

Volume 49 Number 2 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS August 2025

Mystery of Scotland's Standing Stones

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The Highland Clearances

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The 500-yearold curse of the Border Reivers » Pg 23 Volume 49 - Number 2

Scottish Banner

Publisher Scottish Banner Pty Ltd.

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Distributed monthly in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. ISSN 2209-8364

Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806

Published monthly by Scottish Banner Publications PO Box 6220, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204, Australia

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The Banner Says...

The evacuation from the 'Edge of the World'



by Sean Cairney

inety-five years ago this month one of Scotland's most famous island stories took place as the last St Kildans took their final steps across the island of St Kilda. The evacuation of St Kilda on 29 August 1930 remains one of the most poignant episodes in Scottish history. This remote archipelago, located 40 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, had been inhabited for over two millennia. Its evacuation marked not just the end of a community, but the conclusion of a distinctive way of life shaped by isolation, resilience, and a deep connection to nature.

For centuries, the people of St Kilda lived in near-total seclusion. The islanders developed a unique culture, language dialect, and set of traditions adapted to their environment. Life was dictated by the rhythm of the sea, the availability of birds and fish, and the limited arable land. They harvested seabirds, built stone houses resistant to Atlantic storms, and used bartering with passing vessels to acquire basic necessities. Hirta, the largest island, was the site of the only settlement on St Kilda, which never had more than 200 residents at a time. The smaller islands of Soay, Boreray and Dun offered additional crop and cattle farming for the island community.

A cultural dislocation

However, by the early 20th century, signs of fragility emerged. The population had declined steadily due to disease, infant deaths, emigration, and the

hardships of maintaining life in such a hostile environment. The islands lacked a resident doctor, and supplies were increasingly inconsistent leading to the depopulation of the islands. A tragic outbreak of influenza in 1927 intensified the crisis, with just 43 residents left, prompting calls for government intervention. By 1930, the final remaining 36 islandersfacing famine, medical neglect, and social isolation—petitioned for evacuation. Their request was granted, and they were relocated to the Scottish mainland with some ending up in more far-flung places like Australia and Canada.

The departure from St Kilda wasn't merely a logistical move—it was a cultural dislocation. Islanders were transplanted into a world vastly different from their own, struggling to adapt to industrial Scotland. Traditional skills were suddenly obsolete, and the social fabric that had bound the community unravelled. While the evacuation offered safety and resources, it also brought disorientation and loss of identity for many. Many of the men were offered jobs in forestry, however due to the extreme weather there were no trees on St Kilda so this was so foreign to them. The evacuation of St Kilda underscores the fragility of isolated cultures when faced with modernity.

In this issue

Scotland's standing stones are uniquely mysterious, often arranged in circles aligned with celestial events. Dating back over 5,000 years, they blend ritual, astronomy, and folklore. From the Ring of Brodgar to Calanais, each site evokes ancient ceremonies, seasonal markers, and legend. Today we can still walk amongst these timeless symbols of Scotland's spiritual and cultural heritage on our next visit to Scotland.

The Highland Clearances were forced evictions of Scottish Highlanders from the 18th to 19th centuries. Landowners replaced tenants with sheep farming for profit, dismantling clan society.

Thousands emigrated or faced poverty and famine. The Clearances reshaped Scotland's demographics, culture, and landscape, leaving a legacy of loss whilst creating Scottish diaspora worldwide. This month we look at one of Scotland's most traumatic events.

The Border Reivers were fierce raiders from the Anglo-Scottish frontier, active between the 13th and 17th centuries. Known for cattle rustling, feuds, and blackmail, they defied law and national allegiance. Living in fortified towers, they shaped border culture with their loyalty to kin, guerrilla tactics, and enduring legacy in folklore. However, they were also cursed as we discover in this issue.

St Kilda today

Today, St Kilda is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognised for both its natural and cultural significance. Making it the UK's only dual UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of only 39 in the world, this rare designation highlights its global value. St Kilda is managed by the National Trust for Scotland and though the people may have left it is today home to the UK's largest colony of Atlantic puffins and nearly a million seabirds, including gannets and fulmars. The Ministry of Defence has also had a presence on the island since the 1950s. Visitors to Scotland can visit the island and there are yearround day boat trips to St Kilda available, something I hope to be able to do one day.

For historians however the story of St Kilda isn't just about geography—it's about people, choices, and legacy. A tale of resilience, but also one of farewell. And as the seabirds still circle the cliffs of St Kilda, known as the island on the edge of the world, the island remains a powerful symbol of Scotland's deep and layered history.

Have you visited St Kilda? 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: Ring of Brodgar, Orkney. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.



OS records offer a tour of Victorian Scotland



eople are being invited to take a tour of Scotland in the mid-19th century through the online records of National Records of Scotland.

When the Ordnance Survey created its first six-inch to the mile maps, its surveyors travelled the country to collect placenames and their spellings. They would use existing publications and local people as sources. It took them almost 40 years to gather all the information.

The result was arguably the first comprehensive gazetteer of Scotland. The Ordnance Survey name books detail just about every geographical feature from Out Stack, the most northly part of Shetland, to the Mull of Galloway, the most southerly part of Scotland.

The books date from between 1845 and 1880. They contain around 300,000 place entries and include everything from famous castles to small local landmarks.

The first comprehensive gazetteer of places in Scotland

The Ordnance Survey name books were also the first systematic attempt at recording Gaelic place-names. The books offer a snapshot in time, capturing the country as it was in Victorian times. The Wallace Monument in Stirling was only at its foundation course at the time of being surveyed in 1861-1862.

The entry for Ardross Castle, location for TV show *The Traitors*, remarks on it being 'an elegant modern building'. Archaeological features are sometimes sketched, including the Maiden Stone at Garioch in Aberdeenshire.

Archivist Jessica Evershed said: "The Ordnance Survey used the name books to inform the spelling of places on their first edition six-inch maps of Scotland. They could be considered the first comprehensive gazetteer of places in Scotland. These records will be fascinating to local and family historians, hoping to understand the evolution of the Scottish landscape and of the places their ancestors worked and lived. They can offer explanations of the origins of place-names from local people, including stories of how place-names came about. Sadly, some of these stories are now forgotten with the passage of time. You can search for a favourite historic building or landmark and compare the historical entry with how it looks today."

The records are available at: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Hunter Valley Highland Games returns A celebration of Scottish spirit and strength



he unmistakable sound of bagpipes will echo through the vines once again as the Hunter Valley Highland Games returns to Saltire Estate, Lovedale, for a full day of Scottish heritage, athletic feats, and family fun. Set against the picturesque backdrop of one of Australia's premier wine regions, this year's event promises to be the biggest yet, with 11 Pipe Bands, traditional Highland dancing, the legendary Toss the Caber, and awe-inspiring Heavy Lifting competitions. "This is more than just a sporting event," said the organising committee. "It's a powerful and joyful celebration of the Hunter Valley's deep Scottish roots, with something for all generations."

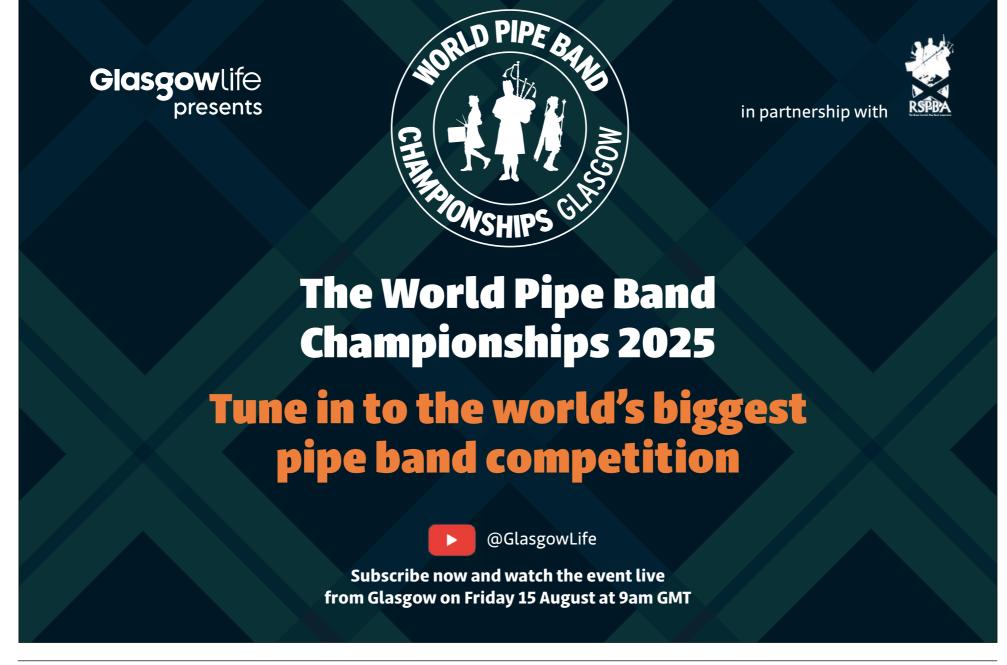
In addition to the thrilling athletic events, visitors will enjoy:

- A Jacobite re-enactment display
- Encounters with Highland Cows
- Jumping castles and face painting for the little ones
- Wine tasting at Saltire Estate winery
- Market stalls, Scottish crafts, and more surprises throughout the day
- Delicious food and coffee

Friendly dogs on leashes are welcome, and families are encouraged to arrive early to secure parking. With large crowds expected, visitors should bring a picnic rug or camp chair and settle in for a day steeped in Highland pride.

Hunter Valley Highland Games takes place on Saturday, 23 August and gates open at 8:00 AM at Saltire Estate, 113 Wilderness Rd, Lovedale NSW 2325. Tickets available via www.hvhg.com.au or www.trybooking.com/1336274





SCOT POURR

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?

Scotland's railway



Thank you for your article on the 200th anniversary of rail travel. I have visited Scotland on several occasions over the years and always travel by train. I find it a wonderful way to take in the country and for me is so hassle free. I remember the days of British Rail which had smoking sections, now we have Wi-Fi and much improved stations. I too love the rail trip from Glasgow to Oban, such an iconic journey and such a relaxing way to get to the Oban port for a West Coast adventure. I find if you are able to book tickets in advance you can get some great deals, so planning saves! I have not tried all the lines mentioned in the article but am interested in exploring more.

My favourite train station is without doubt Wemyss Bay, which is rightfully often dubbed the most beautiful station in the UK. If you are there on a sunny day it is stunning as light bathes the station with its curved glass ceilings.

I am heading back to Scotland this year and am already planning my next rail adventure.

Greg Finlay Boston, Massachusetts

Ed note: Thank you Greg for your letter and we would be interested in hearing about other readers favourite train trips in Scotland.

Wartime Glasgow



I was so pleased to see Jim Stoddart's Kings Castles and "Durty" Wee Rascals back again (the Scottish Banner, June, 2025). I have related to most of his articles. I lived on the corner of Kinning and Scotland Street's born 1933 was six when war broke out so I experienced sirens most nights. I went to Scotland Street School. From there on the 5th September 1939 many children were evacuated to the country. We were sent to Auchlinleck my two brothers along with me but sadly we were separated and allocated to different families, which my parents were very upset about. About eighteen months later my parents got a new house in Househillwood so we were all together again.

Even although this was still wartime it was a most happy memorable time growing up there. Jessie Robertson Bowral, NSW Australia

Clydeside air raids

Jim Stoddart's story about the Luftwaffe air raids and bombing of Clydeside in 1940-41 brought back memories of those days to me. I was five years old, and I lived with my mother in a single end (as the one room unit was called then) in Carnoustie Street, Kingston. Like all the men in our tenement, my father was "away at the war." As soon as the siren went, our little nook was crammed with the other mothers in our part of the building and we kids went under the table with our toys. What I especially recall is the laughter and singing of all the women.

My mother had a gloriously pure singing voice, and I can remember her leading the young women in Vera Lynn songs like Bluebirds Over the White Cliffs of Dover, I'll Never Forget That Lovely Weekend and We'll Meet Again. What was particularly moving

for her was when she sang Because, she and my dad used to sing it together. He used to admit he didn't have much of a voice, but she made him look good!

I live in Queensland Australia now and about 20 years ago my wife and I went on holiday to Scotland. I showed her when a bomb had dropped just 500 metres from our tenement and was now a co-op store.

Thanks to Jim's story I also remember VE night in 1945 and the joy of seeing the mothers dancing and singing round the bonfire. The chalked sign of welcome to their men on the front of our close said it all—East West Hame's Best.

Thank for the opportunity of writing this. Regards Jim Fagan Tewantin, Queensland Australia

PS Waverley



Thank you for the wonderful article on the Paddle Steamer Waverley (Celebrating 50 years of the PS Waverley preservation, the Scottish Banner, July, 2025). I have been fortunate to travel on the Waverley three times in my life and at different stages of my life. The pure joy this vessel has brought countless number of people is immeasurable and as a Scot it fills me to the brim with pride. Many generations of my family have experienced a sail on the Waverley including those of us who now reside outside of Scotland. This note cannot just thank Douglas McGowan but also the many who have quite literally kept her afloat all these years. This is part of Scotland's maritime history and we should all be celebrating having the Waverley still part of our summer traditions. I know in my parents time this was what you did over summer (if you could), not the package holidays so many get to enjoy now.

Congratulations to the Scottish Banner for having the foresight in highlighting the Waverley on this special occasion year. Your ave, Donald Grant

Toronto, Ontario Canada

Scottish Week 2025



As part of Scottish Week 2025, I was honoured to take part in the annual inspection of the Cairn in Mosman, a proud symbol of the enduring friendship between Scotland and Australia. The Cairn was a gift from the people of Scotland to mark Australia's Bicentenary in 1988 with a stone from every Parish in Scotland brought to Australia and Mosman chosen as the permanent location for this tribute. Now, 37 years on, it remains a cherished part of our local landscape and a tribute to the Scottish heritage that has shaped our community.

Thank you to everyone who helped mark this special anniversary, and to all celebrating Scottish Week across NSW. Felicity Wilson MP Member for North Shore in the NSW Parliament Australia

The Legionary

The July edition's article about the Roman invasion reminds me of one of my poems, The Legionary.

On Tony's wa', A stomp ma feet, A conscript frae the local beat; Sae cauld at times A fain wid greet -Fair soaket Thae painted men A'm doomed tae meet

Aye rainin' here gin A wis gaird, Wi' brasses unco ternistéd "Get'em polished!" sergeant said -A richt teuch yin. For Legion XXI he's laird, A dinna question.

