



the Scottish Banner



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Volume 49 Number 3

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Expiry

The Banner Says...

The Scots combining passion with purpose



by Sean Cairney

Earlier this year we featured the incredible story of the Maclean brothers who are currently rowing their way from Peru across the Pacific Ocean to Australia. Long time readers may also recall we also featured the brother's incredible Atlantic row in 2020 where they spent 35 days crossing the ocean and setting three world records in the process (the first three brothers to row any ocean and the fastest and youngest trio to ever row the Atlantic Ocean).

Innovative spirit

The Maclean brothers are Ewan, Jamie, and Lachlan and they are not just a trio of Scottish adventurers, whose feats in ocean rowing are nothing short of extraordinary. What makes them so incredible is not just their physical endurance, but the sheer scale of their ambition, their innovative spirit, and their unwavering commitment to a cause far greater than themselves.

The brothers are rowing for clean water projects in Madagascar and have an ambitious target of raising £1 million to help tens of thousands of people to have clean water. Something that should be every human's right. In January I had the chance to meet the three brothers in Edinburgh as they were busily preparing for the journey and to send their 28-foot carbon fibre boat, *Rose Emily* (named in memory of their late sister) off to South America. During that meeting Jamie and Lachlan took me to see *Rose Emily*, which was built with Formula One

materials and was in storage on land waiting to be driven off to the port. The boat is small and the two cabins even smaller and I was only on board for a few minutes and wondered how anyone could spend a great deal of time aboard. I did not need to ask the brothers what their bond is like, as for anyone to venture on a vessel of that size you really must like your crew!

If like me you may have been following their journey online, you can visit either their website or social media accounts for all kinds of information on how they are doing day to day. There you can also see how they handle sea sickness, how they eat and drink (they survive on rehydrated meals and desalinated water), sleep and even use the loo. Beneath their boat, the depths of the Pacific Ocean have plunged to around 6,000 metres, or nearly four miles straight down, which is deeper than Ben Nevis stacked five times over. The nights have been dark, and wind has pushed them back, but they keep going.

It has been wonderful to see a list of celebrities reach out and help raise the profile of the mission. Ewan McGregor, Mark Wahlberg, Sam Heughan are just some of the names that have given the Maclean's the encouragement to keep going. And though their arrival into Sydney Harbour may not go to plan as they now look to come ashore in Cairns in Queensland, and will hopefully have done so by the time many read this, regardless they will have accomplished a tour de force in every possible sense of that phrase.

In this issue

Glasgow has again hosted the pipe bands from across the world at the 2025 World Pipe Band Championships. We feature this iconic event in this issue and congratulations to all the bands which took part.

We are also thrilled to feature Jacqueline McLaren, the Lord Provost of Glasgow, whose passion for Scotland's largest city is clear.

The city is celebrating its 850th anniversary this year, and the Lord Provost is rightfully proud of Glasgow's incredible history and exciting future ahead.

I recently again visited Culloden Battlefield. Culloden Moor marks the brutal 1746 defeat of the Jacobites, ending their uprising and triggering cultural suppression across the Scottish Highlands. The somber site is a war grave, and archaeologists will soon be scouring the site to look for more artifacts and pieces of this brutal story and sacred site in the Highlands.

Brotherly unity

As we complete this issue the Maclean brothers are at over 130 days of rowing unsupported. They have no engine, no sail, and no support crew and the brother's row in shifts around the clock. They have faced months of challenging conditions such as salt sores, sleep deprivation, inclement weather and technical failures and they have shown resilience, creativity, and brotherly unity.

But their journey is not just about athleticism and creating records. It's a mission to raise £1 million for clean water projects in Madagascar through their charity, The Maclean Foundation. Their story is a testament to what's possible when adventure meets purpose. They're not just rowing oceans—they are reshaping what it means to take on a monumental challenge for the greater good. As Lachlan said to me earlier this year "we are looking to combine passion with purpose", well that they truly have and we are all cheering them on with every stroke of their oars.

If any of our readers and followers can help, please do so. You can track their progress and donate to their £1 million fundraising target at: www.themacleanbrothers.com.

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.



Lachlan, Jamie, Ewan on the Pacific.

Gracing our front cover: Leading the way at the 2025 World Pipe Band Championships. Photo: Rob Casey/SNS Group.

Great Hall works commence at Kisimul Castle



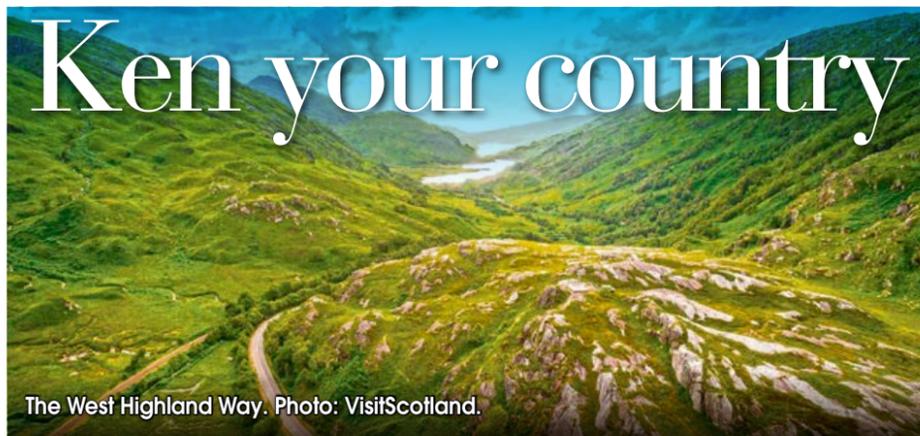
coat of arms which has been painted and lacquered, includes depictions of a Lion Rampant, a masted ship and Kisimul Castle, and was presented to Clan Macneil in 1968. The relocation activity also allowed for the documentation of the objects to be updated with new photographs and measurements, with condition checks also taking place.

These works are the next stage in HES's long-term goal to reopen Kisimul Castle to visitors once it is safe to do so. Last year, High-Level Masonry inspections and associated works took place to the exterior of the Castle. These works were the start of a programme to address concerns related to the Castle's concrete and reinforcement bars following a major 20th century restoration, as well as the impacts of salt and moisture from Kisimul Castle's coastal location.

Essential conservation works to the Great Hall at Kisimul Castle on Barra, have started Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has announced. The works will look to employ new interventions to address concerns with the concrete and its internal reinforcement bars. A secondary structure will be installed beneath the existing concrete, using non-ferrous materials, timber and blockwork, which will be more suited to the aggressive maritime environment. This will allow HES to safely carry out further necessary works to the interior of the Castle. It is estimated that the Great Hall works will take approximately three weeks to complete.

This follows an intricate operation to temporarily relocate historic objects from the Great Hall to ensure their protection while the works are underway. The artefacts, which are owned by The Macneil of Barra, include six muskets, two halberds and an impressive armorial. The muskets and halberds are stamped with dates from 1742 and 1743, dating them back to the time of the Jacobite Risings. The armorial, a metal

In March this year, HES also carried out repairs to the slipway which will help to facilitate access for visitors once the Castle has reopened. James MacPherson, District Architect at HES, said: "We are delighted to be progressing works to the interior of the castle which is a key milestone in our programme of conservation work and is another step forward in our long-term plans to reopen Kisimul Castle to visitors. We appreciate that the communities of Barra and Vatersay are keen to showcase Kisimul Castle to visitors who arrive from all over the world, and we will continue to work closely with the local community. We are pleased to run free seasonal boat trips around the bay and Castle again this year and hope visitors enjoy exploring the wider area while access to the Castle is currently restricted."



The West Highland Way. Photo: VisitScotland.

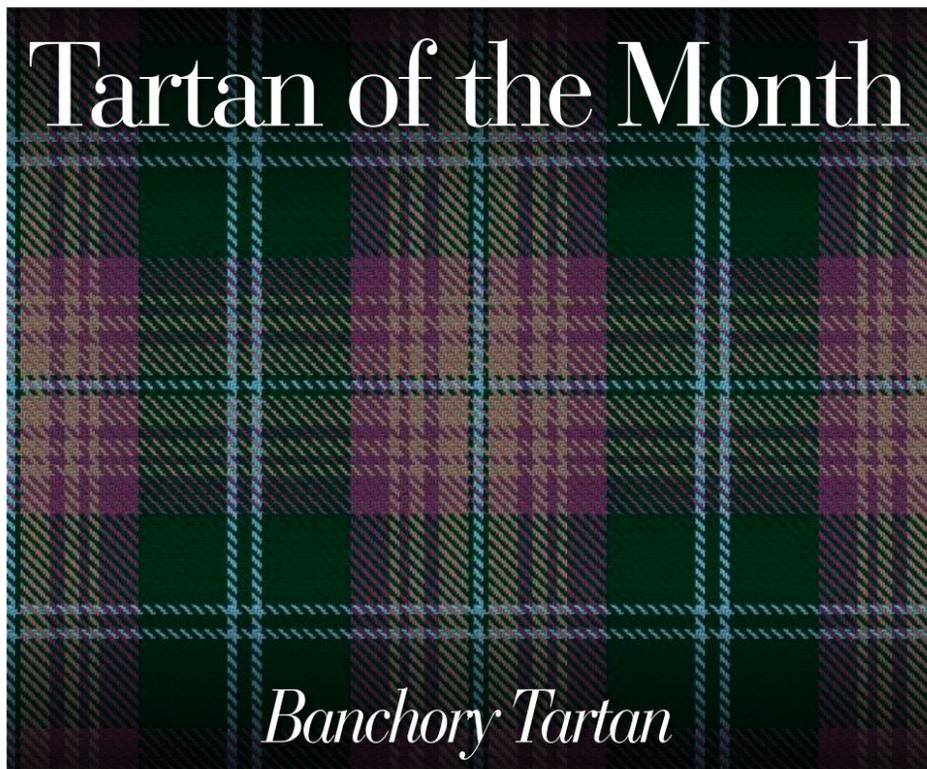
How well do you know Scotland? To test your knowledge, we have assembled ten fun questions on its geography, history and culture. So, get your map of Scotland out and start, but if you get stumped, the solutions can be found underneath. Good luck!

- 1 A 'Munro' is a Scottish mountain above which height – 2,000 ft, 3,000 ft or 4,000 ft?
- 2 If a Scot is said to be sprack, what is s/he?
- 3 Which Scottish train station is believed to be the first railway station in the world named after a work of literature?
- 4 Scotland is known for whisky production but how many gin distilleries are in the country?
- 5 What Scottish show was the longest running police drama on UK television?
- 6 What was the Portree Telephone Exchange?
- 7 In which sport is a caman used?
- 8 What is Scotland's oldest musical instrument?
- 9 What kind of weather is described in Scotland as smolt?
- 10 How long is the West Highland Way? a) 86 miles, b) 96 miles or c) 106 miles?

Answers:

- 1 A Munro is a mountain with a summit of at least 3,000 feet (914.4 meters).
- 2 Lively or alert.
- 3 Edinburgh Waverley railway station is named after Sir Walter Scott's novel, Waverley.
- 4 There are over 90 distilleries in Scotland that produce gin. These distilleries are located throughout the country, from the Scottish Borders to the Shetland Islands.
- 5 Taggart was a police drama series originally based on the character of Glaswegian police detective Jim Taggart from the city's Maryhill CID and ran for 27 series and 110 episodes.
- 6 The Portree Telephone Exchange, located on the Isle of Skye, was the last manual telephone exchange to be closed in the UK. It closed on October 14, 1976, marking the end of public manual telephone systems in the UK.
- 7 Shinty, it's the stick the player uses to strike the ball.
- 8 The clarsach which is a small Celtic harp.
- 9 Fair and calm with a blue sky.
- 10 b) The West Highland Way stretches for 96 miles (154 Km) from Milngavie to Fort William.

Tartan of the Month



Banchory Tartan

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

This design is intended to reflect the heritage and natural surroundings of Banchory, Kincardineshire.

Colours: green is for the abundance of forestry, agriculture and the Scots Pine; blue is for the River Dee; light brown represents the sandy pink Hill of Fare granite, prominent in local architecture and purple is for the heather covered hills and the town's historic lavender trade. This tartan (reference: 14892) was designed by Lochcarron of Scotland and registered in July, 2025.



Glenfiddich Piping Championship 2025

Saturday 25th October 2025 at 10am • Blair Castle, Blair Atholl, PH18 5TL

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship was established in 1974 to inspire the world's finest individual pipers. Join the 10 top solo pipers in the world this year for a fantastic day of performances. Following the day of playing, the Pipers' Ceilidh will take place once again at the Atholl Palace hotel in Pitlochry. Tickets are onsale now to be there in person for the day!

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For tickets and information, visit:
www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/glenfiddich



SCOT POURRI

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

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

Kilchurn Castle

Kilchurn Castle, situated on Loch Awe at sunrise. The Campbells of Glenorchy were the most powerful cadet branch of the Clan Campbell, and over two centuries from the 1430s came to dominate the central Highlands.

The building of several castles, of which Kilchurn was the first, was a key part of their territorial expansion during this period. Sir Colin Campbell, 1st of Glenorchy (died 1475), was a younger son of Duncan Campbell, 1st Lord Campbell, ancestor of the Earls of Argyll. Sir Colin was granted Glen Orchy and other lands by his father in 1432, and afterwards established Kilchurn around 1450. The first castle comprised



the five-storey tower house, with a courtyard defended by an outer wall. At the time Kilchurn was on a small island scarcely larger than the castle itself, and would have been accessed via an underwater or low-lying causeway.

Thomas Lamont
The Kilted Photographer
Falkirk, Scotland

St Kilda



Photo: National Trust for Scotland.

I read your editorial on St Kilda with interest (*The evacuation from the 'Edge of the World', the Scottish Banner, August, 2025*). St Kilda might be quite isolated miles off the nearest Outer Hebrides landfall but there has been a lot written about it. One book was written by (later, Emeritus) Professor Eric Richards (now deceased) from Flinders University. As a friend Eric was a great source of inspiration to me over the years. He was known over the world for his groundbreaking work on better understanding Scottish emigration during earlier times. Amongst his many books is *From Hirta to Port Phillip*, written in 2010 for the Islands Book Trust. In it he traces some of the early St Kilda inhabitation and then, more specifically, the ill-fated emigration 36 Kildans to Victoria in 1852.

Unlike some of the brutal Highland Clearances, it was not motivated by landlord greed, but rather to take up challenge in a rapidly modernising world in which they were being left behind. Being so far out in the Atlantic Ocean, they had few visitors and only a handful of their own had been to the Scotland we know. Its population lived a quite reasonable life mainly off birds and hard-caught fish.

They reported as content in their stable but primitive environment, protected quite a bit from the stresses and strains found in the rest of the country. But to some of the people they were fascinated by the outside world resulting in a handful of them considering emigration. So, in September 1852 36 individuals comprising eight families (Ferguson, Gillies, MacDonald, McCrimmen and MacQueen) set sail under the auspices of the Highland and Islands Emigration Society. The benevolent and absent landlord, John McPherson McLeod, assisted them

greatly, making sure that they had funds to start a new life in a, to them, a quite strange world. He even went so far as to accompany them through several stops all the way to Glasgow.

They went first to Harris and then to Skye where they stayed for a few weeks being joined by some 350 others who were to make the trip to Australia. There they embarked on the *Priscilla*, the ship that was to make the journey, for Glasgow.

The voyage lasted 98 days arriving at the Port Phillip quarantine station on 19th January 1853. Although the ship was quite a quality one, only 17 of the Kildans were still alive when they departed the station a few weeks later. This was largely because their previous isolation had not protected them the illnesses of the outside world.

From there, despite their lack of English those who were fit were able to gain employment. Outside of the work of Eric Richards little is known how they fared upon arrival, although one of their number, a MacQueen was able to get something written down.

The final note is that the voyage of the 36 cut the overall St Kilda population to about half and in 1930 the rest of the residents were evacuated, leaving the place for scientific, heritage and occasional tourists purposes.

Ron Layton
Crafers, South Australia

Ed note: Thanks Ron for sending us this additional great bit of detail on this dramatic story.

PS Waverley



How lovely to read about the *Paddle Steamer Waverley* in your July edition. I have very fond memories of sailing on her as a kid and I have been fortunate to return to Scotland and sail on her with my children. The *Waverley* is more than just

nostalgia as it continues to light a spark in the eyes of those that sail her, regardless of age! I recommend anyone visiting Scotland to try and get on one the trips that take place from spring each year and see Scotland in a different way and experience what so many did in the past.

I have travelled the world over and Scotland will forever for me not just be the land of my birth, but also my favourite holiday destination. And as Billy Connolly has said 'There is no such thing as bad weather, just poor clothing choices!'

I really enjoy the articles presented in *the Scottish Banner*, which does so much to promote Scotland and thank you to all the writers who give us so much information on bonnie Scotland.

John Skene
Oakville, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Thanks for sharing your memories John and we agree a trip on the *Waverley* is a must.

James MacKenzie

I find your newspaper to be immensely interesting. My grandparents emigrated to New Zealand at the beginning of the 20th century, and I have had the pleasure to visit the land of my Scottish forbears. My poem is an important part of New Zealand folk lore, a huge region of the South Island of New Zealand is named Mackenzie Country, commemorating the story of Mackenzie and his dog moving sheep in that place.

James MacKenzie 1855-1856

Where sheep graze sun stunted fodder
And dewy flats lie
A lone shepherd with a dog
Cast a thoughtful eye.

The stockman walked a rugged route
Above the tawny grass
James MacKenzie stealing sheep
From north of Timaru
By Dunstan Ranges
Through Lindu Pass
Was the route he took them through.

