



the Scottish Banner



North American Edition



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 40 Number 4 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper October 2016

Cowal Highland Gathering

» Pg 12



Edinburgh

Take a walk on the haunted side

» Pg 10

Kilmartin Glen

Making room for over 5000 years of Scottish history

» Pg 12

Scone Palace

A royal residence steeped in history

» Pg 16

Australia \$3.75; North American \$3.00; N.Z. \$3.95; U.K. £2.00



Contrast against the darkness - Autumn in Scotland 13
Specters of Scotland - Exploring Scottish mythical creatures 26
Discovering Clan MacGregor 27

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Printed monthly in Australia, Canada and the USA. ISSN 0707-073X

Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806
Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement No.40022115

Published monthly by Scottish Banner Publications
 PO Box 6880 Hudson, FL 34674 USA

USA-Periodical Postage Paid at Sarasota, FL 34231
 and additional Entry Offices (USPS 9101)

U.S. Postmaster send corrections to:
 PO Box 6880 Hudson, FL 34674

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 Cheques, money orders, Visa and MasterCard accepted.

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The Banner Says...

Scots myths, folklore and legends

By: Valerie Cairney



As we go into this latest October issue, we realise what is soon happening in Scotland and around the world this month-Halloween. As we celebrate Halloween on October 31st around the globe, many may not be aware this holiday has very distinct Celtic traditions. Scotland is a land full of myths, folklore and legends which stretch far back into history and carry on today. Scotland has celebrated this time of year for hundreds of years and many of the Halloween customs we know and love today are in fact remnants of this ancient culture. Scotland has a long history of myths, legends and strange stories that occur throughout the year but at this time of year as the nights draw in sooner and we prepare for All Hallows' Eve, or All Saints' Eve (Halloween) we can't help but think of the folklore that has helped shape this great nation.

The Loch Ness Monster

Certainly Scotland's most famous and unsolved mystery of all, is the Loch Ness Monster. This large dinosaur-like creature is reputed to inhabit Loch Ness ('Nessie' as it is now affectionately called) in the picturesque Scottish Highlands. Of course, Loch Ness will, have many visitors watching its shores from those watching for the sighting of its giant beast. This creature was first reported being seen almost 1,500 years ago, when a giant animal was said to have leaped out of the lake near Inverness and ate a local farmer. Since then the myth of the Loch Ness Monster has magnified.

In 1934, a London doctor snapped a photograph that appeared to show a dinosaur-looking creature with a long neck emerging from the water of Loch Ness. Since that day dozens of sightings have been claimed - many of these having been hoaxes. Yet since then the myth of the Loch Ness Monster seems to have magnified. In 2009 a newspaper reader claims to have spotted 'Nessie' while browsing Google's Earth's satellite photos of Loch Ness. Regardless of the truth, the suggestion of the monster's existence, today makes Loch Ness one of Scotland's most popular tourist attractions, with thousands visiting its shores each year in the hope of catching a rare - and much favoured glimpse of its famous monster. Nessie is certainly forever linked to Scotland and continues to have a great impact on tourism and business for the Highlands.

Robert the Bruce

When Robert the Bruce became King of Scotland in 1306, Edward the 1st took immediate action against him. The King forced Bruce into hiding, and according to legends we have inherited at some point, while he was on the run and at his lowest ebb, Bruce hid himself in a cave. Whilst he was there, according to legend, he watched a spider spinning himself a web from one part of the cave to the other. He watched the spider try and try again to build his web before finally succeeding. This spider is said to have inspired Bruce to succeed in continuing to carry

out fighting the English, which he did. After the death of Edward 1 in 1307, Bruce defeated Edward 11's armies at Bannockburn in 1314.

The legend of Sawney Bean

The story of Sawney Bean is one of the most gruesome of Scottish legends, which wouldn't be out of place in a modern horror movie. Unfortunately it is unknown whether Alexander 'Sawney' Bean was actually a real person or just a creation of Scottish folklore, but the story certainly has a lot of intrigue. According to legend, Sawney Bean was the head of a criminal, cannibalistic, family in the 15th century, during the reign of King James 1 of Scotland. It has been claimed that he, his wife and 46 children and grandchildren killed and fed on over a thousand people before they were captured and executed. However there is more on this hungry man in this issue so keep reading!

Halloween-Fires, neeps and lanterns

Of all the seasonal holidays, Halloween is one of many favourites - both within Scotland itself and also within the Scots people themselves. It inspires spiritual significance or that same giddy expectation as one may have with Christmas. There is some macabre theatricality about it which never fails to bring out the big 'child' in many of us. Scotland certainly also celebrates the season, with its atmospheric landscape and array of haunted castles, peculiar superstitions and occasional morbid history - it's not surprising Halloween first took root there.

Robert Burns, the famous Scottish poet, wrote about the myths, legends and traditions associated with Halloween in Scotland in his poem *Halloween* about this topic in 1785. Halloween in Scotland is all about supernatural witches, spirits and fires. In this poem Halloween, can be traced back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (summer's end) held on November 1st. The Celtic year was determined by growing seasons with Samhain (Samhuinn in Gaelic) marking the end of summer and the beginning of harvest season with the onset of winter.

