isle of Mull and Rochester in Kent. Piers need the *Waverley* and *Waverley* needs piers! There is currently an ongoing project to have Helensburgh pier reopened. The *Waverley's* survival over 50 years is due to a very large band of mainly volunteers from all walks of life who have regularly given their time and sometimes money to help keep those paddles turning. We are inviting them on a special cruise during the summer to thank them.

This year *PS Waverley* will visit 74 ports and piers around the UK. How does it make you feel that you have been part of a team of people who have allowed millions of people to enjoy the *Waverley* over



DM: Even after 70 years of sailing aboard the good ship *Waverley*, I still get a thrill when I go up that gangway!

I'm immediately immersed in a different world, a world of relaxation, sea air, and the reassuring steady beat of the paddles. Sheer nectar! But most of all, what really makes me proud is seeing happy families on deck on a summer's day, children totally animated and having fun, whether it's having a tasty portion of fish and chips in the dining saloon, watching those hypnotic engines doing their stuff or Mum and Dad enjoying a relaxing refreshment in the Jeanie Deans lounge. We are in the entertainment industry, and it does my heart good seeing people having a great day out. Above all, Waverley is not stuffed and mounted in a museum, she is a living thing, alive and well, paddles thrashing, engines whirling round, that unique steam whistle sounding and happy passengers!

It is a real credit to the entire *Waverley* team that she is still sailing in 2025. How important, and difficult, is it for the Society to continue to keep the world's last seagoing paddle steamer in service?

DM: There are many challenges associated with maintaining a 1947 paddle steamer in service. Health and Safety and new regulations play a major part, all of which cost money. Often, new specialised replacement parts have to be specially made, sometimes by our own engineering team. And we are very fortunate to have an excellent management team led by a very passionate General Manager. In addition, the Board of Directors of both Waverley Steam Navigation company (the Waverley's owner) and Waverley Excursions (the Waverley's operator) offer full support behind the scenes. In recent years, our marketing team have been very proactive on social media which has brought to Waverley an entirely new audience.

And finally, Douglas you have such a strong connection to the *Waverley* there must be some incredible stories to tell? Can you share with any personal highlights you have experienced with your association to the world's last seagoing paddle steamer?

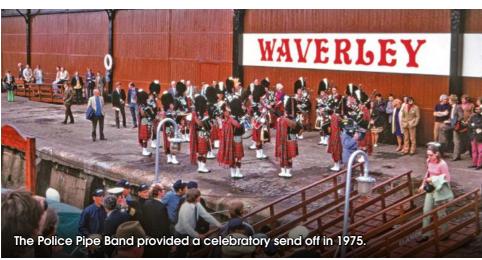


DM: Our first sailing on 22nd May 1975 with specially invited guests was very memorable. We had succeeded in returning the *Waverley* to service as a preserved vessel! Bringing both our baby daughters on board for the first time was rather special and even today, all those years later, they still love the *Waverley*. And we now have 5 proud Grandchildren, who simply delight on coming aboard "Papa's boat"!

But the culmination of my full time 34 career in the chocolate industry merging with the *Waverley* arrived when I was appointed President of the Confectioners Benevolent Fund in 2001 with a special Dinner at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. *Waverley* transported the 350 guests, the great and the good from the UK's confectionery industry from London's Tower Pier to Greenwich. Over the years, I have had the privilege of meeting many celebrities, MP's, Mayors and Councillors on board and shaken several thousand hands!

Probably the biggest but most unexpected accolade of all was receiving the MBE in the 2017 New Years Honours from Prince Charles (as he was then) at Buckingham Palace. An amazing day enjoyed by myself, my wife Jean and my two daughters Lynn and Jan.

For more information, or to help and support the Waverley for future generations to enjoy, visit: www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk



THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Seal granted by Edinburgh Town Council to the Incorporation of Barbers and Surgeons to practise their craft. The organisation is now known as the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. 1505
- 1 Proscription Act Repealed, thus allowing again the wearing of tartan and the carrying of weapons (banned as a result of the 1745 Uprising in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie). $1782\,$
- 1 The reconvened Scottish Parliament was officially opened. After a devolution referendum showed resounding support for the reconvening of the Scottish parliament, plans were put into motion for the creation of such a body. The parliament would sit in the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall in Edinburgh. Elections were held on May 1, 1999 and the first sitting of the body took place on May 12 of that year. The official opening on July $1^{\rm St}$ saw The Queen transfer full constitutional powers to Edinburgh. 1999



- 1 Balmoral Castle opened its doors to the public for the very first time. Balmoral Castle, a beloved residence of the British Royal Family since it was purchased by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1852, had allowed public to previously only visit the ballroom and the grounds of the castle. 2024
- 2 Treaty of Perth, Norway renounces claim on the Hebrides. 1266
- 2 Scottish architect Sir John Burnett died. His most famous commissions include the Royal Institute of Fine Arts; the Alhambra, and the Athenaeum, all in Glasgow, and the North front of the British Museum, the Institute of Chemistry, and the extension to Selfridges, all in London. $1938\,$
- 2 The Erskine Bridge opened. The spans the River Clyde in west central Scotland. It connects West Dunbartonshire with Renfrewshire and is one of Scotland's most architecturally and technically designed bridges of the post-war period and has the longest cablestayed span of its type in the world. 1971
- **2** Royal Scots Dragoon Guards formed as the senior Scottish regiment of the British Army at Holyrood, Edinburgh, by amalgamation of the Royal Scots Greys and 3rd Carabiniers. **1971**
- 2 Supporters of Stirling Albion F.C. become the first in the UK to take over ownership of their club. $2010\,$
- f 3 Robert Adam, the Scottish architect, furniture and interior designer, was born. Adam is regarded as a leading exponent of the neoclassical revival in the latter part of the 18^{th} century. 1728
- 3 The Clyde shipyards suffered their worst accident when the *SS Daphne* capsized at her launch. The packet steamer had been built by the Linthouse yard of Alexander Stephen and Sons and immediately sank into the River Clyde, taking the lives of the 195 workmen on board. It was later discovered that the 460-ton ship had little stability when it was launched, and rolled over forty-five degrees, taking huge amounts of water through a large deck opening. **1883**
- 3 John Logie Baird transmitted first colour television. 1928



- 3 Members of Orkney Islands Council, a Council area of Scotland, vote 15–6 in favour of investigating alternative methods of government that includes the potential to become a crown dependency of the UK or a self-governing territory of Norway. 2023
- 4 Lanarkshire-born James Keir Hardie became the first socialist to win a seat in the UK Parliament. $1892\,$

- 5 Border reiver, John Armstrong of Gilnockie, and 50 of his men were hanged for blackmail by James V. Armstrong was a well-known laird in the Borders area, and although a frequent marauder in England, he is not known to have attacked in Scotland. However, his wealth and power in a troublesome region brought the resentment of James V. Armstrong was tricked into attending a royal hunt only to be seized on his arrival. He faced the king, and volubly remonstrated with him that he had "asked grace at a graceless face".Legend has it that the trees at Carnlanrig, where Armstrong and his followers were hanged, withered, and none have grown there since. 1530
- 5 Final run of the Edinburgh to London mail coach (a route which was taken over by rail). 1847
- 5 UNESCO gives World Heritage status to the Forth Bridge, one of Scotland's best-known structures. It stretches 2.5 kilometres between the villages of South Queensferry and North Queensferry, and was opened on 4th March 1890 by Edward, Prince of Wales. **2015**
- **6** John Paul Jones, hero of the US Navy, born Kirkbean, Dumfries. **1747**
- 6 The Piper Alpha oil platform in the North Sea was rocked by a huge explosion. Blasts continued on the platform throughout that night, and by morning 167 men had died. **1988**
- 7 John Knox became the first Protestant minister appointed in Edinburgh. 1559
- 7 The novel *Waverley*, by Sir Walter Scott, was published. *Waverley* was Scott's first novel, and written mainly as a way of proving himself a superior literary talent to Byron. Although it was published anonymously as a safety net against its failure, it was an open secret who the author was. Scott needn't have worried: the book was a runaway success and Scott became regarded as the leading author in Europe. **1814**
- 7 The Antonine Wall, part of the ancient Roman limes, is designated as a World Heritage Site. Known to the Romans as Vallum Antonini, was a turf fortification on stone foundations, built by the Romans across what is now the Central Belt of Scotland, between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde. 2008
- 7- Andy Murray wins the Men's Singles at Wimbledon 2013 defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in straight sets. Murray is the first British man to win the title since Fred Perry in 1936, and the first Scotsman to win since Harold Mahony in 1896. 2013
- 8 King Alexander II died on Isle of Kerrara, Oban Bay. 1249
- **9** Queen's Park Football Club, first senior football (soccer) club in Scotland formed. **1867**
- 9 Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the Chief of Clan Fraser, Scottish aristocrat and soldier was born. Fraser, a Second World War hero, played a key role in the development of the commandos and was actively involved in both the Dieppe Raid, 1942, and D-Day landings, 1944. 1911
- 10 King James III born at Stirling. 1451
- 10 Glasgow Rangers signed Maurice Johnston. One of the last bastions of Scottish Protestant sectarianism, Rangers shocked many of its supporters when the club, under manager Graeme Souness, signed Maurice Johnston from the French club, Nantes, for £1.5m. Johnston had not only played for arch-rivals Celtic, but was the first well-known Roman Catholic player to sign for Rangers in modern times. 1989
- 10-14 The 150th Open Championship (golf) took place at the home of golf, the Old Course at St Andrews. 2022



