



the Scottish Banner



North American Edition



Years Strong - 1976-2016 www.scottishbanner.com

A' Bhratach Albannach

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The Banner Says...

Annette Street Primary

Fighting back against the headlines



by Valerie Cairney

Like many *Scottish Banner* readers I too am an immigrant, arriving in Canada as I did, with my parents many years ago. For me it was a very difficult and unhappy experience. Why? At the time I was leaving my friends, cousins-and in particular my boyfriend, who helped make my life in the U.K, a very happy place to be. Of course our family had discussed the 'big move' many times, and yes, at the time I too thought it was a good decision. But as the time went by and I realised the importance of 'leaving my friends' and family so soon, things changed a little. I arrived in Canada missing both my British lifestyle and my friends. That was way back in the 50's, and as most of us know, as we grow older, things change greatly in life. Today I am happily both a U.S., as well as a Canadian citizen. And I love each country. Yet I was particularly interested in an article I read recently in a Scots newspaper about a Glasgow primary school. An article which I felt I had something in common with. The school in the article was the Annette Street Primary School, situated in Glasgow, Scotland. The point of the article was that although the school is in Glasgow, the ethnic profile of the students attending this school may not include a single child born to conventional white Scottish parents. Yet the children who populate these diverse rolls, many who were born on U.K., shores, are keenly aware of the culture of their city, country, homeland and heritage, as well as those of their classmates. The school is in an area with a proud history of migration where many newcomers of Irish or Polish families once settled in their search for a new life. The teachers are from Scotland, England, Europe and Pakistan - probably reflecting on the family countries of their students. The schools 129 year old walls are filled with a multi-lingual diaspora and prides itself on the colourful studies of many Scottish subjects along with a corridor of stairs decorated with projects on the life and legacy of Robert Burn, and other well-known Scots. The many pictures shown on walls include pictures of Hebridean island life - signed by each pupil. The teacher, who is also a former pupil, will end her five decade

association with the school, when she retires at the end of this academic year Her classes, including pupils from Ben Nevis and elsewhere are striving to out-do each other in a race to name as many lochs as possible. Safwan, an 11-year old Celtic supporter from Pakistan, and Hamreeb, a Rangers supporter of the same age from Glasgow, are part of a group of boys discussing the legend of the Scottish Kelpie. "It's a hybrid of a fish and a horse", offers one.

Unlike some Scots, these kids can sing all three verses of Flower of Scotland. They sing our-their-national anthem with obvious pride. Theirs is the voice of a modern country.

Eco-Schools

Another classmate, 10-year old Daniela, from Brazil, can recount the mythology behind the fish and the bird on the bell a feat many a born and bred Glaswegian might struggle with. She then tells how she went to Hampden to see Scotland play Denmark in March, singing the national anthem on the way so emotionally - it caused one Glasgow wife to have tears on her cheeks. In her office - with the door bearing the words "Head Teacher" in nine different languages - Shirley has just waved a bus-load of kids off on an outing to Finlaystone Country Estate in Renfrewshire, on a language and environmental trip. Another group are on a litter-picking mission, collecting rubbish from the nearby streets. Cambuslang Park is looking better after its spring clean. The school was the first in Glasgow to earn a Green Flag for Eco-Schools - environ-mentalism (Eco-Schools) is an international initiative designed to encourage whole-school action on sustainable development education issues). There are currently six of them. Head teacher Shirley said, "We have children who are Scottish Pakistani. We have Romanian children who were born in Scotland, and although their families might originate

in Slovakia, Romania or elsewhere, we very much view them as Scottish. But to me, it's actually not important which children were born in Scotland. We do a lot of work in the school about Scotland and Glasgow. We get the kids out and around Glasgow, we teach them about their city, their country. We educate them about Scottish culture and traditions but not at the expense of their own. There's a commonality of language used in the school. We look for ways to develop them in all sorts of ways. Citizenship is a huge part of that. Our children take small steps and make huge achievements with them". Despite the right-wing sneering, the crowdfunding is on target to raise more than six thousand pounds in a week. There will be more playground equipment and more educational trips. Unlike some Scots, these kids can sing all three verses of *Flower of Scotland*. They sing our-their-national anthem with obvious pride. Theirs is the voice of a modern country. Wherever they go, Scotland will be a part of their story. And they are a welcome part of ours.

Dundee

In this issue we are also highlighting in our series of Scottish cities and regions, Dundee. One of Scotland's (and the UK's) fastest changing places. A new creative hub and an amazing waterfront development is being created. The project is being led by Dundee City Council, Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Government. The success of this long-term project, which commenced in 2001, is now starting to show. There are new buildings, with new businesses emerging and major attractions, such as the Victoria & Albert Museum of Design Dundee, which promises great potential for the future. Dundee was long known for the three J's - jam, jute and journalism. Today, it has become a city of discovery and design and is a forward thinking city on the move. Both locals and fellow Scots are excited to watch Dundee reinvent itself and play its role in the proud and long story of Scotland.

For more information or to help with the Annette Street Primary School Crowdfunding Project: see: www.annettestreet-pri.glasgow.sch.uk.



Gracing our front cover: Dundee delights-The Oor Wullie Bucket Trail.

Spotlight falls on new addition to Scotland's Castle Trail



Kinnaird Head Castle.

A unique 16th century castle which forms part of a North-east lighthouse has been added to Aberdeenshire's famous Castle Trail for the first time. The region is known as 'Scotland's Castle Country' and with an impressive tally of over 300 castles, stately mansions and ruins scattered across the landscape, there are more castles per acre than anywhere else in the UK.

Kinnaird Head Castle and the adjacent Wine Tower at Fraserburgh are two of the best preserved structures of the ancient 'nine castles of the knuckle' situated along the Buchan coast. The 16th century castle was built by the Frasers of Philorth to demonstrate dominance and power over their planned town of Fraserburgh. Falling out of fashion, the castle was sold to the Northern Lighthouse Board in 1787 to be converted into Scotland's first mainland lighthouse, making Kinnaird Head unique among Scotland's castles. As well as the tower itself, original features such as the old castle kitchens and elements of the grand hall

can be seen by visitors. The adjacent Wine Tower is an ancient pre-reformation building steeped in mystery and curiosity, dramatically perched over the crashing waves. Visitors can see the upper vaulted chamber of the Wine Tower to view seven preserved roof pendants, carved in stone, showing the Fraser's family connections and commitment to the faith.

Scotland's Castle Trail

The Scotland's Castle Trail brochure, which is a joint project between VisitScotland, Aberdeenshire Council, Historic Environment Scotland and National Trust for Scotland, now includes this additional attraction as well as a clear map of the region showing all the castles large entries and details for each castle. With the inclusion of Kinnaird Head, it now features 19 castles in Aberdeenshire, from Balmoral to Braemar and Corgarff to Craigievar. A 'nearby attractions' section accompanies each entry, to encourage people to further explore the region while following the trail and increase the length of their stay and spend in Aberdeenshire. Aberdeenshire's castles provide a wealth of history to explore, from gruesome tales of battles fought, to strolls through romantic family estates. Coming in all shapes and sizes, each castle has a different story to tell, from striking clifftop ruins to grand fortresses and royal residences in the countryside.

Romance and history

Many brochures are being distributed via accommodation providers and attractions in Aberdeenshire, Dundee, Fife, Perthshire, the Highlands and the Central Belt. They

will also be available in VisitScotland Information Centres, National Trust for Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland properties and local racking spots throughout Aberdeenshire. Jo Robinson, VisitScotland Regional Director, said: "The Castle Trail is incredibly popular with our visitors, both domestic and international, and I am delighted that Kinnaird Head Castle and Lighthouse has been added to the trail, just in time for the new season. This inspirational brochure provides essential information for anyone visiting these fantastic properties right across Aberdeenshire as well as additional information about what to see and do nearby. In 2016, Scotland's Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design, revamping the castle trail is a perfect fit as these buildings are architecturally important to Scotland's history and culture." The Castle Trail webpage features imagery, copy and links to download the new brochure. Visitors can experience the romance and history of these restored family castles, ruins and stately homes, by simply following the route. With its distinctive white on brown signs and a castle logo, which leads visitors through the heart of Aberdeenshire, it couldn't be a simpler day out. Scotland's Castle Trail includes Dunnottar, Crathes, Drum, Castle Fraser, Tolquhon, Kinnaird Head, Haddo House, Fyvie, Delgatie, Duff House, Huntly, Spynie Palace, Balvenie, Leith Hall Garden & Estate, Kildrummy, Corgarff, Braemar, Balmoral and Craigievar.

For more information about Scotland's Castle Trail see: www.visitscotland.com.

Weeping Window installed at St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall



A waterfall of ceramic poppies first seen at the Tower of London is now in Orkney as part of First World War commemorations. The iconic *Weeping Window* sculpture, made up of more than 4000 poppies, has been installed at St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall as part of a UK wide tour. Orkney will be the focus of events marking 100 years since the Battle of Jutland, regarded as one of the war's most significant naval engagements. More than 6000 British personnel and 2500 Germans died in the battle in the North Sea in 1916. The sculpture was originally installed at the Tower of London in 2014, where 888,246 poppies were displayed - one to honour every death in the British and colonial forces between 1914 and 1918. The Battle of Jutland took place near the coast of Denmark's Jutland Peninsula and involved about 250 ships. Most of the British vessels which took part in the engagement were stationed at Scapa Flow in Orkney. Members of the public can view the artwork until June 12.

The National Piping Centre, Scotland Challenge Recital

The National Piping Centre is launching a brand new invitational contest in Virginia on Saturday 25th June called "The National Piping Centre, Scotland Challenge Recital". The contest will feature Nick Hudson, Dan Lyden, Derek Midgley, Ben McClamrock and Andrew Donlon - all US solo players who attended the school, and are now competing at the highest levels in Scotland. We are hoping to attract a large audience in our first year as these are all guys from that have studied here in the past. These players will also be delivering

workshops on Sunday 26th June. This event is part of The National Piping Centre's annual Virginia Piping School, which this year has two teaching options - 5 days from Wednesday 22nd - Sunday 26th June, or a workshop only package, where students can take workshops with the school tutors, plus these guest instructors. The event will take place from 7.00pm on Saturday 25th June at the Lee Jackson Best Western Motel in Winchester, VA.

Tickets and further information can be found at: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk



L-R: Competition pipers Andrew Donlon, Nick Hudson, Dan Lyden, Ben McClamrock and Derek Midgley.

Tartan of the Month-Dundee

The Scottish Banner is pleased to be offering the Tartan of the Month series highlighting a variety of tartans from around the world and registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans in Edinburgh. Text and image use is courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans.

This month's Tartan of the Month is the Dundee tartan (ref: 844) as we celebrate the City of Discovery this month.



Based on the design of a tartan jacket said to have been worn by Prince Charles Edward Stuart at Culloden - earliest date 1746 - now preserved in the Scottish United Services Museum in Edinburgh Castle. Wilsons of Bannockburn a weaving firm founded c1770 near Stirling. The Pattern books are in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. Copies of the Pattern books and letters in the Scottish Tartans Society archive. This tartan was recorded prior to the launch of The Scottish Register of Tartans.

CHICAGO SCOTS

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Scotland's Top Bookshops

Many Scottish Banner readers like nothing more than a good read. When next visiting Scotland why not drop into some of the county's best wee shops and flip through the pages of Scottish history, laugh out loud to some good Scottish humour and enjoy some great Scottish literature. There are a great range of shops across Scotland to visit and below are just some of the fantastic spots to turn a page in Scotland.



Golden Hare Books, Edinburgh

The world's first UNESCO city of literature, Edinburgh is awash with decent bookstores. The hushed environs of Golden Hare Books, on trendy St. Stephen Street, Stockbridge, offers a carefully curated collection of fiction, non-fiction and children's books (housed in a dedicated nook). Best of all, the staff are brilliantly informed and charming to boot.

The Bookshop, Wigtown

Wigtown, Scotland's National Book Town for nearly 20 years, is home to

a bewildering array of book-related businesses. If you're serious about books head to The Bookshop, Scotland's largest second-hand bookstore. With a mile of shelving and 100,000 books to choose from, they've got, as they put it, 'more stock than an Oxo cube.'

Caledonia Books, Glasgow

Selling books to the people of Glasgow since 1986, Caledonia Books is a treasure trove of second-hand and antiquarian books with strong travel, literature and history sections. Personal touch and

intuitive service puts this bookshop above other local competition, making it impossible to escape empty-handed.

Main Street Trading Company, St Boswells

You would be hard pushed to find a more attractive and welcoming bookshop than the award-winning Main Street Trading found in the pretty Scottish Borders village of St Boswells. Amongst the 7,500 titles, you'll find fiction, non-fiction and children's books as well as review-driven titles and switched-on staff. The superior coffee-shop attached is a must-do too as is the deli and homeware store across the courtyard. With all this, it's no wonder

that the Main Street Trading Company has become a destination in itself.

Topping & Company, St Andrews

If heaven were a bookshop, it would surely model itself on Topping & Co. Split over several rooms the shelves here groan with the weight of beautiful hardbacks, signed and collectable books. Thousands of titles that you had never heard of but now crave. The sweet smell of Arabica coffee wafts over shelves, but there is no typical bookshop café here. Instead, you are offered a comfy armchair and are handed a little wooden tray with a steaming French press on it. Very civilised. Expect to leave here with your heart – and wallet - much lighter than when you came in.



NEW STYLE

As we approach our 40th anniversary, *the Scottish Banner* is pleased to be introducing a new layout style. Tell us what you think of our new look, we welcome feedback by posting your nearest office, let us know on Facebook or Twitter or emailing us at mail@scottishbanner.com

Celebrating the seaweed eating sheep of North Ronaldsay

A unique festival celebrating a rare breed of seaweed eating sheep is to be held in the Orkney island of North Ronaldsay this summer. The fortnight-long festival has been organised by the island's community to raise awareness of its ancient breed of shoreline dwelling sheep and to give people the opportunity to learn practical skills associated with managing the 3,000 strong flock. North Ronaldsay mutton is exported from the island and prized as a delicacy, thanks to its distinctive flavour. Wool from the sheep is also processed locally and sold to knitters around the world. The sheep are contained on the rocky North Ronaldsay shoreline and prevented from grazing on local farmland – the breed is vulnerable to copper poisoning due to its diet - by a 1.8 metre high dry-stone dyke encircling the island. The dyke also reduces the chance of gene-pool pollution of the flock through cross breeding with other sheep. Maintenance of the coastal sheep dyke, which gets damaged by winter storms each year, is a continual challenge for the small community on what is Orkney's most northerly island.



Text and photo: Visit Orkney

North Ronaldsay's sheep pund

Festival goers will help repair fallen sections of the wall, learning traditional building skills from local experts. Volunteers are also being invited to take part in a North Ronaldsay punning - the process of rounding up the wild sheep from the beach in order to be clipped. North Ronaldsay's sheep pund is the last remaining example of community agriculture in the UK, with festival organisers saying it offers an "unrivalled experience" for visitors. "The BBC's Countryfile programme featured the sheep dyke earlier this year and highlighted our ongoing efforts to keep it maintained," said festival organiser,

Kate Traill Price. "Following that broadcast we were inundated with generous offers of help from people throughout the country, so we came up with the idea of the festival as a way of both utilising that assistance and highlighting what a wonderful place North Ronaldsay is. The festival is utterly unique and offers volunteers the opportunity to work alongside our community in conserving our rare and iconic breed of sheep," she added. "It's going to be a real hands-on experience, but also lots of fun, with many other activities planned during the two-week long event."

For further details see: www.nrsheepfestival.com



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For more details contact us at +1-865-765-1120 or go to www.highlandrootsancestraltours.com

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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? Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Our letters page is a very popular and active one and many readers have been assisted across the world by fellow passionate Scots. Please keep letters under 200 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters, photos and any other items posted to *the Scottish Banner* cannot be returned. We prefer letters to be emailed to your nearest office or please visit our online Scotpourri form at www.scottishbanner.com, alternatively you may post or fax your letters to us. Please ensure you include your full contact details, when emailing it is best to include your post address for those without internet access. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part! Thanks to all our readers from around the world who have made this such a special page.

Looking for pipers & drummers



Are you a piper? A drummer? Do you want to take part in the Perth 200th anniversary celebrations? Well, then we'd like to hear from you! We'd like to put together a group of pipers and drummers to create the Perth Bicentennial Band! The Perth 200 Blast from the Past Homecoming weekend is taking place from July 22-24, 2016. If you are a piper or drummer, you can be part of the tattoo and parade, which is set for Saturday, July 23. Please note your band affiliation if you belong to one, and if you are a piper, snare, bass or tenor drummer. We hope you can take part, and be part of our wonderful history – parade starts at 10 am, tattoo at 12 noon in downtown Perth, Ontario.

Perth 200th Anniversary Celebrations
Perth Town Hall:
80 Gore Street E.
Perth, Ontario
K7H 1H9, Canada
W: www.perth200.ca
P: 613-267-3311

John Orkney

Whilst researching the family tree of the man who built my house in 1873 (and many other houses on my island - Bute) I came across an article in the June 2007 issue from a Helen Elsworthy from Picton, NSW, Australia. Helen said that she had been to Bute researching her Orkney family. I would love to get in touch with

her as I live in the house that her relative designed and built all those years ago. Can you help?

Margaret Williams
Rosehill, Rothesay
Isle of Bute, Scotland
Email: margaret_is@btinternet.com

Won't throw out a copy

My son and I both enjoy reading *the Scottish Banner*, my son Daniel won't throw any of them out. We are going back to Scotland next year, when I go back I feel I have come home. My parents came from Kirkcaldy.

Thank you.
Grace Taylor
Tumbi Umbi, NSW
Australia

Lewis's Department Store



While reading my March issue of *the Banner*, I read in *Kings & Castles and Dirty Wee Rascals*, the article on Lewis's famous department store. This brought back many memories for me as my first visit to the stores was with my Grandmother when I was seven years old -all the way back to 1935! One of the clearest things I recall seeing was a reminder to eat lunch at their cafe. There was a reminder too that Jack Chapman and his band would be playing there daily. While I do not recall my father playing at this store, I do remember his many years playing with the band. He would often play at night in a ballroom called The Albert. My father's name was Bill Thomson and he played the trumpet. I wonder if anyone remembers Jack Champman Band? I used to love my visits to the famous store on Argyll Street, especially at Christmas time.

Edna Livingstone
Simcoe, Ontario
Canada

Galbraith Stores

I receive *the Scottish Banner* each month and in the April issue there was a letter from Robert Bradshaw regarding Galbraith Stores. I was born and raised in the west end of Paisley and close by where I lived there were two branches of Galbraith Stores. My father managed one of these stores for some years and I shopped there. I well remember my dad speak about his younger days, making deliveries to private homes in the area saying Christmas and New Year were really busy. It's just so lovely to read this letter which brings back wonderful memories.

Mrs. W Zanetich
Freshwater, Queensland
Australia

McInnis

My parents are traveling to Scotland in July and my father was looking for some information or some direction on how to find out about some relatives. The name he has is Donald McInnis from South Uist-1798 to 1867. His father's name is believed to be Patrick, possibly born 1750. Any direction or help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You.
Hugh MacInnis
Sydney, Cape Breton
Nova Scotia, Canada
Email: h.macinnis@hotmail.com

Scots live here too

It was great to see the article on the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry at Burnside in the April edition of *the Scottish Banner*. I have been getting *the Banner* for some time now and have noted how rare it is for something west of the Great Divide to feature. Scots and their descendants live in SA, WA and the NT too! Unfortunately, it also seems to be a two way street. Despite SA being, according to a demographic study a while back, one of the most Scottish places in the world, only behind two Canadian Provinces, this State has steadily failed to demonstrate this into the futures. There are now only three main Societies and one of these has decided to back-pedal from a full Caledonian Society to one that focuses on music. There is also only one Highland Games of any note. All is not lost though as there is a multitude of activities that relate to our Scottish past, but most of these are carried out by non-Scottish bodies, involvement with which is not seen as relevant to the societies. A very sad state of affairs indeed that the coverage of the Tapestry exhibition can only help.

Ron Layton
Crafers, South Australia

Ed note: Thanks Ron for your letter and there are some great Scottish groups in South Australia doing good work and glad you enjoyed the Tapestry on its Australian visit. Readers in the USA and Canada can look for it touring on our events page.

The Proclaimers

What a great night was had at the Proclaimers performance in Brisbane. The audience were participating to the fullest and dancing in the aisles.

