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Falling for Scotland: Autumn is good

Volume 49 - Number 5

Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

The Woman with the Torch

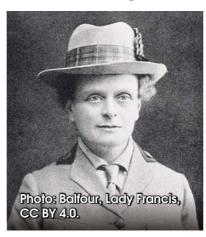


by Sean Cairney

he city of Edinburgh has recently approved a new statue for the city's iconic Royal Mile. This statue is surprisingly unique as it is the very first depicting a woman.

That woman is Dr Elsie Inglis who was a pioneering Scottish doctor, suffragist, and humanitarian who transformed women's healthcare and wartime medicine.

Committed suffragist



Born in 1864 in British India, Inglis trained at the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women and qualified in 1892. She was appalled by the poor standards of care for women and became a tireless advocate for improved maternity services. In 1901, founded a women-staffed maternity hospital in Edinburgh, a radical move that challenged the male-dominated medical establishment. Dr Inglis had female staff from not just across Scotland working at her sites, but women from as far as Australia, Canada and New Zealand taking up the cause.

A committed suffragist, Inglis was active in the Scottish Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies. When World War I broke out, she offered her services to the British War Office—only to be told, "Go home and sit still." Undeterred, she launched the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service, establishing medical units staffed entirely by women. These hospitals operated in France, Serbia, and Russia, treating thousands of soldiers and civilians under extreme conditions.

Inspiring life

Her work in Serbia was especially heroic. Despite illness, she continued to lead medical efforts and was

awarded the Serbian Order of the White Eagle and was the first woman to receive the country's highest honour. She returned to Britain gravely ill with cancer and died on November 26, 1917, just one day after arriving home.

Dr Inglis's legacy lives on as a symbol of compassion, courage, and defiance. Her contributions not only advanced medical care for women but also proved that female professionals could excel in the most demanding circumstances. Inglis is buried in Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh, and is today remembered as "The Woman with the Torch" and her inspiring life which helped so many.

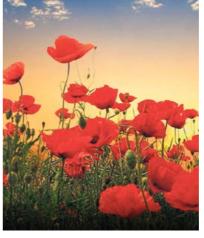
In this issue

A cast of over 1,000 is preparing to dazzle Australian and New Zealand audiences as The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo gets ready to head overseas in celebration of their incredible 75th anniversary. We include just some of the world class performers in this issue, and for those who cannot make the trip Edinburgh is calling for the 2026 shows also well into development.

Viking invasions and Norse legacy are part of the Scottish story. In this issue we delve into how these fierce raiders went on to build communities and trade and became part of Scotland's history.

St Andrews is a historic coastal town in Fife, famed as the "Home of Golf" and for its prestigious university (which is Scotland's oldest). If like me, you may have enjoyed the seaside charm and history the town boasts and if not, you should plan to when visiting Scotland. Some may be surprised St Andrews is not a city but a town, which is full of history, beauty and a place named after Scotland's patron saint.

Lest We Forget



The following poem was written by a Canadian Medical Corps doctor, Major John McCrae, who was serving with a Field Artillery Brigade in Ypres.

The death of one of his friends in May 1915, buried in the cemetery outside his dressing station, affected him severely and he wrote his poem as a way of expressing his anguish at the loss.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below. We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw The torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders fields.

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare during the First World War. Tuesday November 11th marks the 107th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Every year at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, millions around the world pause in silence to remember the sacrifices many have made so we can enjoy life today. Remember those who gave their lives in the two world wars and all who have died in combat since. Regardless of where you find yourself this month, I hope you have time to pause and remember all the men and women who gave their all, for all of us. Lest we forget.

This month is also St Andrew's Day, celebrated on November 30th, which is Scotland's official national day honouring its patron saint, Saint Andrew the Apostle. Perhaps our events page will have an event you can attend, if you find yourself celebrating, I wish you a wonderful time.

Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition?
Share your story with us by email, post, social media or: #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner.

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We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



Gracing our front cover: Members of Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band who will perform at The Royal Edinburgh

Military Tattoo in Brisbane and Auckland. Photo: Luke Marsden.



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?

The historically important Cambuskenneth Abbey



King David I founded Cambuskenneth Abbey in about 1140, to serve the royal castle of Stirling. Most of the abbey was built in the 1200s, and much of the surviving structure dates back from then. It was in Cambuskenneth that the nobility and clergy of Scotland swore fealty to David Bruce as the heir of King Robert in 1326 at the first parliament to include representatives of the burghs. It was also at Cambuskenneth Abbey in 1488 that James IIII was buried after the Battle of Sauchieburn. Of its many famous abbots, the most notable was Patrick Pantar, who became both Abbot and Secretary to James V.

In 1488 the Battle of Sauchieburn took place 3 miles south of Cambuskenneth, between the armies of James III and his son, the future James IV. James III's forces seem to have been overwhelmed, and he was killed sometime during the rout. He was buried in front of the high altar at Cambuskenneth Abbey, next to his queen, Margaret of Denmark, who had died two years earlier .

Jamie Taylor Scotland

Not the Highland Games



Highland Games have long been a significant reminder of Scottish culture at home and abroad. Sadly, South Australia held its last Games several years ago, in Mount Barker in the picturesque Adelaide Hills. There have a few Highland Gathering, attracting perhaps 100 people, but the last of these (Glenbarr at Strathalbyn), held at a small rural holding, has closed its gates as well.

The main reasons have been that there are not enough volunteers to run the events, and they have become too expensive. All of this has been in a State where Scots have been a major force in its development. Even today, at the last Census, it was shown that South Australia had the second highest pro-rata figure of Scots born, just behind Western Australia, and nearly twice that of the next two States.

Since the devolution of the Scottish Parliament in 1999, the home country has been focusing on Heritage, History and Culture being significant factors in realising the social and economic well-being of Scotland. This acknowledged the important role of Scotland's massive diaspora.

Following two international migration symposia held in Adelaide it was decided that a research program should be initiated to look at the nature of Scottishness within SA.

This reported to Scotland in 2022, following which it was suggested that the research be extended looking at if and why there might be particular problems there which sets the State apart from other regions.

Not only does this include the problem of the Highland Games, but why the Scottish bit, in the minds of many people seems to be downplayed. The research has shown that there are some significant gaps which will be highlighted in a second report and a likely publication.

Ron Layton Crafers, South Australia

A cinematic tribute to Loch Lomond—Honoring Scotland's legacy from California



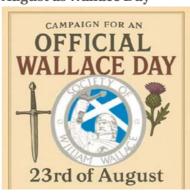
I'm reaching out to share a cinematic tribute I've created for *Loch Lomond*—a visual journey that honors Scotland's legacy through storytelling, drone footage, and emotional framing. As a singer/songwriter and filmmaker based in California, I've long felt a deep connection to Scottish culture. This project blends visual metaphor and pacing to reflect the spirit of Loch Lomond—not just as a song, but as a symbol of loyalty, loss, and homeland. I would be honored if you'd consider featuring the video or sharing it with your readers. It's crafted to resonate

with Scots around the world and those who hold Scotland close to their hearts. You can view my video at: https://youtu.be/xYDMIvt-p58

Thank you for your time and for celebrating the global Scottish community.

Tony Liggens Singer/Songwriter & Cinematic Storyteller Eastvale, California USA

Recognition of the 23rd of August as Wallace Day



We, the Society of William Wallace call upon the Scottish Government to officially recognise the 23rd of August as Wallace Day, National Day of Remembrance and celebration in honour of Sir William Wallace, one of Scotland's most iconic figures in the struggle for freedom.

Sir William Wallace was executed on the 23rd of August 1305 for leading the fight for Scotland's independence. His courage, sacrifice, and unyielding commitment to

Scottish sovereignty have echoed through centuries and remain an enduring symbol of national pride and resilience. While monuments, books, and films have kept his memory alive, there is no formal day set aside to honour the man who became a cornerstone of Scotland's national identity.

Why Wallace Day matters:

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

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

Let us mark August 23rd not just as a date of martyrdom, but as a National Day of Remembrance, unity, and inspiration.

Please sign the petition: www.change. org/p/wallace-day

David Reid Society of William Wallace Email: societyofjohndegraeme@yahoo.com

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA 1000

uts-send us your

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

Glamis Castle



Glamis Castle-What a driveway! The Kilted Photographer

Barradise



The beauty of Barra...

Derek A Grist

The National Wallace Monument



Birds eye view of the National Wallace Monument, Stirling. Craig Duncan Photography

The Doulton Fountain



The Doulton Fountain-A Victorian masterpiece in the heart of Glasgow! *Soul of Alba Photography*

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

The Learned Kindred of Currie presents the 2025 Inspire Award to Pipe Major Stuart Currie



he Learned Kindred of Currie is proud to recognize excellence within our global family through the presentation of the Inspire Award.

This honor is given to members of the Kindred who embody the very best of our shared heritage - those who inspire through their service, creativity, leadership, and dedication to strengthening the Currie legacy.

The 2025 Inspire Award has been presented to Pipe Major Stuart Currie of Dumfries, Scotland. A gifted musician and composer, Stuart has shared the rich traditions of Highland piping with audiences at home and abroad. His leadership and artistry were on full display at the 2024 Pipes of Christmas concerts, where he performed his stirring original composition *The March to St. Giles*, commissioned by the Kindred to commemorate the 900th anniversary

of Edinburgh. The march enjoyed its Edinburgh premiere as part of the 2025 Riding of the Marches event to mark the closing of the Edinburgh 900 celebrations.

Traditions are living things
Through his music, Stuart Currie has
inspired countless listeners while honoring
Scotland's history and culture. His dedication
exemplifies the spirit of the Inspire Award—
uplifting others, strengthening our bonds,
and showing how the Currie legacy continues
to flourish in the modern world.

This is the second tune composed by Currie and commissioned by the Kindred. In 2017, he composed the rousing *Curries are Coming* which was first performed as the Kindred processed to Edinburgh Castle as an Honoured Clan for the Splash of Tartan celebrations for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

In announcing the award, Robert Currie, Commander of the Name and Arms of Currie, remarked: "Pipe Major Stuart Currie has brought great honor to the Kindred through his music, creativity, and leadership. His work reminds us that our traditions are living things, capable of inspiring new generations. He is a most deserving recipient of the Inspire Award."

The Learned Kindred of Currie

The Learned Kindred of Currie – operating as the Clan Currie Society - is an international cultural and educational organization dedicated to preserving the proud heritage of the Currie/MacMhuirich family. For centuries, the Curries were Scotland's learned kindred of poets, historians, and chroniclers, entrusted with safeguarding the history, language, and traditions of Gaelic Scotland.

Founded in 1959, the Clan Currie Society was established to celebrate and share this extraordinary legacy. Today, the Society has members across Scotland, North America, and beyond, carrying forward the Currie heritage through cultural, educational, and musical initiatives.



Fast facts about St Andrew



- St Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland.
- St Andrew is celebrated on 30 November.
- St Andrew's Day is a day to celebrate Scottish culture, food and dance.
- St Andrew's flag is the flag of Scotland.
- The flag is in the form of a white X on a blue background and is commonly known as The Saltire.
- St Andrew's Societies celebrate
 Scottish culture around the world.
- St Andrew's Day is a bank holiday in Scotland but entitlement to leave depends on the employer.
- St Andrew is also the patron saint of Romania, Greece and Russia.
- Scotland is one of the few countries to have one of Christs disciples as their patron saint.
- St Andrew was one of the Twelve Apostles (disciples of Jesus) and brother of St Peter.
- St Andrew is believed to have died on a diagonally transversed cross which the Romans sometimes used for executions and which, therefore, came to be called St Andrews Cross.
- St Andrew's Day is connected with Advent, which begins on the first Sunday after November 26.
- St Andrew's Day marks the beginning of Scotland's winter festivals.

Help a Stirlingshire community save a piece of Scotland



community in the heart of
Stirlingshire is making an
international appeal to help them
save a "truly invaluable" 27-acre
piece of the Scottish landscape from being
lost to private development. The residents
of Kinlochard are working to purchase 'The
Field' to protect its unique natural heritage
for generations to come.

The land is a microcosm of Scotland's renowned biodiversity, providing a sanctuary for wildlife such as otters, beavers, and iconic red squirrels.

In addition, this key piece of land offers a small rural community which in the past 30 years has lost its school, shop, post office, pub, café and bus service, a chance to develop, survive and thrive.

The local community has a well-developed plan to act as custodians for this "little gem," ensuring it is preserved and made accessible for all. The community is now raising the final funds required to complete the purchase. With the land

potentially being sold within months, their campaign is urgent.

The Kinlochard Community Residents Association has launched a Crowdfunder, hoping that Scots and lovers of Scotland around the world will support their bid to purchase the £225,000 property. "What happens to that 27 acres... will determine what happens to Kinlochard," says long-time resident Andy Manders.

For more information, or to help, visit the website and crowdfunder: www.thefieldkinlochard.co.uk and www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/the-field-kinlochard





□ SCOTSPEAK

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



"Our aim is to transform this former military site into a dynamic and vibrant location for film, high-end TV production and other creative industries, and put Stirling at the centre of this industry in Scotland, delivering wide-ranging and lasting economic and social benefits."

Stirling Council leader Gerry McGarvey said as work began on a major project to build a film studio in Stirling. The £16 million project will transform the former Ministry of Defence site at Forthside into a film studio, creating thousands of jobs for the region. The council is hoping major networks and streaming platforms such as Netflix and Amazon use the studios for films and TV shows. The site will become one of Scotland's largest film production sites and is due to be ready before spring 2026.

"Frantisek's story is one of great courage and sacrifice, and his service during the Second World War reflects not only his personal bravery but also the enduring ties between our two nations. This memorial will stand as a lasting symbol of the bond between our communities and a reminder of the courage and sacrifice shown during the darkest of times."

East Ayrshire Provost Claire Leitch said as a memorial honouring a WW2 pilot who died after his aircraft crashed at Loch Doon was unveiled. It commemorates Czech Spitfire pilot, Frantisek Hekl, whose plane crashed into the loch in October 1941. Hekl had enlisted with the RAF Volunteer Reserve in November 1940 and joined the 312 (Czechoslovak) Squadron, based at RAF Ayr, next to Prestwick Airport, in 1941. On the morning of October 25, 1941, 26 year-old Hekl took off from RAF Ayr and headed towards Loch Doon, where he flew fast and low over the water. Sadly, his wingtip struck the surface, and the plane was instantly submerged. Although Hekl's plane was eventually recovered in 1982, his body was never found.

"The importance of Glasgow city centre cannot be overstated, and these figures are a very positive sign as we move from post-pandemic recovery into a new era for our city. It is especially encouraging to see consumer spending on the rise, as this is a key measure for businesses considering expansion. The recent arrival of high-profile brands underlines Glasgow's strong reputation as an international destination of choice for ambitious companies."

Stuart Patrick, Chief Executive of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, said figures for the city centre show that retail sales were up 9.4% in August 2025 in comparison to August 2024, and Glasgow has outperformed its UK competitor cities such as Edinburgh (a 0.2% increase), Manchester (0.4% increase), Leeds (0.9% decrease) and UK overall (4.8% decrease) when comparing those months.



