



North American Edition



the Scottish Banner

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Celebrating 40 years of publishing!

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The Banner Says...

40 years on!

The front page of this issue of *the Scottish Banner*, is one I never thought I would see. It announces it is the 40th Anniversary of this publication. When first we started publishing I never would have dreamed we would have continued to see such a long anniversary!

The first edition

I recall when printing our first edition back in 1976. Well! Just printing that issue seemed to take almost half a year. Living in Canada at the time, as I did, I thought starting such a publication for ex-pat Scots should first be presented at a Scottish event. A rather big Scottish event. But where? In those days we were just a Canadian distribution, so my choices were smaller than they would be today, distributing across Canada, U.S., as well as Australia and New Zealand. While choosing where to first distribute the publication, I compared the time of year (summertime). What happens then? Highland Games, of course.

The launch

The next question was - which one? After a quick study of those available to me, I decided Fergus Highland Games was one of the largest in Ontario and was also close to Toronto. Prior to making a final decision on this location, I called staff at the Fergus Highland Games to ensure I had their approval. Pleased with their answer I made plans accordingly. After a long and arduous press time, and with that first July edition finally printed, the morning of Fergus Highland Games gates opened up with myself at the entry gate handing complimentary *Scottish Banner's* out to those arriving inside the Games area. Of course, nobody had ever seen a Scottish newspaper in Ontario - unless it was imported, and so everyone had the same question. "What's this?" they asked. When told it was a newspaper for ex-pat Scots, they looked at me scornfully. "No such thing", they said. "Maybe for the English. Not for us Scots". I responded by urging them to take a copy to see for themselves. After looking at *the Banner* for a moment they walked away quietly. It was simply that- all day long. When it was over I knew it was too early to see how it had really gone. For that I would have to wait and see. Fortunately my answer was not long in coming back to me.

The Scottish Banner takes flight

Monday morning the phone in the office started ringing before 7am - unusually early for us. It continued all day long reminding myself to order more than the two lines I currently used. I also needed help to answer phones, as I was overwhelmed with the amount of activity in the office that day. These calls were mainly subscription requests, advertising enquiries were very popular also, certainly two things I needed. I was

taken by surprise by the activity of the office after only one Highland games - yet, I reminded myself, I planned on attending many more -and so I had to be ready. Driving home from the Games that Saturday night I was both elated and exhausted. I thought the day had been a success and after meeting more people than I ever imagined possible, had many positive comments on the publication, I felt *the Scottish Banner* had won the day. Yet, in spite of the success of that memorable day, new concerns were already being considered. A second issue now had to be worked on. Distributors had to be met. Writers needed to know deadlines for the next issue. Also, unlike before, the phones in the office were now ringing off the hook-not only from subscribers, but also advertisers and, just simply, curiosity seekers. Suddenly the office had come 'alive', and I was increasingly concerned about how the next issue would ever get to press. On time? Yes, of course it did. As have hundreds of other issues ever since.

Those early days

Those early days were full of surprises. I could never have dreamed how many people I would meet, either physically, by telephone, or through the mail after being introduced through *the Banner*. To my amazement some of these were very famous names, while others were well-wishers who simply wanted *the Banner* to succeed. Letters came from across Canada, U.S.A and Scotland itself. I particularly recall one letter from Scotland not long after we first started printing. The writer informed us that he had just discovered *the Scottish Banner*, which he enjoyed greatly. He also wondered if we would be interested in an article from him? I continued reading through the letter. When I read the name of the writer I was shocked. It was none other than Nigel Tranter. I held the letter thoughtfully, while looking at his name. I reminded myself this man's name has gone down in Scottish writing history - where it will remain for many years to come. Of course, I was thrilled to respond positively to his suggestion. Shortly thereafter Nigel was writing a monthly column for *the Scottish Banner*, which was very happily received by both myself and our readers. Sadly this great man left our world in the year 2000. Yet while he was here, we were proud to call him a *Banner* writer. He was a man who, through his many novels 'lived' the lives of all the kings of Scotland, as well as notables including William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, and others. When speaking to me one time Nigel advised, "The problem is the next stage". When I questioned this he responded by saying, "Well, that is when I will meet the people I have been writing about. They will question me by asking 'What is that you wrote about me, eh?.....' Nigel was more than

By: Valerie Cairney



a gifted writer, he was one of Scotland's finest sons, and is missed today not only by us, but many thousands around the world. Who recalls that old radio programme *Life with the Lyons*, back in the 50's. As the Scots maid in the Lyons family, Molly Weir delighted listeners with her weekly programmes about a Scot living life with an American family while in the U.K. Molly also became a *Scottish Banner* writer later, whose articles were a great success with readers.

Today's Scottish Banner writers

Today we have still other wonderful writers. A true and good friend for many years Lady Fiona MacGregor has blessed our pages with interesting articles for some time. As I write I understand she and husband Sir Malcolm are currently in Australia. My good wishes go to them on their journey. In spite of living in Australia, Jim Stoddart brings his many years of Scottish upbringing into *the Banner* pages each month, and is much appreciated. I must also mention *What's In A Name* columnist, Ron Dempsey, who is the longest running columnist of all. We are fortunate to have contributions from across three continents giving a true Scottish global outlook from a diverse range of writers and media partners. Yes, my forty years with *the Banner* has given me an interesting and varied way of life, meeting many interesting and famous people many of whom I might otherwise never met. Royalty seems to have visited Ontario in the mid-70's more so than today. I recall visiting the Royal Yacht Britannia and chatting with the Queen while on board. I found Her Majesty such a warm, genuine, and comfortable lady to speak to, that when she spoke so highly of her Scottish grandmother, I had to remind myself that she was actually speaking of Queen Victoria. Of course there have been many, many, deadlines, with many (but not all), having been met.

A world class publication

When my son, Sean graduated from university, many years ago he toured the world to decide where he wanted to live. I was thrilled when he took *the Scottish Banner* to Australasia for distribution there. In doing so he has become a huge help to me here in North America. *The Banner* helps us keep a little closer - in spite of many miles between us. My thanks to you - our readers, advertisers and friends for bearing with us for these many years. Today you are more than *Scottish Banner* readers - you, like Sean, are family we visit once a month, and just like other family we know you are always there - as part of us. Finally, I would like to thank the many people who have sent us congratulatory messages on page 3, 14, 17 and helping to celebrate this anniversary. They include many close friends and warm memories, thank you all.

Gracing our front cover: Happy birthday to us! Thank you to all our readers, advertisers and friends for your support.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

4th May, 2016.

Dear Mr. Cairney,

I have been asked to thank you for the kind letter you have sent on behalf of the Scottish Banner Newspaper, on the occasion of your Fortieth Anniversary.

The Queen was most interested to be reminded of the role of the publication in providing a network for Scottish individuals and communities around the world.

Her Majesty appreciated your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, sends her best wishes and congratulations to all concerned in your notable anniversary year.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Sandamas
 Chief Clerk to The Queen

Mr. Sean Cairney.



PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE

July 2016

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the staff and readers of the *Scottish Banner* on its 40th anniversary of publication.

Since its launch in 1976, the *Scottish Banner* has become a trusted monthly publication for Scottish expatriates and others with an interest in Scottish culture and traditions. The newspaper provides readers with a unique mixture of news, information and opinion from writers and contributors in Canada and around the world.

I would like to commend everyone involved in the production of the newspaper for your commitment to preserving Scottish heritage in Canada. Canadians of Scottish descent have played an important role in every aspect of our nation's development. Our first two prime ministers, notably — Sir John A. Macdonald and Alexander Mackenzie — were born in Scotland. I only have to look to my late grandfather, James Sinclair, born in Banffshire, to see the strong Scottish influence in my own family tree, like that of many Canadians.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable anniversary and continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
 Prime Minister of Canada



Prime Minister

Prime Minister John Key:
Message to The Scottish Banner

Congratulations to the Scottish Banner as you celebrate 40 years of monthly publication.

This is a significant milestone, and I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your service over the past 40 years in keeping New Zealand's Scottish community informed.

New Zealand is proud of its strong Scottish heritage. This year we welcomed the spectacular Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo to our country for only the second time. It's clear from the popularity of this event that Scottish culture is alive and well in New Zealand.

Best wishes for the celebrations and for the years ahead.

Rt Hon John Key
 PRIME MINISTER



PRIME MINISTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

**THE SCOTTISH BANNER
 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

Australians have always had a special place in their hearts for the Scottish, because we share such a strong and enduring history.

Migrants from Scotland have greatly influenced the evolving story of our nation, and were particularly critical to the making of early colonial society.

Three of the first six governors of New South Wales were Scots, among them the ambitious and visionary 'Father of Australia', Lachlan Macquarie.

Early Scottish explorers were instrumental in the development and mapping of our land, and others, motivated by the civic and intellectual traditions of Scotland, became leading social reformers.

At the same time, Scottish folk music inspired some of our most loved bush ballads and verse, including Australia's unofficial national song, *Waltzing Matilda*.

As our nation has grown and prospered, Australians of Scottish heritage have been prominent or foremost in every phase of our social, cultural, economic and political development.

They have found success at the highest echelons of their fields, including as Prime Ministers, Premiers and Governors-General. We also have Scotland to thank for many of our most renowned artists, musicians, writers and sports men and women.

Today, there are more than 1.8 million people of Scottish ancestry living in Australia, and our nation retains a strong affinity for Scotland and all things Scottish.

I pay tribute to the Scottish Banner for upholding this proud legacy by keeping readers connected with Scottish culture and tradition. I wish you many more editions to come.

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
 Prime Minister of Australia

6 May 2016



First Minister of Scotland

I am delighted to extend my congratulations to *the Scottish Banner* as it celebrates its 40th year of publication. Scotland has a hugely engaged ex-pat community and *the Scottish Banner* offers them a valuable resource for Scottish news, views and information about Scotland's heritage. It truly is a link to Scotland for people across the world and I wish them well for the next 40 years of publication!

Nicola Sturgeon
 First Minister of Scotland



THE WHITE HOUSE
 WASHINGTON

June 1, 2016

I send my regards as you celebrate your organization's 40th anniversary.

Throughout the American story, each generation has continued the unending work of building a better future and making our Nation more just and more equal. By joining in a spirit of common purpose and contributing to shared progress, you are helping drive America forward. As you reflect on your achievements, I hope you take pride in the difference you have made in the lives of others.

Congratulations on all you have accomplished. I wish you the very best in the years ahead as you continue working to forge an ever brighter tomorrow.



OzScot Highland Dancers shine at the Virginia International Tattoo



April this year was the 20th year of the Virginia Arts Festival and attending the Virginia International Tattoo were OzScot Highland Dancers, Australia's premier international Highland dance team. Showcasing Highland dancers from all the States and regions of Australia, the OzScot dancers enjoyed the Tattoo with shared memories and amazing interactions with artists, young people and the community of Norfolk and its surrounding districts. This year was a celebration of the diversity of many cultures captivated by the music and colourful showmanship of nearly 1,500 performers from eight allied and partner nations. As Producer/Director Scott Jackson explained "We do Tattoos with a sense of adventure, with friends, with respect for those who serve, with the exuberance of youth, with tears in our eyes, and smiles on our faces, with heroes among us, and to the sound of pipes and drums. All this is so true, and OzScot was part of this amazing journey." Other performers

included Canada's 8 Wing Trenton Royal Canadian Air Force Pipes and Drums, the Top Secret Drum Corps from Switzerland, from Scotland the Inveraray and District Pipe Band and the Police Scotland Fife Pipe Band and North Carolina's Wake & District Pipe Band played along with many US bands and vocalists. Other Australian contingents in the Tattoo were 51 ACU Swan Regiment Drums and Pipes from Girrawheen, Western Australia (WA) and the Presbyterian Ladies College Pipe Band from Perth, WA who were joined by more international performers.

Blending of music and styles

OzScot enjoyed a very successful season with the Virginia International Tattoo for 2016, which was also OzScot's 20th event with a team of 32 dancers from all over Australia. With the choreography reflecting OzScot's unique blending of traditional highland dance steps with contemporary movements displaying exactitude and

precision, the dancers performed to a great blending of music and styles from across the waters. Renewing the strong bond enjoyed by OzScot with solo pipers from Scotland, Canada and the USA, in addition to the USA Navy Band and the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Virginia Tattoo. The Director and Production team loved working with the OzScot Highland Dancers and OzScot were told that they were their best dance act, and the pipes, drums and dancers scene were the best ever in their 20 years which was great feedback for the OzScot group.

Great ambassadors

The OzScot dancers participated in educational programs at schools and a book store, storytelling, interacting with students and dancing. A demonstration also took place in a local shopping mall, all part of the dancers commitments at the Festival, with questions on Australia being prominent in all these sessions The OzScot dancers proved to

be great ambassadors for highland dancing and Australia. The team as always was from as far north as Cairns, all the way down the east coast of Australia to Launceston in Tasmania, and across to South Australia and Western Australia. Teachers should feel proud of their dancers achievements in representing their studios and Australia. Dance Director Cheryl Roach OAM said that this team was a new group of dancers, and the dancers worked hard to pull together as a team. Support was great from dance assistant Elizabeth Barling and team assistant Wendy Dean who kept the families at home up to date on the teams progress during the festival with some great photographic shots and videos of the dancers. It was also a special time for Lead Dancer Esther Dean from Bathurst, NSW. Esther met David, a Marine in the Guard at the Tattoo In Virginia whilst dancing in 2013 and this year Esther and David became engaged. So perhaps the saying "Virginia is for Lovers" might be true?

Pipeathon World Record



Congratulations to Scots piper Rikki Evans for officially making into the *Guinness Book of World Records*. Rikki's entry is as follows: The longest marathon playing bagpipes is 26 hr 5 min 32 sec and was achieved by Rikki Evans in Glasgow from 12 to 13 August 2015. Rikki used his record attempt to raise money for several charities. His "Pipeathon" took place at The National Piping Centre in Glasgow, UK, during Piping Live!

Rikki has been able to raise £7805.65 which will be split between 5 Scottish charities: The Gordon Duncan Memorial Trust, Clan Cancer Support – Aberdeen, Portlethen & District Pipe Band, The National Piping Centre and Northsound Cash For Kids. Rikki said: " I still think it is mad that I appear in the *Guinness Book of Records* and even more so that it was the first piping record to appear in the book. Who knows I might just try and beat my own time in a few years if no one else is crazy enough to attempt it". Rikki was featured in the November issue of *the Scottish Banner* and we think all our readers will join us in congratulating Rikki on this outstanding effort.

Scottish explorer's words set in stone



Tom Weir one of Scotland's great explorers.



The written word of one of Scotland's most iconic countryside explorers, authors and broadcasters, Tom Weir, have been brought to life by an Historic Environment Scotland (HES) apprentice stonemason and chiseled into stone. Apprentice Lara Townsend was tasked with letter cutting a series of quotes drawn from Weir's collection of articles, which

featured in the *Scots Magazine* more than 50 years ago. Describing the wonders of Loch Lomond, Weir's words were carefully marked out, cut and painted by Lara and Traditional Skills Officer Stephen Townsend onto two large, locally sourced slate slabs. The completed slabs are now set to feature in Tom and Rhona Weir's Mountain Garden on Loch Lomanside. This memorial garden project, named in honour

of the late Tom Weir, who was best known for his red toorie hat and popular *Weir's Way* television programme, is the latest addition to the Tom Weir's Rest and Statue site. The garden marks the completion of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs' £130,000 memorial project. It was officially opened to the public in April by Weir's widow, Rhona, alongside actor, US National Park ambassador and John Muir impersonator Lee Stetson. The garden features a range of typical mountain plants, as well as a selection of stones and rocks collected from the nearby Highland Boundary Fault which runs through Loch Lomond. Stephen Townsend, Traditional Skills Officer at Historic Environment Scotland, said: "The creation of this memorial garden is a fitting tribute to Scotland's most loved mountain man. It's been a truly unique project for Lara and myself to be involved with from the beginning to the end. Her letter cutting work looks fantastic, and will be a wonderful permanent reminder for visitors of Weir's love for the great Scottish outdoors." The project was led by the Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and the Tom Weir Memorial Group. Tom and Rhona's Mountain Garden is located next to the Tom Weir statue overlooking Balmaha Bay.

Pipes oot for the Scottish Banner!

As *the Scottish Banner* celebrates our 40th anniversary with this issue we thought it would be great to re-print the piping tune *the Scottish Banner*. The music for *the Scottish Banner* piping tune was penned by long time subscriber Pipe Major William "Jock" Gall of Tea Gardens, NSW, Australia in honour of our 30th anniversary and we feel still sounds great today! Thank you again Jock for this kind honour and gift.

The Scottish Banner - (A' Bhratach Albannach)

March Pipe Major Wm Gall-2005

A Scottish newspaper that keeps all ex-Pats in touch with all things Scottish.

Free Wi-fi to be rolled out across the Scottish capital



Free Wi-Fi will be rolled out across the centre of Edinburgh to encourage visitors to stay in the city for longer and to make Edinburgh one of the best-connected cities in Britain. It is hoped the scheme will encourage residents and visitors to stay longer, spend more money in the city centre and save cash on their mobile data plans. Councillor Frank Ross, the local authority's digital champion, said: "This is great news as everyone will be able to get free access to the latest information on their favourite apps and websites while they are out and about. It will be particularly beneficial for the millions of residents and visitors who enjoy our festivals each year. This project is central to the council's plans for growing the city economy, and encouraging residents and visitors to stay longer and increase their spend." The connection will be rolled out in a phased basis over summer and autumn. Free Wi-Fi has already been rolled out on all trams and Lothian Buses, as well as in just under 70 key public buildings.

Bannockburn's Big Dig



One of the most popular public archaeology events in Scotland has returned in June. Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland ran its popular Bannockburn Big Dig event in the lead up to the 702nd anniversary of the battle. Robert the Bruce and Edward II's armies clashed at Bannockburn on 23 and 24 June 1314 in a battle over Stirling Castle. Debate still rages over the exact location of the battlefield and to date, little archaeological evidence has been found from the period. The charity was searching for evidence that can help pinpoint where Robert the Bruce's army camped ahead of the 1314 battle. It is said that Bruce raised his standard on the night before battle on the spot where the Rotunda now stands. The

The site has long been a place where people have gathered to remember the events of 1314 and the many who fell there. Over the years, the monuments – the historic flagpole, memorial cairn, rotunda and Robert the Bruce statue – have been placed to commemorate the thousands who died there in battle.

Battle of Bannockburn Property Manager, Scott McMaster said: "These grounds are believed to be where Robert the Bruce and his army camped before the main action of the two day battle, but so far we don't have

much archaeological evidence to back up this theory. We're hoping that many hands will help us in this exciting search to shed new light on this important historic event."