- 11 Robert the Bruce born at Turnberry Castle, Ayrshire. After the death of William Wallace, Bruce led the campaign to regain Scottish independence, culminating in his stunning victory at the Battle of Bannockburn in June 1314. 1274
- 12 Darien expedition left Leith for Panama. Of the 3000 settlers who set sail in 1688 and 1699, only a handful returned, the rest having succumbed to disease. 1698
- 13 King Alexander III crowned at Scone. 1249

- 14 Cavalry units from the Scottish Engager army clashed with Lambert's Parliamentarian cavalry at Penrith. The Engager forces were commanded by the Duke of Hamilton, who made several mistakes in planning and executing his advance south, and quickly made themselves unpopular with the local population for their plundering and excesses. 1648
- 14 Scottish National War Memorial opened. The National War Memorial for Scotland was established by Royal Charter to commemorate the sacrifice of Scots in the Great War, Second World War and subsequent conflicts. The Memorial within Edinburgh Castle houses and displays the Rolls of Honour of Scots servicemen and women from all the Armed Services, the Dominions, Merchant Navy, Women's Services, Nursing Services and civilian casualties of all wars from 1914 to date. 1927



- 14 Eriskay is linked to South Uist by causeway. 2001
- ${\bf 15} \hbox{ National Portrait Gallery for Scotland} \\ opened in Edinburgh. \ {\bf 1889}$
- 16 David II, son of Robert I (the Bruce) married Joan, sister of Edward III (he was 4, she was 7). 1328
- 16 A Shetland fishing tragedy occurred leaving 105 fishermen dead as their boats got lost at sea. 31 Shetland sixern boats perished leaving devastation to the island community. 1832
- 16 13th Commonwealth Games opened in Edinburgh. 1970
- 17 Bank of Scotland, first bank to be established by an Act of the Scottish Parliament, opened. $1695\,$
- 18 John Paul Jones, naval hero of the American Revolution, died; he was born in Kircudbrightshire in 1747. 1792
- 18 Birth of Jim Watt, Scottish boxer. After a successful amateur career, Watt turned professional in 1968 and quickly rose to the top of the lightweight division before adding British and European titles to his collection during the 1970s. 1948
- 19 Battle of Halidon Hill in which Sir Archibald Douglas (guardian of David II) routed by Edward Balliol and Edward III. Scots losses were nearly 600, English losses 14. 1333
- 19 A.J Cronin, the Scottish novelist, was born. Cronin is most fondly remembered as the creator of the hugely popular character, Dr Finlay. 1896
- 20 Battle of Inverkeithing. Royalist force supporting Charles II failed to halt advance of army of Oliver Cromwell heading for Perth. 1651
- 21 Robert Burns dies in Dumfries, aged 37. The cause of death appears to have been heart failure, probably brought on by the hard physical work done in his youth. His widow, Jean Armour, gave birth to a son on the day of her husband's funeral. However, Maxwell, named after Burns's doctor, died in infancy. 1796
- 22 The army of the English King Edward I, using longbows for the first time, defeated the Scots led by Sir William Wallace at Battle of Falkirk. 1298
- 22 Oliver Cromwell invades Scotland and proceeds to the eastern edge of Edinburgh. The Scots form a defensive line within the city. $1650\,$
- 23 Charles Edward Stuart landed on Eriskay



- ${\color{red} 23 \text{ The 2014 Commonwealth Games} \atop opened in Glasgow. } {\color{red} 2014}$
- 24 The Battle of Harlaw took place at Inverurie. Nearly 2000 Highland and Crown soldiers fought over an area of land called the Earldom of Ross. 1411

- 24 Mary Queen of Scots abdicated and the young James VI acceded to Scottish throne. The Earl of Mar was appointed regent. $1567\,$
- 24 The Princess Royal formally opened the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Scotland's first national park. 2002
- 25 King James I born. 1394
- 25 Charles Macintosh, inventor of the plastic mac, died. Macintosh discovered the first rainproof cloth in 1818, by joining two sheets of fabric together with dissolved indiarubber. Although Macintosh is best known for his eponymously titled coats, he made significant advances in many fields of chemistry. As well as inventing a revolutionary bleaching powder with Charles Tennant, he also discovered a fast method of using carbon gases to convert iron to steel, and devised a hot-blast process which produced high quality cast iron. 1843
- 25 Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991, which gives full legal capacity to those aged over sixteen, receives the Royal Assent. 1991
- 26 James IV responded to pleas for assistance from France and declared war on England. Aside from assisting the French, who had been invaded by an English army, James was also aggrieved at England's seizing of two Scottish ships and the non-payment of part of the dowry for his wife, Margaret Tudor. 1513



- 26 The Flow Country of Caithness and Sutherland is named as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. It becomes the world's first peatland World Heritage Site. 2024
- 27 Battle of Killiecrankie in which Graham of Claverhouse (Bonnie Dundee) leading an army of Highlanders in support of the Jacobite cause, defeated King William's army under General Hugh Mackay. 1689
- 27 The Forth and Clyde Canal was opened from the Firth of Forth to the Firth of Clyde, with the first boat navigating its channel in August of that year. The length of the Canal from eastern sea lock to the western sea lock was 35 miles. 1790
- 28 The Royalist Marquess of Montrose beat General Baillie in a skirmish which was part of the English Civil War at Dunkeld, Perthshire. For a war of positions the Highlanders had neither aptitude nor inclination, and at Dunkeld the greater part of them went home. 1645
- 29 Mary, Queen of Scots, married Lord Darnley, in a Catholic wedding, at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh. 1565



- 29 King James VI (aged 13 months) crowned at the Church of the Holy Rude, beside Stirling Castle, following the abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots, five days earlier. 1567
- **30** First edition of the long-running *Beano* comic was published. **1938**
- 30 The beginning of the work-in at John Brown's Clydebank Shipbuilding Yard, organised by stalwart Socialist, Jimmy Reid. This was in response to the Ted Heath Tory government's plans to liquidate the yard Reid exposed these as unethical. 1971
- 31 French naval forces in support of the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots bombard St Andrews Castle and capture the Protestant rebels. These include Protestant John Knox, who is sent to become a galley-slave. 1547
- **31** The first edition of Robert Burns' poems, *The Kilmarnock Edition*, was published by John Wilson of Kilmarnock, under the title of *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect.* It cost three shillings and the entire print run of 612 copies sold out within a month. **1780**
- 31 Cigarette advertising banned on television in Britain. 1965

Lost Victorian relic found in attic during Edinburgh renovation



uring renovations, an exceptionally rare Victorian Crossley engine, was found tucked away in the attic of CoDE The Court, where it had remained hidden for decades. It is now on display in The Lost Close, the underground vaults of the building. Built in 1878, this marvel of Victorian engineering, it was far ahead of its time, used to regulate the temperature of the Edinburgh Police Chambers, and its survival offers a rare glimpse into 19th century innovation.

One of the most exciting finds in Scotland

Remarkably, this engine is the second-oldest surviving Crossley four-stroke engine in the world and the oldest in Europe. Only two other examples exist, the oldest is housed at the Henry Ford Museum in Michigan, USA, and another in Denmark. Its discovery, in near original condition, by founder Andrew Landsburgh, adds a significant chapter

to Britain's industrial heritage. It's unclear whether the engine was newly installed in the building or a second-hand acquisition. Adding to the intrigue, research revealed a royal connection. In the 1800s, Edinburgh Police Chambers and Balmoral Castle, the Royal Family's Scottish residence, had the same system installed; adding to the royal connection, this rediscovered engine had originally been installed in the short lived "Royal Aquarium" at Waverley, before being moved to the police chambers in 1881 where it was installed for the purpose of ventilation.

Andrew Landsburgh, Director and Founder of CoDE Concepts, said "This is one of the most exciting finds in Scotland. We found it during The Court's renovation, posted a photo online not knowing what we had, and suddenly experts from around the world were contacting us telling us we'd uncovered something incredible. What began as a refurbishment turned into the discovery of a vital piece of Edinburgh, and the world's industrial heritage.



This engine connects us directly to Scotland's innovative past and the very beginnings of technology which still powers the modern world. We've brought it down from the attic to The Lost Close, the underground vaults of the building, where visitors can experience this historic find firsthand."