An overseer saw him
And with two Maori tied him up
As the strong eyed dog Friday
Runs like a frightened pup.

Then MacKenzie made his own escape
Below the mountain tops
But one hundred miles north at Lyttelton
Was recaptured by the cops.

He goes to court a Scottish man
Accused of stealing sheep
Where he yawned or Gaelic
While looking half asleep.

Twice he escaped from prison
But didn't get away
The public gave him sympathy
And wanted to have their say
Five years hard labour's far too much
So, the Magistrate pardoned him.

And it was true, and it was weird how
James and dog disappeared.

JJ Fagan

Palmerston North, New Zealand

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Highland Coo



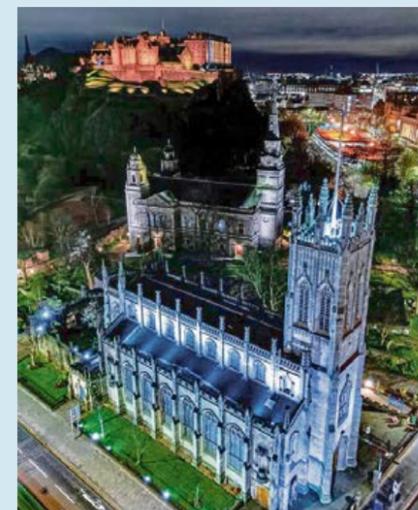
What a face!
Mik Coia

Doune Castle



Golden sunshine at Doune Castle.
Jamie Taylor Photography

Edinburgh



The west end of Princes Street. Looking over St. John's Scottish Episcopal Church and The Parish Church of St Cuthbert with Edinburgh Castle in the background.
Craig Duncan Photography

PS Waverley



Paddle Steamer Waverley passing Largs.
Fly - Caledonia

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



Lady MacGregor of MacGregor – otherwise known as British writer and broadcaster Fiona Armstrong - works for ITV news and current affairs. Fiona's husband is the Chief of Clan Gregor, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor. She is an active member of Clan Armstrong, so their lives are interwoven with all things tartan. The couple live in the Scottish Borderlands, although filming and writing takes Fiona all over Scotland.



Lady Fiona with Charles Vandervaart.



Clan Gregor Society with Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor.



Richard Baird, Sir Alexander Matheson of Matheson, Robert Currie, John Cochran, Vice President of Council of Scottish Clans & Associations, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Lady Saltoun, Viscount Dunrossil and the Master of Saltoun.

Greetings! Not from Scotland this time – but from across the pond... The MacGregor and I are in Canada and guests at the country's biggest clan gathering. 58 clans are represented. It is a sell-out crowd. What a weekend! This is the 80th Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games, and it has it all. Heavy event athletes, Highland dancers, pipe bands, tartan and kilts... As they say: '80 years of Scotland without the airfare.'

It is a milestone anniversary and the weather is hot. How apt then that the Red Hot Chilli Pipers are among those topping the bill. Bagpipes with attitude, as they say. There is a blast from the past with Scotland's original boy band. It is the Bay City Rollers, complete with songs like *Bye Bye Baby* and *Shang a Lang* – and still going strong fifty years on.

Then the past is all around. Not least with the re-enactment group, the Atholl Brigade Recreated. These are Jacobite soldiers, and whilst they look somewhat scary, they are most hospitable.

Their womenfolk invite visiting chiefs into their tent to eat cheese and biscuits and drink lemonade and whisky. The fare is delicious, yet they apologise for its simplicity. On another day they would be roasting a hog on a fire, but this year flames are not allowed because of the fear of wildfires.

Official guests

But who are these guest chiefs? The MacGregor is there as Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. Then there is the Fraser Chief, Lady Saltoun, and her son, Alexander Fraser, the Master of Saltoun. Sir Alexander Matheson of Matheson is present. Steven MacTavish of Dunadry is there, too. As is the Vice Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, Viscount Andrew Morrison. Yes, there's no shortage

of chiefs, and feathers further abound, with Commanders Robert Currie, Richard Baird of Riccarton and Michael McAlpin.

With time to explore, we make our way through the festival grounds. Past the whisky village and the tea tent. Past the Sugar Shack and the British Baked Goods vans. Flags fly, bonnets abound. Then there is another journey back in time with the *Outlander* tent. One of the series stars, the actor who plays William Ransom is there and he is utterly charming. Charles Vandervaart is a local lad, and I confess I am a wee bit starstruck. It seems I am not alone. The ladies queue up to have their picture taken with him - whilst others vie to be seen with another famous face.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms is the Chieftain of the games. He is the person who officially opens the festival, and he does it in style. Dr Joe Morrow is Scotland's ultimate authority on coats of arms and heraldry. He is highly learned and amusing, and as such, is incredibly popular on the clan circuit.



Young piper Callum with Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor.

Yes, Joe is always much in demand. Not least to judge the clan tents. After a visit to all 58, he decides the winning prize must go to the Frasers - with Clan Gregor a close runner-up. It is no surprise that we get a mention. Because our own tent is a tartan triumph. Inside tartan and heather abound, with an amazing timeline that shows our Scottish and Canadian clan histories. There is a team photo as clansmen and women arrive for a meet and greet breakfast.

Deep Scottish roots

The Canadian chapter of the Clan Gregor Society was started more than a decade ago by Wayne MacGregor Parker, and under his guidance, it has truly blossomed. We exchange news and eat home-made scones and muffins. Then there is a delightful interlude. A nine-year-old boy in a Macgregor kilt approaches with his parents and asks to play for the MacGregor. His name is Callum, and he is the youngest piper in the Rob Roy Pipe Band from Kingston, Ontario and one of Canada's oldest. The young man is loaned a chieftain's bonnet for the occasion.

What a weekend! We are so warmly welcomed. Then the town of Fergus has deep Scottish roots. Indeed, it got its

name from one of its Scottish founders, Adam Fergusson. From the memorable ride down St Andrew Street in a carriage pulled by Clydesdale horses, to the delicious dinner at the Breadalbane Inn. From the mass Highland dances performed by the young, to the pipe and drum bands that kept us utterly enthralled.

Thank you, Fergus, and thank you Canada! We would love to come back...



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SCOTSPEAK

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



“Each one of Scotland’s UNESCO sites tells a story of Scotland’s rich and varied culture, history and heritage. Together, they form a powerful showcase of Scotland’s unique proposition as a year-round sustainable tourism destination. The UNESCO Trail has been a pioneering project led by VisitScotland in partnership with sites across the country and this analysis shows the clear value of the initiative as it helps build a compelling story that is attracting tourists and visitors from across the world to our incredible, unique UNESCO sites up and down the country.”

Business Minister Richard Lochhead said the world-leading Scotland’s UNESCO Trail has been hailed a success, as new findings from VisitScotland reveal that it inspired two in five visitors to visit one of Scotland’s designated UNESCO sites. It finds that the trail not only raised Scotland’s profile as a holiday destination but also as a “global leader” in promoting UNESCO values and responsible, sustainable tourism practices – with other countries inspired to create their own version.

“While we have no indication of the cause of the fire, the majority of fires of this nature are started by human behaviour. Responsible human behaviour can significantly lower the chance of a fire starting. It’s vital to follow all safety advice when outdoors and to make sure you are familiar with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code at all times.”

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service group commander Niall MacLennan said as a large grass and gorse fire took hold at Edinburgh’s iconic Arthurs Seat. Smoke covered the city as the extinct volcano that overlooks Edinburgh went alight. The area which is popular with both tourists and locals was evacuated as the flames spread and there were no reported casualties.



“It goes back in time even further, which is great because it links into an earlier period of history that we can tap into. Our recent visitor surveys show that around 30% of international visitors are inspired to come to Scotland having seen this nation on film and TV, and Outlander plays a huge role in that. There’s a real love for the series and of course it keeps filming

going in Scotland which helps boost the economy, it helps with locations, and it helps us to showcase Scotland. We’re not seeing any sign of the original Outlander fans slowing down, so hopefully this will really engage people for years to come.”

Jenni Steele, film and creative industries manager for Visit Scotland, said as the new Outlander prequel *Blood of My Blood* was released around the world. The *Outlander* series has had a huge impact on bringing visitors to Scotland, with tourism groups across Scotland calling it the “Outlander effect”.

“I’ve always been in and around the mountains growing up and, whenever I was walking them, and there was a good bit of trail in front of me I’d just wish I had my bike. Eventually I just decided I’ll start taking my bike up them.”

Mountain biker Sean Green said after riding his bike down all of Scotland’s 282 Munros. In Scotland a Munro is a mountain with a summit of at least 3,000 feet (914.4 meters).

“This is by far the oldest and most important thing I have found. I go from field to field, and I got a really good signal so started digging down. Then I got a good display reading, so thought ‘there’s something there’. There’s a saying with metal detectorists - ‘if in doubt, dig it out.’”

Metal detectorist Cameron Anderson said after he uncovered a Bronze Age axe head in Aberdeenshire. The axe was believed to be 4,000 years old and was quite common in Scotland during that time period.



Photo: UHI Archaeology Institute.

“This is such an exciting find. Over the years excavating at Skaill and The Wirk – the nearby hall tower – we have found several interesting, moulded pieces of red sandstone but nothing like this! The rich, red sandstone, with yellow inclusions, was likely quarried from the island of Eday and is the same as the moulded fragments from the nearby St Mary’s old parish church. For now, the Skaill head must remain a fascinating enigma in terms of date, origin and use, but its discovery, along with many other fine pieces of carved red sandstone, as well as those built into the nearby kirk, strongly suggests a building of some splendour once stood in the vicinity.”

Dr Sarah Jane Gibbon, University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute, said a carved stone head from Skaill farm in Rousay dig was an unexpected but spectacular find. The carving looks as though it was meant to be seen from the front, at a slight angle to show the front part of the top of the head, which has beautifully carved locks of hair. The eyes appear closed, as there is nothing to indicate pupils, and the slight smile and asymmetric eyebrows express real character.

The United States Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps bring USA history to this year’s 75th Anniversary Tattoo

Against the iconic backdrop of the Ross Fountain and Edinburgh Castle, The United States Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps enjoyed a tour of Edinburgh’s Princes Street Gardens during their recent performances at The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Making their Tattoo debut in 2025, and wearing uniforms dating back to 1784, the United States Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps brought a wealth of history to help celebrate the 75th Anniversary Show this year.

As the US Army’s oldest active infantry regiment, their performance paid a special tribute to the US Army’s 250 years of

service, proudly honouring the traditions that accompanied the birth of the United States of America. The United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps is the only unit of its kind in the US Military, and is part of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard). They have performed at key events across the USA from sporting to the Olympics and have also performed at the arrival ceremonies at the White House for foreign heads of state and have been a part of every Presidential Inauguration Parade since President John F. Kennedy. The Fife and Drum Corps is based at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Virginia.



SCOTWORD

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

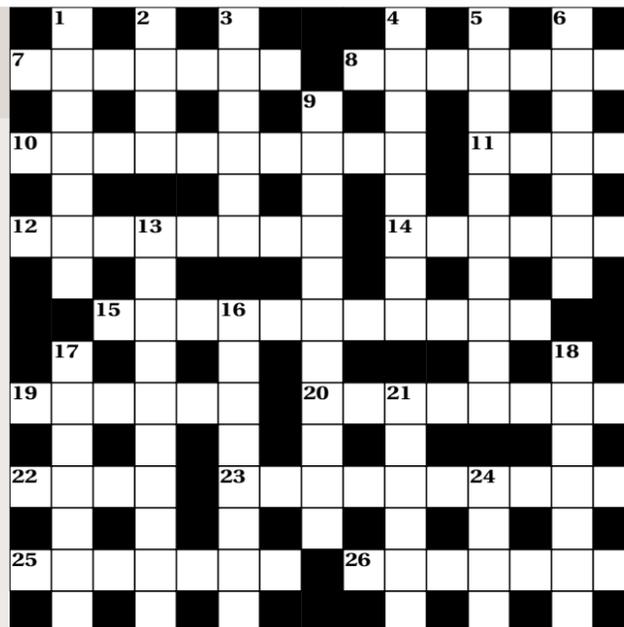
CLUES ACROSS

- 7) A Scotsman’s leather pouch
- 8) Where they spell it whiskey
- 10) Highland Region
- 11) Scots dagger
- 12) Enter it by a close!
- 14) Scots girl could be a dog!
- 15) Prominent sight in Edinburgh
- 19) Seen at Highland Games

- 20) Scrambled eggs
- 22) A stable company
- 23) The auld enemy
- 25) UK currency before pounds
- 26) Narrow flag

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Smart trees!
- 2) Cunning piece of stonework
- 3) Describing Dunvegan’s flag
- 4) Used for baking cakes
- 5) A Scottish heavy horse
- 6) State of inactivity
- 9) Glasgow district
- 13) Added to the value
- 16) A stock-keeper
- 17) Exhaustion
- 18) Tingling with desire
- 21) Number in a soccer team
- 24) Her Majesty’s daughter



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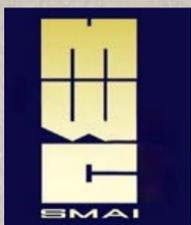
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Glasgow-Celebrating 850 years

The Scottish Banner speaks to Jacqueline McLaren, the Lord Provost of Glasgow



The Lord Provost is Glasgow's First Citizen and the position dates back hundreds of years. Can you briefly tell us about the role of the Lord Provost and just how proud you are to hold this historic title?

JM: It is a great honour to be singled out as the First Citizen of a city this size and the role itself goes back 550 years, and I am the sixth woman to hold this position. There will be more women to come after me of course and it is a 5-year term. The Lord Provost role is to meet and greet people who come from all over the world when they visit Glasgow. We have conferences, civic receptions, various birthdays and key events taking place year-round and we do a lot of engagement with the young people in the city about civic pride. We have thousands of young people here at the city chambers because they are the future of the city, so you need to try and get them involved in the process as early as possible.

I like also going into communities to meet people and local community groups. I am from the north of the city, and I know all the community groups in that area, but it's great to try and touch base with other community groups that are doing similar work across the city. It inspires me and makes me want to do more. Glasgow is full of extraordinary people doing great things.

Glasgow is celebrating 850 incredible years in 2025. Can you tell us about the Glasgow 850 celebrations and how visitors can get involved?

JM: Anybody can become involved, it's all on the Glasgow 850 website. There have been a lot of things that have happened this year so far, we did the Port Stones of the original medieval city which is a

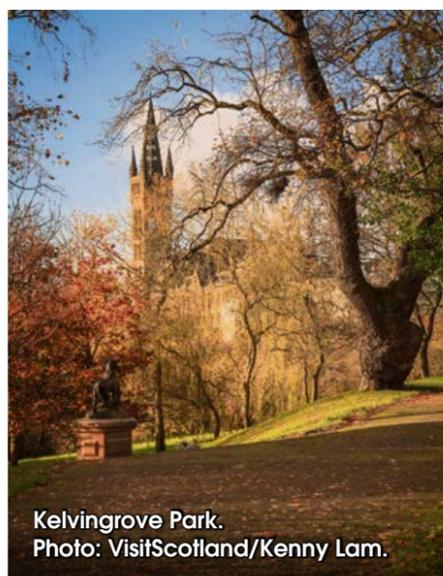
tourist point of interest, if people want to see how big the city was back in 1175, which was then only a small settlement of about 300 people, just off High Street at the Cathedral. That was the original settlement of Glasgow around that area. We did the Port Stones for people to see what the city looked like then, and if you look at the city now and just how amazing it has become. Glasgow is now a booming city of nearly 1 million people and Glasgow 850 celebrates our story. There are lots of events happening and we invite everyone to come along and get involved.

The phrase 'People Make Glasgow' is so much more than a marketing slogan, it is fact. What is it about the Glaswegian character, humour and spirit that inspires you?

JM: The straight talking, I love just been told by people and it's just the straight talk. There is no hidden agenda with people in Glasgow. If you're a tourist visiting and



Glasgow City Chambers: Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.



Kelvingrove Park. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

you have your guide book in your hand looking for somewhere, a Glaswegian will walk up and say, 'can I help you?'. Glaswegians are very friendly, and they will often show you where to go or may even take you to your destination, and then you hear their life story and then they want to hear your life story.

Glaswegians are like that, you can stand at a bus stop and between waiting for the bus and the time the bus arrives, you know the person's life story. And there's always information sharing, Glaswegians are very good sharing information with each other. That is what's great about us, we're just lovely friendly people. The world needs to realise that when they come here that is what they will find. I think we are the friendliest place on the planet.

The city of Glasgow gets its name from the Gaelic translation of Glaschu meaning Green Glen. The city has affectionately been also dubbed the 'Dear Green Place' as it boasts an impressive range of vibrant green and open spaces. What do you feel makes Glasgow so special in terms of its incredible greenspace offerings?

JM: For me the parks really do make Glasgow. If you look at places like the Botanic Gardens, which houses the beautiful Victorian glass houses, which you don't see very many of them in the world. For me, it's just the tranquil places, the beautiful places, and the places full of running water. We have the River Clyde, Kelvin and the Forth and Clyde Canal.

We are surrounded by blue and green places, which is really good for your mental health. Right now in Stockingfield Bridge in North Glasgow we are transforming a derelict landsite into Scotland's largest ceramic art park. Once it is finished Bella the Beithir the mythical serpent will become one of the points of interest on the Forth and Clyde Canal.

Glasgow is full of extraordinary people doing great things.