The events of 1314

The first Big Dig event in 2013 was one of the biggest archaeological digs to take place in Scotland, with hundreds of volunteers getting involved in the search for the place where the battle was fought 700+ years ago. The search, which involved with Glasgow University's Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, Stirling Council, GUARD Archaeology Ltd and BBC Scotland, featured in the BBC's 2014 programme, *The Quest for Bannockburn* with Dr Tony Pollard and Neil Oliver. Bannockburn has been in the care of the National Trust for Scotland since the 1930s. The site has long been a place where people have gathered to remember the events of 1314 and the many who fell there. Over the years, the monuments – the historic flagpole, memorial cairn, rotunda and Robert the Bruce statue – have been placed to commemorate the thousands who died there in battle. These were sensitively and expertly restored for the 700th anniversary of the battle in 2014. An award-winning visitor centre also opened in 2014, bringing medieval warfare to life for visitors using Hollywood-calibre 3D technology.

For further details see:
www.battleofbannockburn.com.

Muirfield Golf Club votes not to accept women members



Muirfield Golf Club has been stripped of the right to hold the Open Championship after voting against allowing female members. The vote by 750 of Muirfield members fell short of the two-thirds majority required for women to become members of the club the first time in its 272-year history. A ballot of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, which runs Muirfield, fell 14 votes short of the two-thirds majority required for a rule change. Members of the all-male Scottish golf club who backed a campaign to exclude women from joining their club cited female members questioning "lunch arrangements" as a reason why they should remain banned. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club, as organisers of golf's oldest major, reacted strongly to the vote by stripping Muirfield from again hosting the British Open until such time women are allowed to become members of the club located east of Edinburgh, Muirfield first held the British Open in 1892. Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon acknowledged the "encouraging" majority of members who voted in favour of admitting women, but she labelled the result of the ballot "indefensible."



SCOTSPEAK

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

"We agree that there is no place like it. The park's stunning lochs, glens and hills is a precious, unique environment with many hidden gems and rare species to discover, and our many bustling villages have wonderful craft shops and offerings of local food and places to stay. Our 2015 survey showed 44 per cent came to the park for activities related to food and drink."

Gordon Watson, Chief Executive of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, said as the park was named one of the top beauty spots in Britain. The park was established by the Scottish Parliament in 2002, covers an area of 720 sq. miles. Its Munros (mountains over 3,000ft) include Ben Lomond, Ben Lui and Ben More while it is crossed by the West Highland Way. It also has 57 designated special nature conservation sites.

"Excavations in the 1970s revealed the plan and history of a Roman fort. The bath house and latrine discovered at that time are now on public display, and are an important part of the Antonine Wall world heritage site. We were very fortunate to discover sewage in a ditch, which was analysed by scientists at Glasgow University and demonstrated that the soldiers used wheat for porridge and to bake bread, and possibly to make pasta. It also told us that they ate local wild fruits, nuts and celery as well as importing figs, coriander and opium poppy from abroad, and that they suffered from whipworm, roundworm and had fleas."

Archaeologist Professor David Breeze said that excavations of a large Roman fort in Bearsden, Glasgow, have provided a rare insight into how Roman soldiers lived in Scotland nearly 2000 years



Photo: Network Rail.

ago. The Bearsden fort was abandoned around AD162, when the Romans withdrew south to Hadrian's Wall.

"These are fantastic news for the region, further justifying the decision to bring a railway line back to the Borders for the first time in over 40 years. The reintroduction of a rail service to the Borders is opening up communities in the south east of Scotland as new places to live, work and visit."

Scottish Transport minister Humza Yousaf said that almost 700,000 trips have been made on the new Borders railway in its first six months of operation. When the line opened last year it restored train services to the Borders for the first time since 1969. The Queen officially opened the railway line, which runs from Edinburgh to Tweedbank in the Borders, last September on the day she became Britain's longest-serving monarch.

"Smarter Aberdeen is part of our vision for the city, we have a massive regeneration programme above ground and it is equally important we look to deliver our digital

strategy at the same pace. This will ensure Aberdeen is one of the smartest cities in the UK, if not Europe, and transform the lives of the people who live and work in the city."

Aberdeen City Council leader Jenny Laing said that the Granite City could be the first place in Scotland to roll out driverless buses under ambitious plans to revamp the city. In a focus to make Aberdeen "one of the smartest cities in the UK", the buses could be on the road within the next five years as part of major plans to transform the city centre for the digital age.

"We are aware that a shadowy woman has been spotted around the centre and we are taking the sightings extremely seriously. We have reached out to local experts in the field of paranormal activity, who will hopefully be able to shed some light on the matter."

A Silverburn Shopping Centre spokesman said as a sighting of an apparition, said to be a woman dressed in all-black period clothing, have been reported four times at the Pollok, Glasgow centre by customers and staff.

"They have done a good job here. I have given them a little bit of help on how it should be, to tell it how it was. Peterhead is pretty well known all around the world and I think people will be interested to come here. People like this sort of thing. People go to Inverary Jail... they go to Alcatraz... why not Peterhead?"

Former Peterhead Prison officer Jackie Stuart said as the notorious Aberdeenshire prison is now one of Scotland's newest tourist attractions. Dubbed Scotland's Alcatraz, H. M. Convict Prison Peterhead was one of the UK's hardest prisons over its 125 year history. Today the

Aberdeenshire venue has reopened to the public as the Peterhead Prison Museum.

"At a time when wildlife is being abused all over the world, killing for fun is surely sacrilege. Grouse are the targets, but animals are snared, birds of prey are poisoned, and moorlands are damaged and degraded. This is nothing more than bringing death to country life."

Bill Oddie, a veteran TV naturalist said as a campaign to ban Scottish landowners from mass shooting grouse on sporting estates is now backed by over 10,000 people, conservationists and animal welfare groups. The move comes in the wake of mounting concern about the illegal poisoning or shooting of birds of prey. Birds are killed in order to protect grouse so that there are more available to be shot for sport.

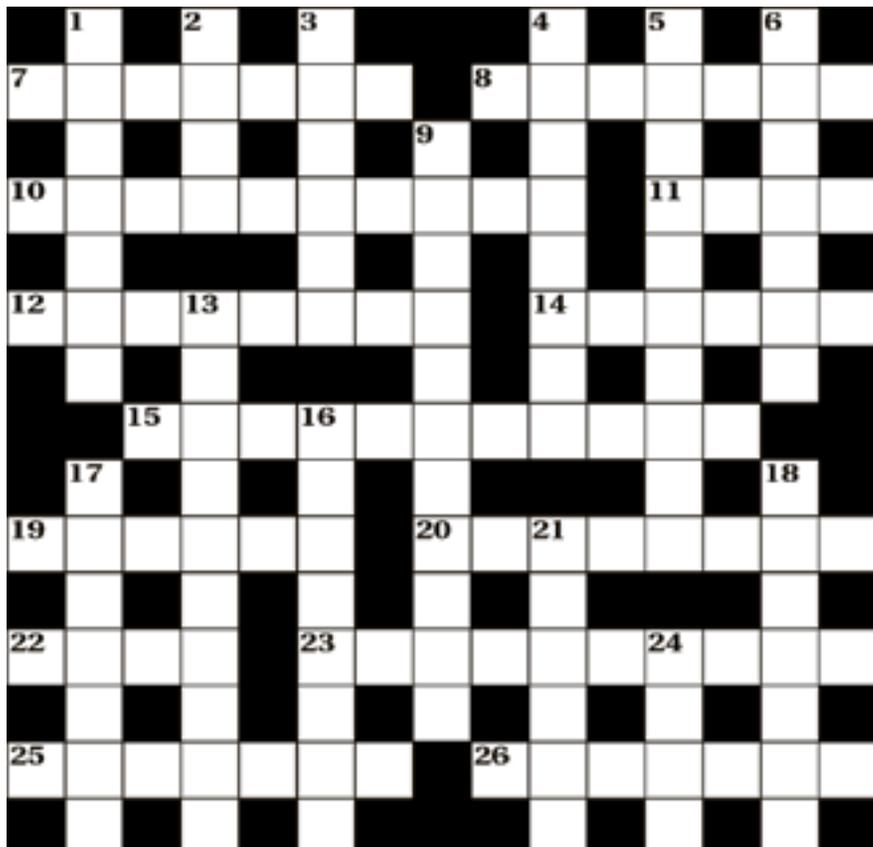
"These people pre-date Robert the Bruce and were alive when Henry III was on the English throne - it is fascinating to think that we could get a glimpse into their world and to consider how Aberdeen has changed through the centuries.

The analysis that is being done will provide a unique insight into the people that have lived right here in Aberdeen centuries ago. It is all the more special to think that they are our forefathers."

Aberdeen City Council Leader, Councillor Jenny Laing, said as a project is being launched to piece together how a mass haul of medieval skeletons would have looked around 750 years ago. The skeletons were found in the Aberdeen city centre earlier this year and a bronze cast of the impressions could become the centrepiece to Aberdeen's new art gallery complex, due to open in 2017.

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 24!



CLUES ACROSS

- 7) Scots wind instrument (7).
- 8) Top accommodation (7).
- 10) Not discouraged (10).
- 11) They're often even! (4).
- 12) Talks nonsense (8).
- 14) Not celebrated (6).
- 15) Second city holiday (7, 4).
- 19) River near Kilsyth (6).
- 20) Where Hamish MacBeth is filmed (8).
- 22) Formed for Scottish Country Dancing (4).
- 23) Lairds (10).
- 25) Places of recreation (7).
- 26) Patterned Scottish footwear (7).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Carefully to a Scot (7).
- 2) A kirk recess (4).
- 3) An orb (6).
- 4) Top skin complaint! (8).
- 5) Witch's transport! (10).
- 6) A learner (7).
- 9) Scottish battlefield (11).
- 13) Logie Baird's invention (10).
- 16) Scotsmen's vests (8).
- 17) A young hare (7).
- 18) Top folk group (7).
- 21) Scents (6).
- 24) Bay to the south of Aberdeen (4).

Scottish Banner new look web site

It's our birthday and as a present to our readers we are proud to be offering a new look web site. Click on www.scottishbanner.com for up to the date Scottish events listing, samples of the current issue, and more.

Add *the Scottish Banner* to your browser favourites and connect with us 24/7 at: www.scottishbanner.com



DID YOU KNOW?

- This is the 480th edition of *the Scottish Banner*.
- The lion that appears on our cover each month takes inspiration from the Lion Rampant flag but was reversed on purpose to look into our title and mast head with each issue.
- *The Scottish Banner* opened its first office in Canada in 1976 and first office outside of North America in 1998.
- *The Scottish Banner* website lists one of the most comprehensive international Scottish events listings in the world. This month a new look web site is being launched, come see us at www.scottishbanner.com

KINGS CASTLES AND “DURTY” WEE RASCALS

Australian Jim Stoddart who 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.



Only authors write books

If I had ever met and been able to speak to my maternal great grandfather, I do know the very first question I would have asked him. It would have been, “why didn't you keep a diary and tell us something about your life and work when you went to live in the depths of the Amazon jungle in 1863.” I can, in turn, just about guess what his answer would have been. He would undoubtedly have said, “Och, Jim, only authors and important people write books and I was no author; I was just an ordinary working man, a coppersmith by trade.”

Who Do You Think You Are?

And he would have been right. The autobiographies in the bookshops are usually written by exceptional people about their very interesting lives and the biographies about people who get caught up in extraordinary events. If not, they are about talented celebrities and, at worst, about the rich and famous with or without any worthwhile attributes. The descendants of all of them are, nevertheless and often by accident, made very fortunate. They are provided with a valuable record about some part of their ancestry because their ancestors, the rich, the famous and the influential normally shape the events that appear on our written records. And unless we ourselves have become public figures then it is highly unlikely that anyone is going to research our family history for a T.V. program such as *Who Do You Think You Are?* And subsequently broadcast around the world.

The ordinary folk of Scotland

In contrast to them, the histories of my ancestors, some of the ordinary folk of Scotland, can seem as remote as the lives of the creatures living in a forest and their life stories as fleeting as the leaves falling from the trees in that forest. It can be a disturbing thought to realize that some of the most mundane of their personal possessions remain long after all of them have gone to their graves and largely been forgotten by most of us who have inherited their genes. For the lives and names of generations of ordinary people

in families like mine, throughout the ages, are usually lost to their descendants. My ancestors left neither written records of their childhoods, nor of their adult lives; and it's highly unlikely that it would ever have crossed their minds to do so. Yet, my maternal great grandfather, Charles Baxter, an ordinary working man, a master coppersmith, journeyed on a sailing ship to Para in Brazil in 1863. He braved the dangers shared by all sea-farers of that era, the possibility of a shipboard fire, a shipwreck and all the other predictable vagaries of the seas. He then travelled 2,500 miles up the length of the Amazon River to the settlement of Iquitos and beyond to parts of the district of Loreto in Peru. He lived and worked in that remote place for more than five years, surviving rampant endemic diseases and other dangers of a land which, even today, remains formidable. Yet, as far as I am aware, he wrote absolutely nothing about his experiences there.

My ancestors left neither written records of their childhoods, nor of their adult lives; and it's highly unlikely that it would ever have crossed their minds to do so.

The story of life

In this imaginary conversation with my great grandfather I would need to bring him up to date, to give him some confidence to overcome his modesty and tell us something of the story of his life. I would have to explain the culture of the twenty-first century, the phenomenon of the shallow celebrity and try to reassure him that even a lack of exceptional and worthwhile exploits is no longer a hindrance to writing about one's self. A look at some 'reality television' to observe the antics of people, often with little to recommend them would, I'm sure, help to temper my great grandfather's reticence to tell us of his little adventure in South America. My paternal grandfather, Charles Stoddart, apparently left home after a hard childhood and apparently

ran off to sea as a cabin boy when he was about twelve years old, yet his descendants know next to nothing about his boyhood trials and tribulations. He was said to have circumnavigated the globe three times, yet we know absolutely nothing of his ports of call. In a round about way, it was due to the mysteries surrounding the lives of these men that helped inspire me to write *Kings, Castles & Durty Wee Rascals*, the stories about my boyhood. It was a way to capture and preserve something of their lives as well as mine, before the fallen leaves that represent all of our living have completely withered and gone.

Interest in family history

It's recognized that an interest in family

history is something which evolves gradually, to strengthen as we age. Young people, quite naturally, want to get on with living in the present and the hurly burly of doing that keeps them busy enough. It's from middle age onwards that we begin to reflect on what has gone before us and take on a growing desire to make some kind of record of what we know and value. Unfortunately by that time many of the best sources of family information are no longer available to us and we can only muse upon our many lost opportunities. It's an interesting exercise to try and write down and analyse the personality of say a parent or an uncle many years after they are dead and gone. I found it nigh impossible. We tend to simply accept that we have loved them and been loved by them – and enjoyed the times we spent with them. At one time that sufficed. So when we finally realize that we might be the guardians of many small and seemingly insignificant pieces of information about lots of people, and that these would need to have been written down to survive, some of the best sources and some of the finer details are long lost. As far as I know there are no diaries, journals or surviving letters from my great grandparents and grandparents. There are, however, one or two documents which give some insights into their lives and I have tried to capture these together with a few snippets of oral family history gleaned especially from my mother and my beloved aunts over the years.

Govan/Gdansk exhibition opens in Glasgow

The dynamic landscape of industrial architecture



Street Level Photoworks is proud to announce the launch of a new exhibition linking the shipyards of Govan in Glasgow and Gdansk in Poland and their post-industrial decline and resilience in the work of four photographers: Michal Szlaga (Poland), Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert (Scotland) Nick Hedges (England) and Raymond Depardon (France). The exhibition *Govan/Gdansk* and the programme of events around the exhibition are organised in association with an RSE - funded research network on Regeneration and Waterfront Heritage Zones, exploring participatory approaches to waterfront regeneration in urban spaces in transition in Northern European cities. The main case studies of regeneration focus on Govan and wider Glasgow

(Scotland) and Gdansk (Poland), each of which are dealing with the consequences of the post-industrial demise of the shipbuilding industry, trying to find a transition into a new economy and community. The exhibition *Govan/Gdansk* is a partnership between Street Level Photoworks and the University of the West of Scotland and is supported by the Polish Cultural Institute, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, and The Scottish Parliament. Curatorial Collaboration: Malcolm Dickson and Katarzyna Kosmala.

The Govan/Gdansk exhibition takes place until July 31st at Street Level Photoworks, Trongate 103, Glasgow. For details see: www.streetlevelphotoworks.org



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.



Albert Einstein had a theory about time and it passing, but I will not pretend to understand its mechanics. I have my own theory about time and how it speeds up. Simply, it is caused by age. It is obvious the older I get the faster the years speed by. How is it that something that seemed to occur only a couple years ago, in reality happened 40 years ago. One of those special things that comes under this type of occurrence was a the day in 1976 when I picked up a newspaper in a Scottish Bakery in Scarborough, Ontario. That newspaper was called *the Scottish Banner* and I read it from cover to cover that lunch hour and wanted more. From then I was hooked and continued to look forward to every monthly edition for the next ten years. I even contacted *the Banner* from time to time to either agree or disagree with their articles. Finally I decided to shyly call Val Cairney and ask if the paper

would be interested in a Scottish surnames column, to which to my delight she readily agreed. Val read my first offering and called and said it was good and paused and I could hear the "but" coming. It did follow with: "can you make the column longer?" which pleased me. So in October of 1985 my first column was published, my real thrill came when some of the readers started sending queries and or had questions with some of my resources, it was very satisfying. Back then, the letters from readers didn't come that often so Val and I had a standing joke when she would let me know that another letter "poured" in! My congratulations to Val, and Sean in the Australian office, and staff for a fine newspaper for these many years, let's hope there are many more. Congratulations to fellow columnists and contributors both past and present who add and added so much to the paper.

Unusual surnames

Over the years I have enjoyed hearing from *Banner* readers regarding their sometimes unusual surnames. It is interesting to see how some obscure names evolved from languages other than English or some old form of English that it is no longer in use. However, there are names that are so obvious in derivation and need no great explanation but still have been a name that added to the history of Scotland. A good percentages of these names fall under patronymics or names from ancestors. When surnames became fixed some ancestor's name also became fixed as the family name and we see them today as Williams, Richardson, Ibbitson, or in the Gaelic world MacDonald, MacQuarrie etc. However, some names in the highland clan system have names that start with the Gaelic 'mac' and end with an English personal name.

MacThomas

One that I wish to address this month is MacThomas. From Tomaidh Mor a descendent of a Clan Chattan Mackintosh who is considered the progenitor of this clan. Tomaidh was descended from William, a chief of Clan Chattan. He lived in the fifteenth century. The clan was originally from Badenoch but moved to Glenshee. In Gaelic they were known as MacCommie, MacColm, or MacComas. The clan seat was at Finegand, Anglicized from the Gaelic feith nan ceann meaning burn of the heads in reference to some ill-fated tax collectors that ventured on clan lands where their heads were tossed in to the burn.

Iain Mor was chief in 1644 when he joined the forces of Charles I but returned home when the Royalist side lost.