A piece of engineering history

The story of this extraordinary discovery also featured in the documentary Potential Energy, which delves into how the engine was found, its relocation from the attic to The Lost Close, underground vaults of the building and the possibilities of restoring it for modern use. The engine is currently on display at The Lost Close. To mark this discovery, The Lost Close is launched the Scottish Innovations Tour, exploring the country's contributions to innovation and industry. Visitors will journey through The Lost Close, now the permanent home of the Crossley 'Otto Silent' engine, and uncover Edinburgh's role in shaping global technological progress.

James Armandary, Tourism Development Lead of The Lost Close, said "This is an incredibly exciting addition to The Lost Close. It's not every day you uncover a piece of engineering history

that bridges the gap between Scotland's past innovations and technology we take for granted today. This building continues to surprise us with its storied history and with the launch of the Scottish Innovations Tour, visitors will not only be able to see the engine up close but also explore Edinburgh's long-overlooked role in shaping global industry."

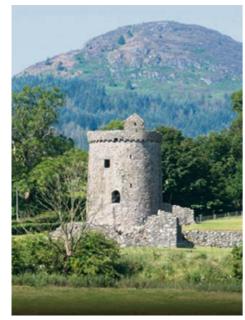
The Lost Close, hidden for nearly two centuries beneath layers of rubble from the Great Fire, was also rediscovered during renovations in 2019. Lost Close was originally the vault for the first purposebuilt bank in Scotland. The underground space beneath the old courthouse is now home to events such as whisky, gin and beer tasting, as well as historical storytelling.

For details visit: www.thelostclose.com





Orchardton Tower reopens its doors



Historic site in Dumfries and Galloway welcomes visitors once more.

rchardton Tower, a 15th century structure in Dumfries and Galloway, has reopened its doors following a series of high-level masonry inspections. Dating to the mid-1400s, Orchardton Tower is the only free-standing round tower of its type in Scotland. It operated as a fortified residence for a nobleman named John Cairns, who is thought to have built the structure in around 1455 and may have acquired the land after James II's overthrow of the Douglases. The name may suggest the existence of a nearby orchard.

Though historically similar spellings have also been used for the various places now called Urquhart - the latest scholarship regards these as sharing the same Celtic derivation, meaning 'settlement beside a small wood'.

A truly one-of-a-kind

Rosie Thorp, District Visitor and Community Manager for Dumfries and Galloway at Historic Environment Scotland (HES), said: "We're thrilled to be welcoming visitors back to Orchardton Tower, where they can delve into the history of late medieval noble life. Nestled in a beautiful part of the Dumfries and Galloway landscape, and the only surviving near free-standing late medieval circular tower in the country, this is a truly one-of-a-kind part of our built heritage and an asset in telling Scotland's story."

The High-Level Masonry Programme is the result of ongoing risk assessment and sample surveys and assesses the impact of climate change on sites as well as the scale of deterioration caused by a number of other factors, including the materials used in the building's construction, its age and physical location. Whilst this is not an issue unique to Scotland, HES is believed to be amongst the first heritage managers to approach it in this way, with the results shared with peer organisations.

From 1 April to 30 September, Orchardton tower is open every day from 9:30am -6:30pm. From 1 October to 31 March, the site is open Saturday to Wednesday (closed Thursday and Friday) from 9:30am -4:30pm. Entry to the site is free of charge.

900 years of Edinburgh's historic treasures to be celebrated in new digital exhibition



new online exhibition launched by the City of Edinburgh Council's Museums & Galleries, Libraries and Archives services brings together 900 years of objects relating to Edinburgh. From Greyfriars Bobby's collar to the National Covenant, visitors to a digital exhibition can see all kinds of fantastic objects and artworks and find out more about their stories. Edinburgh 900: Objects from Nine Centuries of City Life is hosted on the Capital Collections website. It showcases not only some of the treasures viewable in museum and gallery venues around the city, but also many items that have never been fully shared with the public before.

These include a 19th century record of petty criminals, a rare Hearts and Hibs football programme, beautiful contemporary silver and ceramics and historic documents from as early as the 12th century. The exhibition launched in May with the first 20 objects, with new objects being released each month until September, when the City's Edinburgh 900 celebrations officially conclude.

A real celebration of Edinburgh's past and present

The team behind the exhibition have not only been photographing and researching these amazing treasures, they've also been engaging with community groups across the city to capture their responses to them. Groups including MindRoom who work with neurodiverse young people and dementiafriendly group Art In the City, have been connecting with the objects and having their responses recorded for display in the digital exhibition. This work is in partnership with the Open University who have provided the interactive digital app technology to capture community responses.

Lord Provost Robert Aldridge said: "Edinburgh 900 is a year-long celebration of our city's rich history, culture, and bright future. It's incredible to see the diversity of historic objects cared for on behalf of the city all viewable together online. I'm sure viewers are going to really enjoy seeing the tiny historic details the photographs reveal, as well as diving into the background stories and responses from the community. It's a real celebration of Edinburgh's past and present." A small display in the City Art Centre foyer showcasing some of the objects included in the online exhibition will also be on display in the summer.

Edinburgh 900: Objects from Nine Centuries of City Life can be viewed at: www.capitalcollections.org.uk/view-item ?i=54676&WINID=1748427411565

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Veggie burger

Ingredients:

3-4 tbsp. olive oil

1 onion, peeled, thinly sliced

250g/9oz firm tofu, finely chopped

1 cooked beetroot (not in vinegar), peeled, grated 150g/5½oz fried mushrooms, drained

1 carrot, peeled, grated

1 tsp smoked paprika

1 garlic clove, peeled, crushed

1 tsp chopped fresh thyme

1 tbsp. chopped kidney beans

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

To serve:

6 burger buns

6 tbsp. ready-made mayonnaise (optional) 3 beefsteak tomatoes, thickly sliced 2-3 gherkins/pickles, sliced

Method:

Heat 1-2 tablespoons of the olive oil in a pan over a medium-low heat and fry the onions for 15 minutes, stirring frequently, or until they are softened and golden-brown. In a bowl, mix together the cooked onions, tofu, beetroot, mushrooms, carrots, smoked paprika, garlic, thyme and kidney beans. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

With damp hands, divide the mixture into approximately 150g/5oz portions and shape into patties. Heat the remaining olive oil in a frying pan and fry the patties

Tartan of the Month Autism Acceptance Tartan

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

This tartan was organised by Kieron Colville to celebrate and honour the diversity, strength, and community of autistic individuals. It features 20 white threads woven through the pattern, representing the 20th anniversary of Number 6 - One Stop Shop for Autistic Adults, a vital service provided by Autism Initiatives Scotland. The tartan's colours were selected through a community survey led by Kieron, ensuring authentic representation. A yellow stripe is intended to symbolise 'Au', the chemical symbol for gold, which is used within the autism community as shorthand for autism in online and social spaces.

The tartan was launched in recognition of National Autism Acceptance Month in April. This tartan (reference: 14811) was designed by Kieron Colville and ScotlandShop and registered in May, 2025.

for 3-4 minutes on both sides, or until golden-brown. Heat a griddle pan until smoking, then add the patties and fry for a further 1-2 minutes on both sides, or until there are deep char lines on both sides. To serve, place the patties into burger buns and arrange over the toppings of your

Arran potato salad

Ingredients:

10 waxy potatoes, diced 4 ounces (100g) shelled fresh peas (can be

frozen peas)

4 ounces cooked beetroot (red beets) diced Salt and freshly ground black pepper Two teaspoons chopped onion One teaspoon chopped fresh parsley Four tablespoons (60ml) salad dressing or salad cream

Fresh parsley to garnish

Method:

Boil the potatoes in salted water for ten minutes or until tender. Drain and pat dry. Cook the peas separately for about five minutes or until tender and then drain.

While the vegetables are still warm, mix together and stir in the chopped parsley and onion and season with salt and pepper to taste. Fold in the salad dressing (or salad cream) to moisten, and garnish with sprigs of fresh parsley.

Apple crumble



Ingredients:

For the crumble:

300g/10½oz. plain flour, sieved pinch of

175g/6oz. unrefined brown sugar 200g/7oz. unsalted butter, cubed at room temperature

Knob of butter for greasing

For the filling:

450g/1lb. apples, peeled, cored and cut into 1cm/1/2in pieces

50g/2oz. unrefined brown sugar 1 tbsp. plain flour

1 pinch of ground cinnamon

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Place the flour and sugar in a large bowl and mix well. Taking a few cubes of butter at a time rub into the flour mixture.

Keep rubbing until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Place the fruit in a large bowl and sprinkle over the sugar, flour and cinnamon. Stir well being careful not to break up the fruit. Butter a 24cm/9in ovenproof dish. Spoon the fruit mixture into the bottom, then sprinkle the crumble mixture on top. Bake in the oven for 40-45 minutes until the crumble is browned and the fruit mixture bubbling. Serve with thick cream or custard.