Ruchill Park gives people a great view of the city, people have enjoyed the view of Glasgow from this park since Victorian times. The park also gets around one million daffodils growing in it every year. Queens Park and Kelvingrove are also jewels of the city and have wonderful bandstands with lots of events taking place and beautiful walks to be done. Glasgow is a beautiful city with beautiful places to visit.

Glasgow 2026 will host the 23rd edition of the Commonwealth Games next summer. What can visitors to the city look forward to in 2026 and what impact does hosting an event such as the Commonwealth Games have on the city's brand?

JM: Next year is going to be really buzzing with people from all over the world descending on Glasgow. Athletes will be living in hotels, so if you are a visitor, you may even be in a hotel with a famous athlete. Visitors coming to Glasgow for the Games can look forward to the atmosphere, which I think will be quite electric. Since the 2014 Games we have moved on quite a bit as a



Glasgow skyline. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.



Inside Glasgow City Chambers. Photo: The Scottish Banner.



The River Clyde.
Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

city, and we have a lot more venues and places for people to visit. I think there will be some real excitement here and visitors will be part of that. The Games are a great thing for us to again host and shows that Glasgow can host world class events and do it well.

In 2008 Glasgow was named a UNESCO City of Music. The city hosts some incredible music events and has a diverse music offering. What do you feel about the city's vibrant music scene that makes it the music capital of Scotland?

JM: I have been going to clubs and pubs since I was young. We had music festivals and concerts and when you grow up in the city you are going to have the amazing music scene part of your life. Today the music scene is even better and has evolved.

In Glasgow you could tap the table to join in with a folk band or singalong. So, you can actually join in and be part of that experience. That is what is great about Glasgow, you are invited to be involved, and you become Glaswegian as soon as you sit down.



Glasgow's iconic music venue. Photo: VisitScotland/Luigi Di Pasquale.

Glasgow City Chambers was opened by Queen Victoria in 1888 and is still today one of Scotland's most impressive buildings. Can you tell us a bit about the building and how visitors can include a visit on their next trip to Glasgow?

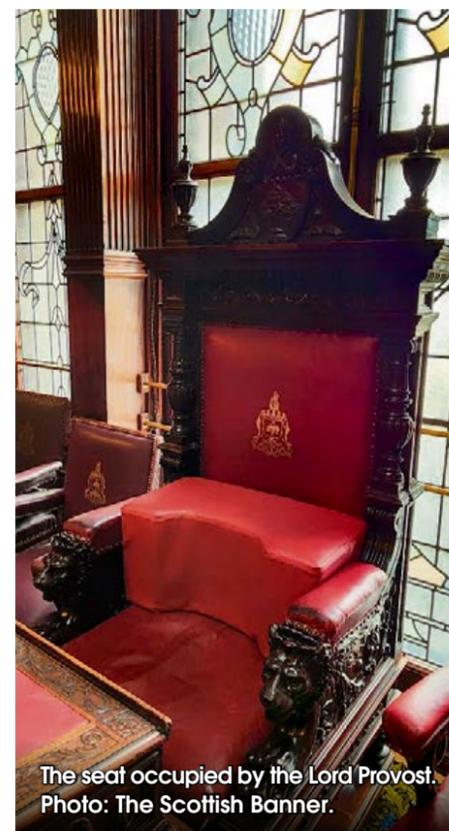
JM: The City Chambers is a marvellous jewel in the crown of Glasgow. The building was built in 1888 and it was opened by Queen Victoria. The chair the Lord Provost sits on is a massive wooden chair with red leather, this same chair Queen Victoria sat on which she convened the first meeting here and I sit on that every six weeks when I convene the full council and make sure everyone's voices are heard.

The building itself has the largest white marble staircase in all of Europe, more than the Vatican. Visitors can take the free tours available and get an inside look at this incredible building. I try a couple of

times a month to visit a tour and speak to visitors about the building and the city. There are tours twice a day Monday to Friday and I encourage everyone who comes to Glasgow to come into the City Chambers.

Your role as Lord Provost will take you all over Glasgow and have you meet so many unique people and places. Do you have tips for a visitor to Glasgow? Perhaps even some of your favourite hidden gems someone may wish to consider including on their visit to Glasgow?

JM: The tour buses are great because they will take you to all the gems in the city. My favourite place is the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and I have been going there since I was a child. I love the smell as soon as I walk in and it is a home from home for me. I would suggest readers



The seat occupied by the Lord Provost.
Photo: The Scottish Banner.

do some research about Glasgow and look at what they really want to experience. So much is also free in Glasgow, our museums are free and we just ask people to leave a small donation in the boxes to help run these special places. It is important people experience all our culture when here, our food, music and history.

For more information on Glasgow 850 visit: glasgow850.com and visitglasgow.com.

For Glasgow City Chambers tour information visit: www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/1066/City-Chambers-Tour

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY

Official Glasgow 2026 mascot Finnie unveiled



The official mascot of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games has been revealed, as the countdown passed the one year mark until the most eagerly anticipated sporting event of 2026. Finnie – a proud Glaswegian unicorn – was spectacularly unveiled at dawn, appearing at the top of the city’s famous Finnieston Crane, which is also her namesake. The ‘hooved-hypemaster’ was seen flying a special banner on top of the Clydeside landmark to announce her arrival. The magical mascot was imagined with the help of 76 children from 24 schools from communities across Glasgow – known as Mascot Makers. ‘Fun, cool, and sassy’ Finnie’s signature feature is a horn inspired by the famous traffic cone on top of the Duke of Wellington statue outside Glasgow’s Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) – a nod to Glasgow’s renowned sense of humour.

Glasgow 2026 Chief Executive Phil Batty OBE, said: “Finnie represents everything Glasgow 2026 is about – fun, friendliness and of course that little bit of magic! She’ll be at the heart of everything that’s exciting about these Games, from building up the crowd to hyping the athletes. She’ll visit communities across Glasgow, Scotland and beyond, and bring them all together next summer. It means so much that she comes from the imaginations of Glasgow’s young people. They have all been fantastic throughout this process and introducing Finnie to the world is the perfect way to start the countdown to these altogether brilliant Games.”

Aberdeen Visitor Levy given go-ahead to boost tourism



A Visitor Levy is to be introduced in Aberdeen to generate revenue for enhancing leisure and business tourism in the city. Investing in improving the visitor experience will support economic growth. Aberdeen City Council’s Finance and Resources Committee approved a 7% levy. With the average price of a room in Aberdeen currently sitting at £70 this

would mean visitors could expect to pay £4.90 per night in addition to their room rate. This is anticipated to generate up to £6.8m per annum (at a 7% levy rate) for Aberdeen City Council.

Convener of Finance and Resources Councillor Alex McLellan said: “The income generated from the visitor levy, paid by those visiting the city, will provide a huge boost to our local economy and allow us to invest in bringing major events and conferences here of a more regular basis. Across Europe we are paying similar amounts to stay per night subsidising their thriving economies, and we should do the same to ensure we can compete in terms of attracting both business and leisure tourism to Aberdeen.” A report to committee said the earliest date that Aberdeen City Council could introduce a visitor levy is 1 April 2027. Money raised would go towards projects such as: A new Convention Bureau-managed fund to attract one-off and repeat business events and conferences, funding for large events, productions, sports championships, exhibitions, and festivals, sporting grants and more.

Stephen Gow, chair of VisitAberdeenshire, said: “A well-managed scheme that supports the aims of the region’s Destination Strategy will drive continued growth of Aberdeen’s visitor economy. Aberdeen welcomed 2.2m overnight visits in 2024, contributing to an economic impact from tourism of over £500 million. The headroom for growth in the leisure and conference sectors will be fulfilled through effective investment in promotion, events, and development of the tourism sector.”

Scientific analysis and community led historical research leads to identification of 250 year old Sanday wreck



A 3D model of the Sanday Wreck. Photo: Wessex Archaeology.

The identity of the Sanday Wreck, discovered in February 2024 and rescued by the community on the island of Sanday in the Orkney Islands, has been revealed thanks to the combined efforts of archaeologists from Wessex Archaeology, scientists from Dendrochronicle, and a team of dedicated community researchers with support from Historic Environment Scotland. All available evidence points to the wreck being the *Earl of Chatham*, a London whaling ship that had another life as a Royal Navy vessel called *HMS Hind* before it became a whaler. The *Earl of Chatham* was wrecked on the island in March 1788 with 56 sailors on board whilst making the voyage from the River Thames to the Arctic for the spring/summer whaling season. All 56 members of its crew survived.

Ben Saunders, our Senior Marine Archaeologist, said: “It is thanks to our dedicated team of community researchers and the evidence they have gathered that means we have been able to identify the Sanday Wreck with a reasonable degree of confidence. Throughout this project,

we have learned so much about the wreck, but also about the community in Sanday in the 1780s. Sanday was infamous for shipwrecks at the time, called ‘the cradle of shipwrecks in Scotland’, but the community was equally well-known for its hospitality as it looked after sailors who fell afoul of the area’s stormy seas.”

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the stormy seas responsible for exposing the wreck in 2024 also played their part in the wrecking of the ship in 1788. A small newspaper clipping from the *Aberdeen Journal* on 29th April 1788 describes the incident, saying it was ‘totally wrecked with 56 hands on board’ and later goes on to confirm all members of its crew were saved, and were sent home from the Orkney Islands the following month. It describes Sanday as ‘the cradle of shipwrecks in Scotland’, testament to the number of ships which fell foul of the low-lying island as they attempted to traverse the Fair Isle gap which splits the North Sea from the North Atlantic. Sanday was well-known across northern Europe as a place of wrecks, snaring Danish and Swedish East Indiamen, Dutch warships, emigrant ships headed from Germany for a new life in America, and dozens of smaller trading vessels. The frequency with which ships, their crews and passengers ended up on the beaches of Sanday meant that residents were used to helping survivors and the island gained a reputation not just as a hazard but as somewhere hospitable to sailors who fell afoul of the stormy seas.

‘Second Hampden’ could be latest addition to list of nationally important historic sites



Historic Environment Scotland (HES) recently looked to gather views from the public on its proposals to designate the remains of the football ground in Cathkin Park as a scheduled monument, a site which features prominently in the story of how football developed in Scotland. Situated in Glasgow’s southside, the site was first used as a football ground by Queen’s Park in 1883-4. It was initially known as Hampden Park, named after the original Hampden (now the site of Hampden Bowling Club). As Hampden, the site was the venue for Scottish Cup finals between 1885 and 1899. When Queen’s Park’s success saw them set their sights on a new ground (the third and current Hampden) in 1903, the site then became the home of Third Lanark, who alongside Queen’s Park were one of the eight founding member clubs of the Scottish Football Association (SFA). An entirely new stadium was built on the site in 1904, which was then renamed New Cathkin Park. The club continued to play at Cathkin until their demise in 1967.

Cathkin Park is significant as a rare example of a late 19th-early 20th century football stadium, with its surviving

terracing and embankments. No other major football ground from the period survives in as complete a form. The site aids understanding of how modern football grounds developed in Scotland, serving as a physical reminder of a time when tens of thousands of supporters would have stood in packed out terraces across the country.

Dara Parsons, Head of Designations at HES, said: “Scheduling is a way of ensuring that nationally important historic sites are recognised and protected, and that their importance is taken into account in decisions about their management. Scotland is recognised as a pioneering nation in the development of football. Cathkin Park, as the recognised home of one of Scotland’s most historically important football clubs, played a key part in that story.”

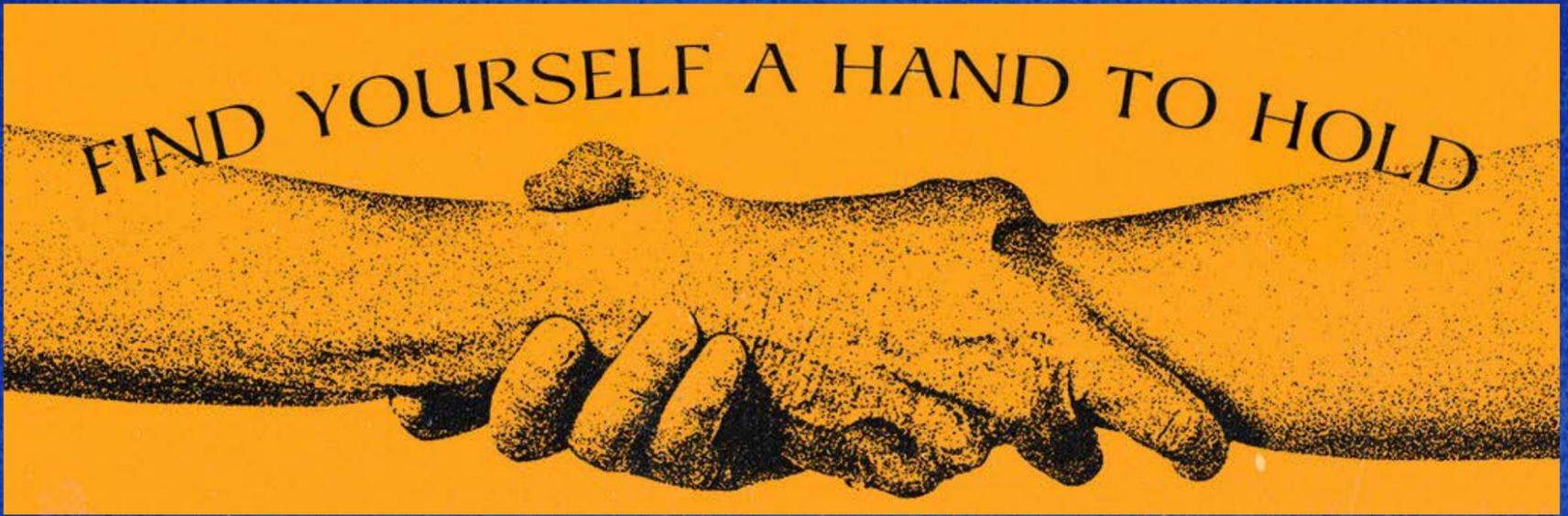
Calculator used by Scottish scientist to help NASA achieve first manned moon landing donated



Ahead of the anniversary of the first moon landing, a mechanical calculating machine used by a Scottish scientist in support of the mission has been donated to National Museums Scotland. The donated object is a Facit Model LX calculator used by Archie Roy (1924-2012), Professor of Astronomy at the University of Glasgow. Professor Roy was an expert in celestial mechanics and orbital motion calculations. He was asked by NASA to be a consultant on trajectory calculations for spacecraft in a programme of lunar missions that culminated in the Apollo 11 mission which took Neil Armstrong’s crew to become the first humans to set foot on the moon, landing on 20 July 1969.

Professor Roy is thought to have acquired the mechanical calculator to enable him to carry out his PhD, which he was awarded in 1954, and continued to use it through the 1960s until it was gradually superseded by electronic computers. After Professor Roy’s retirement in September 1989, his friend and colleague, the Astronomer Royal for Scotland, John Brown, recognised the calculator’s significance to the history of science and held it for safekeeping before his widow Margaret donated it to National Museums Scotland.

Dr Tacye Philipson, Senior Curator of Science at National Museums Scotland, said: “This is a wonderful addition to the National Collection for many reasons. It is a visibly well-used piece of kit, reflecting Professor Archie Roy’s long and productive career. Moreover, when we think of the array of computational power at our fingertips today with our phones and laptops, it is evocative to look at this completely analogue machine and think that it was instrumental in one of the most extraordinary technological achievements in human history, one unsurpassed and even unrepeated in over 50 years. Professor Roy’s calculator gives us a tangible link to Scotland’s part in that achievement.”

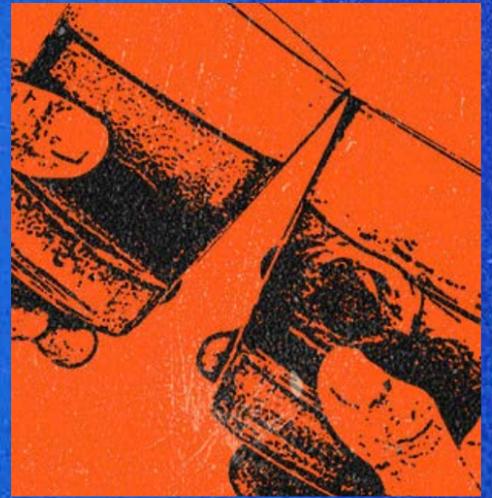


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Inveraray & District Pipe Band take the title of 2025 World Pipe Band Champions

All images courtesy Rob Casey/SNS Group.



'The Worlds' attracts thousands of spectators to Glasgow every summer and attendance at this year's exciting two-day contest was over 35,000. Audiences all over the world were also able to view highlights from the championships on both days via live streaming.

This year's spectacular showcase of skills and talent saw 15 countries represented by 207 bands

This year the major event included, on Friday 15 August, a dedicated youth competition. More than 1,500 under 18s competed in this new feature of the 'Worlds' which celebrated and recognised young talent in piping and drumming, and showcased the incredible talent and skills of the next generation.

The grade winners were: Juvenile - George Watson's College; Novice Juvenile A - West Lothian Schools; Novice Juvenile B - St John's College Harare of Zimbabwe. Saturday's contest, focused on the senior bands, and saw over 6,000 band members compete across the Grade 1, Grade 2, Grades 3A and 3B, and Grades 4A and 4B categories.

A fiercely fought contest

Colin Mulhern, Chief Executive of The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, said: "We are grateful to all of the competing bands, supporters and spectators who joined us for our 2025 championships. This year's 'Worlds' proved to be a fiercely fought contest and our 2025 World Pipe Band Champions Inveraray & District Pipe Band deserve huge congratulations for winning the global title for a second year running. Every one of the bands can take great pride in their wonderful performances. They gave us a splendid competition and demonstration of their dedication to excellence, and their outstanding skills and talent."