"The Abernethy Pearl is a rare and special specimen and I'm delighted that it's been donated to the National Collection. It's a thing of beauty, but it also highlights the impact of the biodiversity crisis. Pearl fishing was once a very important export industry but the populations of mussels in Scotland have been decimated. We simply wouldn't have 80 years of undisturbed water in Scotland today for a pearl of this size to be created. It's one of a kind."

Dr Rachel Walcott, Principal Curator of Earth Systems at National Museums Scotland said the largest freshwater pearl to be found in Scotland in centuries has been donated to the National Collection. Perfectly round the Abernethy Pearl went on permanent display in the Restless Earth gallery at the National Museum of Scotland. Named after its finder, pearl fisherman William Abernethy, it was discovered inside a mussel near the River Tay in Perthshire in 1967.

"Across Scotland we know there are areas where overtourism is a problem, causing overcrowding in tourism "hotspots" and a strain on resources. The Visitor Levy Act gives local authorities the power to levy the charges to help them cope with the demands on infrastructure which this produces. In some areas rates of between 2% and 7% are being considered. At the same time, we had to look at the specific situation in East Ayrshire and as a result of consultations with our partner organisations and the tourism business community we recognised that while we are broadly supportive of the Visitor Levy scheme because of the opportunities it would provide to reinvest

in the local tourism economy, our own circumstances mean it is not viable or appropriate to implement it at this time."

Councillor Ian Linton, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Tourism said East Ayrshire Council will not be introducing a Visitor Levy in the near future. Councillors heard the results of engagement and consideration undertaken by the Council's Economic Growth Team following the introduction of The Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024 which makes provision for a local levy to be applied to the sector that could bring in resources specifically to support the local tourism infrastructure. As a result of the review, they agreed to pause any further work on development of a levy until August 2027 until more evidence is available about the impact of the scheme in other areas and on the wider visitor economy.



"Scotland could have more forests, healthier seas, and lusher wildlife. Rewilding is how we can make that happen – bringing with it balance, hope, and fantastic opportunity – creating jobs, teaching new skills, and bringing people together to look after Scotland's future."

Scottish actor Alan Cumming said as he calls on Scottish politicians to commit to rewilding. *The Traitors, X-Men and Avengers* star Alan Cumming has backed a campaign calling on the Scottish government to declare Scotland the world's first Rewilding Nation and commit to rewilding 30% of the country's land and seas. Scotland is ranked one of the world's most nature-depleted countries, with polling showing that 80% of Scots think the Scottish Government should have policies in place to support rewilding.

SCOTWORD

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

CLUES ACROSS

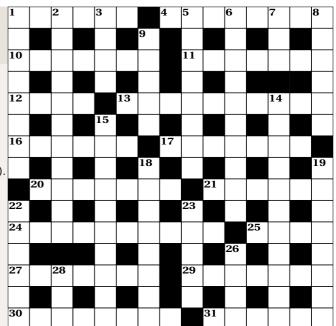
- 1) A short-billed duck (6).
- 4) She handles cows! (8)
- 10) It's a wrench in the US (7).
- 11) In Scotland they're glens (7).
- 12) Water flow (4)
- 13) Top Scots golfing hotel (10).
- 16) The kirk's second in command (6).
- 17) Town east of Bonar Bridge (7).
- 20) A starter for pipers (7).
- 21) A drop of water! (6).

- 24) District of Edinburgh (10).
- 25) Inner Hebridean island (4)
- 27) Put down in the sea (7).
- 29) Collectively named (7)
- 30) Close up for a punch up! (8).
- 31) Kirk office-bearer (6).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) They're found in steamiest (8).
- 2) Mountainous US games (11).
- 3) Possesses (4).
- 5) James Watt was one (8).

- 6) Town east of Irvine (10)
- 7) View this loch in wonder (3).
- 8) Leave off (6).
- 9) Row of plants! (5).
- 14) Waterway east of Glen Shiel (4, 7)
- 15) Fife new town (10).
- 18) Mary, Queen of Scots' fate (8).
- 19) Scottish get-togethers (8).
- 22) Made the Bruce try again (6).
- 23) Kirk congregation (5).
- 26) The true Highlander (4).
- 28) Old Scots measure (3).



Hillwalkers urged to help with historic meteorite recovery efforts



illwalkers setting out to bag a Munro are being asked for their help to bag a meteorite too, as scientists race against time to recover precious samples of a space rock which lit up the skies over Scotland this summer. In the early hours of Thursday 3rd July, a meteor exploded as it entered the atmosphere over the north of the country.

The fireball it created quickly went viral on social media, with users sharing footage of its trail captured on their mobile phones and home security cameras.

Scottish Highlands

Researchers from the UK Fireball Alliance have combined data from public videos with images taken from their own dedicated meteor tracking cameras including the Global Meteor Network, UK Meteor Network and Global Fireball Observatory to reconstruct the meteor's path and estimate where the meteorite fell. They are appealing to hillwalkers to keep their eyes peeled for fragments of the meteorite when they are out and about

across three Munros in the Scottish Highlands. If a hiker is lucky enough to find a piece, it would be the first time in more than a century that a meteorite has been successfully recovered in Scotland.

Fragments of the rock may be scattered across around 20 km of the Highlands, according to the team. Their analysis of the footage suggests that smaller fragments of up to 100 grams were dropped to the west as it travelled across Stob Coire Easain and Chno Dearg, before larger chunks up to 10 kilograms fell over Ben Alder. The team expect the majority of the meteorite's mass to have landed on Ben Alder's plateau, where exposed granite could make the dark space rock more visible to visitors. A team of 14 volunteers from the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, St Andrews and Manchester as well as several citizen scientists recently spent several days scouring the western side of the fall line. Their efforts were cut short by bad weather before they could recover any of the meteorite fragments, so they are turning to hillwalkers to ask for help.

Jigsaw of our Solar System's history Professor Luke Daly, of the University of Glasgow's School of Geographical & Earth Sciences, was co-leader of the search party. In 2021, he led the team which recovered the largest intact fragment of the Winchcombe meteorite, the first of its kind to be retrieved on UK soil in nearly 30 years.

Professor Daly said: "Meteorites are time capsules of the early Solar System, which hold a wealth of information about how our Solar System formed and developed. This is a very exciting opportunity to learn more about where this rock came from and where it has been and fill in a bit more of the jigsaw of our Solar System's history. We know from intensive analysis of the Winchcombe samples that meteorites are very quickly affected by contact with the Earth's atmosphere. The longer these pieces sit out on the Scottish hills, the more they will be weathered and the less we'll be able to tell about their composition. The clock is very much ticking on our chances to learn as much as we can from these rocks, so any help that hillwalkers can give us could make all the difference."

The School of Geographical & Earth Science's Dr Aine O'Brien also led the search team. She said: "We're asking hillwalkers to keep an eye out for rocks which stand out from everything around them. Meteorites are black and shiny with an almost glassy appearance, and they are heavy for their size. Since it could be about 30% iron, it may also look slightly rusty after all the rain we've had recently.

If someone is lucky enough to bag a meteorite while bagging a Munro, we're asking them to take a photo and take a note of their GPS location and send it to the UK Fireball Alliance. If it's small enough to be picked up, please try not to handle it directly – wrapping it in aluminium foil or a clean sandwich bag would be very helpful. If it's too big to carry, the GPS location will help us recover it later."

The UK Fireball Alliance, or UKFAll, is a collaboration of camera networks which monitors and tracks meteorites as they enter Britain's airspace. UKFAll volunteers used footage drawn from 14 different cameras to reconstruct the meteorite's path and how it fragmented as it fell. Jamie Shepherd of the UK Meteor Network said: "I've had a life-long fascination with meteors and meteorites, and for a school project I asked the National Museum in Scotland if they would let me take pictures of the last recovered meteorite seen to fall here in 1917. They kindly took all four pieces out of the cabinet and allowed me to hold them and take pictures. The next one to be found will be history-making and it's very special to be part of the recovery team."





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).

The Scottish Seabird Centre, a marine conservation and education charity, celebrates their 25th birthday in 2025, dedicating 25 years to inspiring people to care for and protect Scotland's marine life and habitats.

To recognise this major milestone, they created their own tartan with colours inspired by the sea and two iconic Scottish seabird species, the Atlantic puffin and Northern gannet. This tartan (reference: 14812) was designed by Brian Halley and registered in May, 2025.



World Porridge Making Championship 2025



care technology consultant from
Norway has been crowned 2025
World Porridge Making Champion,
following the competition held in
Carrbridge in the Scottish Highlands.
Sven Seljom from Mandal in Norway,
made his porridge from Norwegian Black
Oats, an ancient grain which used to be
grown all over Europe, but disappeared in
the 1800s, together with Norwegian sea
salt, and water which he brought with him
from home.

First time entrant, Sven, said: "It's a great honour. I'm lost for words. It has been such great fun to be here – the welcome in the village, the hall arrangements, it's just been tremendous.

I heard about the World Porridge Making Championship many years ago on Norwegian radio and thought it sounded really different, and I've wanted to enter ever since. I started experimenting with different types of steel cut oats. I really love the texture. The oats I used came from an organic farm, and I soaked them for 24 hours before the competition."

The very best in traditional porridge-making

Now in its 32nd year, the Championship celebrates the very best in traditional porridge-making, attracting contestants from around the world. Contestants prepare traditional porridge using only

three ingredients – water, oatmeal and salt. This year, 30 competitors representing 14 countries including the USA, Canada, Norway, Australia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Finland took part.

Judges included Neil Mugg, former pastry chef at The Gleneagles Hotel, who now mentors the next generation of chefs at the University of the Highlands and Islands; award-winning chef, artisan baker, and author, KJ Gilmour; and Scotland's best-selling cookery book writer, Coinneach Macleod, aka The Hebridean Baker. The judges scored each entry on taste, texture and colour.

Contestants prepare traditional porridge using only three ingredients – water, oatmeal and salt.

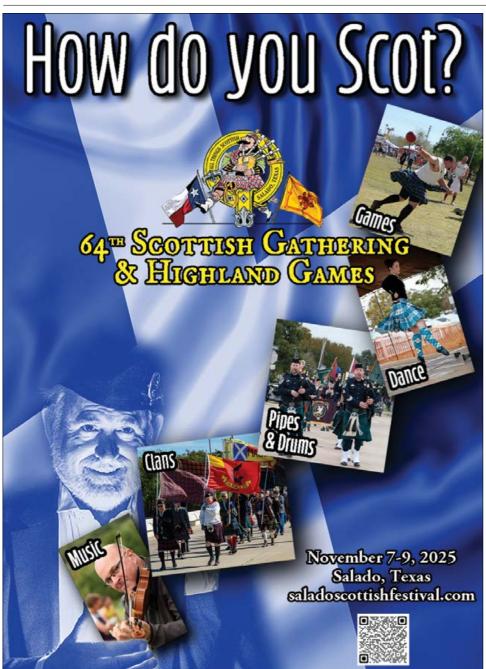
Highly coveted title

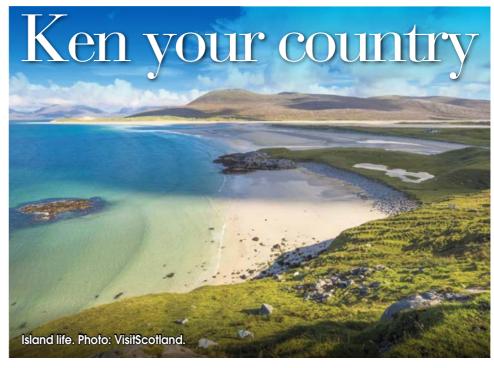
The Championship welcomed its largest ever audience, with a packed Carrbridge Village Hall and other satellite venues around the village, and thousands more watching via livestream on Facebook and YouTube. In addition to the traditional World Porridge Making Champion title, a second award for 'Best speciality dish', which can include any recipe made with oatmeal, was presented to Australian food stylist, Caroline Velik. Caroline's Porridge Jaffles, a yogurt flatbread, were filled with Caroline's mother's recipe for rum bananas, with Bundaberg banana toffee

rum liqueur, bananas, oatmeal and waffle seeds, tossed in Davidson plum sugar. Highlights of the day included clips from the recently released documentary film, *The Golden Spurtle*, guided tastings of local malt whiskies and gin and during the heats, and fun selfie photo opportunities with a giant 6-foot spurtle named Muckle Spurtle.

Porridge Chieftain, Alan Rankin, said: "Congratulations to Sven on taking home the highly coveted title of World Porridge Making Champion and the Golden Spurtle trophy. The standard this year was exceptional, and it's wonderful to see the event continuing to go from strength-to-strength. The event relies on spirited competitors, our sponsors and the legion of local residents who volunteer their time each year."







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

- 1) What percentage of Scotland's islands are inhabited? a) 11%, b) 21% or c) 31%?
- 2) The Duke of Atholl is clan chief of which clan?
- 3) What, apart from whisky, is the key ingredient in a Whisky Mac?
- 4) King Robert the Bruce died of leprosy true or false?
- 5) Where was Rob Roy born?
- 6) Which place is known as the Honest Toon?

- 7) What is so peculiar about the sand at Gruinard Bay?
- 8) What is a clarsach?
- 9) How high is Ben Nevis? a) 4206 feet, b) 4306 feet or c) 4406 feet?
- 10) Which river runs through Dumfries?

Answers to Ken your country: 1) a) 11%.

- 2) The Murray's.
- 3) Green ginger.
- o) Green gr
- 4) True.5) Glengyle, at the head of Loch latrine.
- 6) Musselburgh, a historic market town in East Lothian.
- 7) It's pink!
- 8) It's a small Celtic harp.
- 9) c) 4406 feet.
- 10) The River Nith.

Falling for Scotland: Autumn is good for the soul



magine this: the crunch of fallen leaves underfoot whilst on a woodland walk; a fresh breeze blowing in from the sea on an island excursion; pulling a warm coat around oneself for a walk around an historic building; or simply going out for an afternoon stroll after the rain has cleared to blow the cobwebs away. Few things can be as good for the soul as an autumn break in Scotland. With rural, coastal and urban locations all showing off the colours of the season and historic sites to explore, as well as thrilling tales to warm up those darker evenings, there is an autumn adventure waiting around every corner.

Walk this way

Scotland is quite the treat in autumn: rich golds, burnt brown, oranges and reds cover the land as the leaves change. It's also a

great time to spot wildlife as hedgerows are filling up with berries, and tree nuts and seeds are ripening. Check out some choices for a short, or longer, walk to really take it all in.

Wood of Cree, Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere-The UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere is an ideal place to start an exploration of Scotland's autumn palette, whether visiting the area as part of Scotland's UNESCO Trail or just looking to escape for a stroll. The RSPB Wood of Cree is home to wildlife and offers the perfect autumnal woodland walk. Similarly, head for the Biosphere's Cairnsmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve for the chance to be immersed in nature.