We live 430 kilometres from Brisbane and would have travelled five hundred miles or even walked 500 more just to be there. Last Saturday I attended a Gathering of the Masonic Clans in Brisbane. I estimate some 200 with Scottish heritage, many wearing a kilt, enjoyed the formal ceremony followed with partners at a banquet that included, pipers, haggis (correctly presented with a wee dram and the "Ode to a Haggis") supplemented with a fine display of Scottish dancing. It was great to see editions of *the Scottish Banner* available on the night for those who have not been aware of its value.

Peter J. McMurtie
Goondiwindi, Queensland
Australia

Ed note: Congratulations Peter to you and all the winners of our Proclaimers ticket giveaway from our April issue.

POSTED TO THE SCOTTISH BANNER FACEBOOK PAGE

Images of Ben Nevis



Looking up to the summit and North Face Ben Nevis this evening. Fresh snow fell today here in Lochaber. Definitely living up to the old Scottish saying: "Never cast a clout till May's out". From sea life, to high life. Please see the attached image taken on the summit of Ben Nevis on Friday night of a Snow Bunting.

Bill Cameron
Fort William, Scotland

The Flying Scotsman



Even when you are forced to shoot without getting the name of the engine in the shot because people were just in your way, you know that you just have to take that picture. The Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway on Monday where the Flying Scotsman was on display. A once in a lifetime moment resulting in a picture which had an atmosphere that could have been taken 50 years ago. I call it – PROUD.
Ken Windsor
Glasgow, Scotland

Vale- Chief Ian Francis Wallace 35th of that Ilk



Ian Francis Wallace of that Ilk, 35th Clan Chief with wife Teresa.
Photo: Clan Wallace Society.

Chief Ian Francis Wallace, the 35th Chief of Clan Wallace has passed away on May 14th at the age of 89. He was born at Nairn in 1926, the youngest son of Colonel Robert Francis Hurter Wallace of that Ilk, C. M. G., and of Euphemia Wallace, eldest daughter of Colonel Sir Chandos Hoskins, Baronet. His son Andrew has now taken on the role of the Chief of Clan Wallace. *The Scottish Banner* passes on our condolences to the family and all Clan Wallace members across the world.



SCOTSPEAK

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

"The highway voted as Britain's favourite on the north coast of Scotland has some real parallels with Route 66. There are tremendous views, but it's also a living, breathing part of the country's history – a throwback to how roads used to be. So many roads these days are almost generic. Drive the Scottish north coast or Route 66 and you move away from the generic world. They've got colour and a vibrancy, a real sense of excitement."

Travel writer and author Jim Hinckley said that the iconic Route 66 in the US shares a great deal with Scotland's North Coast 500 road. The stunning North Coast 500 route begins at Inverness Castle before heading north on the A862 through Dingwall and on to the Black Isle. The North Coast 500, a 516 mile journey across the northernmost stretches of the Scottish mainland and recently topped a poll for great drives by a US tourism body.

"It is like a cottage industry. It is fabulous. There are Outlander tours and also people making things based on Outlander and selling them on the internet, besides the official merchandise. I never imagined while writing the stories that they would inspire people to do this."

American author Diana Gabaldon who has written the *Outlander* books has said she is pleased her books have helped to boost business and tourism in Scotland. The novels, and the TV adaption, are

set in Scotland and feature locations including Newtonmore's Highland Folk Museum and Doune Castle near Stirling. *Outlander* follows the story of Claire Randall, a World War Two nurse who is mysteriously swept back in time from the 1940s to the 18th century at the time of the Jacobite Rising with series two of *Outlander* currently being aired internationally.



"The atmosphere in Hampden Park was fantastic – as powerful, if not more so, than any football game I have attended at the national stadium. Thousands of Glaswegians were there, all wearing kilts and ready to go first thing on a Sunday morning, unified for one cause; to make a difference to the lives of Scotland's children. Every Kiltwalker, volunteer, sponsor and supporter joined together today to do a wonderful thing that will leave a lasting effect on Scotland's children."

Kiltwalk CEO Paul Cooney said as thousands of people exited Hampden Stadium and took part in Glasgow's Kiltwalk to fundraise for children's charities. There are three more Royal Bank of Scotland Kiltwalks this year. Next up is Aberdeen on June 5, Speyside on August 14 and Edinburgh on September 18.

"Our ambition for Stirling is to benchmark ourselves against the best in the world and it's fantastic as a council to see this progress towards achieving the vision of a truly world-class city and surrounding area. It's about creating a better environment for businesses to thrive; boost employment and skills development opportunities, and increase the draw of Stirling as a destination of choice for visitors from across the world." Stirling Council chief executive Stewart Carruth said that ambitious plans to make Stirling an economic and cultural powerhouse have been given a £2m boost. The creation of a new digital district and a city park in the shadow of Stirling Castle

are among the range of capital projects forming part of the City Development Framework vision. Other projects include: restoration work to revitalise the River Forth, which has been earmarked as a leisure and tourism destination, a new city park, including improvements to paths, new open spaces, a major water feature, a mini woodland and community orchard growing and a digital hub based at Municipal Buildings in the city centre.

"Rockall remains a truly frontier area of hydrocarbon exploration in the UK Continental Shelf(UKCS). It is a geologically challenging area but decoding the geology and petroleum system is what makes it exciting to work on. The £250,000 grant from the Oil and Gas Authority will support research that will fully evaluate the potential for hydrocarbon prospectivity in Rockall."

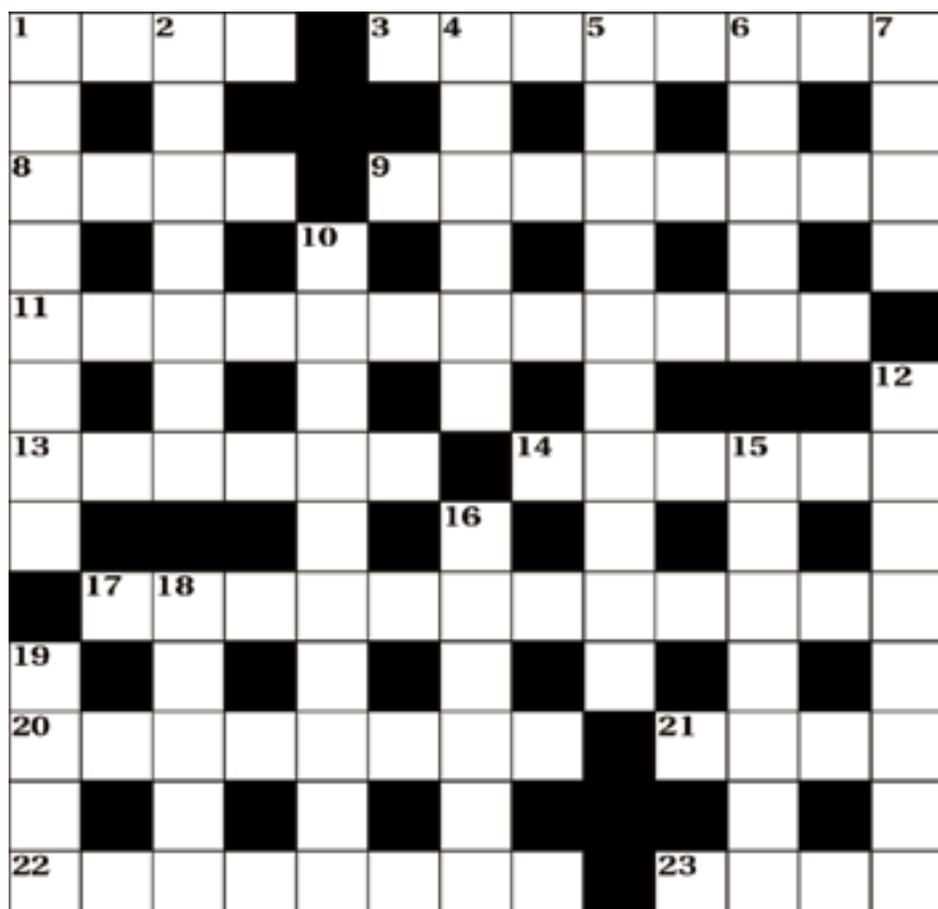
Dr Nick Schofield, of Aberdeen University's department of geology and petroleum geology, said as Aberdeen University has been given £250,000 to search for oil in the North Atlantic. Scientists will use the Oil and Gas Authority grant to explore the seabed around Rockall, more than 200 miles off the Outer Hebrides. Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh has also been given £250,000 to explore opportunities in the Central North Sea. The UK Government claims the right to extract oil and gas from the seabed within the UKCS but the right to exploit the area around Rockall has been the subject of a long-running dispute between Denmark, Iceland, Ireland and the UK.

"A lot of resource has gone into this site. Part of being a follower to a King is you have to give labour to a King. We have historical references to the Picts from 297 AD which slightly predates Dunnicaer. However, we have these symbol stones that become a key part of Pictish material cultural and these fortified centres are absolutely key to Pictish power and kingly power. So this is definitely right at the start of the sequence. The findings are incredibly rare. I have been doing this for years but there is that quite magical connection to the past that really fascinates and drives you on. Even when it's a really windy day and you don't want to keep going. Basically, people were living in this house we can see in front of us, 1600 or 1700 years ago and that is really quite amazing to think that."

Dr Gordon Noble, head of archaeology at Aberdeen University, said that what is believed to be Scotland's oldest Pictish fort has been discovered on the Aberdeenshire coast. It is believed that Dunnicaer predates a later Pictish site at Dunnottar, around half a mile to the south, by around 200 years. A Pictish presence at Dunnicaer was first discovered in the 1830s when a group of boys from Stonehaven were told of a local gravedigger's recurring dream that gold was buried there.

SCOTWORD

Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 25!



CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Marshes (4).
- 3) Adequately fitting! (8).
- 8) Battle or Lochaber! (4).
- 9) "Smokie" town (8).
- 11) Central area of beauty (3,9).
- 13) Her Majesty's signature (6).
- 14) Games performer (6).
- 17) Princess Margaret's birthplace (6,6).
- 20) Acting wary (8).
- 21) Where Scots find work! (4).
- 22) Wholesaler (8).
- 23) Enterprising space journey! (4).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) David Livingstone's birthplace (8).
- 2) Glen - both ways! (7).
- 4) Not substantial (6).
- 5) Road surface! (10).
- 6) Impetuous (5).
- 7) Sound return! (4).
- 10) Giant step in opening dance (5,5).
- 12) James Watt's birthplace (8).
- 15) Food provider (7).
- 16) Behind on board (6).
- 18) Hi-tech beam (5).
- 19) Was Mac the first Scot? (4).

The Glenturret mystery in China



The story surrounding a giant piece of rock in China engraved with the name of a Scotch whisky has gone around the world and back again. Months on, several leading academics have weighed in with possible explanations. But, despite the theories, the 'Scotch on the rock' mystery remains unsolved. The story broke after construction workers in China uncovered a rock with the word Glenturret, the name of Scotland's oldest working distillery. The discovery came during an excavation for a resort at Moganshan, a hilly holiday destination of China two hours from Shanghai. The developers of the resort know some of the property used to belong to Dr. Duncan Main, a Scottish missionary doctor who dedicated 45 years of his life

to working in China in the late 1800s and early 1900s. What they were puzzled about was the connection to Glenturret.

A shipyard in Glasgow

Author, historian and China expert Robert Bickers came forward to solve at least part of the story. The University of Bristol professor uncovered a cutting from a China newspaper story in 1929 which confirms that Dr. Main named his house Glenturret. Further investigation by Glenturret Distillery has uncovered that Dr. Main worked for a time at a shipyard in Glasgow. Dr Mark McLeister, a lecturer in Chinese Studies at The University of Edinburgh, suggested that there may be a link between his shipyard work and a steamship Glenturret called. The Distillery has learned that the ship was part of the Glen Line fleet owned by McGregor, Gow & Company in Glasgow and served the China tea trade. Dr McLeister, who worked through archival material and books about Dr Main, added: "There is also a Glenturret Street in Glasgow. Maybe that was somewhere he stayed while working in the city? The name obviously had significance for him in some way. There is the possibility that he made connections with family members from Glenturret Distillery whilst living in China."

Hot summers

Another academic fascinated by the story was Dr Christoffer Grundmann, a Professor of Religion and the Healing Arts

at Valparaiso University in Indiana, USA. The area around Moganshan grew as a resort and a holiday getaway for foreign missionaries working in Shanghai and Hangchow, where the heat was sweltering in the summer months. Dr Main had planned to open a sanatorium but never did, according to Dr Grundmann. But he did open rest homes for ministers and workers on this particular site. "From the photograph of the rock, it would suggest that this was a marker at an entrance of a property or estate inhabited by Scotsmen during the hot summers. Therefore it may carry significance not just for Dr Main but for one or more of the other Scotsmen living there," he said. As the buzz surrounding the story has grown, online commenters have had fun trying to explain away the puzzle. Stuart Cassells, General Manager at Glenturret Distillery, commented: "It's safe to say that the 'Scotch on the Rock' mystery remains a mystery. But, thanks to the efforts of these three talented academics, at least we have some solid theories on how the name Glenturret came to be engraved on a stone almost 5000 miles away. He added: "The missing link here is a relative of Dr Duncan Main or a resident of one of the rest homes. We'd love for a family member of Dr Main or one of those residents to come forward and shed light on this. In the meantime, cheers to our three experts for spending their valuable time on this fascinating story about a Scotsman in China."

Scone Palace celebrates 50 years as one of Scotland's top visitor attractions



This March, Scone Palace marked half a century since it first became a visitor attraction, by opening its gates to the public for the 50th time throughout the summer months. At 10.00am on Friday 25th March, Lady Mansfield of Scone Palace officially opened the Palace to the public and presented the first visitor through the gates with a Palace and Grounds Season Ticket and a bottle of champagne to mark the special anniversary. First opening this iconic Palace and Gardens to the public in 1966, Scone Palace is celebrating this 50th anniversary year as The Long Gallery has been spring cleaned, the State Rooms have been aired and dusted, the coffee shop painted and the team are ready to welcome thousands of visitors throughout the summer in this special anniversary year. Margo Baird, Marketing Manager at Scone Palace, commented: "As one of Scotland's most beautiful and historic landmarks, we are delighted to be able to celebrate 50 years as a visitor attraction with the public. Scone Palace has welcomed millions of visitors from all over the world in the last 50 years, and we plan to continue welcoming millions of people through our gates for many years to come."

To find out more about Scone Palace visit www.scone-palace.co.uk

Golden George named Scotland's top dog



Owner Victoria said: "It's really unexpected and I still can't quite believe George has been chosen; especially as there were so many lovely dogs in the final. I am very proud of him. We love going on adventures around Scotland and George has a very sociable and curious nature. He loves other people and animals. I feel with him I can explore and visit places I wouldn't usually get to see - his determined spirit and

boundless energy is what we need to get us to the top of mountain treks and he loves a splash about in the water at Loch Lomond. I feel George is a great ambassador for Scotland as he is always looking forward to his next voyage. A golden retriever is also a Scottish breed, which a lot of people don't know. My ambition for him in his new role as ambassador is that he takes us on a lot more journeys - we plan to go to Harris and Lewis at the end of this month - and we can inspire others to plan their next exploration around the country".

VisitScotland will now work with George and his owners to create a programme of activity, to include social media that will enable them to be global ambassadors. In return they will be given a three night specially selected dog-friendly holiday in Scotland in 2016.

George and his owners will also contribute to their own blog page on www.visitscotland.com/blog/scotland/ambassador

He clearly couldn't put a paw wrong ... over 200 dogs applied, but there could only be one chosen to be VisitScotland's Ambassador. And that dog is George, a one-year-old Golden Retriever from Glasgow. Sisters Victoria and Emma Rae, both 22, put George forward for the coveted role in March, after VisitScotland launched the search for a canine ambassador to represent the spirit of Scotland around the world. George (and his owners) will now have the job of being an ambassador for Scotland on social media, attending red carpet events and generally being in demand as a VID (or 'very important dog'). The lucky pup joined his seven fellow selected finalists at a special interview event at Prestonfield in Edinburgh on Sunday, 8 May where dog owners were assessed on their knowledge of Scotland, social media savvy and interview skills.

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Perth Kilt Run 2016



Scots on the run. Photo: Lanark County Tourism.

The first Perth Kilt Run took place in Perth, Scotland, on June 2nd, 2012. It was inspired by the twin town of Perth, Ontario who held the first ever Perth Kilt Run in Canada in 2010 as a tribute to the 800th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Burgh Charter to Perth by King William the Lion of Scotland to Perth, Scotland. In 2012 over 1,000 kilt clan participants from far and wide just failed to beat Perth, Ontario's original record of 1089 runners. Nevertheless, the event was a huge success for the city with over 13,000 people enjoying a full day of free entertainment on Perth's beautiful North Inch. Support for the event means it has continued to run year by year, although entries for the Perth, Scotland event haven't managed to beat the current world record (held by Canadians) of 1,764 participants. 2015 saw the introduction

of a new half-marathon length 'Touch of Tartan' run, which proved very popular. The half-marathon is now returning to join the '5km Kilt Run' for 16 this coming August. Today Perth in Western Australia also host their own Perth Kilt Run each September. This month in Perth, Ontario the fun begins, with the 3rd and final Guinness World Record attempt for most kilted runners and the next day on early Sunday morning, its back in the kilt again for the world's first kilted Full Marathon.

Looking to join or watch a kilt run? The Perth (Ontario) Kilt Run takes place this month June 24-26th, for details see: www.perthkiltrun2016.ca; the Perth (Scotland) Kilt Run will take place on August 13th, for details see: www.perthkiltrun.co.uk and the Perth (Australia) Kilt Run will take place on September 13th for details see: www.perthkiltrun.com.au.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Have a name that has you stumped? Scottish Banner readers can send in their name queries direct to Ron via the Scottish Banner by post or email: info@scottishbanner.com. Ron will do his best to help you with your name query and may just add that extra piece to your genealogy puzzle.



What can I say about June that I haven't said in past years. It is still my favourite month of the year. In our part of the world, the earth is green in various shades with a new growth of flowers which are popping up to show their colourful display. Also we are venturing in Highland Games season when dancers, pipers, drummers and strong people get to show off their talents. It is at these events when we get a new infusion of tartan into our psyche. I hope your June is as special as it is for me. I was saddened to learn of the death of Edinburgh born and raised comedian Ronnie Corbett this past month. I had enjoyed his talent for decades especially with his long time comedic partner Ronnie Barker. I used to watch their antics religiously. Although I never met him, I was pleasantly surprised to find quite by accident that he was my third cousin. His mother's maiden surname was Main and my great grandmother was Jane Main. Ronnie was descended from her brother Alexander Main. The surname Main is from the personal Norse Magnus. R. I. P. Ronnie.

Mac or Mc

Mr. Gerald Duffy of Schomberg, Ontario, Canada wrote to ask an age old question. It is one we have addressed on more than one occasion over the years but it is worth revisiting for new readers. The question is why the difference between Mac or Mc and whether Mac is Scottish and Mc is Irish. Let's start with the basics, the Gaelic for 'son' is mac. Scottish Gaelic and Irish are very similar languages as the Scottish

version evolved from the Old Irish. Please note I said the mac translates as son not "son of" the preposition is handled by how the name was pronounced in Gaelic. Now imagine a English speaking clerk taking down names in a Highland region where most of the population speaks Gaelic. The clerk's task is take down the names of the locals. The clerk has no Gaelic and it is a completely foreign language to him. Through an interpreter he asks a local his surname to which the response is MacDhomhnuill. The clerk hears any of the following McConnell, MacDonald, McDonnell and writes accordingly and such is the Anglicization of what he hears from a Gaelic speaker. This applies to any surname that Mac precedes. It is written for posterity as Mac, Mc and sometimes M'. What either families preferred in times past or what was the written by local minister, or worthy are the reasons for the differences in spelling. That is why we have MacKenzie, Mckenzie or even with a small first letter of the name as in Mackenzie. The question of whether Mac is Scottish and Mc is Irish has no merit. True it seems that most of the Irish names start with Mc but I would venture to say that is due to local dialects. It is the same that the softer dialect of Northern Ireland renders these sometimes as Magee instead of MacKee. I had just mentioned this recently in a previous column but we can never say it enough times to clear the air.

