

# 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> Lord Macdonald. The current High Chief of Clan Donald, 8<sup>th</sup> 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**  
**USA**

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



**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@scottishbanner.com](mailto:info@scottishbanner.com) or online at [www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us](http://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!