Deuchny Woods, Perthshire-Perthshire is a popular choice for those looking to

experience Scotland's autumn, with spots like Loch Faskally and The Hermitage. However, Deuchny Woods is a real hidden gem and favourite for dogs looking for plenty to sniff out under piles of damp leaves. At 5.5km, the circular route is manageable for a range of abilities and takes less than two hours to complete. An uphill start, it's worth it for the incredible views over Kinfauns and the River Tay. With gorgeous botanicals, check out the bright yellow gorse, the unusual jewel-red tones of the fox-and-cubs (it's more commonly orange) and millions of juicy brambles to forage safely (for foraging rules and guidelines in Scotland, see here).

Roslin Glen Country Park, Midlothian-Roslin Glen Country Park is a great location to explore for its diverse range of habitats and associated wildlife. With pathways to woodlands, riverside and weir, wildflower meadows and historical features, it is particularly eyecatching in autumn as trees explode with colour; beech, oak and sycamores provide an incredible canopy. There are path links to the Penicuik to Dalkeith Walkway, Roslin Village, Castle and Chapel and Springfield Mill. The lower Glen and Car park area is partially accessible to wheelchair users via a river looped path.

Ness Bank, Inverness-Ness Bank in Inverness is a feast for the eyes in the later months of the year with swathes of golden leaves. To add to this, the Ness islands are a collection of natural islands that sit in the middle of the River Ness, connected to the riverbanks and throughout by beautiful Victorian footbridges. Just a short stroll away from Inverness city centre, it is a place of natural beauty to take a breath, get some exercise or just watch the world go by.

Falls of Clyde Wildlife Reserve, Lanarkshire-Located just an hour from both Edinburgh and Glasgow, the reserve is famous for its spectacular waterfalls and scenic woodland walks. It is also home to New Lanark UNESCO World Heritage Site. Over 100 bird species have been recorded including dipper, raven and kingfisher. It is particularly magical in autumn, for all to enjoy (although visitors should read the access guide here) with beautiful colours on arrival. Do as much (or as little) of the full circular walk; there are waterfalls to observe, areas where dogs can enjoy the water safely, a visitor centre and plenty of history to uncover.

Craigellachie, Moray Speyside-Situated at the meeting point of rivers Spey and Fiddich, the village of Craigellachie offers a veritable riot of colour come autumn time. The village sits at the foot of Ben Aigan which offers a five-mile hike and a rewarding view of the Moray coastline when reaching the summit. It is a moderately difficult walk and will take around 2-3 hours from the car park at the bottom of the hill. Speyside Way, one of Scotland's long-distance routes, skirts the town and is ideal for walkers and cyclists.

See also: www.visitscotland.com/things-to-do/landscapes-nature/forests-woodlands/autumn



Connecting Hearts and Minds: The Way Forward' Strengthening our Collective Scottish Heritage















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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Orkney rejects 'tourist tax'

Orkney Islands Council's (OIC) has announced a decision not to proceed with a visitor levy is and has instead called for the Scottish Government to engage constructively with the local authority and tourism sector in Orkney on proposals for an alternative point-of-entry levy.

The Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act came into force in September last year, giving local authorities the power to levy a "tourist tax" on overnight visitors. Orkney has a population of approximately 22,500 people and welcomes around 450,000 visitors who contribute more than £114M a year to the local economy. The report approved by OIC's Policy and Resources Committee this found "strong opposition to an overnight visitor levy" from stakeholders in Orkney, and recommended not progressing with the proposal.

The decision follows a similar stance taken by both Shetland Islands Council and Western Isles Council/Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to not proceed with the levy charge for visitors. Edinburgh will become the first place in Scotland to charge visitors on top of the cost of their accommodation from next summer, with Glasgow and Aberdeen also confirmed to follow.

Fossil discovery reveals new species of fanged reptile that once roamed Scotland



A fossil discovered on the Isle of Skye has revealed a new species and family of Jurassic reptile linked to the origins of lizards and snakes. A study published in *Nature* by an international team of researchers, led by the American Museum of Natural History and including National Museums Scotland, describes a previously unknown Jurassic reptile that lived around 167 million years ago. The species has been given the Gaelic name Breugnathair elgolensis meaning 'false snake of Elgol', referencing the area of southern Skye where it was discovered.

Breugnathair had snake-like jaws and highly recurved teeth, similar to those of modern-day pythons. Unlike living snakes, it had the proportions and limbs of a lizard. The fossil is among the oldest and most complete Jurassic lizards known to science. Breugnathair was a squamate, the largest order of scaled reptiles, including lizards and snakes. The species has been placed in a new family Parviraptoridae, an enigmatic group of extinct, predatory squamates. Previously known from very incomplete remains, parviraptorids were thought by some to be the first snakes. Breugnathair might therefore provide evidence of the lizard-like ancestors of snakes, but it also has primitive anatomical traits suggesting that parviraptorids were stem-squamates, the predecessors of all lizards and snakes.

The fossil was discovered near Elgol by National Museums Scotland curator Dr Stig Walsh, Senior Curator of Vertebrate Palaeobiology at National Museums Scotland and co-author of the study. Other recent Jurassic discoveries from Skye include the Elgol dinosaur, the most complete dinosaur skeleton found to date in Scotland; adult and juvenile Krusatodon, that revealed that these mammals grew more slowly during the Jurassic than mammals do today; and the world's largest Jurassic pterosaur fossil, Dearc sgiathanach.

Dr Stig Walsh, said: "The Isle of Skye is one of the most important Middle Jurassic sites in the world. Breugnathair elgolensis is a remarkable addition to the fossil record, helping to rewrite our understanding of the evolution of snakes and lizards. We're delighted to add it to the other amazing finds in the National Collection that were discovered in Skye, truly Scotland's Jurassic Isle."

University spot could be linked to William Wallace



An archaeological dig has uncovered a section of road on the University of Stirling estate believed to have been used by Sir William Wallace and his army. Archaeologist Dr Murray Cook, who led the dig, said the road dates back to the 12th century and would have also been used by the likes of Robert the Bruce, Edward I, Oliver Cromwell and the Jacobites.

The site, on the side of Spittal Hill off Airthrey Road, is part of Airthrey Estate, owned by the University of Stirling. The four-day dig, timed to coincide with the anniversary of the Battle of Stirling Bridge on September 11, 1297, attracted a crew of more than 20 volunteers, including University of Stirling students and staff. They also found evidence of a late 17th century/early 18th century road, uncovering cobbles and glass they say date back to that time.

Dr Cook, of Rampart Scotland, said: "It looks like, rather than resurface the old 12th century road, they dug a brand new one on the same spot. We found the older surface sealed under a bank. It's exciting to think it was likely used by William Wallace and fellow Scots rebel Andrew de Moray."

Dr Joe Smith, Senior Lecturer in History Education, said: "Scotland is undertaking a major curriculum improvement cycle which encourages teachers to think differently about their practice. By introducing new history teachers to methodologies such as archaeology, we hope to broaden teachers' and young people's ideas about what history is and where we can learn about it. Dr Cook's dig was a great opportunity to do that."

Glasgow Subway going contactless



The Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) is upgrading the Glasgow Subway to accept contactless payments, including debit cards, credit cards, and mobile wallets, by the end of 2025. While the ticketing gates are currently being updated, passengers should continue to use their Smartcards or paper tickets normally until the new system is fully tested. The networks upgrading its station gates and passengers will no longer need to purchase paper tickets at the machines or counters, though those methods will still be available for payment. The technology upgrades are part of the modernisation of the Glasgow Subway system, which is the world's third oldest underground railway after London and Budapest, which was opened on 14 December 1896.

Stirling named Scotland's best city for culture



A new study commissioned by rail company LNER has crowned Stirling as Scotland's cultural capital – sharing the honour with its English counterpart, Cambridge. The study scrutinised 71 cities and towns across Scotland and England with data covering five themes (including culture) gathered from reputable sources. Indicators for culture included the number of museums, theatres, historic

sites, UNESCO listings, art and music events and bookshops. Data was then adjusted for population size and weighted to generate a final score out of 100.

The findings revealed Stirling offers the most enriching cultural experiences for visitors north of the border: Stirling boasts the highest number of bookshops per capita in Scotland; an impressive volume of art (84) and music (58) events per capita; and the city's seven diverse and high-quality museums helped it clinch the accolade.

Based on these findings, LNER proclaimed Stirling as Scotland's leading cultural destination, stating: "With its fairytale skyline and deep historical roots, Stirling is a city where Scotland's story comes vividly to life." The company praised the city's size compared to its cultural influence noting: "It may be small in size, but it's mighty when it comes to cultural impact. With one of the highest numbers of museums, bookshops, historic sites and events per capita in Scotland, this historic city is a cultural powerhouse packed into a walkable, picturesque setting."

Greater Glasgow's medieval origins revealed in Gallowgate Dig



Archaeological remains of Glasgow's earliest suburbs have been discovered by GUARD Archaeology. Several lines of well-preserved wooden posts with woven fencing, as well as pottery at a site in the Gallowgate area. The discovery was made 4.5 metres below the current street level at the Spoutmouth area, which is being developed into social housing. This is a remarkable survival of organic archaeology in an area of the city that has witnessed substantial development over the many years since Glasgow was first established.

A small sliver of medieval Glasgow that has somehow survived centuries of building and rebuilding. The GUARD Archaeology team unearthed 63 upright posts arranged in three lines defining three broad linear areas. As these are so deep, the site is constant flooding from water but this is also why these wooden remains have survived for so long. Caught up in the wattle fencing, are numerous sherds of medieval pottery, animal bone and other organic material.

The Spoutmouth site lies on the south side of the former line of the Molendinar Burn which was once one of the most well-known water courses in Glasgow that drains into the River Clyde; it now flows underground having been culverted in the 1800s. This rare discovery of preserved wooden structures opens a window into Glasgow's past when it underwent its first wave of major expansion. It is remarkable that in the same year that Glasgow will celebrate its 850th anniversary of receiving burgh status, some archaeological evidence of those beginnings have been discovered.

Pittsburgh's 19th annual Balmoral Classic Weekend

Gathering, Piping & Drumming Competition, Concert, and Workshop.



riday, November 14, 7:30pm - Join in at the Pitch on Butler, 4717 Butler St, Pittsburgh, PA, for a celebration of piping while enjoying food and drinks. The Pittsburgh Piping Society is partnering with the Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming to host an Opening Gathering the evening before the competition. Pipers of all levels play their tunes before an enthusiastic, and supportive audience. The evening will finish with tunes and a piobaireachd from our piping judges.

Saturday, Nov. 15, 8:30am to 4:00pm
- The Balmoral Classic: US Junior Solo
Bagpiping & Drumming Championships,
will be held at the CRC Understory,
Cathedral of Learning, 4200 Fifth Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Pipers will compete
in MSR and Piobaireachd events, with the
Overall prize decided by a combination of
scores from the two competitions. The overall
piping winner will receive a set of MacRae

bagpipes donated by McCallum Bagpipes. Additional prizes, trophies, medals, and scholarships will go to the top five winners. Drumming trophies will be awarded for MSR, Hornpipe/Jig, and Overall winners. Prizes for the Overall Winner of the Drumming contest and all other prizes to be announced. Drumming judges, Gordon Bell and Miles Bennington, join piping judges Bruce Gandy, Lezlie Webster and Glenna Mackay-Johnstone. The awards ceremony in the Scottish Nationality Room would follow at about 5:15pm. These events are free to the public.

Saturday, Nov. 15, 7:30pm - On Saturday evening we are presenting Carnegie Mellon University Pipes and Drums, Live in Concert at the Carnegie Library Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Pipe Major Andrew Carlisle and Drum Sergeant Miles Bennington will lead the band in an evening of Scottish and Irish music on bagpipes

and drums joined by special guests Bealtaine, and Scottish and Irish dancers. Don't miss this unforgettable performance! Tickets may be purchased at Showclix. com/event/cmupipes-classic-concert

Saturday, Nov. 16, 10:00am – There will be a free Piobaireachd workshop with Bruce Gandy —open to all 2025 applicants and former Classic competitors at the Courtyard by Marriott Pittsburgh University Center.

The Balmoral Classic Weekend is presented by the Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming. Established in 1979, the school celebrates and teaches traditional bagpipe music, as well as more recent compositions in the traditional style, including the competition repertoire.

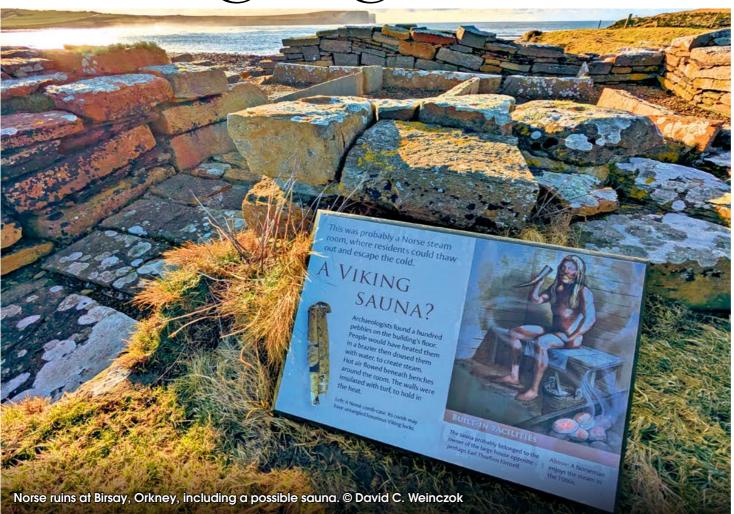
For more information visit: www.balmoralschool.org





Abrief history of the Weinczok Viking Age in Scotland







Characters from the Lewis chess set on a National Museum of Scotland. © David Complex of David Complex of Scotland. © David Complex of Scotland. © David Complex of Scotland in the pant of Scotland in the pant of Scotland the picture is much more complex of the Lewis chess set on a National Museum of Scotland the picture is much more complex of the Lewis chess set on a National Museum of Scotland the picture is much more complex of the Lewis chess set on a National Museum of Scotland in the part of Scotland the picture is much more complex of the Lewis chess set on a National Museum of Scotland. © David Complex of Scotland in the part of Scotland in the part of Scotland in the Lewis chess set on a National Museum of Scotland. © David Complex of Scotland in the pant of Scotland in the pant

and what traces of it remain? Fury of the Northmen

Immortalised in countless books, television shows, and history books, the Viking raid on Lindisfarne in northeast England in 793AD is commonly referred

Scotland as we know it without centuries

of Norse influence. So, where and when

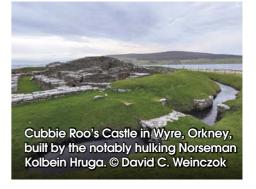
did Scotland's 'Viking Age' begin and end,

to as the very first appearance of the Northmen in Britain. We now know, however, that Vikings were plundering and setting down early roots in Shetland, Orkney, and the Outer Hebrides several decades before the 'fury of the Northmen' visited Lindisfarne.

The Northern Isles of Scotland are, after all, a mere two days' sailing from northern Denmark or southwest Norway, barely a weekend trip for a Viking warband. Many Norse sagas mention raids in northern Scotland and the Hebrides as casually as we might mention going to the shops to buy groceries. There is evidence for Viking sea battles on Scottish shores as far south as Bute from the mid-780sAD, and no doubt some intrepid Norsemen ventured west significantly earlier than that.