Feuds with their neighbours and trouble with the government led to huge fines and lawsuits that were the ruin of the MacThomases financially and much of their lands had to be sold, with the clan drifting apart. Members who stayed in the area were known as MacCombie. The new chief after Iain Mor was named Angus and went by the surname Thomas. He moved south to the Dundee area and settled in the estate of Aberlemno.

Clan Badge: A mountain demi cat guardant (paws raised) passant (facing) grasping in his right paw a green snake with a red tongue and its tail wrapping around the left paw of the cat. Clan Motto: Deo juvante invidiam (I will overcome envy with God's help)

There is at least one tartan for Clan MacThomas. The clan chief is Andrew MacThomas of Finegand.

After some clan left their homeland and travelled south many changed their names too Thomas, Thom and Thompson and Thomson.

Thompson and Thomson

Morag Rainford of North Queensland, Australia wrote to ask about the very same names of Thompson and Thomson. Naturally every person of Scottish ancestry with any of these English versions of the name would feel that would want to think themselves as being a part of the Clan MacThomas. However,

one must remember that Thomas was a name fairly common through the Christian world and would have been used as a fore name. Therefore every village in Scotland and England would have had men and boys named Thomas, Tom and Tam from which their ancestors would use it as surname in many forms. Thomas, Thompson, Thomson, Thom, Tamson, Tomkins, Tomkinson etc. So we couldn't expect that all people in Scotland with a Thomas based surname could have origins in Clan MacThomas. Thomson is more prevalent spelling of the surname for people in Scotland and Thompson more so in England. This does not mean that it is a hard and fast rule meaning if spelled one way it indicates national origin. Not at all, spellings changed over the centuries and was fluid within family documentation of the surname. For instance, my name is Dempsey, my grandfather was listed as Dempsy on his birth certificate and his grandfather's family was listed as Dempsie on a census return. So no name's spelling is fast and true.

Munnoch

Jean Crosson asked about a family surname, Munnoch sometimes Munnock. It is a Fife name and is sometimes known as Monach and has been recorded as early as 1686. I haven't been able to offer much more but there is some islands near North Uist known as the Monachs. I can't be sure if it has any connection other than there was a St. Monach whose name is reflected on the name of Munnoch farm in North Ayrshire. Persons with name have been listed in the historical area of Clan Macduff, although that doesn't mean they were associated with the clan. However, they are listed as associated with Clan MacFarlane.

Genealogists

Lastly, I wish to address would be or active genealogists. I help people on an internet group seeking with Scottish ancestry. I have found a few common errors in the way some do research. The main focus of any genealogist is to find an ancestor and then find the a paper document that proves it. Too often people go onto ancestry sites, see someone else has one of their ancestors on it with extensive generations beyond and assume that it is theirs also. Again if there is no paper documentation then it doesn't necessarily mean it is genuine. The person who compiled the family tree may have mistakes on there. So I would advise you to do your own spade work. "Famous ancestor" is always a lure to people starting out on genealogy. The thinking for example that Grandma's maiden name was Stewart and she said she was descended from royalty. Never take family lore as hard fact. It may be true or have a grain of truth in it, but just start with yourself and work your way back one generation at a time. If indeed there is royalty or nobility it will show up quickly as these type of documentation is more readily available, especially the further back you go. Happy family hunting.

Enjoy your July and here's to another 40 years of *the Scottish Banner*!

Reds only at Drum Castle



Red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) eating a nut.

There was good news for the push to protect red squirrels in Scotland recently, as the National Trust for Scotland announced that Drum Castle near Aberdeen has been confirmed a 'red-only' zone. The conservation charity has been assisting the Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project by participating in the annual monitoring programme at the historic Aberdeenshire estate which dates back to Robert the Bruce. The work was carried out by Hannah Patterson, a long-term volunteer with the Trust's North East Ranger Service. Hair samples are gathered on sticky plastic strips on the inside of feeder box lids. Hannah explains: "The survey is carried out from March to the end of April each year, with samples being collected every fortnight. These are then sent to Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels for analysis. The survey has found that Drum Castle is only home to red squirrels, which is fantastic news for anyone involved in protecting this important Scottish species."

Hannah has also been running camera traps in the ancient woods of Drum, which appear to back up the findings, and she has captured some fantastic footage. Steve Willis, Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels North East Project Officer said: "This is great news for Drum and is even more significant as it appears to signal a return of reds in this area. From surveys in the Aberdeenshire area, it looks like greys are confined to woods in and immediately around the city and so far, we don't have any evidence that they are spreading into new areas, so far."

Squirrel census

This news gives hope to many conservation experts and organisations, like the National Trust for Scotland who are working hard to protect the red squirrel for future generations. The conservation charity carried out a squirrel census last year, finding that there was evidence that red squirrels were returning to areas like Fife and Perthshire after decades of absence. The survey also highlighted the strategic importance of Angus in the work to protect red squirrels. Red squirrels are one of the most charismatic and recognisable species in the British Isles. However, the population has suffered significantly since the arrival of grey squirrels from America in the late nineteenth century. Over the past few decades 'Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels' has been surveying the population throughout Scotland in response to the species decline.

For more on the 'Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels' project, visit: www.scottishsquirrels.org.uk.

Lady MacGregor's Scotland By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

Lady MacGregor of MacGregor – otherwise known as British broadcaster Fiona Armstrong. Fiona is currently news reading for the BBC. But she also leaves the studio from time to time to report on matters Scottish. She lives in Scotland with her husband, the MacGregor clan chief. Sir Malcolm is Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, and Fiona is an active member of Clan Armstrong, so their lives are interwoven with all things tartan. The couple have moved from the borderlands to the lowlands, home is now a white tower house between Perth and Dundee, although filming and writing takes Fiona all over Scotland.



Greetings from Scotland, where the sun has been shining and the blossom has been beautiful. It is tempting fate to say it - but we really have had an unusually lovely spring. In fact, I don't think I've ever seen the rhododendrons and azaleas blooming in such profusion. As for the bright yellow gorse that's lighting up the hills: you know you're in Scotland when you see that. You don't want ever to fall into a patch of painfully prickly gorse. But, viewed from afar, this simple plant is one of the jewels of the countryside. It speaks of early summer. It glows for several weeks and the smell is of coconut and almonds. They say you can put gorse flowers into salads. Some folk use it as a herbal remedy and you can also make tea from it, although I am not sure if this is to be recommended, or not. What's more certain though, is that this green and yellow bush is hardy and uncomplaining. It sprouts on barren hillsides, windswept west coast cliffs and inner-city derelict land. I love it, but in some places it is considered a monstrous weed: early settlers apparently took gorse across to New Zealand to act as a wind break and the shrub has since gone rampant and taken over the islands. Gorse is the clan plant badge of the Sinclair's and

it is said always to be in flower somewhere. Hence the saying: "when gorse is out of blossom, kissing's out of fashion."

Greenock

A bit of good weather puts everyone in a happy mood. Folk whistle in the street and strangers smile nicely at each other on trains. Life is sweet - and it gets even more so when I am sent to film in a confectionary factory. This is a first for me and the cameraman and we are rather excited about the prospect. It is not good for the teeth - but will they give us bags of candy? The company involved sits on the Clyde estuary north west of Glasgow. It is in the town of Greenock which is said to have developed some centuries ago around a large green oak tree. Greenock grew into a small fishing village. It then became one of Scotland's most industrialised towns. The place was noted for shipbuilding and sugar refining. In the mid-Victorian age there could be hundreds of ships, many carrying sugar, docked at Greenock. Now the industry is mostly gone. Yet still standing among the odd antiquated crane on the quayside - a reminder of a heavy manufacturing past - is the Golden Casket company. This firm is possibly Scotland's biggest confectionary manufacturer. It makes all sorts of candy, from butter fudge to liquorice toffees, to those brightly-coloured sugar 'millions'.

In the 1850s two women in the Scottish Borders' town of Hawick created what were known as "Taffy Rock Bools." The toffee rock balls made by Aggie Lamb and Jessie McVittie caught on - and a factory was set up in Hawick to produce them.

Hawick Ball

We were there to film the production of a sweet called a 'Hawick Ball'. In the 1850s two women in the Scottish Borders' town of Hawick created what were known as "Taffy Rock Bools." The toffee rock balls made by Aggie Lamb and Jessie McVittie caught on - and a factory was set up in Hawick to produce them. When it closed more than twenty years ago, the Golden Casket company bought the brand and continued the production. A Hawick Ball is round, buttery, and mint-flavoured. Fans include the yachtsman and rower, Sir Chay Blyth, who carried them on his 1970s round-the-world voyage. They've been taken by explorers to the South Pole. But perhaps the most famous devotee of this Borders' bonbon was the Scottish rugby

commentator, Bill McLaren. Bill took them to rugby games, handing them to the players, and vigorously sucking on one to stop his throat from going hoarse whilst he informed the nation about the score. And so we found ourselves watching thousands of Hawick Balls roll off production lines in Greenock. Despite the factory feel, these iconic sweets are still made by hand: boiling syrup being poured out onto a stainless steel bench, before being twisted and moulded by workers wearing heat-proof gloves. Then just the right amount of peppermint is added to the mix, although, like the infamous Irn Bru drink, the exact recipe is a closely guarded secret.

Scottish Week

And yes, we did come away with tins of Scottish toffees, some of which I plan to take down under. Yes, it's all very exciting. We're packing our bags and preparing to go to Australia. The chief and I have been invited by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council and we'll be taking part in their Scottish Week in Sydney. We'll also be flying across to Tasmania to meet clansmen and women there. The chief is going in his role as Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and MacGregor clan chief. I am going in my position as the chief's wife. As such, I will, no doubt, be walking three paces behind... Expect a lengthy report the next time!

Clan Buchanan (1016 – 2016) – 1000 years a clan

This is an important year for the Clan Buchanan to celebrate the genesis in Scotland of the Clan. This stems from the ancient myth surrounding the arrival of Anselan O'Kyan in Scotland from Ireland. Worldwide, the Clan Society will be celebrating at events throughout their countries.

By: Malcolm Buchanan, Co-Convenor, Clan Buchanan Society (Oceania).



of old tell the story of the chiefly line dating back to Anselan Buey O'Kyan who left Ireland and landed in Argyll in 1016, the twelfth year of King Malcolm II. He was of the Irish clan Ó' Catháin, a provincial king of north Ulster. [1][2]

It is said that, after seven centuries of raiding, the Danes under Swein the Fork Beard took control of most of England and Ireland in 1013 - 1014. His son, Canute, (944 - 1035) was to become King of England. Swein ordered celebrations to be held in Limerick, Western Ireland (now Eire) and instructions were given for one thousand beautiful daughters of the Irish nobility to be present. In their stead the same number of Irish youths were dispatched, disguised in women's habits with long Irish skeans (daggers) below their cloaks. A massacre of the Danes followed. One of these youths was Anselan Buey O'Kyan or O'Cahan (pronounced O'Kane), son of the King of Ulster, the fourth part of Ireland (roughly modern Northern Ireland). In 1016, as a result of this exploit, he fled Ireland and emigrated to Argyll in Western Scotland. [3]

Origin of the Name: The root of the territorial name from the Parish of Buchanan comes from the Gaelic "Mac a Chanonaich"

(The Son of the Canon) or "Buth Chanain" (House or Seat of the Canon)

Historic seat: The Auld House near Drymen. The clan's lands.

Last Chief: John Buchanan of Buchanan/of that Ilk (- 1680).

Clan Buchanan has no Chief. It is considered to be an armigerous clan.

Chief's arms: Or (gold), a lion rampant sable (black), armed and langued gules (red), within a double tressure flory counterflory of the second (black).



Chief's Motto: Clarior hinc honor (The brighter Hence the Honour).

Chief's Crest: A hand coupee holding a ducal cap, or duke's coronet, proper, with

two laurel branches wreathed surrounding the crest, disposed orleways proper.

Clan War cry: Clar Innes (from the clan's island Clar Innis/Clairinch/Clarinch in Loch Lomond, off Balmaha. The island is owned by The Buchanan Society. King Alexander III in the 13th century confirms Buchanan ownership of Clairinch island).

Clan Plant badge: Dearn bhraoileag (Bilberry), Darag (Oak)

Tartans: There are several tartans shown at: www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clan_Buchanan.

Websites:

Clan Buchanan Society (Oceania):
www.clanbuchanan.spruz.com

Clan Buchanan Society International:
www.theclanbuchanan.com

Heraldry (Claude Buchanan, NZ):
www.buchanan-heraldry.net.nz

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/buchananclan>

Email: clan.buchanan@hotmail.com

Sources:[1] W. Buchanan of Auchmar, *The Historical and Genealogical Essay Upon the Family and Surname of Buchanan, Glasgow, 1733, p15f.* [2] R. Bain, *The Clans and Tartans of Scotland, Fontana/Collins, Glasgow and London, 1938, p50.* [3] *The Buchanan Society website, http://www.buchanansociety.com/html/clan_history_.html*

The genesis of many Scottish clans arise in the mists of time. So too is the origin of the ancient Clan Buchanan. The clan's seanachaidhs

Perth aims to be a 'City of Light'



Perth and Kinross Council has drawn up plans to illuminate landmark buildings, streets and darkened passageways using colourful spotlights, projections and improved street lighting as ambitious £12m plans to light up Perth city landmarks has been put forward to attract more visitors. The proposals would see the Kinnoull Hill tower, Perth Cathedral and Perth Museum and Art Gallery bathed in multi-coloured lights in an effort to attract more people into the city. The majority of the money will go towards replacing orange sulphur street lamps with low-cost LED lights but part of the vision would reimagine the city centre and make it a must-visit destination. Perth and Kinross councillors have approached the Scottish company behind the Kelpies in Falkirk, architectural lighting firm Lightfolio, to come up with a range of suggestions and estimate the cost to be at approximately £12 million to complete the entire project. The proposals are part of the regeneration ahead of Perth's UK city of culture 2021 bid.

See The Da Vinci Code on location



Photo: Rosslyn Chapel. VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

Special outdoor screenings of *The Da Vinci Code* will take place later this year beside Rosslyn Chapel, one of the film's locations, to mark the 10th anniversary of its release. Based on the best-selling novel by Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code* was released on 19 May 2006, and featured Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou as the main characters. Filming took place at Rosslyn Chapel, in Midlothian, in September 2005 and brought the 15th century Chapel to worldwide prominence. Welcoming these screenings, author Dan Brown said: "When I decided to write *The Da Vinci Code*, I knew that its finale would have to take place at the most mysterious and magical chapel on earth - Rosslyn."

To mark the 10th anniversary, outdoor screenings will be held in September on the grounds of Colledgehill House, adjacent to Rosslyn Chapel, and are sponsored by Quilter Cheviot and supported by Film Mobile. Ian Gardner, Director of Rosslyn Chapel Trust, said: "*The Da Vinci Code* has had a profound impact on the profile of Rosslyn Chapel. Visitor numbers grew from around 35,000 to over 176,000 per year at their peak, with income from these visitors helping the Trust to complete a major conservation project at the 15th-century Chapel. Our visitor research shows that the book and film are still very influential, with 46% of visitors saying that *The Da Vinci Code* was one of the factors which encouraged them to visit." Following the



filming at Rosslyn Chapel, Tom Hanks wrote 'Few locations on a film are more delightful and few destinations live up to their billing, so to speak, but Rosslyn was all that one could imagine or hope for.' Film Mobile now operates in 32 locations across the United Kingdom and is cinema provider for Edinburgh, Glasgow and Sheffield Film Festivals and the Edinburgh International Festival. Research shows that many film and television locations become popular destinations for visitors, with thousands of people from all over the world continuing to flock to Rosslyn Chapel as a result of its starring role in Ron Howard's blockbuster.

The Chapel located outside Edinburgh is open to visitors daily for details see: www.rosslynchapel.com

Pollok House takes escape game to another level



Photo: National Trust for Scotland.

Scotland's answer to Downton Abbey, Pollok House, has brought its visitor experience bang up to date for summer 2016 with the launch of an escape room game. Escape the Past opened at the stunning National Trust for Scotland site in Glasgow in June, and is already receiving rave reviews. Believed to be the first visited heritage site in the UK to offer the experience, the charity says that the authentic setting takes adventure gaming to the next level. The conservation charity has tapped in to the growing trend, creating the interactive and immersive puzzle game in the room that once was the butler's in Pollok's below stairs. This real life setting has provided inspiration for the challenge - two to five players have 60 minutes to collect clues and solve a puzzle which will help them thwart a devious butler's poisonous

plans. Escape games started in the early 2000s and are a fairly recent arrival to the UK and are growing in popularity.

Stately home

Pollok House Property Manager Karen Cornfield said: "We've used our real-life locations, history and heritage of the Trust to create a game that is fun and totally absorbing. This makes it stand out from others, who normally have to rely on invented scenarios and locations. The experience is very engaging as our feedback so far confirms. It also has a grounding in history, so everyone taking part will leave with a better understanding of what life was like in an Edwardian country house. We are really excited to be trail-blazing for the Trust in trying this new experience out. Escape rooms are pretty popular with young adults, so we're hoping to see more students and young professionals come through the doors to see what Pollok and the National Trust for Scotland has to offer."

An 18th century stately home on Glasgow's south side, Pollok House gives a real taste of upstairs/downstairs life in the 1930s. Above stairs, the lavish family rooms are packed full of period furnishing as well as the UK's finest collection of Spanish art, including paintings by El Greco, Goya and Murillo. Below stairs, in the vast servants' quarters, visitors are given an insight into the realities of running a countryside house. The house is currently undergoing external conservation work.

To boldly glow-Scotland's Dark Sky Town



The Scottish Dark Sky Observatory, South Ayrshire. Picture: Damian Shields/VisitScotland.

Scottish tourism is boldly going where few destinations have gone before, with its designated Dark Sky Communities proving a hit with stargazers. Now VisitScotland, the national tourism organisation, hopes that Moffat's designation as Europe's first "Dark Sky Town" will add to the country's astronomical allure. In February, the Dumfries and Galloway town joined Coll, the first "Dark Sky Island" in Europe, and Galloway Forest Park, one of only four "Dark Sky Parks" in the western world, as one of the best places on earth to study the sky at night, all of which is helping to boost "astro tourism" in Scotland. There recently was a particular interest in the heavens as Mars was closer to Earth than it has been in over a decade - a mere 46.8

million miles away, making the Red Planet appear particularly bright in the night sky over Scotland. Another excellent place to observe the night sky is at the edge of Galloway Forest Park, where the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory in East Ayrshire - a four-star VisitScotland attraction - allows visitors to learn about the wonders of the universe. A recent report estimates that the Dark Sky Park is taking in an additional £500,000 over the winter months purely related to dark sky tourism with the expectation for that to rise to around £1 million. Dumfries and Galloway followed up the Dark Sky Park designation with a successful application for Moffat to become a Dark Sky Town. Colin Smyth, Chair of Dumfries and Galloway Council's Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee, said: "The accolade of the first ever Dark Sky Town in Europe is an outstanding achievement. Following the award of Europe's first Dark Sky Park in the Galloway Forest, I am proud that Moffat has been named as the first Dark Sky Town in Europe and the first ever Dark Sky Town outside of America. Our council is committed to supporting the local economy and by working together with communities such as Moffat, the region's tourism businesses can capitalise on our fantastic natural assets. The award of Dark Sky Town will encourage more visitors to experience what Dumfries and Galloway has to offer during the winter months, helping to boost our local economy during these periods."