Orange cranachan

Ingredients:

4 blush or blood oranges 50g/2 oz. pinhead oatmeal or rolled oats 150ml/5fl oz. pot whipping cream 2 tbsp. whisky 150g/5oz. tub Greek yogurt 2 tbsp. clear honey

Method:

Honey

Slice the top and bottom off each orange and sit them on a board. Using a sharp knife, cut down between the peel and flesh until all the peel and pith have been removed. Cut between each membrane to remove all the segments. Roughly chop and set aside. Heat a non-stick frying pan over a medium heat. Dry-fry the oatmeal, stirring often, for 3-5 mins. It should start to smell nutty, but don't let it burn. Tip the oatmeal onto a plate to cool. Whisk the cream and whisky together to soft peaks.

Carefully fold in the yogurt, oatmeal and honey until just combined. Spoon half the mixture into 4 serving glasses and top with half the orange. Repeat layer with the remaining ingredients and serve drizzled with extra honey, if you like.

Scottish Oatcakes



Ingredients:

4oz/125g medium oatmeal, plus extra for kneading ½ tsp. bicarbonate of soda Pinch salt 2 tsps. melted fat (goose or bacon) 1 tbsp. hot water

Method:

Preheat the oven to Gas5/375F/190C. In a large bowl mix together the oatmeal, salt and bicarbonate of soda. Then drizzle in the melted fat and stir vigorously to a thick paste. Cut the paste into two small balls, sprinkle a work surface with oatmeal and roll each ball on the surface to coat and to prevent sticking. Knead each ball for a few minutes until the mixture starts to dry slightly and stops sticking to the surface.

Add a little more oatmeal as required. Roll each ball into a 1/4 thick disc, then cut into quarters. Place on a greased baking sheet and bake for 30 minutes in the oven or until brown at the edges. Alternatively, the oatcakes can be cooked in a hot frying pan, 3 minutes on each side.

Jock Collins

Ingredients:

Scotch whisky 5-6 dashes of lemon juice Sugar syrup

Method:

Pour into a large glass and fill with soda.



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



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**



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

Membership inquiries should be directed to: Donald E. Bruce

1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Stillwater, Minnesota 55082

Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary 5561 Earl Young Road Bloomington, IN 47408 www.familyofbruceinternational.org

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THE WORLDWIDE BURNETT SOCIETY www.houseofburnett.org

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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

CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-

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

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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

CHISHOLM

Society of Australia Inc

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and

Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

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

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



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

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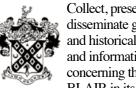
For more information:

Membership@Clan-Forbes.org

and Fraser septs

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

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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



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

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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.

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

www.clangalbraith.org

Edmonstone Bt of Duntreath

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:

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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

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Est 1909

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St. Louis, MO 63131-3038 Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org website: www.acgsus.org



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!

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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

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





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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

UNITED STATES of AMERICA High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org

Membership Chair: Cynthia Hope He membership@clanhope.org www.clanhope.org

CANADA

er: Scott Hale



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

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

Clan MacLellan

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

Clan Macpherson

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

African.Chairman@clan-macp phone +265 999 512 620 Canada. Denise Lagundzin Canada.Chairman@clan-ma

phone +1 519 507 4465

Africa. Derek Macpherson

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

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

NewZealand.Chairman@clan-mac phone +64 274 587 812 ach USA. Dave McPherson phone +1 408 781 5199

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

New Zealand. Tony McPherson

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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/

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Bruce McRae, President

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brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com



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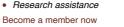


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Scott Mcinnis, Member Services: scott@macinnes.org or visit www.macinnes.org



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

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

> 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.





Clan Irwin Association

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- 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
- MACLEO RICH IN HIGHLAND

FOR INFORMATION: WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

TRADITIONS

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

Clan Ross America



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

www.clanross.org

Clan Wardlaw Association

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



The American-Scottish Foundation

Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

The Scottish Australian **Heritage Council**

For information please contact

members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

CLAN MUNRO ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

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

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munro.ray@hotmail.com **9** 0410 663 760



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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

www.clansinclairaustralia.com





The 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

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



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in Newcastle, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas. Members and interested people are welcome to attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night, St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.

Web: hvscots.org Email: hunterscots@gmail.com



Carlton Vic 3053

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

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Rare polygamy saga playing out at Tweed Valley Ospreys Project



sprey watchers are being treated to a rarely seen - and possibly never before captured on film – polygamy saga playing out at a nest in the Tweed Valley. Forestry and land Scotland (FLS) cameras are capturing in real time the fascinating behaviour of two female ospreys and one male who have set up a home as a trio – a form of polygamy known as polygyny with a male breeding with multiple females.

Fascinating insight

The cameras set up as part of The Tweed Valley Osprey Project are providing a fascinating insight into the natural behaviour between the adult birds – Mrs O, a female who has previously nested at the

site and a new female and young male - as the partnership and nesting behaviour develops during the season. Tweed Valley Osprey Project Co-ordinator, Diane Bennett said: "So far things are looking good. The females seem amicable and tolerant with both having mated with the male bird and laying four eggs between them. The only tension witnessed so far has been on the arrival of a fish delivery from the male as the two females both make a grab it. Mrs O usually wins the fish and flies off to feed but has been seen to return with a portion remaining and letting the other female have it. This nest behaviour with all the birds in the same nest is very rare and as far as we know it is the first time this has ever been on a livestream camera

with most other research involving such a set-up previously conducted though distant observation. Getting to watch this saga close up as the season unfolds is exciting both for the drama but also for the important research insights it will allow."

Safe places

The background and identity of the new arrivals is unclear as while they both have British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) rings to generate information on the survival, productivity and movements of bird, they are not fitted with coloured, alphanumeric Darvic rings that allows researchers to identify individual birds. The Tweed Valley Osprey viewing centre at Glentress is accessible to all users. Ospreys have been coming to breed here since the 1990s and the project - funded and managed by FLS and supported by a team of volunteers - aims to protect and provide safe places for them to settle and nest. Sadly, the four chicks which hatched in the nest have died from starvation. The Tweed Valley polygyny saga can be viewed at the Wildlife Hub at Glentress Forest in Peebles between 10am-4pm each day, where the camera is streaming live onto the big screen, with volunteers on duty most of the time, to interpret what is happening with the osprey family.

Regular updates and video clips of behaviour and snapshots of the birds taken from the livestream are added to Tweed Valley Osprey Project Facebook Page which can be followed, to see how they progress though the season at: www.facebook.com/tweedvalleyospreyproject

Scotland's first Gaelic Poetry Path launches on the Isle of Skye



abhal Mòr Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture has launched Scotland's first-ever Gaelic Poetry Path.

Slighe nam Bàrd will provide a poetic pathway around the Isle of Skye, aiming to introduce local, national, and international visitors to a taste of Gaelic heritage, song, and poetry. Tourists are now able to collect a free Slighe nam Bàrd - Poetry Paths pamphlet and accompanying map from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, located in Sleat in the Isle of Skye.

The pamphlet will provide a detailed guide around Skye's stunning landscape, stopping at seven major locations connected to a Gaelic song or poem.

A QR code for each location provides a recording of the poem/song to enable people to listen to the Gaelic audio in the environment that inspired the creative piece.

Skye's poetic Gaelic landscape

Abigail Burnyeat, Head of Research at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, said: "People often come to Skye for its beautiful scenery, but the aim of Slighe nam Bàrd is to showcase the connection between Gaelic culture and Skye's mesmerising landscape. Through Slighe nam Bàrd, tourists will be able to engage with the landscape whilst listening to Gaelic poems and songs that add to our understanding of the locations on the trail, giving people an opportunity to experience for themselves the Gaelic culture and history at the heart of the Isle of Skye."

Meg Bateman, Professor in Gaelic Language and Culture at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and Bàrd a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich, added: "Slighe nam Bàrdprovides a one-day poetic roadtrip around the Isle of Skye, allowing people to engage with local Gaelic poetry whilst immersed in the Skye landscape. The pathway consists of seven poems/songs, each one carefully chosen to represent a range of locations, centuries, styles, and subjects to give a full flavour of Skye's poetic Gaelic landscape. From Somhairle MacGill-Eain to Màiri Mhòr nan Òran, the pathway will guide people from the south of the island to the very north, discovering Gaelic poetry along the

Glasgow 850: Port Stones Project carves a legacy for future generations



lasgow's medieval roots have been commemorated in stone as part of a project to preserve its history and provide valuable hands-on experience for stonemasonry students in the city. The Port Stones Project, part of the year-long celebrations commemorating Glasgow's 850th birthday, mark the city's rich history by placing four stone markers at the approximate locations of the original medieval city gates.

In collaboration with the Merchants House, Trades House, and City of Glasgow College, the project is a unique endeavour that honours Glasgow's past and engages young people in preserving this heritage, while working on a practical project with valuable learning opportunities.