The next season was the beginning of the dark and cold winter. This festival symbolised the boundary between the world of the living and the world of the dead. It was during those years that the Celts believed that on the night of October 31st ghosts of the dead would walk amongst them. Large bonfires were lit in each village to ward off evil spirits. All fires were put out and new fires lit from the new great bonfires. Today the Samhuinn Fire Festival in Edinburgh is an annual event marking the Celtic New Year, and is presented by the Beltane Society. The event features ancient Celtic traditions which include a spectacular procession of fire, music, martial arts, drumming, dancing, theatre and fireworks, all taking place in Edinburgh's Old Town.

Today bonfires are still used to scare away the un-dead in some areas of Scotland. These are more usually "neep lanterns" (turnip

lanterns) are made by scooping out a turnip and cutting a trough in the skin to create eyes, nose and mouth with creepy grimaces. A candle is then lit inside to make the lantern. These lanterns are also supposed to ward off evil spirits. Nowadays thanks to the influence of American culture, pumpkins are as common as turnips for lanterns.

The Witchcraft Act of 1733

Until recently, 'trick or treat' was unknown in Scotland. Instead children dressed up pretending to be evil spirits and went 'guising' (or 'galoshin'). The custom traces back to times when it was thought that by disguising children in this way they would blend in with the spirits that were abroad that night. Children arriving at a house so 'disguised' would receive an offering to ward off evil. Today it is expected that the children, as well as dressing up, also perform a party trick - a song or a dance, or recite a poem, for example - before they are offered a treat which might be fruit, nuts or more commonly nowadays, money or sweets. The Witchcraft Act of 1733 contained a clause preventing the consumption of pork or pastry on Halloween. However, this act was repealed in the 1930's, and today it is now legal to offer pork pies or sausage rolls to children as treats.

"Dookin' for apples" is a popular Halloween party game and involves taking an apple floating in a basin of water, without using your hand, either by spearing it with a fork, held in your teeth, or by biting it. This allows another Halloween tradition with its roots in pagan times. The original bobbing for apples still continues to stem back to ancient Celtic traditions.

Scotland undoubtedly is one of the most haunted nations on earth and offers a Halloween experience as spooky as it gets, from family friendly silliness to genuinely spine tingling escapades. Take your pick from a range of events and activities guaranteed to make this Halloween one you won't forget in a hurry. In this issue you will find some more content on Scottish myths and legends which we hope you will enjoy. Wherever you spend your Halloween, I wish you a wonderful time, with many fine Scottish legends and treats to enjoy - no matter which myth you choose to believe (or not)!

This month also marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month and includes our pink tartan cover, the Scottish Banner will be donating proceeds from this issue to help this great cause, and we thank our readers for their support.



Gracing our front cover: Highland dancers at the Cowal Highland Gathering: Photo: Cowal Highland Gathering.

The Braemar Gathering *Scotland's Royal Gathering*

All photos courtesy of the Braemar Gathering Annual.



Her Majesty The Queen in the Royal Pavilion with Prince Charles, Princess Anne the Princess Royal and her husband Tim Lawrence.



Heavy event competitor Scott Rider in competition.



The Armed Forces Inter-Services tug-o-war.

Did you know?



Cruden Bay is a small town on the East Coast, a few miles south of Peterhead, towards Aberdeen.

In the late 19th century it was the favourite holiday resort of Bram Stoker the man who wrote the most famous literary version of the Dracula legend and is said to have helped inspire his most chilling tale.

The jagged gothic struts of Slains Castle dominate the skyline, bats flicker in and out of the towers and, as the wind whistles through the belfry, it becomes all too easy to see where Stoker got his inspiration for Dracula's castle.

You can still pop into the Kilmarnock Inn on the High Street, where you can move through the same rooms and breathe the same air that Stoker once did. He stayed here in 1895, when Dracula's blood-freezing story first began to creep from his pen. It might be best to go in the daytime however...



Highland dancers on stage.

Thousands of people enjoyed the 2016 Braemar Highland Gathering, one of Scotland's most iconic Gatherings. Royal connections are closely associated with Braemar, from the time of her first appearance at the Gathering in 1848, Queen Victoria took a close interest both in the Society and the Gathering, and in 1866 ordered that the title "Royal" should be added to the name of the Society. Her Majesty The Queen was accompanied by the

Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles (Duke of Rothesay), Princess Anne and Tim Lawrence. The Queen first attended the Braemar event as a seven-year-old child in 1933 and has attended most years since coming to the throne in 1952. The Braemar Gathering, is always held on the first Saturday in September in The Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park in Braemar, Scotland.

For further details on the Braemar Gathering see: www.braemargathering.org

Clan MacLeod North American Gathering 2016

By: Peter Macleod, National Co-Ordinator of the Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia



The 2016 Clan MacLeod North American Gathering was held at McLeod Castle, a replica Scottish castle, home of the ACMS (Associated Clan MacLeod Societies) President, Dr Don McLeod and his wife Chris. McLeod Castle sits in the Nicola Valley some 15 kms outside of Merritt in British Columbia, Canada and 200 kms north east of Vancouver. The Gathering ran from Wednesday 27th to Sunday 31st July 2016 and was extremely well attended. The official attendance of 202 comprised 15 from Clan MacLeod Society New Zealand, 2 from CMS Australia, 9 from England and 6 Scots. Of the host countries, USA had 70 and Canada around 100. This Gathering was historic in that it is the first International MacLeod Gathering to be held in a private residence since the 1950s

and early 1960s. In those days, attendance was perhaps 50 to 100. The Gatherings were the Clan MacLeod Parliaments, host, Dame Flora MacLeod of Macleod, 28th Chief. Venue, Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye. So congratulations to Don and Chris for the tremendous effort, virtually breaking new ground.