There is a flithering in the sauch; A kin o' pink, a show o' haugh Designed tae gie us aw a laugh; It's Rory, flauntin' fur his cause Tae bang o' drum.

Whiles thir times A envy him; Awa fae aw the strife sae grim. Tae please masel - that sort o' thing Aw this merchin's gettin' grim; It's scunnert me.

The morn, we gang up North, ye ken, Tae wetlands just beyond the Ben. A'll see the heather glens again -No bad! eh! An tak ma chance an' jouk awa then; Ilka wey

Haud on a wee, A hae a thocht. That's no' the life A wid hae soacht, For aw the fechts that A hae focht Tae get me here. Efter aw, the grub's aye hot. A'll wait, nae fear.

Kennedy Smith Scotland

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA (100)



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

Edinburgh



Edinburgh in blossom. Craig Duncan Photography

Stirling Castle



Lovely day above Stirling Castle. Fly - Caledonia

Braemar Castle



Stunning day at Braemar Castle in Aberdeenshire. The Kilted Photographer

Highland Coo



Hanging out at Loch Awe on a Coos Day! Soul of Alba Photography

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

High-flying National Museum of Flight reaches half century



The National Museum of Flight at East Fortune, East Lothian celebrates its 50th anniversary.

ocated on an atmospheric former wartime airbase, the attraction has been telling the story of flight and Scotland's aviation heritage since 1975 and will mark its golden jubilee with a summer programme of special events for visitors. The Museum's creation followed the donation of a Supermarine Spitfire to the Royal Scottish Museum (now National Museums Scotland) in 1971. Unsuitable for display in Edinburgh, it was instead stored in a hangar at the former RAF airbase at East Fortune. Further aircraft donations followed, including a Hawker Sea Hawk from RNAS Lossiemouth, before the Museum of Flight opened its doors on Monday 7 July 1975, displaying many of the aircraft that remain popular today.

A world-class showcase of civil and military aviation

The National Museum of Flight's collections have since evolved into a world-class showcase of civil and military aviation. Exhibits include an Avro Vulcan delta-winged bomber as well as an RAF Red Arrows Hawk T. 1A that took part in a flypast over Edinburgh in 1999 to celebrate the opening of the Scottish Parliament.

The attraction's most famous exhibit is Scotland's Concorde which arrived in 2004 following an epic 16-day journey by land and sea from Heathrow airport. The iconic aircraft now sits as the centrepiece of a special exhibition about the story of supersonic flight.



In recent years, the Museum has undergone significant development including the transformation of two former Second World War buildings into the new Fortunes of War and Fantastic Flight galleries. Another major milestone came in 2016 with the restoration and redevelopment of two Second World War hangars which now house an impressive collection of civil and military aircraft presented alongside interactives and films that tell the stories of those who flew them. Conservation work completed in 2024 also means that the site's Second World War blast and air raid shelters can now be explored.

The story of flight in Scotland and beyond

This summer the National Museum of Flight is offering a special programme for visitors, including its popular 360 Fest on 6 September. The event features high-energy mountain bike stunt shows, pedal-powered activities, circular circus workshops and STEM-themed sessions. Throughout the season, there will be a series of engaging lunchtime talks about the Second World War from Ian Brown, assistant curator of aviation with topics ranging from the Enigma machine to the RAF's food production efforts and the wartime bombing of Haddington.

Visitors will also be able to borrow a Second World War satchel packed with contents that offer a glimpse into RAF life during the Second World War and allow families to discover some of the skills required to be part of the Special Operations Executive. They can also test their code-breaking skills in the Second World War Puzzle Room.

Steve McLean, General Manager at the National Museum of Flight, said: "This is a hugely exciting milestone for the National Museum of Flight. For five decades, we've been telling the story of flight in Scotland and beyond, inspiring visitors through our iconic aircraft, fascinating interpretation and displays, and our unique location. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we're proud to look back on our remarkable history and delighted to offer a summer of engaging events that will entertain and inspire our visitors about the science and story of flight."

The National Museum of Flight is open seven days a week from 10am until 5pm. For more details visit: www.nms.ac.uk/flight





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

- 1. Which river flows through the heart of Glasgow?
- 2. What are the Mirrie Dancers?
- 3. Which Scottish city was also known as St John's Toun?
- 4. Which island is Scotland's largest?
- 5. Where would you find Scotland's oldest railway station?
- 6. What makes Orkney's St Magnus Cathedral unique from other cathedrals?
- 7. True or false: Scotland Yard was originally the name of a medieval house used by Scottish Kings visiting London?
- 8. What title is given to the Scottish equivalent of a mayor?
- 9. What does Gushel mean?
- 10. Which Scottish town's motto is 'soor plooms' and also feature plums in their coat of arms?

Answers:

- The River Clyde. It is the eighthlongest river in the UK, and the second longest in Scotland.
- 2. The Mirrie Dancers are the Shetland name for the Northern Lights, with the word 'mirr' meaning 'to shimmer'.
- 3. Perth-During the medieval period the city was called St John's Toun after St John's Kirk.
- 4. With an area of 217,898 hectares, Lewis and Harris is a single island divided by mountains and the largest of Scotland's islands.
- 5. Broughty Ferry which opened in October 1838. This is Scotland's oldest original railway station that's still in use and sees 36 trains stopping here each day.
- 6. St Magnus Cathedral does not belong to the church. It was gifted to Orkney's people by James III in 1486 and is maintained by the council.
- 7. True.
- 8. The Lord Provost.
- 9. This Doric word means clumsy.
- 10. Galashiels, in the Scottish Borders. This motto is linked to a historical event in 1337 where English soldiers were surprised while eating wild plums and subsequently defeated by locals.



SCOTSPEAK

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

"This in an unprecedented sale of historical of Scottish historical manuscripts. As an auctioneer you tend to come across a letter signed by Mary Queen of Scots every once in a while. To find five of her letters in the same collection, alongside others by members of her family, makes this a truly unique and amazing find. This series of documents and manuscripts, penned during a tumultuous time in Scottish and English history, gives a fascinating insight into both ordinary, and extraordinary, events during the times in which the writers lived."

Cathy Tait, head of books and manuscripts at auction house Lyon & Turnbull said as rare letters written nearly 500 years ago and signed by Mary Queen of Scots went under the hammer in Edinburgh. The letters, sold for £15,000 and were part of appeals made by the Queen to a Highland family urging them to keep the peace in and around Inverness, during a period where rival families and clans were vying for control of land across Scotland.



"We fully understand the importance of this building - not only in terms of Sanquhar, but it is also nationally important.

It fills a gap if you like between the established buildings that have Burns associations up in Ayrshire and down in Dumfries. This Upper Nithsdale corridor very much fills in this gap and we're delighted to have secured the building for that reason alone. We will make sure that we pay homage to the fact that the building has this historic and cultural significance."

Ronnie Bradford a community development officer at Sanguhar Enterprise Company said they have acquired ownership of Whigham's Inn situated on the High Street of Sanquhar in Dumfries and Galloway. Whigham's Inn has historic links to Robert Burns as he enjoyed and stayed in the hostelry and famously etched the poem At Whigham's Inn, Sanquhar into one of the windows. Whigham's Inn has been a derelict property with no investment from previous owners for several decades.

"Tunnelling in Shetland is, ultimately, about future-proofing our island population. Transport connectivity is central to creating sustainable islands which provide good homes and good jobs for our people, and which can reverse decades of depopulation. The experience of our neighbours in the Faroe Islands is clear - tunnelling from mainland Shetland to our outer islands could increase their population, lower their average age, and increase their economic prospects.

It's also critical that we continue to invest in a resilient and reliable ferry service to support all our islands."

Shetland Council Leader, Councillor Emma Macdonald, said Shetland Islands Council has agreed to commission a study described by its Leader as representing "a significant step towards the construction of tunnels between our islands". Several island communities have for some time shown a strong interest for fixed links, such as tunnels, to be considered as a ferry replacement.



"The successful sale of the Martyrs" School is to be a celebrated, with a new and sustainable use found for an A listed heritage building in a historic Glasgow district. Finding sustainable uses for unused and underused heritage buildings is a priority for the council. It will be fantastic to see new life coming to this early example of Mackintosh's work, with public access bringing another attraction for local people and visitors to the city centre."

Councillor Ruairi Kelly, Convener for Heritage, Development and Land Use at Glasgow City Council, said the former Martyrs' School building in Glasgow's Townhead - designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh - is to be sold by Glasgow City Council to the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, to be used as a public museum of Scottish Catholic archive, housing artworks and artefacts. The three-story Martyrs' School was completed in 1898 and used as a school and college facility until the 1970s, with uses since then including a period as an arts centre and office space for council museum and social work teams before becoming vacant for some time and being declared surplus in June 2024.

"Musical storytelling has for centuries been used as a means of preserving cultural knowledge and experience across the globe, in a way that is often overlooked in written records. It was an honour to be

able to explain the enduring impact of these traditions on our cultural heritage and understanding and to speak about this topic alongside Kristine Kennedy, one of Scotland's finest Gaelic singers."

Ethnomusicologist Dr Frances Wilkins, senior lecturer at the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen, said as beautiful psalms and hymns of the Gaelic-speaking Hebrides made a rare appearance at the British Academy in London at an event with Kristine Kennedy, one of Scotland's finest Gaelic singers. Dr Wilkins has been researching the sacred song traditions of the West Highlands and Hebridean communities since 2018. She has conducted extensive research and produced an archive of over 300 song recordings (found at www.seinn.org), touring exhibition, and numerous publications.



"This collection highlights how our island's most famous export Harris Tweed continues to deliver the modernity and the sustainability credentials to attract global design led businesses, like Nike. We have built on the values of the original project, reflecting on Derick's stewardship at the Shawbost Mill at that time, to Donald John's remarkable response to Nike's call back in the early 2000's, this new trainer collaboration reflects an enduring partnership and an island legacy. Welcoming Nike back to the Shawbost Mill on the Outer Hebrides of Scotland after 20 years has been a proud moment for our local community."

Margaret Ann Macleod, CEO of Harris Tweed Hebrides, said Harris Tweed Hebrides is proud to announce a global collaboration with Nike on a limitededition release of the iconic Dunk Low shoe. The Nike Dunk Low Harris Tweed collection will be available worldwide later in 2025 via the Nike website and selected retail partners. Each pair is finished with the official Harris Tweed Orb label, always a mark of authenticity and provenance.

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

CLUES ACROSS

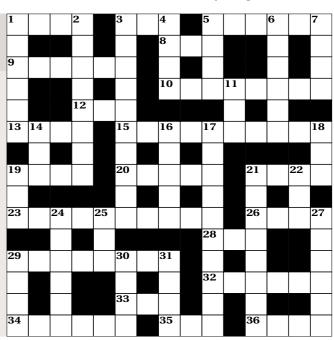
- 1) Scottish fuel (4)
- 3) A Scots bread roll (3).
- 5) Dark purple plum (6).
- 8) Whichever (3).
- 9) Pertaining to Scotland's "anthem" (6).
- 10) Scotland's top islands (8).
- 12) Distress call (3)
- 13) Over hasty (4).
- 15) A drinking hole! (10).
- 19) Tattie's partner (4).
- 20) A hopeful glow! (5).
- 21) Scotland's fastest river (4).
- 23) Old vessels (10).
- 26) Blairgowrie's beny (4).

- 28) A starter at St. Andrews (3).
- 29) Mrs Brown! (8).
- 32) A dram of about a gill (6).
- 33) Always in Scotland (3). 34) Annual festival (6).
- 35) Bottom of the class! (3).
- 36) Male red deer (4).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Para Handy's craft (6).
- 2) Village (8).
- 3) January 25th (5,5).
- 4) Scottish conical hills (4).
- 5) Scots stone wall (4). 6) Wrench a joint (6).

- 7) Necessity (4).
- 11) Dancers point it (3).
- 14) Loch near Dalmally (3).
- 16) She's kin (5).
- 17) They give final reports (10). 18) Farmer's gathering! (3).
- 19) Scotch measure (3).
- 21) Requirement of a heavy! (8).
- 22) Printer's measures (3).
- 24) Perth's two measures! (6).
- 25) In the past (3)
- 27) Measure of 26 Across (6). 29) Scots valley (4).
- 30) At Hampden it's loud! (4). 31) Stretch of territory (4).



Epic tale of love, legacy and longing - Outlander: Blood of My Blood to premier in August





utlander: Blood of My Blood, the highly anticipated prequel series, will premiere on August 9th in Australia on Stan and on Neon in New Zealand. In advance of the series, new artwork is also available, teasing the two lead couples -- Julia Moriston (Hermione Corfield) and

Henry Beauchamp (Jeremy Irvine); and Ellen MacKenzie (Harriet Slater) and Brian Fraser (Jamie Roy). *Outlander: Blood of My Blood* brings viewers from the wartorn battlefields of WWI to the sweeping Highlands of 18th century Scotland, promising two new love stories filled with loyalty, passion and desire, as the young couples defy the forces that seek to tear them apart.

Two fated love stories

Outlander: Blood of My Blood spotlights two fated love stories set in different time periods, which explore the lives and relationships of Julia Moriston (Hermione Corfield) and Henry Beauchamp (Jeremy



Irvine) in World War I England, and Ellen MacKenzie (Harriet Slater) and Brian Fraser (Jamie Roy) in the rugged Highlands of early 18th century Scotland. These two new couples must fight against all odds to defy the forces that seek to tear them apart as their love stories unfold across time.

A stand-alone prequel series, *Outlander:* Blood of My Blood features new cast, characters and stories welcoming viewers unfamiliar with the *Outlander* universe, while also providing origin stories of fanfavourite characters from early seasons of *Outlander*, and offering new perspectives that will change what viewers of the original series think they know. In addition



to Corfield, Irvine, Slater and Roy, who play the parents of *Outlander's* central couple, Claire and Jamie, *Outlander: Blood of My Blood* stars Tony Curran as Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, Séamus McLean Ross as Colum MacKenzie, Sam Retford as Dougal MacKenzie, Rory Alexander as Murtagh Fitzgibbons Fraser, and Conor MacNeill as Ned Gowan.

New episodes of Outlander: Blood of My Blood premiere on Saturday August 9, exclusively on Stan in Australia and Neon in New Zealand.