Glasgow's history

The project involved the design and production of the port stones by students from the City of Glasgow. Each stone, designed by construction apprentices, after discussions with students and senior pupils as part of the college's Schools' Partnership Programme, incorporates Glasgow City

Council's coat of arms as well as the crests of Trades House and Merchants House of Glasgow, Glasgow Dean of Guild Court Trust and City of Glasgow College. Bethan Baillie from Cathkin High School, said; "It was amazing to be part of something that marks Glasgow's history in such a permanent way. We had a look at old maps, talked about the layout of the stones, and discussed where they were going - and now people will see our work as part of the city."

Each Caithness stone marker is also engraved with a compass point denoting the 'port gate', the Glasgow 850 logo, a brief historical description and the year it was laid. Blending traditional skills with modern laser cutting technology modern apprentices painstakingly cut individual pieces, with precision, to form the full flagstones. Callan, a first-year stonemasonry apprentice at the college, said; "Getting to be involved in the cutting of these stones for the city's 850th was a proud moment. It's not every day you work on something that's going to stand in Glasgow for generations. It really brought home why I chose this trade."

Medieval city gates

Medieval Glasgow ran from the River Clyde, up through the Saltmarket, along High Street and up to the Cathedral. The historical locations for the stones, installed by the council, are based on the approximate sites of the original medieval city gates. These locations were chosen based on historical documents and maps, including the Medieval City Map: Glasgow's Medieval City development between

1150 and 1550 produced by Glasgow City Council in conjunction with West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Lord Provost of Glasgow, Jacqueline McLaren, said; "This project symbolises the unity and collaboration of three historic civic institutions in Glasgow, and one that reflects a shared commitment to civic pride and legacy. Together, with the College, this project has allowed the students to contribute something tangible in this special year – something that they can be proud of and that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike."

The Glasgow 850 celebrations mark a significant milestone in the city's history, commemorating 850 years since Glasgow was granted burgh status, in 1175. The year-long programme includes a variety of events and activities designed to engage and inspire people of all ages, reflecting Glasgow's dynamic past, present, and future.

For more information on Glasgow 850 visit: www.glasgow850.com



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

JULY 2025

Happy Canada Day 1. Nationwide

Wishing all our Canadian readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Canada Day!

Embro Highland Games 1, Embro, ON

Experience a day full of Scottish tradition with pipe bands, heavy events, Highland dance and more. Info: https://zorracaledoniansociety.ca/embro-highland-games

Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games 4-6, Kincardine, ON

Celebrating 25 years of promoting Scottish culture and tradition. Info: www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca

Penticton Scottish Festival

4-5, Penticton, BC Pipe bands, Scottish dance, Clans, heavy events, entertainment and more at King's Park. Info:www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca

Almonte Celtfest 2025

4-6, Almonte, ONA fun weekend of Ottawa Valley and Celtic entertainment, performed in the natural amphitheatre of Gemmill Park in the heart of Almonte. Info: www.almonteceltfest.com

Halifax Highland Games & Scottish Festival 5. Halifax, NS

After a 15-year hiatus, the Halifax Highland Games are coming back. Pipe bands, dancers and more at the Halifax Commons. Info: www.halifaxhighlandgames.ca

Antigonish Highland Games

6-13, Antigonish, NS

The longest running Highland Games in North America-with a full program of traditional Scottish events and entertainment. Info: www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca

Kamloops Highland Games

12, Kamloops, BC Celebrating Scottish culture at Albert McGowan Park, 2025 Summit Dr. Info:www.kamloopshighlandgames.org

The Ship Hector Big Splash

12, Pictou, NS
A monumental day for the Ship Hector replica as it makes a triumphant return to Pictou Harbour. The Hector Heritage Quay is home to the Ship Hector, the full-size replica ship that brought some of the first Scottish emigrants from Scotland to Nova Scotia. Info: www.shiphectorcampaign.com

Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers & The Queens County Fiddlers Live

16, Charlottetown, PEI Get ready for a toe-tapping evening of traditional music as the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club, visiting all the way from Australia, joins forces with local

favourites, the Queens County Fiddle Club, for a special concert at St. James Church, 35 Fitzroy St. Info: www.facebook.com/events/1536364697372143

Highland Storm 2025

17-August 14, Summerside, PEI
An exhilarating evening of Celtic music and dance that will captivate the audience with stunning displays of the Highland and step dancers and breathtaking sounds from the pipes and drums, at the Scott MacAulay Performing Arts Centre. Info: www.collegeofpiping.com.

Cambridge Scottish Festival

Cambridge, ON

Come see pipe bands featuring musicians from throughout
North America, highland dance competitions, the
Children's Glen, the athleticism of heavy events, and a host of vendors and cultural attractions at Churchill Park. Info: www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca

Orillia Scottish Festival 18-20, Orillia, ON

Pipe bands, parade, clans, Scottish dance, Celtic vendors and more at Couchiching Park. Info:www.scottishfestival.ca

Decennium

18, Sherwood Park, AB
The Current Grade 2 European Pipe Band Champions, North Stratton Pipe Band, take the stage alongside special guests Sláinte Social Club for a night of incredible tunes and highland dancing. An unforgettable night of music marking a decade of excellence at Festival Place, 100 Festival Way. Info: www.festivalplace.ca

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:

8 Alford 10 Plat 11 Skirl 12 Rigs

13 Sneak 14 Minister 16 Synod

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Down:

Jurling 2 Obituary 3 Manse 4 Callander

5 Brogues 7 Enigma 9 Fords

15 Loch Maree 18 Kestrels 19 Freedom

20 Psalms 21 Katrine

23 Usher 25 Mavis

29 Corrie 30 Stirling

Sherwood Park Highland Gathering

19-20, Sherwood Park, AB

The event consists of piping and drumming competitions, massed band performances, Highland Dance competitions, and Scottish heavy games. There will also be children's activities, food trucks, beer gardens, community market with local makers and Scottish Clan booths, and a family Ceilidh, held on the Salisbury High School Athletic Fields in Broadmoor Lake Park. Info: www.sphg.ca

New Brunswick Highland Games 25-27, Fredericton, NB

A celebration of Scotland on the beautiful grounds of historic Government House. Info:www.highlandgames.ca

Uxbridge Scottish Festival

26, Uxbridge, ONThe day is packed with many events such as the Highland Dance Competition, a Scottish Dog Breed Exhibition, special performances by musicians, and of course lots of pipe bands. Info:www.uxbridgescottishfestival.com

Ailsa Craig Highland Games & Scottish Festival

26, Ailsa Craig, ON
Pipe bands, Highland Games, dancing and more
at the Ailsa Craig Recreation Centre, 155 Annie Ada
Shipley St. Info: www.ailsacraighighlandgames.ca

AUGUST 2025

Glengarry Highland Games

A celebration of Scottish tradition with Scottish heavy events, pipes bands and the North American Pipe Band Championships, Scottish Clans, Celtic entertainment and more. Info: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

Montreal Highland Games

3, Verdun, QC

Games will not be held in 2025, and scheduled to return in 2026. Info: www.montrealhighlandgames.com

T.A.C. Summer School 3-10, Sherbrooke, OC

Join Scottish country dancers from far and wide for a week of dancing fun at beautiful Bishop's University. Info: www.tac-rscds.org

Fergus Scottish Festival 8-10, Fergus, ON

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

Goderich Celtic Roots Festival

8-10, Goderich, ONThe ultimate Celtic experience on the shores of Lake Huron with Celtic music, vendors, entertainment and more. Info: www.celticfestival.ca

Campbell River Highland Gathering

9-10, Campbell River, BC
A weekend of Scottish culture featuring pipe bands, dance, athletics, clans and more at Nunns Creek Park, 1465 16
Ave. Info: www.campbellriverhighlandgathering.ca

Sydney Mines Highland Games
17, Sydney Mines, NS
A family-friendly day with lots of Scottish heavy events competitions, other sporting events, events for the children, musical entertainment throughout the day, various vendors, the local fire department and more. Info: www.facebook.com/p/Sydney-Mines-Highland-Games-Cultural-Society-100090749198689/

The Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival 23, Sedgewick, AB A day full of highland activities, such as heavy events, highland dancing, festival entertainers, a kids zone, artisan and food vendors, and more. The day concludes with a Cèilidh (dance) performed by a live band. Info: www.flagstaffscottishclub.com/gotchf-event

North Lanark Highland Games

23, Almonte, ON

Celebrate the Scottish culture and heritage of the Ottawa Valley at NLAS Fairgrounds. Info: www.almontehighlandgames.com

Afternoon Garden Concert featuring the Cambridge Scottish Session Fiddlers

24, Cambridge, ON
An afternoon of lively traditional music and featuring the Cambridge Scottish Session Fiddlers at at McDougall Cottage, 89 Grand Ave. Info: www.mcdougallcottage.c