Norse

One important thing to note is terminology. 'Vikings' were the raiders and plunderers who first struck British shores and did not intend to permanently settle upon them. Once they established communities and buried their dead in the new-won lands, they are referred to as 'Norse'. The key difference is that 'Viking' is a verb, not a noun. There is no 'Viking' tribe or single culture. To go 'a-Viking' was to go raiding during the summer, so it really describes an occupation (raiding) rather than a cultural identity. A group of 9th century Norwegians, Swedes, and Danes would have had far more to fight over than to agree on, and they often did!



By the early 800s AD significant Norse settlements were founded in places like Birsay in Orkney and Stornoway in Lewis. At Westness in Rousay, Orkney, the earliest Norse settlers buried their dead alongside the Pictish dead in the local cemetery. Perhaps this was one way of stamping their ownership upon the land, or of symbolically declaring that they were the new locals. These earliest settlers were known as landnamsmen, the 'land-taking men'.

Perhaps unexpectedly, they seem to have respected many existing monuments like the ancient chambered cairns, and many Norse families would have included people of mixed Norse and Pictish or, in the Outer Hebrides, Gaelic heritage. Indeed, the Outer Hebrides became known in Gaelic as Innse Gall, the 'Isles of the Strangers', and a hybrid Gall-Gael culture emerged in subsequent centuries along Scotland's western seaboard. This culture survived well into the Middle Ages in the form of Somerled's Kingdom of Argyll and the Isles.

Lochlannach

It's from the 830sAD onwards that things got rather more dire for those living in Scotland. Iona, a shining seat of Celtic Christianity, was repeatedly sacked. In 839AD a Norse army destroyed an army of Picts and slew the kings of Fortriu (in the central Highlands) and Dál Riata (in Argyll). Ancient power centres like Dunadd were abandoned due to constant raids. In 870AD a Norse host



under Ivar the Boneless besieged and sacked Dumbarton Rock, capital of the Strathclyde Britons. They carried hundreds off as slaves and any survivors fled to their kinsmen in Wales. Native strongholds and kingdoms fell like Autumn leaves to the Norse, while Norse realms like the mighty Earldom of Orkney ascended and gobbled up the leftover pieces of the resultant power vacuum.

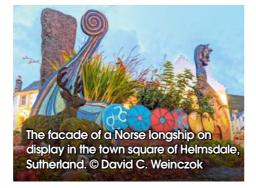
The 10th through 12th centuries saw these Norse realms continue to expand until checked by increasingly assertive kings of Scots, who made forays into the Isles and clawed back territories in the northern mainland. During this time Norse culture largely replaced Gaelic culture in the Western Isles, with many place names there today still containing Norse elements. Gaelic folklore reflects this, with many folk tales centred on Irish and Scottish heroes resisting the 'Lochlannach', men from across the eastern sea who assumed mythological proportions and powers.

Norse folklore also imprinted on the Scottish landscape. In Orkney and Shetland many large boulders are attributed to Norse giants throwing them at each other, and in the Outer Hebrides many of the ancient ruins of chambered cairns and brochs were attributed to supernaturally strong Norse builders. The Norse left hogback gravestones along the banks of the River Clyde, carved runes into standing stones at sites like the Ring of Brodgar, built longhouses from Shetland to Kintyre, stashed away or abandoned valuables like the Galloway Hoard and the famed Lewis chess pieces, and - slowly but steadily – began converting to Christianity.

Role in Scotland's story

The height of Norse activity in Scotland may have been behind them by the 13th century, but pivotal events were still to unfold. In 1230 a Norse fleet assailed Rothesay Castle in Bute, temporarily wresting it away from its Stewart lords. In 1263, led by no less than the King of Norway himself, Håkon IV, a Norwegian army swept through the Isles and landed at Largs on the Ayrshire coast. Checked by a Scottish host, the Norse were forced to abandon their plans to retake the western seaboard and Håkon died in Kirkwall that December. This was to be the final military incursion of the Norse in Scotland.

However, it was not for another two centuries that, in 1472, Shetland and Orkney were pawned to Scotland by Norway and simply never purchased or taken back. Those archipelagos were part of the Norse world for over 600 years, longer than they have been part of modern Scotland and the UK. There are even whispers today of a desire for them to re-join Norway, and even a brief venture to them will instil a strong sense of how culturally intertwined the islands are with their Norse past.



Many people think of Scotland's Viking and later Norse history as a brief, albeit bloody and dramatic, flash in the pan, and no doubt the victims of Viking raids and early Norse conquests are a testament to the brutality of the times. Zoom out, however, and we see a period of no less than four centuries when Norse armies, politics, material culture, folklore, and

settlement patterns were central to the stories of huge swathes of Scotland. New discoveries emerge from soils and shorelines every year which shed further light on their role in Scotland's story – and with any luck, someone walking on a storm-swept beach this winter might just happen across another long-lost piece of the puzzle.





THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

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December 6th at 12:00 PM

NEW YORK CITY

December 13th at 2:00 PM

SUMMIT

December 14th at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

WEBCAST

December 19th - **31**st available on demand



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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Bank of Scotland founded by an Act of the Scottish Parliament. 1695
- 1 Scotland made a serious bid to enter the lucrative English sea-trading market. The Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies issued a subscription list to stockholders in London. Later known as The Darien Company, £300,000 sterling was quickly raised, but London merchants saw it as a threat to their own East India Company. They put pressure on the King, and the English subscriptions were withdrawn at the behest of their government. 1695
- 1-12 The city of Glasgow hosts the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26), a major United Nations climate summit and put the city on the world stage for 12 days. 2021
- 2 Jack Alexander MBE of The Alexander Brothers died. The Scottish folk singer began his career in the 1950s with his brother Jack and was born in Cambusnethan, Lanarkshire in 1935. 2013
- 3 The Scottish expedition to Darien landed at 'New Caledonia'. The expedition left Leith on the 12th July 1698, heading for the isthmus of Panama. The enterprise began in 1695 when the Scottish Parliament passed an Act for the establishment of the 'Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies'. 1698
- 3 Queen Elizabeth officially opened an underwater pipeline to bring the first North Sea oil ashore. $1975\,$
- 4 Birth of King William III. 1650



- 5 Opening of the original Mitchell Library, Glasgow, now the largest public reference library in Europe and is home to one of the world's finest collections of Robert Burns materials, 1877
- 5 The Commercial Bar in Fraserburgh receives a direct hit from a German bomb, killing over 30. 1941
- 6 Celtic Football Club formally constituted in Calton, Glasgow, to alleviate poverty in Glasgow's East End parishes. The first Celtic Park was established on a vacant lot next to St Mary's Church. 1887
- 7 Writer and World War Two garrison commander Eric Linklater died in Orkney. 1974
- 8 Scholar and philosopher John Duns Scotus died. His dry subtleties led to the word "Duns" or "dunce" meaning dull and incapable of learning. Beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1993. 1308
- 9 In Edinburgh, Sir James Young Simpson delivered Wilhelmina Carstairs while chloroform was administered to the mother, the first child to be born with the aid of anaesthesia. 1847
- 9 The Royal Yacht Britannia left the Clydebank shipyards to begin her speed trials. Built by John Brown's shipbuilders, she was famously luxurious and entertained countless dignitaries in opulent style. The Britannia carried the royal family on more than 1000 visits to over 600 countries. Today she is moored at Ocean Point, Edinburgh. 1953
- 9 Dorothy Dunnett, the cult Scottish novelist, died. The writer of intricate and meticulously researched historical novels, she attracted a devoted following with her multi-volume sagas. 2001
- 9 Internet cables laid in water pipes, bringing fibre optic broadband to the Orkney island of Papa Westray in what is reported to be the first example of such a system being installed in the UK. 2024
- 10 Journalist Henry M Stanley found the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone with the classic "Dr Livingstone, I presume". 1871
- 11- Today is Martinmas, Scottish Quarter Day. The feast of St Martin of Tours was traditionally the day for slaughtering livestock and salting it for preservation through the winter.

Armistice Day
November 11th

11 - Armistice Day,
marking the end of



11 - Armistice Day, marking the end of hostilities in World War I. The guns were finally silenced on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Though Scots made up only 10% of the UK population at the time,

a total of 147,609 Scots were killed during the war, a fifth of Britain's total dead. **1918**

- 11 Edinburgh City Council announces they will be the first city in Scotland to make pavement parking illegal, the law came into effect in January 2024. 2023
- 12 St Machar Day, patron saint of Aberdeen.
- 12- Edinburgh University first admitted women to the study of medicine. Sophia Jex-Blake and her friend Edith Pechy were the first to attend the prestigious medical school. Though Jex-Blake passed her exams, she was not allowed to graduate as regulations prevented women from actually serving on the wards. 1869
- 13 King Malcolm III (Canmore), last of the Celtic kings was killed at the Battle of Alnwick. Succeeded by Donald III. 1093
- 13 The birth of Robert Louis Stevenson, author and poet, in Edinburgh's New Town. His books included *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. He died in Samoa, aged 44. 1850
- 14 Speed limit for horseless carriages was raised from 4mph (2mph in towns) to 14mph. $1896\,$

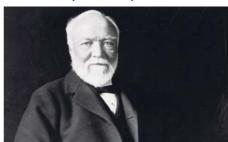


- 15 -Statue to Greyfriar's Bobby, who stayed by his master's grave for 14 years was unveiled in Edinburgh. 1873
- 15 The Stone of Destiny was finally returned to Scotland. Legend has it that the stone is a relic from the Holy Land and once belonged to the biblical Jacob. From an early date the kings of Scotland were inaugurated sitting on a royal chair with the stone in its base. In 1296 Edward I removed the stone and installed it at Westminster Abbey. It remained there until it was kidnapped by Scottish nationalist students in 1951. They managed to hide the stone in Scotland for four months until it was found and returned to Westminster. It was moved from there to Edinburgh Castle in 1996 amid much celebration. 1996
- 16 James Macpherson, the famous fiddling freebooter, was hanged at Banff. The town clock was said to have been advanced to forestall a messenger carrying a reprieve for his hanging. Legend has it that before the notorious outlaw musician was hanged for sheep and cattle stealing he treated the crowd to one of his own compositions, *Macpherson's Rant*, and then broke the fiddle over his knee. When Burns heard of the tale he wrote the song *Macpherson's Farewell*. 1700
- 16 Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show opened in the East End Exhibition Buildings, Duke Street, Glasgow. 1891
- 17 David Livingstone reached Victoria Falls in Africa. Livingstone was born at Blantyre, south of Glasgow and went on a mission to reach new peoples in the interior of Africa and introduce them to Christianity. 1855



17 - Tam the Gun - the soldier who famously fired Edinburgh Castle's One o'Clock Gun for more than 25 years died. Staff Sergeant Thomas McKay, 60, lost a year-long battle against bowel cancer. 2005

- 18 Sir David Wilkie who later became a well-known painter of historical and religious works as well as portraits, was born near Pitlessie, Fife. 1785
- 18 Robin Hall, the Scottish folk singer and musician, died. Hall achieved national fame in the sixties along with fellow Scot, Jimmie Macgregor, on the BBC TV show, *Tonight*. Hits included *The Mingulay Boat Song* and schoolboy favourite, *Ye Cannae Shove Yer Grannie Aff a Bus.* 1998
- 19 King Charles I born born at Dunfermline Palace, Fife. 1600
- 20 James Bruce, 8th Lord Elgin, the Scottish Liberal statesman and diplomat, died. During his career he served as Governor-General of Canada, 1847-54, and India, 1862-63 and was special envoy to China and Japan. During a visit to China he burnt down the emperor's famous Summer Palace in Beijing, destroying thousands of priceless works of art, in order to intimidate the emperor and force him to sign an unratified treaty. 1863
- 20 Nicola Sturgeon is officially sworn in as First Minister of Scotland at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, in front of senior judges. Scotland's longest-serving and first ever female First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon resigned from office after more than eight years in the role in February 2023. 2014
- 21 King James VII married Mary of Modena. 1673
- 22 Birth of Mary of Guise, the French Queen Consort of James V. She was regent of Scotland during the minority reign of her daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. 1515
- 22 2001-Jack McConnell elected First Minister of Scotland, succeeding Henry McLeish who had resigned.
- 23 1909 Historical novelist Nigel Tranter born in Glasgow. He was the most prolific Scottish writer of all time, writing mainly factual and fictional books related to Scottish history and was also a columnist for many years for *the Scottish Banner*.
- 23 The Supreme Court rules that the Scottish Government cannot hold a second Scottish independence referendum without the UK government's consent. 2022
- 24 David II (aged 7) crowned at Scone. 1331
- 24 The Scots army defeated at the Rout of Solway Moss. King James V had sent a huge force of 10,000 men into England which was defeated by an English force under the command of Sir Thomas Wharton. James died shortly afterward, and was succeeded to the throne by his baby daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. 1542
- 24 The high court in Glasgow imposes a minimum sentence of 27 years for Al Ali Mohmed Al Megrahi, the Libyan national convicted of bombing Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, which resulted in 270 deaths. He was released on compassionate grounds by the Scottish Government on 20 August 2009 and died on 20 May 2012 in Libya. 2003
- 25 General Tam Dalyell raises a regiment to suppress Covenanters which later became the Royal Scots Greys. 1681



- 25 Steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie born in Dunfermline. Carnegie became a powerful businessman and a leading force in the American steel industry. Carnegie believed that the wealthy had an obligation to give back to society, so he donated much of his fortune to causes like education and peace. 1835
- 25 Helen Duncan the last person to be jailed in the UK under the British Witchcraft Act of 1735 was born. 1897
- 25 Scotland becomes the first country in the world to make it a legal duty for period products to be available to anyone for free after the Period Products (Scotland) Bill is approved. 2020

26 - Death of John McAdam, inventor of "macadamisation" road surface with a smooth hard surface with a camber to ensure rainwater rapidly drained away. 1836



- 26- Elsie Inglis, the Scottish nursing pioneer and suffragette, died. Inglis is perhaps best remembered for her role in the First World War, where, convinced that women could play an active role in the conflict, she led volunteer medical units of women who served in France and in Serbia, where Inglis herself was taken prisoner. Winston Churchill wrote that Inglis and her nurses "would shine in history". 1917
- 27 The greatest storm on record hit Britain with the loss of 8,000 people in 24 hours. 1703
- 27 The first deaths from an E.coli outbreak in Lanarkshire were reported. The outbreak was subsequently traced back to a butcher's shop in the town of Wishaw, and by early 1997 twenty people, mostly senior citizens, had died, making this the world's worst outbreak of E.coli poisoning. 1996
- 28 Battle of Rullion Green on the Pentland Hills, south-west of Edinburgh, in which the King's army led by Sir Tam Dalyell defeated the Covenanters. 1666
- 28 W.Oliver Brown, the candidate for the fledgling National Party of Scotland (NPS), polled 4,818 votes in the Renfrew East By-Election. In doing this he became the first NPS candidate to save his election deposit. The National Party of Scotland amalgamated with the Scottish Party in April 1934 to form the modern Scottish National Party/SNP. 1930
- 29 Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII of England was born. She later married King James IV of Scotland in the "Union of the Thistle and the Rose". It was due to her bloodline that King James VI of Scotland was able to inherit the crown of England in 1603, after the death of his cousin, Queen Elizabeth I. 1489
- 29 Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons granted its charter by King James VI. 1599
- 29 Thomas Edison demonstrated the phonograph publicly for the first time. 1877
- 30 St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais') – celebrate the patron saint of Scotland. St Andrew, according to Christianity's teachings, was one of Jesus Christ's apostles, the twelve followers chosen by him.
- 30 World's first international football (soccer) match, Scotland V England at West of Scotland Cricket Ground. Result was 0-0. 1872
- **30** *HMS Vanguard*, Britain's biggest and last battleship, was launched at Clydebank. **1944**



- 30 Stone of Destiny, stolen from Scone by King Edward I of England in 1296, returned to Scotland and installed in Edinburgh Castle. The stone had previously been taken from Westminster Abbey in London by university students in 1951. It is now housed at the new Perth Museum. 1996
- 30 Museumof Scotland in Edinburgh officially opened. 1999



The largest, most dynamic Scottish highland festival in the Southeast!













IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Cullen Skink

Ingredients:

For the stock:

75g/2½oz. butter 1 tbsp. vegetable oil 2 leeks, roughly chopped 2 onions, peeled, roughly chopped 2 fennel bulbs, roughly chopped 250ml/9fl oz. white wine 500g/171/20z smoked haddock 750ml/1 pint 7fl oz. water

For the soup:

75g/2½oz. butter 1 tbsp. vegetable oil 2 leeks, finely chopped 2 shallots, peeled, finely chopped 2 garlic cloves, peeled, crushed 300g/101/20z. potatoes, peeled, chopped 500ml/171/2fl oz. double cream 1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley pinch freshly grated nutmeg

Method:

For the stock, heat the butter and vegetable oil in a large pan and gently fry the leeks, onions and fennel for 3-4 minutes, or until softened.

Add the white wine to the pan and bring to the boil. Add the smoked haddock, pour in the water and bring back to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes, skimming off any scum that rises to the surface, until the haddock is cooked through.

Strain the haddock, reserving the cooking stock. Chop the haddock into bite-sized pieces.

For the soup, heat the butter with the vegetable oil and fry the leeks, shallots and garlic for 3-4 minutes, or until softened. Add the potatoes and the chopped smoked haddock to the pan-

Add the reserved cooking stock and bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 10-15 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender. Stir in the cream and briefly blend the soup with a stick blender.

Serve the soup with crusty bread and sprinkle with the chopped fresh parsley and a sprinkling of freshly grated nutmeg.

Clapshot (Neeps and Tatties)



750g/ 2/3 lb of potatoes 1 swede (rutabaga, yellow turnip or neeps), around 500g cut into 2cm cubes

1 onion, finely chopped 1 knob of butter 1 dash of milk salt black pepper

Method:

Place the potatoes, swede, onion and a teaspoon of salt into a large saucepan and cover with water. Place a lid on top and bring to the boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook for 15-20 minutes until the vegetables are cooked. Mash with a knob of butter, splash of milk and a very good grinding of black pepper and serve.

Rosemary Roasted Scotch Lamb

Ingredients:

1.8kg /4 lbs. Leg of (Scotch) Lamb A couple of stems fresh rosemary 6 baking potatoes, peeled 1 onion, sliced 2 cloves garlic, sliced 1tbsp olive oil 435ml/3/pt lamb stock

Method:

Preheat the oven to 240°C/475°F/ Gas 9. Season the lamb with freshly ground pepper and roast in a medium roasting tray in the preheated oven for 15 minutes. Lower the heat to 180°C/350°F/ Gas 4. Remove the lamb from the tray and pour off the excess fat.

While the lamb is roasting, heat the oil in a pan, add the onions and cover and cook for 5 minutes till soft. Remove the cover from the pan, add the garlic and rosemary and cook for a further 5 minutes. Remove the onions from the pan.

Lay a layer of potatoes into the roasting tray and lightly season with black pepper. Lay 1/3 of the cooked onions onto the potatoes, repeat this process until you have three or four layers of potatoes and onions.

Bring the lamb stock to the boil and pour over the potatoes, press down with a spoon till the potatoes are all submerged.

Place the lamb on top and return to the preheated oven and continue to cook for 3 hours.

The lamb should be meltingly tender, and the potatoes and onions should have absorbed the stock and lamb juices.

Braised lamb with mash and malt whisky gravy

Ingredients: 2 shanks of Scotch lamb (ask your butcher

to cut bone neatly across lower end) 1 carrot, peeled and chopped 1 onion, chopped 1 leek, chopped 2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped 300 ml/10 fl. oz. lamb stock 60 ml/4 tablespoonfuls malt whisky 450g/1 lb. potatoes, cooked and mashed Vegetable oil Salt and freshly-ground black pepper, to taste

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 325 F/170 C/Gas Mark 3. Heat the oil in a heavy-based saucepan or casserole dish. Season the lamb shanks and brown on all sides. Add the chopped vegetables, garlic and stock and bring to a simmer. Place in the oven and cook for about 2 hours, turning the shanks once or twice during the cooking. The meat should just be falling off the bone when cooked.

St Andrew's **Day Menu**

Celebrate this St Andrew's Day with a traditional dinner using some of the finest recipes from Scotland's natural



larder. Sample some great Scottish style food and drink on November 30th with your friends and family and enjoy a St Andrew's Night!

Strain the cooking juices into a saucepan, add the whisky and reduce by one-third (to thicken the sauce a little, mash in some of the cooking vegetables) and check the seasoning. Place the mashed potato in the centre of a large plate. Put the lamb shank on top with the shank pointing up and spoon the sauce around.

Tipsy Laird (Scottish Trifle)

Ingredients:

8 sponge fingers 3 tbsp. of raspberry jam 6 digestive or ratafia biscuits 1 dram of sweet sherry 1 dram of whisky or Drambuie A handful of fresh raspberries 1 cup of double cream 1 tbsp. of caster sugar Flaked almonds toasted to decorate For the custard: 2 egg yolks 40g/1.5 oz. of caster sugar 4 drops of vanilla essence 1 cup of milk 2/3 cup of double cream

Method:

Start by making the custard. Beat together the egg yolks and sugar until pale. Mix the cream, milk, and vanilla in a pan and warm to just below boiling point. Pour into the beaten egg mixture, blending well. Return to the pan over a low heat and stir continuously until thickened. Transfer to a bowl and cool.

Spread the sponge fingers with the raspberry jam and place in the bottom of a large glass bowl or small trifle dishes. Roughly crush the biscuits and scatter over the jammed sponge. Mix the sherry and whisky (or Drambuie) and pour over the biscuit and sponge. Leave it to soak in.

Whisk the double cream and caster sugar to thick peaks and fold in more whisky if preferred. Pour the cooled custard over the sponge and top with a layer of raspberries. Spoon over the thickened cream and decorate with a scattering of toasted flaked almonds.

Cranachan

Ingredients: 570ml/1-pint double cream 85g/3oz. porridge oats 7 tbsp. whisky 3 tbsp. honey 450g/1lb. raspberries fresh mint, to garnish

Method:

Toast the oats in a frying pan, being careful not to burn them. Lightly whip the cream until it reaches the soft peak stage, then fold in the whisky, honey, oatmeal and raspberries. Serve in dessert glasses garnished with a few raspberries and mint.

Glasgow Airport and New York United once again with return of direct flights



nited Airlines has confirmed it is to return to Glasgow Airport in 2026 to reinstate direct flights to its New York hub, Newark Liberty International Airport. The new daily scheduled service will take off on 8 May and run until 23 September 2026. It is the first time United will have operated at Glasgow since 2019. The Glasgow-New York/Newark flight will be operated by Boeing 737 MAX-8 aircraft with a total of 166 seats, 16 of which are Premium Economy seats, 54 Economy Plus seats and 96 Economy seats. United Airlines' hub at Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) is its largest East Coast hub and a significant base for both domestic and international flights, especially to Europe. The hub connects passengers to destinations across North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East.

The route has already been hailed as a "landmark achievement" which will bring "considerable cultural and tourism benefits" by business and civic leaders. Matt Hazelwood, Chief Commercial Officer at AGS Airports, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to welcome United Airlines back to Glasgow Airport. New York is the most requested destination from our passengers, and this new service will provide a vital link for both leisure and business travellers. It also represents a major opportunity for inbound tourism, with hundreds of American visitors arriving daily to experience Scotland's worldclass golf, whisky, and stunning landscapes. This route will be a fantastic boost for the region and the wider Scottish economy."

The return of United Airlines further strengthens Glasgow Airport's transatlantic connectivity and supports tourism, business, and cultural links between Scotland and the United States.

From Scotland and the World: The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo unveils first performers





erformers from across the globe and in Australia and New Zealand have been announced to perform as part of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo as it comes exclusively to Brisbane and Auckland in February 2026 in celebration of its 75th anniversary, including Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band (which is the only school in the country invited).

Announced at Brisbane Boys' College (BBC) in Toowong by Alan Lane, Creative Director of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, who flew in from Scotland for the moment, over 30 bands and cultural groups from more than 12 countries will perform in *The Heroes Who Made Us* from 12 -15 February as part of a recordbreaking run of shows at Suncorp Stadium (four consecutive stadium shows).

Renowned for stirring music

These include UK Military Bands from Royal Navy, The Army and Royal Air Force alongside The Combined Military Bands of the Australian Defence Force (Air Force, Army and Navy), Queensland Police Pipe Band, Western Australia Police Pipe Band, Australia's Federation Guard, His Majesty the King of Norway's Guard Band and Drill Team, Japan Air Self-Defence Force Central Band, His Majesty's Armed Forces The Royal Corps of Musicians Tonga, and The Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band, with more to be announced.

The news was celebrated by Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Major, grade 12 student, 18-year-old Nicholas Shelburn, who has been playing the bagpipes since Year 3 at BBC, and has been to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo with BBC twice.



Renowned for stirring music, military precision, cultural displays, and dramatic performances, the Australian and New Zealand event will see a total of over 1,100 performers descend on Brisbane and Auckland, with international performers including Scottish actor Terence Rae as narrator and fan favourite Top Secret Drum Corps.

The announcement follows the close of the Tattoo's spectacular 75th anniversary season in Edinburgh, which attracted near sell-out crowds to Edinburgh Castle Esplanade throughout August 2025. Over 220,000 spectators attended, travelling from across the world to experience one of Scotland's most iconic cultural events, with millions more watching the TV broadcast.

From royalty to sporting legends and stars of stage and screen, *The Heroes Who Made Us* attracted a host of notable attendees, including The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Scottish tennis champion Andy Murray, and *Outlander* actor Sam Heughan.

A truly world-class line-up

Alan Lane, Creative Director of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, said: "We are absolutely thrilled with the cast we've assembled. This is a truly world-class line-up that brings together the best of music, pageantry and performance. The Tattoo has always been about celebrating culture, connection and spectacle, and to be able to share that spirit with Australian audiences is a real delight. We can't wait to light up Suncorp Stadium with the colour, energy and precision that makes the Tattoo so iconic."



Brisbane Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner said: "Brisbane is proud to welcome the world-renowned Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo to our major events calendar in 2026. This iconic celebration of artistry, tradition and excellence will be elevated by the involvement of local performers, including the Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band, who will share the stage with international talent at this truly world-class event. It's a remarkable opportunity to showcase Brisbane on the global stage, while delivering a significant boost for local businesses and further reinforcing our reputation as Australia's lifestyle capital."

Queensland Minister for Tourism,
Andrew Powell, said: "Brisbane is buzzing
with anticipation as we prepare to host
The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo for
the very first time in 2026. This event
is a true celebration of both our local
Queensland talent and extraordinary
performers from around the globe.
We're serious about cementing
Queensland's reputation as the events
capital of Australia and this is no
exception, with the Tattoo set to inject \$39
million into the state's economy."

Making its return to Australia and New Zealand for the first time since 2019, this will be the Tattoo's first-ever performance in Brisbane - and one of its most ambitious international Stadium productions to date. Blending the timeless traditions of the British Armed Forces with modern performance and world-class production, the Tattoo

Initial cast announcement:

- UK Massed Military Bands including The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Scotland, The Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Duchess of Edinburgh's String Orchestra, Royal Air Force Central Band and more
- The Combined Military Bands of the Australian Defence Force
- Australian Defence Force Pipes and Drums
- Auckland Police Pipes and Drums
- Queensland Police Pipe Band
- The Brisbane Boys' College Pipe Band
- Australia's Federation Guard
- The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Performers - including Pipers, Drummers, Dancers, and Fiddlers
- New Zealand Army Band
- His Majesty the King of Norway's Guard Band and Drill Team
- Top Secret Drum Corps, Switzerland
- Japan Air Self-Defense Force Central Band
- His Majesty's Armed Forces, The Royal Corps of Musicians Tonga



continues to evolve, while remaining rooted in history. Cutting-edge lighting, immersive sound design and stunning visual imagery will elevate the performance experience, all set under the stars at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium.

One of the world's most spectacular and iconic live events is also set to dazzle New Zealand audiences at Auckland's Eden Park, February 19-21.

For further details visit: www.edintattoobrisbane.com.au or www.edintattooauckland.co.nz



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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



from Baird, Barde, Bard, Beard, Beaird, Brd, Bayard, Bardt, Barth and Biard or varied 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 geneologist. For information write:

Clan Baird Commander Richard Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood Rickarton House, Stonehaven, Scotland Hereditary President of Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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



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

Website: www.ClanBell.org

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CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

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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.



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

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Duncan Robertson Reid

People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh "The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.

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

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

and Fraser septs

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

Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/ 482236358590288

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

Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

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 or by contacting the Hon. Secretary:

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

Edmonstone Clan Society

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

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

CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

Est: 1822 in Edinburgh Scotland Patron: Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor Bt Membership enquiries for USA: usa@clangregor.com

Rest of the World: membership@clangregor.com

Web: www.clangregor.com

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We are a family of many names, come & join your family!



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

Direct inquires to: Marianne Elliott, Membership Chair Email: marianne@mmelliott.com

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com



Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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

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

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Clandonaldusa.org

as branches or adherents of the greatest of the





Est 1909

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





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



Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!

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Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

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

Membership is open to MacLarens (all spellings), Septs, individuals and families with an association to the Clan.

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



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





Clan Hay



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

www.clanhay.com



MacDougalls, MacDowalls, & ALL Associated Families

YOU are invited to join CMSNA! We would love to share Scottish heritage and traditions with YOU!

> Learn MORE at www.MacDougall.org



Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President President@clanmaclarenna.org



Clan MacNicol

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

www.clanmacnicol.org

CLAN HOPE of Craighall Society

INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA

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

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

CANADA

er: Scott Hale



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

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

Clan MacLellan

Kevin S Gates Treasurer 2610 Kuvkendall Dr. Arlington, TX

76001-6726 Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan Macpherson

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

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

phone +1 519 507 4465

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

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

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

Australia. Pam Rhemrev

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

ach USA. Dave McPherson phone +1 408 781 5199

at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1st April to 31st October Ph + 44 1540 673 332. See http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/



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

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

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www.clanirving.com



Worldwide, we welcome descendants of all spelling variations, including (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis, (Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.