Glasgow Life Chair Bailie Annette Christie said: "Glasgow is proud to host the global pinnacle of the competitive piping calendar, and of the city's long association with 'the Worlds.' The championships

The 2025 World Pipe Band Championships concluded in Glasgow on August 16th with last year's winners, Inveraray & District Pipe Band, retaining the top title. It is the fourth time the Scottish band, from Argyll and Bute, has been crowned World Pipe Band Champions. In addition to lifting the

2024 trophy, it won the renowned contest in 2019 and 2017. Inveraray & District saw off stiff competition from runners-up, and 2022 champions, Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band of Lisburn, Northern Ireland, and North Lanarkshire's Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band – the 2015 champions – who took third place.

Premier contest in the global piping competitive calendar

The 'Worlds' – the premier contest in the global piping competitive calendar – brings together the best pipers and drummers on the planet to compete in the ultimate 'battle of the bands'. The event is delivered by culture and sport charity Glasgow Life on behalf of The Royal Pipe Band Association with support from EventScotland, part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate. This year's spectacular showcase of skills and talent saw 15 countries represented by 207 bands, 53 of which were from overseas destinations including Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Oman, the USA and Zimbabwe. Scotland entered the biggest national contingent – 122 bands. Northern Ireland had the second largest, with 25 bands, and next was the USA with 14 bands.





are hugely valued by us as they shine an international spotlight on Glasgow as a fantastic and welcoming destination for events, attract visitors here from all over the world – boosting tourism and contributing greatly to the Scottish and city’s economy. We are grateful to all of this year’s fantastic competitors for playing their part in ensuring the great success of the 2025 ‘Worlds’ – and our congratulations go to Inveraray & District Pipe Band on retaining the World Champions title.”

Rob Dickson, Director of Industry and Events at VisitScotland, added: “The World Pipe Band Championships continue to be a spectacular celebration of Scotland’s rich cultural heritage, attracting thousands of talented musicians and enthusiastic spectators from across the globe.



This year’s event once again showcased the incredible skill, passion, and camaraderie that define the piping community. Well done to all the bands who have taken part over the past two days, and congratulations to Inveraray & District Pipe Band on being crowned 2025 World Pipe Band Champions.”

2025 World Pipe Band Championships results

GRADE 1

Inveraray & District (Scotland)
 Field Marshal Montgomery (Northern Ireland)
 Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia (Scotland)
 Simon Fraser University (Canada)
 Police Scotland Fife (Scotland)
 Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia (Scotland)
 St. Laurence O’Toole (Ireland)
 ScottishPower (Scotland)
 Manawatu Scottish (New Zealand)
 Ravara (Northern Ireland)
 78th Fraser Highlanders (Canada)
 St. Thomas Alumni (USA)
 Johnstone (Scotland)
 Closkelt (Ireland)
 Drums: Inveraray & District

GRADE 2

Glasgow Skye Association (Scotland)
 City of Dunedin (USA)
 Ulster Scottish (USA)
 North Stratton (Canada)
 Uddingston (Scotland)
 Bagad Breig (France)
 Cascadia (USA)
 Royal Burgh of Annan (Scotland)
 Mannorcunningham (Ireland)
 Los Angeles Scots (USA)
 Peel Regional Police (Canada)
 Buchan Pteterson (Scotland)
 Drums: Uddingston

GRADE 3A

Bagad Ronsed-Mor (France)
 Dunbar Royal British Legion (Scotland)
 Burntisland & District (Scotland)
 Major Sinclair Memorial (Northern Ireland)
 City of London (England)
 Methil and District (Scotland)
 Drums: Burntisland & District

GRADE 3B

Elgin and District (Scotland)
 Syerla and District (Northern Ireland)
 Drumlough (Northern Ireland)
 Scottish Borders (Scotland)
 Carnegie Mellon (USA)
 Kilbarchan (Scotland)
 Drums: Syerla & District

GRADE 4A

Black Raven (Ireland)
 New Ross and District (Ireland)
 Altnaveigh Memorial (Northern Ireland)
 Williamwood (Scotland)
 Thiepvai Memorial (Ireland)
 Govan Community (Scotland)
 Drums: Black Raven

GRADE 4B

Carrigaline (Ireland)
 Letterkenny & District (Northern Ireland)
 Queen Elizabeth (Northern Ireland)
 Youghal (Ireland)
 City of Discovery (Scotland)
 City of Plymouth (England)
 Drums: Carrigaline

JUVENILE

George Watson’s College (Scotland)
 Dollar Academy (Scotland)
 George Heriots School (Scotland)
 Preston Lodge High School (Scotland)
 Renfrewshire Schools (Scotland)
 Drums: George Watson’s College

NOVICE JUVENILE A

West Lothian Schools (Scotland)
 Lochgelly High School (Scotland)
 George Watson’s College (Scotland)
 Brisbane Boys’ College (Australia)
 High School of Dundee (Scotland)
 The Scots College, Sydney (Australia)
 Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia (Scotland)
 Dollar Academy (Scotland)
 St. Columba’s School (Scotland)
 10th North Lanarkshire Schools (Scotland)
 George Heriot’s School (Scotland)
 St. John’s College (Zimbabwe)
 Drums: George Watson’s College

NOVICE JUVENILE B

St. John’s College Harare (Zimbabwe)
 Scotch College 2 (Australia)
 Scots College Sydney (Australia)
 Lochgelly High School Junior (Scotland)
 Oban High School (Scotland)
 Dollar Academy (Scotland)
 Bucksburn and District (Scotland)
 Falkirk Schools (Scotland)
 High School of Glasgow (Scotland)
 Burntisland & District (Scotland)
 The Glasgow Academy (Scotland)
 Kintyre Schools (Scotland)
 Drums: The Glasgow Academy

ASF announces recipients of Wallace & Young Scot Wallace Awards



The Lord Lyon.



A Wright Post Palmer.

The Board of Directors of the American Scottish Foundation (ASF) announce the ASF Annual Dinner and 2025 Wallace Awards, will take place in New York City on November 7. The evening will be co-chaired by Viscount Dunrossil, David Disi, Jenny Du Pont, and Olivia Fussell.

The Wallace Awards will be presented to: Dr. Joseph Morrow, Lord Lyon, King of Arms for his Leadership of the Lyon Court and its role in Scotland today and A. Wright Post Palmer of Beekman Estates in recognition of his outstanding charitable work in regard to New York’s history, arts, culture, and education. A direct descendant of early Scottish, Dutch, and British settlers which includes descent from the Beekman/Livingston family—early founders of New Amsterdam (New York City) in the 17th century—and to the Lindsay (Sanders) family of Scottish descent, among the founders of Albany and Schenectady, New York, also in the 17th century.

The Wallace is awarded this year to two leading figures of our international community - The Lord Lyon of the Lyon Court in Scotland and A Wright Post Palmer through the legacy of the Beekman Post Palmer Livingston family in the US. “When most Americans think of America’s founding fathers, they immediately reference Washington, Jefferson and Hamilton. Prior to them are the Colonial founders, of Dutch and British - many being Scots - that were the first Europeans to settle in this country, Wright’s family were one of the leading families of the Colonial era. Wright has ensured the family legacy and leadership of philanthropy and community service continues today.” noted Ken Donnelly, Chairman of the American-Scottish Foundation.

Shared love of Scotland

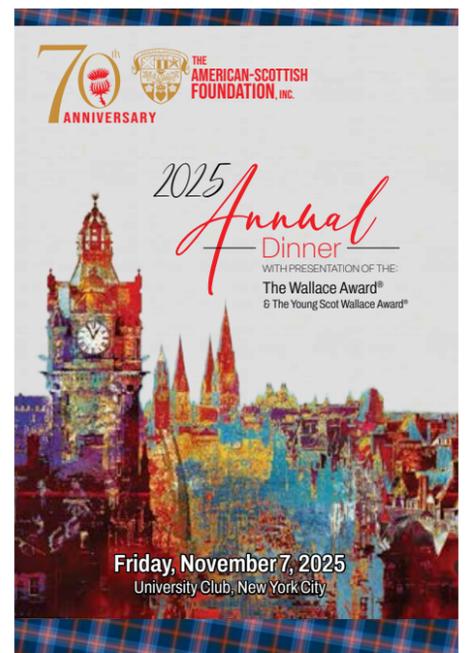
“We recognize The Lord Lyon for his outstanding leadership of the Lyon Court, as he has brought the traditions of his role forward to today. Most recently as

King Charles III received the Honours of Scotland, Lyon devised inclusion through ‘the People’s Procession’. His tireless work especially with the Scottish American community has done more to help promote Scottish Heritage in the United States than any other individual I have known,” The Rt. Hon. Viscount Dunrossil, Vice Convenor, Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, noted.

The ASF Young Scot Wallace Award will also be presented that evening. ASF champions up and coming leaders of tomorrow from arts to literature to business, and this year will honour Claire Mackenzie and Scott Gilmore of Noisemaker - the award winning young musical theater producers. Camilla G Hellman, MBE, President, American-Scottish Foundation said: “When I first met Noisemaker, they had recently graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland had just beaten our 900 other entries to bring their production of Forest Boy to the New York Music Festival. That was eight years ago, since which time the ASF has worked closely with them to showcase and promote their work, with them performing at many of our events. They are truly representative of Scotland’s musical theatre of today. All of our honorees this year have supported the American Scottish Foundation in various ways that have helped us share our love of Scotland - amplify our programs and partners’ messages for our diaspora at large.”



Scott Gilmore and Claire Mackenzie.



THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Death of St Giles, patron saint of Edinburgh (and Elgin). 714



1 - The sole remaining gas streetlamp in Glasgow was lit for the last time after the conversion to electricity. 1971

1 - Cairngorms National Park created and the UK's largest National Park, it was Scotland's second national park after Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, created in 2002. 2003

2 - Death of engineer, road, bridge and canal builder Thomas Telford. He was buried in Westminster Abbey. 1834

2 - Bill Shankly, arguably the greatest football manager ever, was born in Glenbuck, Ayrshire. His early career saw him winning seven caps for Scotland as a professional footballer. At the age of 33, Shankly was approaching the end of his playing days, so when the 1946 - 47 season brought professional football back post-war, Shankly embarked on a new career as a manager, he was appointed chairman of Liverpool in 1959. Shankly died of a heart attack in 1981. 1913

3 - Prince Charles Edward Stuart proclaimed his father as King James VIII of Scotland at Perth. 1745

3 - Rioting on the streets of Glasgow, as weavers expressed their anger at wage cuts. Workers burned their looms in the streets, and bricks were thrown at magistrates and soldiers, in protest at the city manufacturers' proposal to reduce the scale of wages. The disorder resulted in soldiers opening fire on the insurgents and six people were killed. 1797



4 - The last of the famous green and yellow trams ran in Glasgow. The final scheduled tram ran from Dalmuir to Auchenshuggle in the city's East End, and marked the demise of a transportation system dating from August 1872. More than 200,000 Glaswegians turned out to bid a poignant farewell to the trams. 1962

4 - The Forth Road Bridge was opened to the public. Construction had begun in 1958, and at 6,156 feet long, with a centre span of 3300 feet, the suspension bridge spanning the River Forth at South Queensferry outside Edinburgh was the longest in Europe at that time. 1964

4 - Queen Elizabeth officially opened the Queensferry Crossing. She was accompanied by Prince Philip as she cut the ribbon on the £1.35bn road bridge - exactly 53 years after she opened the Forth Road Bridge. The 1.7 miles (2.7km) structure is the longest three - tower, cable - stayed bridge in the world. 2017

4 - 5 - Margaret Thatcher becomes the first serving Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to visit Shetland. 1980

5 - John Home, the Scottish playwright, historian and minister, died. Home outraged the Church when his verse tragedy, Douglas, enjoyed a successful run in Edinburgh after its first performance in 1757. 1808

6 - The Earl of Mar unfurled the standard of the "Old Pretender" in Braemar at the start of the first Jacobite Uprising. 1715



6 - Rail transport returns to the Scottish Borders after 46 years with the reopening of the Waverley Route between Edinburgh and Tweedbank, under the name of the Borders Railway. 2015

7 - Sir Simon Fraser, the "Scottish Patriot", who fought alongside Wallace and Robert the Bruce, was executed by the English and his head displayed in London alongside that of Wallace. 1306

7 - The birth of Henry Campbell Bannerman, the British Prime Minister. Born in Glasgow and educated at Glasgow and Cambridge, Bannerman became the Liberal MP for Stirling in 1868, a position he held until his death. He became Prime Minister in 1905 following Balfour's resignation, and led his party to a landslide victory in the 1906 general election. 1836

8 - The hanging and beheading of John Baird and Andrew Hardie in Stirling, following the Battle of Bonnymuir in April. The Radicals, who were on strike from the weaving communities in outrage at decreased wages, had marched from Glasgow towards the Carron Iron Works in Falkirk. 1820

8 - Queen Elizabeth dies at Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire. Her reign of over 70 years is the longest of any British monarch and the longest reign of any female head of state in history. 2022

9 - James IV and the flower of Scotland's nobility were killed in battle at Flodden Field, near Branxton, in the English county of Northumberland. 1513

9 - Mary Queen of Scots was crowned in the security of Stirling Castle. Although only six days old at the time, Mary's coronation took place in the castle chapel following the death of her father, James V. 1543

9 - MS *Norsea* launched at Govan, the largest passenger ship built on the Clyde and last large passenger ship built in the UK. 1986

10 - The Scots were defeated by the English at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh, or Falside, near Edinburgh. The battle was sparked by the "Rough Wooing"; the English demands that the ten - year - old Edward VI should marry Mary Queen of Scots, aged five. The military campaign by Henry VIII on the Borders followed the reneged agreement by the Scots Parliament that the two crowns would be united by marriage. The battle was fought at Pinkie Cleugh (cleugh meaning narrow glen in Gaelic) outside Musselburgh and can be regarded as the first "modern" battle on British soil. 1547



10 - HRH Duke of York opened the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow. 1897

11 - Battle of Stirling Bridge, Wallace (as famously portrayed by Mel Gibson in *Braveheart*) and Andrew de Moray led Scotland to victory against the forces of England's King Edward I. 1297

11 - The Referendum on Devolution in Scotland which approved the creation of a new Scottish Parliament. In the 1990s, the Labour Party had revived the idea of devolution and, on their return to power in 1997, the first moves were made. The referendum received an overwhelming "Yes" vote in favour of establishing a Scottish assembly with tax - raising powers, with 74.3 per cent voting for a Scottish parliament and 63.5 per cent in favour of it having tax - raising powers. The Scottish Parliament was formally opened by the Queen on 1 July 1999, with Labour politician Donald Dewar invested as the first minister, at the helm of a Labour - Liberal Democrat coalition government. 1997

12 - Jacobites defeated government forces at Battle of Sheriffmuir. 1715

12 - The death of William McNab, the curator of the Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden. McNab was one of the greatest of 19th century Scottish gardeners, responsible for reviving the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh, elevating it from a state of neglect into one of the world's great plant collections. 1848

13 - Battle of Aberdeen, in which the Marquis of Montrose captured the city. 1644

14 - Bonnie Prince Charlie, Charles Edward Stuart, occupied Edinburgh. 1745

15 - The *Hector* from Loch Broom, near Ullapool, arrives at Pictou, Nova Scotia, carrying emigrants escaping from the Clearances. It is estimated that today there are more than 140,000 descendants of these emigrants living in Canada and the United States. 1773

15 - V&A Dundee, designed by Kengo Kuma, opens as a museum of design transforming Dundee's waterfront precinct. The V&A Dundee is the first design museum in Scotland and the first Victoria and Albert museum outside London. 2018

16 - Jacobite forces routed Hanoverian dragoons on the outskirts of Edinburgh in what was known as the Canter of Colbrig. At the beginning of September Charles had entered Perth. He had then crossed the Forth unopposed at the Fords of Frew and, after passing through Stirling and Linlithgow, he arrived within a few miles of Edinburgh. 1745

16 - Scottish explorer David Livingstone discovered Lake Nyasa, Africa. 1859

17 - David Dunbar Buick was born in Arbroath. Buick emigrated to the USA with his parents at the age of two and founded the Buick Manufacturing Company which later became General Motors. 1854

18 - Theatre Royal, Glasgow, became the first theatre in Britain to be lit by gas. The Queen Street Theatre's consent to be "illuminated with sparkling gas" in the presence of a large and fashionable audience was a significant advance. 1818



18 - The Clyde Arc, a pedestrian/cycle bridge over the River Clyde at Finnieston, is officially opened. 2006

18 - Scotland holds a Referendum on independence. More than 3.6m people turned out to answer the referendum question: 'Should Scotland be an independent country?' 55.3% voted no and 44.7% voted yes. 2014

19 - The Great North of Scotland Railway opened, running from Aberdeen to Huntly. 1854

20 - Liner *Queen Elizabeth II* launched at John Brown's shipyard at Clydebank. The ship was not named after the Queen, but rather was the second ship to bear that name. This is why the Arabic '2' is used in the name rather than the Roman numerals used by the Queen. The ship made its maiden voyage in 1969. 1967

21 - King James V crowned at Stirling Castle. 1513

21 - Prince Charles Edward Stuart emerged victorious at the Battle of Prestonpans. The Jacobite army of just over 3,000 under Bonnie Prince Charlie heavily defeated the English Royal forces led by Sir John Cope. 1745

22 - Alex Salmond defeated Margaret Ewing by 486 votes to 186 to become National Convenor of the Scottish National Party (SNP). Salmond is credited with improving the credibility of the SNP by projecting a moderate image and presenting the party as a realistic alternative to the Labour Party. He would go on to become First Minister of Scotland. 1990