Parry

Mr. Ray Parry of Casino, N.S.W. Australia has certainly been digging

into his family tree. He asked if I could help with some of the names of his ancestors. Since there are no less twenty one of them, I think I will address them over a series of columns. Starting with his own surname Parry we find a Welsh connection that it is from the personal name Harry which is a shortened form of Henry or sometimes Harold. Welsh is a cousin language to Gaelic and has the word "map" meaning son similar to "mac" in Gaelic. Use of the word in the local dialects rendered the sound as "ap". From there many English personal names that showed in Wales became surnames with the addition of "ap". So son of Richard became Ap Richard or Pritchard. Harry became Ap Harry or Parry. Another name in Mr. Parry's tree is the similar sounding name Perry, sometimes spelled Perrie. These names probably originated from Pirie or Pirrie. This name has two possible derivations. As a personal name it may have evolved from the French form Peter, Pierre. Another possibility is from pear tree or one who lived near or grew them. This name is fairly common in the north east of Scotland in Aberdeen shire and Banff shire. The Perry form of the name was recorded as early as 1457. Last name in this series for Mr. Parry is the surname is Vaughan. Again it is Welsh from the personal name Bychan or Fychan meaning small or little.

Barclay

If you will indulge me I would like to write about a surname in my family tree. While there was more than one house of Barclay, my line appears to have descended from the extinct lordship, Barclay of Mathers that was found in Kincardineshire. Theobald de Berchelai came to Scotland with David I like so many other young noblemen. The family had Norman ancestry and arrived in England with William the conqueror in 1066. Berchelai is supposedly an Anglo Saxon version of good or fair meadow. The family had estates in Gloucestershire. In Scotland they became prolific and entered into Scotland affairs readily. Walter de Berkeley was Lord Chamberlain of Scotland in 1165. Lands under their sway of branches of the family included Towie, Gartly, Mathers and Peirston in the Aberdeenshire area, as well

Collairnie in Fifes shire. David Barclay, Possibly a descendent of the Mathers branch purchased the lands of Urie in Kincardineshire. He was a soldier and held the rank of major in the army of the King of Sweden. This was a time in the 17th century when Sweden had created an empire in the Baltic. David returned when the civil war erupted in Britain, and fought for the King. At some point after this, he was arrested for hostility and while in prison he joined the Society of Friends, generally known as Quakers. His son Robert, known as the Apologist wrote: Apology for the true Christian Divinity as same held forth and preached by the people called in scorn Quakers. The son of Robert the Apologist was another David and he with others established Barclay's Bank.

An interesting event in this family occurred in 1420 at a place called Sheriff's Kettle, in Kincardineshire. John Melville was the sheriff of the county in the reign of James I or his Regent, the Duke of Albany. Melville was very unpopular with his peers with which the zeal that he executed his office. The peers included Barclay of Mathers, the laird of Arbuthnott, Rait of Lauriston, and Wishart of Pitarrow. This group had repeatedly complained to the king that the Sheriff was too strict in exercising his duties. Supposedly, the king or the regent was so tired of hearing about the sheriff, that in an unguarded moment muttered "sorrow gin the Sheriff were sodden and supped in bree" which translates as "sorrow gone the Sherriff soaked and supped in a broth".

These lairds took the king at his word. They then lured the sheriff up to the forest of Garvock in the pretence of hunting party, where they boiled the individual and partook of the broth as instructed by the king. This grisly act did not please the king and decrees called for their arrest. History doesn't offer what was the results. David Barclay of Mathers managed to hide in the Kaim of Mathers, a strong hold that projected into the North Sea in the parish of St. Cyrus. He also claimed leniency since he was in the nine degrees of relationship to the house of MacDuff, which had an ancient claim to that leniency. Whether the story has any merit or not it does make for interesting reading.

*The present chief of the clan is Mr. Peter Barclay of that Ilk
Clan motto: Aut Agere Aut Mori (either to do or die)
Clan Badge: On a blue hat trimmed with double ermine a hand holding a dagger. The Barclay tartan is striking with yellow and black setts.*

Thank for all your letters, they are what makes this column interesting. May your June be warm, green and happy.

Did you know?

Traigh Mhor beach on the isle of Barra in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland, is the world's only beach airport for scheduled flights – providing the tide is out.

The schedule has to change regularly, as the airport's three runways are all submerged at high-tide. Barra beach is open to the public. In fact it's actually very popular for cockle picking – just check if the windsock is flying first, as this indicates that the airport is operational. Have you flown to Barra?



Photo: Barra Airport.

KINGS CASTLES AND “DURTY” WEE RASCALS

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 few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.

No Local Hero

There are some parallels with what happened down at Portavadie, Argyll and its little bay, the Salen in the 1970's with the story in David Puttman's popular film, *Local Hero*, a favourite of mine. At Portavadie, the haven of the shellfish, a large business conglomerate sought to use the little bay to construct giant oil rigs. The Dutch and British business conglomerate needed a deep water facility to be able to tow the rigs out through Loch Fyne and around the North of Scotland, to the newly discovered oilfields in the North Sea. There were public meetings with promises of up to 500 jobs, and the site at Portavadie was sold by the public relations spin doctors as an ideal, remote and “hidden” place requiring the minimum relocation of local people. Argyll council gave planning permission when little resistance was met from the majority of enthusiastic ‘locals’. The locals presumably lived in Millhouse or as far away as Tighnabruaich and Kames for hardly anyone lived permanently at Portavadie.

Natural beauty

Perhaps if the ‘locals’ had seen David Puttman's film, *Local Hero*, something different may have been inspired and eventuated down there, but the film was made a decade too late for that. There was little doubt that a large percentage of those present at the Portavadie meeting either wanted, or were not prepared to object to the planned development. I'm sure some people of spirit, who appreciated what was at risk, did raise objections, but unlike the film, there was no attractive young marine biologist snorkelling in the pale green waters of the Salen to speak for the fish, the shellfish and the rest of the biological residents of this ecological system. There was no wily homespun philosopher and beachcomber living in one of the holiday shacks on the Salen to debate and finally convince a sensitive oil tycoon, arriving in his helicopter, that this was a place worth preserving. There was no local hero of any description to even inadvertently save the day. In fact there seems to have been no-one of real importance or influence present, to value and raise a voice in defence of maintaining the natural beauty and the ecology of this part of Cowal.

Tom Weir

On the day of the public meeting an apology was tendered on behalf of Mr Iain MacCormack, the newly-elected Nationalist M P for Argyll. He apparently had every intention of being present but found that he was expected to make his maiden speech in Parliament that same evening in



Loch Fyne has been dragged clean by beam trawlers, overfishing the deep waters and bringing their inevitable disturbance to the loch's ecosystem; chasing two-thirds of the loch's species to the edge of extinction.

London. We shall never know what position Mr MacCormack might have taken in the discussion and debate, but his presence in Argyll in Scotland would undoubtedly have had some greater and lasting impact than his maiden speech down in London. In the Saturday supplement of *The Glasgow Herald*, the well-known naturalist, writer and broadcaster, Tom Weir, wrote: “What is there to say for and against the Portavadie plan? The argument for is that it will inject 2 million pounds per month into the West of Scotland economy and employ about 500 people, about half from Glasgow and perhaps 100 from Mull and Kintyre (sic)...The argument against is that it cannot benefit any local community but harm immeasurably a superlative bit of coast. Certainly the scheme should not be rushed through merely to get the rigs building in June.”

North Sea oil boom

No-one was listening. The get rich quick merchants riding on the euphoria of the emerging North Sea oil boom won the day and pushed for early approval. The deal was done and irreparable damage was done to this beautiful and peaceful place. The cockle beds from the haven of the shellfish were torn and blasted out of the way and they, together with thousands of tons of sand and rock,

were trundled uphill, on truck after truck, to be deposited and to eventually bury the Achidhu and the Achifarrest, the natural contoured fields that nature had taken thousands of years of sun, wind and rain to evolve and humans many hundreds of years of endeavour to farm, soften and make a mark upon. Massive steel sea gates were constructed to allow the deepening hole to be used like a dry dock for construction and controlled flooding. The seventy year old site of the B.B. camp belonging to the very first Company of the Boys Brigade, founded by Smith himself in 1883, was re-located to another, but inferior site further along the coast, and the infrastructure needed for a harbour; buildings, floodlights and barbed wire to enclose an industrial site, came to replace the heather and the sea thyme upon the little headlands of the Salen. A so-called village of bachelor quarters and canteen and recreation facilities sprang up nearby to the south, to service the building construction workers and the future builders of oil rigs.

Environmental destruction

But all this environmental destruction, in the end, had no positive outcome, for not one oil rig was ever built there and the promised jobs were never to eventuate. Other businessmen, with a lot more sense and guile, built or bought their oil rigs instead in Norway, and simply got them towed directly into the North Sea and to the Scottish oilfields. In later years black-faced sheep took respite out of the wind and rain of their shoreline pastures, to lie upon the fitted carpets and amongst the stainless steel fittings of the abandoned canteen and recreation facilities of the bachelor village. Even then something good could have been salvaged from this disaster. At that time the abandoned construction village could have readily been re-shaped into an outdoor education centre. The area lent itself to activities such as canoeing, sailing, pony-trekking, fishing, hill-walking and field



studies in biology and history. It would have been a great place to bring school children from Glasgow and it would have softened the hurt of all of us who witnessed the destruction of something we valued, for no reason. Instead the abandoned village lay mouldering for forty years and more, so that the best that could be done was to bulldoze it and try to forget it ever existed.

Loch Fyne

The sea gates were opened for one last time many years ago and the waters of Loch Fyne allowed back to flood the giant hole and discretely hide some of what had been done to Portavadie. The site has been sold on since and the shadowy entrepreneurs of the business conglomerate and their successors have been able to avoid any responsibility, it would seem, to remedy any of the mess they have left behind. In 2005 a fish farm was then the ‘guardian’ of the site. The depth of their accepted responsibility for the other fish and creatures in Loch Fyne could be measured by the amount of plastic lying on the shoreline with the words ‘fish food’ written on it. These caged creatures, on the other hand, may be near enough the only fish left in this once diverse piscinal domain, apart for visiting and disappointed shoals of mackerel. Loch Fyne has been dragged clean by beam trawlers, overfishing the deep waters and bringing their inevitable disturbance to the loch's ecosystem; chasing two-thirds of the loch's species to the edge of extinction. Thankfully there is now a high quality marina and hotel to help remediate some of what was done through greed for this part of Cowal is still very beautiful. On holiday from Australia my wife copes with the destruction of her childhood holiday haven, by closing her eyes as we drive up past what were once natural farm fields, and what are now strange uninviting masses of plantings and weeds. As motorists enjoy the scenery of Cowal and make their way down to drive on to the Portavadie to Tarbert ferry, and along a concrete road to what was once the Salen, the haven of the shellfish, they are unlikely to realise that this was at one time one of the finest parts of all. The re-introduced ferry now uses some of the remnants of the industrial site to board happy passengers and their cars on their way over Loch Fyne to Tarbert. But for those of us who knew Portavadie before its destruction, the callousness and stupidity of those who vandalised it have left a scar on our minds as well as on that beautiful landscape.

Appeal for funds to restore ancient Caledonian pine forest

The Woodland Trust Scotland has launched a public appeal to raise £500,000 to purchase and restore ancient Caledonian forest in Lochaber in partnership with the local community. The Loch Arkaig Pine Forest near Spean Bridge is home to rare wildlife and was a training ground for Second World War Commandos.

Iconic wildlife

The forest covers 2500 acres over two areas, representing a significant proportion of the remaining ancient Caledonian pine forest in Scotland (Stephen and Carlisle's, comprehensive 1959 inventory *The Native Pinewoods of Scotland* identified around 10,000 hectares of ancient Caledonian pine forest). The forest is in a degraded condition but it is home to some of Scotland's most iconic wildlife including ospreys, sea eagles and red squirrels and may host species such as wildcats and Scottish crossbill. If the appeal is successful the Woodland Trust Scotland will work with Arkaig Community Forest to restore the forest back to native woodland. Arkaig Community Forest will take ownership of around 120 acres (50 hectares) of the site. Gary Servant from Arkaig Community Forest said: "Thanks to the hard work of our members and supporters over the past two years we are delighted to have recently entered into partnership with Woodland Trust Scotland to acquire and manage these forests, and we hope that together we can make a real positive difference to this important native pinewood site in the years to come. The local community will be directly involved in the management of the site and we hope that local people and businesses across Lochaber will benefit from new forest and land-based jobs, as well as from improved opportunities to access and enjoy the amazing woodlands which surround us."

Lochiel's Gold

As well as helping wildlife the restoration of the forest will benefit local people through improved access and involvement in woodland management, creating local jobs and livelihoods in a remote rural area. The forest was a training ground for

the first Commando units formed during the Second World War, who were based nearby at Achnacarry Estate. Hundreds of scorched Scots pine trees that were burned in a forest fire started during a training exercise can still be seen. The area is also linked to hidden Jacobite treasure, known as 'Lochiel's Gold' and according to legend Loch Arkaig has its own resident kelpie or water horse. Restoration will be achieved through gradual thinning of non-native conifers such as larch and lodge pole pine to recreate a more natural mix of woodland dominated by pine, birch and oak. Parts of the forest are so remote that trees may have to be barged across Loch Arkaig to reach the public road, a technique rarely used in Scotland.

The Woodland Trust Scotland

The Woodland Trust Scotland is part of the UK's largest charity championing native woods and trees. It has more than 500,000 members and supporters. The Trust has three key aims: a) to enable the creation of more native woods and places rich in trees b) to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future c) to inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees. Established in 1972, the Woodland Trust now has over 1,000 sites in its care covering approximately 20,000 hectares (50,000 acres). In 1984, the Trust acquired its first wood in Scotland. Today the Trust owns 80 sites across Scotland covering 8,750 hectares. The forest is being sold as surplus through the National Forest Land Scheme, introduced in 2005 to give community organisations and/or recognised non-governmental organisations the chance to buy or lease National Forest Land where they can provide increased public benefits. Carol Evans, director of the Woodland Trust Scotland said: "Restoring this forest is a spectacular opportunity to benefit both people and wildlife. It is an immense challenge that will take decades to complete but we will be safeguarding a large proportion of the dwindling area of ancient pine forest left in Scotland, and helping to increase employment in a fragile rural area."

To find out more and view a short film about the project visit woodlandtrust.org.uk/pineforest



Piping Live! Celebrates 'The Moments That Matter'



Piping Live! Glasgow International Piping Festival, the world's biggest week of piping, will return to Glasgow from 8th – 14th August, 2016. The festival headliners was unveiled today by projection mapping a series of incredible images onto the National Piping Centre.

All images were crowdsourced via Piping Live!'s social media channels to celebrate the fact that Scotland's national instrument has provided the soundtrack for so many of life's big moments throughout history. From marching onto the battlefield to the mesmerising opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games, to wedding ceremonies and funerals; bringing in the New Year, to celebrating Scottish heritage the world over – bagpipes are always at the heart of huge moments. Everyone has an emotional reaction when they hear the pipes begin to play – whether that be joy, sadness, nostalgia or hope – making the instrument like no other. Festival organisers brought the images to life by having a lone piper perform a haunting medley of the best known tunes in front of the projection, before inviting the public to enjoy this year's big moment – Piping Live!

Biggest festival of its kind

Now in its 13th year, Piping Live! is the biggest festival of its kind. Attracting 40,000 people from around the globe each year to watch over 5000 international pipers perform at 150 events across the city. Some of the hottest names in traditional music will perform this year, including RURA, Anxo Lorenzo, Ross Ainslie & Ali Hutton and the world famous Red Hot Chilli Pipers. Band performances will take place in George Square and on the steps of The Royal Concert Hall. The annual Pipe Idol competition and fan favourite, the International Quartets competition will return to the festival, while the Pipers Market' will be back in George Square, providing the best fresh and local food and drink from across Scotland. Roddy

MacLeod, Festival Director of Piping Live!, said: "Bagpipes strike an emotional chord with people all over the world. There's no other instrument that can make the hairs stand up on the back of your neck quite like the pipes. From major historical events, to personal moments like weddings and graduations, to shared moments of triumph like the Commonwealth Games or a cup final – bagpipes have set the scene for so many powerful memories at home and throughout the world. This year's line-up is all about celebrating the rich history and international diversity of the bagpipes while heralding the future with some of the most exciting new players in the traditional music scene."

The World Pipe Band Championships

The weekend will also see the most important piping competition in the world take place in Glasgow for the 30th consecutive year, as The World Pipe Band Championships returns on 12th and 13th August. Each year 8,000 pipers from more than 200 countries travel to Glasgow Green to compete to be named best in the world for piping and this year will see Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band defend their title after becoming the first Scottish band to win the coveted title in more than a decade. Ross Ainslie, performing at this year's Piping Live!, said: "Piping has allowed me to travel all over the world and make a career out of something I love. Some of my earliest memories in piping were listening to Gordon Duncan's *Just for Seumas* album on the way to practices with the the Vale of Atholl Pipe Band in Pitlochry and I've been completely inspired in the music since. Piping Live! is a great week for catching up with pals old and new."

Tickets for Piping Live! are available at: www.pipinglive.co.uk. Follow Piping Live! on Twitter: @GlasgowPiping or Facebook: PipingLiveFestival and submit your #MomentsThatMatter

Text and photos by: Nick Drainey



Rambling Braeriach, Cairngorms

Looking up the Lairig Ghru.

Refresh and enliven your senses in Scotland, a country perfect for walking. Whether you want a gentle stroll in the countryside among the trees and rivers, a breezy coastal stroll along sandy beaches or a walk through the wild mountain and loch scenery, Scotland has all of this in abundance. Nick Drainey will be taking readers on some of his favourite walks around the country and this month visit's Braeriach in the Cairngorms, the third highest mountain in Britain. Braeriach is home to Britain's only reindeer herd and the longest lying snow patches in Scotland, this is walk best done in the Scottish summer as Nick Drainey explains.

When it comes to being on top of a big, impressive Scottish mountain, it doesn't come much better than Braeriach. Here is a summit miles from any road, perched on the edge of a huge plateau above a corrie which plunges down more than 1,000ft and is nearly a mile wide. Braeriach is popular but has the advantage of being quieter than it might be because it is only the third highest Munro (at 4,252ft) and not even the highest in the Cairngorms – that is Ben Macdui across the Lairig Ghru (at 4,295ft). The first time I ascended this sprawling mountain only a handful of walkers were passed, in fact there were greater numbers of Britain's only reindeer herd, which roams across the sub-arctic plateaus of this area. The walk up is long, perfect for the summer months, with so many different views you will need to make sure your camera batteries are fully charged. You will also need a certain amount of stamina but anyone with a reasonable level of fitness should be able to make the trip, as long as they take their time.

Ancient Caledonian pines

There is a gentle start through the Rothiemurchus Forest, a complete contrast to the wild heights to come. The ancient Caledonian pines are home to pine martens, best seen at dawn or dusk as the little furry mammals hunt for food. However, as is so often the case when man tries to establish strongholds for threatened species of animals, the increasing numbers of pine



Reindeer above the Rothiemurchus Forest.

martens devour the eggs of the iconic capercaillie, making the bird's reintroduction frustrating and not altogether successful. As the trees dwindle and a vast expanse of moorland and mountain opens out, red deer become the animal most likely to be seen, sometimes through binoculars but often relatively close up. Their numbers are blamed for the treeless aspect of the uplands and great debate rumbles on as to how many should be killed or whether fences should be erected. Such argument will be forgotten by most walkers when confronted with the superb sight of the Lairig Ghru in front of them. This vast chasm splits the Cairngorms, providing a route used since ancient times between Upper Deeside and Aviemore. It is a great walk itself, especially with a stop in the remote Corrour Bothy nestled far below the dramatic summit of Devil's Point.

Sub-Arctic

A bit of tough leg work is needed to clamber up the heather slopes, out of the Lairig Ghru and on to Sròn na Lairige – a huge flank to the north east of Braeriach's summit. But after this you can stride out with the southern reaches of the Lairig Ghru opening out below and ahead. This is the part of the walk not to rush, take your time to conserve energy and also enjoy the panorama. The whole of the Cairngorms comes into view and the vast size of ground above 3,000ft becomes apparent. This is the only place in Britain which can be classed as sub-Arctic, because of the lichens, mosses and tiny flowers which cling to the rocky ground – it is also apparent because snow can lie year round in some places. It is no wonder that this is a good place for a reindeer herd. Mikel Utsi and his wife Dr Ethel Lindgren first introduced the animals to the Cairngorms in 1952, 800 years after the last record of the animal in Scotland. From a start with two bulls and five cows brought from Sweden, the herd is now 150-strong. Seeing these is a joy which can enhance the feeling of being in an almost enchanted place as you pass the top of Sròn na Lairige and reach the final section.