Canmore Highland Games

30-31, Canmore, ABA celebration of Celtic culture in the beautiful

Canadian Rockies. Pipe bands, Clans, Celtic entertainment, Heavy events and much more

USA

JULY 2025

Happy Independence Day 4, Nationwide

Wishing all our American readers, advertisers and friends a Happy Independence Day. July 4th commemorates the Declaration of Independence, which is said to have been influenced by Scotland's Declaration of Arbroath

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming Summer Piping & Drumming Camps 6-11, Kutztown PA

In small group classes, 1-on-1 lessons, and camp-wide seminars, students will receive instruction on the Great Highland Bagpipe and Scottish Snare Drum. Guest instructors for Balmoral's programs have all won major awards have incomparable records in the teaching and promotion of solo piping and pipe band music around the world, at Kutztown University. Info: www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games 10-13, Linville, NC

High in the Mountains of Western North Carolina the ancient Celtic spirit beckons, home of America's grandest Highland Games at MacRae Meadows. Info: www.gmhg.org

Payson Scottish Festival

11-12, Payson, UT

The excitement begins Friday night with food and entertainment at Payson Memorial Park. Saturday with Highland Dance, Highland Athletics and bagpipe competitions. Listen to Celtic music and enjoy entertaining Scottish dances ranging from a sword dance to an Irish jig. Info:www.paysonscottishfestival.org

Skagit Valley Highland Games & Celtic Festival 12-13, Mount Vernon, WA

A wonderful, fun, family-oriented event with music, vendors, sheepdog trials, athletic events - something for everyone at the Skagit County Fairgrounds. Info: www.celticarts.org

60th Anniversary Gala Scottish Heritage USA at Grandfather Mountain

13, Banner Elk, NC

Scottish Heritage USA celebrates their 60th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee this year, and they specially invite their members and their guests to join them for their Annual Dinner Gala right after the close of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games at Mountain Lodge at Banner Elk Best Western, 1615 Tynecastle Hwy. Info: https:// scottishheritageusa.org/diamond-jubilee-dinner

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming Summer Piping & Drumming Camps 13-18, Edinboro, PA

In small group classes, 1-on-1 lessons, and camp-wide seminars, students will receive instruction on the Great Highland Bagpipe and Scottish Snare Drum. Guest instructors for Balmoral's programs have all won major awards have incomparable records in the teaching and promotion of solo piping and pipe band music around the world, at PennWest-Edinboro University. Info:www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org

2025 Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games 19, St Paul, MN

Celtic Music, Bagpipes and Drums, Heavy Games, Scottish Highland Dance, Scottish Country Dancing, Clan Row & Scottish exhibitors and more at Macalester College. Info: www.mnscottishfair.org

Helena Valley Highland Gathering

19, Helena, MT Scottish heavy events, Clans, music and more.

25-27, Dayton, OH

Info: www.helenahighlanders.org Dayton Celtic Festival

Dayton's largest free cultural festival returns to RiverScape MetroPark for a celebration of Celtic culture. Înfo: www.daytoncelticfestival.com

Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland

Games & Clan Gathering 25-27, Enumclaw, WA
The 6th oldest Scottish festival in the US featuring the North American Scottish Athletics Championship, US West Coast Drum Corps Championship, individual Piping and Drumming, and Pipe Bands at the Enumclaw Expo Center. Info: www.sshga.org/the-games

AUGUST 2025

St. Andrew's Society of Detroit Highland Games 2, Livonia, MI

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

Spokane Scottish Highland Games

2, Spokane, WA

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

CNY Scottish Games & Celtic Festival

9, Syracuse, NY

Events include Highland Games, Pipe Band competition and Celtic activities at the incredible venue of Long Branch Park on Onondaga Lake. Info: www.cnyscottishgames.org

Midnight Sun Highland Games

The Alaskan Scottish Club is thrilled to bring the thunder of the caber, the swirl of tartan, and the roar of the pipes to Fairbanks, all under the glow of the midnight sun! This marks the beginning of what will become the northernmost annual Highland Games in North a tradition of etropath hor pride in Alaska's Interior, at Alaska Dog Mushers Assoc., 925 Farmers Loop Rd. Info: www.alaskanscottish.org

Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival 16-17. Windsor, ME

A Scottish festival emphasizing traditional athletic competitions, also offered are highland and country dancing, sheep dog demonstrations, singers, a parade of clans, and Scottish food at Windsor Fairgrounds. Info: www.mainehighlandgames.org

Albany Scottish Festival & Highland Games 16-17, Albany, OR

The event includes artisans and vendors, food/ drink, live music, Highland Games, and some unique additions like Medieval fighting, and maybe some Highland coos at Timber Linn Memorial Park. Info: www.albanyscottishfestival.com

Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering

16-17, Hamilton, MT

A celebration of Celtic culture at the historic Daly Mansion. Info: www.bcgg.org

Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival Gathering of the Clans & Highland Games 22-23, Mayville, NY

The event features all things Scottish: The Clans, Bagpipes, Heavy Athletics, Celtic Bands, Celtic Dance, Vendors (Craft/Celtic/Food) Children's Events and so much more, there is something for everyone to enjoy at the beautiful Mayville Lakeside Park. Info: https://96thhighlanders.com/festival.php

Quechee Scottish Games & Festival 23, White River Junction, VT

25, while Hurt Infliction, Y1 Features Highland dancing, pipe bands, athletics, clans, and more at Quechee Polo Grounds, 45 Deweys Mills Rd. Info: www.quecheegames.org

Wisconsin Highland Games

29-31, Waukesha, WI A weekend celebration of Scotland at Waukesha Expo Center. Info: www.wisconsinscottish.org

Capital District Scottish Games 30, Altamont, NY

Pipe bands, dancers, Celtic entertainment, Clans and more at Altamont Fairgrounds, 129 Grand St. Info: www.scotgames.com

Virginia Scottish Games

30-31, The Plains, VA

Music, clans, athletics, entertainment and more at 5089 Old Tavern Rod. Info: www.vascottishgames.org

Pleasanton Highland Games 30-31, Pleasanton, CA

California's largest and longest-running Scottish Games

celebrates the very best of Scottish competition, culture and entertainment for all the family to enjoy at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Info: www.thescottishgames.com

Scotland

JULY 2025

12-18, Orkney

Clan Leslie Society International Gathering 2025 3-6, Edinburgh

Join Chief Alex and other Leslie kinsmen for events and tours visiting historic Leslie places. Info: www.clanlesliesociety.org/2025-gathering Orkney 2025 Island Games

A celebration of sports and island communities.

This week-long event will see athletes from up to 24 island groups from across the world compete in

 $13\ exciting\ sports.\ Info: www.orkney 2025.com$ UK Pipe Band Championships 12, Edinburgh

This prestigious competition will bring together some of the finest pipe bands from across the UK to compete,

celebrating both music and tradition at the Royal Highland Centre Ingliston. Info: www.rspba.org

Inverness Highland Games 12, Inverness A family event not to be missed in the heart of

Inverness. Info:www.invernesshighlandgames.com **Perth Highland Games**

Enjoy traditional Heavyweight events like weight throwing and caber tossing, along with Highland dancing, foot races,

13. Perth

cycle races, and more. Info: www.perthhighlandgames.co.uk HebCelt Festival 16-19, Isle of Lewis
HebCelt passionately protects and promotes its heritage, including the vibrant Gaelic and traditional music that is both part of its history and its contemporary life. It mixes the best local talent with leading Scottish,

UK and world artists and brings together household

names and emerging talent to provide a feast of music to appeal to all ages. Info: www.hebceltfest.com

The Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 19-22, Aberdeen An impressive international fleet of 34 ships, including 14 spectacular Class A vessels, ahead of the Tall Ships return to the city for the first time in almost 30 years. Info:www.tallshipsaberdeen.com

Inveraray Highland Games 22, Inveraray

Traditional Games with field and track events, piping, highland dancing competitions and heavyweight events including the world championships for tossing the caber

Mull Highland Games 24, Tobermory, Isle of Mull A unique spectacle combining ancient and modern competitive and cultural events for both professionals and amateurs in a beautiful

at Inveraray Castle. Info: www.inveraray-game

setting. Info: www.mullhighlandgames.com

25-27, Fochabers Outstanding Scottish and local talent will top the line up when the long-standing contemporary and traditional Celtic music festival returns. The festival will welcome Celtic giants Skipinnish, who have been celebrating a quarter of a century at the top of trad music this year alongside the Red Hot Chili Pipers, who will perform their signature high-octane, energetic set. Info:https://events.liveit.io/speyfest/speyfest-2025

2025 International Clan Sinclair Gathering

25-29, Thurso, Caithness

Clan gatherings are events that bring together members and descendants of a clan to celebrate their shared culture, traditions, and heritage. The event will be hosted by the Earl of Caithness and Viscount Thurso. Info: www.clansinclairusa.org

St Andrews Highland Games 27, St Andrews, Fife

Running, Cycling, Heavy Weights, Tug-of-war, Solo Piping, Highland Dance and more at Station Park. Info: www.standrewshighlandgames.co.uk

Countdown to Ship Hector's Launch



milestone moment in Nova Scotia's maritime and cultural heritage is fast approaching. After five years of restoration work, the *Ship Hector*, a symbol of Scottish immigration and perseverance, will once again take to the waters on July 12, 2025, marking a new era for the ship's storied history.