22 - Aberdeen's last paper mill, Stoneywood, enters administration, after operating on the site for 252 years. 2022



23 - The Earl of Mar was commissioned to raise a regiment nicknamed "Earl of Mar's Gray Breeks" which later became the Royal Scots Fusiliers. 1678

24 - Edward Balliol, son of John Balliol, crowned at Scone. He was deposed by supporters of David II in December 1332, restored in 1333, deposed again in 1334, restored in 1335 and finally deposed in 1341. 1332

25 - The first telephone cable connecting the UK and North America "went live". 2,240 miles long, the cable ran from Gallanach Bay, near Oban in Argyll and Bute, to Clarenville, Canada. 1956

25 - The last steam locomotive built in Scotland, by Andrew Barclay Sons & Co. of Kilmarnock, is despatched to its customer in Sumatra. 1962

26 - Queen Margaret, Maid of Norway ("Eiriksdotter") died, enroute from Norway to Scotland. 1290

27 - Scotland's first passenger railway, between Glasgow and Garnkirk, opened. The formation of the Glasgow to Garnkirk line stemmed from that need for transporting industrial goods. However, the success of the line was due to its having been specially constructed to also carry passenger traffic. 1831



27 - The 80,000 - ton liner *Queen Elizabeth*, then the largest passenger ship ever built, launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank. 1938

27 - The first episode of the sitcom *Rab C. Nesbitt* starring Gregor Fisher in the title role, is broadcast on BBC Two. The programme would run until 1999. 1990

28 - "Battle of the Clans" between clans Chattan and Kay on the North Inch, Perth, in front of King Robert III. Clan Chattan was declared victorious. 1396

28 - Ayrshire born Sir Alexander Fleming invented penicillin, today it is the most widely used antibiotic in the world. Sir Alexander Fleming won The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1945 and died in 1955. His ashes are interred at St Paul's Cathedral in London. 1928

29 - Charter granted to Sir William Alexander of Menstrie to colonise the "Baronetcy of Nova Scotia". 1621

29 - John Cobb made an attempt at the world water - speed record on Loch Ness which ended in tragedy as the boat crashed and Cobb was killed. Cobb was a racing driver who had broken the land speed record in 1938, 1939, and 1947, when he became the first man ever to attain a speed of 400 miles per hour on land. In 1952 he made an attempt on the water speed record. On his first run, he became the first person to break the 200 miles per hour barrier, but his boat crashed shortly afterwards and he was killed. 1952

30 - The first child of James VI of Scotland and Anne of Denmark, was christened in the purpose - built Chapel Royal at Stirling Castle. 1594

30 - John Rae, explorer and surveyor of Canada's northern coastline was born in Orkney. Several Orkney born explorers worked in the Canadian Arctic in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, but Rae was the most outstanding. Rae was recently granted a posthumous Freedom of Orkney from the local officials. 1813

31 - The first Edinburgh Film Festival opened. The festival was originally known as the International Festival of Documentary and opened at the Playhouse Cinema. 1946

The Mighty Marmalade



Marmalade on Dutch TV programme Fenklup, 1968.
Photo: W. Veenman/CC BY-SA 3.0 nl.

Marmalade are a Scottish pop rock band from the east end of Glasgow, originally formed in 1961 as The Gaylords, and then later billed as Dean Ford and the Gaylords. In 1966 they changed the band name to The Marmalade. The most successful period for the band, in terms of UK chart success, was between 1968 and 1972 and they were the very first Scottish act to reach the hallowed Number One chart slot as David McVey explains.



Dean Ford, Alan Whitehead, Graham Knight, Junior Campbell and Pat Fairley.

In January 1969 I remember watching the BBC's legendary pop chart show *Top of the Pops* - in black and white, of course. Towards the end, as usual, the artists behind the week's top-selling single mimed to their song. This week the five lads affecting to perform their cover of The Beatles' *Ob-la-di Ob-la-da* were wearing full Highland dress. For The Marmalade - mainly from the East End of Glasgow and Coatbridge rather than the Highlands - were very proud to be the first Scottish act to reach the hallowed Number One slot.

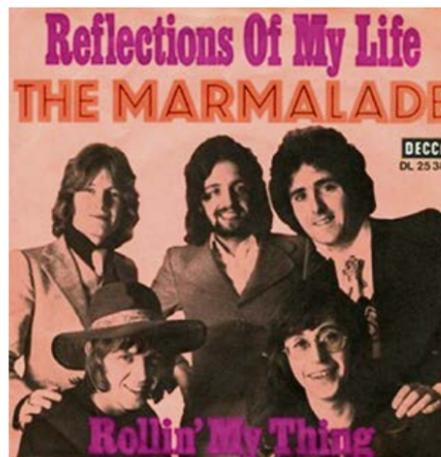
And for us watching, there was pride too. Imagine a group whose origins were just down the road being at Number One! Other Glasgow acts had made the charts - Donovan, Lulu - but Marmalade were the first to reach the summit. Exciting times: everybody at school seemed to claim that they knew or were related to or lived next door to Lulu or Donovan or someone in Marmalade. At the time I lived in Dennistoun in the street where Lulu *used to* live!

The Marmalade

Not everyone was happy with Marmalade's kilted appearance on *Top of the Pops*. Some stolid viewers from the Home Counties were unamused by the sight of people of TV dressing in such an ostentatiously Scottish way and there were angry letters to *The Times* and the BBC's *Points of View* programme. But in Glasgow, and Scotland, we just enjoyed the ride. Sadly, the footage of this appearance isn't available online and has probably been wiped.

Marmalade's origins were in the early 1960s, when they evolved from a band called the Gaylords. An early gig took place at the former Lennoxbank Hotel in Balloch, where they revealed Dean Ford as their new vocalist (after a 'viral' publicity campaign) and the band took on the unwieldy name Dean Ford and the Gaylords. Dean Ford (real name Tommy McAleese!) was an accomplished songwriter, as was fellow band member Junior Campbell. Some of the band's songs were self-written while others, like *Ob-la-di Ob-la-da*, were covers.

In 1966 the band sensibly changed their name and became, finally, The Marmalade. The band also featured Alan Whitehead on drums, Pat Fairley on guitars and Graham Knight on bass. Soon they were touring in support of legendary acts like The Who



and Traffic; in 1967 they released a single called *I See the Rain*, written by Ford and Campbell, which was praised by the likes of Graham Nash of The Hollies and Jimi Hendrix! Nonetheless it was a flop, and it wasn't until the song *Lovin' Things* in 1968, a superb cover of an infectious pop song first recorded by Bobby Rydell, that they really came to national attention. It reached No. 6 in the British charts.

In 1969 Campbell and Ford crafted a complex, downbeat but brilliant song called *Reflections of My Life* featuring a melancholy guitar solo by Campbell. It reached No. 3 in the UK, No. 10 in the USA and was the band's biggest worldwide hit. Australia was one of the few places where it didn't succeed, but Sydney band Flake filled the gap by covering the song with some success.

Scotland's first Number One act

Junior Campbell left the band in 1971, initially having a successful solo career, then re-inventing himself as a composer of film and TV scores. He went the length of studying orchestration and composition at the Royal College of Music in London. His work appears in 1990s BBC dramas *Takin' Over the Asylum* and *The Scold's Bridle* but he's probably best known for providing words and music for children's TV series *Thomas the Tank Engine*. The hits

continued for Marmalade (by now they usually dropped the 'The') including *Cousin Norman* and *Radancer*, both singles, in their blue Decca labels, that we had at home. *Radancer* pleasingly used Glasgow vernacular in its title ('Ra dancer' is Glaswegian for 'The dancer') though the phrase doesn't appear in the lyrics. Dean Ford exited the band in 1974, a sign of things starting to unravel amidst other departures and arrivals. A much-changed line-up did have one final hit in 1976; its title, *Falling Apart at the Seams* was an accurate summary of how things were going with the band.

In fact, in one form or another, the band has continued ever since. Marmalade never had much success as an albums band so when the hits dried up they rather graduated to the cabaret circuit. There are no original members in the current line-up; the last to leave was Graham Knight in 2010. Dean Ford moved to the USA in the late 1970s and died there in 2018. Pat Fairley, also by then an American resident, died two years later.

The next Scottish UK Number One came in 1971 with another Glasgow outfit Middle of the Road and *Chirpy Chirpy Cheep Cheep*. Since then there have been many others, including Lulu, Slik (featuring Midge Ure), Simple Minds, Wet Wet Wet, Emeli Sande and Lewis Capaldi. The largest Scottish band to reach Number One, and the one with the longest name, was The Pipes and Drums and Military Band of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, who scored an unlikely hit in 1972 with *Amazing Grace*.

But it isn't all about Number One, it's about a body of work; Marmalade had no fewer than eleven top forty entries in the UK, eight of which reached the top ten. Besides those I've mentioned you may also remember great songs such as *Baby Make it Soon*, *Rainbow* and *Back on the Road*. If you're new to them there's plenty to find on YouTube and other online sites. Enjoy again the music of Scotland's first Number One act.



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Celebrating
60
Years



SCAN ME

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Sweet potato soup

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, roughly chopped
- 2 large carrots, peeled and roughly chopped
- 4cm/1½ inches fresh root ginger, finely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- ½ tsp dried red chilli flakes
- 700g/1lb 10oz. sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1.2 litres/2 pints vegetable stock
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Heat the oil in a large, lidded saucepan over a medium-high heat. Add the onion and carrots and cook until softened. Stir in the ginger, garlic and chilli flakes and fry for 2–3 minutes, or until fragrant.

Stir in the sweet potatoes and stock. Turn up the heat and bring the pan to the boil. Reduce the heat to low and simmer with the lid on for 15 minutes, or until the sweet potato is tender.

Remove the pan from the heat and blend the soup, using a stick blender, until smooth. Alternatively, tip it into a food processor and blend. Season to taste and serve.

Tattie Scones



Ingredients:

- 500 g/1lb. potatoes (cooked and mashed)
- 30 g/1 oz. butter (melted plus extra for greasing)
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 medium egg
- 125 g/4 oz. flour (plus a little extra for rolling out)
- 1 tsp. baking powder.

Method:

Preheat the oven to 395 F/200 C/Gas 6. Place the mashed potato in a large baking bowl and add all the other ingredients to form a sticky dough. Roll out the dough on a floured surface to approximately ½-inch thickness.

Cut into saucer sized rounds then score a cross into the dough to mark 4 equal wedges. Grease a baking sheet with butter and bake the scones for 15 minutes until golden brown and risen. The scones can also be cooked on the stove top on a griddle or heavy-based frying pan. Cook the scones 5 minutes on either side until golden and risen.

- 250g/9oz. ground almonds
- 250g/9oz. caster sugar
- 1 tbsp baking powder (gluten-free, if required)

Method:

Wash the oranges thoroughly. Bring them to the boil in a large saucepan of water and gently cook for two hours. Preheat the oven to 175C/325F/Gas 3 and butter and flour a 23cm/9in cake tin. Leave the oranges to cool, before slicing in quarters and removing the pips.

Pulp the oranges in a food processor. Beat the eggs and gradually stir in all the remaining ingredients, including the orange pulp. Pour into the cake tin and cook for about an hour, until the cake is golden in colour and has risen. Transfer to a wire cooling rack, keeping the cake in the tin. When the cake has cooled, carefully remove from the tin and serve cut into slices. Can decorate with orange slice and almond if desired.

Dornoch Dreams

Ingredients:

- 50g/2 oz. butter or margarine
- 125g/4 oz. plain (all-purpose) flour
- 175ml/6 fl oz. water
- 3 eggs
- 375g/12oz. raspberries (whole or lightly crushed)
- 25g/4oz. clear honey
- 2 tbsp. Drambuie
- 300ml/1½ pint of double (whipping or heavy) cream
- Icing sugar for decoration

Method:

Place the butter (or margarine) and water in a saucepan and heat until the fat has melted. Remove from the heat and stir in the flour. Beat until the mixture forms a ball (and leaves the edges of the pan cleanly). Beat the eggs and slowly add them, a little at a time, beating well between each addition. Spoon the pastry mixture into a large piping bag with a plain nozzle and pipe 12 round cakes onto a lightly greased baking sheet (cookie sheet).

Bake in the centre of a preheated oven at 200C/400F/Gas Mark 6 for 20/30 minutes until golden brown. Remove from the oven, pierce to allow the steam to escape and then leave to cool. Mix the raspberries and honey. Stir the Drambuie into the whipped cream. Split the buns and fill with the raspberries and cream. Dust with the icing sugar (frosting) and serve immediately.

Granite City Sausages

Ingredients:

- 500g/1lb. sausage meat
- 500g/1lb. steak, minced
- 125g/4oz. bacon, minced
- 250g/8oz. fresh white breadcrumbs
- 1 tablespoonful Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and pepper, to season
- 1 egg, beaten
- Breadcrumbs, for coating

Method:

Mix together all the ingredients, except for the last two. Bind with the beaten egg and make into a roll. Boil in a floured cloth for approximately 1 ½ hours. Roll in the breadcrumbs that have been toasted in the oven. Serve cold with a salad if wished. Serves 6.

Orange and almond cake



Ingredients:

- 2 large oranges
- butter, for greasing
- plain flour (or gluten-free flour, if required), for dusting
- 6 free-range eggs

The Lone Piper

Ingredients:

- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 35ml/1fl oz. blended whisky
- 15ml/0.5fl oz. peach liqueur
- 20ml/0.7fl oz. pressed apple juice
- cream soda
- peach and apple wedges, to garnish

Method:

Mix the lemon juice, scotch, peach liqueur, apple juice in a mixing glass with a handful of ice.

Strain the mixture into a highball glass and top with cream soda. Garnish with the peach and apple wedges.

A piece of maritime history back in Port of Ness over a century after original barometer was installed



L-r: Donnie Campbell, Janet Macleod (Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn), Angus and Chrissie Murray, Donna Dorris (Comunn Eachdraidh Nis).

Community work together to bring back working barometer to North Lewis.

A piece of maritime and meteorological history has returned to the Port of Ness, in North Lewis, as a working barometer, an exact replica of the original FitzRoy barometer, has been installed in its historic location, more than a century after the first was put in place.

The restoration was initiated by Angus Murray (Aonghas a' Ghaisean), whose family come from Port of Ness, who discovered a functioning barometer, an exact replica for the original, for sale online, after the original barometer had been taken out by Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, the local historical society, to see whether repairs would be possible. Recognising its significance to Port of Ness, Angus approached Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (Galson Estate Trust), the organisation which manages the Estate on behalf of the community, and the Trust funded the purchase and installation of the new barometer.

Janet Macleod, Cultural Engagement Officer, Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn commented: "This barometer isn't just a

scientific instrument, it's a cultural landmark. It connects us to the maritime heritage of our community and the pioneering work of Admiral Robert FitzRoy. We're thrilled to see a working barometer back in place for the local community and visitors to enjoy."

Improving weather predictions

Admiral Robert FitzRoy, a pioneering meteorologist and naval officer, who invented this barometer, founded the Meteorological Office in 1854 and devoted his efforts to improving weather predictions for the benefit of mariners. FitzRoy's barometers were placed in fishing ports across Britain to provide local mariners with accurate weather forecasts, an innovation that saved countless lives.

The original Port of Ness barometer, which was installed in 1863, remained under the care of the Met Office until 2024, when it was officially gifted to Comunn Eachdraidh Nis. Janet Macleod, added: "We're very grateful to Angus for bringing this opportunity to us and for his dedication throughout the project. Special thanks also go to Donnie Campbell, whose expertise was invaluable during the sensitive installation process and to Derick Mackay for dressing the cabinet housing the barometer. Thanks also to local residents for their cooperation during the installation."

The barometer can now be viewed in its original location in Port of Ness. Those interested in learning more about its fascinating past can explore archival material at Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, where the original instrument will also be displayed.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo celebrates 75 years



The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo returned for its landmark 75th edition, honouring the heroes who have shaped its remarkable legacy. This year's Show, *The Heroes Who Made Us*, blended military precision, cultural heritage, and artistic brilliance to celebrate the selflessness and dedication of those who have contributed to the Tattoo over the past seven decades. This special anniversary performance paid tribute to the Tattoo's rich history while embracing its thrilling future.

The British Army took the Lead Service role this year, joined by a diverse international cast and anchored by the world-class Tattoo performers. With over 900 performers from across the globe, audiences were treated to an extraordinary journey through time and tradition, featuring talent from the Poland, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ukraine, and the United States of America. Blending pageantry with theatrical flair, the 2025 Tattoo reaffirmed its position as a unique highlight of the world-renowned Edinburgh festivals. Celebrating values of connection, community, and shared heritage, this year's performance reflects the enduring spirit that has defined the Tattoo for 75 years - while looking forward to its exciting future.

A performance unlike any other in the world

First across the drawbridge, as is tradition every year, The Massed Pipes and Drums once again filled the hallowed stage of the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade. Comprised of military and civilian pipe bands from

across the globe, they set the tone for a performance unlike any other in the world. In a year dedicated to honouring heroes, The Orchestra of Naval Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, travelled to Edinburgh, leaving Ukraine for the first time since 2018, due to the challenges of Covid and war to perform an unforgettable set for Tattoo audiences.

This special anniversary performance paid tribute to the Tattoo's rich history while embracing its thrilling future.

Making their Tattoo debut, the United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps will brought a slice of American history to Edinburgh with their iconic uniforms and stirring music. Also from America, the United States Air Force Honor Guard returned to showcase their unmatched precision and dedication. Adding further international flair, the Representative Band of the Polish Border Guard graced the Esplanade for the first time in 15 years.