A wide path leads up to the edge of cliffs plunging down Coire Bhrochain which you follow along a narrowing ridge to the summit of Braeriach. This place is just about as good as it gets in the mountains and would not be out of place in a blockbuster film, such is the breathtaking beauty of the scenery.

One of the best viewpoints in Scotland

Across the wide corrie the pointed Munros of Sgòr an Lochain Uaine (Angel's Peak) and Cairn Toul stand out as they tower above a lochan which seems inaccessible



Cairn Toul and Sgor an Lochain Uaine from Braeriach.

by foot. The view across the Lairig Ghru is now complete and you can look out over the many Cairngorm Munros. To the south west is Ben Nevis and to the north lies the distinctive peak of Morven, far away in Caithness. Normally it is good to take in your surroundings but on this summit, especially so. Don't rush back down, make the most of what is one of the best viewpoints in Scotland. Just picking out all the other mountains in view takes time but it is good to sit and soak in the whole place; the contrasts between plateau and corrie, summits and deep glens, barren uplands and the distant forests below. Obviously, all walks are best saved when the weather forecast is for fine, clear weather but with Braeriach it really does make the achievement of reaching the summit of one of Scotland's highest mountains all the more satisfying. When you do make your return, take your time. It is a long way and the transformation of landscape from barren mountain top to lush glen which gradually takes place is there to be savoured.

WALK FACTS:

Distance: 15 miles.

Height climbed: 3,500ft.

Time: 8 to 9½ hours.

Map: OS Landranger 36.

Start point: The western end of Loch Morlich, by the side of the B970 Aviemore road.

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By David McVey

Glasgow Green - *The heart of Glasgow*

Glasgow Green is by far the oldest of the city's parks and is within easy walking distance of the city centre. Among the park's highlights is the People's Palace where you can learn the story of Glasgow and its people at this fascinating social history museum. Next to the People's Palace are the Winter Gardens with an exotic collection of plants and shrubs. The large green space was established in the 15th century and today still holds a special place in Glasgow's social fabric as David McVey explains.



The glittering Martin Memorial Fountain.

Photo: visitScotland

Glasgow Green is the heart of Glasgow. A broad stretch of flat parkland, it lies just east of the city centre along the north bank of the Clyde. It was gifted to the people of Glasgow by Bishop Turnbull in 1450, though at first it was very much a working space - clothes and fabrics were washed, fishing equipment repaired and so on. On a stretch of the Green still known as Fleshers' Haugh, the city's Incorporation of Fleshers exercised the right to graze livestock. The main entrance to the park today is off the Saltmarket, a street which leads from Glasgow Cross to the Clyde. Not far away, but buried, channelled beneath the ground, is one of the lost rivers of Glasgow, the Molendinar Burn. It flowed past St Mungo's original church, near the site of today's Cathedral. The broad open space at the entrance to Glasgow Green is known as Jocelyn Square commemorating a 12th century Bishop of Glasgow who wrote a life of St Mungo. However, the square's name only dates from the 1920s; previously it was known, more sombrely, as Jail Square, and was used for public hangings. You may remember the song Jocelyn Square from the 1988 album, *Strange Kind of Love*, by the great Glasgow band Love and Money.

The McLennan Arch

Entering the Green from Jocelyn Square, you

pass beneath a massive monumental arch, the McLennan Arch. It was originally part of the Assembly Rooms building, dating from 1796 and situated in Ingram Street - nearly half a mile away. When the Assembly Rooms were demolished in the 1890s, the arch was preserved by a James McLennan and moved to Glasgow Green. It was moved to its present position in 1991. An ornamental tree-lined walkway leads from the arch to the 144ft obelisk that commemorates Admiral Lord Nelson. It dates from 1806 and was the first major tribute to Nelson to be built in the UK. The Nelson's Column in London is later. Glasgow Green has the original. The monument is at the centre of a great circular public space. On one edge of this is a curious stone which commemorates the approximate site of a curious event. In 1765 a man called James Watt was taking a Sabbath stroll on Glasgow Green. At some point on that walk - near the position of the commemorative stone - he conceived the idea of the separate condenser, a technology which made steam engines efficient and practical, and allowed the Industrial Revolution to really take hold. Yes, it was that James Watt.

The People's Palace

It's just a short walk from the Nelson monument to the People's Palace, a calling point on the open-topped bus tours of the city and one that really shouldn't be missed. It's an impressive building dating from 1898 and it has a marvellous glass-roofed



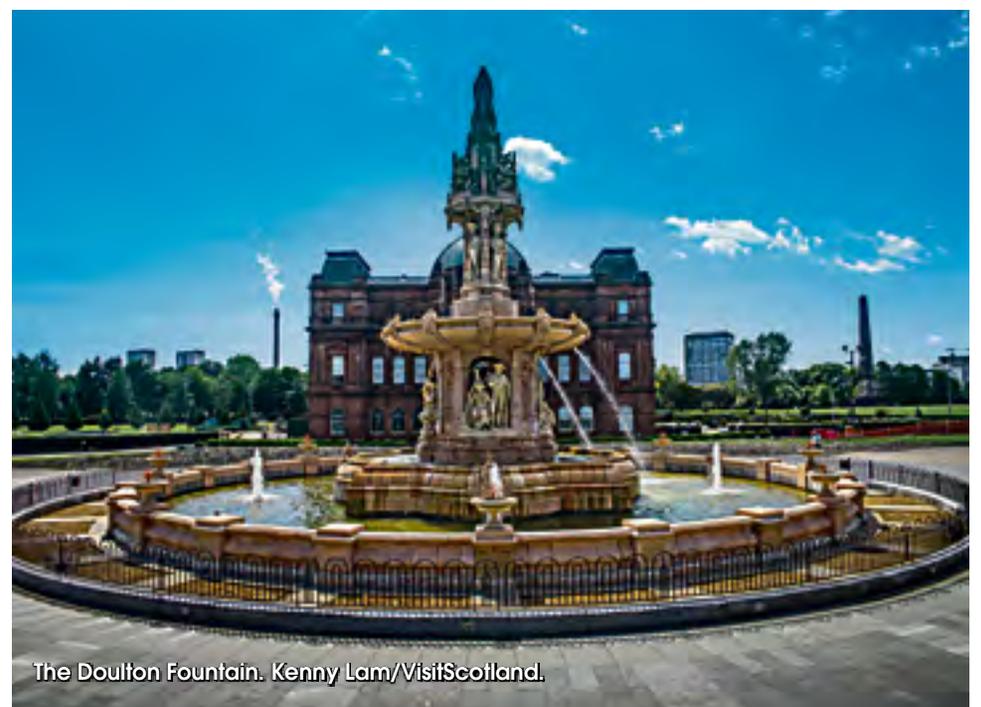
The Winter Gardens.

winter gardens to its rear. The People's Palace houses a fascinating range of exhibits concerning Glasgow and its people. The stylish gardens around the Palace are worth exploring at length - there's a statue of James Watt - but their most arresting feature is the Doulton Fountain. The fountain was a gift to the city and its people from Sir Henry Doulton in 1888. It's said to be the world's largest terracotta fountain. Doulton and Co had a commercial display at the Glasgow International Exhibition of 1888 which was held in Kelvingrove Park, to the west of the city centre. Though a personal gift from Sir Henry rather than a commercial exhibit, the Doulton Fountain was first displayed at the Exhibition. Queen Victoria visited the Exhibition on 24 August, appropriately, as it's topped by a statue of her. After the Exhibition, the fountain was reconstructed on Glasgow Green. Besides Queen Victoria there are figures symbolising various corners of the British Empire as it existed in 1888 - including Australia - and of St Mungo. The fountain stands 46ft tall to the top of Victoria's head and its basin is 70ft broad.

Glasgow Fair

Glasgow Green is home also to three drinking fountains; the most impressive of these is the sparkling 1893 Martin Memorial Fountain, commemorating James Martin,

a civic dignitary. Like the Doulton Fountain it has been recently restored; it isn't far from the People's Palace and is worth the diversion to see. Fleshers' Haugh is at the south-eastern end of the Green. Charles Edward Stewart reviewed his Jacobite troops on Fleshers' Haugh in December 1745. More recently, the Haugh has been known for its many football pitches. Recently they have been joined by the National Hockey Centre, a venue for the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Indeed, during Glasgow's triumphant hosting of the 2014 Commonwealth Games, the Green played several roles. It served as a fan park as well as a venue for the finish of athletics and cycling road races. Other sporting, music and cultural events are held on the Green and it is annually the venue for the World Pipe Band Championships. But most famously, it is associated with the Glasgow Fair. A fortnight in July was set aside as the Glasgow Fair, when all of the city's offices and factories closed and the city emptied. Globalisation has put paid to this city-wide shutdown but celebrations are still held on the Green, though they are no longer the riotous events of long ago. The principal of an annual holiday for Glaswegians is said to go right back to a gift of Bishop Jocelyn. Glasgow Green is easily overlooked, but every visitor to the city should set aside some time for it.



The Doulton Fountain. Kenny Lam/VisitScotland.

Dundee delights

The Oor Wullie Bucket Trail



Oor Tartan by Scottish artist Sandra Kerr.

A unique arts project is launching this month in Dundee as home grown Scottish cartoon character Oor Wullie is celebrated with fifty sculptures which will decorate the streets of Dundee across the summer before being sold at auction to raise money for Tayside Children's Hospital at Ninewells. Organisers of Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail, Tayside's largest ever mass participation public art event, have been on the hunt for artists to come up with unique designs for each of the dozens of Oor Wullie sculptures that are set to descend on Dundee for ten weeks this summer, all to raise money for Tayside Children's Hospital. Oor Wullie is a Dundee icon and celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this year and the iconic comic by Dundee's own DC Thomson has been a part of growing up in Scotland for millions of people and fans can catch the art installation across Dundee for 10 weeks this summer. From the 4th of July ten Oor Wullie's that go on tour across Scotland to seven different cities across Scotland. Plans are also in the works for one of the statues to go to Perth and another to Houston (and potentially three more to Dubai, Toronto and New York).

The ARCHIE Foundation

The ARCHIE Foundation, which stands for Aberdeen Royal Children's Hospital Is Excellent, is a Children's charity making real difference to the lives of sick children in the north of Scotland. The ARCHIE Foundation is the official charity of Tayside Children's Hospital in Dundee and everything raised for

ARCHIE in and for Tayside will help sick children in the local community in Tayside. NHS Tayside and The ARCHIE Foundation have worked together to launch the Tayside Children's Hospital Appeal to raise crucial funds needed to create a state of the art twin operating surgical suite at Tayside Children's Hospital at Ninewells in Dundee. As part of this appeal, The ARCHIE Foundation has partnered with Wild In Art and DC Thomson to launch the largest mass participation public art event ever seen in the region, Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail. The trail will see the City of Discovery invaded by over 50 individually designed, equally as mischievous, Oor Wullie sculptures this summer. The reason for the Bucket Trail? After ten weeks of Oor Wullie's generating buzz, tourism, selfies and lasting memories, the sculptures will be auctioned in September. Every last penny raised will go towards the Tayside Children's Hospital Appeal.

Wild In Art, creators of mass participation public art events, have successfully introduced character sculptures to the streets of cities all over the world, from lions in Cape Town, to Superlambananas in Liverpool, to Gromits in Bristol. Two years ago, The ARCHIE Foundation partnered with Wild In Art to lead another mass participation arts project, 60 miles north of Dundee in Aberdeen over the summer of 2014. Over 50 Wild Dolphins were scattered around the Granite City, all unique and beautifully painted. In Aberdeen, there was an increase of between 100-250% in footfall while the wild dolphins were doing their thing two years ago. When

auctioned, the Golphin Dolphin which was signed by the professional golfers at the Scottish Open in Royal Aberdeen that year, sold for £55,000 – the most paid for any of the Wild Dolphin sculptures.

Why Dundee & Oor Wullie?

Dundee is renowned for being Scotland's sunniest city and the sun will be shining down on the City of Discovery this summer with the launch of Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail on June 27th. Oor Wullie is a character created by editor R.D Low and cartoonist Dudley D. Watkins in 1937 at Dundee publishers, DC Thomson. As iconic character, Oor Wullie is loved across the world, but in no place is more at home and famous, than in Dundee. Oor Wullie is celebrating his 80th anniversary this year. But, he doesn't look a day over 11, still wearing his dungarees and sitting on his trusty bucket. This summer, Oor Wullie will be reinventing himself all around Dundee, with local and national artists coming on board to personalise each and every sculpture. Each Oor Wullie sculpture has been on an intrepid 488 mile journey, by lorry, from Newport to their spiritual home in Dundee after being created in the south of Wales.

Readers heading to Scotland this summer should be sure to drop into Dundee and visit the many versions of Oor Wullie across the city and please send us a photo of yourself in Dundee via social media or email to us. For more details see the Oor Wullie Bucket Trail website: www.oorwulliebuckettrail.com.

Public voting to choose Scotland's top building opens



Cour House on the Mull of Kintyre, Argyll one of the Scotstyle nominated buildings.

Voting is now open for 'Scotstyle' and it's up to the public to vote for their favourite building of the past 100 years as a part of the Festival of Architecture 2016 and Scotland's 2016 Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design. The results will be announced at the Festival's Finale event in November and voting will take place on the festival website www.foa2016.com/scotstyle or votes can be cast in person at the touring exhibition. The list includes two Glasgow banks, the Bon Accord Baths in Aberdeen and Tongland Power Station in Kirkcudbright. Also on the list are a wee concrete bothy in Sutherland (known, ironically, as the Hermit's Castle) and a fashion designer's studio near Galashiels as well as buildings on Bute, Skye, Tiree and Orkney. More prominent architectural gems include the arches at the City Chambers in Glasgow, the Scottish Parliament and Stirling University.

To cast your vote visit www.foa2016.com

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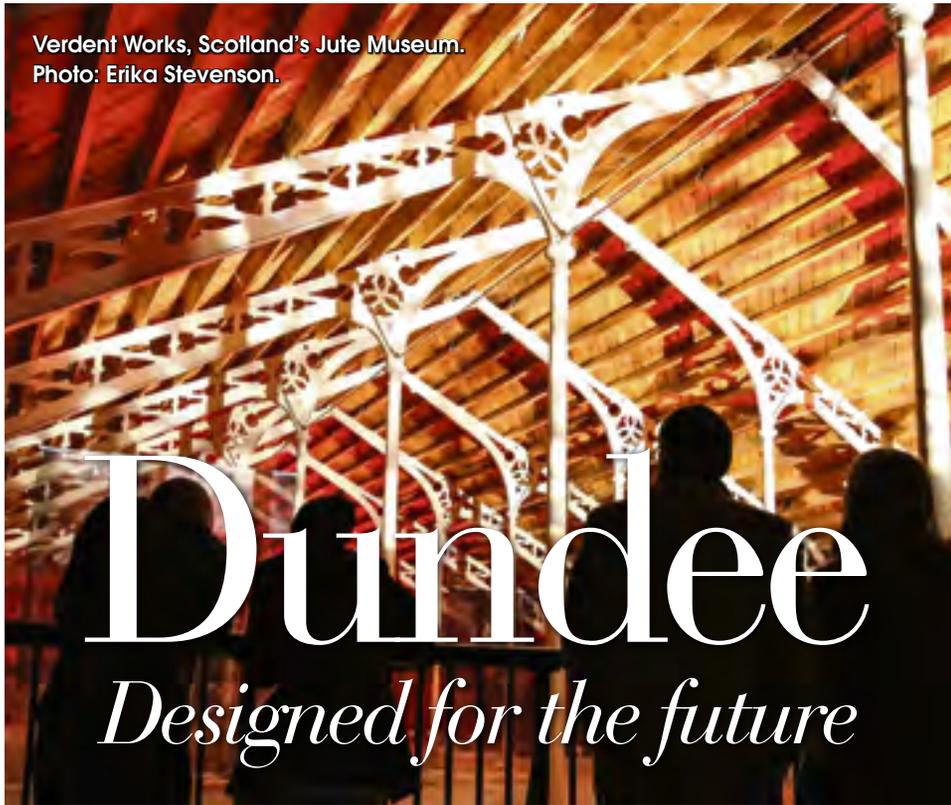
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Bob and Doreen Browning

Text courtesy of: UNESCO Dundee City of Design & Place Partnership.



Verdent Works, Scotland's Jute Museum.
Photo: Erika Stevenson.

Dundee

Designed for the future

The Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design 2016, running from 1 January to 31 December will celebrate the richness of Scotland's beautiful built heritage, culture and environment, alongside the contemporary and cutting edge designs of today.

From textiles and technology, to architecture, fashion and design, the year-long programme will shine the spotlight on Scotland's greatest assets and icons, as well as some of our unique hidden gems. Through a variety of events, festivals, exhibitions, business conferences and visitor attractions locals and visitors alike will discover Scotland's achievements in innovation, design and architecture. So whether you want to discover the innovative structural design behind Andy Scott's magnificent horse-head sculptures – the Kelpies, enjoy the splendour of a bygone era through the iconic designs of one of Scotland's best known architects Charles Rennie Mackintosh, or simply be inspired by our creativity, from the past present and future, there will be something for everyone throughout 2016. As the first UNESCO City of Design in the UK, Dundee is leading the country when it comes to celebrating past and present contributions to design throughout 2016.

Hub for design and innovation

Dundee has always been a hub for design and innovation. A small but almost perfectly formed city, it has a remarkable location, with 82% of Scotland's population within 1hr 20mins travel radius, it has a rich mix of industries, a huge creative community and a 'get stuck in' mindset – all which have helped ensure Dundee is well connected and well designed. If you don't know Dundee, or haven't visited for some time you may be wondering, why Dundee? What has Dundee contributed to design and what is it doing now to deserve this international accolade alongside cities like Shenzhen, Helsinki and Bilbao. 100 years ago, the little city in the midst of something huge. Dundee was a premiere whaling port, shipbuilder and jute textiles city – the interdependency and access to materials was key, the ready supplies of whale oil were used to process raw jute, then exported worldwide. Although now mass production in many of these industries is almost all gone in factories and mills across

the city, design is still an important part of Dundee's contemporary creative scene and economy. Large companies have diversified product and manufacturing processes while empty, accessible industrial spaces have encourage the development of small start-up design businesses and creative hubs, sharing office space and facilities.

DC Thomson began publishing back in 1905, specialising in newspapers, magazines and comics, of course notably *The Beano* and *Dandy*; they've continued to innovate over the years and have branched into digital products which include online genealogy. The inaugural Dundee Design Festival will take place in a former DC Thomson print works – just one example of how the city reinvents these spaces utilising them for cultural use. The city's former jute mills and industrial spaces have been re-energised, by hundreds of creatives and collectives along with individual designers and creative businesses. These spaces also host a number of regular shows, pop-ups and selling events.

As a former heavy industry city, Dundee has always had highly skilled workers; so when watch manufacturers Timex branched out to start producing parts for ZX Spectrums back in the 80s, somehow Spectrum computers found their way into the homes of Dundee's kids and so the video game designers of the future and the video games industry was born, it's a great and true story. The original Grand Theft Auto and Lemmings series were created in Dundee in the 90s. Ever since, digital start-ups and Abertay University have been at the heart of the thriving games community. Dundee has many digital pioneers, from digital toy makers Denki, to porting Minecraft on to Xbox and PlayStation thanks to 4J Studios. to 3D mapping innovators eeGeo. Many of Dundee's digital companies experiment to find new ways to engage people in big topics: Guerrilla Tea recently launched Play to Cure, a game where you help process breast cancer data through navigating your way around an asteroid field; and SpaceBudge's innovative game Glitchspace, enables you to learn programming skills whilst you play.