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



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

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

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

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







Society in Australia

Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron Alexander H.R Irvine of Drum.

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

www.clanirwin.org

IRWIN • IRVINE • IRVIN • IRVING • ERWIN We welcome all: no matter the spelling.



South Australia - Alex McLeod 08 8327 0925

Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334 Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.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



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



Welcoming Little/Lyttle/Lytle and the like.

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

www.clanlittlesociety.org

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Clan MacKenzie Society of New Zealand

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



RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS

FOR INFORMATION: WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

> A.L. MACLEOD 3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84120-6880



Clan Maitland **Society**

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

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

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

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

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



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

www.clanmorrison.net



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

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

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

YOUNGS OF SCOTLAND



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

4scottishthistles@gmail.com





www.clanmuirhead.com

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

raymondktj@msn.com or raymond@clanmuirhead.com

Clan Ross America



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

www.clanross.org

Clan 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

Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

Worldwide organization for all Wardlaws or related families. We invite you to join us. Email: clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com

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www.clanwardlaw.com Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

Scottish Associations and Societies



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

For information please contact members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

The Scottish Australian **Heritage Council**

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Membership is welcome

from all of Scottish descent.





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

CLAN MUNRO ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



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

BECOME A MEMBER, CONTACT RAY MUNRO

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





ibydeit.org nesbittnisbet.org.uk

E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com www.clansinclairaustralia.com

Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary

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



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia For further details contact John: 0427 990 754 Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com

www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com



St Andrew Society of W.A.



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



Supporting the Scottish
Community in Victoria

Suite 87, 139 Cardigan St Carlton Vic 3053

Email: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au Website: https://scotsofaus.org.au



descendant of Pollock, Pollok, Pook, Polk, Polke, Paulk, Poalke, Poulk, Poolke, Pogue - you are cordially invited to contact:

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



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

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

www.youngsofscotland.com

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

> Promotes interest in the works, life and milieu of the Scottish Poet Robert Burns > Celebrates Scottish Culture

> Conducts Annual Burns Supper, Poetry Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

For Membership Information contact: Secretary: Melissa Ventre - 0405 182 458 Email: secretary@robertburnsclubmelbourne.org.au



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KINGS CASTLES AND

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





The Hurlet

Tis past-she rests-the scaffold hath been swept, The headman's guilty axe to rust consigned, But Crookston while those aged towers remain, And thy green umbridge woos the evening wind, Whilst aught is leftof those ruins gray, They will arouse remembrance of the stain, Queen Mary's doom has left on history's page, Remembrance laden with reproach and pain, To those who make like me this pilgrimage.

Excerpt from a poem by Motherwell

s children we often ventured along the Levern Waters and the River Cart towards the Hurlet and beyond to make our own small pilgrimage to some of Pollok's historical artifacts. The distinctive little round toll house at the Hurlet matched a similar one at the other end of the Barrhead Road at Pollokshaws indicating that the Barrhead Road had once been a key route for local transport of goods and materials between Pollokshaws Glasgow and Paisley.

Sitting at the junction of roads to these places, the Hurlet had once been a very important transport hub and the Barrhead Road remained not only a key route for modern day transport but for pedestrians like us children looking for adventure beyond Pollok.

The Redhills

As we approached the Hurlet we came to an area known to us as 'The Redhills'. Here there was a quarry-like depression cut out from red shale waste. It had a cycle track cut into the red shale forming a kind of amphitheatre. Sometimes in the long summer evenings, that magical time before sunset, we could watch competitive cycle races run between our local team, the Red Rockets, and other visiting teams from further afield. Close by and built into an embankment was a high vaulted tunnel of old dressed stone. This went into the embankment for several yards with the back of the tunnel filled in with bricks and mortar to prevent further entry.

But, of course, we were always daring each other to venture into that forbidden entry before the tunnel became completely blocked to us and to listen for the ghosts of the past.

Because the yellow sandstone of this old tunnel had aged and looked exactly like the sandstone we were familiar with at Crookston Castle it was a common belief, amongst us children, that the tunnel led all the way back to Crookston Castle, less than two miles away, and that this was the exit to a large escape tunnel used in those dangerous times in the past. In our befuddled knowledge of our local history, and no doubt, confusing the story of her escape from Loch Leven Castle, this was to us where Mary, Queen of Scots, had fled from Crookston Castle after the battle of Langside.

And of course the inaccuracies in our local history, made by those better informed than us, didn't help to dispel those conjured up in our own vivid imaginations.

In reality we were standing on the old Hurlet alum works site which once lay between the Barrhead Road and the Nitshill Road. The tunnel was a remnant from the district's industrial past and not its medieval past, for as well as being rich in coal, the Hurlet seam contained copperas, an ore found locally with the coal in a band of red aluminous schistus. Our houses on Cornalee Road, a mere half mile away, were built upon the waste from the processing of these seams.

Manufacturing interest

John Lightbody started a copperas plant at the Hurlet in the 18th century. Green copperas, or sulphate of iron, was used to make ink, in tanning leather and in dying black the wool of hats. Charles MacIntosh, later of waterproof fame, first produced alum at the Hurlet through the firm of MacIntosh Knox & Co. Living at the Hurlet at this time he set about in 1797 to apply the principles of chemistry to very successfully prepare alum from the shales taken from the exhausted coal wastes of the area. The works covered a 20-acre field on the west bank of the Levern on the site of the old Legions coal pit and those workings soon became the largest in Scotland. As well as the coal pits and the lime works, Messrs John Wilson & Sons had a large-scale chemical manufacturing interest at the Hurlet and Nitshill. Wilson set up a second copperas plant at the Hurlet and he also began the manufacture of alum. Alum was the principal mordant used in the dyeing process to fix colours to give them brilliance and to make them durable.

The manufacture of this substance became an early and important industry at the Hurlet and Nitshill and by 1836 Wilsons' was producing 1,200 tons of alum and 300 tons of copperas. At nearby Darnley there were once quarries, brick works, asbestos and lime works. These areas where we explored as children were historical industrial

sites associated with a once thriving chemical industry, supplying dyes to the cotton mills of Paisley and beyond. The Hurlet in 1850 was then a village of more than 300 people. In 1950 the village had gone and by the 1970's landscaping of the old sites had all but completely obliterated any signs of these once important industries that had once thrived there.

Medieval and industrial history

I have often wondered why my history teachers at Crookston Castle Secondary School never used both the medieval and industrial history all around us in our housing scheme to bring history alive and to simply allow us to make some sense of the remnants of a very interesting local history. I guess they would have to have diverted from the strictures of the set curriculum to do that. It was my science teacher, Mr McGeachan, sometimes talking about the history of Pollok and its environs that kept my fascination for local history alive and perhaps in a very roundabout way made me become a science teacher myself, rather than a history teacher, which in many ways, with hindsight, would have made more sense.

But even my favourite science teacher who taught me chemistry, never, ever referred to the important industrial chemistry that occurred at the Hurlet and Nitshill, a mere three miles from our school. These once sylvan scenes in the 18th century by the banks of the Levern waters and the River Cart had been destroyed by industrial activity in the 19th century only to be covered up once more in an attempt at rehabilitation in the 20th century.

Scenes of my childhood and dear to my heart, Ye green waving woods on the margin of Cart.

Campbell

Forth from my low-roofed home I wandered blythe Down to thy side, sweet Cart.

James Grahame



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

NOVEMBER 2025

Kitchener-Waterloo RSCDS & Blair **Scottish Country Dancers Ball**

8, Kitchener, ON

Kitchener-Waterloo Branch of the RSCDS and the Blair Scottish Country Dancers host their Combined Ball. Come dance on a Sprung Wood floor at the Alpine Club in Kitchener to the Music of Donald Bartlett and the Scottish Heirs. Info: www.rscds.kitchener.on.ca

Maxwell Quartet Live 13, Toronto, ON

The Women's Musical Club of Toronto presents a concert featuring the Maxwell Quartet from Scotland who will be playing music by Brahms and Haydn as well as arrangements of Scottish folk music at the University of Toronto's Walter Hall.
Info: www.wmct.on.ca/128th-seasonmaxwell-quartet

St. Andrew's Night Scottish Showcase 21, Ottawa, ON

Celebrating St. Andrew, the patron Saint of Scotland, join your hosts, Atlantic Firth as they bring a full-on Scottish music and dance extravaganza. The show, which comprises a 30-strong cast, begins in traditional style with highland bagpipes and goes out with a huge finale you won't want to miss With a feast of jigs, reels and other lively, traditional and contemporary tunes and songs on the programme, at Meridian Theatres @ Centrepointe, 101 Centrepointe Dr. Info: www.meridiancentrepointe. com/en/st-andrews-night-scottish-showcase

Cruinneachadh-Cànain Chalgairidh

21-22, Calgary, AB

Cruinneachadh-Cànain Chalgairidh is Alberta's only annual Scottish Gaelic language and culture retreat. It will be suitable for learners of all ages and skill levels and the first-ever Calgary mod at the Polish Canadian Cultural Centre. Info: www.standrewcaledonian.ca

St. Andrew's Society of Toronto Charity Ball 2025 22, Toronto, ON

The St. Andrew's Charity Ball is an annual celebration of Scottish-Canadian culture. Attendees have been enjoying this elegant evening of music, dance and cuisine for well over 100 years, at the Fairmont Royal York. Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary St Andrew's Ball

22, Calgary, ABEntertainment includes Highland dancing, piping, singing and fantastic food. The first half of the ball will consist of easy ceilidh dances for everyone at Polish Canadian Cultural Centre. Info: www.standrewcaledonian.ca

154th Celebration of St. Andrew's Day

22, Winnipeg, MB

Join the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg, commemorating the feast day of Andrew the Apostle and is celebrated throughout Scotland on November 30th each year, at the Caboto Centre, 1055 Wilkes Ave. Info: www.standrewssocietywinnipeg.com

St. Andrew's Charity Ball

28, Montreal, QC

Join the St Andrew's Society of Montreal for one of the most prestigious and time-honoured events in Montreal's social calendar. Don't miss this gala evening of dining, dancing and Scottish pageantry at Marriott Château Champlain Hotel, 1050 de la Gauchetière West. Info:www.standrewsball.com

Vancouver Ceilidh November 28. 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

Scotword answers from page 6

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Widgeon	1 Washtubs
4 Milkmaid	2 Grandfather
10 Spanner	3 Owns
11 Valleys	5 Inventor
12 Tide	6 Kilmarnock
13 Gleneagles	7 Awe
16 Beadle	8 Desist
17 Dornoch	9 Drill
20 Chanter	14 Lochcluanie
21 Icicle	15 Glenrothes
24 Portobello	18 Beheaded
25 Mull	19 Ceilidhs
27 Ditched	22 Spider
29 Clanned	23 Flock
30 Ringside	26 Gael
31 Elders	28 Tun

Vancouver St. Andrew's Ball

29, Vancouver, BC

Presented by St Andrews and Caledonian Society of Vancouver at the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St. Info:standrewsballvancouver@gmail.com

Happy St Andrew's Day 30, Nationwide

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

St. Andrew's Day Pub Night 30, Toronto, ON

The St. Andrew's Society of Toronto is hosting the album release party for Old Man Flanagan's Ghost. Come celebrate Scotland's national day with a boisterous night of Celtic music at the Rivoli, 332 Queen Street West, Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

St Andrew's Whisky Tasting

30, Ottawa, ON

Join the Scottish Society of Ottawa and have a dram in celebration of Scotland's patron Saint. Info: www.ottscot.ca

DECEMBER 2025

Intro to Curling Social

The St. Andrew's Society of Toronto is hosting another Intro to Curling Social at High Park Club, 100 Indian Rd. This event is geared towards beginners and will feature a combination of instruction and play. There will be drinks after the on-ice session to raise a glass with teammates and new friends. Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

Pipes of Christmas Concert Webcast 19-31, Virtual event

For nearly three decades, The Pipes of Christmas has brought the joy and beauty of Celtic Christmas traditions to life for the holidays. The beloved concert brings together world-class musicians, soloists, and performers from across America and the UK for a stirring celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit during this International Concert Highlights online special. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com

Happy Hogmanay 31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers. advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2026!

USA

NOVEMBER 2025

The Lord Lyon King of Arms and The Honours of Scotland 6, New York, NY

The American Scottish Foundation presents Dr. Joseph Morrow, the Lord Lyon, who will discuss the background and history of The Honours of Scotland - the Scottish Crown Jewels - which were worn by Scottish monarchs at their coronation at The Union Club, 101 E 69th St. The Honours have been used at state occasions including the visit of George IV in 1822, Elizabeth II's first visit to Scotland as monarch in 1953, and a national service of thanksgiving for Charles III following his coronation in 2023. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

ASF Wallace Awards and Annual Dinner

7. New York, NY

The Wallace Awards will be presented to Dr. Joseph Morrow, Lord Lyon, King of Arms for his Leadership of the Lyon Court and his role in Scotland today and Wright Post Palmer of Beekman Estates for his outstanding contribution to the preservation of history, arts and culture. Alongside the Wallace Awards, ASF champions our up and coming leaders of tomorrow and are delighted to announce that the ASF Young Scot Wallace Award for 2025 will be presented to Claire McKenzie and Scott Gilmour of Noisemaker - the award winning young musical theater producers at the University Club. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

Salado Scottish Gathering and Highland Games 7-9, Salado. TX

A 3-day event filled with the skirl of the bagpipes and the wearing of the tartan. Info: www.saladomuseum. $org/scottish\hbox{-}gathering\hbox{-}and\hbox{-}highland\hbox{-}games$

Austin Celtic Festival

8-9, Austin, TX

The largest Gathering of Celts in Central Texas, a celebration of Celtic culture, music, and art at Pioneer Farms, Info: www.austincelticfestival.com

Mississippi Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Music Festival

8-9, Gulfport, MS

Annual Celtic music festival and Scottish Highland Games on the Mississippi Gulf Coast at Harrison County Fairgrounds. Info:www.mshighlandsandislands.com

The Balmoral Classic 2025

14-16, Pittsburgh, PA

The Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming present the US Junior Solo Bagpiping and Snare Drumming Championships will be held in the Cathedral of Learning on the University of Pittsburgh campus. Carnegie Mellon University Pipes and Drums is the featured band for the Saturday evening concert at 7:30pm and they will be joined by guest artists Bealtaine, plus Scottish and Irish dancers. In addition, there will be an informal gathering with Pittsburgh Piping Society Friday and on Sunday Bruce Gandy will present a piobaireachd workshop for competitors and invited guests. Info: www.BalmoralSchool.org

Saint Andrew's Society of Washington DC 75th Annual Tartan Ball 15, Washington, DC

This enduring fixture in the social calendar of our nation's capital brings together both members and the wider Washington D.C. area Scottish-American community in a formal celebration of camaraderie and a formal celebration of Scottish-American heritage and traditions at the National Press Club, 529 14th St NW. Info: www.saintandrewsociety.org