Brisbane and Auckland

Adding something extra special this year, narration returned in the form of evocative storytelling performed by actor Terence Rae. Audiences were taken on a journey through the rich history of this iconic event, tracing its roots all the way back to its beginnings in 1950. Alan Lane, Creative Director at The Royal Edinburgh Military



Tattoo, said: "We don't talk about heroes enough in this country. Whether this is military service or volunteers within our society, it is these people that help make life tick along that little bit more smoothly and that deserves to be honoured and celebrated. We are in such a unique position that we get to do performances as grand as the Tattoo and that's why this year, we're embracing our position at the top of the Castle (quite literally) during the Edinburgh festivals. *The Heroes Who Made Us*, is a testimony to the artistic nature of the Tattoo and will come with all the bells and whistles that people know us for."

Jason Barrett, Chief Executive of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo added: "As we do every year, the Show features inspiring acts from around the world. This year we are especially privileged to welcome The Naval Orchestra of Ukraine, the first time they will have left their country since 2018. We couldn't be more excited to celebrate our 75th, honouring our past while imagining our future. Early in 2026 we take the Show to Brisbane and Auckland - Tattoo 75 on tour bringing *The Heroes Who Made Us* halfway around the world."

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, *The Heroes Who Made Us*, comes to Brisbane February 12-15th and Auckland February 19-21st. For details see: www.edintattoobrisbane.com.au or www.edintattooauckland.co.nz.



National Museum of Flight uncovers Second World War secrets in anniversary year



Service personnel at East Fortune, c.1940s. Image National Museums Scotland.

New research has revealed details of two air assaults on East Fortune Airfield that were kept secret during the Second World War. The historic airfield in East Lothian is now home to the National Museum of Flight, which opened 50 years ago in July 1975. A discreet, handwritten note on an archived document led curators from the Museum to uncover the hidden details. In November 1940, three bombs were dropped on the airfield. Almost a year later in October 1941, enemy gunners attacked the site from the air. No casualties were recorded.

Throughout the Second World War the airfield served as an operational training unit. In Scotland, direct hits were rarely reported publicly to prevent enemy forces identifying significant sites. The Lothians were targeted

by German bombers on several occasions, including attacks on a decoy airfield in nearby Drem, but until now this important part of the airfield's history was unknown.

Scottish aviation history

East Fortune is one of the UK's best-preserved Second World War airfields. Air raid and blast shelters, that were likely used during the attacks, have recently been conserved and are now open to visitors to discover more about Scotland's wartime heritage. Ian Brown, Curator at the National Museum of Flight, said: "Revealing these previously unknown events at East Fortune has taken some real detective work. The airfield has played a significant role in Scottish aviation history for over a century. Even in the museum's 50th year we're still discovering stories that can help us better understand the airfield's past."

The National Museum of Flight explores the history of aviation from the First World War to the present day through interactive galleries, historic aircraft and hangars. On display is one of Europe's best collections of aircraft, including Scotland's only Concorde, which visitors can board.



Aerial photo of East Fortune airfield.



Air raid shelter at the National Museum of Flight following conservation. Photo: Andy Catlin.

Images courtesy of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

In addition to the Society newsletter and the opportunity to associate with fellow clansman members may query the Society genealogist. **For information write:**

Clan Baird Commander

Richard Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood
Rickarton House, Stonehaven, Scotland.

Hereditary President of Clan Baird Society Worldwide

Debra J. Baird, Ph.D. FSA Scot, CBSW Convenor
Email: djbaird4@gmail.com
Website: clanbairdsocietyworldwide.co.uk



HEREDITARY CHIEF AND SOCIETY PATRON

Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains
Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers

Cordially invites all Carruthers and their descendants to join **us** in preserving our Clan and Family heritage.

Clan Carruthers Society - International
officially representing Carruthers worldwide

www.clancarrutherssociety.org
clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald
Contact: secretary.clandonaldivic@gmail.com

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

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

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



www.clan-forbes.org

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For more information:
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Invites membership inquiries from persons named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Various resources available for genealogical research. Quarterly newsletter. Tents hosted at major Scottish games nationwide.

Website: www.ClanBell.org

Online membership: <https://clanbell.org/membership.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell>

Email: President@clanbell.org

Clan Bell North America

49 Greystone Lane NW

Cartersville, GA, 30121



CHISHOLM

Clan Chisholm Society of Australia Inc

Membership is invited from Clan Chisholm descendants of all spellings of the name (Chisholm, Chisolm, Chism, Chisum, Chisam, etc)

Contact: Kim Polley OAM

PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301

Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com

www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/AUSmembership.php



Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid

People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh

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

For information and membership application, contact Richard Harvey, Secretary

Email: lh100@tpg.com.au



Clan Fraser Society of Australia

Invites all Frasers and Fraser septs to join our clan society.

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts

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

Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/>

482236358590288

The Blair Society for Genealogical Research



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

www.blairsociety.org



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

contact@curriekindred.com
www.learnedkindredofcurrie.com



CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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



Website: www.donnachaidh.com

E-mail: admin@donnachaidh.com

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



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

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

www.clangalbraith.org



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

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



CHIEF Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing the name Davidson or one of the Septs shown on the member application form available from the Clan's Facebook Group link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/360160657504253/> or by contacting the Hon. Secretary:

Dennis Hill, PO Box 519
Baulkham Hills NSW 1755
E: dhill1@bigpond.net.au, P: 0431 527 662



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

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



Est: 1822 in Edinburgh Scotland
Patron: Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor Bt
Membership enquiries for USA: usa@clangregor.com
Rest of the World: membership@clangregor.com
Web: www.clangregor.com

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



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

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THE WORLDWIDE BURNETT SOCIETY
www.houseofburnett.org



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SA Michael Murphy
Vic Norman A Macdonald
WA Pamela McDonald

clandonald.com.au
clandonaldnsw.au@gmail.com
We are a family of many names, come & join your family!



Jim Dougherty - Clan President welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family.

Direct inquires to: Marianne Elliott, Membership Chair
Email: marianne@mmelliott.com
Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com

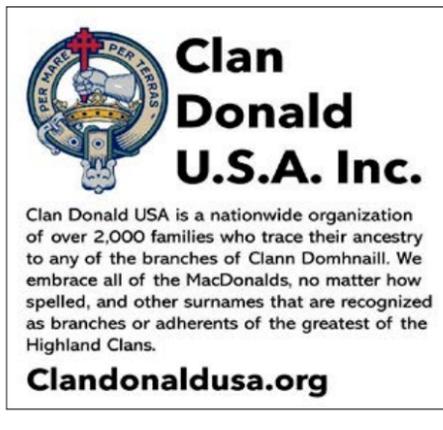


All MacGregors and Septs of our clan are invited to join the Clan Gregor Society Est 1822
If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative:
Frank McGregor
PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002
Email: clangregoraustalia@gmail.com
Web: www.clangregor.com
"Royal is our Race"



Celebrates those who trace their ancestry to Clan Cameron or are connected to the Clan through marriage or partnership or are from families acknowledged as Septs of Clan Cameron.

President: Alistair Cameron
Secretary: Terry Cameron
secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com
www.clan-cameron.org.au



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

Clandonaldusa.org



I Force Nae Freen
I Fear Nae Foe
ClanFarquharson.us



Est 1909 Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs
Gregor Grier MacAdams MacNish Magruder McGehee Gregory King Peter Fletcher Gregg Lecky Black and many others
Contact our registrar: **Jeanne P. Lehr**
11 Ballas Crt.
St. Louis, MO 63131-3038
Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org
website: www.acgsus.org



Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society. Inquiries to be sent to: Sheri Lambert, Treasurer P.O. Box 5399 Vernon Hills, IL 60061 visit our website: www.clanhamilton.org



McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

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Contact: membership.macalpein@gmail.com
Website: <https://macalpein.com/>



MacLaren

Clan Labhran

Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

Information about the Clan and application for CMSA membership is available on the website or via the email address below. Membership is open to MacLarens (all spellings), Septs, individuals and families with an association to the Clan.

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



CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

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




Clan Hay

April Rich
28 Oxbow Drive
Willimantic, CT 06226
clanhaymembership@hotmail.com

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

www.clanhay.com



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

MacDougalls, MacDowalls, & ALL Associated Families

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Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President
President@clanmaclarenna.org



Clan MacNicol

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



CLAN HOPE of Craighall Society

INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA
President & Commissioner: Stephen J. Hope
president@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org

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

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

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClanHopeofCraighall>



Macfie Clan Society of Australia

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

For more information please email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au, visit us at [facebook.com/clanmacfieaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/clanmacfieaustralia) or our website: <https://clanmacfie.com.au>



Clan MacLellan

Kevin S Gates
Treasurer
2610 Kuykendall Dr.
Arlington, TX
76001-6726

Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of surname spelling to join in preserving our heritage. Various family names are MacLellan(d), McClelland(d), McLellan(d) and Gilliland.

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net



Clan Macpherson Association

Clan Macpherson welcomes enquiries from Macphersons and members of our Associated families. For information about local activities visit our web site www.clan-macpherson.org/branches

Africa. Derek Macpherson African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +265 999 512 620	Australia. Pam Rhenrov Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +61 407 789 924
Canada. Denise Lagundzin Canada.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 519 507 4465	England & Wales. William Macpherson EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7877 363 507
Europe. Bodo Bernd Schmitz Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +0152 538 19 355	New Zealand. Tony McPherson NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +64 274 587 812
Scotland & Northern Ireland. Moray G Cattanach SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7810 860 528	USA. Dave McPherson UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 408 781 5199

The Clan Macpherson Museum is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1st April to 31st October. Ph + 44 1540 673 332. See <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/>



CLAN IRVING

HEREDITARY CHIEF AND PATRON

Rupert Irving of Bonshaw
Chief of the Name and Arms and 20th Clan Chief

Cordially invites all Border Irvings & Irvines and variations of the Name to join in preserving our Clan and Family history!

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Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

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



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www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com



The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

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

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



Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron
Alexander H.R Irvine of Drum,
27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name

www.clanirwin.org

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Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia

Inviting all Mackenzies to join us in celebrating our heritage.

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



Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling) and descendants. **Septs:** Askey, Beaton, Bethune, Caskie, Harold, Lewis, MacAndie, MacAskill, MacAulay, MacCabe, MacCaig, MacCaskey, MacClure, MacCorkill, MacCrimmon, MacGillechallum, MacHaigh, MacRaild, MacWilliam, Norie, Norman, Tolmie, Williamson

- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - Rhonda McLeod 0411 227 330
- South Australia - Alex McLeod 08 8327 0925
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334

Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au



Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

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

www.macrae.org
Need more info? Contact:
Dean McCraw, President
912-596-8624
dean.mccraw1@gmail.com



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Secretary: clanmackenzie@gmail.com
www.clanmackenziens.org




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84120-6880



Clan Maitland Society

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

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

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

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

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



Clan Morrison Society of North America
Morrison
 Clann MhicGillehoire: Morrison + Gilmore + Brieve

Membership cordially invited from those who are connected with this great Clan, i.e., Morrison, Morison, Gilmour, Gilmer, Gilmore, Murrison or descendants of eligible name.

www.clanmorrison.net



Clan Ross in Australia

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

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

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

YOUNGS OF SCOTLAND



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

4scottishthistles@gmail.com



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Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada



Clan Muirhead Society

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www.clanmuirhead.com

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

Email- raymondktj@msn.com or raymond@clanmuirhead.com



Clan Ross America
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 Nancy Ross-Anderson, VP Membership
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 membership@clanross.org
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www.clanross.org



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

Email: **clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com**

'Wardlaw ivermair!'
 www.clanwardlaw.com
Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

For information please contact
 members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Find us on Facebook

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

CLAN MUNRO ASSOCIATION
 AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



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

BECOME A MEMBER, CONTACT RAY MUNRO

munro.ray@hotmail.com
 0410 663 760



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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

www.clansinclairaustralia.com



The American Scottish Foundation, Inc.

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

www.americanscottishfoundation.org

The American-Scottish Foundation

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 nesbittnisbet.org.uk



Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary

clansutherlandsocietyaustralia@gmail.com
 http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus
 Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia

For further details contact John: 0427 990 754
 Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com

www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

St Andrew Society of W.A.



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For further information contact:
secretary@saintandrew.org.au
https://saintandrew.org.au/
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Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

The Society cordially invites membership of all Sutherlands (however the name is spelled) and historically associated families: Cheyne, Duffus, Gray, Frederith and Mowat.

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



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

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

Web: **hvscoats.org** Email: **hunterscoats@gmail.com**
 P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289

Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

Suite 87, 139 Cardigan St
 Carlton Vic 3053

Email: resource_centre@scotsofaustralia.org.au
 Website: **https://scotsofaustralia.org.au**
 Facebook: Facebook.com/ScotsOfVictoria



Clan Pollock

Among the most ancient families of Scotland. If you are a descendant of Pollock, Pollok, Pook, Polk, Polke, Paulk, Poalke, Poulk, Poolke, Pogue - you are cordially invited to contact:

A. D. Pollock, Jr.
 PO Box 404
 Greenville, KY 42345
 e-mail: **apollockis@comcast.net**



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

www.youngsofscotland.com

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> Promotes interest in the works, life and milieu of the Scottish Poet Robert Burns
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For Membership Information contact:
 Secretary: **Melissa Ventre - 0405 182 458**
 Email: **secretary@robertburnsclubmelbourne.org.au**



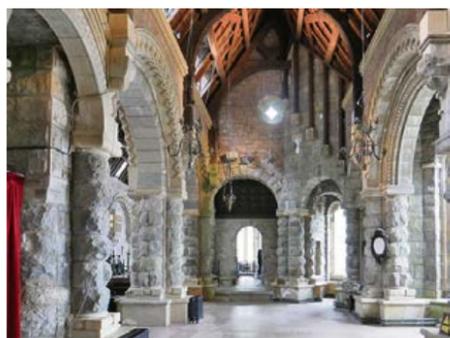
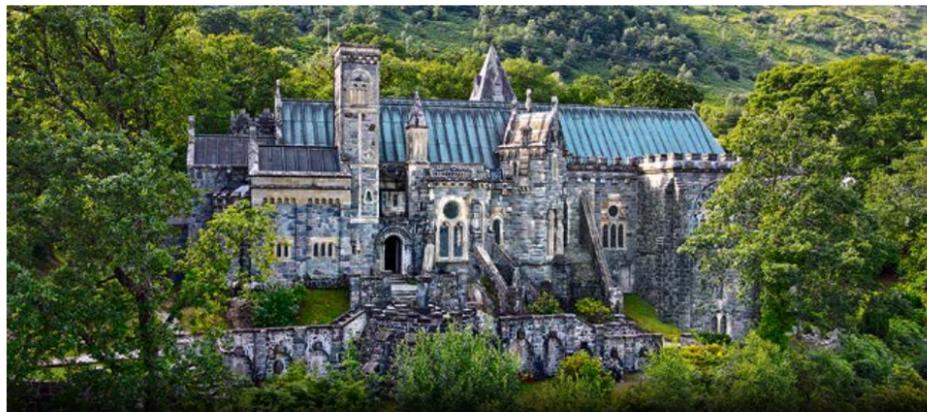
Victorian Scottish Heritage Cultural Foundation

Pipe Band Support
 Highland Dance Awards
 Scottish Gaelic Scholarship
 Literature & Performing Arts
 Schools Scottish Music Prizes
 Scottish Festivals & Exhibitions
 Highland Games • Young Fiddler Awards

email: **info@vshcf.com.au**
 website: **https://www.vshcf.com.au/**

Historic St Conan's Kirk receives £1 million for refurbishment

Photos courtesy of Friends of St Conan's Kirk.



A truly unique historic Highland church created from a son's love for his mother and his love of architecture, has been awarded £1 million to secure its future as a community hub and visitor attraction. Nestled on the banks of Loch Awe, St Conan's Kirk brings together ecclesiastical architectural styles from across centuries. It should not work but it does, and spectacularly well. Like all old church buildings, St Conan's Kirk is in need of some restoration and investment.

Now St Conan's Heritage Trust has been awarded £1,039,773 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. St Conan's already welcomes some 50,000 visitors a year, and plays host to a packed community programme, plus concerts, exhibitions and events. The Heritage Trust has bold plans for the future of St Conan's. Plans that will protect the unique character of the building while equipping it for modern times. The National Lottery Heritage Fund support takes them well on the way to a £1.5million fundraising target to enable a major programme of conservation, accessibility improvements, and community engagement.

Joint Vice-Chair of the Heritage Trust, Peter Hennessy, said: "We get visitors from all over the world who are mesmerised by the unique character of St Conan's. We know it has even more potential as a visitor attraction and we want to release that for the benefit of the community, but to do so sensitively to ensure we don't lose the character of our hidden gem."

Rosalyn Keppie, who is the second Vice Chair and who led the original Kirk Trust said, "Our work with the National Lottery Heritage Fund brought us to the decision to combine all our efforts, close the original Kirk Trust and transfer the building into the new Heritage Trust. Despite its unorthodox design St Conan's takes a very traditional place at the heart of our village life. While we love to share it with visitors this project is just as much about making it work as a community hub."