Global innovators and innovations

Dundee has produced a number of global innovators and innovations, including:

James Bowman Lindsay who gave the world the electric lightbulb; Sir Patrick Geddes, the founder of modern town planning; Dr Thomas Maclagan, who helped cure the world of sore heads in the shape of Aspirin; James Chalmers developed the adhesive postage stamp; Janet Keiller, created Dundee Marmalade; and Valentines of Dundee designed the world's first travel postcards, enabling the world to see what the rest of it looked like for the first time. Because of Dundee's rich design education, provided by the three main institutions: University of Dundee, Abertay University and Dundee & Angus College – many innovative and high profile designers have started their design careers in the city. Duncan of Jordanstone School of Art and Design and School of Architecture (DJCAD) is consistently rated in the top 10% of the UK's art and design schools; jeweller Jane Gowans designs have been worn by many well-known personalities; and fashion designer, Haley Scanlan graduated from DJCAD before setting up her successful business; Hayley is the only designer to ever win the Scottish Young Designer of the Year award, twice. One of the best ways to appreciate the shape and size of the city has to be from one of city's design greats – the Tay Road Bridge. Driving, cycling or walking straight over the bridge into the heart of the city at night - a twinkly wonderland. Here you get a picture of the city and the massive Waterfront development project. A £1 billion transformation of Dundee City Waterfront, it encompasses 240 hectares of development land stretching 8km alongside the River Tay, it is a strategic, focussed and forward looking 30 year project (2001-2031) that is propelling the city to international acclaim. At the centre of this will be Victoria & Albert Museum of Design Dundee (V&A Dundee). Expected to open in 2018, V&A Dundee will be the first ever purpose built design museum to be built in the UK outside London and will be an international centre of design for Scotland. Renowned architect Kengo Kuma's first British building, V&A Dundee will be a new living room for the city – a place for all to enjoy and be inspired. The galleries will be the first dedicated home to the story of Scotland's outstanding design heritage – of the past, present and future. V&A Dundee will showcase world-class touring exhibitions from the V&A – the only purpose built galleries in Scotland large enough to show these shows in their entirety and will import the best of international design to Scotland, and export the brilliance of Scottish design to the world.

What's happening in 2016?

The inaugural Dundee Design Festival has just taken place in May which showcased the very best in Scottish and international design. Across an entire floor of a former print works in the once industrial heart of Dundee, this exhibition weaves together some of the great design stories currently emerging from the city, including new innovations in textiles, game design and design for health and wellbeing. These are stories of local design with global impact, stories about what design can do when we join forces.

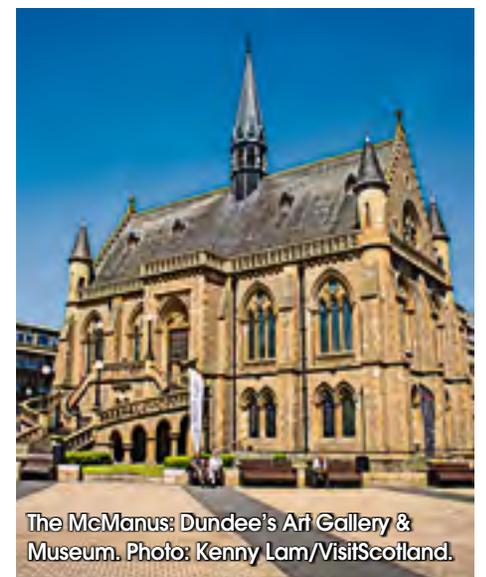
Dare ProtoPlay builds on the final phase of the international video games design competition, Dare to be Digital, Dare ProtoPlay is the UK's biggest indie games festival, taking place over 4 days in August every year. With over 40 games to be

played and enjoyed this is an opportunity to inspire young people, showcasing games that are about art, creativity and design.

Kicking off this month the Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail is a major public arts event that will see the streets of Dundee and beyond come to life with a spectacle of colour of 50 giant Oor Wullie sculptures. The project, a collaboration between The ARCHIE Foundation, DC Thomson and Wild in Art will capture the hearts and minds of the public. The Oor Wullie sculptures will be beautifully decorated by local and national artists as well as household names from the worlds of film, music, art, animation and fashion. The sculptures will be on show for around 10 weeks before auctioned to help raise funds for The ARCHIE Foundation's Tayside Appeal to create a twin theatre suite for the children's hospital.

Dundee is celebrating the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design in style with a range of exhibitions, events, workshops and festivals celebrating innovation, architecture and design. Three ship models have recently gone on display within the exhibition Charting New Waters: Recent Acquisitions to the City's Permanent Collection at The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum. In 2015 The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum acquired eight ship models and paintings, previously owned by the Dundee, Perth & London Shipping Company Ltd. (DP&L). This important collection highlights Dundee's rich shipbuilding and maritime history as well as its important trading and passenger links. The ship models were taken from the former DP&L building, located on East Dock Street, prior to its sale. Models were made by shipyards to demonstrate their skill and used as a form of marketing for the company. Three are on display in the exhibition Charting new waters and they reflect the developments in technology and the company's shifting focus from cargo to passengers. The exhibition runs at The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum until October 23rd 2016.

For more information on Dundee see: www.dundee.com. Interested in seeing Scotland's architecture for yourself? The Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design runs until 31 December 2016 with a series of exciting events and activity, the year will showcase Scotland's position as an "innovation nation", its outstanding built heritage, and its thriving, internationally acclaimed creative industries sector. For further details see: www.visitscotland.org or join the conversation at #IAD2016.



The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum. Photo: Kenny Lam/VisitScotland.

Dundee 'City of Discovery'



The statue of cartoon character Desperate Dan at Dundee City Square. Photo Kenny Lam/VisitScotland.

Situated on picturesque Tayside, 'Bonny' Dundee is also famous as the City of Discovery: it's here that you will find the Royal Research Ship Discovery in which the explorers Scott and Shackleton sailed to Antarctica at the beginning of the 20th Century. Dundee is also synonymous with jute, jam and journalism on account of the industries that once dominated the region, which also accounts for the statue of cartoon character Desperate Dan in the city. Discovery is a good theme for the city today which, like many industrial cities in the UK, has had to reinvent itself. Dundee, with its world-class universities, is now a hub for cutting edge medical and life sciences research, the home of many hi-tech companies and one of the world's leading centres in computer games. It's Scotland's fourth largest city with a population of 140,000, has a thriving arts scene, a buzzing nightlife and yet is still close to some of the world's most famous golf courses.

Dundee innovations

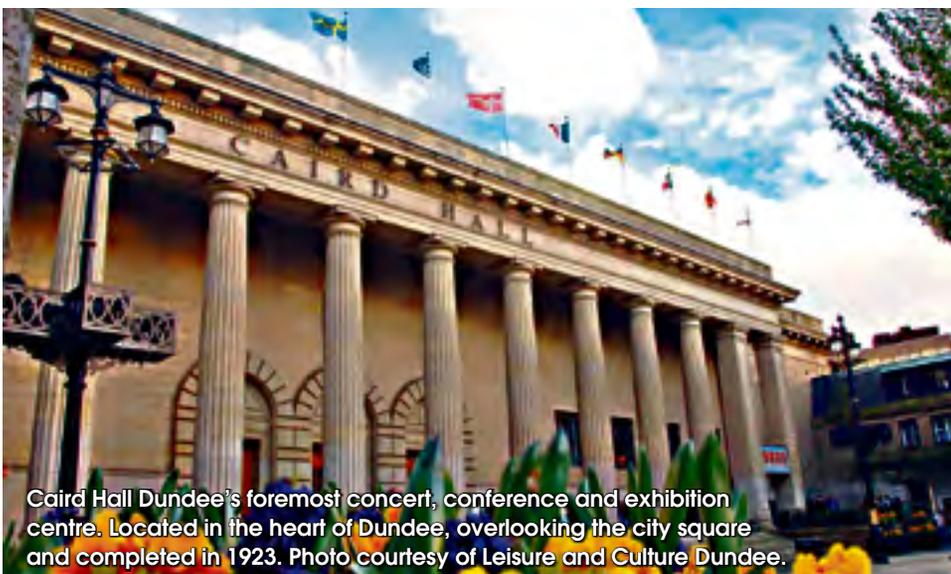
Dundee can proudly claim some great discoveries such as:

James Keiller-Dundee Marmalade was introduced to the commercial market by the firm James Keiller of Dundee, at the beginning of the 19th century. The company marketed orange 'chip'

marmalade as an aid to breakfast digestion and Keiller's Dundee Orange Marmalade became a registered trade mark in 1876.

Dr Thomas John MacLagan- Dr Thomas John MacLagan developed aspirin in 1876, while working as a Medical Superintendent at Dundee Royal Infirmary. His most important work was the research he carried out into the anti-rheumatic effects of salicin, a chemical extracted from willow bark. MacLagan's work was taken up by German researchers who used salicin to develop acetyl-salicylic acid - better known today as aspirin.

Sir Philip Cohen- Sir Philip Cohen is a British researcher, academic and Royal Medal winner based in Dundee. During the 1990s he was Britain's third most cited professor and has been described as 'one of the world's top scientists'. He has written over 470 peer-reviewed papers and given over 250 invited lectures in 33 countries. He has been repeatedly linked to a move of biotechnology companies to Dundee and the economic regeneration that came with it, to the point where 15% of the local economy is derived from biotech companies and their employees. His work has also seen Dundee attracting some of the world's best scientists, with over 1% of the world's most cited scientists residing in Dundee and fundraising of more than £35 million over the last 10 years to help attract them.



Caird Hall Dundee's foremost concert, conference and exhibition centre. Located in the heart of Dundee, overlooking the city square and completed in 1923. Photo courtesy of Leisure and Culture Dundee.

UNESCO City of Design Dundee



Dundee has continually reinvented itself after the collapse of its heavy industries. Fast forward to today and design is right at the heart of how the city imagines its future. The role of design was unequivocally underlined when Dundee became the first UNESCO City of Design in the UK in November 2014, a prestigious award that recognises the huge contribution the city has made to design worldwide. Dundee has continually reinvented itself designing a new future for itself and its citizens. Today the city is rebuilding its expansive Waterfront as part of a £1 billion, 30-year masterplan to design an open, inclusive city of the future. At the heart of the Waterfront plan is the creation of V&A Museum of Design Dundee, a global home for Scotland's design heritage and a showcase for the best of international design. The city is also home to the hugely successful Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee Rep Theatre, McManus Art Gallery and Wasps Studios. Today, numerous design initiatives are led by Dundee organisations, aimed at creating the next generation of designers across all disciplines – and keeping highly talented graduates in Dundee, creating new ideas and new companies.

V&A Museum of Design Dundee

Opening in 2018, V&A Dundee will be the only V&A museum anywhere in the world outside London. It will be the first ever dedicated design museum in Scotland: an international centre for design, a place of inspiration, discovery and learning. V&A Dundee will present the largely untold story of Scotland's outstanding design achievements, bringing together in one place the world-renowned V&A collections with loans from other collections in Scotland and beyond to allow everyone to understand and be inspired by this important design heritage. The £80.11m project to create the museum is at the heart of Dundee's ambitious £1bn waterfront regeneration, supporting the creation of more jobs and wider economic benefits. It will both generate civic pride and transform the city region as a tourism destination. V&A Dundee will be the first building in the UK designed by Kengo Kuma, the internationally renowned architect who is also designing the Tokyo 2020 Olympic stadium. His vision is for the museum to be a new 'living room for the city', welcoming everyone to visit, enjoy and socialise, and to reconnect the city with its historic River Tay waterfront.

For further details please see: www.vandadundee.org



IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Scottish brewer unveils 'world's first' beer marmalade

Scottish brewer Innis & Gunn has launched what it claims to be the world's first beer marmalade to mark the launch of The Beer Kitchen in Dundee. Called Marm & Ale, the fruit conserve combines Innis & Gunn oak-aged IPA with a Dundee marmalade preserve. It has also created a marmalade IPA using Innis & Gunn's trademarked beer percolator, that allows it to infuse beers with a wide range of flavours. "Launching in this great city has provided us with an opportunity to do what we do best: push the boundaries of what's possible with beer through innovation and experimentation", said Dougal Sharp, Innis & Gunn founder and master brewer. "That's why we've been hard at work brewing a marmalade IPA and even creating spreadable beer for adventurous foodies. We're proud to be setting up shop in such an innovative and vibrant city, we can't wait to share our passion for great beer with Dundonians." To make the 'spreadable beer', beer is added to the marmalade mixture during the boiling process to provide hoppy accents to the marmalade's typical orangey flavour. Master brewers at Innis & Gunn have also created a marmalade IPA using a percolator, a piece of technology used to infuse beers with flavours by circulating ingredients through the beer during the brewing process. Scotland has a long-standing relationship with marmalade, with Dundee believed to be the home of the first marmalade factory in the UK.

Clydebank shipyard to be transformed



The former John Brown's shipyard in Clydebank, famous for building some of the world's greatest ships, is set to be unlocked for future development after an ambitious £15 million plan was signed. The deal will see essential infrastructure and ground works undertaken on the site, and

more importantly, pave the way for more than £250m worth of private investment, potentially including 1,000 new homes, a retail unit, hotel, care home and health centre. The once thriving industrial yard was famous for building the QE2 and Queen Mary, but the majority of the site – now known as Queens Quay – has been derelict for decades. John Brown's shipyard was once a monolith of shipbuilding in Clydebank, hitting its peak in 1967 with the launch of the Queen Elizabeth 2. The yard has since suffered from a steady decline, finally closing in 2001 after commissions for oil rigs dried up. Now, West Dunbartonshire Council has backed proposals by site owners Clydeside Regeneration Limited (CRL) to transform the site. The redevelopment plans include leisure and retail outlets, residential housing and a health quarter and will take around 10 years to complete. The centrepiece of the project will be the refurbished fitting-out basin and a Titan Crane visitor attraction. It has also revealed plans for a District Heating Scheme, used to generate power by extracting energy from the river basin. It would be the first of its kind in Scotland. Paul O'Donnell, representing CRL, said: "At long last this represents the regeneration of John Brown's shipyard. We aim to create an esplanade along the entire frontage of the Clyde and round the basin, opening up this area of Clydebank to the whole community for the first time." vThe first phase of the development will include essential infrastructure works such as repairs to quay walls and the creation of a new road layout. Once this work is complete the development of a care home and health centre will be able to begin, with the housing, retail and leisure elements of the plan to follow. John Brown's shipyard has a special place in the history of Clyde shipbuilding. The yard was started on Clydebank by brothers, J & G Thomson, in 1871, after they moved their operations from the site of the Graving Docks in Govan. They had themselves been apprenticed to Robert Napier (1791-1876), usually recognised as the father of shipbuilding on the Clyde. He was a superb engineer who established his yard at Govan, and went on to win ship building contracts both from the Admiralty and from the Cunard Line.

Scottish elections 2016 - Victory for the SNP



In May Scots went to the polls for the Scottish General Election. About four million people were registered to vote in the election, which saw 129 MSPs returned. It was the first time 16 and 17-year-olds have been eligible to vote in a Scottish Parliament election and was the fifth election since the Scottish Parliament was established in 1999. It was an election victory for the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Scottish Nationalist Party who won 63 seats - two short of a majority. Conservatives are the second largest party on 31 seats - but Labour on 24 lost 13 seats and Scottish Greens are the fourth largest party with six seats, ahead of the Lib Dems who won five. Nicola Sturgeon underlined her party's "loyalty to the people of Scotland" and the "sovereignty of the people". Scots are again back to the polls later this month as a referendum is being held on Thursday, 23 June to decide whether Britain should leave or remain in the European Union.

Flying Scotsman returns to Scotland



The return of the world's most famous locomotive to Scotland in May has helped shine a spotlight on the quality of the country's tourism industry, according to VisitScotland. Hundreds of passengers on the Flying Scotsman were taking in some of the finest attractions in Edinburgh, the Borders and central Scotland when the train returned north to Scotland after a 16-year absence. And the national tourism organisation said the four-day visit of the train, a symbol of engineering excellence designed by Edinburgh-born Sir Nigel Gresley, is particularly apt as the country celebrates the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design. Built in 1923, The Flying Scotsman was the first steam locomotive to be clocked at 100 miles per hour in 1934, while its elegant design, long years of service and extensive touring helped it to become the most famous engine in the world. But while passengers were thrilled by the once-in-a-lifetime experience of travelling on board the Flying Scotsman, they are also being encouraged to visit other world-class attractions while in Scotland, including the Royal Yacht Britannia, Abbotsford, the Kelpies and the Falkirk Wheel. The National Railway Museum in York bought the locomotive for £2.3 million in 2004 before work got under way on its decade-long restoration two years later.

Conservation work underway at Glenfinnan Monument



The Glenfinnan Monument marks the beginning of the 1745 Rising. Photo: The National Trust for Scotland.

Vital conservation work has started at the National Trust for Scotland's Glenfinnan Monument on the shore of Loch Shiel. The 200 year old tower is currently completely covered in scaffolding to enable the £170,000 project to take place. Funding has come from Historic Environment Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland's Canadian Foundation and generous individual donors who contributed to the conservation charity's call for support. Masonry and Lime Ltd from Elgin will lead on the work, making repairs to masonry on the monument and boundary wall, replacing lime pointing as needed, renewing the roof, installing a more accessible hatch at the top of the monument and a new handrail to help visitors climb the 62 steps. The commemorative plaques will also be cleaned, repaired and re-lettered, and the landscaping repaired. Property Manager Kirsteen Nielsen said: "The Glenfinnan Monument is one of Scotland's most photographed locations, and after 200 years in this exposed location, it's in need of some TLC to make sure it still stands tall for generations to come." Surveys by the National Trust for Scotland show that the monument currently leans by about 260 millimetres to west. New equipment to aid the conservation charity in monitoring the movement of the tower is also being installed as part of the project. Trust Surveyor Glyn Young said: "We're installing a new system to help us monitor movement of the monument more accurately. Laser survey points are being put in place at the top and bottom of the 18 metre structure, and fixed ground survey points are being put in place too with the agreement of our neighbour. This will mean that we can be confident that the information about the position of the tower is completely consistent, which makes it easier to spot patterns, telling us, for example, if the movement is linked to the seasons or to the water table." The project is expected to complete in early July. The Glenfinnan Monument marks the beginning of the 1745 raising. On 19 August 1745, Charles Edward Stuart rallied the Highland Clans, raised his standard, and began a campaign that aimed to secure the Scottish throne for the exiled Stuarts – this ended in a bloody defeat less than a year later at Culloden. The monument was built in 1815 by Alexander MacDonald of Glenaladale to honour his ancestors and the fallen Jacobites. For 200 years, tourists from all over the world have come to visit the monument, and enjoy the dramatic Highland view, and reflect on the events of the 18th century.

Study uncovers potential Kirk of the Forest site where William Wallace was made Guardian of Scotland



A geophysics study of Selkirk's Auld Kirk has uncovered what appears to be the underground remains of a medieval church where William Wallace was likely to have been made Guardian of Scotland in 1297



Left, Dr Chris Bowles, Scottish Borders Council archaeologist, and Colin Gilmour, Selkirk Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme Project Manager.

A geophysics study of Selkirk's Auld Kirk has uncovered what appears to be the underground remains of a medieval church. Archaeologists believe they can "almost pinpoint" the Scottish Borders spot where William Wallace, the knight whose marauders in the medieval Wars of Scottish Independence inspired the film *Braveheart*, was made Guardian of Scotland in 1297. Dr Chris Bowles, Scottish Borders Council archaeologist, commissioned the survey by the University of Durham in conjunction

with the Selkirk Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS). Archaeologist Chris Bowles said; "Ruins of the Auld Kirk date from the 18th century, but we knew this had replaced earlier churches on site from the 12th and 16th centuries. It has been widely acknowledged that this was the site of the Kirk of the Forest where Wallace was made Guardian of Scotland following his and Andrew Moray's defeat of the English army at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297. We had been expecting the geophysics survey to uncover a 16th century

church that we know to have existed and which was a replacement to the medieval church, but the only evidence in the survey is in relation to the medieval church. The association between Wallace and the local area is quite well documented, with Wallace using guerilla tactics to fight the English from the Ettrick Forest, and the Scottish nobles made Wallace Guardian of Scotland in recognition of his military successes. Wallace went on to become the legendary figure he remains today. The history of Selkirk is known to an extent, but there

has been little archaeological work carried out to date. While these geophysics results suggest a medieval, possibly Norman, chapel beneath the later church, we are very restricted by the burials in the area to allow any excavation. But in the future it may be possible to conduct limited investigations in areas where there is no evidence of burial."