New York Scottish Ball

15, New York, NY

Live music will be provided by The Iona Dance Band, and dances will include: Dashing White Sergeant, Duke of Perth, Gay Gordons, and Reel of the 51st Division. Black tie or Highland Dress. Dance "Reel-Hearsals" will be offered in early November, which are an excellent opportunity to learn the dances and get to know your fellow reelers. No partner is necessary, and at least two practices are recommended for beginners. At the Down Town Association, 60 Pine St. Info: www.nyscottishball.com

The St. Andrew's Society of Oregon 150th Annual **Banquet and Scholarship Awards Evening** 15, Portland, OR

This extraordinary milestone event pays tribute to a century and a half of Scottish spirit, community, and enduring heritage. Immerse yourself in a festive atmosphere defined by camaraderie, tradition, and the warmth of friendships at Multnomah Athletic Club. Info: www.standrewssocietvoforegon.com

Dunedin Celtic Music & Craft Beer Festival 22, Dunedin, FL

An annual event outdoor festival featuring multiple musical acts at Highlander Park. Info: www.dunedinsafoundation.com/ celtic-music-craft-beer-festival

Happy St Andrew's Day

30. Nationwide

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

DECEMBER 2025

Scottish North American Community

5-6, Alexandria, VA

23rd annual conference hosted by the American Scottish Foundation, The Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, St Andrew's Society of Detroit, Chicago Scots, Scottish American Women's Society, Scottish Studies Society, and St. Andrew's Society of Toronto. This year's theme is Connecting Hearts & Minds: The Way Forward, Strengthening Our Collective Scottish Heritage at Lyceum Theatre or online ... Read more

Pipes of Christmas Concert Boston 5-6, Boston, MA

For nearly three decades, The Pipes of Christmas has brought the joy and beauty of Celtic Christmas traditions to life for the holidays. The beloved concert brings together world-class musicians, soloists and performers from across America and the UK for a stirring celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit at Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com

Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk 6, Alexandria, VA

Dozens of Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans parade through the streets of Old Town, joined by pipe and drum bands, as well as terriers and hounds, community groups and more. Info: www.campagnacenter.org alexandria-scottish-christmas-walk-parade

Highland Holidays In Southern Pines 11, Southern Pines, NC

An unforgettable evening filled with the exhilarating sounds of live musicians, the captivating strength of Highland dancers, and the stirring melodies of the Highland bagpipes. Celebrate Hogmanay and discover the ancient customs that have lit up Scottish winters for centuries at Sunrise Theatre, Info: www.highlandechoes.com

Highland Holidays in Morehead City

12, Morehead City, NC

An unforgettable evening filled with the exhilarating sounds of live musicians, the captivating strength of Highland dancers, and the stirring melodies of the Highland bagpipes. Celebrate Hogmanay and discover the ancient customs that have lit up Scottish winters for centuries at Joslyn Hall. Info: www.highlandechoes.com

Sherwood Celtic Yuletide Festival

13-14, McDade, TX

Celtic music, Scottish Highland Games, artisans, archery, mead, and Santa. Info: www.sherwoodforestfaire.com/celtic-music-festival

Pipes of Christmas Concert NYC

13, New York, NY

For nearly three decades, The Pipes of Christmas has brought the joy and beauty of Celtic Christmas traditions to life for the holidays. The beloved concert brings together world-class musicians, soloists, and performers from across America and the UK for a stirring celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, 921 Madison Ave. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com

Pipes of Christmas Concert NJ 14, Summit, NJ

For nearly three decades, The Pipes of Christmas has brought the joy and beauty of Celtic Christmas traditions to life for the holidays. The beloved concert brings together world-class musicians, soloists and performers from across America and the UK for a stirring celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit at Central Presbyterian Church,

70 Maple St. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com ASF Annual Scottish Christmas Celebration 16, New York, NY

Join the American Scottish Foundation with Whisky tasting from Glenmorangie and musical accompaniment to sing traditional Scottish songs and Christmas carols at 3 West Club, 3 W 51st St. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

Pipes of Christmas Concert Webcast 19-31. Virtual event

For nearly three decades, The Pipes of Christmas has brought the joy and beauty of Celtic Christmas traditions to life for the holidays. The beloved concert brings together world-class musicians, soloists, and performers from across America and the UK for a stirring celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit during this International Concert Highlights online special. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com

Happy Hogmanay

31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2026!

Scotland

NOVEMBER 2025

Aye Write Book Festival 6-16, Glasgow

Glasgow's long-established and much-loved book festival will celebrate its milestone 20th anniversary across 11 days, ahead of Book Week Scotland taking place later in the month. Info: www.ayewrite.com

The Autumn Gathering 2025

7-8, Glasgow

Scottish Country Dancers from all over the world head to the annual Autumn Gathering to take part in classes and discussion forums, together with the Friday evening dance and Saturday ball. Info: www.rscds.org/events/autumn-gathering-2025

Oban Winter Festival 2025

14-December 21, Oban

Scotland's ultimate Highland celebration welcoming visitors with festive lights, music, and holiday cheer. Info: www.obanwinterfestival.com

2025 Scots Fiddle Festival

14-16, Edinburgh

Scotland's biggest fiddle event with the aim of promoting and sustaining traditional Scots fiddle music at The Pleasance. Info:www.scotsfiddlefestival.com

Castle of Light

21-January 4, Edinburgh

Get ready to experience one of Scotland's largest projections shows with an all-new show for 2025, as fire and ice take centre stage. Let these enchanting elements guide you through Edinburgh Castle as they ignite dazzling projections and immersive light displays. Info: www.castleoflight.scot

Deck the Halls Show

A three-day extravaganza with the National Trust for Scotland of taste testing, great conversation, Christmas shopping, and a bit of Yuletide cheer at SEC Glasgow. Info: www.deckthehallsshow.com

Ceilidh at The Kelpies

29, Falkirk

An unforgettable evening of music, laughter and high-energy dancing as The Helix, in partnership with Scottish Canals, hosts its very first Ceilidh at The Kelpies. Set against the stunning backdrop of the iconic Kelpies, this lively event is perfect for families, friends, and ceilidh newcomers, enjoy traditional Scottish dances with a fresh, modern twist. Info: https://bit.ly/CeilidhAtTheKelpies

Happy St Andrew's Day

30, Nationwide

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

Whisky's 'water of life' - Scottish distiller turns to science amid historic dry spell



hisky is 'the water of life' but in one of the driest starts to a year seen in Scotland, distillers are turning to researchers to improve access to the crucial water supplies for their unique products. Scientists from the University of Aberdeen are leading a project funded by Chivas Brothers, the Pernod Ricard business dedicated to Scotch whisky and maker of Ballantine's, The Glenlivet and Chivas Regal to develop innovative nature-based solutions that could help to mitigate water scarcity but also slow down water runoff following rapid downpours.

Nature-based solutions

The issue has been brought into sharp focus in recent weeks with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) issuing country-wide alerts for low water levels. The dry soil a long dry spell leaves in its wake can repel water rather than letting it soak in as damp soil would, meaning it is harder to hold water when and where it is most needed. In areas like Speyside – home

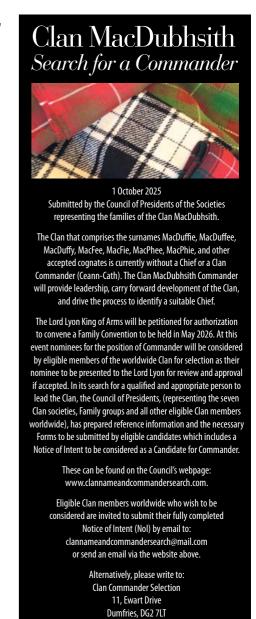
to half Scotland's malt distillers - ensuring a continuous water supply, both now and in the future, is essential as temporary closures can cost the industry millions of pounds. Chivas Brothers is funding new research led by the University of Aberdeen and working with the James Hutton Institute, following a successful project in 2022 which focused on The Glenlivet distillery. There the team demonstrated the benefits of a series of small leaky dams installed in channels to slow water flow by holding the water in that location in temporary mini reservoirs. This allows it to soak into the subsurface so that more water is available at times when it is needed.

The new research will broaden the geographic scope of the project across Speyside and explore a wider range of possible nature-based solutions for water management.

Benefits beyond the whisky industry Project lead Dr Josie Geris, a lecturer in hydrology at the University of Aberdeen, said the techniques they are investigating,

including soil and vegetation management, could bring benefits beyond the whisky industry as around three percent of people living in Scotland rely on vulnerable private water supplies. Dr Geris said: "First, we will take a comprehensive look at data gathered from across Speyside and carry out detailed monitoring at The Glenlivet and two other distillery sites to develop understanding of how surface water and groundwater are connected, and how this varies across the different locations. This will help us to assess how resilient different water resources in Speyside are to drought and to understand what causes certain water resources to be more vulnerable whether it is driven by geology, land use or other issues. We will then use modelling to help future planning and our understanding of which naturebased solutions might work best where to mitigate water scarcity across the region."

Ronald Daalmans, Sustainability Director at Chivas Brothers, added: "This important work will help inform the whisky sector on how it can adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change for this critical resource. It forms part of a wider programme, called The River Within, which aims to support river restoration and enhancement in North-East Scotland." In addition to supporting research projects, Chivas Brothers' The River Within, a long-term programme in partnership with three Scottish river trusts - the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust, Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Rivers Trust, and the Spey Catchment Initiative – aims to support the delivery of habitat restoration projects to ultimately preserve, protect and improve the health of Scotland's rivers and waterways.



The deadline for submission of your

Notice of Intent is 30 November 2025.



The Tallahassee Highland Games -The Field Is Calling Again





By: Chase Lackey

here's a moment before the pipes strike when the field holds its breath. In those heartbeats, you can feel whether a gathering remembers what it is. In Tallahassee, after so many silent years, the answer has been yes, clear, stubborn, resonant. Celebrating year four, the Games here weren't relaunched as a spectacle; they were rebuilt as a gathering. That distinction matters to anyone who cares about where our traditions are headed next.

This isn't an article to explain Highland games to the uninitiated. It's an invitation to those who already know the sound of a clean pick on a heavy caber, who can tell by the hands whether a thrower will shy the stone or drive it like their ancestors are watching. It's written for people who can sense when a festival is slowly becoming a theme park, and who still believe a chief's gathering, even on new soil, can light the old fire while being as unique as the host themselves.

Recover the heartbeat

Why bring a dormant Games back at all? Because in the diaspora you either let the flame gutter, or you shoulder wind and keep it. You don't watch your kin on their deathbed saying "do it" and not take on the task. The Tallahassee Highland Games returns year four, not to replicate a standardized program, but to restore the older logic of the field: a host sets the tone; the land and its people shape the tests; and the gathering serves the community that carries it... clans, families, and the young who need to see strength up close. That is why this revival has felt less like a product launch and more like a promise kept.

The first principle was simple: recover the heartbeat. Stones. Not props, but trials that carry the weight of the land itself. In the beginning, we poured our own, concrete atlas stones and honest, because if you're reviving a tradition, you start with your hands, not a shipment. Each of those early stones was cast in the same spirit as the old masons: shape what you have until the real one's answer.

Now we're hunting for them... the old white anchors that lie half-buried along country drives and fence lines, the quartz and limestone boulders that once marked roads and homes in Leon County. Those are the ones we want to lift, the ones that have already held their ground for a hundred years.



We've even found some at Apalachee Regional Park. Perfect to pull from the soil and make our own challenge stones, unique to this field and to this land. Because every true Highland gathering deserves a stone that remembers where it stands.

The second principle: guard the caber. A caber toss is the great truth-teller of a games. Technique without courage is useless; courage without discipline is chaos. Hosting the International Highland Games Federation National Championship (IHGF) means inviting the standard to test you instead of you pretending to meet it. It's a statement to athletes and to Scotland alike: when we say "Highland," we mean it.

Third: put the clans back at the center. That means more than tents and signage. It means removing barriers, so culture isn't pay-to-play and making room for actual teaching - genealogy, language, music, and the quiet work of transmission.

In Tallahassee, clan and society presence isn't a bolt-on; it's the spine. Free participation for clans is not our charity; it's alignment with the first principles. The point is to convene a people, not monetize a backdrop. To give them space to step out of the tent, show their tartans with pride and invite those who become kin and our next generations who honor the call.

The fourth principle is harder to talk about because it asks us to be honest about drift. Many events, especially successful ones, end up smoothing their edges until one looks very much like the next. But the older pattern of the Highlands ran on difference: river stones here, sea-wind there; a chief who prized his 400lb challenge stone more than the hammer; a glen with no wood for a truly monstrous caber and so a different trial altogether. That refusal to be interchangeable is part of what made the tradition durable. Tallahassee's organizers have been explicit about resisting the temptation to become yet another "festival format." They're choosing curation over bloat, athlete-first fieldcraft over prop-work, and a hospitality culture that looks more like a feast than a VIP upsell. (Yes, there is a proper gala and whisky dinnerbecause hosts should host, and a night's table can do more for a community than a month

That feast mentality carries onto the field. When Francis Brebner is on the mic, seventime world caber champion and President of the IHGF... the crowd doesn't just get noise; they get standard, story, and pace. Announcing becomes stewardship. It's a subtle difference, but you can feel it in how athletes respond and how children watch. Even the spectators roar as "the loudest crowd I've ever seen" delights in this new, yet oh so old tradition. The layout has been redrawn to serve that experience; clear sightlines, flow that respects the throw, and vantage points where new families can catch their first goosebumps without being jostled out of it.

Strength Without Borders

If the field is the heart, the year is the body with the soul of our loved ones quite literally imbued in it. Plenty of gatherings light a weekend and vanish. Tallahassee built a structure around the Games to keep the muscle working when the banners come down. Team Tallahassee (our nonprofit arm) coaches, equips, and funds athletes yearround. In practical terms, that pint you buy isn't disappearing into a pit; it becomes fuel for the next thrower, the next travel stipend, the next kid who realizes they're built for this. "Strength Without Borders" isn't a line... It's our policy. It signals to Scotland that this corner of the map understands stewardship.

There's also a decision here to take heritage seriously without taking oneself too seriously. Three stages run music, dance, and heritage programming that teaches as it entertains. Children design tartans, build beards, test themselves at the Wee Highland Games area, and learn that culture is something you do with your hands. If you've ever worried that the next generation will inherit a Pinterest board instead of a living craft, the antidote is watching a kid heft a mini-caber with that stubborn set of the jaw we all recognize.

Some will ask whether television coverage and modern marketing dull the edge. Whether our partner podcast and unique branding signal something else. They can confuse, if you forget who you are. But when you treat the camera and mic as a witness rather than a judge, it amplifies what's real. Stones of Strength filmed for cable isn't dilution; it's proof that the fire still burns hot enough to be seen from far away.

And when the co-branded Ology Brewing Company; Scottish red ale turns up in a Florida grocery, it may raise an eyebrow... until you realize that every can is an echo, carrying the name of the Games into new hands. The point isn't to make the tradition fashionable; it's to keep it fluent. When the field and our people stay honest, the signal will travel.