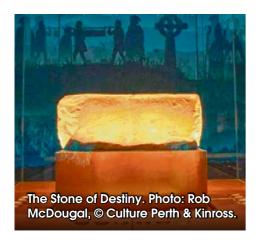






IN SCOTLAND TODAY

Australian man arrested after incident at Perth Museum



A kilt wearing Australian man has been arrested in Perth as he allegedly used a hammer to smash the glass case housing the Stone of Destiny at Perth Museum.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: "At around 1.55pm on Saturday July 12, 2025, Police Scotland received a call regarding a disturbance at Perth Museum. A 35-year-old man was subsequently arrested and charged." Arnaud Harixcalde Logan, from Sydney, was charged with malicious mischief during a private hearing at Perth Sheriff Court. Perth Museum, home of the Stone of Destiny, opened in March 2024 following a £27 million development at the former Perth City Hall. The Stone of Destiny, which is the star attraction at the museum, is an ancient symbol of Scottish monarchy and kingdom. A king-making stone, it was used in the inauguration of Scottish monarchs at Scone, 3 miles upriver of Perth on the River Tay. Its first documented use was in 1249 for the inauguration of the boy-king, Alexander III.

Whilst no damage was caused to the Stone itself, there was to the casing which houses the artifact and viewing of the Stone of Destiny has been temporarily paused after the incident.

Record levels of peatland restored



More than 14,000 hectares of degraded peatlands have been restored across Scotland in the last year, helping to reduce carbon emissions and restore biodiversity. Peatlands are areas of wet land that support habitats and species that are important for biodiversity, they also protect the wider ecosystem by improving water quality and reducing the severity of flooding. Covering nearly two million hectares, Scotland is home to two-thirds of the UK's peatlands. However, nearly three-quarters of Scotland's peatlands is currently degraded. The Scottish Government has pledged £250 million to support the restoration of 250,000 hectares of peatlands by 2030, with an interim target of 110,000 hectares by 2026. A total

of 90,000 hectares have been restored since 1990 and 14,860 of those were completed throughout the 2024-25 financial year.

Agriculture Minister Jim Fairlie said: "I am very pleased to report Scotland's Peatland ACTION partnership has put 14,860 hectares of degraded peatlands on the road to recovery last year. This is a new record in one year. Restoring peatland benefits our environment by reducing emissions, reducing risks of flooding and wildfires and improving water quality, it also invests in people and skills, creating green jobs in rural communities. This means we have exceeded our 2024 Programme for Government commitment and represents a 42% increase over the 10,360 hectares restored during 2023-24. I thank all of our partners for their sustained efforts and tenacity in delivering another milestone figure." According to estimates, peatland covers about 3% of the planet. Peat is made when many years' growth of plants partially decay, to build up a biodiversity-rich habitat.

ScotRail kicks-off a new era in rail communication technology



Trains operating in the Scottish Highlands will offer unprecedented access to satellite technology – transforming how customers can stay connected when travelling with ScotRail. In a UK-first for onboard passenger Wi-Fi, ScotRail has worked with Clarus Networks to design a new system which allows trains operating in rural Scotland to connect with a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite network.

Six class 158 trains, which will be in service in the north of Scotland from Inverness to Wick, Thurso, Kyle of Lochalsh, and Aberdeen, have been fitted with this equipment for a six-month trial.

The project will address the long-standing on train connectivity challenges in the region, and is the result of a partnership between ScotRail and Bathgate-based Clarus Networks. If successful, the trial could lead to the roll-out of the technology across the remaining class 158 trains in the ScotRail fleet, which would cover other rural lines including the West Highlands, Stranraer, Dumfries and the Borders.

Scott Prentice, ScotRail Strategy and Planning Director, said: "The launch of this trial is fantastic news for our customers using services in the north of the country, and will have a very positive impact on their journey experience. There has been a lot of hard work by our staff and our partner, Clarus Networks, to get to this point, and I am looking forward to seeing how customers interact with the new technology on our trains. The project addresses the long-standing challenges we've had for train connectivity in the region, and we hope it will lead to a future roll-out of the technology across other rural routes in Scotland."

Portsoy rocks helping to unlock understanding of the moon



Rocks from an Aberdeenshire coastal village are helping scientists to develop equipment which could enable astronauts to investigate the surface of the moon. Portsoy has long been known for its important geological features but now researchers from the University of Aberdeen are using the rare assembly of rock types found in the harbour area to replicate lunar geology. It is the test bed for a collaboration between academics, space agencies and mineral exploration companies which aims to create a hand-held instrument for astronauts that could one day allow them to make analysis of rocks on the moon. The moon has an inner core made up of pyroxenite, while the outer region is composed largely of anorthosite and gabbro. Meteorite strikes in the geological past are thought to have caused deep impacts that brought pyroxenite to the surface. These three rocks occur within close proximity at Portsoy and researchers from the University of Aberdeen are taking advantage of this rare 'geological combination' to gain an understanding of how an instrument for the moon could be used and to demonstrate its application.

Professor John Parnell, who is leading the project at Aberdeen, said: "Exploration of the moon focuses on two key areas – evidence of traces of water and the potential for minerals including nickel. Portsoy is in a select position to help us develop equipment to test for that and gain the understanding we need here on Earth. It is the closest replica we have ever found to lunar geology. There are three particular rocks that characterise the moon surface - pyroxenite, gabbro and anorthosite. These three rocks all occur in Portsoy and really conveniently can all be found in the harbour area."

The gabbro at Portsoy contains the mineral olivine, which when exposed to water is converted into a complex multi-coloured mineral called serpentine. The scientists are designing systems which can look at olivine and see if traces of serpentine are contained within it. This would indicate if there has been water present in the past – a question crucial to lunar exploration.

Dr Joe Armstrong, Lecturer and Interdisciplinary Fellow at the University of Aberdeen, added: "People visiting Portsoy will be familiar with 'Portsoy marble' historically quarried to the west of the town and often picked up as a souvenir. This 'marble' is actually the metamorphic rock serpentinite, composed predominantly of the serpentine group minerals we are interested in. This long-time staple of the area's gift shops is part of the assemblage that could provide new answers about geological conditions on the moon. This is key to unlocking understanding of the moon's potential resources - a key area of focus for current space missions. We have been using rocks at Portsoy for decades to teach our students as the area is known for its geological importance but this is the first

time they have been used to further space exploration in this way."

The Aberdeen geologists are using the results from Portsoy to feed into an international collaboration involving the universities of Leicester and Madrid, the British Space Agency and European Space Agency with further input from the private sector in the UK and beyond.

Cosmic ceilidh dance celebrates historic science discovery



Hundreds of scientists took part in the first performance of a new Scottish country dance inspired by the ripples in spacetime whose existence was first theorised by Albert Einstein. Researchers from the University of Glasgow teamed up with the culture and research organisation Science Ceilidh to develop a dance to mark the 10th anniversary of the historic first detection of gravitational waves - a groundbreaking discovery which established a new field of astronomy. The dance premiered at the joint GR-Amaldi meeting, an international science conference which was held at Glasgow's Scottish Exhibition Centre. The dance has been developed to creatively represent the gravitational-wave signals measured by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO), as well as the black holes that create them.

The first observation of gravitational waves was made by LIGO on 14 September 2015. The gravitational-wave signal – a ripple in spacetime – had originated from the merger of two black holes, each about 30 times the mass of our Sun, to form a black hole of about 60 times the mass of our Sun. LIGO's detection provided the first direct observation of gravitational waves almost a century after Einstein predicted their properties in his general theory of relativity.

Dr Christopher Berry from the University of Glasgow's School of Physics and Astronomy is chair of the conference's local organising committee. He said: "It felt right to welcome our visitors to the city with a traditional Scottish dance, and to give it a cosmic twist inspired by the research that unites us. It's been fantastic to work with Science Ceilidh to develop this dance, and we're excited to welcome hundreds of our colleagues to enjoy it with us next week. I hope they take away not just happy memories of the conference, but a uniquely Scottish way of communicating our research." The dance was developed through workshop sessions between Glasgow physicists and the Science Ceilidh team. The dance represents the life-cycle of black holes and how they form orbiting pairs before finally colliding to create, in just a few seconds, the signal detected on Earth. At the climax of the dance, participants are encouraged to let out a celebratory 'whoop' which represents what astrophysicists call the ringdown. That is the final stage of a binary black hole merger which 'rings' spacetime like a bell and sends out the ripples which make detection possible on Earth.

Spirit of Tasmania IV leaves Armadale Highland Gathering 2025 Scotland for Australia



pirit of Tasmania IV has departed Leith in Scotland for the 14,857 nautical mile voyage to Hobart. The 212-metre-long, 48,000 gross tonne ship left Leith at the end of June. The vessel will travel to Hobart via Gibraltar, Cape Verde Islands (off the western coast of Africa), Cape Town in South Africa, Port Louis in Mauritius and Fremantle in Western Australia.

Spirit of Tasmania IV is required to stay in Fremantle for four days for vessel importation into Australia, Customs and Immigration formalities, a crew change, bunkers and fresh stores. TT-Line CEO Chris Carbone said Spirit IV was expected to complete the trip to Australia (Fremantle) in mid-August, weather conditions permitting. He said: "We expect the vessel will be alongside in Hobart in late-August for the final fit out of items including Tasmanianmade mattresses and table tops, cabin stores and artwork, and to undertake vessel crew training. The training for our crew involves emergency response exercises, passenger muster simulation, firefighting drills, deployment of lifeboats and the mass evacuation systems".

Meanwhile in Tasmania, Mr Carbone said the work to develop the new Spirit of Tasmania terminal at Devonport was well underway. He said: "We have seen significant progress to the passenger vehicle areas and freight yards. The team has begun the complex operation to install 27 marine piles for the wharf and the loading gantry. Nine have been completed."

Spirit of Tasmania IV, which was built in Finland, arrived at the Port of Leith in December 2024 due to issues with existing infrastructure in the city of Devonport.



alling all Clans, the City of Armadale Highland Gathering needs you! The City of Armadale (Perth, Western Australia) is hosting their annual Highland Gathering on 5 October 2025, and they would love to have you join them. Hosted alongside the Perth Kilt Run, this is the largest Highland Gathering event in Western Australia.

Featuring all things Scottish, this event brings together Scottish heritage and provides a great day out for the entire family. The gathering of Clans allows those with Scottish roots to explore, celebrate and connect with their history, and plenty of entertainment for all attendees, regardless of your heritage. The day will feature Highland dancing, and a traditional strong man competition. There will be a host of Scottish dogs to socialise with, live performances, and a place for stallholders and Clans to gather. It will have a Scottish inspired tavern, brought to you by the Scottish Masonic Charitable Foundation of Western Australia.

culture and heritage

This year's event will see the return of the Armadale Atlas Stones, nine reinforced concrete spheres ranging in weight from 9kgs-161kgs. Lifting stones have been a feature in many European cultures and serve as a traditional test of strength and endurance. Anyone can have a go at lifting these stones. How many can you lift? There will be pipe band competitions, a medieval fair, as well as a range of children's activities and food stalls.

The Perth Kilt Run has grown year on year as an exciting addition to the Highland Gathering, now offering a 2.5km Classic and a 5km Warrior run. The 2.5km course is a flat concrete surfaced route for maximum accessibility. You can participate in this year's event with your dog, with a specially designated start to ensure the safety of all our human and canine competitors in the 2.5km Classic with Dogs. This is a huge gathering of Scottish culture and heritage, shared by thousands of people who come to enjoy the atmosphere and festivities.

Please visit perthkiltrun.com.au for more information.





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).

A tartan for Inverlochy Castle. The design was inspired by Ben Nevis, which dominates the area around the Castle. Colours: white is intended to represent

the summit of Ben Nevis; blue represents how ice and snow from the top of Ben Nevis melts into the river Lochy, and also represents the loch that lies in front of the castle; muted greens represent the green needles of the Scots Pine and Sequia trees that grow within the castle's grounds; purple represents the Scottish Thistle and three red lines represent the rustic red bark of the old giant sequoia trees. These three red lines are also a nod to the Cameron Hunting tartan in recognition and respect for Locheil and the Cameron Clan, as the Castle is situated within their traditional lands. The tartan is intentionally woven in subtle muted colours to mark the importance the site has played over the many years in Scottish history. This tartan (reference: 14805) was designed by House of Edgar Highland Outfitters and registered in April, 2025.



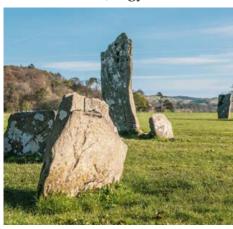
Mystery of Scotland's Standing Stones

Ancient stone structures can be found across Scotland, dating back thousands of years, offering the visitor an insight into Scotland's incredible ancient communities. Steeped in history and surrounded by legends these mystical megalithic monuments tell us a story of civilizations long before us, who celebrated their most important ceremonies and rituals amongst them, and the importance these mysterious monuments have had for generations.

hile thousands flock to Stonehenge each year, Scotland's ancient standing stones offer a more peaceful alternative, with the added bonus of spectacular scenery and fewer crowds. Online searches for "standing stones" in Scotland has risen by 101% over the past quarter.

Tapping into this growing trend, VisitScotland has launched a refreshed guide to the country's most atmospheric stone circles, helping travellers experience these ancient places that feel truly off the beaten path. Each year, more people are drawn to these ancient sites to watch the sunrise, honour seasonal change, or simply find a moment of connection and calm. From weathered stone circles on remote islands to mysterious alignments in wild glens, these make for the ideal locations for those looking to welcome the sun in a more reflective way. Here we look at just some of the incredible historical sites you can find on your next visit to Scotland.

Kilmartin Glen, Argyll



The ancient area of Kilmartin Glen in Argyll is home to more than 350 ancient monuments, including both the Nether Largie Standing Stones and the Temple Wood Stone Circle. The Nether Largie Stones are among the most significant prehistoric monuments in Scotland. Believed to be over 5,000 years old, the stones are thought to align with key astronomical events, including the midsummer sunrise. Set against a backdrop of green hills and misty moorland, the site offers an evocative space to experience the Solstice.

Temple Wood's 13 standing stones form one of the best-preserved stone circles in the area. The site's use began before 3000 BC and continued into the Bronze Age, with evidence of an earlier timber circle predating the stones by nearly 2,000 years. It's a quietly evocative place that adds even more depth to the glen's rich prehistoric landscape. To begin your journey, Kilmartin Museum is an essential first stop. Recently redeveloped, the museum provides fascinating context on the area's archaeological heritage and offers a self-guided trail map linking many of the glen's key sites by foot.