The Highland Military Tattoo

A Highland extravaganza awaits you in Fort George



If you're planning a trip to the Highlands this September, then be sure to put Fort George on your itinerary. This year sees the third annual Highland Military Tattoo at the UK's largest military fort and if the last two years are anything to go by, you won't be disappointed. A feast for the eyes, the ears and the taste buds – that's what's on offer when the Highland Military Tattoo comes to town. The Highland extravaganza, with its dramatic RAF Typhoon flypast, rousing pipes and drums, exhilarating historical re-enactments and explosive fireworks, is fast becoming one of the 'must see' events in the Highlands and Islands and promises to wow audiences with some of the very finest performers from around the

region and beyond. The Tattoo provides a platform for exceptional Highland music and dancing with a commemoration of military history woven through the whole spectacle.

Battles to life

With 2016 marking the centenaries of both the Battle of the Somme and the naval Battle of Jutland, much of the drama will centre on bringing key points of the battles to life with some of the world's top re-enactors. The naval theme will be enhanced with a performance from the band of the Royal Marines Scotland. Making their hotly anticipated Tattoo debut this year are the Inverness Military Wives Choir, fresh from their highly acclaimed appearances

onstage with Lulu. They will be joined by their counterparts from the Lossiemouth Military Wives Choir for a performance tipped to bring a tear to every eye in the house. Set to make their return this year after a barnstorming set at the first Tattoo in 2014 are the sensational young Fochabers Fiddlers. Also making a welcome reappearance are the City of Inverness Highland Dancers and the City of Inverness Contemporary Dancers. Drawn from highland dance groups in and around the city, they wowed the crowds last year with their performances of traditional favourites and more modern classics.

A dazzling spectacle

Renowned Gaelic singer James Graham

will be taking to the stage once again after widening his performing credits in last year's show by taking on the role of Cameron Highlander Lieutenant Philip Christison and leading his troops out of the trenches to a Gaelic song in the vignette marking the Battle of Loos. Tattoo Director Major General Seymour Monro said: "The Tattoo really is a dazzling spectacle. It's hard to imagine a more stunning location for an event like this than Fort George. We have put on a fantastic show for the last two years and this one is set to be equally impressive. It takes a huge amount of organisation, but it's all worthwhile when you hear the feedback from the crowds as they leave each night. They've all had a wonderful time and are full of enthusiasm and good cheer – there is just a terrific buzz." The Tattoo also plays host to a food and drink village which showcases the very best produce from around the Highlands and Moray. From fish and chips and deluxe burgers to ice cream and craft beers, there's something for every age and taste. This year stalls include Storehouse at Foulis, Tomintoul Venison, Windswept Brewing, Black Isle Ice Cream and G&M Whyte. This year's Tattoo runs each evening from Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September, with a matinee performance on Saturday 10th September. Tickets are now on sale from Ticketline, Eden Court and The Highlanders' Museum at Fort George.

More information is available at www.highlandmilitarytattoo.com and you can follow the Tattoo on Twitter @HMTFortGeorge.



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Edinburgh's Festivals back for 2016



Courtesy of: Scotland.org

Two of Edinburgh's most famous festivals have unveiled their programme of events set to take place this August. The Edinburgh Festival Fringe which will be taking place from 5-29 August and Edinburgh International Book Festival which will be on from 13-29 have both been running in the capital since 1947. This year's Festival Fringe which is themed around 'Defying the Norm' features a jam-packed programme of entertainment for all ages with theatre, dance, circus, comedy and cabaret performances across 294 in Edinburgh. 2016 will see over 50,200 performances of over 3,200 shows from 48 countries across the globe. Big names in comedy such as Rory Bremner, Katy Brand and Richard Wilson are all returning for this year's festival, as well as leading dance companies including Éowyn Emerald & Dancers and musical talent King Cresote.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival



For those who enjoy reading, the Edinburgh International Book Festival also promises to please thousands of residents and visitors to Edinburgh in August. Set in a specially created tent in Charlotte Square Gardens, the book festival will feature more than 800 authors in over 700 events including talks, readings and performances from novelists, poets, scientists, philosophers, sportsmen, illustrators, comics creators, historians, musicians, biographers, environmentalists, economists, Nobel and Booker prize-winners and many more besides. This year's programme is set around the theme of 'Imagine Better' and includes readings from Scottish actor Alan Cumming, bestselling American author Jonathan Safran Foer and Han Kang, the winner of the 2016 Man Booker International Prize. There will also be the Baillie Gifford Children's Programme which encourages kids to exercise their imaginations with stories from thrillers to picture books.

Tartan of the Month *The Scottish Banner*

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.



As part of our 40th anniversary celebrations *the Scottish Banner* now has its very own tartan. *The Scottish Banner* is the world's largest international Scottish newspaper celebrating 40 years of publication in 2016. The Scottish Banner began in 1976 and is now available across Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA, with a subscription service to Scotland. To commemorate the 40 years of monthly publication this tartan includes the colours of the countries in which we serve. Red and white for the flag of Canada. Dark blue, white and red represents the flags of Australia, New Zealand and the USA. Pantone blue and white for the Saltire flag and yellow and red for the Lion Rampant flag of Scotland. The black represents the ink used throughout the publication. The red, yellow and black are also our mast head colours and used in various branding materials for the Scottish Banner. The four squares found within the larger yellow square design represents each a decade, commemorating 40 years of publication. The colours were chosen and combined to portray a classic tartan with a modern and bold design. This tartan is now proudly used on our front cover and look for it on our new web site and social media channels.

Text and image use is courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans.

National Tartan Day Award presentation



has been tireless in his support of so many Scottish-American causes, and I have worked with him on various boards where his energy and dedication has been boundless."

Service to Scotland and Scottish Culture

McWilliam, a long-time resident of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, enlisted in the Army after high school, and saw active duty in 1948 and 1949. He served in the reserves for many years, and was promoted to colonel in 1978. As he completed his active duty in the Army, McWilliam took his bar exams. From 1957, he practiced law before joining a family-owned start-up company in the automotive and metal casting industries. During his 40 years with the company, he traveled extensively, speaking with engineering societies and presenting research papers at international meetings. At the time of his retirement, the company was providing materials and equipment to industries all over the world. McWilliam was granted a personal coat of Scottish arms by Scotland's Lord Lyon, King of Arms. The grant is unique in that it was not based on ancestry, but "for service to Scotland and Scottish Culture." He is the originator of the Wisconsin State Tartan, passed by both houses of Wisconsin State Tartan originated by Robert McWilliam, signed into law in April, 2009 by the state legislature and signed into law by Governor James Doyle on April 7, 2008.



The Wisconsin State Tartan.

On Thursday April 14th, 2016, The Scottish Coalition, USA, presented the National Tartan Day Award to Mr. Robert McWilliam as part of Washington DC's annual celebration of Scottish-American heritage. The reception, hosted by the National Capital Tartan Day Committee, took place on Capitol Hill. Robert McWilliam has devoted more than 40 years to supporting and promoting Scottish-American culture, in addition to his military, legal, business and philanthropic careers. "I am delighted at the unanimous selection of Robert McWilliam for the 2016 Scottish Coalition, USA Award," announced Alan L. Bain, President of the TSC, USA and Chairman of the American-Scottish Foundation, a founding member of the coalition. "Bob never stops!" added Bain. "He

In July of 2009, he was invited by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs to speak in the Debating Chambers of the Scottish Parliament on the occasion of the 2009 International Clan Gathering in Edinburgh, following which he was presented to HRH The Prince of Wales at a reception held at Holyrood Palace. He was a member of Clan Donald USA's 1993 crew of 13 that rowed and sailed the Aileach - an open decked, 40 foot replica of a Scottish Berlinn (a short Viking long boat) - from Armadale, Skye; down the west coast of Scotland; through the Inner Hebrides, portaging the Aileach across the Kintyre Isthmus to commemorate Magnus Bare Legs, the King of Norway's 1098 portage; and then up the river Clyde to the center of the city of Glasgow, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Forfeiture of the Lordship of the Isles.

A tartan journey in the Highlands

The “cloth of the nation” continues to be popular around the world for Scots and the wider population. For some the tartan journey is historic, perhaps involving the genealogy of a family, a region or a business. For others, the cloth is intended as a celebration of a specific event, person or special occasion that is redolent with images, emotions and experiences that are special to them. Swapping tax for tartan Clare Campbell is the only Highlands born and based tartan designer having started a business which nurtures her passion for the Highlands, for Scotland and all things tartan, a unique tartan journey, one design at a time.



that reflects my personal values: pride in a sense of place, pride in Made In Scotland craft skills and pride in manufacturing something unique that resonates with people at a profound emotional level.” It was however, the reckoning of a family tragedy that compelled Clare to follow her dream, and turn her back on the rat race. Clare said; “When I lost my brother in a car crash when I was 20, my world changed and I changed, although it took several years to embark on this dream. My commitment to my professional studies and career, then marriage and bringing up my family were the priority for the last decade.” But while personal tragedy encouraged Clare to confront the fact that life literally can be ‘too short’ it has also underlined the strong pull to objects, places and people imbued with the fondest memories. And this, she says, is the foundation of The Prickly Thistle experience for clients. “To this day it is something that ties me to home, here in Ross-shire, and to family. Life can change in an instant and that’s what’s led me to my tartan journey: a process that is personal, that has substance and is produced the traditional way, with highly specialised craftspeople.”

Did you know?

- The textile industry in Scotland contributes over £900m in Gross Value Added (GVA) to the Scottish economy.
- Employs around 25,000 people in 3,800 workplaces, vast majority of workplaces are micro and self-employing firms.
- Scottish companies operate in over 100 markets worldwide, major emphasis on USA, Japan, Russia and Europe.
- The global textile, apparel and luxury goods industry was scheduled to hit \$4,000 billion in 2014. Scottish Government global connections survey indicates that Scottish fashion and textile manufacturers exported £365m worth of goods in 2013, a £75m increase on 2010.
- Scottish textile companies invest more in Research & Development than other textile businesses in the rest of the UK.

Having forged her career in industry and Scotland’s oil and gas sector, former Finance Director, Clare Campbell is now looking to bring the same level of business rigour to a Scottish textiles sector where creativity often comes at the cost of sound commercial practice.

Clare’s big idea is Prickly Thistle, a new way to look at Scotland’s tartan heritage cloth and a design studio concept that makes a virtue both of her Highland home location and the business skills she honed in corporate life. Campbell’s studio model is the only place where the processes of designing and making your official tartan and then manufacturing your finished products with no product type restrictions, can be carried out under one roof, and all with the guarantee of the Made in Scotland label. As Clare says; “There are producers that can design or make your tartan, there are companies that can make products, furnishings and garments and companies that can provide something solely from their own mill. Prickly Thistle is the first company to fully integrate the process. This means when you take your tartan journey the result is both personal to you and genuinely unique – something that you’ve overseen from start to finish.” As a commercial accountant since qualifying with The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland in the summer of 2003, the 37 year-old entrepreneur has experience in numerous industries. She has enhanced the financial systems of many Highlands-based SME’s all the way through

to large international groups of companies alike. She’s worked for a construction firm with 130 staff and a £10m turnover. She’s been an audit-accounts senior manager advising hoteliers, residential care homes, landed estates, property developers and commodity traders for a UK Top Twenty-rated accountancy practice. Latterly, she had taken the role of Group Finance Director for a leading provider of onshore and offshore training, consultancy and project management.

Personal passion

However, it was her experience working closely with a prominent Highland interior architecture and soft furnishings business that the idea for her own luxury brand, drawing upon a network of endangered local artisan skills, first emerged. Clare said; “I have always had a subconscious need for a challenge. And after many years of working for others I decided to start my own business in the Highlands – a business that is built on my personal passion and one that is committed to positive economic impact for Scotland as an export organisation. My first instinct is always to challenge perceived wisdom, always to ask: ‘why not?’ and the genesis of Prickly Thistle grew out of three questions I needed answers to. ‘Why isn’t it possible to run a world class textile design studio from a base here in The Highlands?’, ‘Why is heritage too often an endpoint rather than a genuine inspiration for something new?’ and lastly, ‘How can I establish a business

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Let the Games begin

Scotland's Highland Games season commences



A competitor throws the light hammer at the Markinch Highland Games.

As the world limbers up for the 31st summer Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro in August, in Scotland, events that provided inspiration for two Olympic

disciplines are already underway. May saw the formal start to the Scottish highland games season, with around 80 games taking place across the length and breadth of the country

Chicago Scots congratulate our friends at the Scottish Banner on 40th Anniversary



Established in 1845, our Scottish Society is the oldest 501(c)3 charity in Illinois. Today we are one of the world's largest Scottish cultural organizations. Our mission is to nourish Scottish identity through service, fellowship and celebration of Scottish culture. We welcome everyone who is Scottish by birth, by heritage or simply by inclination. In addition to offering scholarships, and organizing events and initiatives to educate, entertain and promote both traditional and contemporary Scottish culture, we are proud to offer a range of outstanding elder care services at our Scottish Home.

We are absolutely thrilled to share some incredibly exciting news about the Scottish Home. After many years of planning and preparing, this summer we will officially open the Caledonian House, a new home for people living with Alzheimer's disease and

other forms of dementia. The Caledonian House's philosophy of holistic, personalized, one-on-one care is inspired by the Scottish spirit of kith and kin, the comfort of home and the warmth of family. In this unique home residents will feel valued, loved and purposeful. Consistent resident-caregiver interaction will build the familiarity and the trust that will encourage residents to remain active, engaged and fulfilled. The Caledonian House will boldly redefine memory care.

On behalf of the Board of our Scottish Society, the Chicago Scots and everyone at our Scottish Home, I wish *the Scottish Banner* congratulations on your 40th anniversary and many, many more years of success.

With Friendship Aye,

Gus

Gus Noble, President

*ILLINOIS SAINT ANDREW SOCIETY
Chicago Scots . Scottish Home*

over the summer months. It is this centuries old tradition that led to the hammer throw and shot-put being included in the Olympic track and field programme more than 120 years ago. The hammer throw and shot-put are two of the disciplines that still form part of the programme at today's highland games. Featuring piping, highland dancing and a range of light and heavy athletics events, highland games celebrate Scotland's culture and heritage. Overseeing 60 of the games is the Scottish Highland Games Association (SHGA), the governing body of the traditional events. Highland games remain important outdoor events, not just for their individual communities, but for Scotland as a whole, contributing an estimated £25million to the national economy each year. The 60 games governed by the SHGA attract around 150,000 visitors annually, including thousands from overseas who can claim Scottish ancestry.

Throughout Scotland there are subtle differences in highland games. In Fife, Perthshire and central Scotland there is greater focus on light athletics and cycling, while events in Grampian and the Highlands concentrate more on heavy events.

Showcase of Scotland's cultural and sporting heritage

Over the coming months, highland games of all sizes will take place each week throughout Scotland. From small games, such as Durness on the north-west tip of Scotland which attracts hundreds of visitors, to high profile games including Crieff and Braemar attracting thousands, all provide a showcase of Scotland's cultural and sporting heritage. Over 500 athletes compete in the games organised by SHGA members over the course of each season, with some, such as Scott Rider and the legendary retired athlete Geoff Capes, representing their countries at Commonwealth games. Capes also represented Great Britain in the shot-put at three Olympics. Further illustrating the calibre of the games athletes who participate in multiple disciplines, similar to decathletes, the highland games shot-put record stands at 64' 11", over 2" (2ft) further than the best distance thrown in the decathlon. Recently Blackford Highland Games in Perthshire saw two games' records being broken. Scott Rider from London set a new record for the 22lb heavy hammer, throwing a distance of 119' 5", which was 2" (2in) further than the previous record set in 2001 by Bruce Aitken of Auchenclochy. East Kilbride's Lukasz Wenta broke his own record set last year

for the 56lb weight over the bar, throwing a height of 16' 3". He had held the record jointly with Geoff Capes, who had first set it in 1982 throwing 16'. Throughout Scotland there are subtle differences in highland games. In Fife, Perthshire and central Scotland there is greater focus on light athletics and cycling, while events in Grampian and the Highlands concentrate more on heavy events.

Promote and preserve the traditional events

As the governing body of Scottish highland games, the SHGA works to promote and preserve the traditional events. It also runs a random drug testing programme for athletes in conjunction with UK Anti-Doping, Britain's national anti-doping agency. The aim is to create an environment where athletes know they can compete in the true spirit of sport. Charlie Murray, president of the Scottish Highland Games Associations, said: "Many people do not realise the strong links that Scotland's highland games have with the Olympics. Three of our events – hammer throw, shot-put and tug o' war – featured in the first modern Olympiad and that really bears testament to the skill and strength involved in these disciplines. Every year, throughout Scotland, highland games provide a sporting and cultural spectacle for thousands of people. They continue to be a huge draw for overseas visitors who are keen to witness events such as tossing the caber, tug o' war, highland dancing and the massed pipe bands. The crowds we saw at Gordon Castle and Blackford highland games over recent weekends underlines this. Although a common thread runs through our members' events, each games has its own unique character. Each varies in size, but all attract high calibre athletes and participants, ensuring visitors are treated to the highest level of competition. Highland games have been an important part of community life and Scotland's cultural heritage for centuries and it is important that we preserve their valuable contribution for future generations."

The Scottish Highland Games Association (SHGA) is the sports governing body of traditional highland games in Scotland and represents more than 60 member events across the country. Established in 1947 as the Scottish Games Association, it aims to further the cause of highland games. The organisation administers the national and international highland games championships and runs a series of regional leagues throughout the highland games season that its members' events are part of. Recognised by the UK and Scottish governments, the SHGA works at a strategic level on behalf of its members and also provides drug testing facilities, legal support and basic insurance cover to them. Reflecting the internationalisation of highland games, the association also has an associate member category for overseas events and other organisations linked to Scottish highland games.

For more information and a full list of member events visit: www.shga.co.uk.

Best Hiking Trails in Scotland



Text: Scotland.org

In Scotland, locals never get tired of boasting about the country's beautiful landscapes. With rolling green hills and windswept mountain ranges, there's no shortage of magnificent hikes and walks in Scotland. When next visiting Scotland why not get your boots on and explore a

country that offers a diverse range of walks and scenery. Here you will find a small example of the most challenging as well as the most serene Scottish trails, so whether you're a hiking newcomer or an old hand, you'll find your perfect walk in Scotland so go on and take a hike!

Beinn Alligin, Wester Ross- Beinn Alligin is a mountainous route for adventurers. It's home to two Munros – Tom na Gruagaich at 922m and Sgùrr Mhòr at 986m – as well as the Horns of Alligin. It'll take all day to walk the full route, including both summits and the Horns, but it's well worth it by the end. The path offers up a fair set of obstacles in summer, but be more cautious about ascending the Horns in winter, when there may be snow or ice on the ground.