First nation people

Around 150 first nation people live in the Nicola Valley, all of them of McLeod/Macleod descent. As a special guest we had Indian Chief Harvey McLeod. Harvey is chief of the local branch of the Okanagan. The Confederation of the Okanagan tribes' traditional territory ranges from Idaho and Montana in the USA and British Columbia in Canada. Harvey's brother, Carl McLeod, has made a lifetime study of

the Tribe's traditions and dances. Carl was dressed in the most elaborate and colourful regalia and demonstrated several of their traditional dances.

A variety of lectures also took place including on Scottish heraldry by Kevin Tolmie. Kevin has been granted personal arms by the Lord Lyon, King of Arms. More recently, he has registered the first ever Tolmie Tartan with the Scottish Register of Tartans. Further talks were on speaking Gaelic, kilt making and piping.

McLeod Castle Pipe Band

The McLeod Castle complex had large and small meeting halls and a huge concrete outdoor area which was covered in temporary gazebos for shade where most of our functions took place. The whole property is around 500 hectares and has

its own, free roaming, small fold (herd) of Highland Cattle who made a once only cameo appearance. The MacLeod's are a talented lot and from those present formed the McLeod Castle Pipe Band. Nine pipers, one tenor drummer and one bass drummer, plus half an hour of practice and we had a band that would be welcome at any Highland Games.

Special guests at the Gathering included the Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon who is the Queen's Representative for the province of British Columbia. She seemed to be delighted to be piped into the courtyard by the recently formed McLeod Castle Pipe Band. Also Cathy McLeod MP and her husband Gordon. Cathy is the Member of Parliament for Kamloops of which Nicola Valley is part. Cathy represents the area at a national level in Ottawa.

By: David McVey



Old Blair, Old Stories

On a breezy August day in the early 1980s I had been walking on Beinn a' Ghlo, the range that soars above Blair Atholl and Glen Tilt. I became confused in navigating the minor roads and tracks leading back to Blair Atholl and the train home. I'm still not quite sure how I got there, but I blundered through Old Blair, nowadays a picturesque hamlet but actually all that survives of the original Blair Atholl settlement. I soon found myself beside the remains of the historic St Bride's Kirk and, curious, I decided to have a look around this picturesque, atmospheric ruin.

Inside the roofless body of the kirk I came to the burial place of John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee; otherwise Bloody Clavers or Bonnie Dundee depending on the tint of your historical spectacles. He suffered a fatal shot during the Battle of Killiecrankie, the major conflict of the first Jacobite sally of 1689-90 and here, in the Old Kirk, he was buried. And thereby hangs a tale or three.

For a weary hillwalker, it was a remarkable example of accidentally stumbling across the tumultuous past. As I carried on towards the station, I found that I was stepping out to the tune of *Bonnie Dundee*, the march written for Scott's ballad, which was ringing in my head. And me a 'sour-featured Whig'!

St Bride's Kirk

St Bride's Kirk deserves time, a visit for its own sake; for the history, certainly, but also for the picturesque building and setting. It was the original parish church of Blair, and we should remember that when we read of armies arriving at Blair Atholl – Montrose in 1644, say, or Charles Edward Stuart's Jacobites – their route largely followed the winding by-road that still runs through Old Blair. The main road (now itself superseded by the modern A9) through the present-day village didn't appear until the 1820s.

The current fabric of the Old Kirk dates from the 16th century, but after the Reformation. There was a Christian church on the site much earlier, certainly by the 13th century, but the dedication to St Bride (or Bridget) and the elevated mound on which the kirk stands suggests that there was a place of worship here much earlier than that, perhaps stretching back to the very early days of Scottish Christianity.

In the 1470s, Angus of Islay (the son of the Lord of the Isles) raided Atholl and the Earl and Countess reputedly fled Blair Castle to take refuge in the kirk. According to the story, Angus thought little of 'sanctuary', took the couple prisoner and destroyed much of the structure of the kirk.

It's said that, on the voyage back to Islay, Angus and his men were badly knocked about by a furious storm. Angus, the story goes, interpreted this as punishment for the damage done to the church and so he funded its restoration. If this fishy-sounding tale is true, this was probably the last major reworking of the building before the Reformation. A coat of arms of the 4th Earl of Atholl, dated 1579, probably dates the Protestant re-invention of the building.

A King's Island in the River Garry was associated in tradition with Robert the Bruce, while Montrose dallied in Blair Atholl prior to Tippermuir and the harrowing of Argyll. Charles Edward Stewart was in the Castle both during the optimistic southward march of 1745 and in the return the following year. He was impressed with the bowling-green, apparently, and enjoyed hunting nearby.

Conflicting stories and legends

Dundee's 1689 demise has given rise to a wide variety of conflicting stories and legends. It's generally accepted that he was

shot while charging the government forces on horseback, but accounts differ on whether the shot came from the main government army or from a sniper in a nearby building. More fanciful stories tell of the fatal missile being neither bullet nor musket-ball but a silver button torn from an officer's uniform; fabricated, of course, to fulfil the Covenanter superstition that Dundee could only be killed by a silver bullet.