Machrie Moor Standing Stones, Isle of Arran



Recently named as an official UNESCO Global Geopark, the Isle of Arran boasts one of the most remarkable ancient landscapes in Britain. Situated on the west coast of the Isle, Machrie Moor is home to six stone circles, each with its own formation, age and story. The tallest stones, some rising over four metres, create a striking silhouette against the open sky. Reached via a one-mile path across moorland, this wild and windswept setting offers an atmospheric experience. As the sun dips or rises over the hills, the scale and symmetry of these ancient stones take on an otherworldly glow.

Sueno's Stone, Moray Speyside

Towering at nearly 7 metres tall, Sueno's Stone is Scotland's tallest and most intricately carved Pictish monument. Situated on the eastern edge of Forres in Moray Speyside, this monumental cross-slab dates from the late 9th or early 10th century and was most likely designed to be a landmark, visible from a great distance. The stone still remains in its original location, a rarity among early medieval carved stones.

Enclosed within a protective glass structure, Sueno's Stone is accessible year-round and free to visit. Its proximity to other landmarks, such as Brodie Castle, a grand 16th century castle that was the ancestral home of the Brodie clan for over 400 years, and Macbeth's Hillock, where Shakespeare's Macbeth is said to have met the three witches, makes it a great choice for those interested in Scotland's history, both factitious and historical.

Clava Cairns, Inverness



Only a 20-minute drive from Inverness, Clava Cairns is one of Scotland's most hauntingly beautiful prehistoric sites. This well-preserved Bronze Age cemetery complex features ring cairns, passage graves and standing stones, nestled in a quiet woodland setting. Built over 4,000 years ago, it's thought the site may have been aligned with the midwinter sunset, but its spiritual atmosphere makes it a special place to visit at any seasonal turning point, including the Summer Solstice.

Steeped in myth and mystery, Clava
Cairns has inspired everything from
archaeological theories to fictional tales;
it's even said to have influenced the Craigh
na Dun stones in the *Outlander* series.
Visiting offers a chance to reflect, recharge,
and experience a powerful sense of
continuity between past and present.
Just a short distance away you can also
find the Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre,
offering powerful insight into one of
Scotland's defining historic moments and
providing an added layer of context for
those exploring the area's deep cultural roots.

Achavanich, Caithness

In the far North Highlands lies Achavanich, one of the country's most enigmatic and distinctive prehistoric sites. Dating back over 4,000 years, this unusual horseshoe shaped arrangement sees its stones positioned with their broadest faces turned inward toward the centre, an orientation rarely seen in other stone circles across Scotland or beyond. Perched on a plateau near Loch Stemster, Achavanich offers a sense of scale and solitude that's hard to match. Its remote location, dramatic skies, and curious construction make it an immersive place to reflect. With minimal light pollution and few visitors, it's one of the most peaceful places in the country to mark the turning of the seasons.

The site lies within the Flow Country, the UK's newest UNESCO World Heritage Site and the world's first Peatland World Heritage Site. Considered the most outstanding example of an actively accumulating blanket bog landscape, the peatland ecosystem has been accumulating for the past 9,000 years. Nearby, you can visit the scenic Loch Rangag, which offers sweeping views across the peatlands, and the remains of Rangag Broch, one of many ancient landmarks that speak to Caithness's remarkable archaeological past.

Ring of Brodgar, Orkney



The Ring of Brodgar is believed to have been constructed sometime between 2600 and 2400 BC. The surrounding burial mounds and stone setting likely date from between 2500 and 1500. The stone ring was built in a true circle, 104 metres wide and originally contained sixty megaliths; today only twenty-seven of these stones remain.

The reason for the creation of the Ring of Brodgar, which would have been

a considerable amount of work in that time, is not known for sure, perhaps as an astronomical observatory, religious shrine or rituals. The Ring of Brodgar along with Stones of Stenness, Maeshowe and Skara Brae make up the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 1999.

Ballochroy Standing Stones, Kintyre Peninsula

Located near the western shore of the Kintyre Peninsula, the Ballochroy stones are thought to be aligned with distant mountain peaks and possibly even midsummer sunsets. The three tall stones sit in a line with views across to the island of Jura, creating a natural observatory that links sky, sea and stone. It's an ideal place for those seeking a raw, elemental Solstice experience.

The stones form part of the scenic Kintyre 66 route, which loops around the peninsula and highlights its natural beauty and heritage. Nearby, you can explore the harbour town of Campbeltown, known for its distilleries and historic waterfront, or take a short ferry to the peaceful island of Gigha, home to white-sand beaches and views across to Islay and Jura. It's a corner of Scotland where ancient landscapes and island calm come together.

Calanais Standing Stones, Isle of Lewis



The Calanais Standing Stones were erected between 2900 and 2600 BC – before the main circle at England's Stonehenge. Ritual activity at the site may have continued for 2000 years. The area inside the circle was levelled and the site gradually became covered with peat between 1000 and 500 BC. Peat cutting around the site in 1857 revealed the true height of the stones. It's possible that there's plenty more archaeology sealed beneath the peat that covers much of the Western Isles.

There are at least 11 smaller stone circles surrounding Calanais. Some of these date from much later than the central circle, which indicates the complex was in use for several centuries. These are crucial to help with the understanding of the significance of this area, and how the landscape was used by prehistoric people. The stones are set on a prominent ridge, easily visible from land and sea for miles around.

To find out more about Scotland's standing stones, please visit: www.visitscotland.com/things-to-do/attractions/historic/standing-stones

Summer in the shielings - A long-lost way of life in the hills





Oh, the summertime has come and the trees are sweetly bloomin' the wild mountain thyme grows around the blooming heather will ye go, lassie, go?

o opens the classic folk song Wild Mountain Thyme, based on poet Robert Tannahill's early 19th century composition, The Braes of Balquhither. In just a few lines this love song paints a vivid picture of the promise and plenty of summer in the Scottish Highlands. It is a scene inextricably tied to a way of life long lost — the annual migration of people and their cattle to the summer shielings where such wonders awaited them.

Until the very time when The Braes of Balquhither was composed, from springtime through summer people from rural communities across Scotland left their permanent homes and accompanied livestock into the hills where they could be grazed on open, common ground. The notion of uprooting for several months of the year may seem unthinkable to modern people unless for a holiday, but for most of human history across much of the globe this was the norm. Different communities varied the exact timings, but in general the typical shieling season went like this: upland grazing lasted from April through August, with animals accompanied into the hills categorically by age and desired output. Each group would graze for around a month before being brought back to the settlements and another led away in turn. Young animals - mostly cattle, horses, and sheep - would be brought out first in April, followed by dairy producing animals in May.

Shieling season

Since dairy cattle needed to be milked daily, dairymaids accompanied them and lived with them in shielings all through the summer. This meant that a sizeable portion of any given community, mainly girls and women, were away in the shielings, returning only occasionally. It was a time of great merriment when they rejoined their villages in August with groups of fattened, productive livestock in tow. This movement of livestock and attendant people into the upland shielings was at the heart of the ancient practice of transhumance It is the seasonal movement of people away from their permanent residences into a wider landscape of habitation and productivity, known to anthropologists as a 'task-scape'. Transhumance was and still is practiced by cultures around the world and was designated as part of the 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' by UNESCO in 2023.

If one were to walk into the hills in summer you would likely hear singing coming from the shielings as the women set their work to a rhythm. Boys would often bring flutes or fiddles and, as you might imagine, many a romantic pairing blossomed among the shielings. The shielings and transhumance system were not separate from community life, but a fundamental part of it.

The shielings themselves are still with us. The remains of thousands of small drystone structures dot the upland slopes of Scotland, often in small clusters near burns and under the shelter of hillocks or rock faces. Some shielings, especially in the Outer Hebrides and Northwest Highlands, were made from dried peat and earth and have vanished altogether. Some, in a fascinating interplay with the far more distant past, were raised atop and within Bronze Age and Iron Age structures like hillforts, duns, and wheelhouses. Many place names in Scotland are derived from this practice. Places incorporating 'shiel' as in Loch Shiel, 'airigh' as in Gleann Airigh in Argyll, and 'ruighe' as in Portree (Port Ruighe) in Skye all harken back to it.



Source of much folklore

Often situated in isolated, windswept areas far from the lights of villages, it's no wonder that shielings were the source of much folklore - much of it sinister. By definition, shielings existed beyond the well-trodden, cultivated areas of human settlement, on the other side of the turf dykes which demarcated the boundaries of many rural communities. Upland areas are now, and were then, perceived as 'liminal places' straddling the line between civilisation and wilderness, between the known and the unknown. They are often replete with pools and lochans as well as caves, rock shelters, and glacial mounds. This makes such areas the perfect environment for entities like trows, giants, fairy folk, and water-horses.

On the Orcadian island of Rousay, the upland Loch of Knitchen is home to a water-horse who blends in with the herds brought up to graze by the shore-dwellers. When the hapless attendant, often a young man or woman, lays their hand on it to return it to their village they are dragged into the water and devoured. A similar tale haunts Loch an Eich Uisge - the Loch of the Water-horse - in Barra, where a young dairymaid narrowly avoided a gruesome fate by cleverly escaping a water-horse who took the form of a dashing young man. Nearby that loch is the Shieling of the One Night, so-called because shielingdwellers refused to stay in it for more than a single night. Disturbances were attributed not just to the water-horse but to devils in a nearby cave which is said to lead into the centre of the island.

Some beings even had shielings of their own. Pallaidh, the king of the *úruisgean* (also known as brownies or broonies), had his summer dwelling at

Ruighe Pheallaidh in Glen Lyon while living for the rest of the year along the waterfalls above the town named after him, Aberfeldy (Obar Pheallaidh). He even left a footprint in a stone outcrop in Glen Lyon which is sometimes also attributed to Saint Palladius from the 5th century.

A major factor that ended transhumance and shieling culture in Scotland was the arrival of the Cheviot and Blackface sheep breeds. As discussed in my May article on *How sheep conquered Scotland*, these breeds required extensive and intensive access to lower, fertile grazing grounds, shifting communal priorities away from the uplands. The 18th and 19th centuries were also times of land enclosure, consolidation, and clearance, leading to the emptying of entire communities and the abandonment of huge swathes of upland areas once home to hundreds of seasonal shielings.

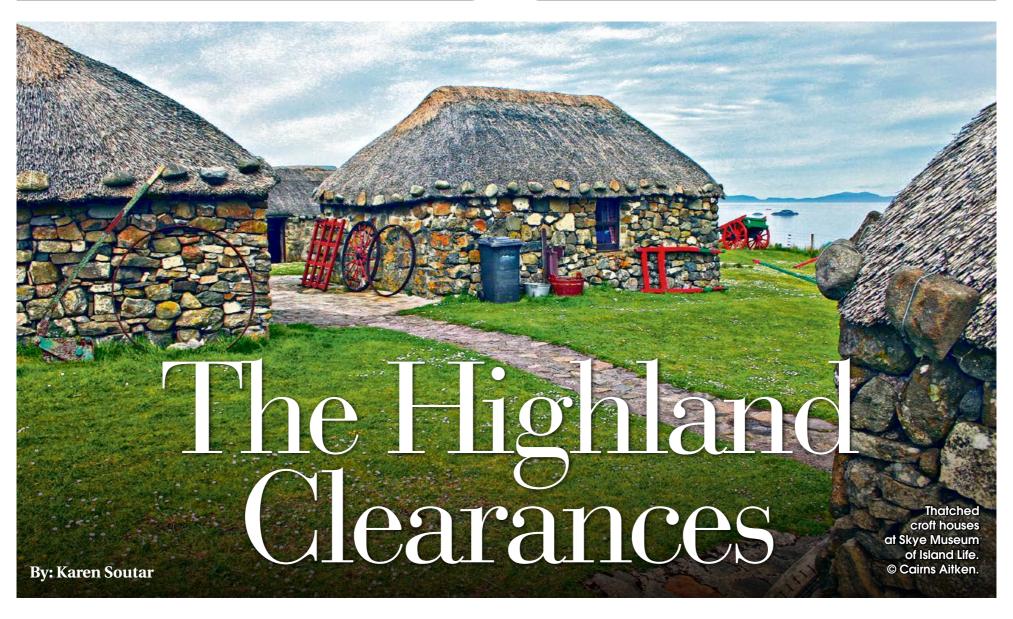
Back in vogue

Today, shielings are coming back in vogue. Modern architects have used shielings as the inspiration for new homes built across the Highlands and Islands, and several conservation areas – such as Abriachan Wood near Loch ness – have reconstructed shielings to use as arts spaces. I fondly recall the sense of calm and community fostered by the Abriachan shieling while on a writing retreat with Moniack Mhor, during which we read poems and warmed ourselves in its shelter.

So, as the summertime comes and the trees are sweetly bloomin', cast your mind back to a time when the lasses led the cows to the hills, the shielings rang out with music, and the circle of community life among Scotland's rural landscapes gained another golden notch.







The Highland Clearances are a pivotal moment is Scotland's social, cultural and economic history. Karen Soutar, one of Historic Environment Scotland's stewards at Doune Castle tells us what happened, when, and why.

here are few events in Scottish history more heartrending than the Highland Clearances. Songs have been sung about them, paintings created, poems written and plays performed. Most of you will have heard of them in one way or another. And their impact has left its mark on Scotland, even today. But what exactly happened, when, and why?

The beginning of the end

After the Jacobite Rising of 1745 ended at Culloden, an era of social, economic, and agricultural change began in the Scottish Highlands. Estates which had been forfeited by supporters of the

Jacobite cause were taken over by new landowners. Up until then, the land had been divided into small townships or baile that people inhabited and farmed. These were overseen by someone known as a 'tacksman' who didn't own the land themselves, but would sublet land to the tenants while making a profit. Flora MacDonald, who helped Bonnie Prince Charlie to escape after the Battle of Culloden, was a member of the tacksman class.

A change of land ownership was seen as an opportunity to change the approach to managing the land. Although changes had begun before the Jacobite Rising, the process increased in pace after 1746

as wealthy new landowners wanted to maximise their profits. Farms were consolidated into larger units, land was enclosed, and sheep were introduced, taking over from the more traditional stock of cattle. Rents were increased. Not only did the changes impact the landscape, but they displaced the people who lived there. All this is why, when we think of the clearances, we envision people being pushed off the land to make way for sheep.

While clearances took place on estates around Scotland, the Highland Clearances had the additional impact of devastating Gaelic-speaking communities. The combination of anti-Gaelic laws following Culloden, and

There are few events in Scottish history more heartrending than the

then the Clearances destroying Gaelic-

point for Gaelic from which the language

speaking communities, lead to a low

is arguably still trying to recover.