Quinag, Sutherland-Quinag offers walkers of all abilities an excellent chance to experience steep cliffs and dizzying drops without the difficulty and danger posed by more difficult climbs. The mountain reaches 808m but hikers benefit from the car park's position 250m up from ground level. The summit of Quinag offers spectacular views over some of Scotland's oldest geological gems.

Tentsmuir Forest, Fife-Set in north-east Fife - Tentsmuir Forest covers 1500 hectares of glorious Scottish wilderness. The forest is almost entirely bordered by water, and is packed with paths and tracks used by walkers, hikers and ramblers. Tentsmuir Forest is a great gentle walk in Scotland for wildlife enthusiasts, and is well worth visiting after nightfall if you're interested in capturing a glimpse of one of the forest's many species of bats during the walk.

Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh-This one's for city-dwellers that want to take a

break from the urban life every now and again. Arthur's Seat is located in the middle of Scotland's capital city, but that doesn't make it any less of a natural beauty. Arthur's Seat is the remnant of an extinct volcanic plug which climbs 251m tall. There's a gentle road for casual walkers who don't mind missing out on the very peak, but more avid hikers will want to take the more difficult route right to the summit.

Ben Nevis, Invernesshire- Ben Nevis is famous as the highest mountain in Britain, peaking at 1,344m. There are two routes to the summit: one is known as the 'tourist path' and ascends steadily from Glen Nevis, and another scales buttresses, corries and crags – and is not for the faint-hearted. Whichever way you choose, you'll be able to enjoy stunning views over Scotland from the peak.

Iona- Iona is a walker's paradise. A small island in the Inner Hebrides with a rich monastic history, it measures just one mile by 3.5 miles. Iona is ideal for walkers more in the market for a gentle and peaceful amble than an uphill struggle, and the island is also home to Iona Abbey, a church dating back to the middle ages.

Climbing any of the Scottish mountains can be a serious undertaking in any season and should only be done with appropriate preparation and equipment.

Pop-Up pavilion for Edinburgh's Mound



For those heading to Scotland this summer you may wish to look out for a new modern art installation to be found in the historic capital. Edinburgh based architect, Konishi Gaffney Architects, is the winner of a competition to design a temporary pavilion as Edinburgh's entry to the Pop-Up Cities Expo, a headline event for the Festival of Architecture and part of the Year of Innovation Architecture and Design, being held at the Mound in June and July this year. The competition was organised by the City of Edinburgh Council in conjunction with the Edinburgh Architectural Association (EAA). The winning pavilion is engineered by TALL engineers; it is being fabricated locally by artist and maker Johannes Sailer and is supported by several Scottish timber companies. The architects' brief was for a pavilion intended to be an aspirational 'snapshot' of Edinburgh, inspiring future generations of architects to come. Entrants were asked to prepare proposals that would represent Edinburgh on a world stage, showcase the city including its World Heritage status, and reflect the location of the pavilion at the Mound.

Cllr Ian Perry, Convener of the Planning Committee, said: "Edinburgh is well known internationally for its iconic skyline and architecture. We are immensely proud of our World Heritage Status and this competition is a great example of how we can continue to raise our game and inspire local architects of the future. I would like to congratulate Konishi Gaffney on their well-deserved win as they are a shining example of the quality of architects we have in the city."

As one of the headline events of The Festival of Architecture, a year-long celebration of Scotland's fantastic built environment and part of the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design; cities from throughout Europe have been invited to design pavilions located in Mound Square, the very centre of Edinburgh, in summer 2016. The exhibition builds on the universal success of temporary pavilions and the popularity of present-day pop-ups. Architects have risen to the challenge of creating innovative and engaging pop-up designs that will capture the public's imagination. A number of talks will also take place as part of Pop-up Cities Expo and a Cities Symposium on 11 July at The Assembly Rooms in George Street, Edinburgh is also planned.



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The Scottish Banner speaks to Valerie Cairney

This month the Scottish Banner celebrates 40 years of monthly publication -that is 480 editions and it still remains a unique family business. Since 1976 Valerie Cairney has seen the paper grow from a local community publication, to an international diaspora publication. The Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney spoke to the editor of the Scottish Banner (and his Mother!) Valerie Cairney, on the beginnings of the Scottish Banner, its growth and what is next for our publication.



SC: Mum can we start with your reaction to *the Scottish Banner* reaching this milestone of 40 years? Did you ever think back in 1976 this would be your life time's work?

VC: No Sean I never dreamed we would still be publishing after all these years. Neither would I have thought we would have travelled so many miles with its' distribution. Many years ago I was amazed when we were asked to expand it to America rather than keep it in Canada only. Today *the Banner* travels from across Canada, the U.S.A., and on to Australia and New Zealand, with subscribers across Scotland itself.

SC: Today how do you feel when a reader is in New York, Vancouver, Edinburgh, Auckland or Melbourne, and they are still part of *the Scottish Banner* family, while sharing in our own sense of community readers and supporters?

VC: Again, it both pleases and amazes me that our readers live in so many different countries, yet all come from one small country-Scotland! They all share the same interests and passion for Scotland. Indeed the land of our ancestors holds us together as a 'people', as well as Scots- and also as readers.

SC: Publishing has changed so much since 1976. Can you tell us briefly how the paper was first put together compared to the way we create each edition today?

VC: It was a lot more complicated than it is today thanks to the computers we now have. When *the Banner* first started, I would take typewritten articles over to a computer operator. The computer was a huge floor level machine which took up half of almost any room. We had a Compugraphic which had to be typed into. The typing would be printed on computer paper -inside the machine - almost like camera film and which could print either single or double columns. This machine was for body copy only. Headlines were on another large machine, which was again strictly used to make headlines. When the typing was complete it was pasted on sheets of heavier paper. These were called flats. After being checked for typo's the body copy was complete. The headlines from the other machine, were added along with any photo's intended for use and the flat was ready for the printers. These flats were the size of one double page of a newspaper, and, depending on the amount of pages, numerous flats were used for each edition. Yes, Sean, thank heavens for computers, for they have made publishing so much simpler and quicker.

SC: Putting a publication out each and every month certainly has its own unique challenges, but also separates us from many others. How hard has it been living with

a constant deadline, and have you ever wondered how you will get the next issue out?

VC: Yes. There have been many times I have wondered what news will be going in the next issue. This is something neither I, nor anybody else would know the answer to until it happens. It's a big old world out there and there are plenty of newsworthy items happening all the time. I myself have often been surprised at some of the news that has come in almost at 'deadline' time.

SC: You have travelled all over the world attending Scottish events and meeting many readers and friends. Can you tell us some of the common traits found amongst the Scottish community no matter where they live?

VC: I have found that Scots are a very proud race. They show this in many ways - and often from a very young age, no matter where they live. You're right Sean, in saying that I have travelled a lot and for me (like you), that meant attending many Scottish events along the way. One of these spectacularly Scots events are Highland Games - events which often bring out the true Scottish spirit. I watch enthralled when seeing young dancers or pipers and drummers compete so diligently. We are fortunate that our heritage seems to be very strong in Scots both young and old, and both male and female. Maybe other nationalities pass their heritage down as strongly. I am unsure, I can only speak for the Scots, they are indeed a proud race.

SC: We have had, and continue to have, some fantastic contributors in our pages from across the world. How important is it do you feel, to continue having a Scottish perspective from both a Scottish and international point of view?

VC: I believe this is very important, and I am delighted that we can offer both Scottish and international perspectives to our readers. We have been very fortunate to have had some wonderful names gracing our pages. After only a few issues I was overwhelmed to receive a letter from Nigel Tranter himself - probably Scotland's most famous writer. I wrote back instantly assuring him we would be honoured to print articles written by him, and was overjoyed when we started receiving these on a monthly basis. Since then we have many other wonderful writers, not all as famous as Nigel, but each one talented by their own interests and love of Scotland within their hearts.

SC: Scottish Festivals and Highland Games have played an important role in gathering awareness of *the Scottish Banner* over the years, we in fact had our first official launch at one. Can you tell us about this and why these events are so important for the Scottish community?

VC: I truly believe that Scots are very fortunate to have the heritage we do, and particularly as that heritage crosses generations and distances. It can be part

of bringing our children into enjoying Scottish culture from a young child to adulthood. I find it a joy to be able to watch our Highland dancers showing off the dances of their country. The music of the pipe bands also invites youngsters to join the pipe bands - as well as many older musicians as well at events such as Highland games which still play such a key role in keeping Scottish tradition and culture alive around the world.

SC: And finally Mum, the publishing industry is changing very fast and the Scottish community is so dynamic. What are your hopes for the future of *the Scottish Banner* and what message do you have for our readers around the world on this special anniversary month?

VC: For this answer I wanted to ask our readers themselves - for I speak to so many of them on the phone. When asking about publishing the 'online' or internet version, many say they are so used to reading the paper 'over a cup of tea', or just relaxing because it is how they are used to reading other papers. They therefore prefer doing that to sitting at a computer. Another thing which amazes me, is that *the Banner* continues to remind them of their parents who used to order it every month, often times for many years. They tell me when *the Scottish Banner* comes through the door it reminds them of their (now) deceased parent who used to love it. One woman shocked me further by saying her mother loved *the Banner* so much they put one in her coffin with her when she was buried. We have also had marriages made between readers who have connected through *the Scottish Banner*!

SC: At *the Scottish Banner* we seem to be fortunate in having a rare mix of particularly gifted writers for which I am very grateful. Whilst living in many parts of the world, they are still all Scots at heart, and all show a strong pride in the land they were born into.

VC: My hopes for *the Scottish Banner* were already achieved many years ago Sean. I never dreamed the publication would have been so readily accepted in so many countries with ex-pat Scots 40 years ago. Bearing this in mind leaves me with fewer hopes for today. When starting *the Banner* I tried to give ex-pat Scots both news from Scotland as well as news from Scots overseas. It is easy to give them news from Scotland - but it's overseas where I would still like to bring more Scots together. We have done this to a degree, but I would still like more. More news from Clans, events, special reader articles on how having a special Scottish bond has enriched their lives, whether they were born in Scotland or not. I feel that 'We are Scots'. We have our own music, our own traditions, our own dress, and our own food specialty items. We seem to come with more traditions than some others. Let's uphold them proudly and loudly. God Bless Scotland.

The Scottish Banner 40th Anniversary

Lord Thurso



I would like to offer my congratulations to *the Scottish Banner* on the occasion of their 40th anniversary. This excellent publication provides a wonderful

opportunity for those living outside of Scotland to stay up-to-date with the latest news and stories from their homeland.

VisitScotland is delighted to support *the Scottish Banner* in their efforts to engage with the worldwide diaspora. We recognise and value their unique position as international advocates and ambassadors of Scotland, keeping the history, heritage and spirit of Scotland alive for years to come.

Following our very successful Year of Homecoming in 2014, we were delighted to welcome ancestral and affinity Scots from across the globe back to Scotland. With the forthcoming Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, we hope that even more will choose to visit and experience the beauty and wonder of their ancestral home.

Lord Thurso
Chairman, VisitScotland

The Scottish Tartans Authority



For half a lifetime, *the Scottish Banner* has linked many millions of overseas Scots to the shores of their homeland and their fondly-

remembered roots. Congratulations and keep going!

PS: As a Birthday present please accept an additional year's Membership of the STA!

The Scottish Tartans Authority
Scotland

Lord Caithness



Papers and magazines relating to Scotland have come and gone but for forty years *the Scottish Banner* has been a regular

– almost essential - read for each new generation. It is not just for ex-pat Scots, especially in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA but also has a wider readership. Clan Sinclair are delighted to congratulate *the Scottish Banner* on their 40th anniversary and thank all those, past and present, who have helped produce this excellent paper. The Clan Sinclair Associations all over the world join me in wishing *the Banner* ongoing success and that it will continue to fly high for the next forty.

Lord Caithness
Chief of Clan Sinclair

The Scottish Society of New Zealand

The Scottish Society of New Zealand congratulates the personnel involved in producing this publication on teaching this milestone and long may it prosper. The Scottish Society of New Zealand is proud to be associated with *the Scottish Banner*.

Aye,
Ross Fraser
Chieftain

SAHC



The Scottish Australian Heritage Council congratulates

the Scottish Banner on its 40th anniversary this year. We are proud to be associated with an iconic national and international presenter of Scottish cultural and heritage articles and news. *The Scottish Banner* has helped to link the Scottish Diaspora around the globe by keeping us informed with current and historical stories. Also, we appreciate being able to access the music, books and the many other Scottish-related items.

Victorian Scottish Union Inc



On behalf of the Chief, President, executive committee affiliated and associate members of the Victorian Scottish Union, I would like to thank you for the considerable work and effort which goes into the presentation of the

Scottish Banner every month, and congratulate you, all, on reaching this 40th year. What a milestone in the service of the community!

You should be extremely proud of the consistently excellent presentation of *the Banner* each month. The content is both stimulating and informative, and in my opinion, plays a highly significant part in the cohesion of our community in Australia.

To you all at the *Scottish Banner* congratulations and we hope that you continue with the same enthusiasm and vigour in keeping us informed and entertained.

Yours sincerely
J. Macdonald
Secretary

The National Tartan Day New York Committee

Congratulations to *the Scottish Banner* on your 40th Anniversary! The National Tartan Day New York Committee (NTDNYC), organizers of the New York Tartan Day Parade and coordinators of events surrounding the Parade, would like to thank you for your outstanding support of the New York Scottish -American community.

Representing the member societies of the NTDNYC:

Ernst Rothe- St. Andrew's Society of the State of New York
Alan L. Bain - American -Scottish Foundation
Kyle Dawson- New York Caledonian Club
Lebby Campbell- Clan Campbell

Sons of Scotland Pipe Band



It is an honour for me to send best wishes from myself, the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band, and the Celtic

community in Canada's capital to *the Scottish Banner*! 40 years in publication is a great achievement, and we are so pleased to share the great information in the paper each and every month, and happy for the continued great coverage of events not just in Canada, but worldwide! A lot of work goes into each and every issue, and great care is taken to make sure that there is something for everyone, Celt or not.

We are proud to be friends with such great and hardworking people as the Cairneys, and wish them all the best for the future!

Bethany Bisaillon
Sons of Scotland Pipe Band
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada

Howie Nicholsby



It was 1983, age 5 I fell in love with Scotland in Atlanta Georgia, at the Stone Mountain Highland Festival & Games. Through my youth working with my parents Geoffrey &

Lorna of Geoffrey (Tailor) Kiltmakers, with my sister Emma, I was extremely fortunate to visit many parts of the USA, meeting wonderful people. One of our most special friends on the road was the fabulous Val, like a Celtic family meeting up in the most welcoming towns and cities who shared our love and passion for Scotland. I truly wish Val, Sean and all *the Scottish Banner* team, a huge congratulations, and all the very best for the future, roll on your 50th!!

Howie Nicholsby
21st Century Kilts, Edinburgh

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



For any any publication to reach 40 years is a marvellous achievement. Across four very busy decades, *the Scottish Banner* has managed

to sustain a stunning connection with its audience, not only in Australia but with readers across the world. The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is proud and privileged to have featured regularly. We look to any opportunity to reach out to Scots away from home and *the Scottish Banner* offers a regular, colourful and informative means to do this. From everyone in Edinburgh...a very Happy Birthday and all good fortune for the future. Best,

Brigadier David Allfrey MBE
Chief Executive and Producer
The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

The Scottish Coalition USA

The Scottish Coalition USA, on behalf of its member organizations, would like to congratulate *the Scottish Banner* newspaper on its 40 years of publication. From one end of the United States to another, *the Scottish Banner* has brought us news and views from Scots around the world. Our gratitude and thanks to *the Scottish Banner* for your support. May you continue to publish for many more years!

The Scottish Coalition USA
American-Scottish Foundation®
Association of Scottish Games and Festivals
Living Legacy of Scotland, Inc.
Scottish American Military Society
Scottish Heritage, USA

The National Piping Centre



Congratulations to *the Scottish Banner* on reaching the fantastic milestone of 40 years. The National Piping Centre and Piping Live! festival are pleased

to work alongside this fine publication to bring Scotland closer to its diaspora across the world and further the reach of Scotland's national instrument. Congratulations again, and here's to the next 40!

Roddy MacLeod MBE
Principal of The National Piping Centre
Glasgow, Scotland

American-Scottish Foundation



The American-Scottish Foundation congratulates *the Scottish Banner* on its 40th Anniversary. Thank you for being a leading source of news and views on the international

Scottish Diaspora.
With best wishes and to the years ahead,

Alan L Bain, Chairman
American-Scottish Foundation

Dougie MacLean



40th Anniversary congratulations to all the team at *the Scottish Banner*! We first met Sean Cairney in 2009 in Edinburgh during the first Year of

Homecoming Scotland and since then have felt a real connection with the magazine which shares so much of what's happening in Scotland with those interested in other parts of the world. So many are aware of Dougie MacLean's song *Caledonia* and his melody *The Gael* (used in *The Last of the Mohicans*) but getting an insight into the man behind the music and spreading the news of his many wonderful recordings, his upcoming concerts, his annual Perthshire Amber Festival and subscription channel www.Butterstone.tv has been truly enhanced by our connection with *the Scottish Banner*. Thanks and continued good fortune!

Dougie MacLean
Singer/songwriter

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Perth seeks for the return of the Stone of Destiny

Councillor Ian Miller, Leader of the Administration for Perth & Kinross Council, has announced that he will be calling on members of the Council to support his motion to formally request that the Stone of Destiny is brought to Perth to form the heart of a multi-million pound investment in cultural attractions in the City. Perth's unique place at the heart of Scotland's story, to which the Stone of Destiny is central, is the focus of a £20 million investment in cultural infrastructure projects being discussed by Perth & Kinross Council. If supported by Councillors this investment will be used to transform the existing Perth Museum & Art Gallery into a cultural attraction aimed at highlighting Perth's ancient roots, and to create a major new visual arts venue and social space focussing on Modern Scots. Councillor Miller's call for the Stone sits alongside this proposed investment as part of a strong signal of the Council's commitment to developing Perth's cultural offer. Councillor Miller said: "As leader of Perth & Kinross Council my view is that the Stone of Destiny, brought to Edinburgh to mark Scottish Devolution, is a major part of Perth's place at the ancient roots of Scotland's story. The ancient Kings of Scotland were crowned at Scone Palace, with the Stone bearing witness. I will therefore be asking all Councillors to support my motion to formally request consideration by Historic Environment Scotland and the Commissioners of the Regalia for the Stone of Destiny to come to Perth. Perth has a huge potential for growth in the cultural tourism market, and this has been identified as a key priority in the Perth City Plan. Investing in our existing museum with its nationally recognised collection, and in a significant new venue will help to deliver on that potential. The Stone will help to deliver this in a relevant setting where it can be seen by local people and worldwide visitors, in venues which tell the story of our ancient roots and modern Scots - a story of local, national and global relevance." Councillor Miller added: "We are bidding for UK City of Culture 2021 because we want to show the world how Perth is developing into a great European small city, through cultural programmes which connect people and places across

our area, the UK and beyond. The stone was kept at Scone Abbey near Perth but was captured by Edward I in 1296 and taken to Westminster Abbey. In 1950, four students stole the stone and brought it back to Scotland. The stone was later found and returned to Westminster Abbey and it is today on display at Edinburgh Castle after being formally returned to Scotland in 1996.