The stories also diverge on how long it took Dundee to die; in some versions, he was compos mentis enough after the battle to dictate a coherent letter, announcing the victory and expressing hopes of his own recovery, to the deposed James VII, perhaps from a sickbed in Blair Castle. The letter survives, but most historians regard it as a fabrication.

It's certain that Dundee was buried three days after the battle in St Bride's. Further tales assert that he was buried in his armour but that his body was later briefly disinterred and the armour sold to travelling people. Only later were the surviving bits bought back, and the breastplate provided with an unconvincing bullet-hole for dramatic effect; you can still see it in the Castle.

Even if their general was killed, the Jacobites won the day only to be checked the following month at Dunkeld. The rising finally fizzled out in the Cairngorms, at Cromdale Haughs, in 1690.

St Bride's Kirk deserves time, a visit for its own sake; for the history, certainly, but also for the picturesque building and setting.

The Old Kirk

Dundee's campaign inspired the epic poem *Graemeid* by James Philip, written soon after the events, as well as Scott's ballad and also a complex mournful bagpipe piece. An inscription dating from 1889, commissioned by the 7th Duke of Atholl, currently marks the spot where Dundee lies; from the tributes present during my most recent visit, those who view him as a hero still remember him.

After the Tilt was bridged again in 1823, Old Blair gradually became a backwater



and the kirk was simply abandoned. The coming of the railway in 1863 reinforced the new position of Blair Atholl. However, a mausoleum was created in the South Aisle of the Old Kirk for the 6th Duke of Atholl (who died in 1864), and subsequently the kirkyard became the burial ground for the Atholl family. The 6th Duke's marble memorial is perhaps the most impressive aspect of the Old Kirk today.

The Old Kirk's structure was secured in the 1980s, sometime after my first visit, and paying visitors to Blair Castle's grounds can reach it by a signposted path from near the Atlas Gardens; yet few seem to make the minimal effort to get there and the ruin remains a place of great peace and stillness. Seen from the Castle grounds the Old Kirk is exquisitely positioned, high and prominent, framed by trees and backed by the hills of Atholl.

Old Blair remains picturesque and off the beaten track, and so does the Old Kirk of St Bride, but it's well worth seeking out and experiencing. And if you're a visitor to Blair Castle and its grounds, don't just admire the Old Kirk from a distance; make the effort to go there.

The University of Edinburgh ranked in the world top 20



Photo: The University of Edinburgh.

The latest international university rankings have confirmed Edinburgh's position as a leading global institution. The QS World University Rankings 2016/17 have placed the University 19th in the world. This puts Edinburgh fifth in the UK, and once again in the highest position of any Scottish university. The annual QS World University Rankings is a comprehensive guide to the world's top universities. QS rankings use a range of evaluation methods.

These include a research reputation survey, a poll of graduate employers and analysis of the levels of internationalisation within each university. In the expert opinion of almost 75,000 academic peers across the globe, Edinburgh is ranked 24th in the world for research quality. The University has also risen six places in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), known as the Shanghai Rankings. Edinburgh is rated as 41st in the world and sixth in the UK.



Blair Castle.

SCOT POURRI



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

Abel Family Association

Calling on all Abels and their decedents. We have just established a Family Association and we are calling for members. Our aim is to bring together all Abels of Scottish heritage, from all corners of the globe. Reconnect or make new connections, to all branches of our family. We want to create a real sense of community where events or reunions can be planned, we can share family historical information, or even just keep in touch. Membership is free and open to all Abels, (all variations of the spelling), and our extended family members by marriage or other union. There is a quarterly newsletter, a billboard on the site for members to post broadcasts, upcoming events page (Highland Games/Gatherings, who is attending etc.), and also an events report page where members can give reports on events they attended.

Please go to www.abelfamilyassociation.com and sign up on the "Membership" page, it literally only takes about 1 min to sign up. For any further information, please contact: **The Secretary**
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Email: info@abelfamilyassociation.com

Sawney Bean's Cannibal Clan

Who can believe it's nearly Halloween already? Mind you with our *Scottish Banner* reaching the grand old age of 40 (congrats to all the team) it just reminds us how quick time goes, we must be getting auld, ne'r mind anyone up fur a scary story, one of my favourites is of the 48 strong Ayrshire cannibal clan lead by the infamous 'Sawney' Bean in the 16th century, if you've not heard of them before I'd like to share a wee poem I wrote about it.

Sawney Bean's Cannibal Clan

By: Andrew Heaney

Could it be? It cannae be right, in Scotland's depths of time, that Sawney Bean and his incestuous clan, could

commit such barbarous crimes. From their devilish layer beneath the ground, in a cave with a foaming mouth. They'd plan tae rob, kill, and cannibalise, from this fiendish cavernous house.

And there wiz many a man was daft enough, tae travel Ayrshire's moonlit lanes. Aye you'd think they must be aff their heids, and think they had nae brains And by the midnight hour, you'd be right, this I kid ye not. For they'd be dead, wi heids cut aff, and their brains be in the pot!

Such a ravenous clan, wi' hardly a care, and cannibalous appetite. With this lust for flesh and robbery, they'd stalk their prey by night. Stalking in the misty shadows, like a pack of rabid wolves. They'd swarm like ghosts from hells dark gates, upon these travelling fools.