The 'first and second wave' The first batch of clearances began in the 1750s and continued until after the Napoleonic Wars in 1815. Initially, most estate owners intended to redistribute the population to other parts of their lands, this tended to be coastal areas, which were not as agriculturally productive. There were some coastal crofts, but it was almost impossible for tenants to survive on these by farming alone. Some were encouraged to take up fishing or kelp farming. Kelp farming was big business from the mid-18th century as it was an important ingredient in the production of soap and glass. By the early 19th century, kelp manufacturing employed 60,000 people in Scotland.

However, in reality, many tenants were simply evicted with no intention of finding them a new location. In addition, those who were sent to the coast had no knowledge of this way of life, and they struggled to survive in their new situation. The end of the Napoleonic Wars brought economic





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problems and a series of disasters. Inflation soared, and the kelp industry floundered. In 1836-7 a potato blight hit the Highland region, and in 1846-8 there was a famine in the Highlands. Crofting rents collapsed, and some unscrupulous landowners saw this as an opportunity to get rid of their less profitable small tenantry once and for all.

Some landowners even burnt down crofts to force the tenants out. All this resulted in the 'second wave' of clearances (1825-55), with the poorest tenants having their emigration out of the area arranged, and in some cases paid for. Although this would have been no consolation to the stricken people involved!

Where did the people go?

What happened to those who were evicted? Some did make a success of a new life on the coast or went to work on farms in the southern highlands and the lowlands. Others travelled to cities such as Glasgow and found employment in the factories there. But imagine what it must have been like, living one moment in the clean air and quiet of the Highlands, and the next working in a noisy, smelly city, surrounded by thousands of people.

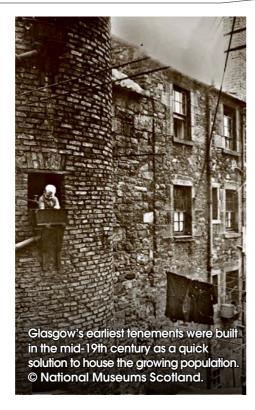
Many Highlanders left Scotland altogether, and started a new life overseas. America, Canada and Australia were top destinations but Scots ended up all over the world. And sadly, many people starved to death or fell ill and died on the road, as they struggled to find somewhere to live and work after eviction. These Highlanders took their Gaelic with them to these countries. To this day, there are fluent Gaelic-speaking communities in Nova Scotia, and countries such as New Zealand have many Gaelic place names.

It's hard to find reliable numbers for those evicted during the clearances, but estimates range between 70,000 and over 150,000 displaced people. Remember when we think of many parts of the Highlands as a deserted wilderness today, things were not always like that. The modern Highland landscape was manufactured by wealthy estate owners in their pursuit of more money, with no regard for the people who had worked the land for them for hundreds of years before.

Fighting for change

But there was a glimmer of hope for those who remained crofters. In 1886, after many long years of poverty among remaining tenants, economic depression, and bad storms, the Crofters Holdings (Scotland) Act was passed. This came after a series of disputes and disorder, starting with the Bernera Riot in 1874 and culminated in a fierce battle, led by Skye crofting tenants, known as the Crofters' War in 1882. A key figure of this Land Agitation movement was Màiri Mhòr nan Òran ('Great Mary of the Songs', or maybe more properly 'Great Màiri, the Songstress').

Renowned across Victorian Scotland and abroad, Màiri wrote many Gaelic songs now considered classics. Land agitation and Clearance was a key theme in her work. In perhaps her best-known song, *Nuair Bha Mi Òg(When I Was Young)*, Màiri reflected on the changes that have taken place in Skye in her lifetime, and its many empty houses. 'Nam faicinn sluagh, agus taighean suas ann / gum fàsainn suaimhneach mar bha mi òg' ('If I only saw people and houses there / I'd grow joyful, like I was when I was young').



Crofters Holdings Act

In the aftermath of the Crofters' War a commission was set up to look into the conditions the crofters were experiencing. This scrutiny did raise awareness of the terrible exploitation that the crofters were exposed to. While the recommendations of the commission were not enshrined in the Crofters Holdings Act, it did pave the way. The Act gave the remaining crofters security from eviction, the benefit of some improvements, and also introduced a court to set crofters' rents, adjudicate on arrears and facilitate extensions to crofts. Although this was too late for many people, it significantly improved conditions for Highland crofters in the future.

Over the 20th century, land buyouts by local communities have taken place in several areas, giving control back to the people who live and work there. There were just three land buy outs between 1908 and 1971. But since the 1990s more and more of Scotland's rural communities have been able to purchase the land they live on for the good of the people who live there. And in 2003, the Land Reform (Scotland) Act granted communities the right to buy land within their local area.

Living in rural Scotland today

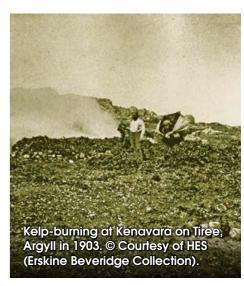
Living in one of the world's most desirable and romanticised locations isn't without its issues. Local communities are seeking to find the right balance when it comes to being a popular tourist destination. Many visitors to the Highlands are descended from the very people who left during the Clearances. A love of Scotland and the Highlands has been passed down through the generations, and descendants of the people who were expelled from their homes are keen to explore their roots. And Scotland is renowned for its warm hospitality, stunning landscapes and rich culture and history.

Local communities and businesses undoubtedly benefit from the tourism industry but it does bring its challenges – particularly around housing. Rural Gaelic communities are once again finding it challenging to make a life in the Scottish Highlands. The Highland Council's Sustainable Tourism Strategy looks at the pressures and opportunities in detail. There are people leading the way in trying to find balance between the needs of local communities and visitors all over Scotland, not just in the Highlands. In 2017, Auchrannie resort on Arran became



Scotland's first employee-owned resort.
Organisations like Scottish Community
Tourism champion and support
community tourism, which seeks to put
communities and the environment first.
And in the town of Kilmaronock, they're
exploring ways to repurpose their church
for flexible community use, focusing
on preserving its heritage for locals
and visitors. This is a complex challenge
with no simple answers but there are
opportunities to share and learn as we go.

Historic Environment Scotland is the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment. For more details see: www.historicenvironment.scot





THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Death of Queen Anne; George I, Elector of Hanover becomes king. $1714\,$
- 1 Proscription Act introduced, banning tartan and the carrying of weapons. The penalty for a first offence was six months in jail and a second offence resulted in transportation for seven years. $1747\,$
- 1 University of Dundee which was incorporated into the University of St Andrews (as Queen's College) in 1890, constituted as a separate university. 1967



- 1 The UK's first mail drone delivery service begins, with Royal Mail and Skyports establishing a daily inter-island mail distribution between three islands on Orkney. $2023\,$
- 2 Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, died in Nova Scotia. Although he is best known for this invention Bell was also well known for his work on deafness. 1922
- 3 William Wallace is captured near Glasgow. Wallace is tried in London on 23 August, then executed. $1305\,$
- 3 King James II killed by an exploding cannon at the siege of Roxburgh Castle. $1460\,$
- 3 Sir William Kirkcaldy of Grange executed, after defending Edinburgh Castle on behalf of Mary Queen of Scots from May 1568 to May 1573. 1573
- 3 The 2014 Commonwealth Games (officially the XX Commonwealth Games) closing ceremony took place in Glasgow, Scotland. 2014
- 4 Birth of the entertainer Sir Harry Lauder, his hits included *Roamin in the Gloamin'* and *Keep Right on to the End of the Road.* Lauder died in 1950 at the age of 79. **1870**
- 5 James, Earl Douglas, died out of sight of his army, in a bush, at Battle of Otterburn in which Scots defeat Henry Percy, (Hotspur) but with the loss of the Earl of Douglas. 1388
- **5** The Scottish Parliament established a General Post Office. **1695**
- $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{6} \text{ First Glasgow/Edinburgh coach service} \\ \text{began from White Horse Inn, Edinburgh.} \ \textbf{1678} \end{array}$
- 6 Donald Alexander Smith later Lord Strathcona - born in Forres. A pioneer of the Hudson Bay Company in the North-West, he later championed the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway across Canada and drove the last spike at Craigellachie, British Columbia. 1820
- **6** Birth of Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin. **1881**



- 7 The first train arrives in Fort William on the newly opened West Highland Line. 1894
- 7 Lord Kitchener, the war minister, began a mass recruiting campaign, three days after Britain declared war on Germany. By the war's end a total of 147,609 Scots had been killed, a fifth of Britain's dead from a country that made up only 10% of its population. 1914
- 7 Air services begin from Barra Airport, the only beach airport anywhere in the world to be used for scheduled airline services. 1936
- 8 King Edward I removed to England the Stone of Destiny on which generations of Scottish kings had been crowned. $1296\,$
- 8 King James IV married Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII of England. The marriage was known as the Union of the Thistle and the Rose. 1503
- $8 \hbox{ Former World flyweight boxing} \\ champion Benny Lynch died. \\ 1946$

- **9** Civil engineer Thomas Telford born in Dumfries. Telford became known as 'the godfather of civil engineering'. 1757
- 9 Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire opened after David McIntyre set up Scottish Aviation Ltd. Aircraft had been flying from the area since 1913. 1935
- 10 King James III crowned at Kelso Abbey. 1460
- 10 Education (Scotland) Act passed, providing elementary education for all children. $1872\,$
- 10 Perth Museum and Art Gallery opened by the Duke and Duchess of York. $1935\,$
- 11 Andrew Carnegie, the Dunfermlineborn steel industrialist and philanthropist, died. Throughout his later life Carnegie established a number of foundations for education and research such as the Carnegie Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 1919
- 12 Roy Williamson, the Scottish folk musician and songwriter, died. Williamson was one of the famous duo, The Corries, along with Ronnie Browne. $1990\,$
- 12 A passenger train derails after striking a landslip near Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire, causing 3 deaths. 2020
- $13\hbox{ Explorer Alexander Gordon Laing became the first Christian to reach Timbuctu, Africa. }1826$
- 13 Birth of John Logie Baird, developer of television. 1888
- 13 Scotland's first nuclear power station at Dounreay went "critical" ushering in the generation of power from atomic reactions. 1957
- 14 King Duncan I killed in battle at Pitgavney by Macbeth. 1040
- 14 King Robert III born at Scone. 1337
- 14 King Robert III crowned at the
- 14 King Robert III crowned at the Augustinian abbey of Scone. 1390
- $14 \hbox{-} University of Strathclyde was constituted} \\ in Glasgow, based on the Royal College \\ of Science and Technology. 1964 \\$
- 15 Macbeth killed in battle by Malcolm at Lumphanan. 1057
- 15 Novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott born. Synonymous with the Scottish Borders Scott wrote classics such as *Waverley* and *The Bride of Lamermoor*. 1771



- 15 Foundation stone for the Scott Monument to Sir Walter Scott laid in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. The monument for the author is the second largest in the world for a writer and has been dubbed "The Gothic Rocket". 1840
- 15 Scotland becomes the first country in the world to make free sanitary products available to women after legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament comes into force. 2022
- 15 The shipwreck of *HMS Hawke*, which was sunk by a torpedo during World War I, was found off the Aberdeenshire coast. She was sunk by a German U-boat in the North Sea in October 1914, resulting in the loss of 524 crew members. 2024
- 16 Birth of Carolina Oliphant (Lady Nairne), poet and author of many Jacobite songs, including *Charlie is my Darling*. Her songs are second only in popularity to Burns. 1766
- 17 Visit of George IV to Edinburgh began, orchestrated by Sir Walter Scott. 1822
- 17 First Edinburgh International



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

- 18 Arthur Elphinstone, Lord Balmerino, the Jacobite noble, was executed. Balmerino was captured along with Lord Kilmarnock after the Battle of Culloden and the pair were tried for treason in London and beheaded in the Tower of London. 1746
- 18 The Tay Road Bridge opened, linking Dundee city centre with Fife. The Tay Road Bridge carries the A92 road across the Firth of Tay from Newport-on-Tay in Fife to Dundee. 1966
- 18 45 years after forming in 1973, folk rock band Runrig performs their last show against the backdrop of Stirling Castle. 2018
- 19 Mary Queen of Scots lands at Leith on her return from France, after the death of her husband, King Francis II. $1561\,$
- 19 Charles Edward Stuart, raises his standard at Glenfinnan, at the start of the '45 uprising. 1745
- 19 Scottish aviator Jim Mollinson landed after the first East/West solo flight of the Atlantic from Portmarnock, Ireland to Pennfield, New Brunswick. 1932
- 20 Ronald Ross, the first Scot to win a Nobel prize (in 1902) dissected a mosquito and established the link with malaria. 1897
- 21 Battle of Dunkeld when the newly formed Cameronians defended the town against 3,000 Highlanders. 1689
- 21 Birth of William Murdoch who pioneered the use of coal-gas lighting in 1792 in partnership with James Watt and Mathew Boulton. $1754\,$
- 21 Birth of Donald Dewar, former Secretary of State for Scotland and First Minister in the new Scottish Parliament. 1937
- 22 Battle of the Standard at Northallerton in which King David I was defeated by the English. 1138
- 22 Devorgilla, Countess of Galloway founded Balliol College, Oxford. She was mother of John Balliol (who acceded to the Scottish throne in 1292). 1282
- 22 King Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham, initiating a Civil War in England between the Royalists (also known as Cavaliers) and Parliament (Roundheads). 1642
- 22 Edinburgh City Council votes to introduce Scotland's first visitor levy. From 24 July 2026, a 5% fee will be applied to the cost of overnight accommodation in Edinburgh, capped at five nights in a row. It hopes will raise around £50m a year. 2024
- 23 Sir William Wallace was executed in London. Wallace was captured after being betrayed by Sir John de Menteith and was transported to London. King Edward I had devised a new method of execution for one of his arch-enemies, and Wallace became the first person to endure the agonies of being hanged, drawn and quartered. 1305



- 23 Work begins on the rebuilding of
 Eilean Donan Castle. It took until 1932 to
 complete. The castle is today one of the
 most photographed in Scotland. 1913
 24 Berwick on Tweed finally ceded to England
- (Edward IV) after changing hands 12 times. 1482 24 The first Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama opened. The festival was inspired by the arts festivals organised in Salzburg before the Second World War but has grown to become the largest event of its kind in the world. It has also spawned a book festival, film festival
- and the festival fringe. The festival was also responsible for the creation of Scottish Opera and forced a greater amount of funding from the Arts Council to be given to Scotland. 1947
- 25 James Watt, developer of steam power, died. Watt was known as the 'father of the industrial revolution'. 1819