The launch event will include a formal ceremony, cultural performances, heritage displays, and the highly anticipated dockside launch of the *Hector* into Pictou Harbour - a rare spectacle, as traditional ship launches of this kind are seldom seen today.

"The side launch of the ship will be an unforgettable sight, and spectators can expect quite a show when the Hector makes her big splash," says Vern Shea, project manager for the restoration. "Seven sliding ways will be positioned under the Hector, secured, and when released, will allow the vessel to slide down the standing ways and into Pictou Harbour. Once afloat, she'll be stabilized and inspected before being secured at Pier C.' The opportunity to step aboard for deck tours will be available when all post launch preparations are completed in the days following the launch. Visitors will be able to experience the ship's craftsmanship up close while the vessel is afloat.

Bring history to life

Beyond the launch itself, visitors can also immerse themselves in heritage experiences that bring history to life,

including Gaelic song workshops, an $84^{\mbox{th}}$ Regiment Afoot Encampment, Highland dancing, and bagpiping performances that celebrate Scottish traditions. Members of Pictou Landing First Nation will participate in the Ship Hector launch through cultural expressions and contributions to the day's program highlighting the connection between the Mi'kmaq people and early settlers. Hands-on maritime activities, such as blacksmithing and knot-tying will showcase skills that shaped seafaring life in the 18th century and genealogy experts will be on hand to help Ship Hector descendants trace their family roots, connecting past and present.

The Ship *Hector*, a symbol of Scottish immigration and perseverance, will once again take to the waters.

Throughout the entire launch weekend, Pictou will be alive with festivities, from free outdoor waterfront concerts and a Pictou Yacht Club regatta to a headline Launch Day concert at the deCoste Performing Arts Centre. Adding to the excitement, the iconic *Bluenose II* will make a special visit to Pictou, welcoming guests aboard for deck tours. Local restaurants will also be stepping up, hosting live entertainment





and offering themed specials. As phase one of the ship's restoration nears completion, the Ship Hector Society is also completing a major transformation of the Hector Heritage Quay Interpretive Centre. Supported entirely by federal and provincial funding, the new centre will feature interactive exhibits that tell the story of the Scottish settlers' partnership with the Indigenous Mi'kmaq people of Pik'tuk.

Honouring the legacy of those who came before us

On September 15, 1773, approximately 200 Highland Scots arrived aboard the *Ship Hector* to Nova Scotia. They were the first of thousands to come to Canada and the *Hector* was the first ship to bring emigrants directly from Scotland to Nova Scotia. "Launching the *Hector* is more than just putting a ship in the water," said Wes Surrett, Chair of the Ship Hector Society. "It's about honouring the legacy of those who came before us and the shared stories that continue to shape who we are - stories of immigration, resilience, and community.

The settlers who arrived on the *Hector* wouldn't have survived without the help of the Mi'kmaq people, who have long stewarded the lands and waters of Piktuk. That early relationship, and the generations of perseverance that followed, laid the foundation for who we are today. This launch is about honouring all of that. It's a moment for everyone who sees themselves in the history of the *Hector*."

The Ship Hector is set to evolve beyond its role as a dockside attraction. The next phase of this ambitious project will see the vessel transformed into Canada's largest fully rigged, electric-powered passenger sailing vessel, offering tours and sail training programs. Targeting full operational status by summer 2027, the Hector will serve as a landmark of Canadian heritage, a premier tourism destination for Nova Scotia, and a vital economic driver for the region. With the final phase of work expected to begin after the ship is back in the water, the "Charting Our Course" capital campaign aims to raise an additional \$1.8 million to com

On July 12, 2025, history will make waves once more as the *Ship Hector* replica returns to the water in a spectacular public event dubbed 'The Big Splash'. Two decades after the original launch in 2000 and after five years of meticulous restoration, thousands are expected to gather on the Pictou waterfront to witness this rare and emotional moment in Nova Scotia's story. *Visit www.shiphector.ca for full event details and updates.*

Summer archives exhibition explores history of railway tourism



new exhibition at National Records of Scotland will explore how the birth of the railways transformed the country. Scots on the Move: Railways and Tourism in Victorian Scotland is part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, running between 4-29 August 2025. Held in General Register House's spectacular Adam Dome on Princes Street, the exhibition will be free and open to all.

Drawing on Scotland's national archives, the exhibition will transport visitors to the dawn of the steam era. It starts before the first passenger railway in the early 19th century and ends with the rise of the motor car over a century later.

An exciting moment in Scotland's history

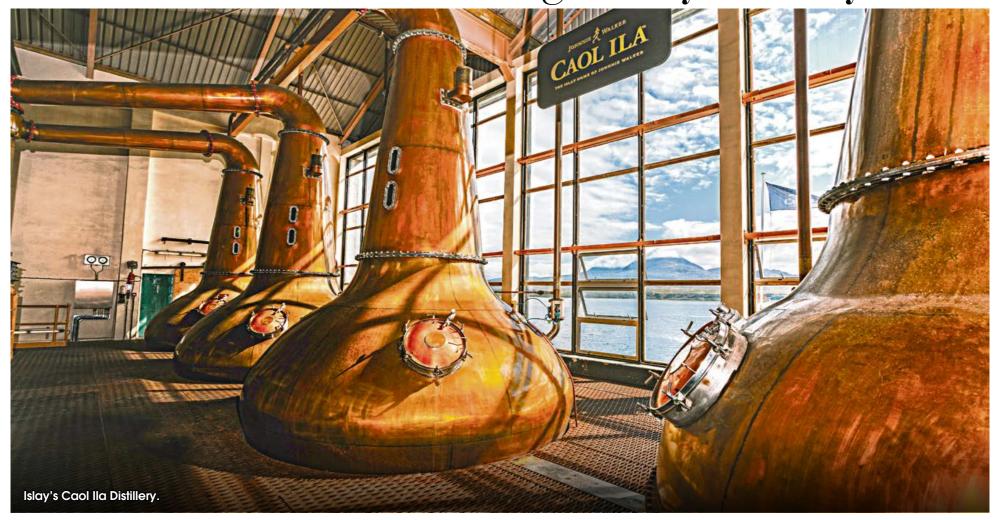
The exhibition will capture moments which changed Scotland forever. Spectacular viaducts and grand stations sprang up as remote communities became connected.

The period also saw the birth of iconic rail routes including the West Highland Line. Before railways, journeys were a battle against harsh terrain and weather. Now everyone could travel, from day trips down the Clyde to luxury Highland holidays. Visitors will follow the evolution of the train from Stephenson's 'Rocket' to Queen Victoria's royal carriages.

The exhibition will also explore how Victorians felt about railways. Fears over the changing landscape mixed with exciting freedoms and a brand new industry: tourism. Items on display chart the development of the railway across the century including tourist guides and booklets, posters and letters. Alison Byrne, Chief Executive of National Records of Scotland said: "Our summer exhibition will capture an exciting moment in Scotland's history. Railways normalised travel and shaped holiday habits which we still recognise today. It will be a great opportunity for visitors to take a peek inside Scotland's national archive and sample some of the history that National Records of Scotland preserves for current and future generations."



The revival of Scotland's legendary Whisky Coast







eading tourism and whisky experts have revealed their hopes for an enriching and sustainable revival of Scotland's legendary Whisky Coast, once home to the 'Whisky Capital of the World'. Plans for over 13 new distilleries, as well as a number of innovative new whisky experiences and hotels, have recently been unveiled across Argyll and the Isles – an area which encompasses four of Scotland's recognised whisky regions - Campbeltown (once known as the Whisky Capital of the World), Islay, Highlands (Oban and Loch Lomond) and Islands (Jura and Tobermory).

Recognising the significance of this, Cathy Craig, CEO of the Argyll and Isles Tourism Cooperative said: "Whisky, or Uisge Beatha has shaped communities and culture throughout Argyll and the Isles for centuries, so it is incredibly exciting to hear it could continue to do so in the future with so many planned new developments offering a worldclass whisky experience across the region and existing businesses diversifying to offer new visitor experiences. These will be a fantastic addition to our year-round whisky calendar. Already known as Scotland's Whisky Coast due the high volume of world-class distilleries dotted along our coastline, this would give visitors so many more immersive ways to learn more about our important whisky heritage and why our destination, with its abundance of fertile landscapes, produces some of Scotland's finest food and drink."