Slashing and biting in ambush, in a lust for blood so vicious. And strip and tear so mercilessly, and rip pour souls tae pieces. Travellers would just seem tae disappear, and ne'r be seen nae more. But noo and again an arm or leg, would wash up on the shore.

The Ayrshire folk wanted justice, for in fear they just could nae cope. And many a innocent Innkeeper, would end up hanging from a rope. But on and on they disappeared, till they bit off more than they could chew. When they ambushed a soldier and his wife, and his sword the soldier drew.

Twas "all hallows night" and he fought in fear, as he flayed his sword about. As the cannibals tore and mauled his wife, pulling her entrails out! But as he fought so hard outnumber, the locals came charging on down And like vermin the cannibals scattered, and headed to their cave underground.

The game was up for Sawney's clan, as the soldier's wife lay dead. And the locals with their pitch forks, bayed for Sawney's head. When the magistrates told the King, he came with four hundred men. And they hunted with the locals, tae find the Sawneys clan's ghoulish den.

Where could they be, where do they hide, just where the hell did they go? And then by chance they found their cave, when the tide was running so low. They fought their way right through the cave, and captured Sawney's clan. And bore witness to unbelievable horror sight, seldom seen by man!

As their torch lights flickered nervously, in this cave of dread. It illuminated hooks on walls, impaled with victims heads. A vision of depravity, that only hell could apparel. Wi' chunks of flesh, and arms and legs, pickled in salt barrels!

When Sawney's clan were brought and tried, and one and all condemned. They were shown no mercy like their victims, and they met a torturous end. And this is where the story ends, could it be myth or just Scots banter?

But brave the man on midnight walk, in the land of Tam O'Shanter.

Andy Heaney

Formally Glasgow

Brisbane, Queensland
Australia



Scottish Banner 40th Anniversary

On behalf of the High Commissioner Clan Donald Australia, Mr Lachlan Macdonald, the State Commissioners, delegates and members

I extend our congratulations on 40 years of service to the Scottish Community worldwide. *The Scottish Banner* provides the community with necessary and important information on the events, clan connections and stories and reports from around the world affecting the Scots.

May *the Scottish Banner* enjoy many more years in service.

Yours sincerely,

J. Macdonald

Hon Secretary

Clan Donald Australia

Happy 40th!

I have been a long time reader of *the Scottish Banner*, having "inherited" the paper from my Scottish parents. Each month there is always something in it that fascinates me. I was so proud of the Banner when I opened up my July issue and saw all the world leaders giving a nod to "our Banner"! I am so glad you received this and it is so well deserved. What an accomplishment 40 years of monthly publication is and the paper just gets better and better. I love the new style layout and the mix of writers you now have from around the world.

Valerie and her team make so many around the world stand that bit taller each month knowing we are all Scots.

Gayle Simpson

Toronto, Ontario

Canada

The Musselburgh Riding of the Marches



I just thought I had to drop you a quick letter as I was reading *the Scottish Banner* about The Riding of the Marches (*Scotland's Ancient Festival-The Musselburgh Riding of the Marches, Scottish Banner, July, 2016*). It brought back wonderful memories for me. I was back in Scotland with 3 of my 5 kids staying in Preston Pans at the time with my parents on holiday in 1974. At the same time one sister was there from London, another from Lincoln, England, both with one child each and another sister living in Scotland with two children and last but not least my sister from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada with her 4 daughters. We were all at the street parade, you can just imagine the looks we got with 11 children with different accents all calling my mother "grannie".

By the way thank you for *the Scottish Banner*, which I love and have been reading for about 15 years. I am off back to Edinburgh in October for holiday.

Agnes Munro (nee Edmond)

Kyneton, Victoria

Australia

Ed note: Thanks Agnes for the letter and how wonderful you have experienced this once every 21 year event. We hope you have a great trip back to Scotland this month.

Castles & "Durdy" Wee Rascals- Only authors write books

Firstly may I say thank you for Jim Stoddart's column *Castles & "Durdy" Wee Rascals* in *the Scottish Banner*.

My maternal grandmother came from Glasgow many years ago and although she didn't speak that often about her home area, many of your stories about your early years in Glasgow somehow ring true of the days gone by when living with my grandparents here in Australia. As a child I enjoyed playing games outdoors with my brothers in dirt tracks. At the end of the day my grandmother would scold us "Durdy wee midens!" So your headline rang true for me. Unfortunately our family does not have and Kings or Castles to speak of.

As the self-appointed family historian I try and gather stories of past family members, unfortunately not everyone is prepared to share their information so large gaps in stories can be found and I get a bit fed up trying to put things in perspective. Some time ago my daughter asked me to write down some family tales I was telling her about. Once I started to jot down some of these silly tales, I realised no one would be interested in such a boring everyday family doing everyday things. So I tossed aside this writing idea. Until I read your recent piece in the July 40th Anniversary edition of *the Scottish Banner* (Castles & "Durdy" Wee Rascals- Only authors write books) We all have a story to tell don't we? So I will try again to put pen to paper, even if it is only for grandchildren, it will be enough for me.

Thank you again for your regular stories and I look forward to reading *the Scottish Banner* for many years more to come.