- 25 Actor Sir Sean Connery born. Connery famously went from an Edinburgh milk man to global movie superstar, best known for playing James Bond 007. Sean Connery died at age 90 in the Bahamas in October, 2020. 1930
- 25 Glasgow Zoo, or Calderpark Zoo, closed. The was a 99-acre (40 ha) zoological park in Baillieston, Glasgow was established in 1947 by the Zoological Society of Glasgow and West of Scotland. The zoo was located on the lands of the former Calderpark Estate and closed due financial losses and reports of animal cruelty. 2003
- 26 Mary Queen of Scots leads an army out of Edinburgh to supress a rebellion led by her half-brother James Stewart, 1st Earl of Moray, who is opposed to her marriage. She puts the rebellion to flight in what becomes known as the Chaseabout Raid. 1565
- 26 The Donibristle Mining Disaster occurred in the Fife coalfield. The disaster occurred when part of Mossmorran peat bog near Cowdenbeath collapsed on sixteen miners 360 feet underground. Four miners were lost, as was a four-strong rescue party. All the bodies were eventually recovered but some remained underground until the December of that year. 1901
- 26 A search for the Loch Ness Monster, described as the largest in 50 years, gets underway around Loch Ness itself, and also online globally via webcams. There were sounds heard by some watchers, however no recording were made. 2023
- 27 James Thomson, the Scottish poet, died. Thomson's most famous works include the anthem, *Rule Britannia*. 1748
- 27 First balloon ascent in Britain by James Tytler, Edinburgh. 1784
- 27 The trial began in Edinburgh for Deacon William Brodie, a cabinetmaker and member of the town council, who also was a notorious criminal. On 1 October 1788 he was hanged for theft in the Lawnmarket in front of a crowd that was the largest seen in living memory. 1788
- 28 Edward I of England held a parliament at Berwick to which he summoned all Scottish landholders to sign the Ragman Roll. 1296
- 28 The Battle of Newburn on Tyne. The battle was fought between Leslie's veteran Scottish army and a hastily assembled English force. The Scots had invaded northern England in response to the attempts of Charles I to impose an Anglican prayer book upon Scotland. 1640
- 29 The population of St Kilda were evacuated from the island. The island was evacuated on economic grounds at the islander's own request as the population had dwindled from 73 in 1920 to only 37 in 1928. The island had been populated since Bronze Age times, but from the latter part of the 19th century, the islanders had begun to lose their means of self-sufficiency and the fate of the resident population was sealed. The island was sold to the Marquess of Bute, a keen ornithologist, who bequeathed it to the National Trust for Scotland in 1957. 1930
- 30 Birth of golf course designer Dr Alister Mackenzie; he was responsible for Augusta National and Cypress Point, among others. 1870
- 30 The Royal Research Ship (RRS) Discovery reaches the Falkland Islands on a mission to rescue polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, to find he has already been rescued. 1915
- **30** The Queensferry Crossing opens to traffic. The 1.7 miles (2.7km) crossing was the biggest infrastructure project in Scotland in a generation and carries about 24 million vehicle journeys a year. **2017**
- 31 The first Edinburgh Film Festival opened. The festival was officially opened on this date by the Lord Provost at the Playhouse Cinema. The festival was originally known as the International Festival of Documentary but has now grown to become recognised as one of the great worldwide film festivals. 1946

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Salmon and potato quiche

Ingredients:

225g/8oz. ready-made shortcrust pastry 1 free-range egg, beaten

For the filling

175g/6oz. smoked salmon, chopped $100g/3\frac{1}{2}$ oz. smoked bacon lardons, cooked 100g/3½ new potatoes, cooked and cut into cubes 3 free-range eggs 1 tbsp finely chopped fresh dill 200ml/7fl oz. crème fraîche 1 tsp grated nutmeg salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

green salad leaves, to serve

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas Mark 4. Roll out the shortcrust pastry until it is slightly larger than a 25cm/10in loose-bottomed cake tin.

Prick the pastry all over with a fork, line the pastry case with greaseproof paper and fill it with rice or dried beans. Place in the oven and bake for 20 minutes.

Remove the greaseproof paper and rice or beans. Brush the pastry with the beaten egg, then return the tart to the oven and bake for a further five minutes, or until golden-brown.

For the filling, arrange the smoked salmon, lardons and new potatoes evenly in the bottom of the pastry case.

In a bowl, beat together the eggs, dill, crème fraîche and nutmeg until well combined. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Pour the mixture into the pastry case.

Transfer the quiche to the oven and bake for 30-40 minutes, or until the egg mixture has set.

Set the quiche aside to cool.

To serve, place a wedge of quiche onto a serving plate, then place the salad leaves alongside.

Haggis soup

Ingredients:

1 tbsp. oil ½ leek, diced ½ potato, peeled and diced 1/4 swede, peeled and diced 34 pint chicken stock salt and freshly ground black pepper 85g-110g/3-4 oz. haggis

Method:

Heat the oil in a pan and sauté the leek, potato and swede for a few minutes, to soften. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Pour in the chicken stock and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat, add the haggis and simmer for 10-12 minutes. Remove from the heat and spoon into a soup bowl to serve.

Tuna and bean salad

Ingredients:

80g/3oz. green beans, halved 160g tin tuna in water, drained 50g/1¾oz. red pepper, cut into dice 1 tbsp. fat-free dressing

Method:

Cook the beans in a saucepan of boiling water for 5 minutes, or until tender. Drain and place in a bowl of cold water. When they are cool, drain off the cold water and mix the beans with the tuna, pepper and dressing in a bowl. Serve.

Cheese scones



Ingredients:

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

Method:

Heat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Lightly grease a baking sheet. Mix together the flour and salt and rub in the butter. Stir in the cheese and then the milk to get a soft dough. Turn on to a floured work surface and knead very lightly. Pat out to a round 2cm/3/4in thick. Use a 5cm/2in cutter to stamp out rounds and place on the baking sheet.

Lightly knead together the rest of the dough and stamp out more scones to use it all up. Brush the tops of the scones with a little milk. Bake for 12-15 minutes until well risen and golden. Cool on a wire rack.

Low-fat cheesecake



Ingredients:

For the base:

6 low-fat digestive biscuits 10 low-fat/reduced sugar plain biscuits 2 tbsp clear honey 75g/2½oz butter, melted

For the filling:

6 leaves gelatine 150ml/5fl oz. skimmed milk 50g/2oz cocoa powder 100g/3½oz. caster sugar 500g/1lb 2oz. quark cheese 300g/101/2 oz. fat-free Greek yoghurt 1 tsp vanilla extract 1 vanilla pod, seeds only 2 free-range egg whites

To serve:

300g/10½oz fresh strawberries

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4 and line a 23cm/9in spring form cake tin with greaseproof paper.

For the base, put all the biscuits into a freezer bag and bash with a rolling pin until they resemble breadcrumbs. Place into a mixing bowl and add the honey and melted butter and mix well to combine. Press the mixture into the bottom of the tin.

Bake for 10-12 minutes. Remove from the oven and leave to cool while you prepare the filling.

To make the filling, soak the gelatine leaves in a bowl of ice-cold water for 10 minutes. Put the milk, cocoa powder and sugar into a saucepan. Bring to a simmer, stirring constantly, until the sugar has melted and the cocoa is completely combined. Remove from the heat and leave to cool for a few minutes. Whisk in the gelatine and set aside.

Put the quark and yoghurt into a mixing bowl and beat together until smooth. Add the vanilla extract and the vanilla seeds. Beat to mix well and then add the cocoa mixture. Beat until smooth and set aside.

In a separate bowl, whisk the egg whites until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed from the bowl. Fold one third of the egg whites into the cheesecake mixture and then carefully fold in the remainder.

Spoon the mixture onto the base then put into the fridge to set for at least 4-6 hours or overnight if possible. Decorate with strawberries and serve.

Ginger alert

Ingredients:

40ml/11/2fl oz. whisky 2 tsp clear apple juice 1 tsp clear pear juice 20ml/1/2fl oz. fresh lemon juice 2.5cm/1in piece fresh ginger, peeled ginger ale, to top up apple slice, to garnish

Method:

Pour the whisky, apple juice, pear juice, and lemon juice into a cocktail shaker with a handful of ice. Grate the ginger into the shaker, then shake well. Strain into a highball glass filled with ice cubes. Top up with ginger ale and garnish with an apple wedge.



Mystery of the Arnish Moor Man explored in new exhibition





bjects recovered from a mysterious 250-year-old burial on Arnish Moor on the Isle of Lewis, star in a new exhibition, on now. The exceptionally well-preserved knitted bonnet and personal belongings of a young man, on loan from National Museums Scotland, are displayed for the first time in a generation at Kinloch Historical Society. In 1964, the body of a young man was discovered on Arnish Moor, south of Stornoway. Forensic analysis at the time revealed that he was around



20 to 25 years old and identified a fracture on the back of his head that indicates he may have been murdered. The young man's identity remains unknown, but his clothing and personal belongings provide a rare insight into life in the Outer Hebrides in the early 1700s.

The knitted bonnet is now a brownish green colour, but analysis has revealed traces of indigo typical of the traditional blue bonnets worn in the Scottish Highlands and Islands in the $18^{\mbox{th}}$ century. It is displayed alongside other personal items that were found with him, including a wooden comb and quills. These suggest he was educated and was perhaps a scholar or an apprentice clerk. The young man's clothing, including a stylish but well-worn jacket covered in intricate hand-stitched repairs, is too fragile to be displayed.

Murder on the moor

Although the young man's remains were not discovered until the 1960s, stories of a murder on the moor have been

passed down through generations, becoming part of the lore and identity of the local community. Dr Anna Groundwater, Principal Curator of Renaissance and Early Modern History at National Museums Scotland, said: "We don't know who this person was, but the quality of his clothes and possessions paints a portrait of a learned young man who cared about how he looked, despite being of limited means. We do know that his life was cut tragically short. It has been a privilege to work with colleagues at the Kinloch Historical Society and with the local community in Lewis to bring his story to life and learn more about the historical context and oral traditions that surround the mystery of the Arnish Moor Man."

Anna MacKenzie, Heritage Manager at Kinloch Historical Society, said: "The story of the Arnish Moor Man is one that appears regularly in our local Folk Lore. What happened to this young man is a mystery. By hosting this exhibition, we hope members of the public will be inspired to revisit the tales they grew up with and seek the answers of this 18th century murder. The Kinloch Historical society are very proud of the relationship we are building with National Museums Scotland. They have been a great source of support and it is a privilege to be displaying these items, that have never been shown locally before."

Arnish Moor Man is on now at the Kinloch Historical Society, Lewis, and runs until March 2026. For details see: www.kinlochhistoricalsociety.co.uk

National Library's birthday bash with Beano



he National Library of Scotland's official birthday takes place this month, with the 100th anniversary of its creation via an Act of Parliament falling on

Thursday 7 August. On that day, visitors to the National Library at George IV Bridge Edinburgh and Kelvin Hall in Glasgow will be given their own copy of a special edition centenary comic, created by Beano especially for this occasion. National Librarian Amina Shah said: "Beano is the longest running weekly comic created every week in Dundee for almost as long as we've been in existence. Beano is loved by kids and adults alike, alongside many iconic characters like Dennis, Gnasher, Minnie and Bananaman. We cannot think of a more appropriate and fun way to mark our official birthday."

The special Beano edition features the George IV Bridge building on the cover, while inside the comic readers will be treated to The Bash Street Kids' visit to the National Library. On the morning of Thursday 7 August the Library will give away 500 copies of the special edition Beano to lucky visitors at George IV Bridge, Edinburgh and Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. They will be given out on a first-come first-served basis. Visitors will also have the opportunity to sign a giant birthday card, which will be stored in the Library's archives in perpetuity. Beano was first published in July 1938 and is still created every week in its original Dundee headquarters and printed in the UK.



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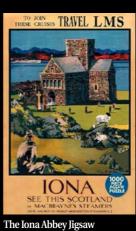
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Highland Spectacular returns to Kryal Castle for its third year



lans will gather once again at Kryal Castle, Ballarat, to the rousing sound of a lone piper calling all kin within the mighty Castle walls, as the Highland Spectacular returns for its third year on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 August 2025.

A celebration of Scottish heritage and culture, this year's event promises to be even more spectacular, with Simon Abney-Hastings, the 15th Earl of Loudoun, returning as the Chief of the Day.

Displays of skill and strength

The crowd favourite battle between the knights of England and Scotland returns to the main arena. Lances will be smashed in the heroic joust to prove once and for all that Scots are indeed the superior warriors.

Armiger for Clan McKinnon and event producer, Andrew McKinnon, will wear the arms granted by Lord Lyon on his jousting shield, making him one of the few knights to fight under their own arms since the Middle Ages.

You'll also see 'The Bruce' demonstrating his prowess in the skill-at-arms, riding his mighty steed against de Bohun, and witness incredible feats of strength as the burly lads and lasses from Highland Muscle demonstrate caber tossing, hammer throw and other expositions of superhuman Highland strength.

Scottish culture comes to life

For those who have never been to Edinburgh for the Tattoo, this is as close as you can get outside of Scotland. See massed pipes and drums celebrating the music of Scotland in the main arena, and enjoy spirited Highland dancing.

For the animal lovers, there will be Highland ponies, a Highland cow, and the noble deerhound display.

Even more Clan tents will be available this year, offering attendees information on Scottish family origins and ancestry. There will be vendors selling kilts and Scottish regalia, haggis, potato scones, whisky and other delicious Scottish fare. Our featured Clan for the event will be Clan MacDonald.

On Saturday evening, enjoy a traditional Highland Feast with haggis and other fine Scottish culinary delights. Accompanying



the delicious food will be selected whiskeys and a talk about the distilling and tasting notes. After dinner, take part in a ceilidh, with the stirring Hebridean tunes of Auld Alliance, who will also teach you traditional dances.

Medieval family fun

There's plenty on offer at Kryal Castle to keep kids of all ages entertained, with the knight's school, archery, demonstrations, face painting, spell casting, potion-making and hands-on learning. Entry also includes access to the dragon's labyrinth, the knight's tower and throne room.