Scotrail announces second summer of steam on the Borders Railway



Tickets are now on sale for the much-anticipated return of ScotRail steam services on the Borders Railway, beginning on Sunday 7 August. Following the success of last year's sell-out trips, on Sundays during August and September, customers are being offered the chance to travel from Edinburgh Waverley to Tweedbank and back, all in the comfort of a beautifully refurbished vintage carriage. August's trips will be hauled by 46100 Royal Scot, and September's will see the return of the popular 60009 Union of South Africa on the Borders Railway. These journeys will run every Sunday from 7 August until 25 September. Cathy Craig, Commercial Director for the ScotRail Alliance, said: "It is with great pleasure that we're announcing the return of steam services to the Borders Railway. These journeys give people a chance to appreciate the new Borders Railway from the wonderful setting of a vintage steam train. This is a fabulous opportunity to showcase the line, and in such a romantic style. Not many train journeys can match the outstanding scenery on this route, and I look forward to seeing how successful these trips will be." The famous Flying Scotsman used the route earlier this year and there have been previous excursions on the line. Scottish Borders Council has described the trips as a "superb success" and said it hoped they would return to the region. The trains used

for the trips will be the recently restored Royal Scot which was built in 1927 and the Union of South Africa which dates back to 1937.

Steamer TS Queen Mary returns to the Clyde



A 1930s steam ship that gave its name to the ocean liner Queen Mary has returned to the Clyde. TS Queen Mary, one of the oldest Clyde-built steamers, arrived at Greenock after being towed from the Port of Tilbury in Essex. The 250ft ship has been languishing at the docks for years after falling into disrepair. TS Queen Mary was built in 1933 by Denny of Dumbarton and used for more than 40 years to take passengers on trips from Glasgow to destinations such as Dunoon, Rothesay, Millport and Arran. At the outbreak of World War Two, the steamer - known as TS Queen Mary II at the time - became a lifeline for Scotland's island communities. A charity backed by Scots actor Robbie Coltrane is raising funds to restore the ship and berth her permanently in Glasgow. Friends of TS Queen Mary plan to raise around £2m to restore her to her 1930s splendour and complete the restoration. The charity group hopes eventually to give her a permanent berth near Finnieston Crane as an entertainment venue and education centre. Trustee Iain Sim said: "We have saved one of Scotland's historic gems from being cast aside in a dockyard on the Thames awaiting a scrapheap. Our challenge now is to restore her and transform her into an entertainment venue and educational resource, so that people can continue to enjoy her and learn about Scotland's shipbuilding heritage."

Stirling Council considers water taxis



A network of water taxis on the River Forth to connect areas of Stirling has been proposed as part of a £2m regeneration by Stirling Council who also wants to expand the walking and cycle path at the riverside to breathe new life into the area and improve tourism. Water taxis would link the University of Stirling's main campus in Bridge of Allan with the city centre, the Wallace Monument and Forth Valley College. Stirling Council leader Johanna Boyd said: "Putting the river back at the centre of life in Stirling will have vast potential economic and social benefits. It will improve access to the water and riverbanks, as well as giving locals and visitors a unique experience of Stirling's iconic attractions and creating a

new sense of connectivity. Key sites including Stirling University in Bridge of Allan, the Wallace Monument, the Forth Valley College Riverside campus, Stirling Sports Village and Forthside would be linked. The river is a major asset and the regeneration project is about a different way of seeing it." The local authority will also spend £500,000 to restore the city's Old Harbour and make wider infrastructure improvements along the waterfront as part of its City Deal bid. New and upgraded foot and cycle paths will also be built along the Forth to encourage more people away from the urban centre and down to the Forth. Stirling was once considered a bustling port as well as a shipbuilding centre and at one time was one of Scotland's key maritime regions.

Oor Wullie and The Broons 80th Anniversary stamps announced by the Royal Mail



Classic Scottish cartoon strips Oor Wullie and The Broons celebrate 80 hilarious years in 2016 and Royal Mail is marking this mirthful milestone with two limited edition Stamp Sheets presented in specially designed folders dedicated to the world-famous funnies. The Sheets, produced in collaboration with strip publishers DC Thomson & Co. Ltd, are released in a limited edition of 10,000 on 8 March. Each Sheet contains imagery of the characters set fittingly next to ten First Class Scottish Saltire stamps, as well as renowned sayings synonymous with the cartoons that first appeared in the Sunday Post newspaper on 8 March 1936. The official tartan of each is reproduced on the front of the folder while inside you can read the background story to the lovable comic series as well as view illustrations of extracts published over the past 80 years. The back of each folder contains the first strip printed in the Sunday Post. The Oor Wullie folder introduces the mischievous but lovable nine-year-old boy and his pals. The lad has a big heart, is full of tricks and is an inspirational leader of his gang, which consists of Fat Bob, Wee Eck and Soapy Soutar. Wullie lives in the fictional town of Auchenshoogle and his adventures always start and end with him sitting on his upturned bucket. Wearing his famous black dungarees, Wullie wages war on boredom or embarks on get-rich quick schemes, sometimes with his occasional girlfriend Primrose Paterson, and often coming up against his old adversary PC Murdoch. The folder explains each of the colours that make up the Oor Wullie tartan, a woven sample of which is held for permanent preservation in the National Records of Scotland.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - The first edition of *the Scottish Banner* was printed in Ontario, Canada and officially launched later that month at the Fergus Highland Games. **1976**



1 - The reconvened Scottish Parliament was officially opened. After a devolution referendum showed resounding support for the reconvening of the Scottish parliament, plans were put into motion for the creation of such a body. The parliament would sit in the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall in Edinburgh. Elections were held on May 1 1999 and the first sitting of the body took place on May 12 of that year. The official opening on July 1 saw the Queen transfer full constitutional powers to Edinburgh. **1999**

1 - Seal granted by Edinburgh Town Council to the Incorporation of Barbers and Surgeons to practise their craft. The organisation is now known as the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. **1505**

1 - Proscription Act Repealed, thus allowing again the wearing of tartan and the carrying of weapons (banned as a result of the 1745 Uprising in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie). **1782**

2 - Treaty of Perth, Norway renounces claim on the Hebrides. **1266**

2 - Dumfries reached a temperature of 32.8C (91F), the highest recorded. **1908**

2 - Scottish architect Sir John Burnet died. His most famous commissions include the Royal Institute of Fine Arts; the Alhambra, and the Athenaeum, all in Glasgow, and the North front of the British Museum, the Institute of Chemistry, and the extension to Selfridges, all in London. **1938**

3 - John Logie Baird transmitted first colour television. **1928**

3 - The Clyde shipyards suffered their worst accident when the SS Daphne capsized at her launch. The packet steamer had been built by the Linthouse yard of Alexander Stephen and Sons and immediately sank into the River Clyde, taking the lives of the 195 workmen on board. It was later discovered that the 460-ton ship had little stability when it was launched, and rolled over forty-five degrees, taking huge amounts of water through a large deck opening. **1883**

4 - Lanarkshire-born James Keir Hardie became the first socialist to win a seat in the UK Parliament. **1892**

5 - Final run of the Edinburgh to London mail coach (trains had taken over). **1847**

5 - Border reiver, John Armstrong of Gilnockie, and 50 of his men were hanged for blackmail by James V. Armstrong was a well-known laird in the Borders area, and although a frequent marauder in England, he is not known to have attacked in Scotland. However, his wealth and power in a troublesome region brought the resentment of James V. Armstrong was tricked into attending a royal hunt only to be seized on his arrival. He faced the king, and volubly remonstrated with him that he had "asked grace at a graceless face". Legend has it that the trees at Carnlanrig, where Armstrong and his followers were hanged, withered, and none have grown there since. **1530**

6 - John Paul Jones, hero of the US Navy, born Kirkbean, Dumfries. **1747**

6 - The Piper Alpha oil platform in the North Sea was rocked by a huge explosion. Blasts continued on the platform throughout that night, and by morning 167 men had died. **1988**

7 - John Knox became the first Protestant minister appointed in Edinburgh. **1559**

7 - The novel *Waverley*, by Sir Walter Scott, was published. *Waverley* was Scott's first novel, and written mainly as a way of proving himself a superior literary talent to Byron. Although it was published anonymously as a safety net against its failure, it was an open secret who the author was. Scott needn't have worried: the book was a runaway success and Scott became regarded as the leading author in Europe. **1814**

8 - King Alexander II died on Isle of Kerrera, Oban Bay. **1249**



9 - Queen's Park Football Club, first senior football (soccer) club in Scotland formed. **1867**

9 - Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the Chief of Clan Fraser, Scottish aristocrat and soldier was born. Fraser, a Second World War hero, played a key role in the development of the commandos and was actively involved in both the Dieppe Raid, 1942, and D-Day landings, 1944. **1911**

10 - King James III born at Stirling. **1451**

10 - Glasgow Rangers signed Maurice Johnston. One of the last bastions of Scottish Protestant sectarianism, Rangers shocked many of its supporters when the club, under manager Graeme Souness, signed Maurice Johnston from the French club, Nantes, for £1.5m. Johnston had not only played for arch-rivals Celtic, but was the first well-known Roman Catholic player to sign for Rangers in modern times. **1989**



11 - Robert the Bruce born at Turnberry Castle, Ayrshire. After the death of William Wallace, Bruce led the campaign to regain Scottish independence, culminating in his stunning victory at the Battle of Bannockburn in June 1314. **1274**

12 - Darien expedition left Leith for Panama. **1698**

13 - King Alexander III crowned at Scone July 14 1297 - Scottish National War Memorial opened. **1249**

14 - Cavalry units from the Scottish Engager army clashed with Lambert's Parliamentary cavalry at Penrith. The Engager forces were commanded by the Duke of Hamilton, who made several mistakes in planning and executing his advance south, and quickly made themselves unpopular with the local population for their plundering and excesses. **1648**

15 - National Portrait Gallery for Scotland opened in Edinburgh. **1889**

16 - David II, son of Robert I (the Bruce) married Joan, sister of Edward III (he was 4, she was 7). **1328**

16 - 13th Commonwealth Games opened in Edinburgh. **1970**

17 - Bank of Scotland, first bank to be established by an Act of the Scottish Parliament, opened. **1695**

18 - John Paul Jones, naval hero of the American Revolution, died; he was born in Kircudbrightshire in 1747. **1792**

18 - Birth of Jim Watt, Scottish boxer. After a successful amateur career, Watt turned professional in 1968 and quickly rose to the top of the lightweight division before adding British and European titles to his collection during the 1970s. **1948**

19 - Battle of Halidon Hill in which Sir Archibald Douglas (guardian of David II) routed by Edward Balliol and Edward III. Scots losses were nearly 600, English losses 14. **1333**

19 - A.J. Cronin, the Scottish novelist, was born. Cronin is most fondly remembered as the creator of the hugely popular character, Dr. Finlay. **1896**

20 - Battle of Inverkeithing. Royalist force supporting Charles II failed to halt advance of army of Oliver Cromwell heading for Perth. **1651**

21 - Robert Burns dies in Dumfries, aged 37. The cause of death appears to have been heart failure, probably brought on by the hard physical work done in his youth. His widow, Jean Armour, gave birth to a son on the day of her husband's funeral. However, Maxwell, named after Burns's doctor, died in infancy. **1796**

22 - The army of the English King Edward I, using longbows for the first time, defeated the Scots led by Sir William Wallace at Battle of Falkirk. **1298**

23 - Charles Edward Stuart landed on Eriskay at the start of the 1745 campaign. **1745**

24 - Mary Queen of Scots abdicated and the young James VI acceded to Scottish throne. The Earl of Mar was appointed regent. **1567**

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK



24 - The Princess Royal formally opened the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Scotland's first national park. **2002**

25 - King James I born. **1394**

25 - Charles Macintosh, inventor of the plastic mac, died. Macintosh discovered the first rainproof cloth in 1818, by joining two sheets of fabric together with dissolved indiarubber. Although Macintosh is best known for his eponymously titled coats, he made significant advances in many fields of chemistry. As well as inventing a revolutionary bleaching powder with Charles Tennant, he also discovered a fast method of using carbon gases to convert iron to steel, and devised a hot-blast process which produced high quality cast iron. **1843**

26 - James IV responded to pleas for assistance from France and declared war on England. Aside from assisting the French, who had been invaded by an English army, James was also aggrieved at England's seizing of two Scottish ships and the non-payment of part of the dowry for his wife, Margaret Tudor. **1513**

27 - Battle of Killiecrankie in which Graham of Claverhouse (Bonnie Dundee) leading an army of Highlanders in support of the Jacobite cause, defeated King William's army under General Hugh Mackay. **1689**

28 - The Royalist Marquess of Montrose beat General Baillie in a skirmish which was part of the English Civil War at Dunkeld, Perthshire. For a war of positions the Highlanders had neither aptitude nor inclination, and at Dunkeld the greater part of them went home. **1645**

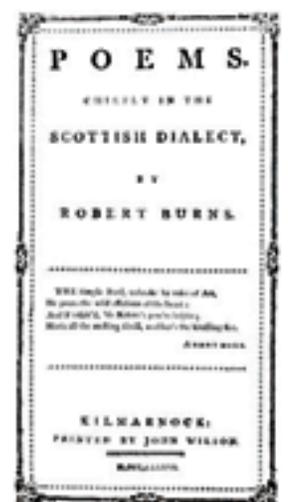
29 - Mary, Queen of Scots, married Lord Darnley. **1565**

29 - King James VI (aged 13 months) crowned at the Church of the Holy Rude, beside Stirling Castle, following the abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots, five days earlier. **1567**

30 - First edition of the long-running *Beano* comic was published. **1938**

30 - The beginning of the work-in at John Brown's Clydebank Shipbuilding Yard, organised by stalwart Socialist, Jimmy Reid. This was in response to the Ted Heath Tory government's plans to liquidate the yard - Reid exposed these as unethical. **1971**

31 - Cigarette advertising banned on television in Britain. **1965**



31 - The first edition of Robert Burns' poems, *The Kilmarnock Edition*, was published by John Wilson of Kilmarnock, under the title of *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*. It cost three shillings and the entire print run of 612 copies sold out within a month. **1780**



Clan Montgomery Society International
Join a Thousand Year Tradition

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CLAN ROSS of The United States
David Ross of Ross, Baron Balaogwan, Chief of the Clan

Invites all Ross' septs and their descendants to join in preserving our heritage.

www.clan-ross.org
ClanRossOfTheUnitedStates@gmail.com

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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 (Chayne, Duffin, Funderth, Mowat for any variation of the spelling).

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e-mail: william.holzknecht@bigpond.com.au
http://goldenvale.wix.com/clansutherlandaus

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.
P.O. Box 487
Pinhurst, NC 28370

Welcomes membership of anyone interested in the exchange of people and ideas between Scotland and the United States.

Write or phone for our free brochure.
www.scottishheritageusa.org
email: shusa@embarqmail.com
(910) 295-4448



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 Balgownie, 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



Turnbull Clan Association
Serving Turnbulls Worldwide
Regional Branches-Scotland, Europe, North America, New Zealand, & Australia

TCA welcomes all Turnbull septs including Trimble, Turnball, Trimbole, Trumball, & Rule. For a complete list visit the website.

Visit **www.turnbullclan.com** or Write to **secretary@turnbullclan.com**



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: gailrda@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.

COME JOIN US!
Web-site: **www.Clanmunrousa.org**
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: Balgownie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.
Info: Secretary, PO Box 320, Mackinnon, NSW, 2463
E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com
W: clanscottaustaliagroup.moonfruit.com



Clan WARDLAW Association
Founded 2004

Worldwide organization for all Wardlaw or related families. We invite you to join us. Email: **clanwardlaw@yahoo.com**

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



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**

Scottish Associations and Societies



MURRAY CLAN SOCIETY of North America

Applications for membership are invited from Murrays and septs: Balgownie, Neaves, Dismore, Dunsmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrise, Piper, Pypet, Small, Small, Small, Small, Spalding

www.clanmurray.org

Stanley B. Fleming
103 Wall Street
Fergus, Ontario, N1M 2K3

Kathy Wolf
5764 S. Mine Street
Littleton, CO 80127-2021



Clan Shaw Society

Invites membership or inquiries from all Shaw, Ayson, Adamson, Esson, MacAy, MacHay, Shisch, Sheach, Sheath, Seith, Seith, Skathi, Scuth and Shay.

Mike Shaw
Secretary
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020



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



SCOTTISH TARTANS MUSEUM
86 East Main Street
Franklin, North Carolina 28734
www.scottishtartans.org

The Scottish Tartans Museum is a non-profit Heritage center dedicated to the continuing Tradition of Highland Dress, featuring samples of tartan and kilts from the 1700s to today. Our gift shop offers a full line of Highland Dress, including tailor made kilts and many other gifts.

(928) 524-7472 **tartans@scottishtartans.org**



Clan Pollock

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

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.

Ruaraidh 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@chartraz.net	Membership Secretary Alta Jean (AJ) Ginn 12147 Holly Knoll Circle Great Falls, VA 22066 email: alja.ginn@verizon.net
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Daughters of Scotia

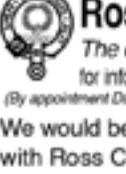
A 100 plus year old fraternal order for women of Scottish birth or descent or married to men of Scottish birth or descent whose purpose is to keep alive our Scottish heritage and customs.

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 Balgownie)

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-Carney, Carndill, Dyan, Dyon, Dyon, Hall, Halyard/Halyard, MacGilliland, Resner, and Skans.

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



Illinois Saint Andrew Society

Illinois' oldest, largest Scottish organization and owner of The Scottish Home. A unique "assisted living" facility located in a beautiful wooded setting.

For more information on Society membership and programs or The Scottish Home, contact
Gus Noble, President
708-447-5092 or www.chicago-scots.org



Victorian Scottish Union
Established 1905

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

Affiliated Clans & Societies for 2013-2014:

Balfour Highland Dancing	Geelong Highland Gathering Association
Balmoral Highland Dancing Society	Geelong Scottish Dances
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	Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society
Clan Lament Australia	Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
Clan Macdonald Terrville 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	Warrnambool & District Caledonian Society
Glenmaggie Scottish Folk Festival	Warrnambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society

Jan Macdonald, Secretary
Victorian Scottish Union
T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930
E: **secretary@victorianscottishunion.com**
www.victorianscottishunion.com



CLAN ROSS AMERICA
ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION MERGED

Many Names - One Clan

Liz Ross, President

Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary
crmembership@abcglabai.net
PO Box 6341
River Forest, IL 60305
www.clanross.org



The Stewart Society

Welcomes Stewarts, however spelled, by name, birth, or descent, from all over the world. Annual Gathering in historic, Stewart-related properties in Scotland. Newsletter. Annual magazine.