Historic attraction

The historic event occurred after Wallace defeated English forces at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297. A ceremony took place in front of gathered nobles and clergy in the Kirk o' the Forest in Selkirk. The church itself was demolished and later churches built on the site. Scottish Borders Councillor Ron Smith, Executive Member for Planning and Environment said; "This is a fascinating discovery and further strengthens the links between William Wallace and Selkirk. Working with the community, we hope to be able to make the most of this discovery. Thanks to the geophysical study of the site we can almost pinpoint where Wallace would have stood when he was made Guardian of Scotland. I hope it will be possible to install information and interpretation boards for visitors. This discovery adds to the historic attraction of Selkirk, and of the Borders as a whole, and will surely draw in even more visitors." A re-enactment of Wallace's appointment to guardianship could be held at the site later this year.

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By: Judy Vickers

The Botanic Cottage - *The oldest and newest building at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh*

In 1763 John Hope, the King's Botanist for Scotland, realised his ambition to establish a new botanic garden in Leith Walk. This garden was the predecessor of the present Royal Botanic Garden at Inverleith. Shortly after the establishment of the Garden, a small house was built at the centre of the Leith Walk frontage, which is described in the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1852 as 'Botanic Cottage'. Remarkably, this small house survived, stripped of its plaster and some of its detail, half sunk below the raised level of Leith Walk and dominated by a tenement three times its height, which towered over its south gable. It was unoccupied, in a site destined for redevelopment. The Botanic Cottage Trust was established to secure a future for this small building with such architectural merit and very considerable importance for the history of the science of Botany, both in the context of the Edinburgh Enlightenment and for the Royal Botanic Garden itself as Judy Vickers explains.



Photo: Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

The elegant Georgian façade gives little hint of a chequered and colourful history; the murder of one of its occupants; the education of some of the greatest minds of the Enlightenment; a deterioration into ruin towards the turn of the 21st century followed by a removal, stone by stone, two miles across its home city of Edinburgh. The Botanic Cottage is billed as both the oldest and newest building at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh but that's far from the only claim it has on the curious and unusual. It was built in 1765 to the design of two of the most eminent architects of the day, John Adam and James Craig – the latter went on to design the layout of Edinburgh's Georgian New Town.

The Enlightenment

Created as a house for the head gardener, John Williamson, it is possibly the most bespoke home of any manual worker. It also served as a gateway to one of the Botanic Garden's early sites on Leith Walk and the upstairs as a classroom for lectures to medical students from the first Regius Keeper, John Hope, on botany and horticulture. Cottage project manager Sutherland Forsyth explains: "Some of the greatest minds in the Enlightenment came and had their lessons here, including Benjamin Rush, signatory of the American Declaration of Independence, explorer Archibald Menzies, who brought the monkey puzzle tree to Britain, and Sir Lucas Pepys, King George III's physician." Learning about plants was essential for medics at the time – they were the raw materials for their cures. Hope, a leading but rather neglected figure of the Enlightenment, always gave his first two lectures to new students on the senses. "He would tell them they could never be



good doctors unless they used all their senses and that plants were a great way of learning this. If they could touch a delicate flower and not destroy it, then they could touch a patient in incredible pain. If they could learn to tell the difference between the scents of plants, then they would be attuned to the differences in the smell of wounds or breath," says Sutherland. Hope also, revolutionarily for the time, used botanical drawings to illustrate his lectures and perhaps even more radically commissioned a woman, Agnes Williamson, the head gardener's daughter, to produce them - thought to be the first time a woman had ever been given a professional such commission. Where he lectured is now one of the oldest surviving classrooms of the Scottish Enlightenment and original teaching diagrams and lecture notes are still kept in the Botanic's archives.

The Bungalow

The lofty topics being discussed upstairs were probably a far cry from the more domestic scenes downstairs, which was the Williamsons' family home. John, along with his job as head gardener, was a part-time customs officer, most likely because he was handily situated on a main route between the port of Leith and the city of



Sutherland Forsyth at the door of the restored cottage. Photo: The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Edinburgh. His second job, though, was rather more fraught with danger than that of a plant tender. "On September 23, 1780, he heard that some smugglers had been spotted coming from Leith. He left the cottage early in the morning for Princes Street with the idea of catching them, but instead they caught him - and beat him to death," says Sutherland. "This really shocked the city. He was a well-known and well-loved figure and there are several notices in the newspapers of the time asking for information and offering rewards but they never managed to catch the men who killed him." In sorrow, John Hope commissioned a stone memorial plaque to his murdered head gardener which was placed above the entrance. Nine months ago it was rediscovered, behind some wheelie bins, and has now been restored close to its original home at the Botanic Cottage. "For 200 years no one

The Botanic Cottage is billed as both the oldest and newest building at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh but that's far from the only claim it has on the curious and unusual. It was built in 1765 to the design of two of the most eminent architects of the day, John Adam and James Craig – the latter went on to design the layout of Edinburgh's Georgian New Town.

even noticed it and now every single day you see people looking at it and reading it," says Sutherland. After the Botanic's moved to its present site in Inverleith in the early 1820s, the cottage was left behind. Many people lived in it over the years, and most recently it was used as office space for a van rental service. It became known as "the

Bungalow" because the level of Leith Walk was raised meaning the cottage's ground floor was below street level. "People do say, Oh, you've added an extra floor," says Sutherland. "But we haven't, that's how it originally looked, you just couldn't see it."

A building for everyone

By the mid-2000s it was threatened with demolition until a community campaign, which later formed the Botanic Cottage Trust, recognised the significance of the building and set about trying to save it. The remarkable plan was to dismantle it, stone by stone, and move them, all carefully numbered, to the Botanic. Even that process threw up an extraordinary co-incidence. As the team moved in, taxi driver Douglas Bayne was driving past. The cottage had been his childhood home in the 1960s and 70s and, assuming it was being demolished, he stopped to take a last look. But at the cottage he found the restoration team knew the whole history of the cottage, except for the period when Douglas had lived there – which of course he could fill in for them. That was in 2008 and it is only now that the project has been completed, with the cost totalling £1.6 million, the largest single grant coming from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Around 100 craftsmen worked on its restoration, and those craftsmen have their own unusual claim to fame. "They are the only living people to have built an Adam's building," says Sutherland. "Buildings have been restored, there have been roofs replaced but this was built from scratch." The restored building is now complete and, after a public gala day at the end of May, will be available for the community. Upstairs the old classroom will again be used for lectures while downstairs there are two education spaces in the wings and a spacious kitchen area. "Buildings for education often end up as concrete monstrosities, it's just oh, stick on a flat roof, add a few breeze blocks, that will do for education," says Sutherland. "But here we probably have one of the best quality buildings in Edinburgh. And it's not just for people who can afford to get in, it's a building for everyone".

Interested in seeing Scotland's architecture for yourself? The Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design runs until 31 December 2016 with a series of exciting events and activity, the year will showcase Scotland's position as an "innovation nation", its outstanding built heritage, and its thriving, internationally acclaimed creative industries sector. For further details see: www.visitscotland.org or join the conversation at #IAD2016.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

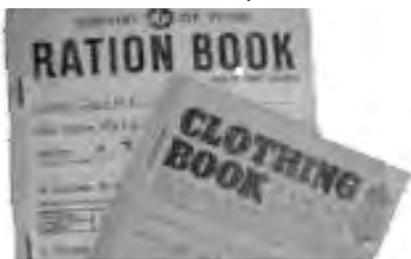
1 - Dr Henry Faulds, who established the uniqueness of fingerprints, born in Beith, Ayrshire. **1843**



1 - First Tay rail bridge opens. It was to collapse 18 months later in the Tay Bridge Disaster. **1878**

2 - Prince Henry St Clair (Sinclair) reputed to have landed in Nova Scotia, having sailed from Orkney. **1398**

2 - James Douglas, 4th Earl of Morton, beheaded in Edinburgh Grassmarket, accused of the murder of Lord Darnley. **1581**



2 - Clothes rationing introduced as a war-time measure. It was not lifted until 1949. **1941**

3 - James Hutton, founder of modern geology, born. **1726**

3 - Poet Robert Tannahill born in Paisley. **1774**

3 - The company formed by John Logie Baird televised the Epsom Derby which was then transmitted by the BBC. **1931**

4 - First recorded inter-club golf match - between Edinburgh Burgess Golfing Society and Bruntsfield Links Golf Club. **1818**

4 - London's Wembley Stadium was vandalised by jubilant Scottish fans after a thrilling 2-1 victory over the Auld Enemy. Following the match, Scottish supporters invaded the pitch and caused an estimated £15,000 worth of damage. **1977**

5 - An Act of the Scottish Parliament came into force "concerning the Office of Lyon King of Arms and his brether Heraldis" creating the best regulated system of armorial bearings in Europe. **1592**

5 - Adam Smith, author of *The Wealth of Nations* born Kirkcaldy. **1723**

5 - Referendum held on British Membership of the European Community. In Scotland the vote was "Yes" 1,332,286; "No" 948,039. Turnout was 61%. Only Shetland and Western Isles had majorities against. **1975**

6 - Thomas Blake Glover, founding father of Japan's industrialisation (including Mitsubishi) and Japanese Navy, born Fraserburgh. **1838**

6 - Sir John MacDonald, the Scottish-born Canadian statesman, died. MacDonald was considered to be the architect of the Confederation of Canada and served twice as the first Prime Minister of the unified Dominion, between 1867-73 and 1878-91. **1891**

7 - Robert the Bruce died, at Cardross Castle, Dumbarton, aged 54. Bruce's heart was then taken to Melrose Abbey, with his body having earlier being buried at Dunfermline Abbey. **1329**

7 - Sir James Young Simpson, pioneer of anaesthetics and chloroform, born. **1811**

7 - Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the celebrated architect, painter and designer, was born. Regarded as one of the foremost British figures in the art nouveau movement, and as the principal exponent of the "Glasgow Style", Mackintosh was born in the Townhead area of the city. **1868**

8 - Robert Stevenson, engineer, who constructed 18 lighthouses around Scotland, born Glasgow. **1772**

8 - The Earl of Seaforth raised a regiment for the American War from the MacKenzies and MacRaes of Ross-shire and Sutherland. **1778**

9 - St Columba died on Iona. Columba founded a monastery on Iona which was to become one of the leading centres of Christianity in Western Europe, and the base from which Columba launched his successful mission to convert the Pictish nation. **597**

9 - First US troops (over 10,000 men) disembark from Queen Mary on the River Clyde. **1942**

10 - James Francis Stuart born. In honour of the "Old Pretender", this is known as "White Rose Day" in Jacobite circles. **1688**

10 - Battle of Glenshiel, Jacobites with Spanish assistance, and government forces clashed. **1719**

10 - Death of King George I and accession of George II. **1727**

10 - Construction of the Forth and Clyde canal started. It was to take 22 years to complete. **1768**

10 - The floral clock in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, began operation - initially driven by clockwork and with only an hour hand. But it was the first of its kind in the world. **1903**

10 - Sir Jackie Stewart, three-times world motor racing champion, born in Dunbartonshire. **1939**

11 - Marie of Guise, widow of King James V and Queen Regent of Scotland, died. **1560**

11 - Battle of Sauchieburn during which King James III died attempting to subdue a group of rebel barons. **1488**



11 - First oil pumped ashore from British oilfields in the North Sea. **1975**

12 - Sir David Gill, Scottish astronomer, was born. Gill was noted for his measurements of solar and stellar parallaxes, which accurately revealed the distances of the Sun and other stars to Earth. He was also a pioneer in the use of photography to map the heavens. **1843**

13 - Birth of James Clerk Maxwell, first Professor of Experimental Physics at Cambridge University. He created the electromagnetic theory of light. **1831**

13 - Rate of price inflation reached 25% in the UK. **1975**

14 - Queen Mary, Aquitania, Empress of Canada, and Empress of Britain arrive in the River Clyde with the first contingent of Australian and New Zealand troops. **1940**

14 - John Logie Baird, inventor of the first television, died. **1946**

15 - Queen Mary leaves Greenock, taking nearly 15,000 GI's home to US. **1945**

16 - Siege of Dunbar Castle by the English was raised. **1338**

16 - Henry McLeish, Scottish Labour politician, was born. McLeish began his working life as a footballer for East Fife, but soon entered the political arena, serving from 1987 as MP for Central Fife. His career reached its zenith with his appointment as First Minister of the Scottish Executive, succeeding Donald Dewar. **1948**

17 - Wolf of Badenoch burns Elgin Cathedral. **1390**

17 - Charles Macintosh patented the waterproof cloth he was using to make raincoats. **1823**

18 - Pacification of Berwick, Charles I forced to withdraw from Scotland and recognise an

independent Scottish Parliament. **1639**

18 - Flora MacDonald met Prince Charles Edward Stuart and persuaded him to wear women's clothes as part of the escape plan from the Outer Hebrides to Skye. **1746**

19 - Mary Queen of Scots gives birth to the future King James VI of Scotland and I of England. **1566**

19 - Coronation of King Charles I at Holyrood. **1633**

19 - "Day of Public Thanksgiving" on Restoration of Charles II as king. **1660**

19 - Earl Haig, Commander in Chief of British forces 1915-18, founder of British Legion, born. **1861**



19 - Sir J.M. Barrie, author of *Peter Pan* died. **1937**

20 - Adam Ferguson, philosopher, historian, "Father of Sociology" born Logierait, Perthshire. **1723**

20 - New Tay rail bridge opened, the longest in Britain. **1887**

20 - First announcement of the discovery of high-grade crude oil in the North Sea. **1969**

21 - Robert Napier, regarded as the "father of Clyde shipbuilding" was born. He died on 23 June, 1876. **1791**

21 - Scottish explorer Mungo Park reached the source of the river Niger in Africa. **1796**

22 - Malt Riots, Glasgow - against higher taxes imposed on Scottish malt. **1725**

22 - At the Battle of Bothwell, the Covenanters were defeated by royal troops led by the Duke of Monmouth near Glasgow. Ideological differences among the Covenanters factionalised them, and the resulting disorganisation contributed to the ease of the Royalists' victory. Although deaths on the field were few, 200 were killed later. Of the 1400 captured or surrendered, another 258 were shipwrecked while being transported in The Crown of London. The battle features in fictional form in Sir Walter Scott's novel *Old Mortality*. **1679**

23 - Charles II sailed into the estuary of the river Spey and signed the Covenant before going ashore. **1650**

23 - Singer Kenneth McKellar born. McKellar died of pancreatic cancer, at the age of 82 in 2010. **1927**

24 - The birth of Admiral Sir John Ross, Scottish Polar explorer. In 1818 he went in search of the Northwest Passage but turned back after exploring Baffin Bay. **1777**

24 - Robert the Bruce defeated Edward II at Battle of Bannockburn. **1314**



25 - David Douglas, explorer and botanist, born at Scone, Perthshire. In addition to

the Douglas Fir, he brought back to Europe lupins, phlox, penstemon, sunflowers, clarkia, Californian poppy, mimulus, flowering currant, rose of sharon and mahonia. **1799**

25 - Wallace statue unveiled at the Wallace National Monument, Stirling. **1887**

25 - Lord Boyd Orr, biologist and Nobel Prize Winner, died. **1971**

25 - Seven Scots, including John Stuart Forbes, were in the US 7th Cavalry with General Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. **1876**

25 - The first Sherlock Holmes story by Edinburgh-born author Arthur Conan Doyle was published in the *Strand* magazine. **1891**

26 - James IV crowned king at the age of 15 at Scone. He reigned until 1513 when he fell with the flower of Scotland's nobility at the Battle of Flodden Field. **1488**

26 - Darien Company formed to set up a Scottish colony in Panama. **1695**

26 - King George IV died, aged 67 (and William IV ascended the throne). George IV is reckoned to be Britain's fattest king. His favourite breakfast was two roast pigeons, three beefsteaks, a bottle of white wine, a glass of champagne, two of port and one brandy. **1830**

27 - King James VI (aged 8) escaped from Castle Ruthven. **1583**

27 - Robin Hall, Scottish folk singer and musician, was born. Hall achieved national fame in partnership with fellow Scot, Jimmie MacGregor, on the BBC TV show, *Tonight*. His hits included *The Mingulay Boat Song* and *Ye Cannae Shove Yer Grannie Aff a Bus*. **1937**

28 - Queen Victoria crowned at Westminster Abbey. **1838**

28 - Flora MacDonald and Bonnie Prince Charlie set sail from Benbecula to Skye. After Culloden, the Prince had a high price on his head. He came to Benbecula, and Flora helped him escape to Skye by disguising him as her Irish maid, Betty Burke. **1746**



28-29 - Bannockburn Live celebrated in Stirling. Commemorating the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn and celebrating the best of Scottish folk music, food and drink attracted visitors from around the world and was a key event of Homecoming 2014. **2014**

29 - Scottish actor Ian Bannen, was born. Bannen appeared in more than 60 British and American films. These include *The Flight of the Phoenix* (1965) for which he received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor. He died in 1999, aged 71. **1928**

30 - Start of trial for murder of Madeleine Smith who was eventually found "Not Proven". The daughter of a Glasgow architect, James Smith, this most eligible of society ladies was accused in 1857 of murdering her alleged former lover, Emile L'Angelier. **1857**

30 - James Loughran, Scottish conductor, was born in Glasgow. Loughran first came to notice when he won the Philharmonia Orchestra's Conducting Competition in 1961, and soon became principal conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. **1931**



Clan Montgomery Society International
Join a Thousand Year Tradition

Karen Montgomery, Secretary
2803 Kinnett Road
Bethel, OH 45106-9464
secretary@clanmontgomery.org



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ClanRossOfTheUnitedStates@gmail.com

Contact: L.O. Ross
185 S. Graham Ave
Orlando, FL 32803



Clan Sutherland Society of Australia

The Society welcomes membership of all bearers of the Sutherland name and any of their septs (Cheyne, Duffin, Funderth, Mowat for any variation of the spelling).

Marie Holkison
212 MacKenzie Street
Toowoomba, QLD
Queensland, Australia
e-mail: william.holkison@bigpond.com.au
http://goldenvale.wix.com/clansutherlandaus

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Clan Morrison Society of North America

Arthur G. Morrison
220 South Orchard Drive
Dunbar, CA 91506

Kimberly Mrkonc
Membership-Treasurer
PO Box 1007
Los Alamitos, CA 90720
www.clanmorrison.net

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



Clan Scott Society

Membership is invited from all descendants of the surname Scott; associated families Balwaine, Bucklew, Geddes, Harden, Laidlaw, and Langlands (however spelled); as well as those who have an interest in the heritage of the Middle March of the Borders of Scotland.

Clan Scott Society
PO Box 13021
Austin, TX 78711-3021
USA

Info@ClanScottSociety.org • www.ClanScottSociety.org



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The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

Founded at a meeting held in Sydney 18 June 1981 Welcomes membership from all Australians of Scottish descent.

Applications for membership can be obtained from:
The Hon Secretary, SAHC
Susan Cooke tel: 02 6255 6117
Email: ajfrida@bigpond.com
www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



Clan Munro Association, U.S.A.

We are the only national organization of Munro in the U.S.A. affiliated with the Clan Munro (Association) of Scotland.

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Write: Tim Sparkman
6895 Hundred Acres Drive, Cocoa, FL 32927



CLAN SCOTT AUSTRALIA GROUP

Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch K.B.E
Commissioner: Heather de Sylva

Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs: Balwaine, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.
Info: Secretary, PO Box 320, Mackoon, NSW, 2463

E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com
W: clanscottaustaliagroup.moonfruit.com



Clan WARDLAW Association
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Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org
Founded in 1905

Scottish Gaelic Choir:
Wednesdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm during school terms at The Kildara Centre, rear of 39 Stanhope Street, Malvern.

Language Class: Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:30 pm during school terms at the Celtic Club, Cnr Queen and Latrobe Streets, Melbourne.

Contact Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277
Email: scottishgaelicsocietyvic@gmail.com



Murray Clan Society of North America

Balweaves, Neaves, Dimsone, Dunsmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrin, Piper, Pypier, Small, Smale, Small, Smear, Spalding.

www.clanmurray.org

Stanley B. Fleming
515 Watt Street
Fergus, Ontario N1M 3K3

Robert W. Murray
803 Evergreen Drive
Wyomissing, PA 19619



Clan Shaw Society

Invites membership or inquiries from all Shaw, Ayson, Adamson, Esson, MacAy, MacHay, Shach, Sheach, Sheath, Seth, Seth, Skath, Scath and Shay.