Renowned whisky author and Master of the Quaich Charlie Maclean added: "These developments are potentially massively significant for Argyll and the Isles. Whisky production in Argyll peaked in the nineteenth century when there were thirty-four distilleries producing some two-hundred thousand gallons a year, so with all the new developments, the area could be reaching or at least matching an all-time high."

New whisky experiences New whisky themed visitor experiences in Argyll & the Isles include:

- Ardbeg House (new for 2025) Opening in September, Ardbeg House will offer visitors 'the ultimate whisky and hospitality experience' on the Isle of Islay, Ardbeg's island home. Inspired by the island's wild and untamed landscape, this stunning new hotel celebrates the spirit of Islay and the legendary stories of Ardbeg and its whiskies. Ardbeg House brings together the best of Islay's offerings both on the plate and in the glass.
- Whisky and Waves (new for 2026) This new sailing tour operator is launching a wide range of whisky and sailing cruises aboard their 40ft yacht. Sailing from Oban's North Pier and Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, each cruise will feature a complimentary whisky tasting experience showcasing some the very best single malts that Scotland's Whisky Coast has to offer. Experiences include a 'Sail and Sip' Whisky Distillery Crawl. Speaking about his new venture, founder Michael Sharkey said: "We're thrilled to be setting sail with our new whisky adventures in 2026. It will be a fantastic year for Scotland's Whisky Coast as we see some of the new distilleries take shape and The Clipper Race returns to Oban. Guests sailing with us will be given a chance to get a taste of the best of both worlds, enjoyed responsibly under our expert guidance."



· Island Nights, Whisky Flights at Another Place, The Machrie (new for 2025) - Another Place, The Machrie on Islay, renowned the world over for its championship golf and great food and drink, has launched a new whisky experience in partnership with progressive B Corp distillery Bruichladdich, which itself was revived in 2000. The new two-night escape gives whisky lovers the chance to immerse themselves in the spirited heritage of Islay whisky. Guests will enjoy a guided tour of the Hebridean distillery, which is home to Bruichladdich, Port Charlotte and Octomore single malt whiskies, as well as The Botanist (Islay's first dry gin). As well as enjoying all that the island has to offer, guests can sample a complementary dram in their room - the perfect Islay nightcap. Speaking about the new experience Judi Blakeburn, chief commercial officer at Another Place, The Machrie said: "Ensuring our guests enjoy memorable experiences that authentically showcase the island's unique heritage, and the importance of







protecting wild settings is at the heart of what we do. So, we're very pleased to be working with one of the island's most progressive distilleries to offer guests a new experience that will take them to the heart of Scotland's whisky isle."

 The Wee Still at Oban Distillery (new for 2025) - Nestling beneath the steep cliff that overlooks Oban, one of Scotland's oldest sources of Single Malt Scotch Whisky has opened a new bar for 2025.
 A great way to conclude a tour of their working distillery, where visitors can learn about the whisky-making process, stopping at the production area, old filling store and dram room along the way.

Published proposals highlight plans for 13 new distilleries across Argyll and the Isles, including three in Campbeltown, six on Islay, one at Luss on the Banks of Loch Lomond, one at Inveraray Castle, and one in Ardrishaig, a coastal village on Loch Gilp.

Scotland's Whisky Coast

This complements the destination's year-round programme of whisky experiences. Highlighting another way in which Argyll and the Isles is unique as a whisky destination, whisky enthusiast, founder of World Whisky Day (in May each year) and author of *The Pocket Guide to Whisky*, Blair Bowman said: "Argyll and the Isles



encompasses four of Scotland's recognised whisky regions, earning it the title of Scotland's Whisky Coast. Whisky is quite literally known in Scottish Gaelic as the Water of Life, uisge beatha, which is very apt. There is something magical about each and every sip. When you pick up a glass from Argyll and the Isles, you're not just picking up a drink, you're picking up a story of Scottish life too. It tells you story of history, a story of culture and a story of craftmanship – from the farmers producing barley to the unique distillation processes."

Argyll and Bute Council Leader Jim Lynch added: "Argyll and Bute is well known for its outstanding food and drink sector, and if these new developments come to fruition, they will provide a welcome boost to the area and the local economy. We already

have more than 20 distilleries in Argyll and Bute producing world-class whisky, gin, and rum products. From large-scale companies to small micro-distillers, this fast-growing market creates much-needed employment and makes a valuable contribution to the local, Scottish and UK economies. In addition to new distilleries and visitor experiences, several existing distilleries in Campbeltown, Mull, Oban, and Islay are continuing to sustainably expand production, improve visitor facilities and develop pioneering approaches to sustainability and environmental responsibility. It is fantastic to see such innovation and growth happening right here on our doorstep."

To plan a world class food and drink experience on Scotland's Whisky Coast visit: https://www.wildaboutargyll.co.uk/eat-and-drink

Did you know?

- According to the Scotch Whisky Association, 13 distilleries have opened across the whole of Scotland in the past five years.
- Argyll and the Isles is currently home to 20 distilleries producing worldclass whisky and gin products.
- At its peak in the nineteenth century, Argyll was home to more than 30 distilleries. This figure could be matched if all the proposed developments go ahead.
- Oban Distillery, perched on the picturesque harbour, is one of Scotland's smallest distilleries.
- For many, the ultimate whisky experience is a trip to Islay. This tiny wee island boasts nine working distilleries, producing whiskies that truly reflect their environment with a characteristic peaty flavour and a hint of salty air and seaweed.
- Campbeltown was once the 'Whisky Capital of the World' and home to 34 whisky distilleries now just three remain. Kilkerran Distillery which opened in 2004 - the first distillery to open in Campbeltown for over 125 years.
- Single-malt Scotch whisky is special in provenance, heritage, production and taste. Made by a unique process of distillation and maturation, only whisky distilled in Scotland can claim the exclusive title of Scotch.

Glengarry Highland Games announces the 2025 Guest of Honour



he Glengarry Highland Games welcomes Colin Patrick MacDonell of Glengarry, the 24th hereditary Chief of Glengarry as the Guest of Honour for the 2025 Games. The first Macdonell's arrived in what is now Glengarry County in 1784 as United Empire Loyalist refugees after the American Revolution. They were followed in 1786 by two groups of MacDonalds who left Scotland for the Canadian wilderness after years of famine and increased farm rents. From these first pioneers, MacDonell's and MacDonald's have spread throughout Canada and the United States. This year, the Glengarry Highland Games

is calling on all members of Clan Donald to return to Glengarry and the Glengarry Highland Games on August 1st and 2nd.

A premier Scottish cultural event

Games President Don Gamble said; "Our Glengarry Highland Games were born in 1948 bringing to Maxville a premier Scottish cultural event enjoyed by generations. As part of our celebration, we are proud to remember our Scottish Highlanders who came to settle these lands over two hundred years ago and we honour the past by recognizing the many Clans that attend our Games each year highlighted by the Clan parade prior to the official opening.

As President of this year's edition, I am humbled that Glengarry, the Chief of Clan MacDonell of Glengarry has accepted my invitation to be the Games Honoured Guest. Failte air aoigh le urram (Welcome honored guest.)"

Patrick MacDonell of Glengarry has lived in Canada for 60 years. He is a graduate of the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry, is a Registered Professional Forester (ret) and a Certified Management Accountant (ret). Glengarry worked in the west coast forest industry and then moved to Southeast Asia to represent his company, overseeing the company's investments. On returning to Canada, Glengarry held a number of senior positions with industry and Government. Glengarry lived in the Yukon for twenty years and retired as a Director with the Yukon Territorial Government. Glengarry lives in North Vancouver, BC with his wife Lourdes. Glengarry takes a keen interest in Clan Donald. He is a member of The High Council of Clan Donald Chiefs, the Clan Donald Society of Scotland, a life member of the Clan Donald Society of Nova Scotia, and a life member of Clan Donald USA, North Pacific Region.

Clan Glengarry

Fittingly, his daughters were Highland dancers and his grandchildren also dance. He was the band manager and a piper with a Vancouver Island pipe band and attends all the local Highland dancing competitions and Highland games.

"As Chief of Glengarry, it is my great pleasure and honour to be with so many of the descendants of the original United Empire Loyalists and the Clan Glengarry members who, in the late 1700s, entered the virgin old-growth forests of Eastern Ontario, and, using their own arms and backs, tamed the land creating the wonderful communities we now see. God bless their memories, and may we each contribute new memories to this continuing story. On behalf of my family and Clan Donald members joining us today, I extend a warm welcome to the thousands attending the 76th Glengarry Highland Games. Cragan an Fhithich!"

Glengarry will participate in the Official Ceremonies at noon on Saturday, August 2, 2025, and welcome all to another exciting version of one of North America's premier highland Games.



The 2025 Glengarry Highland Games will take place in Maxville, Ontario August 1 & 2, 2025. For full details visit: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com.

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