Please inquire:
The Secretary
53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT,
Tel/Fax 0131 220 4512 **www.stewartociety.org**



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: Chayne, Duffin, Gray, Froderth, Mowat and Oliphant.

Richard Langford
1106 Horseshoe Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24060
e-mail: **richard@langfordmail.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

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Celebrate the Scottish Banner's birthday with this great cake!

Ingredients:

- 190g/6½oz. self-raising flour
- 150g/5oz. caster sugar
- 2 level tbsp. cocoa powder
- 1 level tsp. bicarbonate of soda
- 1 level tsp. baking powder
- 2 tbsp. golden syrup
- 2 free-range eggs
- 150ml/¼ pint sunflower oil
- 150ml/¼ pint milk

For the icing:

- 200g/7oz. white chocolate
- 150ml/¼ pint double cream
- 1 x 125g/4½oz. tub full-fat cream cheese

Method:

Heat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4 and grease and line with greased greaseproof paper the bases of two 20cm/8in straight-sided loose bottomed sandwich tins. Sift the dry ingredients into a large bowl and make a well in the centre. Add the syrup, eggs, oil and milk, mix with an electric hand whisk and pour into the tins. Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes, or until the cakes springs back when lightly pressed with your fingertips. Turn out on a wire rack, remove the paper and leave to cool. For the icing, break the white chocolate into a bowl. Heat the double cream in a pan, until very hot but not boiling and pour the hot cream over the white chocolate to melt it. Stir until melted and set aside to cool. Spoon the cream cheese into a bowl then gradually add the white chocolate mixture and stir until combined. Set aside to cool a little, until thick enough to ice. Spread half of the icing on one cake, sit the other cake on top and spread the remaining icing on top to give a pretty finish.

Highlander Soup

Ingredients:

- 2 cups dried lentils or peas
- 1.35kgs/3 lbs. ham or beef bone
- ½ cup diced celery
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 cup cut carrots
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Method:

Wash lentils or peas & soak overnight in cold water. Drain. Add the recipe water & bones.

Heat to boiling. Simmer 2 hours. Add greens (celery) & carrots & simmer until lentils or peas are tender. Skim all fat from soup. Remove bones, cut off any meat, dice it, & return diced meat to the soup. Sauté onions, then add flour, salt and pepper. Mix well. Slowly add one cup hot soup stock to onion mixture, cook until thick & smooth & return thickened mixture to rest of hot soup.

Celtic scallops

Ingredients:

- scallops (hand-dived if possible)
- 1 medium cauliflower
- 500ml/16½fl oz. full fat milk
- icing sugar
- 150g/5oz. unsalted butter
- 30g/1oz. chopped shallots
- 30g/1oz. chopped button mushrooms
- 1 bouquet garni
- 100ml/4oz. dry white wine
- 100ml/4fl oz. double cream
- 50ml/2fl oz. virgin olive oil
- 30g/1¼oz. water soaked raisins
- 30g/1¼oz. washed salted button capers (baby capers have more flavour but others are fine)
- 15 leaves of fresh chervil

Method:

Using a table knife prise the scallop open. Lift the scallop from its shell and remove the roe and beard (keep the beards for the sauce and the roes can be used in a salad). Keep the scallops on a cloth in the fridge until ready to cook (this keeps them dry for frying in oil). To make the cauliflower, cut the cauliflower into even sized florets. Break off 15 florets and set aside. Slice the remaining cauliflower, and cook in the milk, with enough salt to taste, until tender and remove from the milk. Purée in a liquidizer using 50ml/2fl oz. of the double cream until smooth, adjust seasoning where necessary. To make the sauce, gently fry the scallop beards in 30g/1oz. butter without any colour. Then add the shallots, mushrooms, bouquet garni and cook for a few more minutes. Pour in the wine and reduce by 9/10ths. Add 50ml/2oz. of the double cream and bring to the boil. Remove to a low heat and stir in 120g/4oz of butter. Adjust the seasoning and pass through a fine sieve onto the raisins and capers. Do not allow this sauce to get too hot or cold (store in a warm place). Cook the scallops in a non-

stick pan to your liking. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Dust the cauliflower florets liberally with icing sugar and in the same pan fry them until golden. To serve, place the cauliflower florets neatly around the serving plate. Put some of the purée in the centre. Place the scallops on top and spoon around the caper and raisin sauce. Decorate the dish with chervil.

Highland Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 x 300g/10½oz. sirloin or fillet steak salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 25ml/1fl oz. rapeseed oil
- 1 red chilli, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp. palm sugar
- 2 garlic cloves, sliced
- 2 tbsp. fresh coriander, plus extra for the salad
- 2 tbsp. fresh mint
- 1 tsp. fish sauce
- 1 tbsp. soy sauce
- 1 lime, juice and zest
- 1 round lettuce
- 50g/1¾oz. sugar-snap peas, halved
- 6 radishes, sliced

Method:

Preheat a barbecue or griddle pan to hot. Season the steak with lots of black pepper, drizzle with oil and place onto a hot barbecue or griddle pan for five minutes, turning half-way through. To make the dressing, put the chilli, palm sugar, garlic and a teaspoon of salt into a pestle and mortar. Grind for 1-2 minutes, then add the coriander and mint and grind for another minute. Mix in the fish sauce, soy sauce, lime juice and zest. Cut the lettuce into six wedges and place in a bowl. Top with the sugar-snap peas, radishes and a few coriander leaves. Pour the dressing over the salad and toss to coat. Slice the beef and lay it on top of the salad

Aberdeen butteries (Rowies)



Ingredients:

- 500g/1lb 2oz. strong plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- 1 x 7g sachet easy-blend dried yeast
- 1 tbsp. soft light brown sugar
- 1 tbsp. sea salt flakes
- 350ml/12¼fl oz. warm water
- vegetable oil, for greasing
- 275g/9¾oz. butter, plus extra to serve
- 100g/3½oz. lard
- ready-made jam, to serve

Method:

In a large bowl, mix together the flour, yeast, sugar and salt until well combined. Make a well in the centre of the mixture, then gradually add the water in a thin stream, stirring well with a wooden spoon, until the mixture comes together as a dough. (NB: You may not need to use all of the water.) Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead

lightly for 8-10 minutes, or until smooth and elastic. Transfer the kneaded dough to a clean, greased bowl and cover with a greased sheet of cling film. Set aside in a warm place to rise (prove) for at least one hour, or until the dough has doubled in size. Meanwhile, in a separate bowl, cream together the butter and lard until well combined. Divide the mixture into four equal portions. When the dough has proved, turn it out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for a further 1-2 minutes. Roll out the dough into a 40cm x 20cm/16in x 8in rectangle, about 1cm/½in thick. Turn the dough around so that the shortest edge is facing you. Spread one portion of the butter and lard mixture over the bottom two-thirds of the dough rectangle. Fold the remaining one-third of the dough rectangle over onto the butter and lard mixture to cover the centre section of the dough rectangle. Fold the other end of the dough rectangle over the folded dough, so that the dough ends up three times its original thickness. Roll the dough out again to a 40cm x 20cm/16in x 8in rectangle, about 1cm/½in thick. Repeat the process of spreading and folding with another portion of the butter and lard mixture. Repeat the process twice more, until all of the butter and lard mixture has been used up and the dough has been rolled out a total of four times. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Roll the dough out again to a 40cm x 20cm/16in x 8in rectangle, about 1cm/½in thick. Cut the dough into 16 pieces and roll each into a round, flat bun shape. Transfer the buns to a lightly oiled baking tray and set aside for 40-45 minutes, or until they have doubled in size again (leave enough space between them for expansion). When the buns have risen, bake them in the oven for 15-18 minutes, or until they have risen further and are golden-brown and cooked through. Set aside to cool on a wire rack. Serve each buttery warm, spread with butter and jam.

Scottish Summer Dessert

Ingredients:

- Slices of medium or thin white bread with the all the crusts removed. Use a light, airy variety if possible.
- 500g/1lb. of fresh soft fruit (strawberries, raspberries, cherries, brambles). There are no fixed proportions but it works best if half of the fruit consists of strawberries.
- 30ml/1 fl oz. water
- 150g/5oz. or ¾ US cup of caster (or fine granulated) sugar

Method:

Line the base and the sides of a 1½ pint or 900ml. pudding basin with a layer of bread. Wash and trim the fruit (removing any stones or stalks) and cut strawberries in half. Put the water and sugar in a pan and bring to the boil. Add the fruit with the softest (raspberries/brambles) last. Cook only briefly - the fruit should still retain its shape. Drain off the syrup and retain for later. Spoon the fruit into the bowl which has been lined with bread. Add a little of the retained syrup. Place more bread to cover the top of the bowl. Place a saucer on top and apply pressure. Keep the bowl and the juice in a refrigerator overnight. Loosen with a palette knife and turn out onto a large bowl. Pour the rest of the syrup over it. Cut into wedges and serve with lightly whipped double cream/whipping cream.

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

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! www.scottishbanner.com #SB40.

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 between 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.kinmounthishighlandgames.com.

15 - 16 Cambridge, ON - Cambridge Scottish Festival

The festival features traditional games, food, and music, along with exhibitors and speakers, The Scottish Festival has much to offer to Scots and those who are simply Scottish at heart. Info: 519-740-4681 #7927 or www.cambridgescottishfestival.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

AUGUST 2016

1 - 4 Goderich, ON - Goderich Celtic Roots Festival

An annual celebration of the music, craft, and culture of the Celtic nations, immigrants of which form a strong historic background to Huron County. Info: (519) 524 8221 or www.celticfestival.ca.

12 - 14 Fergus, ON - Fergus Scottish

Festival and Highland Games

Celtic music, bagpipes & drums, heavy events, highland dancing, clans and heritage education, McKiddies center, Main field events, vendors and more. Info: 1 866-871-9442 or www.fergusscottishfestival.com.

12 - 14 Fergus, ON - Clan Leslie Society

International Biennial Gathering

The 2016 CLSI Gathering at Fergus Scottish Festival. Clan Leslie is the 2016 Honoured Clan. Info: www.clanlesliesociety.org.

15 - 19 Wolfville, NS - Scotch on the Rock

Scottish country dance event at Bishop Hall, 10032 Highway #1. Info: 902-542-5320 or www.rscdsnovascotia.ca

19 - 21 Québec, QC - Festival celtique de Québec

Music, culture and sport, the only francophone Celtic Festival in North America. Info: 418 802-0327 or www.festivalceltique.com.

27 Okotoks, AB - Foothills Highland Games

competitors from across Alberta and neighbouring provinces. Competition includes Piping and Drumming, Dance and Heavy Events. Info: www.foothillshighlandgames.com.

27 Almonte, ON - The North Lanark Highland Games

Twenty pipe bands, a hundred dancers and champion heavyweight athletes combine to present what is recognized as one of the Ottawa valley's premier summer events at N.L.A.S. Fairgrounds. Info: www.almontehighlandgames.com

USA

JULY 2016

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! www.scottishbanner.com #SB40.

7 Linville, NC - COSCA 5th Annual

Clan & Family Caucus

Council 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.

15 - 16 Raleigh, NC - Clan McAlister

of America Clan Gathering

25th Anniversary of Clan McAlister of America. Featured speaker genealogist Dr. Bruce Durie of Scotland. Search for ancestors on our data base and explore your Scottish and Irish past. Holiday Inn Raleigh/Durham Airport. Info: clanmcalister.org.

16 - 31 Montello, WI - The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

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

21 New York, NY - The Scots Who Built

New York: The Modernists

Presented by architect and architectural historian John Kinneer, President of the American Friends of the Georgian Group, the illustrated talk will explore the influence Scots have had on the contemporary landmarks of New York at The Arsenal, Central Park, 830 Fifth Ave (at 64th St). Info: 212 605 or americanscottishfoundation@gmail.com.

23 Chatham, IL - 21st Annual Springfield

Area Highland Games & Celtic Festival

9:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M at Chatham Community Park, 760 S. Main St. Info: www.springfieldhighlandgames.com.

29 - 31 Enumclaw, WA - 60th Pacific Northwest

Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering

North American Scottish Athletics Championship, US West Coast Drum Corps Championship, NW Regional Harp Finals, individual Piping and Drumming, Pipe Bands, Highland and National Dancing and more at Enumclaw Expo Center, 45224 - 284th Avenue SE. Info: www.sshga.org.

AUGUST 2016

5 - 7 Snowmass, CO - Colorado Scottish Festival

Presented by the St Andrew Society of Colorado with pipe bands, Clans and more. Info: www.scottishsgames.org.

5 - 6 Livonia, MI - The St. Andrew's Society of

Detroit 167th Annual Highland Games

The oldest continuous games in North America at Greenmead Historical Village, 20501 Newburgh Rd. Info: (248) 526-1849 or www.highlandgames.com.

6 - 7 Monterey, CA - 49th Annual Monterey

Scottish Games & Celtic Festival

At Monterey County Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairground Rd. For all ages and experience and learn about the fascinating Celtic culture. Info: 831-682-2022 or www.montereyscotgames.com.

13 Fortuna, CA - Frolic In The Glen & Highland Games

The Clans ere gathering! With pipe bands, heavy events and more at Rohner Park. Info: www.northcoastscots.org.

27 Kalamazoo, MI - Kalamazoo Scottish

Festival & Highland Games

Family-friendly events every year in celebration of Scottish culture at Flesher Field, 3663 S. 9th St. Info: 269-694-9843 or www.kalamazooscottishfest.org.

28 Fredericksburg, VA - William Wallace Day Dinner

Hosted by Scottish Society of Fredericksburg at the Colonial Tavern Home to the Irish Brigade, 406 Lafayette Blvd. Info: www.irishbrigadetavern.com.

SCOTLAND

JULY 2016

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! www.scottishbanner.com #SB40

2 Invergarry, Inverness-Shire -

Glengarry Highland Games

Traditional Highland Games with heavy, track and field events, hill race and children's races at Invergarry Shinty And Sports Field. Info: www.glengarrylife.com.

3 - 8 Isle of South Uist - Ceolas

An annual event exploring the Gaelic culture, especially song, language, music and dance. Info: www.ceolas.co.uk.

6 Kenmore, Perthshire - Kenmore Highland Games

Traditional Scottish Highland games at Games Park. Info: www.kenmorehighlandgames.co.uk.

7 - 10 Stonehaven, Kincardineshire -

Stonehaven Folk Festival

Traditional and contemporary folk music with concerts, ceilidh, sessions, workshops and more. Info: www.stonehavenfolkfestival.co.uk.

13 - 16 Outer Hebrides - Hebridean

Celtic Festival 2016

An award winning music festival set against the rich cultural heritage of the Outer Hebrides. Info: www.hebcelfest.com.

15 - 17 Outer Hebrides - Tiree Music Festival

Traditional and folk music festival. Info: www.tireemusicfestival.co.uk.

16 Balloch - Loch Lomond Highland Games

A traditional Scottish Highland Games situated at the southern end of Loch Lomond at Moss o Balloch Park. Info: www.lhgb.com.

16 Attadale - Lochcarron Highland Games

The Friendly Games held in beautiful Wester Ross in the North West Highlands of Scotland. Info: www.lochcarrongames.org.uk.

17 Rosneath, Argyll & Bute - The Rosneath

Peninsula Highland Gathering

Piping, track & field events, the Highland dancing competitions and more at Howie Memorial Park. Info: www.rosneathgames.co.uk

18 Burntisland, Fife - Burntisland Highland Games

Heavy weights, cycling and more at this traditional Scottish Highland games at Burntisland Links. Info: www.burntislandhighlandgames.co.uk.

21 Isle of Mull - Mull Highland Games

A fun and entertaining traditional Scottish Highland games for all the family filled with athletic events, Scottish music, dancing and more. Info: www.mullhighlandgames.weebly.com.

27 Arisaig - Arisaig Highland Games

and Clan Ranald Gathering

The Games features a full list of traditional events at Traigh Farm with sweeping views across sandy beaches towards the Cuillins of Skye & the Small Isles of Eigg and Rhum. Info: www.arisaighhighlandgames.co.uk.

30 - 7 Glasgow - Merchant City Festival

Experience the unique historical & contemporary character of Glasgow's cultural quarter with a full program of events. Info: www.merchantcityfestival.com.

30 - 5 Isle of Mull - West Highland Yachting Week

The historic sailing regatta, with a distinctive blend of competitive racing combined with a varied and full programme of events at Tobermory Harbour. Info: www.whyw.co.uk.

AUGUST 2016

4 - 7 Dundee - Dare ProtoPlay

Scotland's largest video games festival, celebrating innovation, creativity and talent in the design and development of digital games and interactive media. Info: www.visitscotland.com/IAD2016

4 - 7 Isle of Barra - Worldwide

Gathering Of The Clan MacNeil

MacNeil's from across the world gather of Barra for Clan events and kinship. Info: www.the-macneils.org.uk.

5 - 29 Edinburgh - Edinburgh Festival Fringe

The world's largest arts festival. An explosion of theatre, comedy, dance, physical theatre, music, children's shows, exhibitions, musicals, and street performers brings over 3,000 shows to over 300 venues in Edinburgh throughout August. Info: www.edfringe.com

5 - 27 Edinburgh - The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

A 'global gathering' showcasing music, dance and display from around the world, the 2016 showpiece event is set to pay tribute to HM The Queen's 90th birthday while celebrating 'Tunes of Glory'. With the unforgettable sight and sound of the Massed Pipes and Drums performing against the brooding backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. Info: www.edintattoo.co.uk

Answers to Scotword on Page 6

ACROSS: 7 Bagpipe; 8 Garrets; 10 Undeterred; 11 Odds; 12 Blethers; 14 Unsong;

15 Glasgowfair; 19 Kelvin; 20 Plockton; 22 Sets; 23 Landowners; 25 Resorts; 26 Brogues

DOWN: 1 Cannily; 2 Apse; 3 Sphere; 4 Dandruff; 5 Broomstick; 6 Student; 9 Prestonpans;

13 Television; 16 Singlets; 17 Leveret; 18 Corries; 21 Odours; 24 Nigg.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Music, colour, pageantry and action



The King's Guard of Norway. Photo: The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

The world's most spectacular Military Tattoo will next month host a plethora of talent from as far afield as Scandinavia, the Middle East, North America, Europe and the Antipodes, as over 1200 performers come together to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th year under the theme of Tunes of Glory. This will be the 67th Tattoo to be staged at the Scottish Capital's ancient castle, an inspiring backcloth for the internationally acclaimed event. The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo has now

sold out for 17 successive seasons - an extraordinary 220,000-strong audience over 25 performances in August each year. The line-up of performers for 2016 includes massed pipers, drummers, fiddlers, singers and dancers along with other featured acts from home and abroad. This summer the emphasis is once again on music, movement and pageantry, supported by cutting edge technology, lighting sound and projections. The show will chart the rich history of military music, both on the battlefield and in peace, from

the earliest times to the present day.