Highland Spectacular creative director, Andrew McKinnon, is excited about seeing the event grow in 2025. He said: "We saw thousands of people attend last year from the huge Scots diaspora around Ballarat and the Central Highlands region of Victoria. It was the biggest turnout to date. I hope that we can attract more proud Scots from wider afield. Kryal Castle is only an hour from Melbourne. To see all the amazing attractions and displays of Scottish culture in a Castle setting makes this the closest thing to being in Scotland. Let's not forget Ballarat has its own tartan!"

A proud history

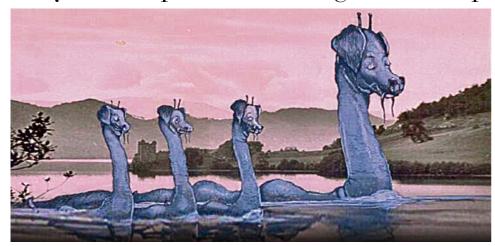
The Scots have a proud history in the Ballarat area. Many were attracted by the gold rush and were motivated to emigrate by poverty, famine and social upheaval. The city of Ballarat was first surveyed by William Swan Urquhart, born in Ross Shire, Scotland in 1818. Scottish emigrants took to the opportunities provided by early 19th century Ballarat, becoming merchants, foundry men, bankers, investors, pastoralists, and mine or business managers.

Their success can be seen in the number of Scots who became notable in public life and for their benevolence in public institutions such as schools, hospitals and public buildings. Notably, statues of both William Wallace and Robert Burns adorn the streets of Ballarat.

The Highland Spectacular is proudly presented by Kryal Castle. Kryal Castle Highland Spectacular tickets are allinclusive and on sale now. Tickets are available from the Kryal Castle website, www.kryalcastle.com.au/pages/highland-spectacular.



Why Nessie spotters haven't got the hump



ew research from the University of St Andrews has shown that those who claim to see the Loch Ness Monster are not influenced by traditional depictions of what she looks like. Throughout history, people have drawn serpentine aquatic monsters that undulate vertically at the surface of the water with visible humps. Even today Nessie memorabilia depicts the monster as having three humps.

In a new paper, published in the history of science journal *Endeavour*, Dr Charles Paxton of the University of St Andrews and Adrian Shine of the Loch Ness Centre looked at the history of hooped sea monster imagery and considered its current cultural prevalence. They investigated the frequency of such imagery in postcards, finding that around 25-32% of all Nessie postcards have hooped imagery. However, this swimming method would be very inefficient, so no real animals would swim this way at the surface.

Portravals of monsters

Those who claim to have seen Nessie seldom report hoops or humps – such description only occurs in around 1.5% of Nessie reports, implying that witnesses are not influenced by all the souvenirs and postcard imagery. This result goes against previous work which suggests witnesses are quite often influenced by media and other portrayals of monsters.

In the Nessie case, witnesses may not have seen a real monster, but these recent results do suggest that most witnesses do try to report what they experienced. Dr Paxton, from the University's Centre for Research into **Ecological and Environmental Modelling** (CREEM), said: "Scholars often assume that monsters are generated by cultural expectations, but it is always useful to test obvious hypotheses. In this case it really seems witness do not generally report the impossible, even though the hooped monster is a common portrayal of Nessie."

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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



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Cartersville, GA, 30121

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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

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> President: Alistair Cameron Secretary: Terry Cameron

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

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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

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public/AUSmembership.php

Contact: Kim Polley OAM

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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.

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

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For information and membership application, contact Richard Harvey, Secretary Email: lh100@tpg.com.au

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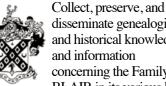
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to join our clan society. All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves Membership enquiries to Don Chitts Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com Website: http://clanfraseraustralia.org Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/

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

Septs shown on the member application form

available from the Clan's Facebook Group link

or by contacting the Hon. Secretary:

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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



Website: www.donnachaidh.com

E-mail: admin@donnachaidh.com

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



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



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https://clanmaclarenau.org/ clanmaclarenau@gmail.com



Clan MacNicol

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

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

New Zealand. Tony McPherson

The Clan Macpherson Museum is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1st April to 31st October.

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www.clanhay.com



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ope.org



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



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

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

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

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



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AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



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

www.clansinclairaustralia.com



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

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Chief: Mr Grant McKinna President Norman Macdonald Secretary Jan Macdonald

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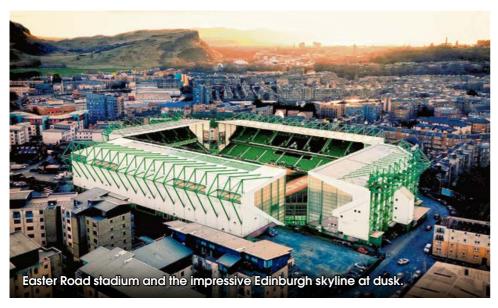
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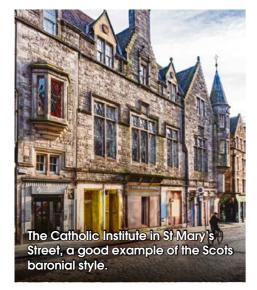
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The Mission of
Edward Joseph Hannan

Mike Hennessy

A new and unique book celebrates a rarely acclaimed figure behind the founding of Hibernian Football Club.





cotland's capital city is famous for many things, Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace, the Royal Mile, Princes Street, the port of Leith. It was home to many celebrated people: Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and John Knox among them. It is renowned for its dramatic townscape and the architecture of James Craig, Robert Adam, and William Henry Playfair and others. The 19th century city architect David Cousin's Scots Baronial style is evident in the High Street, Cockburn Street, Jeffrey Street and elsewhere. In one of his creations, the Catholic Institute at 16-28 St Mary's Street, a new entity was launched by the local parish priest on 6th August 1875. Edward Joseph Hannan of St Patrick's church in the nearby Cowgate announced that a football team was to be created for the benefit of his parishioners, mostly poor first and second-generation Irish who had escaped the Great Famine in the 1840s.

That football team, Hibernian Football Club, celebrates its 150th anniversary this coming season. The author of *Edinburgh's First Hibernian*, history graduate Mike Hennessy, is a lifelong Hibs fan which is what prompted him to shine a light on this rarely acclaimed figure who arrived in Edinburgh from Ballingarry, Co Limerick in 1861 at the age of 25 – and stayed till his death 30 years later, founding Hibs along the way.

Scotland's capital

Father Hannan arrived had an immediate impact on his arrival in Edinburgh, working to improve the physical and moral condition of his parishioners, living in some of the most appalling slum tenements with little sanitation, chronic overcrowding and the temptations of alcohol on every street corner and down each dark close. When the Irish arrived, they had little in the way of possessions, had few skills and many could not speak English, making them largely unemployable. Hannan's objective was to enable his fellow Irishmen to become valued citizens of Scotland's capital, contributing to the wealth of the city and to be welcomed rather than shunned by their largely Presbyterian hosts.

The vehicles he chose were education, exercise and temperance and to that end he opened a branch of the Catholic Young Men's Society (CYMS) in 1865 and moved it into the premises on St Mary's Street in 1870. The Catholic Institute was newly built following the Edinburgh Improvement Act which had paved the way for the demolition of many of the slums and the building of Cousin -designed replacements.

Hannan involved himself with the civic fabric of the city, joining the Parochial and Schools boards, sponsoring the multi-denominational United Industrial School and building St Ann's school in the Cowgate. The buildings have survived to the present day, as has the presbytery he built adjacent to his church. By involving himself in such matters, he ingratiated himself into Edinburgh society and was able to promote the interests of his parishioners and the poor in general. It is one reason why, when his football club was initially denied admission to the Edinburgh Football Association and the Scottish equivalent, on the grounds that they were Irish and not Scottish, he was able to convince the authorities to reverse their decision and not exclude his parishioners from the new and rapidly expanding game. At that time, Edinburgh boasted only four clubs, namely the 3rd Edinburgh Rifle Volunteers (ERV), Thistle, Hanover and



Heart of Midlothian, so Hibernian (by the 1880s also referred to as Hibs) added momentum; and a substantial following.

The Associations had also made their decisions based on a false premise. In the first few years after its founding, around half the playing staff had been born in Edinburgh, and one in England, and many of the club's financial backers were Scots, not Irish. When Father Hannan launched the club, in the great hall of the Catholic Institute which became known as St Mary's Street Hall, he could hardly have foreseen that within 12 years they would have won the Scottish Cup, an all too rare occasion since then. Nor that in the post war period it would boast arguably the best forward line Scotland has ever seen, the Famous Five. Gordon Smith, Bobby Johnstone, Lawrie Reilly, Eddie Turnbull and Willie Ormond. Nor for that matter that it would be celebrating 150 years in 2025.

The club has been at the forefront of change in several areas, from pylon floodlights, electronic scoreboards, shirt sponsors and undersoil heating to being the first British team to participate in what is now the Champions League, and the first Scottish team to tour Brazil in the 1950s.

To mark the founding of the club, there will be a series of events throughout the year which will be publicised on the club website, beginning with an exhibition at St Mary's Street Hall, where it all started, open to all fans, on the $6^{\rm th}$ of August (visit: www.hibernianfc.co.uk/150).

Edinburgh's Little Ireland

And to coincide with and further mark the occasion, the first ever biography of Canon Hannan will be published. It tells of how he was born on a farm near Limerick, the second of 11 siblings of how he witnessed the worst excesses of the famine as a teenager, and attended seminaries in Limerick and Dublin where his academic

record was outstanding, prior to arriving in Scotland. The book describes the social divisions, the national and political rivalries and the religious tensions in Edinburgh in the second half of the 19th century, the industrialisation and urban development of Scotland's capital, and the emergence of the game of association football, providing a backdrop to the achievements of the man, and how it was that he came to found the club. There is some new and unique research, from original documents, and an extensive list of books and articles, which gives a new perspective on exactly how the club came to be founded and the origins of its name, its motto and its early strips; how it lost half of its 1887 Cup winning team to the newly formed Glasgow Celtic; how it became embroiled in the politics of Irish Home Rule; before temporarily stopping playing altogether for some 18 months in 1891, after its home ground, Hibernian Park, was repossessed by its landlord for redevelopment.

Moreover, it takes the reader on a trip of Edinburgh's Little Ireland, the area from the Cowgate to the Grassmarket, noting its tributaries such as Blackfriars, Niddry and Guthrie Streets where Hannan visited his sick parishioners. And was on one occasion struck down by typhoid. It visits landmarks that still stand today such as the Heriot Schools, Freemasons Halls and Protestant and Catholic churches and schools which stood cheek by jowel, and traces Hannan's weekly trips to Castle Street or Lauriston in carrying out religious and civic duties.

Edinburgh's First Hibernian has glowing testimonials from a number of high profile individuals such as Charlie Reid of the Proclaimers, Malcolm McPherson, Hibs former Chairman, Edinburgh councillor Margaret Graham, and Hibs legendary player Pat Stanton who provides a foreword.

As one of them, the broadcaster and former professional footballer Pat Nevin aptly puts it, 'You don't have to be a Hibernian fan to enjoy it, but it might help.'

The richly illustrated book is available from 6th August in hardback (£25) from various bookstores in the City and from St Pat's Church, or can be pre-ordered online from Thirsty Books:

www.thirstybooks.com/bookshop/edinburghs-first-hibernian







WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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

Australia

AUGUST 2025

Free TryItOut Scottish Country Dance 2, Balwyn North, VIC

Scottish Country Dance Victoria is getting the word out-we have the best dance style ever and Scottish Country Dancing is alive and well in Melbourne. So come along and sample this lovely bit of Scottish heritage. SCDVic invites all to come along and try it out for free. Tickets for the TryItOut are free but required. We have a lovely big space, the Foard Williams room- a real charmer with lots of natural light and an excellent floor. There will be a paid course for New Dancers starting Saturday 9th. Info: www.socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=38288

The Warringah Scottish Society Ceilidh 2025 2, Collaroy, NSW

Share in a fun night of dancing and Scottish music at the Masonic Hall, Pittwater Rd. Info: www.facebook.com/WarringahScottishSociety

Tasmanian Whisky Week 2025 4-10, Hobart, TAS

A celebration of artisan Tasmanian distillers from across the state, with rare access to Australia's home of global award-winning whisky. Info:www.taswhiskyweek.com

Scots in the Bush 2025 13-17, Boondooma, QLD

A celebration of the Contribution of the Scottish people in opening up much of Australia with Celtic music, entertainment and more. Camping on site at Boondooma Homestead. Info: 07 4168 0159 or www.boondoomahomestead.org.au

Tascal Winter Ball Weekend 2025 15-17, Hobart, TAS

With events in and around Hobart, including the historic Town Hall, for dancing and music by Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt who will play with non-stop energy, inviting us to dance with passion and joy. Info: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1366285

Hunter Valley Highland Games 23, Lovedale, NSW

Experience Scottish tradition in beautiful Wine Country, with pipe bands, Scottish athletics and dance at Saltire Estate Winery, 113 Wilderness Rd. Info: 02 4058 3088 or www.huntervalleyhighlandgames.com.au

P/M Fred Adam Memorial Competition 23, Exeter, SA

The P/M Fred Adam Memorial Competition is held annually, in conjunction with the Port Adelaide Caledonian Society, to honour P/M Fred Adam's contribution to the South Australian piping fraternity at the Port Adelaide Caledonian Society Hall, 189 Semaphore Rd. Info: www.rubrown.org.au

Edinglassie Ceilidh

23, Brisbane, QLD

For those not in the know "Edinglassie" was the name originally proposed for Brisbane, as a combination of Edinburgh and Glasgow. Brisbane ended up being named to honour Scotsman Sir Thomas Brisbane (1773-1860). Join the Society of St Andrew of Scotland Queensland and Ishka Celtic Rock at the Royal on the Park Hotel & Suites. Info: www.ssaqld.tidyhq.com

Scotword answers from page 6

Scotword answers from page (
Across:	Down:		
1 Peat	1 Puffer		
3 Bap	2 Township		
5 Damson	3 Burnsnight		
8 Any	4 Paps		
9 Flower	5 Dyke		
10 Shetland	6 Sprain		
12 SOS	7 Ñeed		
13 Rash	11 Toe		
15 Nineteenth	14 Awe		
19 Neep	16 Niece		
20 Gleam	17 Tombstones		
21 Spey	18 Hay		
23 Privateers	19 Nip		
26 Rasp	21 Strength		
28 Tee	22 Ems		
29 Victoria	24 Inches		
32 Noggin	25 Ago		
33 Aye	27 Punnet		
34 Easter	29 Vale		
35 Ass	30 Roar		
36 Hart	31 Area		

Highland Spectacular 30-31, Ballarat, VIC

A weekend of Scottish events and entertainment at Kryal Castle. Including feats of strength and horse reenactments, Clans, pipe bands, historical displays, Scottish dancers and a Highland themed feast. Info: www.kryalcastle.com.au.