Mike Shaw
Secretary
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020

Scottish Associations and Societies



Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

Promoter of International Tartan Day, Brisbane, Queensland
PO Box 3188, South Brisbane 4101
Bi-Monthly Newsletter, All things Scottish

All persons of Scottish Descent welcome. www.aussie-scots.org.au. Email: secretary@aussie-scots.org.au, Ph 07 3359 8195



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www.scottishtartans.org

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



Clan Sinclair Australia
Membership and enquiries from all Sinclairs, Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants

For further info contact

President Wayne Sinclair (03) 9873 4761	Secretary Liane Sinclair (03) 9348 2663
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E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com



Comann Gàidhlig Astràilia (The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a non-profit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels.

Ruanidh MacAonghais, Neach Cathrach (Convener)
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fion@ozgaelic.org
Web: www.ozgaelic.org
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235



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 3233, South Brisbane, BC, QLD, 4101, Australia. www.standrewsociety.com



Clan Pringle Association (North America)
Membership cordially invited from Pringle/Prindle descendants and other interested parties. www.clanpringle.org.au

William L. Pringle, III
e-mail: williampringle3@gmail.com
Clan Pringle Assoc. (North America)
6538 140th Ave., Holland, MI 49423



Clan Sinclair Association, Inc. (U.S.A.)
All Sinclairs and Septs invited to join: Sinclair, Sinclare, St.Clair, Sinkler

For further info contact

President Frederic John Inkster 1490 NE Kane Street Rosburg, OR 97470 email: csales@chartr.net	Membership Secretary Alta Jean (AJ) Ginn 12147 Holly Knoll Circle Great Falls, VA 22866 email: alja.ginn@verizon.net
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Daughters of Scotia

A 100 plus year old fraternal order for women of Scottish birth or descent or married to men of Scottish birth or descent whose purpose is to keep alive our Scottish heritage and customs.

For membership information contact:
Ms. Cynthia Ridings
Grand Recording Secretary
2566 Galloway Road
Blue Ridge, GA 30513
706-632-8510
cynthiar7@yahoo.com <http://www.daughtersofscotia.org>



St. Andrew's Society of Vermont

P.O. Box 484
Essex Junction, VT 05453

Invites membership inquiries.
David Campbell - President (802) 878-8663



Ross Clan in Australia
The clan is active again in Australia for information contact Commander Des Ross (By appointment David Ross Br Chief of Clan Ross and Balaogwan)

We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest contact Commander Des Ross at lonepiper.ross@gmail.com



Clan Skene Association, Inc.

Invites membership from Skene and septs Cariston, Carney-Carrie, Carhill, Dyas, Dyon, Dyon, Hall, Halyard/Halyard, MacGilliland, Rescoe, and Skans.

Derna Comp
President
103 Summers Alley
Summersville, SC 29485
Email: dker1927@yahoo.com



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Established 1905

Umbrella group representing the interest of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria.

Affiliated Clans & Societies for 2013-2014:

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Begonia City Highland Dancing Society	Glenbrae Celtic Dances
Brunswick Scottish Society	Honsham & District Highland Dancing Club
Clan Cameron	Kilmore Celtic Festival
Clan Donald Victoria	Maryborough Highland Society
Clan Grant	Morningside Peninsula Caledonian Society
Clan Lament Australia	Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
Clan Macdonald Vermont Inc	St Andrew's First Aid
Clan Mackenzie of Australia	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Clan Mackinnon Australia	The Royal Caledonian Society
Clan Sinclair Association	Warmanbood & District Caledonian Society
Glenmaggie Scottish Folk Festival	Warmanbood Caledonian Highland Dancing Society

Jan Macdonald, Secretary
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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 of the associated families: Cheyne, Duffin, Gray, Frederick, Mowat and Oghast.

AR Sutherland
P.O. Box 992
Salida, CO 81201
e-mail: arvz@fornagle.net



The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

Commemorative functions to honour the Scottish National Poet and world recognized bard and to study his poems, songs, writings and philosophy have been held continuously in Victoria since the arrival of the first permanent Scots in 1836. The current Robert Burns Club was established in 1990. The club became a member of the Robert Burns World Wide Federation in 1991 and has continuously functioned from that time. The objects of the club are:

Promote the works of Robert Burns
Celebrate Scottish Culture and Dancing
Conduct monthly Social Activities
Present an Annual Burns Supper

For membership information contact:
Secretary, Bev Tate: (03) 9743 5183
www.robertburnsclubmelbourne.com.au

The Scottish Banner speaks to Colin and Justin

The world of home renovations has never been more popular with home improvement shows helping people reach their home makeover goals. Two Scots taking the world by storm, one room at a time are interior decorators, authors and television presenters Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan. Colin and Justin took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney about Scotland's great architectural heritage, their exciting future and what drives them to create a magnificent makeover.



Scots dynamic duo Colin (left) and Justin (right).

SC: Colin and Justin thank you for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can we start by you telling us where in Scotland you hail from and how much time you still get to spend in Scotland today?

C&J: Colin is from Glasgow and Justin's from Fort William in the Highlands. Home is a 5 floor townhouse in the Kelvingrove Park district of Glasgow. Built in 1835, we still spend loads of time there and kind of commute to work in Canada and most recently Australia! Honestly, we spend as much time as we can in our beloved homeland – guess it's fair to say that Glasgow is home... but we're lucky that we can call Toronto, Canada, our gorgeous home from home!

SC: Glasgow is a city to which you both have a strong connection and, as a destination, it's architecturally stunning. What is it about Glasgow buildings that you find so special and what tips would you give visitors on the architectural gems they should witness whilst there?

C&J: Glasgow was the engine room of the British Empire: in its heyday it was a city that bred massive manufacturing and ship building, not to mention a thriving steel works industry. And of course there was lots of money and the traditional buildings in the city are testament to this rich heritage. There are so many hidden gems – the former Sheriff Court that's now an impressive bar and casino (called The Corinthian) the former office of the 'White Star Line', now a restaurant complete with plaster freezes of the ships, and of course The Kelvingrove Art Gallery where Dali's 'Christ Of Saint John of the Cross' painting is a must see!

SC: One of Glasgow's many gifts to the world is Charles Rennie Mackintosh the Scottish architect, designer and artist. Do you take any inspiration from his work and how important do you feel Charles Rennie Mackintosh remains today for Glasgow?

C&J: Charles Rennie Mackintosh really did put 'Glasgow style' on the map, and as an architect, designer and artist, he was the ultimate renaissance man. His Post- Impressionist and Art Nouveau designs have really stood the test of time: his work looks as clean and fresh today as it did back then. We regularly visit the House For An Art Lover in Bellahouston Park – it's

totally inspirational, so understated and gently decorated. Mackintosh makes us proud to be Glaswegian!

SC: 2016 is Scotland's Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design. How exciting is this for you that Scotland is celebrating these themes and does Scotland help inspire you with the work you now do around the world?

C&J: Scotland continues to reinvent and reposition itself, shaking off its industrial past in favour of creative and technological industries – you have to move with the times and Scotland certainly does that! This Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design is a chance to showcase the modern applications of traditional industries such as Harris Tweed, a fantastic cloth fabricator whose work we really admire. We're both hugely inspired by Scotland's past and by the way in which it makes its mark on the present and indeed the future.

SC: Scotland is full of some of the world's best historical buildings yet, as a country, it continues to push the envelope with new design such as Glasgow's Riverside Museum, Falkirk's Kelpies and Dundee's vision for the new V&A. Do you think Scotland keeps a good balance of protecting its past treasures with celebrating new design for our modern world?

C&J: There's such a rich and diverse heritage in the buildings of Scotland – from stately homes to loft apartments and grand old castles, our heritage is crucially important. As such, it's good to see Scotland caring for its historic buildings and the culture of modernizing but still retaining heritage. Notable buildings need to be cared for but also need a use in modern life. One of our favourite modern creations has to be The Kelpies by Andy Scott – there's an amazing time-lapse video of them being built on Youtube. It's a great film of an amazing installation and proof that Scotland continues to innovate and amaze .

SC: So many people put up with bad design or simply do not know what to do to make their homes better - what advice do you have for those wanting to improve their space if they don't know where to start?

C&J: Be ruthless and draw a line in the sand that says

'change starts today' – remove pieces you don't like, things that are broken, items of which you have duplicates and leave breathing space to showcase the things you really care about. And remembering our maxim should help: 'To fail to plan is to plan to fail' - load up a mood board/tear sheet with inspirational pictures of homes and colour schemes you like and make a plan to realize your dream.

SC: What excites you when beginning a new makeover project and what design trends do see for the future?

C&J: We're suckers for a 'before and after' – and time and time again fall for the transformation of dated home into redesigned perfection. It's just so satisfying to create livable homes – they're three dimensional artworks that change people's lives. Yup, we love our work! Making more of light continues to be a huge trend – we don't want to be shut indoors: connection to the outside is crucial. Most people, as we see it, want an open concept living/dining/kitchen space within which to entertain and share family time. Industrial style will continue to filter through though it's going to be less about exposed timber and pipework and more about using faux concrete and steel – it's time for a modern, industrial revolution!

SC: And finally, Colin and Justin, you both spend a great deal of time traveling, and have homes in Glasgow, London and Toronto. What's more you're also now also filming in Melbourne. What design features do you find either in common with or different to each city? And, after all that time on the road, what makes a good home unto which you can return?

C&J: What's amazing about our incredible planet is that in spite of some of our differences, we're all basically the same and want the same things – health, happiness and life satisfaction. Our goal is to step in when 'bad homes happen to good people' and sort them out. Call us your visiting Scottish style uncles...

Colin and Justin can be seen on Game of Homes in North American and Reno Rumble in Australia and New Zealand. For more information on this dynamic duo see: www.colinandjustin.tv, [twitter/colinjustin](https://twitter.com/colinjustin) or [instagram/colinandjustin](https://www.instagram.com/colinandjustin).



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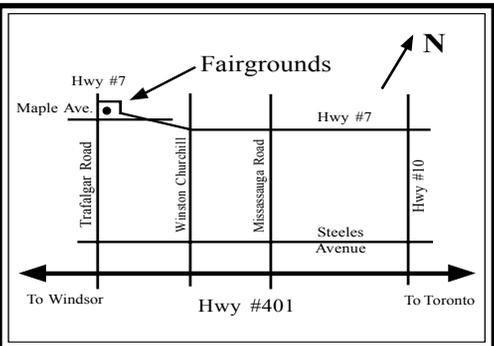
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ATM on site

www.georgetownhighlandgames.com

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Dundee Cake

Ingredients:

175g/6oz. softened butter, plus extra for greasing
 175g/6oz. soft light brown sugar
 3 tbsp. orange marmalade
 3 free-range eggs, beaten
 225g/8oz. self-raising flour
 25g/oz. ground almonds
 1 heaped tsp ground mixed spice
 400g/14oz. mixed dried fruit
 75g/3oz. glace cherries, halved
 2 tbsp. whisky or milk
 40g/1½oz. blanched almonds to decorate
 1 tsp granulated or caster sugar, to decorate (optional)

Method:

Preheat the oven to 150C/300F/Gas 2. Grease and double-line a 20cm/8in loose-based deep cake tin with greaseproof paper. Beat the butter and sugar in a food processor for 3-4 minutes, or until very light and fluffy. Add the marmalade and mix for a few seconds more. Slowly add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the flour, almonds and spices to the batter. Mix slowly until well combined, then stir in the mixed dried fruit and cherries with a large metal spoon. Add the whisky or milk and mix until well combined. Spoon the mixture into the cake tin, smooth the surface and carefully arrange the blanched almonds in circles on top. Bake for 1½-2 hours, or until well risen, firm and golden-brown. (Test the cake by inserting a skewer into the centre. If the skewer comes out clean, the cake is done.) Leave the cake to cool for 10

minutes then remove from the tin, peel off the lining paper and set aside to cool on a wire rack. Sprinkle with granulated sugar. Store in a cake tin and eat within 4-5 days.

Dundee Lamb Chops

Ingredients:

Four leg of lamb chops:
 75ml/2.5 fluid oz. or five tablespoons vinegar
 Half teaspoon ground ginger
 4 tablespoons marmalade
 4 slices orange for garnish
 60g/2 oz. or half stick butter
 75ml/2½ fluid oz. water
 Half teaspoon paprika
 Salt and pepper

Method:

You will need a frying pan with a heavy base and a close-fitting lid. First, brown the chops in the butter. Sprinkle the ginger, paprika, salt and pepper over the chops and add water and vinegar. Place a generous tablespoon of marmalade on the top of each chop. Bring to a slow simmer and cook for 45 minutes on a very low heat. If required, add a little extra water. Serve with a twist of orange on top of the chops and with boiled potatoes and fresh vegetables.

Rump steak, chips and béarnaise sauce

Ingredients:

For the steak and chips:
 vegetable oil, for deep fat frying
 400g/14oz. chipping potatoes, peeled and cut into batons 1x1x6cm/¼in x¼in x 2½in long
 4 x 250g/9oz. rump steaks
 salt and freshly ground black pepper.
 25g/1oz. butter

1 tbsp. olive oil
 2 handfuls mixed salad leaves
For the béarnaise sauce:
 2 tbsp. tarragon vinegar
 50ml/2froz white wine
 1 tsp white peppercorns
 1 small banana shallot, finely diced
 4 free-range egg yolks
 200g/7oz. butter, melted
 salt and freshly ground black pepper
 ¼ lemon, juice only
 2-3 tbsp. tarragon, leaves only, chopped

Method:

Heat the vegetable oil in a deep fat fryer to 160C/320F. (CAUTION: Hot oil can be dangerous. Do not leave unattended.) For the béarnaise sauce, place the vinegar, white wine, peppercorns and shallot into a small saucepan and bring to the boil. Simmer until the liquid has reduced by half. Remove the peppercorns, then pour the mixture into a medium heat-proof bowl. Add the egg yolks to the bowl and whisk well. Place the bowl over a pan of simmering water and whisk the eggs together until thickened and light in colour. Gradually add the melted butter, whisking constantly. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper and add the chopped tarragon leaves. Turn off the heat and leave the bowl over the pan until ready to use. For the steak and chips, place the potatoes into the fat fryer, a few at a time, and cook for 2-3 minutes, or until just tender but not coloured. Drain on a plate lined with kitchen paper and turn up the fat fryer to 190C/375F. Season the steaks with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Heat a frying pan until hot, add the butter, olive oil and the steaks and fry on one side for two minutes (without moving the steak), or until browned. Turn the steak over and cook for another two minutes, then remove the pan from the heat and leave the steaks to rest. Place the semi-cooked chips back into the fat fryer in batches and cook for another 2-3 minutes, or until golden-brown and crispy. Keep warm on a tray in the oven if necessary. To serve, carve the steak into thick slices, place onto plates and spoon the béarnaise sauce over. Pile some chips and salad leaves alongside.

Dundee Marmalade

Ingredients:

900g/2 lb. Seville or bitter oranges
 2 lemons
 8 cup water
 815g/4 lb. preserving sugar



Method:

Wash oranges and lemons, put whole, into large saucepan or preserving pan. Add water, cover, bring to boil, simmer 1 ½ hours until fruit can be easily pierced. When fruit is ready, remove, leave on plate to cool. Slice to required thickness, remove pips (pits) and add to juice, boil 10 minutes, strain. Add sliced fruit to juice, bring to boil, add sugar, stir over gentle heat until dissolved, Boil up rapidly without stirring for ½ hour or until setting point, about 108°C /220°F. A small spoonful on a cold saucer will 'wrinkle' when tilted if marmalade is cooked enough. Pour into warmed jars, cover immediately.

Marmalade Cake

Ingredients:

(US conversions in brackets):
 8 oz./one cup self-raising flour/all-purpose flour with baking powder
 2 beaten eggs
 3 oz./3 tbsp. caster sugar or granulated sugar
 4 oz./4 tbsp. margarine
 1 drop vanilla essence/extract
 2 tablespoons orange marmalade
 1 teaspoon orange rind, finely grated
 2 tablespoons milk
 Pinch of salt

Method:

Sift the flour and salt into a bowl and rub in the margarine until the mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar, half the orange rind and then add the eggs, marmalade, milk and vanilla. Mix well to achieve the consistency of thick batter. Grease a 6 inch round cake tin and bake in the centre of a pre-heated oven at 350F/175C/Gas Mark 4 for around one hour and twenty minutes until golden brown. If you have one, you can check with a skewer until it comes out clean. Sprinkle the rest of the orange rind on top and allow to cool for a few minutes before you turn out on a wire rack to cool.

Smartphones technology to help Orkney seals

Orkney seals are to receive mobile smartphone technology as part of a study into population decline in the area. The Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) at the University of St Andrews will conduct the three-year study. Marine scientists will attach telemetry tags harmlessly to the fur at the back of the heads of a number of seals. The scientists said the tags were lightweight

and would drop off when the seals moulted. The marine tags, which work in a similar way to smartphones, will use technology to send vital information from the seal when it surfaces or beaches directly back to SMRU for analysis. The technology is the same as that which is found in new cars, heart monitors and smart meters. Data will be gathered on a seals' location, dive behaviour and its oceanic environment.

The study by SMRU is being carried out at the request of the Scottish government and Scottish Natural Heritage which have concerns for the future survival of harbour seals in areas of Scotland. Harbour seals - one of two seal species in the UK - have declined in numbers by up to 90% in some areas in and around the north and east coast of Scotland, including Orkney, since 2000. Professor John Baxter, marine principal

adviser at Scottish Natural Heritage said: "This exciting, collaborative study is vital to help us to better understand the drivers of population." SMRU's deputy director Dr Bernie McConnell said: "Marine data collected during this project on Orkney will help to assess the causes, management and mitigation options in relation to the harbour seals decline and to prioritise future research directions."

SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

Having a Clan event? Know of a highland games? Know where the pipes will be playing? Let Scottish Banner readers know of Scottish events both near and far with the Scottish Banner events page.

Send us your community event, concert, meeting or anything with a Scottish twist! Please submit events either online at www.scottishbanner.com or email info@scottishbanner.com.

Please ensure you submit your event in the exact format we use below, events not submitted in this way cannot be guaranteed to be printed. Events will run both in print and online and is a free service.

CANADA

JUNE 2016

1 - 5 Perth-Andover, NB - The Gathering of the Scots

The premiere Celtic event in the Maritimes with bands, workshops and more. Info: (506) 273-6710 or www.gatheringofthescots.com.

4 East York, ON - Scottish Country Dancing Day

Come out and learn some dances in a fun and relaxed environment and you'll be ready for the next Ceilidh, 2:00-5:00 pm at Westview Presbyterian Church, 233 Westview Blvd. Info: gaelictoronto@gmail.com or Trish MacNeil at 226-792-7571.

9 - 12 Dawson City, YT - Top of the World Highland Games

Showcasing dancing, piping and drumming competitions. Heavy events such as caber toss, hammer throw, tug 'o' war and other special Yukon events will be featured. Info: (867) 993-3579 or www.topoftheworldhighlandgames.ca.

11 Grande Prairie, AB - 30th Annual Grande Prairie Highland Games

A full day of Scottish events at Macklin Field, 10117 - 93 St. Info: Janis 780-513-2492 or www.gphighlandgames.com.

11 Georgetown, ON - 41st Annual Georgetown Highland Games

A full day of Scottish events and entertainment. Info: www.georgetownhighlandgames.com

13 - 3 Winnipeg, MB - The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

More than 300 embroidered panels telling Scots stories of migration. Info: www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org

17 Cobourg, ON - Tug of the Tartans

Hosted by Cobourg Highland Games, come and cheer on your friends while listening to the Live Entertainment by The Busker Brothers and Madman's Window at Victoria Park. Info: www.cobourghighlandgames.ca

18 Coquitlam, BC - BC Highland Games and Scottish Festival

Scottish music, music, competition, food, children's activities, heavy events and more at Percy Perry Stadium, 1299 Pinetree Way. Info: www.bchighlandgames.com

18 Cobourg, ON - Cobourg Highland Games

Enjoy a wee bit of Scotland in Northumberland Hills at Victoria Park. Info: www.cobourghighlandgames.ca

24 - 26 Perth, ON - Perth's World Record Kilt Run & Marathon

2016 is the 200th Anniversary of Perth, Ontario. Perth's World Record Kilt Run has grand plans for a great celebration includes a Guinness World Record attempt. Info: www.perthkilt2016.ca.

25 Red Deer, AB - The 69th Annual Red Deer Highland Games

A full day of Scottish events at the Red Deer Titans Rugby Park. Info: www.reddeerhighlandgames.ca.