And then there is the matter of honor. Hosting the Clan Graham Society's Annual General Meeting isn't just calendar business; it's a declaration that this revived gathering is honored to carry our ancestral weight. A chieftain's presence changes the air. It anchors the weekend in lineage, in obligation, in that particular silence before the toast when you remember who you stand for. For a diaspora games, that is not small. It's a sign that the old structure recognizes itself in the new and holds value in their people wherever they may be.

Place matters. Apalachee Regional Park is famous for cross-country... thin spikes on red clay, wind across open ground. Turning it into a Highland field isn't a gimmick; it's a metaphor for how tradition migrates. The same terrain that measures endurance at the World Cross Country will now measure courage under a caber. The same terrain



now honored by the very sports like modern Track and Field, events that our great heritage inspired. That juxtaposition says what needs saying about diaspora culture: the roots can travel if the hands are willing.

The field is calling again

So, what should those of us in Scotland make of this American revival? Judge us by the old tests, not facade.

Does the field honor the athlete and the throw? Do the stones belong to the place? Are the clans convened to teach and to welcome, not just to decorate? Is the feast a real feast, the hospitality real hospitality? Does the year between the weekends matter? Coaching, building kit, and the quiet work of keeping people in the sport. Does it resist becoming generic? Yes, and all on purpose, driven by the heart of our Team.

There are things to watch, always. Standard must be held. Craft must be taught. Commerce must be kept in harness. Cows, horses and folk didn't just show up without driving economy. But if you're looking for signs of life, you can hear them in Tallahassee, Florida. The pipes come in, the athletes square, the crowd shifts forward. The field breathes again.

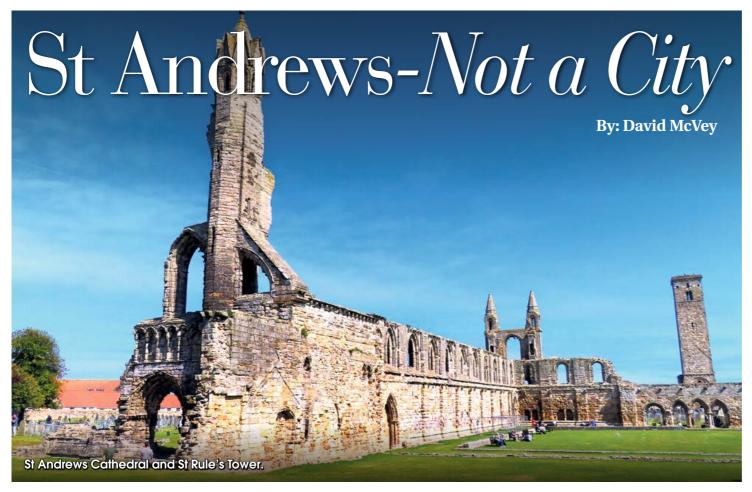
For those of us who worry that the tradition is dwindling, maybe the answer isn't to harden into nostalgia or chase novelty. Maybe it's to remember how our ancestors built gatherings that felt like themselves and recalling that difference, not uniformity, was part of the genius. The Tallahassee Highland Games have chosen that path: not bigger for its own sake, but truer for ours.

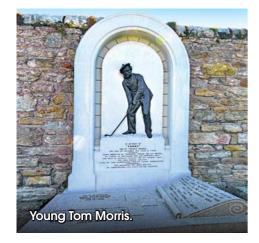
If you come, don't come to be entertained. Come to stand where the old and the new shake hands. Come to watch a kilted stranger pick a length of timber and make a promise with it. Come to see whether your own hands have been idle too long. The field is calling again. Answer how our people always have... by showing up, lifting what's in front of you, celebrating our culture and uniqueness while leaving the ground better than we found it.

Experience the 2026 Tallahassee Highland Games at Apalachee Regional Park February 7 & 8th, 2026. For further details visit: www.tallyhighlandgames.com









he BBC quiz show *Pointless* often features questions where the answers are cities in the UK. It's surprising how many contestants offer 'St Andrews' as an answer. Or perhaps it isn't, after all, St Andrews has a university (Scotland's oldest, dating from 1413), a ruined cathedral and is by common consent the world capital of golf. It even has a prominent street called 'City Road'.

All the same, it's not a city. If it were, it would be Scotland's smallest city by a long way, its population just 17,000. However, the year-round influx of tourists, and the seasonal population of students mean that it has the retail, commercial and catering facilities of a rather bigger community. It can *feel* like a city.

Golf

Now, golf; St Andrews is home to several famous courses and to the Royal & Ancient (R&A), one of the sport's governing bodies. Confusingly, these days the R&A is a separate organisation from The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, whose clubhouse stands near the modern building that is the R&A World Golf Museum.

A wonderful PG Wodehouse story called *The Coming of Gowf* tells of a distant kingdom whose king sees a gardener swinging a hoe to hit small round stones. 'It seems a hard thing to say of anyone, your majesty,' explains the King's vizier, 'but he is a Scotsman.' It turns out that the man had been captured at a place called 'Snandrews'.

Eventually he teaches the King, and his people, the joys of golf.

Beyond the golf courses are the West Sands, a fantastic beach, a glorious destination if you can find a hot summer's day. They are now inextricably linked with another sport because of their role in two of the most memorable sequences in British cinema history.

A group of athletes in 1920s running kit (played by actors including Ben Cross, Ian Charleson, Nicholas Farrell and Nigel Havers) pound along the West Sands as they train for the 1924 Paris Olympics, accompanied by Vangelis' soaring music. Lump-in-the-throat stuff. It's Chariots of Fire (1981), of course, and the sequences, which open and close the film, are supposed to take place in Broadstairs in Kent. It's very obviously St Andrews, though. Apparently there had been no long term plan to shoot there. Apparently the crew were in Scotland shooting scenes in Perthshire and Edinburgh anyway, and St Andrews was thriftily chosen for the Broadstairs sequences. With unforgettable results.

Cennrigmonaid

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) care for both St Andrews Castle and St Andrews Cathedral, both mostly in ruins. They're well worth seeing, though, and there's a modern visitor centre at the castle which tells much of the St Andrews story. The first, early medieval settlement here was called Cennrigmonaid which, besides being a real mouthful, is said to mean something like 'Church at the Head of the King's Mount'. Over the years it was shortened, thankfully, to Kilrymont. There was a monastic settlement at an early date, and it gained royal connections from the time of Kenneth Mac Alpin in the $9^{\mbox{th}}$ century. But it was during the $11^{\mbox{th}}$ century that stories began to spread of a 4th century figure called St Rule or Regulus (who may not have existed) taking the relics of St Andrew (who had existed) and lodging them at Kilrymont.

A shrine developed and became the focus of pilgrimage. Queen Margaret famously instituted a ferry - the Queen's

Ferry - from Lothian to Fife to help pilgrims reach the site. Already the seat of a bishop, St Andrews (as it was becoming known) was chosen as the site of an ambitious new cathedral, with David I giving the go-ahead sometime around 1140. The building took many decades, and rose beside the existing, smaller church dedicated to St Rule. In 1270, the west end of the building was destroyed in a storm, just as it approached completion.

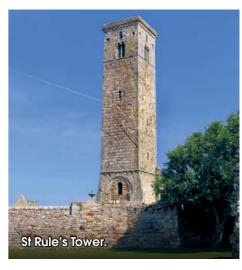
The resulting cathedral became the seat of the Archbishop of St Andrews and was effectively the headquarters of Scotland's medieval church. It was a massive building, perhaps larger than it needed to be as the flow of pilgrims to the shrine of St Andrew was never as large as had been hoped. It certainly had an interesting life, with the invading Edward I of England residing there, holding a parliament, and even stealing lead from the roof. It was only after the English had been removed from Scotland, in 1318, that the cathedral was finally consecrated in full. Robert the Bruce was in attendance.

Historical and cultural depth In the cathedral's heyday, St Andrews could legitimately call itself a city. The cathedral

legitimately call itself a city. The cathedral fell out of use after the Reformation; you'll sometimes read that the building was destroyed *at the time* by the reformers.

In fact, the building was mined over the centuries by local people for building materials. What's left still does give a sense of the enormous scale of the building in its pomp. I recommend taking one of the regular tours led by HES staff. Your tour finishes with an airy visit to the top of St Rule's Tower - the remaining bit of the church which preceded the cathedral.





You can't escape St Andrews' golfing history even here, though. The precinct has continued to be used for burials and a modern object of pilgrimage is the tomb of Young Tom Morris, a St Andrews lad who won the British Open at the age of 17 - he's still the youngest to have done so - and died at the tragically early age of 24. There's a well-worn path to his shrine (for, really, it *is* a shrine) which is easily identifiable by the bronze statue of Young Tom, complete with club and ball.

St Andrews Castle was highly bracing on the wet and windy occasion of one of my recent visits. It has a dramatic setting, just a stone's throw from the cathedral, protected from the sea by dramatic crags. It was the seat of the Bishops and later Archbishops of St Andrews, but it saw many other distinguished guests. James I celebrated Christmas here in 1425 and it's thought that James III may have been born in the castle.

Nowadays, especially if you visit in term time, the university rather sets the tone of the town. It's an intriguing thought that St Andrews had a university 400 years before London. The distinctive red gowns add a unique flavour to the place. In recent years, there has been a trend for the younger members of the royal family to study at St Andrews a dream come true for the university's student recruitment!

One thing St Andrews *doesn't* have is a railway station but buses run from Leuchars Station every few minutes so it's perfectly accessible even without a car. You could call it a seaside resort, but that description does no justice the town's historical and cultural depth. What it isn't, not anymore anyway, is a *city*.





Face-to-face with Scotland's Pictish past



n archaeology student from the University of Aberdeen came faceto-face with Scotland's past when she unearthed an incredibly rare, carved depiction of what may be a human face. Jodie Allan was a volunteer on a dig at East Lomond in Fife, led by Professor Gordon Noble and Joe Fitzpatrick of the Falkland Stewardship Trust, when she spotted what she initially thought was a piece of slag while sieving soil excavated from an early medieval building identified at the major hillfort. But on closer inspection it turned out to be an incredibly rare schematic carving which experts say could be the face of a Pict.

Pictish kingdom

Professor Noble, from the University of Aberdeen, has been co-leading excavation work with the Trust at the site near the Falkland Estate for the last four years. The hillfort and surrounding settlement are located in what is thought to have been the southernmost part of the Pictish kingdom, which ruled a large part of what became Scotland. This major hillfort and settlement has been the focus of a joint university and community project run by the Falkland Stewardship Trust and the University of Aberdeen from 2022 onwards, building on earlier Heritage Lottery funded excavations.

Digs at the site bring together community volunteers, students and University experts for excavation work. Previous work has unearthed Roman imports such as Oxfordshire Ware pottery and E ware from northern France – a continental style of pottery used to hold exotic foodstuffs or dyes – usually found at high status sites.

Jodie said: "I had no idea I was holding anything significant. But I took a closer look because of its size and because the colour – a sort of oxidised coppery green – caught my eye. I showed it to Professor Noble who took one look at the stone and his reaction told me it was something special – with what appears to be a carved face on it."

Incredibly rare

Professor Noble said the find adds to the growing body of evidence that East Lomond was an important Pictish settlement and added: "This is an early schematic carving with two eyes, a nose and what appears to be a hairline at the top. We need to get this fully analysed but it appears to be a carving of a face, and resembles some of the human faces you see in early medieval manuscripts. It is incredibly rare to have

a representation of a human face in this time period. We'll have to look at all the parallels, but if it really is a human face it's nice to think it could be a rudimentary portrait of a local Picts who lived at East Lomond. The building we found appears to be from the final phase of activity in the annexe settlement which would place it in the 5th-7th century phases. The discovery could offer new insights into how Picts understood themselves and represented their own identities through crafting and stone carving. The face suggests that Pictish people here were making more expedient carvings, perhaps something for family members living at the site rather than public display like the more famous Pictish symbol stones. East Lomond is turning out

to be such an amazing site. In addition to the face we found a complete mattock head, an iron tool from the floor of a building right next to the building with the carving, and from other parts of the site fragments of weaponry and other rare objects are beginning to illuminate the development of this settlement from the late Roman Iron Age through to around the 7thcentury AD."

The archaeologists will now work to make sense of the face through radiocarbon dating of the floor layers and settlement deposits associated with the building and examination of other art historical parallels to understand more about the character and context of the small carved stone object.



Historic document goes on display



document ratifying the peace treaty which ended the first Scottish War of Independence has gone on display in Northampton.

The 1328 Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton and the ratification is held by National Records of Scotland (NRS).

The ratification is on show at Northampton Museum as part of its exhibition: The History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects.

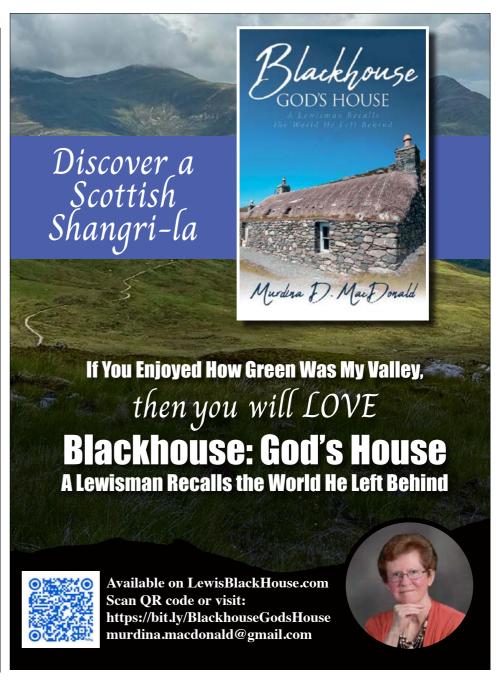
The English parliament was sitting in Northampton when it agreed the terms of the treaty. The 'final and perpetual' Treaty saw Scotland recognised as an independent kingdom, and Robert the Bruce as rightful King of Scots. In return, the Scots agreed to pay compensation in war damages.

One of the treasures in the Scottish national archive

Dr Alan Borthwick, Head of Medieval and Early Modern Records at NRS, said: "As was quite common for the period, the deal included the marriage of children from both royal houses. Robert the Bruce's four-year-old son David, soon to be King David II, married King Edward III's seven year old sister Joan. While the treaty ended more than 30 years of conflict, the peace was fragile and fighting broke out again in 1332. This document is one of the treasures in the Scottish national archive and relates to a key time in our history."

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery is hosting *A History of Northamptonshire in 100 Objects* until 8 February 2026. This major exhibition includes items from prehistoric times right up to the present day. Once the exhibition closes, the record will go back to NRS. While the treaty's 700th anniversary is in three years' time, one of its pledges was only fulfilled 29 years ago. In 1996 the Stone of Destiny, used in the coronation of Scottish monarchs, was returned to Scotland from Westminster Abbey.

The Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton (NRS catalogue reference SP6/2) is one of many historical treasures preserved in Scotland's national archives which extend to almost 80 km of shelved records. The First Scottish War of Independence ran from 1296 until 1328. The second lasted from 1332 until 1357.



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