Lord of the Dance Australian Tour 30-September 6, Various locations

For 25 years, Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance has dazzled audiences around the world with its unique combination of high-energy Irish dancing, original Celtic music, storytelling and sensuality. Shows in Melbourne, Brisbane, Newcastle and Sydney and back in Australia for the first time since 2015 with a spectacular new production. Info: www.premier.ticketek.com.au

SEPTEMBER 2025

Toowoomba Caledonian Society & Pipe Band Celtic Ceilidh 6, Toowoomba, QLD

A night of Scottish fun with pipe band and Celtic performances, community Scottish country dancing, Highland dancing, raffles, and more at Drayton Hall, 39 Brisbane St, Drayton. Info: www.tcspb.com.au

Yass Irish and Celtic Music Festival 19-21, Yass, NSW

A Celtic music festival, set in a delightful rural valley, with a heritage rich in Irish and Celtic beginnings. Info: www.irishcelticmusicfestival.com

Scots on The Rocks' Chaotic Ceilidh 20, Sydney, NSW

Scots on The Rocks Chaotic Ceilidhs are filled with energetic dances that (almost) anyone can do. At Abraham Mott Hall, 15A Argyle Place, Millers Point. Info: Robert: 0435 154 433 or www.sotr.org.au/chaos

Clans on The Coast Celtic Festival 20. Raymond Terrace, NSW

This event has been postponed to 2026. Info: www.clansonthecoast.com.au

2025 South West Coast Piper **Drummer Dancer Workshop** 20-21, Warrnambool, VIC

A weekend of piping, drumming, drum majoring, fun and learning. Tuition from guest tutors and experienced instructors will be with an emphasis on identifying key areas for improvement and developing strategies to enhance performance at Kings College. Info: www.facebook.com/ SouthWestCoastPiperDrummer

Australian Highland Dancing Festival 26-28, Penrith, NSW

An exciting gathering of Highland Dance teachers, adjudicators, dancers, and supporters. Celebrate with live music, dancing, and plenty of Highland spirit at Penrith Panthers Leagues Club. Info: www.abhdi.com/highland-dancing-festival.html

Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival 27, Wingham, NSW

Experience the exhilarating rhythm of bagpipes as colourful floats and spirited performers sweep through this charming town. With pipe bands, Clans, Scottish stalls, Ladies & Lads Caber Toss, shortbread competition, Scottish concert and more. Info: www.bonniewingham.com or bonniewinghamscottishfestival@gmail.com.

New Zealand

AUGUST 2025

Celtic Pipe Band - Unplugged 2. Nelson

The Celtic Pipe Band proudly presents Unplugged: The Concert — a bold, strippedback celebration of the sound, spirit, and soul of one of New Zealand's most dynamic pipe bands at Nelson Centre of Musical Arts. Info: www.ncma.nz/events

Scottish Country Dancing 6, Palmerston North

Like lively Celtic music? Want to have fun while keeping fit? Come and try Scottish country dancing at the Whakarongo Community Hall, cnr Stoney Creek Rd & Napier Hwy. Info: Joy 0277 762 397 or www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/ scottish-country-dancing/palmerston-north

Papakura Pipe Band Ceilidh 9, Papakura

Featuring Papakura Pipe Band, RSA Franklin Pipe Band, and The Barnstormers. Come along to Karaka War Memorial Hall for a night of Scottish dancing, pipe bands, highland dancing, whisky toss and the famous haggis. Info: www.papakurapipeband.co.nz/ceilidh

Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh 9, Wellington

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

Auckland Biannual Ceilidh-August 2025

A high-energy evening packed with toe-tapping tunes, lively dances, and unforgettable fun. Whether you're a ceilidh regular or trying it out for the first time, this is your chance to be part of an incredible community event. No experience is needed as a caller calls (teaches) all the dances at Te Atatu Peninsula Community Centre, 595 Te Atatu Rd. Info: www.facebook.com/aucklandceilidhs

VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group-The Viol and its influence on Scottish music 28, Wellington

Robert Oliver, renowned New Zealand Viol player, will share his knowledge of this mediaeval instrument and how he has promoted it within New Zealand. Hopefully, we will be treated to a small recital as well at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay. Info: https://wellyscots.wordpress.com

Come Ceilidh Dancing! 29, Auckland

A ceilidh is the traditional Scottish community dance. Everyone is welcome; our friendly caller will explain everything, and our live band will get you on your feet and dancing at St David's in the Fields Church, 202 Hillsborough Rd, Hillsborough. Info: www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/ come-ceilidh-dancing/auckland/hillsborough

SEPTEMBER 2025

Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh 13, Wellington

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

NZSG Scottish Interest Group -**Greater Wellington Meeting**

September meeting. Brick walls and discussion at Tawa Union Church Lounge, 6 Elena Place. Info: www.genealogy.org.nz

Come Ceilidh Dancing!

26, Auckland

A ceilidh is the traditional Scottish community dance. Everyone is welcome; our friendly caller will explain everything, and our live band will get you on your feet and dancing at St David's in the Fields Church, 202 Hillsborough Rd, Hillsborough. Info: www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/ come-ceilidh-dancing/auckland/hillsborough

Scotland

AUGUST 2025

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 1-23, Edinburgh

Featuring the best of British Military with international performances from a global cast, at the incredible setting of Edinburgh Castle Esplanade. Info: www.edintattoo.co.uk

Edinburgh International Festival 1-24, Edinburgh

A celebration of the world's greatest performing arts, which takes place every August throughout the city's major theatres and concert halls. Discover the best artists from opera, music, theatre & dance on the world's greatest stage. Info: www.eif.co.uk

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

1-25, Edinburgh

The world's greatest platform for creative freedom, a unique celebration of performing arts at venues across Edinburgh. Info: www.edfringe.com

Clan Mackenzie International Gathering 2025 2-9. Inverness

Presented by Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland with talks, coach tours, ceilidh, gala dinner and more at various venues. Info: www.clanmackenziesociety.co.uk

Isle of Skye Highland Games 6, Portree, Isle of Skye

A traditional Scottish Games with pipe bands, athletics, dancing and more. Info: www.skye-highland-games.co.uk

Clan Menzies Clan Gathering 2025 7-10, Weem, Perthshire

The Clan Gathering is traditionally a highlight on the calendar of the Menzies Clan Society which is based at Castle Menzies. The Gathering is held annually over the second weekend in August and all MCS members with family and friends are welcome to attend. Info: https:// clanmenzies.org/2025-clan-gathering

European Pipe Band Championships

The European Pipe Band Championships attract over 120 pipe bands from all over the world to compete in all grades. Info: www.rspba.org

Abernethy Highland Games

9, Nethy Bridge

One of the oldest traditional Highland games in Scotland at Nethy Bridge Games Field. Info: http://nethybridge. com/abernethy-highland-games

Piping Live!

11-17, Glasgow

Glasgow International Piping Festival-A weeklong celebration of piping culture from across the world with events such as captivating performances, workshops, and fun taking place across the city. Info: www.pipinglive.co.uk

World Pipe Band Championships 15-16, Glasgow

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

Stirling Highland Games and International Gathering 2025 16, Stirling

A great day out blending tradition, athletic competition, and entertainment at Stirling Sports Village. Info: www. stirlinghighlandgames.com

Scottish Fiddle Orchestra Live in Aberdeen 23, Aberdeen

Come along and enjoy a gloriously unique programme of traditional Scottish music reels, strathspeys, jigs, marches & slow airs at Aberdeen Beach Ballroom. Info: www.sfo.org.uk

Oban Games

A day of Highland dancing, athletics, heavy field events and solo piping competitions, the Argyllshire Gathering's Oban Games is a highlight of the summer for the people of Oban, Argyll and visitors from around the world. Info: www.obangames.com

Cowal Gathering 28-20, Dunoon, Argyll

One of the largest, most spectacular Highland games in the world with world-class pipers, dancers and athletes competing, includes the World Highland Dancing Championships. Info: www.cowalgathering.com

Largs Viking Festival 30-Sepetember 7, Largs

From thrilling reenactments and lively parades to exciting workshops and delicious local food, there's something for everyone at this incredible celebration of Viking and Scots heritage. Info: www.largsvikingfestival.co.uk

By: Judy Vickers

The 500-year-old curse of the Border Reivers

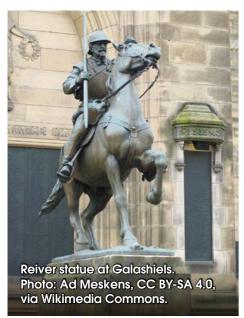


500 years ago this year, the Archbishop of Glasgow Gavin Dunbar issued the most extraordinary curse against the lawless reivers – the gangs who raided across the Scots/English border and who wreaked havoc on the lives of ordinary folk. The 1069-word curse in Scots was designed to be read out by priests in churches in the border lands and is amazingly thorough, cursing everything from their body parts to their animals and vegetables, as Judy Vickers explains.

he early 16th century was not a good time to be living on the lands on either side of the Scottish-English border. True, there was no point in the previous few centuries – ever since the Scottish-English border had started to form its modern route in the 11thcentury – where life had exactly been easy. Murder, theft, rape, kidnap and blackmail were part and parcel of everyday life. Cattle raids across the border could involve anything from a handful of men to 3,000 – a mini army, all armed and in their "steel bonnets" or helmets.

Reivers ruled

Reivers ruled – clans with more loyalty to family than distant king or country – and their colourful nicknames reveal the brutality of their existence – such as Jock "Half-Lugs" (Half-ears) Elliot, "Fingerless" Will Nixon and "Nebless" (Noseless) Clem Crozier. Many were killed in these cross-border skirmishes, including children, and clergy on both sides were not immune – a fine price could be raised by holding a man of the



cloth ransom. Perhaps understandable then that 500 years ago this year, in 1525, an exasperated Archbishop of Glasgow, Gavin Dunbar, lost all patience with the lawless gangs and issued a spectacular and remarkably thorough 1069-word curse in Scots designed to be read out by priests in churches in the border lands.

It starts with their body parts, moving from head to toe - "I curse thair heid and all the haris of thair heid [I curse their head and all the hairs on their head] . . . to the soill of their feit [sole of their feet]" – then curses them whatever they are doing – sleeping, walking, riding, sitting, standing, drinking and eating. It then includes their wives, children, servants, their pigs, hens and geese, their barns, stables, ploughs and even their cabbage patches.

He then calls for a range of Biblical horrors, including the flood of Noah, the fires of Sodom and Gomorra and the plagues of Egypt, to be rained down on them. "May the waters of the Tweed and other waters which they use, drown them, as the Red Sea drowned King Pharaoh and the people of Egypt . . . May the earth open, split and cleave, and swallow them straight to hell," he went on, forbidding any Christian to have anything to do with them, and concluding: "And, finally, I condemn them perpetually to the deep pit of hell, to remain with Lucifer and all his fellows, and their bodies to the gallows of the Burrow moor, first to be hanged, then torn apart with dogs, swine, and other wild beasts, abominable to all the world."

The growl of a toothless lion

It is the longest recorded curse in the English language but sadly failed to have little effect. It was "the growl of a toothless lion" according to Robert Borland, a Borders minister, in his book about the raids written in 1898. This was an area semi-detached from the rule of law in either Scotland or England, ever since the

border had started to form its modern route in the 11th century as Lothian – the area around and south of Edinburgh – was absorbed into the Scottish kingdom. Kings on both sides needed to keep Border lords sweet – they had a habit of changing side if they thought they could get a better deal. And government-appointed wardens were either ignored if they came from outside the area or stuck to family loyalties if local.

The border roughly followed the same line as it does now but there were many disputed sections – in the 13th century, six knights from Scotland and the same number from England attempted to walk the route but failed to agree, nor was a second attempt with double the number of knights any more successful. At the time of the curse, an area at the western end of the border was known as the Debatable Land a lawless no man's land, a haven for outlaws - with several other "disputed lands" along its length. At Ba' Green, for instance, the land was said to be held for the year by whichever side - Scotland's Coldstream or England's Wark - won an annual game of football. Few places had such civilised contests though; Berwick on Tweed, at the east end of the border, changed hands several times over the centuries, often bloodily - in 1296 much of the town was destroyed and many inhabitants massacred by the English king Edward I.

The area even had its own special legislation. The Law of the Marches ran in the Borders, allowing for Days of Truce where each side was given safe conduct in a chosen town while wardens attempted to sort out murder, theft and other disputes. The unique border law also allowed for the "hot trod", where wronged parties pursued cattle rustlers (complete with burning turf on the end of a lance) and executed summary justice if they came across the perpetrators red handed.

Notorious reiver families

And while the lives of the reivers (the name comes from the Old English meaning to rob) could sometimes be romanticised – the ballad of Johnnie Armstrong about the capture and execution of the leader of one of the most notorious reiver families has him squaring up bravely to the king – the preamble of the Archbishop's curse or monition makes it clear how horrific times must have been for ordinary folk.



"We hear how that men, wiffis and bairs, redeamed by the precious blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and living in his laws, are innocently part murdered, part slain, burned, hurt, spoiled and ripped, openly by daylight and under silence of the night, and their farms and lands laid waste, and their self banished therefor."

Dunbar, a fierce opponent of the new Protestant religion who oversaw the burning of heretics, was from an influential figure. His uncle was Archbishop of Aberdeen, he was tutor to the young James V and was made Lord Chancellor in 1528. But he was cursing at a bad time – the Battle of Flodden just 12 years earlier in 1513 had seen the death of the Scottish king James IV and the political situation between the two nations was unstable and volatile.

The reivers continued in their lawless ways then - during the reign of the English queen Elizabeth I later in the century there was even talk of rebuilding Hadrian's Wall to contain the violence. Bastle houses with the living quarters on the upper floor with any attackers having to climb a single defendable staircase - were common on both sides of the border. But it was only when the Scottish king James VI also took the crown of England that the reivers' days were numbered. No longer were there two sides to play off against each other and eventually the reivers were clamped down on with many hanged or banished to Ulster.





AUCKLAND 19 - 21 FEBRUARY 2026 EDEN PARK

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