Part of Scotland's heritage

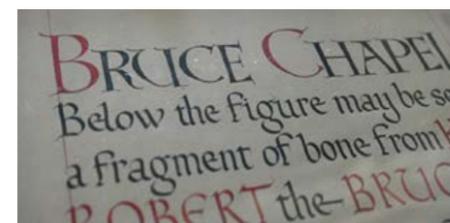
The origins of the Kirk are far more recent than some of the medieval architectural features suggest. Walter Douglas Campbell, 8th child of Archibald Campbell of Blythswood began work on it in the 1880s. Initially building a small traditional Scottish kirk to save his mother Caroline a long carriage drive to church. Walter had a keen interest, and was not without some skill, in architecture and over the years the simple and traditional kirk was transformed into something quite unique. Following his death in 1914, Walter's sister Helen continued construction as laid out in his plans. And with Helen's will passing care of the kirk to a community trust, they finally completed the project in 1929.

Caroline Clark, The National Lottery Heritage Fund Director for Scotland said; "This funding, made possible thanks to National Lottery players, will allow the Trust to carry out urgent repairs and unlock new spaces for public use, ensuring this wonderful landmark church continues to inspire and serve both locals and visitors for generations to come. St Conan's Kirk

is a unique and much-loved part of Scotland's heritage. We're delighted to support this ambitious project that will conserve the building, expand its community role, and enhance the visitor experience."

The project will renew the roofs of three of the Kirk's towers, repair leaking gutters and damaged masonry, and complete the ground floor lighting scheme with new LED lighting in the East End. These works will address long-standing water ingress issues and improve the overall visitor experience.

A key part of the project is the creation of visitor toilets, including an accessible facility — a much-needed addition in a rural area where no public toilets exist within 10 miles. Accessibility will also be improved through new level access points, hearing loops, and interpretation for areas not physically accessible, such as the stunning terraces overlooking Loch Awe. The Crypt will be opened to the public for the first time and will feature an interactive children's exhibition and a small performance space for storytelling, music, and theatre. Beneath the Bruce Chapel, an unused double-height space will be converted into a two-level area for schools and community groups, creating a warm, flexible venue for learning and events. Work is set to begin later this year, with completion expected in 2027.



The Glengarry Highland Games does it again



Drum Major Emma Barr.

There is only one word that can sum up this year's Glengarry Highland Games and that is "fantastic". From the perfect weather to the hard-fought competitions to the thousands of people who came out to discover just what the Games are all about, it was one unforgettable experience of music, tradition and heritage all wrapped up in one of the most spectacular massed bands closing in years. The pipe band competition with forty-three competing bands was one of the best with the 78th Fraser Highlanders from Milton, Ontario being crowned the Grade One North American Pipe Band Champions once again. In Grade Two the Ulster Scottish Pipe Band from Philadelphia took the honours with the City of Dunedin, Florida close behind. There were several pipe bands from the United States at this year's Games from as far away as Utah and Florida all coming to show their love of Canada and their Scottish heritage. The Games crowds returned the sentiment with enthusiastic applause.

Finest of competitions

The Glengarry Highland Games' own Juvenile Pipe Band came second in their level with their first entry into the competitive field. This band is relatively new with some players only a few months as members of the pipe band. In first place was the Capital District Youth Pipe Band from Albany, NY.

A big hit with the fans was the appearance of World Champion Drum Major Emma Barr who led the fifty-three massed bands at the Friday night Tattoo and the Saturday noon and evening massed bands. Just the sight of this slight woman from Ballygowan near Belfast, Ireland leading twelve hundred pipers and drummers across the field brought huge cheers from the thousands surrounding the infield.

Throughout the two days, the crowds displayed their love of the heavy events with cheers and sounds of encouragement as the athletes showed off their skills. In the Professionals division, Damien Fisher all the way from Ferndale in Washington State topped the field edging out Lorne Colthart from Ottawa. Local athlete Kyle Lalonde from Alexandria made a good showing in his first professional appearance in a field of eleven pros. In the Women's Professionals, Liz King from Antigonish, NS amassed the top points to win first place while Alexandria's Lisa MacDonald, a Games director, took third place in the Women's Masters competition. Josee Morneau from Manitoba, a perennial Games favourite, easily won first.

Again this year, even with several valiant efforts, no one was successful in tossing the Challenge Caber. The dancing competitions had new competitions added to their schedule this year to accommodate the interest in their event and results are still being compiled since there were 280 dancers who took to the stage. The dancing venue had an overflow audience both days to view the finest of competitions with dancers from around the world.

Scottish tradition, entertainment and pageantry

Not to be outdone, the Celtic musicians gave their all keeping the dance floors filled and everyone clapping along.

The music venues were full starting off on Friday afternoon and finishing late Saturday evening. Over in the Arena, the hall was jammed with music lovers as the fiddlers gave an energetic performance starting on Friday with the Youth Fiddlers and then on Saturday with the Scottish fiddle workshop and finishing up with the afternoon concerts where Glengarry's best fiddlers joined together to make beautiful music. The Canadian Armed Forces Primary Reserve tug of war was fiercely contested with the winning team being the 48th Highlanders of Canada from Toronto with the SD&G Highlanders taking second. The Wee Bairns area was wall-to-wall kids exploring the myriad of fun activities on offer. At last count, more than one thousand little ones took advantage of a different way to enjoy the Games.

All of the events report a very positive year with great competitions, participation and enjoyment, whether it was the kilt run, the whisky tasting, the British Car show, the Nate McRae Memorial Rugby Tournament, and of course, a crowd favourite, the colourful Clan Parade at noon on Saturday.

The Games social media channels and the local media have great coverage of the Games whether it's articles, photos or video clips. Relive the Games or see what it's all about by checking these out. For another year, the Games has surpassed the expectations of the organizing committee and the thousands of visitors who spent two full days making glorious memories.

And now, the Games, like the fictional Scottish village of Brigadoon, has disappeared only to reappear next year at the same time for another two days of Scottish tradition, entertainment and pageantry. Join the Glengarry Highland Games next year at the Games on July 31 and August 1 and make your own memories!

All competition results can be found on the website at: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com/competitions/results



Massed bands.

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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

Canada

SEPTEMBER 2025

RSCDS Windsor Ceilidh 5, Windsor, ON

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Windsor Branch Ceilidh at the Scottish Club. Info: www.rscdswindsor.org

Festival Celtique de Québec 5-7, Québec, QC

A celebration of Celtic culture in historic Québec City. Info: www.festivalceltique.com

Gaelic in Scotland, Gaelic in Canada: Challenges, Prospects, Connections 10, Virtual event

The Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph is pleased to announce the new date for Gaelic in Scotland, Gaelic in Canada: Challenges, Prospects, Connections — the inaugural Scotland-Canada Academic Partnership Lecture delivered by Professor Robert Dunbar, University of Edinburgh. The event will take place online from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Info: www.eventbrite.ca/e/gaelic-in-scotland-gaelic-in-canada-challenges-prospects-connections-tickets-1582259584009?aff=oddtcreator

Songs and Speech of Gaelic Scotland 9-14, Toronto, ON

This course will provide an introduction to speaking and singing in Gaelic, the Celtic language of Scotland. Students will learn pronunciation, basic vocabulary and useful phrases at the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto. Info: <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/program/smce4010-f25-songs-and-speech-of-gaelic-scotland>

2025 Celtic Island Music Festival 13, Toronto, ON

Send summer out in style with a day of Celtic music and dance on Toronto Island. There will be cold drinks, great food and incredible views on the best patio in the city. Info: www.stpatrickstoronto.com

LBA Highland Games 21, Ormstown, QC

2nd annual Highland games, multiple pipe bands, Highland dancers, Royal Scottish dance society, athletics and more. In addition to our Highland games, we are proud to welcome the RCMP musical rides, a true compliment to our Scottish/Canadian roots! Info: www.expoormstown.com

Vancouver Ceilidh 26, Vancouver, BC

Ceilidh dancing at the Scottish Cultural Centre. Bring friends and family, ages 9-90! No experience or partner or kilt required. Soft shoes and light/layered clothing suggested – you will be active. Info: www.vancouverceilidh.org

Oakville Fall Celtic Festival 27-28, Oakville, ON

An annual two-day celebration of the cultures of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany and the Isle of Man. The event brings Celtic traditions and fun to all the people of the Greater Toronto area and invites them to explore a new culture or connect with their Celtic heritage at the grounds of the Toronto Rock Athletic Centre, 1132 Invicta Dr. Info: www.fallcelticfestival.ca

OCTOBER 2025

RSCDS Windsor Ceilidh 3, Windsor, ON

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Windsor Branch Ceilidh at the Scottish Club. Info: www.rscdswindsor.org

Celtic Colours International Festival 10-18, Cape Breton, NS

A unique celebration of Cape Breton Island's living traditional culture—discover hundreds of events and activities taking place in communities all over the Island. Info: www.celtic-colours.com

Taste of Scotland 17, Montreal, QC

The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal would like to invite anybody interested in fine whisky to their annual Taste of Scotland Whisky Tasting Night. Sample over 25 different brands of whisky and enjoy a buffet featuring a variety of delectable Scottish dishes at Black Watch Armoury, 2067 rue de Bleury. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca

ReJigged Festival 23-25, Dartmouth, NS

A festival celebrating Celtic music, dance and song. Info: www.rejiggedfestival.com

Vancouver Ceilidh 24, Vancouver, BC

Ceilidh dancing at the Scottish Cultural Centre. Bring friends and family, ages 9-90! No experience or partner or kilt required. Soft shoes and light/layered clothing suggested – you will be active. Info: www.vancouverceilidh.org

USA

SEPTEMBER 2025

Kalamazoo Scottish Festival 6, Parchment, MI

Full fare of fun – including music, piping, dancing, children's games, Highland athletics and more at Kindleberger Park, 122 N Riverview Dr. Info: www.kalamazooscottishfest.org

Covenanter Scottish Festival & Highland Games 6, Quarryville, PA

From Highland Games to Celtic Folk to Haggis; the Festival has something for everyone at the Covenanter Presbyterian Church, at 1199 Valley Rd. Info: www.covenanterscottishfestival.com

VFW Celtic Festival 6, Washington, MO

Celtic bands and dancers, clans, bagpipes, Highland games and more in Washington, MO. Info: www.vfwcelticfest.com

Middle Tennessee Highland Games 6-7, Hendersonville, TN

A weekend of Scottish events, music and celebration at Sanders Ferry Park. Info: www.midtenngames.com

Ceilidh

8 - October 12, Baltimore, MD

Ceilidh is a musical about family, legacy, the enduring power of stories and having a good time. Lose yourself in the soaring music, the lively dance, and the timeless magic of a true Scottish ceilidh at M&T Bank Exchange at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center, 401 W Fayette St. Info: www.ceilidhmusical.com

Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games

13-14, Lockport, NY
Be immersed in the traditions and pageantry of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and all things Celtic at Niagara County Fairgrounds, 4487 Lake Ave. (Rte. 78). Info: www.niagaraceltic.com

Kelso Highlander Festival and Scottish Highland Games 13-14, Kelso, WA

At Highlander Festival, you will experience vendors of all sorts, Scottish dance competition, parade of clans, traditional Scottish games, pipe bands, and more at Tam O' Shanter Way. Info: www.kelsohighlanderfestival.com

Scotfest 2025

19-21, Broken Arrow, OK

An authentic Scottish festival and a celebration of Scottish, Irish and Celtic culture at Central Park. Info: www.okscotfest.com

Libations Winery Scottish Highland Games & Craft Festival 20, Mercer, PA

Watch professional and amateur athletes compete in traditional Scottish highland games. Aside from the kilts, Scottish Clans, bagpipes, skydivers, and athletic feats, there'll be a craft festival with vendors showcasing their goods. Info: www.libationswinery.com/highland-games

Colorado Scottish Festival 20-21, Sedalia, CO

A weekend of Scottish tradition, music and celebration at Denver Polo Club. Info: www.scottishgames.org

Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival 26-28, Bethlehem, PA

The largest free Celtic festival in North America. Held in historic downtown, Bethlehem PA, 5 stages of world-renowned Celtic music, U.S. National Highland Games Championship, pipe band competitions, fiddle competition, border collies, 50+ Celtic retail merchants, 35+ food vendors, Showing of the Tartan Parade on Saturday and more. Info: www.celticfest.org

Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival 27, Dandridge, TN

Includes an Opening Concert on Friday, Sept. 26th at 6:30 pm. Saturday has a parade, the pipe bands, all the Celtic music and dance, and more. This event is free and family friendly at 131 E Main St. Info: www.scotsirishfestival.com

OCTOBER 2025

Scotland County Highland Games 4, Laurinburg, NC

A celebration of Scottish culture at the John Blue House, 13040 X-Way Rd. Info: www.carolina-highlandgames.com

Harpers Ferry Highland Games 4-5, Harpers Ferry, WV

This event will have live traditional Scottish athletics, music, vendors, food, a beer garden, wine, spirits, historical displays and more. Info: www.hfccs.org

McMinnville Scottish Festival 4-5, McMinnville, OR

A celebration of Scottish and Celtic culture at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds. Info: www.celticheritage.org/mac-scottish-festival

Aztec Highland Games and Celtic Festival 4-5, Aztec, NM

The Four Corners region's premier event celebrating Celtic culture at Riverside Park. Info: www.aztehighlandgames.com

Radford Highlanders Festival 11, Radford, VA

This event will include the famed heavyweight games, sheepherding demonstrations, live entertainment, delicious food, various vendors, and fun activities suitable for all ages at Radford University. Info: www.radford.edu/festival

CelticFest Mississippi

11-12, Brandon, MS

Host location for the 2025 Scottish Masters World Championship Highland Games along with Scottish Masters Athletic International. A full weekend with multiple stages of music and dance plus Celtic Merchants & Food, Scottish Family Associations, Highland Cows, Sheepdog Herding, Blacksmith Demos, Tastings and more at 1112 North Shore Parkway. Info: www.celticfestms.org

Seaside Highland Games 11-12, Ventura, CA

A weekend of Scottish celebration at Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Info: www.seasidehighlandgames.org

Arkansas Scottish Festival 17-19, Batesville, AR

Every year Arkansas' oldest city, Batesville, plays host to one of America's most popular Scottish festivals. Pipers, drummers, dancers, athletes, Scottish clans, and vendors travel from all corners of the country to attend the event at Lyon College. Info: www.arscottishfest.com

Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival 2025

17-19, Stone Mountain, GA

Stone Mountain Park will be featuring colorful pipe bands, Scottish Athletics, Piping and Drumming competitions, Highland dancers competing, Country Dancing, and Fiddling, Scottish foods and drink, clan tents, vendors and Celtic performers are also a part of this traditional gathering. Info: www.smhg.org

Moab Celtic Festival 17-19, Moab, UT

A weekend of Celtic entertainment and celebration at Center Street Ballpark, 250 E Center St. Info: www.scotsontherocksmoab.org

Houston Highland Games & Celtic Festival 18, Humble, TX

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELED FOR 2025. Info: www.houstonhighlandgames.com

Crystal Coast Highland Games 18, Newport, NC

An epic day of strength, culture, and fun by the coast, at Newport Flea Mall Event Grounds, 196 Carl Garner Rd. Info: www.crystalcoasthighlandgames.com

Tucson Celtic Festival and Scottish Highland Games

24-26, Tucson, AZ

A weekend of Celtic celebration at Rillito Raceway Park 4502 N. First Ave. Info: www.tucsoncelticfestival.org

Scotland

SEPTEMBER 2025

The International Ayr Show – Festival of Flight 5-6, Ayr

The festival will be held at the Low Green, Ayr and will feature impressive and daring flying display programmes. The event Festival Village will also return, jam-packed with a fantastic range of family entertainment to suit all interests. Info: www.destinationsouthayrshire.co.uk/ayrshow

Braemar Highland Gathering 6, Braemar

Held at The Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park each September in the beautiful Cairngorms village of Braemar. The Gathering has been run in its present form since 1832. Queen Victoria attended in 1848, and since then it has been regularly attended by the reigning Monarch and members of the British Royal Family. Info: www.braemargathering.org

Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games 7, Blairgowrie

A blend of spectacle and fun in beautiful Perthshire, at Bogles Field. Info: www.blairgowriehighlandgames.co.uk

The Northern Meeting Piping Competition 11-12, Inverness

The pre-eminent and most prestigious piping competition in the world. The Gold Medal for the classical piobaireachd music and the Gold Clasp for former winners, are the most sought-after achievements for any piper, Eden Court Theatre. Info: www.piping.northern-meeting.org

Lochaber Live

12-14, Fort William

After a three-decade absence, Lochaber Live returned to Fort William to celebrate its biggest ever party in the Outdoor Capital of the UK with a great variety of Scottish traditional musicians. Info: www.lochaberlive.com

Stranraer Oyster Festival 12-14, Stranraer

Celebrity chef demos, live music, the Scottish Oyster Shucking Championships, amazing food & drink, family fun in celebration of Scotland's last remaining wild and native oyster bed. Info: www.stranraeroysterfestival.com

Bloody Scotland 2025 12-14, Stirling

Scotland's International Crime Writing Festival returns to Stirling. Info: www.stirlingevents.org

Pitlochry Highland Games 13, Pitlochry

Traditional Scottish Games with Massed Bands, athletics, dancing and more at Recreation Ground. Info: www.pitlochryhighlandgames.co.uk

The Stirling Gathering 20-21, Stirling

A new Festival of Scotland. Set against a backdrop of Stirling Castle, a festival for all ages celebrating Scotland's Past, Present and Future. Info: www.thesaltiregathering.scot

Wigtown Book Festival 25-October 5, Wigtown

A 10-day literary celebration in Scotland's National Book Town and one of the UK's best-loved literary events with a programme of 250-plus events and activities for all ages, including music, theatre and visual arts. Info: www.wigtownbookfestival.com