The finest performers in the world

Tattoo Chief Executive and Producer, Brigadier David Allfrey, said: "We are hugely excited at what lies ahead. We are developing a remarkable score with some of the finest performers in the world. It is such a privilege. There will be a strong heritage texture to the Show, not just celebrating our Nation's Armed Forces and their musical pedigree but also celebrating Her Majesty The Queen's 90th year - a brilliant combination which

provides us with a perfect excuse to bring together the best of our military musicians and those of some longstanding friends and allies. The Tattoo always delivers huge colour and pace but I sense this coming year we will hit a new height." Show-stopping turns are expected from the King's Guard of Norway, while the Imps from London's Docklands are set to provide a thrilling motorcycle display performed at breathtaking speed. Antipodean attractions are also on parade with the internationally acclaimed New Zealand Army Band, who will be accompanied by the all-girl Lochiel Marching Drill Team. Once again, some of the finest highland dancers in the world come together in beautiful massed displays while Shetland's fiddle players, 'Hjaltibonhoga', bring their special magic to Edinburgh. As always, the 100-minute programme will include the famous Massed Pipes and Drums, the Massed Military Bands and the famous Lone Piper, playing high on the Castle battlements above the parade ground. Among the many bands taking part will be The Band of The Household Cavalry, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, The Royal Regiment of Scotland and The Royal Irish Regiment. **The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will take place at the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade August 5-27th. For details see: www.edintattoo.co.uk.**



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By: Judy Vickers

Scotland's ancient festival

The Musselburgh Riding of the Marches



This year's principals and assistants.



This year's Town Champion Neil Wilson.

This month one of the most ancient festivals in Scotland will take place in East Lothian which happens only every 21 years. The Musselburgh Riding of the Marches was first documented in 1682, but may have been part of Scotland's history well beyond that time. The symbolic ceremony has had some changes down through the years, but the best of the ancient pageantry has been preserved unaltered as Judy Vickers explains.

It's a central part of Musselburgh's ancient Riding of the Marches ceremony. When the Turf Cutter digs up a sod from the ground with his ceremonial spade, shouts "it's a' oor ain" (it's our own) and tosses the earth over his shoulder, he is following a tradition that has been played out once every 21 years for centuries in the East Lothian town. Unfortunately there was a rather untraditional moment in 1974 when a clod of earth flew into the crowd of onlookers, landed in the pram of two-year-old Neil Wilson and hit him smack in the face. Luckily for this year's festival, Neil, now a 43-year-old father-of-two, wasn't scarred either physically or emotionally by his first Riding experience and will take centre stage as the Town Champion this month. "And I still speak to George Innes, the Turf Cutter from that year, so I can't hold it against him," he chuckles. Common Ridings, once an essential Medieval ceremony to re-enforce a burgh's borders against encroachment, are held in towns across the Scottish Borders and Lothians. Musselburgh's Riding stands out from the others because it is only held once every 21 years. "Why 21 years? No-one can answer that," says Alastair Knowles, the

Town Champion from 1995 and chairman of the Riding of the Marches (RoM) 2016 Board. "Probably because it needed to be done once in a generation. Since 1682, by accident or design it has settled itself into a 21-year cycle. I think the first gap was a bit more than 21 years and there have been fluctuations – wars and invasions did have an effect.

"There was a Riding in 1893 so the next was due to be in August 1914. All the plans were in place, and then there was the declaration of war so it was decided to postpone it until the end of hostilities. At the time they thought they would be able to hold it the next year as the war was supposed to be all over by Christmas but in the end it was 1919 before it went ahead. And a Riding should have been held in 1977 but the local authority was disappearing in 1975 so the Riding was brought forward to 1974. At that time there was a debate about whether it would ever take place again." Happily, townsfolk stepped in to organise 1995's festivities and with more than 100 people who have worked for more than four years to bring about this year's, it looks like the Riding has as much future as it has past.

The ceremony begins at the Mercat Cross, when the spade is handed over to the Turf Cutter – this year 52-year-old Iain Clark – who then rides out with an attendant to mark the ancient boundaries of the Burgh under the protection of a Town Champion, dressed in full armour and assisted by two squires. "The Turf Cutter is challenged with cutting a sod at 12 boundary markers," says Alastair. "Because it's an ancient custom we stick to the ancient boundaries although Musselburgh has expanded a lot since then. A lot are now by the side of roads or on pavements so the local authority provides us with ten different boxes filled with turf and the turf-cutter digs his spade into them. And the Town Champion's job is to protect him and pick up a single combat challenge if there is one."

Usual marks of antiquity

No-one can remember a time when a passing knight did pick a fight although

there was a nasty skirmish back in 1732 between the weavers and the tailors over who should be in first in the procession. The weavers won only to be beaten back when the butchers decided to side with the tailors. The first written record of the Riding dates from 1682 but, as the next Riding, of 1711, is described as being celebrated with the "usual marks of antiquity", it is believed it dates back far earlier, possibly even to Roman times. Unfortunately, the town records were destroyed in a fire in 1544. "There is a lot of speculation," says Alastair. "I reckon it would go back to 1124 when we were given our first charter by one of the early kings, the town would have probably then been legally charged with protecting its boundaries. But it could date back to the 5th century. There was a significant Roman settlement here which leads to a reasonable conclusion that the Roman Festival of Terminalia would have been celebrated. It honoured the Roman God Terminus who presided over boundaries and whose statue was a stone or post stuck in the ground. Since man first planted himself on Earth, he's looked for an excuse for a party and a festival. It's in our DNA." The central role of an amour-clad Town Champion mounted on a trusty steed and flanked by his squires is not an easy task for a non-rider as Alastair was when he was selected for 1995. "I managed to cling on with my knees," he says. Neil, however, should have no problem, being an accomplished horseman already, although he insists that's not why he was selected.

The armour is made specially and the style of dress changes with each Riding. "In 1995, for instance, there was a concerted effort to make the costumes as authentic to the 1682 restoration period as possible. We were very black, my squires were all in black with big black hats. 1974 was much more colourful and we are going to go back to that for 2016," says Alastair. And it's not just the styles of costume which will be different – this year will mark the first time a woman has held a main role. Fiona Grant-MacDonald, 37, will be the Turf Cutter's Assistant – "I hold the spade," she laughs. But

the physics technician says she is delighted to be first female principal. "It's quite a responsibility and I am really proud to do it." The Riding of the Marches is always followed by another day of celebration. "In the old days it was a horse race or a fair. What we have done since 1919 and probably earlier is have a fancy dress carnival parade the next day," says Alastair. Fancy floats provided and manned by local businesses are the order of the day and a flick through photographs of parades of the past also provide a record that reflects the changing face of the town. 1935's parade reveals the importance to the town of the herring trade with floats filled with Fisherrow fishwives in their stripy skirts and businesses such as Stuart's nets and twines.

Honest Toun Festival

In fact, 1935 was seen as such a golden year for the Marches, enthusiasm of the townsfolk spilled over and spawned the annual Honest Toun Festival, so-called because of the town's 14th century nickname. This year's parade, on Saturday, July 30, will be followed by a more modern introduction to the programme – a luminaire and light sculpture on the River Esk. It was first held at the 1995 Riding, when a giant effigy of the Town Champion floated down the river and ignited a firework showpiece with his lance. The changing times are reflected across the programme for this year's Marches. The Riding is actually included in the curriculum of the six local primary schools and each school has a large model horse to decorate, which will then form a trail around the town. Children from Rainbows, Brownies and Guides with other groups from Musselburgh, Wallyford and Whitecraig have created a work of art made of coloured felt-encased pebbles in a strand along the beach. There will be a regatta, a community exhibition, a golf tournament, a ceilidh, a seniors afternoon tea, a treasure hunt – the list seems endless and is all part of the remit of the organisers – to make sure every person, young or old, in the town is involved. And that is a key target for organisers of this year's Marches. Musselburgh has expanded rapidly since the last event and there are now people from many different backgrounds and cultures living in the town with no memory of the 1995 Riding. To ensure its future success, newcomers need to come on board. And, say those involved in this year's Marches, that future success is important because of boundaries of a different kind to those gallantly defended by knights of old. At a time when many people live and work in different places and the town sits on the edge of a city, it would be all too easy for Musselburgh to have its own identity swallowed up. As Turf Cutter Iain Clark says: "Musselburgh has such a great community and the Riding of the Marches helps to make Musselburgh different, distinctive. If you don't have events like this, we don't have anything to hold the community together. It brings us all together."

For further details see: www.rom2016.co.uk



1974, left assistant turf cutter Sandy Brown, centre Town Champion John Downie and right turf cutter George Innes.



Fisherwives' parade float from 1935.

Castle Menzies - A building steeped with history in Highland Perthshire

Text & photographs:
Marieke McBean



Castle Menzies is the ancestral seat of the Clan Menzies and a little-known medieval castle in the heart of Scotland as Marieke McBean explains.

Perthshire is an area most people pass through to get somewhere else. Few people stop off and explore what the area has to offer, but those who do are amazed by what they find. In and around Aberfeldy there are lots of things to see and do, the remarkable Castle Menzies being just one of them. Situated near the River Tay and at the foot of Weem Rock, Castle Menzies is an imposing structure. This large castle is hard to miss when driving from Aberfeldy towards Kinloch Rannoch. The castle is surrounded by farmland and looks stunning in all weathers.

Defensive structure

The original castle was built in 1488, commissioned by Sir Robert Menzies. At the time it was called the Place of Weem. It was burnt down in 1502 by Neil Stewart, a descendant of the Wolf of Badenoch and owner of nearby Garth Castle. Records do not say when the castle was rebuilt, but it has to have been some time in the 16th century and definitely before 1571. The building has a Z-shape which is fairly unusual within Scotland. It means it has a central block with towers on diagonally opposite corners. Castle Menzies is very much a defensive structure and is different from nearby castles such as Blair Castle. The interior is quite bare, with some rooms completely unfurnished. I love it though; it gives you a feel of the past, without everything being dressed up for the tourists. The ground floor kitchen has a very old cooking hearth which was exposed when they removed two old fireplaces dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries. The room on the top floor is truly spectacular, with a wooden ceiling making you feel as if

you've transported back to medieval times. I'm surprised it was not used in filming the popular TV series Outlander.

Bonnie Prince Charlie

It would have been a very suitable location as there is certainly a Jacobite link at Castle Menzies; on 4 and 5 February 1746 Prince Charles Edward, or Bonnie Prince Charlie, stayed at the castle on his way north. Not soon after he would lose the infamous Battle of Culloden. Only four days after Bonnie Prince Charlie's stay, the Duke of Cumberland garrisoned the castle for the government forces. The castle was extended in the 18th and 19th centuries with new rooms and a large wooden staircase. At the back of the castle they added kitchens, servants quarters and other outbuildings. Sadly though they didn't last. All that remains of these outbuildings now is the Warden's Cottage and a few walls. Castle Menzies had always been owned by members of the Menzies clan. However, in 1910 no heirs were left and eventually the castle and estate was divided and sold. The castle was not maintained properly and fell into disrepair. It was not until 1957 that things started

The room on the top floor is truly spectacular, with a wooden ceiling making you feel as if you've transported back to medieval times.

changing for the better. The Menzies Clan Society bought the ruined castle for less than £300 and was adamant to stop the decline



and repair the damage. After many years of repairs the castle is now open to the public. It still serves as the base for the Menzies Clan Gatherings and now also hosts weddings and events. Tourists visit the castle daily.

Plant collector

Castle Menzies is privately owned and therefore not part of Historic Scotland. It's worth a visit though. After visiting the castle, make sure you visit the walled garden, too. A lot of work still needs doing here, but it is an interesting place, linked with Archibald Menzies. Many people won't know his name, but there are but few who have not seen a monkey puzzle tree somewhere in Scotland. Archibald Menzies was a plant collector from Weem, who started his career at the garden of Castle Menzies. He introduced many plants to the UK, most famously the monkey puzzle tree, an unusual evergreen conifer with very large spikes. A room in Castle Menzies is dedicated to this famous plant collector. In nearby Aberfeldy stands a monkey puzzle tree complete with (toy!) monkeys dangling from its branches. Weem Wood

offers some lovely walks through an old woodland that includes several species introduced by Archibald Menzies. The woodland is looked after by the Forestry Commission and children in particular love spending time in this forest, searching for dragons which have been carved in many rocks along the paths. Weem Kirk at the foot of the woodland is also worth a visit. It has strong links with the Menzies clan and it is a great example of a medieval church in Scotland. The Menzies mausoleum is located here.

A few miles further west, north of the hamlet Keltneyburn, stands Garth Castle, the place where Neil Stewart - he who burned down "Place of Weem" in the early 16th century - used to live. You can take a walk up alongside the Keltney Burn, passing a nature reserve that is famous for its many orchids.

Castle Menzies is open daily from April to October, Monday - Saturday 10.30am - 5pm and Sundays from 2-5pm. Last entry is half an hour before closing. Tickets are £6.50 for adults and £3 for children. More information can be found on www.castlemenzies.org.



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The Men's Shed-Building a healthy place for Scottish men

A new social phenomena for men is sweeping across Scotland called the Men's Shed. Members of Men's Sheds come from all walks of life – the bond that unites them is that they are men with time on their hands and would like something meaningful to do with that time. Pioneered in Australia the Men's Shed Association is opening up from Fife to Glasgow and from Oban to Inverness and offering a place of positive health for members as Nick Drainey explains.



Don Fowler keeping busy at the Men's Shed.



Albert Duncan creating at a local Men's Shed.

Traditionally they have been seen as a place of solitude - a retreat to escape to away from a nagging spouse or the household chores. But now it appears men's sheds are actually helping to overcome loneliness and social isolation. The Scottish Men's Sheds Association has recently launched in late 2015, as the global phenomenon which began in Australia takes hold in the UK. The communal sheds are designed as a substitute for the pub or the betting shop and allow men to learn skills from each other, ranging from DIY to bridge, model railways to computing.

Jason Schroeder, the founder and chairman of the association, helped open Scotland's first Men's Shed in Westhill, near Aberdeen in 2013. Since then the number across the country has risen to 30 and is expected to grow much greater. Mr Schroeder points to Australia, where 1,400 sheds have been started since the movement began in the 1990s, and Ireland, which formed an association in 2011 and saw the number of sheds rise from 20 to 250. The purpose is to give men, whether they are retired, out of work or with spare time, something to do.

Loneliness

Mr Schroeder said: "Outside the pub or the betting shop we don't have any place that a man can go to ... men are staying at home and the impact of that is loneliness. In Scotland, and in the western world, we have this problem that men are not dying but living a very long time now. For 20, 30, 40 years you have a job and you know who you are and then the next morning in you wake up and you don't – your whole identity is wrapped up in work." That is where the Men's Sheds come in, offering a place for someone to go, whether they are retired, under-employed or simply have spare time. Mr Schroeder adds: "Anyone over 18 is welcome in a shed, it doesn't matter what your circumstances in life. They are for a community of men to come

in for free, run by men themselves."

At the Westhill Men's Shed, Don Fowler is in the workshop, sawing wood. He broke his spine 12 years ago and suffers from severe depression, brought on by the long recovery period he is still undergoing. Mr Fowler, 60, credits the shed with helping him overcome his problems. He says: "I would be stuck in the house if I wasn't here and I think this place has helped a few lads with depression. There is a great bunch of guys here who are so helpful to each other. They come from all walks of life and there is no cultural barrier." Alan Eastell is acting as a supervisor, checking everyone is happy and the steady stream of new comers are seen to – since it opened, 1,000 men have been through the doors. The retired oilfield engineers and bus driver says: "It is giving people a new lease of life. Guys that have worked want to do things, they don't want to sit and do nothing. In this organisation there is somebody to teach you how to do anything – engineering, joinery, model building, playing bridge, even computing."

A second home

But it is not just the tools, bridge tables and model railways which attract men, conversation seems to be the most popular activity. Albert Duncan, 84, is restoring an old wood plane and enjoys the company of others, something he is encouraged to do by his wife. He says: "It is great, the friendship. The shed gets me out, there is different company." That view is echoed by Bob Owen, a 90 year old veteran of the World War Two Arctic Convoys, restores garden chairs at the shed which are sold to raise funds. The widower says: "This is my second life, it is a second home for me." Traditionally male pursuits are a big part of the initial attraction, according to Mr Schroeder. He says: "Many things can go on inside a shed. It depends on the community. The basic model is a fully fledged workshop space – benches for wood work, metal

work. That is the hook, men see 'big shiny tools' and that they could get taught for free. And those men who are mentoring feel good about themselves for sharing their skills. But the most important part of the shed is the community area, comfy seats and tables but also things

like model railways. We have one guy at Westhill who has three tables of bridge every Friday morning and he has taught people to play. For Scotland I am pushing that they have a kitchen because we find that men aged 50 to 90 don't know how to cook and we know that living healthy impacts on your mental health."

Shoulder to shoulder

There are no women in Men's Sheds, unless the local group want to allow them. Mr Schroeder says this is a "pro-men, not anti-woman" stance because men behave differently in front of women, adding that they "almost become hunters, they can't help themselves". He said: "When men look at each other it is confrontational, because we have testosterone running through our bodies. What we find is that if men are shoulder to shoulder and working on something they are not looking at each other and start talking – you will find that very soon afterwards they will take a break and go for a cup of tea. You see their body language change and their trust between each other has been built."

For further details see: www.scottishmsa.org.uk

Burials discovered in Edinburgh playground



Photo: Archaeologist Megan Stoakley with students Amelia Soffe and Louise Doyle.

Further evidence of human remains thought to date back to the 17th Century or earlier have been unearthed by archaeologists in an Edinburgh playground. The outlines of at least nine coffins have been identified in the grounds of St Mary's Primary School in Leith as part of an excavation by Morrison Construction in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. The findings follow the discovery of an individual skeleton over the Easter break while investigative works took place for a new classroom building. Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "The new information coming from the site is proving to be even more significant than previously thought. The school community has been very interested in the excavation and the findings. The children have been eager to learn about the new discoveries and as the excavation continues, we'll find out

more about the former inhabitants of Leith."

John Lawson, City of Edinburgh Council Archaeologist, added: "Leith and the surrounding area has a rich archaeological history. These excavations have unearthed what appears to be a complex cemetery thought to date from the 15th to the 17th centuries, containing at least nine graves including adults and young children buried in coffins. The discoveries of these burials in this location, although always a possibility, is nevertheless a surprise. Further excavations will reveal more evidence which will allow us to accurately date these burials and how they relate to the history of Leith." The area containing the remains has been fenced off but, unfortunately for the students, the school remained open. The new classrooms will still be built but will no longer open in time for the new school term due to further necessary archaeological analysis.