Pamela Davidson

Bethania, Queensland

Australia

POSTED TO THE SCOTTISH BANNER FACEBOOK PAGE

Glencoe at the end of summer



Scotland Up Close

Carolynn Wilson

Scotland



SCOTSPEAK

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

“The Borders Railway is opening up opportunities to work, invest, live, learn and visit our region. One year since it opened, the railway is starting to help transform the Scottish Borders’ economy, from increasing tourism to assisting in the growth of key areas such as the food and drink and creative sectors, and the passenger numbers to date highlight the potential for the area.” Scottish Borders Council leader David Parker said as The Borders Railway between Edinburgh and Tweedbank has reached the first anniversary of its opening. The first services ran on the multi-million pound route on 6 September 2015 with the official opening by the Queen three days later. It has exceeded forecast usage figures of 650,000 passengers a year within its first six months and the new rail route has been credited for transforming the area.

“We have had a good second season digging at Burnswark and can confirm that we have excavated the most significant hoard of Roman bullets in Britain. It is becoming increasingly clear that these are likely to have been deposited in a single brief episode. This greatly strengthens the suggestion of a Roman assault on the hill top which appears to have been occupied at that time.” John Reid, of the Roman heritage group the Trimontium Trust said as a cache of more than 180 Roman lead sling bullets, thought to be the largest ever found in Britain, has been unearthed at Burnswark in Dumfries and Galloway in southern Scotland. Archaeologists have been trying for centuries to assess the role of Burnswark in the Roman occupation. One theory is that it may have seen the first battle in the Roman invasion of Scotland around 140 AD.

“The links between the Cutty Sark and the Clyde run very deep. It’s part of its identity. It represented the pinnacle of shipbuilding in the age of sail, and, after all, it’s named after a character in one of the most famous Scottish poems. “We hope to create interest and educate the public in the traditional skills of shipbuilding, as well as preserve our maritime heritage for future generations.” Cutty Sark 2 spokesman Perry Joiner said as replica of the famous Cutty Sark may be made in Glasgow. An ambitious plan to construct a full-size replica of one of the world’s most famous sailing ships could teach traditional shipbuilding skills to a new generation of Scots and become an attraction. The original Cutty Sark was built in Dumbarton but has been in dry dock in Greenwich since 1954.



“Oriam is something that all of Scotland should be extremely proud of and the response from each and every person who has toured the site since its completion confirms that a truly world-class facility has been delivered. Oriam will provide an inspirational environment for our top athletes and those who aspire to excel from across many sports, as well as within our local community by encouraging people to improve their fitness, take part in sport or simply enjoy a more active lifestyle.” Catriona McAllister, Oriam’s chief executive, said as the new Scottish national sport centre has opened in Edinburgh. The £33m Oriam building

in the grounds of Heriot Watt University and will be used as a training facility for Scotland’s advanced athletes while it will also offer opportunities for grass-roots competitors and the local community.

“Education is at the heart of our plans, and I am committed to doing all I can to improve the life chances of every child and young person. Ensuring children are able to learn in new, modern, fit for purpose surroundings is a crucial part of this. By the end of this parliament we will have delivered 112 new or refurbished schools across every local authority in Scotland - more than double the number envisaged when the Schools for the Future programme started.” First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said as her party has set out a programme for government with education at its heart. The first minister revealed that 29 new schools will be completed this school year as part of her government’s £1.8bn building programme. Ms Sturgeon’s SNP formed a minority government after winning 63 seats in May’s Scottish Parliament elections.



“The people of Glasgow and surrounding areas have really embraced our cycle hire scheme, based on usage figures. The Mach bikes are being seen in use all over the city and are very popular also with commuters, students, businesses and visitors. We receive overwhelming

feedback from users of the scheme and numerous requests for more stations.” Elaine McDougall, Glasgow City Council’s executive member for transport, said that Glasgow’s city cycle hire programme could more than double in size. The mass automated cycle hire (Mach) scheme has 435 bikes based at 43 stations across the city at the moment. Glasgow City Council is investigating plans to provide up to 900 bikes and 100 stations under a new seven-year contract to be awarded next year. Proposed locations for extra stations have already selected based on factors such as user demand and proximity to existing stations and key cycling routes.

“Our islands make a significant contribution to Scottish life from both a cultural and economic perspective. As such, I am immensely proud to be able to announce that I am bringing forward an Islands Bill less than a year after my predecessor launched the Government’s consultation on potential provisions. We have placed the aspirations and needs of our island communities at the centre of our empowerment agenda. Drawing on the work of both the Island Areas Ministerial Working Group and the consultation findings, the Bill will provide lasting benefits for all our island communities for generations to come.” Islands Minister Humza Yousaf said as legislation to empower Scotland’s island communities is to be progressed. Shetland, Orkney and Western Isles councils have been calling for greater control over local matters. The proposed Islands Bill will be shaped by the findings from a recent consultation and will be brought forward during the next 12 months – within the first year of the new parliamentary session. The legislation will empower and benefit Scotland’s island communities.

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 23!



CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Fishing town on Banff Bay (7).
- 4) To make a Scot do something (3).
- 8) Blade! (3).
- 9) Town near Blairgowrie (5).
- 10) The mountain ash (5).
- 12) Time period (3).
- 13) A Scot off the straight (5).
- 14) The dell (5).
- 15) Strath near Bridge of Cally (5).
- 19) Scots cowshed (4).
- 21) Winter sportsman (5).
- 22) Village on River Lossie (6).
- 23) Town on Cromarty Firth (6).
- 25) Miss Laurie (5).
- 26) Cautious (4).
- 28) A Highlander’s dagger (5).
- 34) Praise lavishly (5).
- 35) Power units (5).
- 36) The first lady (3).
- 37) Male voice (5).
- 38) Hooked claw (5).
- 39) Scots view with them! (3).
- 40) On it you’re alone (3).
- 41) Site of 1645 victory by Montrose (7).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Firth stretching from Inverness (5).
- 2) Village near Nairn (6).
- 3) Shetland island (5).
- 4) Colourful regiment (5).
- 5) Island east of Skye (6).
- 6) An evergreen shrub (6).
- 7) Pipes for beginners (8).
- 11) Joiner’s fastener (4).
- 15) Away to a Scot (3).
- 16) Mouth of a river (5).
- 17) A composition (5).
- 18) Tell a Scotsman no! (5).
- 19) Scots hillsides (5).
- 20) A series of hills (5).
- 22) Town near Edinburgh (8).
- 24) Transgression (3).
- 26) Interwoven building twigs (6).
- 27) Change one’s mind (6).
- 29) A large Scots box (4).
- 30) Place of business (6).
- 31) Peebles’ river (5).
- 32) Scots street gutter (5).
- 33) Town on River Tay (5).

Clan Farquharson mourns the loss of Lady Alison Farquharson



Lady Alison Farquharson Bt of Finzean, head of the major Cadet Branch of the Clan Farquharson passed away on 29th August 2016.

Clan members were saddened by this unexpected loss of a greatly loved and admired Clan stalwart. Those who had the privilege of meeting and knowing Lady Alison, were uplifted by her graciousness and compassion. Lady Alison dedicated much of her life to her beloved Finzean, and together with her husband Sir Angus Farquharson KCVO, a former Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, worked tirelessly over many years, leading the economic revival of large parts of the rural and farming north-east of Scotland. She will be greatly missed by her family, her Clan and the community of Finzean.



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.



Did you know that condiments and seasonings may have influenced our surnames?

Our dogs like to check the yard very early in the morning. So early it is easy to see that the season is changing with a distinct chill here in the north. Being October, I have prepared for the oncoming winter that the *Farmer's Almanac* has predicted to be a cold and snowy one. Chores include making sure the snow blower is operational, if I need it. Cleaning the eaves troughs or gutters of leaves and debris, sealing all heat leaks in the house. With all that done it means a lot of time indoors. The perfect time to catch

up on some family research. That research this year may include some DNA findings.

DNA

Most of us have wondered at some time or another where we originated. We may know some facts such as Great Grandpa came from the Highlands or Great Grandma was a Fife lass. However, there are deeper concerns about from where our families came. Some of us have dived into our family histories with creating a paper trail as far back as there is documentation available. Now more and more people are using DNA to form a picture of what their historical background to which their family belongs over hundreds and even thousands of years.

As I understand it, there are a few ways of assessing the trail. The first is the Y DNA test which tells males the group that one's father's father's father line and it can go back as far as 10,000 with a few breaks. The same is true of a maternal DNA which daughters follows mother's mother female line back for millennia or more. Females do not carry the Y DNA but males carry their mother's DNA but do not pass it on to their children.

Lastly, there is Autosomal DNA which shows the ethnicity of all lines in a family group. This can be surprising since it may yield what you would expect such as a

percentage of British DNA with possibly an Irish presence. Although over the last thousand or so years it may show a percentage of Scandinavian or even Finnish DNA from some Viking ancestor. More surprising it could have Western European and a smaller percentage of Eastern European or even Mediterranean. It all makes for interesting speculation trying assess if that Mediterranean DNA came from a Roman soldier etc.

It is also a way of furthering your genealogical research in that you are able to see if you match with others who have done the test and you may find some new 4th or 5th cousins and hopefully share some information on a common ancestor.

If you are a Facebook subscriber there are many pages dedicated to the subject. Some pages offer universal DNA subjects and will cover all aspects of DNA and some are strictly regional in their outlook such as Scottish DNA or Irish DNA. One I found illuminating called DNA Newbie for the new person trying to learn the language of the matter. If you pursue it I wish you luck and have fun with it.

Mondobbo

Mr. Lindsay Campbell of Upper Hutt, New Zealand wrote to us and asked about a few names. Two of interest to me since they are smack dab in the middle of the geography for the ancestry of my maternal line. The places mentioned in the pre-1974 county of Kincardine, on the north east coast of Scotland just below Aberdeen. Mr. Campbell mentioned a place called Mondobbo in the parish of Fordoun. Mondobbo was the estate owned by Lord Mondobbo, whose family name was James Burnett, (1714-1799). He wondered if it was a surname and if not the meaning of the name. This was a tough quest in that I couldn't find anything specific on the meaning of the name. It appears to have a Gaelic origin but I wasn't able to translate it. The first element "Mon" is found in many Gaelic place names and means moor. This makes sense in that the estate lies on a good rolling agricultural land. As for the last element "Dobbo" I wasn't able to find anything. Possibly some Gaelic scholars can help us with this. Lastly, I found no sources that listed Mondobbo as a surname.