Dunbar Music Festival 26-28, Dunbar

Established as a celebration of traditional Scottish and Irish folk music in 1988, over the years the Festival's range of music has broadened to appeal to a wider range of tastes. Traditional folk music from Scotland still features strongly as part of a diverse musical programme which brings together local talent and acts with international. Info: www.dunbarmusicfestival.co.uk

Shetland Wool Week 28-October 4, Shetland

A world-renowned celebration of Britain's most northerly native sheep, the Shetland textile industry and the rural farming community on these islands. Info: www.shetlandwoolweek.com

Scotword answers from page 6

ACROSS:

- 7) Sporan
- 8) Ireland
- 10) Sutherland
- 11) Dirk
- 12) Tenement
- 14) Lassie
- 15) Arthursseat
- 19) Dancer
- 20) Omelette
- 22) Firm
- 23) Sassenachs
- 25) Guineas
- 26) Pennant

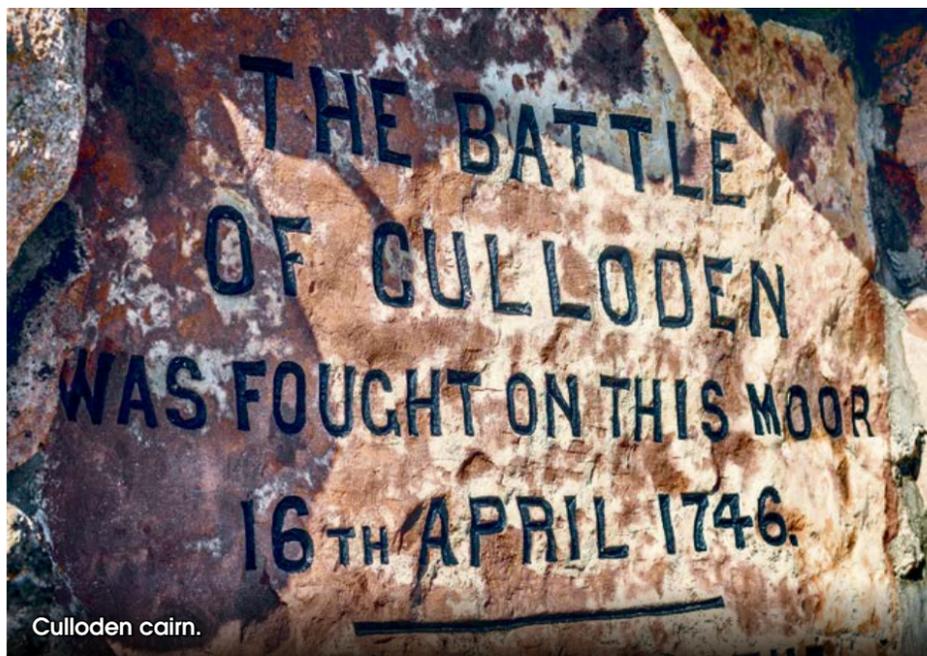
DOWN:

- 1) Spruces
- 2) Arch
- 3) Faerie
- 4) Griddle
- 5) Clydesdale
- 6) Inertia
- 9) Easterhouse
- 13) Enrichment
- 16) Herdsman
- 17) Fatigue
- 18) Iching
- 21) Eleven
- 24) Anne

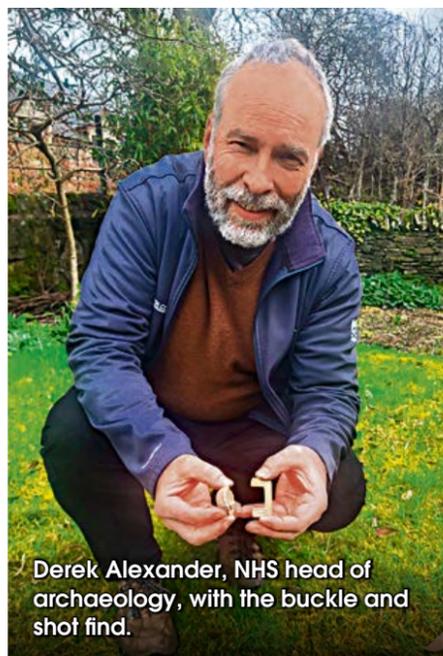
Uncovering the secrets of Culloden

By: Judy Vickers

All images courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland.



Culloden cairn.



Derek Alexander, NHS head of archaeology, with the buckle and shot find.

That attack had been aborted and the weary troops had headed back to face a well-fed, well-equipped enemy in good spirits on the morning of April 16. Even the famed Highland charge was ably countered by the Duke of Cumberland's soldiers who had been practising a counter-attack with bayonets.

The moor's chequered history

Part of the reason for the wealth of material still being uncovered at Culloden – the battle takes its name from a small village a few miles from the actual field – is the moor's chequered history in the years following 1746. Farmland began to encroach around the edges, plantations of spruce trees were created and in 1835 a road was built right through the middle of the site. The open moorland of the battlefield was lost.

By the 1800s visitors beyond just friends and family of the fallen were arriving and interest in the site for its memorial and historical rather than commercial significance grew. Duncan Forbes, the laird of Culloden who owned the site, created the memorial cairn and put up headstones to mark the clan graves in the 1880s, and the Gaelic Society of Inverness raised funds to repair the thatched roofs of two old cottages on the battlefield, King's Stables Cottage to the west and Leanach Cottage to the east. But not all the tourist attention was beneficial – in the 1930s a tearoom and petrol pump were erected in the middle of the battlefield to serve the rising visitor numbers.

In 1937, the recently formed National Trust for Scotland was given its first two small parcels of the battlefield and slowly, over the decades, acquired more of the land. But it was only in the 1970s that the old tearoom was bought and demolished and the 1980s when the road was moved and the forestry felled, meaning visitors could again see the moor the way the combatants did back in 1746. As the site was opened up, more was learned about the battle – and in fact the NTS's own 1970s' visitor centre was discovered to have been built on the second line of the government army. A new, relocated centre was opened in 2007.

Even archaeologists' views on the shape of the battlefield has changed in recent years with experts now believing that it stretched over a wider area than previously thought. As Derek says: "There is always more to learn about what happened on the day of the battle."

This year's dig takes place from 12-18 October. For more information, visit: www.nts.org.uk



Archaeology dig in progress at Culloden.

In a thrilling quest to uncover secrets from one of Scotland's most significant historical sites, archaeologists and volunteers will again partake in a remarkable dig at Culloden Battlefield, where the course of British, European and world history changed dramatically nearly 280 years ago. Experts armed with both traditional archaeology tools and cutting-edge technology are peeling back layers of earth to reveal untold stories of the final clash of the Jacobite Rising in 1746, as Judy Vickers explains.

For hundreds, possibly thousands, of years Drummoissie Moor was just a wind-swept, boggy moorland east of Inverness, used by nearby farmers for grazing their animals. Flints uncovered in archaeological digs in the area show that folk had been around the moor for at least 4,000 years but its history was fairly unexceptional until one bloody hour on an April day almost 280 years ago.

The Battle of Culloden in 1746 finally snuffed out the Jacobite cause – those who wished to restore the Stuart dynasty to the British throne – and put an end to more than 50 years of sporadic risings and rebellions. The battle, the last on British soil, was as brutal as it was short – one of the Government officers described it as "a general carnage" and said his men were splashing through the blood that covered the moor. Around 1,250 Jacobites were killed, the same number were wounded and 376 were taken prisoner – Government losses were just 50 with under 300 wounded.

The battle has become iconic for more than just its pivotal role in British political history, securing the protestant Hanoverian family on the throne. The romantic figure of Bonnie Prince Charlie who led the Jacobite army to a series of victories after he landed on Scottish soil in 1745 and raised his standard at Glenfinnan, his dramatic reversal of fortune at Culloden, his escape from the clutches of government forces after the battle and the brutal suppression of the Highland way of life in the days and years following have all helped to make this Scotland's most famous battle.

The battlefield is still giving up its secrets

Yet despite that spotlight, centuries on, the battlefield is still giving up its secrets. This October sees the fifth successive year of archaeological fieldwork and investigations at Culloden – and there will be open days with guided tours for members of the public to see the work going on and

learn about what has been uncovered in previous years. This year's dig will be again led by the National Trust for Scotland's (NTS) head of archaeology Derek Alexander, who explained: "This year we are looking for archaeological artefacts in the area to the north of the memorial cairn. This is an area where very little investigation has been undertaken before and was previously covered in a conifer plantation, which may have had an impact on the preservation of metal artefacts in this area. So, if we recover a similar number of artefacts to that found elsewhere we will be very excited."

Those finds elsewhere include a large number of musket balls and grapeshot in a small 60 sq m area close to the Government frontline, vividly illustrating the intensity of the fighting on the Jacobite right wing and allowing battlefield experts to refine their understanding of the battle. "They have given a very detailed insight into the location of the hand to hand combat and have provided material evidence for the brutal nature of 18th century warfare" explains Derek.

The most significant find – so far – was a shoe buckle believed to have belonged to Donald Cameron of Lochiel, who led the 400-strong Camerons regiment into the battle. A single piece of heavy lead grape shot, with a flattened side showing it had hit something with great force, and a highly decorated broken copper alloy buckle were found close to each other, just a few metres from the British Army frontline. The finds fits perfectly with the story of the man known as "The Gentle Lochiel" that he was just drawing his sword as he reached the Redcoats' frontline when he fell, wounded with grapeshot in both ankles. Lochiel, a leading Jacobite, survived Culloden and escaped to France with the prince. He was just one of many Jacobite casualties at the battle; Bonnie Prince Charlie's forces, already hungry and tired, had been further exhausted by a night-time march to spring a surprise attack on the sleeping government troops.



Culloden Moor.



The buckle and shot found at Culloden in 2024.

Scotland's ancient Hawaii: The volcanic vents that forged the Hebrides discovered



Scotland's landscape would have looked similar to the kind of eruptions seen in Iceland (pictured) and Hawaii. Photo: Adobe Stock.

A discovery likened to finding a needle in a haystack has confirmed that Scotland's dramatic volcanic landscape once rivalled the fiery activity of modern-day Hawaii. Geologists from the University of Aberdeen have confirmed that cracks in the Earth, called volcanic fissures, helped create many of the Inner Hebrides. Scientists have long understood that islands such as Skye, Mull, Eigg, Canna and Staffa as well as parts of the mainland were formed from lava flows, however, the way the lava came to the surface has been debated by scientists for over 100 years.

In contrast to the calm, picturesque scenery of today, 60 million years ago, the west coast of Scotland was erupting with lava fountains and other volcanic events. The new discovery by geoscientists from the University of Aberdeen provides the strongest evidence yet that some of Scotland's most iconic islands were born not from a single large volcano, but from a

network of erupting fissures, just like those found in Hawaii and Iceland.

The research, published in *The Journal of the Geological Society*, settles the century-old debate over how the lava fields of the Inner Hebrides islands were formed. The team has, for the first time, uncovered physical proof of an ancient volcanic fissure that fed lava into the surrounding landscape. The site, a 5km-long stretch near Calgary Bay on the Isle of Mull, reveals preserved deposits from one of these fissures, where magma once erupted in spectacular displays.

An extraordinarily significant find

Dr Jessica Pugsley from the University of Aberdeen, who led the project, said: "For over 100 years, scientists have debated whether the lava flows on Skye and Mull came from a single volcano or from many fissures like those we see in Iceland and Hawaii today. Finding a preserved fissure is a bit like discovering a dinosaur fossil with skin - it tells us far more than lava alone can.

Typically, a very small fraction of a lava field contains these fissures, so it's an extraordinarily significant find."

The volcanic activity occurred as the Atlantic Ocean began to form, ripping apart ancient land and allowing magma to surge up through the crust. This zone of volcanic remnants is called the British Paleogene Volcanic Province and reaches from the west of Scotland over to parts of Northern Ireland, including the famous Giants Causeway.

The preserved fissure found by the Aberdeen team through fieldwork aided by 3D drone modelling technology, shows exactly where lava once fountained out of the Earth, before being buried by later eruptions and finally revealed by millions of years of erosion. Dr Pugsley added: "To be able to stand and walk on a feature that played such a key role in shaping Scotland's geography - and to realise it erupted like Iceland and Hawaii's volcanoes do today - is pretty incredible."



Dr Jessica Pugsley.

Preserving Scottish wool traditions



Rebecca McLellan of Chocflock Rare Wool Scotland is on a one-woman mission to use the beautiful woollen scarves, and many other items, she weaves to help save a rare breed of Scottish sheep from extinction. Rebecca, who has a small flock of 18 of the curvy horned, nimble brown sheep, wanted to raise awareness of the endangered breed and hit on the idea of learning to weave.

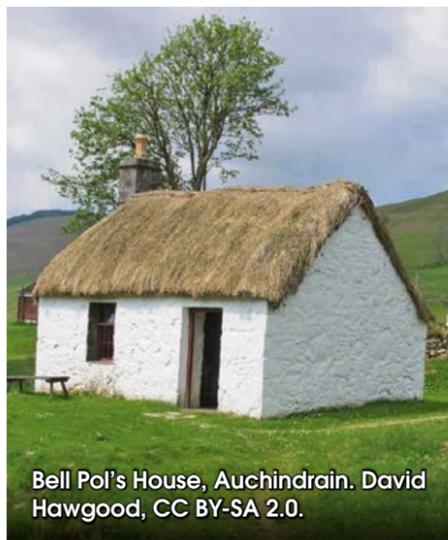
She said: "They are a lovely breed, everyone who meets a Castlemilk Moorit is charmed, but they are rare and we really need more people to keep them to save them for the future. I realised that learning to weave would mean that I could do demonstrations where I could meet members of the public and talk to them about the sheep. At the same time I could show that they are a useful breed, that their wool can be used to make beautiful textiles."

Champions the fleece of Dumfries & Galloway

Rebecca welcomes visitors to her farm overlooking Rockcliffe Bay on the Dumfries and Galloway coast where they are able to see her working at the loom, visit the wool store, browse products including scarves, throws, knitting yarns and - of course - see the sheep, including Eddie the Orphan who she raised by hand. The Moorits have a fascinating history, first bred in the 1920s by the Liberal politician, international trader and author of *Hounds of the World* Sir Jock Buchanan-Jardine. The idea is that they would be an elegant addition to the parkland of his Castlemilk Estate and their high-quality wool could be used to clothe his workers. Most were culled after his death in 1970, with just two rams and a few ewes being saved.

Rebecca added: "My work celebrates and champions the fleece of native Dumfries & Galloway rare-breed Castlemilk Moorit sheep. Through my work I aim to keep traditions alive, working with small mills to spin our yarn, weaving individual scarves and creating bespoke fabric designs. I aim to share the excitement of creating in limited quantities something individual that is a unique combination of materials and inspiration. The constant thread running through all that I do is a love and respect for our sheep and the beautiful textiles created from their sustainable fibre for practical and decorative use."

Boost in battle to save last Highland township



Bell Pol's House, Auchindrain. David Hawgood, CC BY-SA 2.0.

Six months after teetering on the brink of being lost forever, Auchindrain, the only genuine Highland township to survive the Scottish Clearances, is back in business. The historic 22-acre site in mid-Argyll is as important to Scottish history as Stirling Castle, the Stone Age village of Skara Brae or the battlefield of Bannockburn.

For almost 2,000 years people have lived off the land which lies just six miles from Inveraray. At one time there were around 5,000 such farming townships throughout the Highlands of Scotland - now there is just one. Improvements to farming techniques, changes in land use and the decimation of the infamous clearances destroyed all the other similar communities. Only Auchindrain,

or Bail' Ach' an Droighinn as it's known in Gaelic, survived intact. Incredibly, families still occupied the site up until the 1960s. They lived and worked in buildings largely unchanged since the 18th century. When the last person moved out the township was preserved for posterity by The Auchindrain Trust, a registered Scottish charity.

However, in December 2024 it was announced that due to cuts in funding the ancient township would be forced to shut its gates for good. Horrified at the loss of such a unique link to the history of ordinary Highlanders a number of local residents banded together to save the township. Now, with a whole new board of trustees and an army of volunteers committed to the cause, the fight to save Auchindrain is on!

The only genuine survivor of its type

In recognition of their efforts so far, and their detailed planning for the future of the township, officials from Museums Galleries Scotland have awarded the township the coveted status of Provisional Accreditation for the next 12 months. In a letter conferring the honour Victoria Hawkins, Museum Development Manager - Accreditation, acknowledged the work of the board, staff and volunteers battling to save the site. She said: "Congratulations on maintaining Provisional Accreditation for Bail' Ach' an Droighinn during difficult circumstances."

The Accreditation Scheme is the UK industry standard for museums and galleries. It helps everyone involved with a museum to do the right things, helping people to

access and engage with collections, and protect them for future generations. It is administered north of the border by Museums Galleries Scotland on behalf of Arts Council England.

As one of only 257 institutions in Scotland to hold the Accreditation Standard the charity will be able to call on advice from experts in a range of skills and disciplines to help make Auchindrain an internationally recognised museum. "Being awarded Provisional Accreditation is a major step forward for us," said Jan Brown, Chair of the Auchindrain Trust. "Just a few short months ago the future looked really bleak for the township. I am proud of the way local people, and many others from around the world, have rallied round to try and prevent the loss of such a historic site. As the only genuine survivor of its type, it is a living memorial to all those communities and families devastated by the Scottish Clearances. Getting this provisional accreditation is recognition that we mean business. Auchindrain is a physical link to how thousands of ordinary Scots lived before they were forced from the land. Like the eternal flame it is a symbol of remembrance that should never be extinguished."



Restored cottages, Auchindrain. Kim Traynor, CC BY-SA 4.0.

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