26 Edmonton, AB - Edmonton Scottish Highland Gathering

Piping, drumming, band, dancing and heavy event competitions. Scottish country dancing, Knights of the Northern Realm and sheep dog demonstrations. Scottish food, wares and more at Grant MacEwan Park, 3105 - 101 St. S.W. Info: www.edmontonsscottish.org.

30 - 7 Halifax, NS - The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo

The world's largest annual indoor show with bagpipes, bands, gymnastics, dancers, choirs, military traditions and much more. Info: 1-800-563-1114 or www.nstatattoo.ca.

JULY 2016

1 - 3 Kincardine, ON - Kincardine Scottish Festival

With 30 pipe bands, 200 Highland dancers and plenty of talented Celtic performers, enjoy the sights and sounds of Scotland on the shores of Loch Huron. Info: 1 888 232 7952 or www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca

1 Pugwash, NS - The Gathering of the Clans

With piping, drumming, highland dancing and more at Eaton Park. Info: 902-243-2946 or www.pugwashvillage.com.

1 Nationwide - The Scottish Banner 40th Anniversary

This month marks our 40th anniversary of monthly publication - thank you to all our readers, advertisers and friends who have helped get here! [#SB40](http://www.scottishbanner.com).

1 Embro, ON - Embro Highland Games

Piping, athletic and dancing competitions, vintage cars, Scottish clans and more. Info: www.embrohighlandgames.ca

2 - 3 East Selkirk, MB - 50th Annual Manitoba Highland Gathering

A weekend of colourful Scottish culture and heritage, arts and Sports and agriculture at Legacy Park, HWY 59 and PR # 212. Info: www.manitobahighlandgathering.org.

2 - 4 Summerside, PEI - The National Piping Centre & College of Piping Piping School & Workshops

A new festival of piping and drumming run in partnership with The National Piping Centre of Scotland and the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada at 619 Water Street East. Info: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk

3 - 10 Antigonish, NS - Antigonish Highland Games

Featuring competitions in piping, drumming, pipe bands, Highland dancing, Scottish heavy events, concerts, ceilidhs, Clan gatherings and more. Info: (902)-863-4275 or www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca.

3 - 8 Hamilton, ON - Ontario School of Piping and Drumming Gaelic Immersion 2016

Gaelic Immersion for beginners & intermediate/advanced levels at Mohawk College. Info: www.ospd.ca.

6 - 10 Winnipeg, MB - ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2016

Features the Canadian Highland Dancing Championships, and the ScotDance Canada Open Championships. Events also include Pre-Premier competitions and special events. Info: www.sdccs.ca

8 - 10 Almonte, ON - Almonte Celtfest

A fun weekend of Ottawa Valley and Celtic entertainment, in the natural amphitheater of Gemmill Park. Info: www.almonteceltfest.com.

9 Kinmount ON - The Kinmount Highland Games

Full day of Scottish events and fun at the Kinmount Fairgrounds. Info: 705-488-9954 or www.kinmounthighlandgames.com.

15 - 16 Cambridge, ON - Cambridge Highland Games

Bring your family and friends for a Scottish adventure full of entertainment and fun activities. Info: 519-740-4681 #7927 or www.cambridgehighlandgames.ca

15 - 17 Orillia, ON - Orillia Scottish Festival

Presented by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 34 Orillia. Info: 705 325 8442 or www.orillialegion.com.

22 - 24 Fredericton, NB - The New Brunswick Highland Games Festival

On the beautiful grounds of historic Government House, residence of New Brunswick's Lieutenant Governor, a full weekend of Scottish events. Info: 1-888-368-4444 or www.highlandgames.ca.

23 - 24 Vernon, BC - Okanagan Tattoo 2016

See hundreds of dancers, drummers, musicians, and singers of all ages and heritages on a single stage at Kal Tire Place. Info: www.okanagantattoo.ca.

28 - 31 Merritt, BC - Clan MacLeod North American Gathering 2016

Meet the MacLeod Chiefs, socialize, hear Celtic music, learn Gaelic, hear bagpipes, see Scottish dancing and learn more about our ancient Scottish heritage. Info: Dr. Don McLeod 250-378-4317 or www.mcleodcastle.ca.

29 - 30 Maxville, ON - Glengarry Highland Games

More than 50 pipe bands are put through their paces to decide the North American Pipe Band Championships, more than 200 dancers in the Highland Dance competition and heavy events. Info: 1-888-298-1666 or www.glengarryhighlandgames.com.

31 Montreal, QC - Montreal Highland Games

Brings together Montrealers of Scottish and all other backgrounds to celebrate Highland games, music and culture. Info: 514-842-2030 or www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca

USA

JUNE 2016

3 - 5 Lucas, KY - Glasgow Highland Games

Scotland in Glasgow, USA at 1149 State Park Rd. Info: 270-651-3141 or www.glasgowhighlandgames.com.

3 - 5 Ferndale, WA - Bellingham Highland Games

A Country Fair with Scottish Flair with something for everyone in the family at Hovander Homestead Park. Info: 360 647 8500 or www.bhga.org.

4 Wauwatosa, WI - Milwaukee Highland Games

At Hart Park, 7300 Chestnut St. With pipe bands, dancers, Scottish goods and more. Info: www.milwaukeekeescottishfest.com

10 - 11 Cheyenne, WY - Cheyenne Celtic Musical Arts Festival

This free festival is held downtown on the Cheyenne Depot Plaza to celebrate Celtic heritage and culture. Info: (307) 632 - 3905 or www.cheyennedepotmuseum.org.

10 - 11 Lehi, UT - Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Pipe bands, Highland dancing, Clans and more at Thanksgiving Point. Info: www.utahscots.org.

10 - 12 Toledo, OR - Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games

A celebration of Celtic culture which spans the seven Celtic nations at Memorial Field at NW "A" Street. Info: www.ncfng.com.

10 Greenbelt, MD - 2016 Braveheart Bash

All-you-can-eat-and-drink, live auction, silent auction, raffles, and a performance from MacMillan United Pipe Band at Martin's Crosswinds. Info: macmillanpb@gmail.com.

11 - 12 Blairsville, GA - Blairsville Scottish Festival

Music, dance, Clans and more at Meeks Park. Info: Chamber of Commerce 706-745-5789 or www.blairvillesscottishfestival.com.

11 Richmond, RI - Rhode Island Scottish Festival

A full day of Scottish fun at 78 Richmond Townhouse Rd. Info: www.riscot.org

16 - 19 Franklin, NC - Taste of Scotland Festival

A day of Scottish fun, dancers, games, Clans and more. Info: 727 424-8901 or www.tasteofscotlandfestival.org.

17 - 19 Colorado Springs, CO - The Pikes Peak Celtic Festival

Southern Colorado's largest Celtic event of the year at Memorial Park. Info: www.pikespeakcelticfestival.com.

17 - 18 Itasca, IL - 30th Annual Chicago Scots Scottish Festival & Highland Games

The Midwest's largest Scottish event, an extravaganza of activities & attractions - from the Caber Toss to the Highland Dance to the Dogs of Scotland, a family-friendly event at Hamilton Lakes. Info: 708 447 5092 or www.chicagoscotts.org.

18 - 19 Plymouth, CA - The Mother Lode Games & Gathering

Piping, athletics and more at Amador County Fairgrounds, 18621 Sherwood St, Plymouth, CA 95669. Info (530) 503-7424 or www.motherlodgames.com.

22 - 26 Winchester, VA - Virginia School of Piping 2016

Presented by The National Piping Centre, Glasgow with three days of classes, practice, and events, then 2 full days of workshops at Shenandoah University. Info: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk.

24 - 26 Beloit, WI - Midwest Scottish Weekend

Hosted by Chicago, Madison, and Milwaukee Scottish Country Dance Groups at Beloit College. Info: 262 679-8522 or midwestscottishweekend@gmail.com

25 - 26 Lakeville, CT - Round Hill Highland Games

New venue at Lime Rock Park for a 2-day highland games. Info: www.roundhill.org.

25 - 26 Palmer, AK - 35th Annual Alaska Highland Games

At the Alaska State Fairgrounds pipe bands, dancers, the IHGF World Heavy Events Championships and more. Info: www.alaskascottish.org.

25 - 26 San Diego, CA - San Diego Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of Clans

A full weekend of Scottish events at Brengle Terrace Park. Info: (760)726-3691 or www.sdhighlandgames.org.

JULY 2016

1 Nationwide - The Scottish Banner 40th Anniversary

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7 Linville, NC - COSCA 5th Annual Clan & Family Caucus

Of Scottish Clans & Associations at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games at 9:00am in the Evans Auditorium of Lees MacRae College. Info: www.cosca.scot.

7 - 10 Linville, NC - Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and Gathering O' Scottish Clans

A full weekend of Scottish events including Clans from across North America at MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain. Info: 828-733-1333 or www.gmhg.org.

9 - 10 Twin Cities, MN - Minnesota Scottish Harp Weekend

An annual event for harpers and music lovers in the Twin Cities metro. Info: 651 493-7904 or www.stephanieclaussen.com.

9 Prospect, ME - Fort Knox Scottish Tattoo

Featuring traditional Scottish bagpipers, precision marching bands and a patriotic salute to America at 740 Fort Knox Rd. Info: 207 469-6553 or www.fortknox.maineuide.com.

9 Eagan, MN - Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games

980 Discovery Rd with pipe bands, Scottish dancers, Clans and more. Info: (952) 470-6300 or www.mnscottishfair.org.

15 - 17 Belfast, ME - The 10th Maine Celtic Celebration

If you love all things Celtic, this family-oriented celebration features performances and activities for everyone: music, dancing, athletic competitions and games. Info: 207-338-2692 or www.mainecelebration.com.

Answers to Scotword on Page 6

ACROSS: 1 Bogs; 3 Suitable; 8 Axes; 9 Arbroath; 11 The Trossachs; 13 Regina; 14 Dancer; 17 Glamis Castle; 20 Discreet; 21 Broo; 22 Merchant; 23 Trek

DOWN: -1 Blantyre; 2 Glen Elg; 4 Unrest; 5 Tarmacadam; 6 Brash; 7 Echo; 10 Grandmarch; 12 Greenock; 15 Caterer; 16 Astern; 19 Laser; 19 Adam



CLO MOR FESTIVAL JULY - NOVEMBER

Visit the beautiful Isle of Lewis for a celebration of the achievements and innovations within the Harris Tweed industry.



FINDHORN BAY FESTIVAL 21 - 26 SEPTEMBER

A spectacular mix of theatre, exhibitions, live music, and art in the beautiful region of Moray in the Highlands.



THE MACKINTOSH FESTIVAL 1 - 31 OCTOBER

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Text and photos
by Marieke McBean

Isle of May - The Jewel of The Forth



Marieke McBean discovers how Vikings, smugglers and thousands of seabirds all share a love of the Isle of May in the Firth of Forth.



A feeding puffin on May.

Nothing is more magical than seeing your first puffin flapping about and landing in the sea next to you. The Osprey of Anstruther, an inflatable but very solid boat, takes visitors to the Isle of May on most days during the summer season. Leaving from Anstruther in Fife, it takes just over twenty minutes to make the crossing. Thankfully the skipper takes it easy; even on the way out to this magnificent island there is plenty to see. Seabirds fly all around and the occasional gannet dives into the water looking for fish. Gannets don't live on the island itself, but puffins on the other hand are abundant with about 46,000 pairs. This is interesting, as there were only a handful of these comical birds recorded on the island in 1959. The Isle of May is relatively small, measuring only around 1.5 km long and 0.5 km wide. It is largely uninhabited, apart from a handful of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) staff and volunteers living on the island to look after the wildlife.

Thousands of seabirds

Before landing on the island, the Osprey takes a trip around the island. This is where you will encounter thousands of seabirds nesting on the rugged cliffs. A constant noise is present; birds calling to each other and who knows, maybe shouting a warning about the approaching boat. At the height of the breeding season from May to July the Isle of May is home to around 200,000 seabirds including guillemots, razorbills, puffins, kittiwakes, shags and fulmars. Thousands of these birds enjoy nesting on the cliffs; a breath taking sight especially looking at it from below.

After a tour round the island visitors are allowed to step foot on land. During the breeding season this can be quite a challenge; right beside the path where



visitors arrive, hundreds of terns have their nests. This is not a problem in itself, but these feisty birds do not like people getting near them and they make this very clear by literally hitting passing people on the head. This dive bombing cannot be avoided, but if visitors put a stick or umbrella up in the air it can discourage the birds from getting near. Wearing a thick woolly hat combined with a hood is also a good idea... Things calm down once you reach the visitors centre, only a short stroll away from the jetty. Here you can find out more about the island, use the only toilet facilities on the island and leave behind any possessions you do not want to carry around.

Grey seals

There are a number of paths on the island which take you to the various places of interest. A map supplied by the ferry company helps you to find your way round. Visitors are being urged to stick to the paths, for their own safety and also that of the birds. Puffin burrows can collapse if someone unwittingly stands on them. Nowadays the Isle of May is most famous for its birdlife. However, the Isle of May is also the second largest east coast breeding colony of grey seals in Scotland. They are the third rarest species of seal in the world,

which makes this a very important place for these mammals. When exploring the island you cannot ignore the numerous birds you encounter on your way. However, people should not forget to look out for the archaeological remains telling us a little about what happened here in the past. Archaeologists have found artefacts such



The grey seal at home in the Firth of Forth.

At the height of the breeding season from May to July the Isle of May is home to around 200,000 seabirds including guillemots, razorbills, puffins, kittiwakes, shags and fulmars.

as pottery, flint arrowheads and a piece of stone axe on the island and these are believed to date back to the Bronze age, 2,000 BC. Nowadays visitors are able to see the remains of a priory first built here in the 12th century.

Vikings

Medieval records state that a religious community was first established on the island in the 7th century. It is said Vikings raided the island in the 9th century and in the 12th century King David I funded a priory here. Gradually the priory fell into disuse, but remained a popular destination for pilgrims during the early Medieval times. To this day people can visit "Pilgrim's Haven" on the south side

of the island. Nearby is the Pilgrims Well, which was reputed to cure people and create miracles.

In the 17th and 18th century people lived in a small village just south of the priory. The residents were reputed to live off smuggling, using the island's caves to hide their goods. They discouraged excise men to check out the caves by spreading rumours they were home to kelpies, Scottish water spirits that usually took the shape of a horse.

The Isle of May is home to Scotland's very first lighthouse. The initial design was simply a raised platform (12m high) with a beacon on it. Alexander Cunningham had it built in 1635. He got permission to start charging ships for providing the light and as a result he



was able to improve the light, raising the tower another 6m. The fire was fuelled by coal and worked well, until the light went out for two whole days in 1791. It turns out the resident lighthouse keeper, his wife and five children had died of suffocation. A baby and two assistant lighthouse keepers survived. From this moment, families looking after the lighthouse were required to stay in accommodation away from the lighthouse itself, thus preventing another tragedy.

Robert Stevenson

The Northern Lighthouse Board bought the island in 1815 and replaced the old lighthouse with a new, more modern one. It was designed by Robert Stevenson, the famous lighthouse engineer from Glasgow. The coal fire was discontinued and an oil light started keeping nearby ships safe. This lighthouse is still in use, now with an electric light in place. Although the Northern Lighthouse Board does not own the island anymore, they continue to look after the lighthouse. A signal station was built on the island during the First World War, warning allies of enemy vessels approaching. The Isle of May bird observatory was founded in 1934 and is now the oldest continuously run observatory in Britain. The island became an official National Nature Reserve in 1956 and NLB sold it to the Nature Conservancy Council (now SNH) in 1989. People continue to visit this island and admire its magnificent wildlife.

More information can be found on www.nnr-scotland.org.uk/isle-of-may.

Elgin Stones return home

Photo: ©Historic Environment Scotland



126 medieval carved stones have been returned to their original home at Elgin Cathedral by Historic Environment Scotland. Carved faces, plants and animals are being hoisted up into the cathedral towers to form part of an exciting exhibition that recently opened. The Elgin stones spent much of 2015 at Historic Environment Scotland's conservation centre in Edinburgh, being cleaned by expert conservators and studied by researchers. Now an immersive exhibition has been developed, telling the story of the cathedral and the people who built and used it. Elgin Cathedral has a dramatic history, surviving both devastating fire in 1270 and attacks by the Earl of Buchan in 1390 and Alexander, Lord of the Isles in

1402. After the Reformation this beautiful cathedral, sometimes known as 'The Lantern of the North,' lost its roof and fell into disrepair. Fiona Fleming, Interpretation Manager at Historic Environment Scotland, explained, "For many years, the carved stones lay buried amidst the ruins, until the 1800s, when Elgin shoemaker John Shanks became the first keeper and watchman of the cathedral. He began to clear away some of the rubble uncovering wonderful, crisp carvings that had been buried for centuries. By studying the stones we have been able to understand more about the cathedral's construction and development, its builders and benefactors, and what it might have meant to those who walked through its doors." For the first time in 20

years, visitors are now able to get up close to these remarkable stones, including Bishops' memorials and fragments of a 13th century rose window discovered during repair works in 1936. The displays will also explore the messages contained in the many carvings that embellished the medieval cathedral, from flora, fauna and funny faces to mystical beasts and heraldic motifs.

Elgin Cathedral

Elgin Cathedral is one of Scotland's most ambitious and beautiful medieval buildings. It was the principal church of the bishops of Moray. Begun in 1224, the cathedral was expanded after a fire in 1270 and further altered after an attack by Earl of Buchan in 1390 and Alexander, Lord of the Isles in 1402.

The cathedral is central to the history of the region, and carries evidence of that history. It lost its roof a few years after the Reformation, and the central tower collapsed in 1711. The fortunes of the neglected building began to change in 1807, when a 'drouthy [thirsty] cobbler' named John Shanks was appointed as keeper. One of his duties was showing visitors around. In the 1820s, this new visitor attraction was stabilised and partially repaired. The impressive collection of over 100 medieval stones in a new light in a new exhibition at Elgin Cathedral is now on. The effigy of Bishop Archibald brought back to its former glory with stunning light effects is one of over 100 medieval carved stones going on public display for the first time in 20 years. Come and explore the messages that might be contained within the stones – from moral lessons drawn from the wonders of nature, to hidden surprises and startling warnings against sin. Lorna Ewan, Head of Visitor Experience, Content and Learning at Historic Environment Scotland, said, "This is shaping up to be a fascinating exhibition, one which will bring the story of Elgin Cathedral to life for visitors. We've worked with academic experts to decode the messages within the carvings, and in partnership with Napier University on a wonderful lighting display to create a truly innovative exhibition for Scotland's year of Innovation, Architecture and Design. If you're planning your family outings for 2016, I'd highly recommend that a visit to Elgin Cathedral goes on the list."

£10m makeover for Palace of Holyroodhouse



The tourist area at the Palace of Holyroodhouse is to undergo a revamp as part of a £10m upgrade, the Royal Collection has announced. The outside space at Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh will be redeveloped as part of the major work due to start next year. The multi-million pound transformation, which includes a purpose-built learning centre, is aimed at improving visitor facilities, giving the public more choice and greater access to two of the Queen's official residences. Jonathan Marsden, director of the Royal Collection Trust, said: "People have been visiting the Palace of Holyroodhouse for centuries and now more than 1.5 million do so every year." He added: "We want everybody to have a proper sense of arrival, to be able to make choices about how they go about their visits. We will interpret the palaces and collections in new ways, open up new spaces to the public and we're going to create a purpose-built learning centre." The work will be funded by the Royal Collection Trust charity, which does not receive public funding, but generates its income from

admissions to official royal residences such as Buckingham Palace, Windsor and Holyroodhouse and The Queen's Galleries, and from the sale of gifts and chinaware in its shops. At Holyroodhouse a new family room will be introduced inside the palace, the storytelling of the state apartments will be improved and the Abbey Strand buildings, which sit just outside the palace gates, will be restored to house a learning centre. Redevelopment of the outside space, in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland, including the Holyrood Abbey, the grounds and forecourt, will aim to reconnect the palace to the city. The work will begin early in 2017 and should be completed by the end of 2018 with the residency remaining open to visitors throughout. The firm Burd Haward Architects, who worked at Sir Winston Churchill's family home, Chartwell, has been chosen as the lead designer for Holyroodhouse. The Royal Collection, one of the largest art collections in the world, is held in trust by the Queen as sovereign for her successors and the nation, but not owned personally by the monarch.

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