Pitfour

The next name on the list is Pitfour, part of an estate owned by James Ferguson 1st Lord of Pitfour, who died in 1777. Most names in Scotland are lands that were formerly in the realm of the Picts. It appears to be a word borrowed by the Gaels from their former Pictish owners meaning a parcel of land i.e farm or croft. The last element "Four" is from the Gaelic "Feoir" or "Feur" meaning grass. Another meaning also offered from the Gaelic word "Fuar" meaning cold in English. So it would translate the cold or grassy croft.

Fordyce in Banffshire is another place Mr. Campbell mentioned. Near Portsoy, it is a parish. Common belief is that it breaks down to "Fuar" cold and "Deas" south so literally cold south. Unlike Mondobbo both Pitfour and Fordyce are surnames.

Another name is Rose of Kilvarock,

where Mr. Campbell if the name had been Anglicized in some Manner. Rose is a highland clan based and was based at Kilvarock Nairnshire in the 13th century. Although Clan Rose in the same geographic area as the Gaelic Clan Ross but it has no connection with it even they have similar sounding names. Rose of Kilvarock stems from knights in the train of William the Conqueror and were originally known as de Ros, from where they originated in Normandy.

Lastly, is the name Rankeillor. It for the lands found in the parish Monimail, Fife. It is listed as a surname as early as 1292. This name has nothing to do, other than linguistically with the lands of Keillor in Angus shire. Rankeillor estate has a connection with Clan MakGill.

Mustard

Well before I knew that I was interested in surnames, there was a fellow student in my school so many years ago by the name of Mustard. I remember thinking what an unusual name but wasn't at the age where I needed to find out the origin of the name. Not long ago I came across someone with the same and now knew I had to find more about it. In England the name is just as it implies as one who deals or sells mustard. Although one source by Reaney & Wilson, the Dictionary of English Surnames suggest a person who has a biting tongue. A related name is Mustardman. In Scotland the name is listed as far back as 1521 and Black in his *The Surnames of Scotland* suggests that it owes its origins to the Low countries and has a Flemish root where it was known as Mustaert. Researching this name made think of other condiments and seasonings that may have influenced our surnames.

Salt & pepper

The real reason for spices and seasoning was to either preserve meat in the days when there was no refrigeration. Salt was used extensively for this and secondly, often masked it when meat was getting old or gave off an odour. Pepper was used to enhance the flavour of meat as well as cover any decaying meat that may have been offered. Pepper as a surname came from the pepperer who sold the product. Another form of the name, primarily in England was Peever or Peevers. The universal seasoning is and was salt. Salter was a person who dealt in salt and like so many occupations became a surname. Place name such as Salton, that the salt farm added to our nomenclature. While not surnames two place names in Scotland were influenced by salt, one being the obvious Saltcoats in Ayrshire and the other Preston Pans. In both places being on the seacoast, people made a living by placing large metal pans on burning wood or coal to evaporate the salt sea water so that cakes of salt were left, gathered and sold. To round the theme, is the name Spicer for one who dealt in all spices. It was recorded in Scotland in 1296.

As always enjoy your October, and do keep those letters coming.

Lost medieval castle discovered at House of Dun, Angus



Archaeologist Dr Daniel Rhodes with the Trailblazer volunteers.



House of Dun today.

Archaeological excavations at the National Trust for Scotland's House of Dun in Angus have uncovered the remains of what is thought to be a 14th century castle. The excavations were carried out as part of the conservation charity's Trailblazer residential working holidays, which offer the opportunity for young people aged 16 to 17 to experience archaeological excavations and conservation work. The barony of Dun was purchased by Sir Robert Erskine of Erskine in Renfrewshire in the 14th century. The castle was built along with a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Recent repair work to the Erskine Family Mausoleum on the estate revealed the foundations of the chapel and now an excavation led by National Trust for Scotland Archaeologist Dr Daniel Rhodes has pinpointed the location of the castle.

Tower House

The castle was likely to be in the form of a Tower House surrounded by a curtain wall and ancillary buildings, and the site has been noted on maps of the area since 1865 but it wasn't until conservation work on the nearby Erskine Family Mausoleum and archaeological investigation began in 2013 that the extent of the remains were really known. Detailed analyses of the Mausoleum showed that the building originally formed part of a chapel from the late 1300s and that the chapel was believed to stand to the west of the original

Dun Castle. Following a geophysical survey of the site the excavation has established the location of this lost medieval castle and it's hoped that further work will help to reveal more of this important site.

Piece in the jigsaw

Dr Daniel Rhodes, National Trust for Scotland's Area Archaeologist said: "This discovery of the site of the Castle of Dun is one more piece in the jigsaw that is the House of Dun Estate. We're constantly learning more about this fascinating place and with the dedicated help of the young Trailblazer participants we're able to reveal more of Scotland's history while inspiring young adults to develop an interest in history and archaeology."

The 5th Laird of Dun, John Erskine, was active in the Reformation and John Knox is thought to have stayed at the castle while preaching at the chapel of Dun in 1555. The Castle of Dun was gutted by the King's troops during the Civil War of 1644 and a new Mansion House was said to have been constructed near the site. The remains of an arch can still be seen within the West Walled Garden and these are most likely from this period. Documents from the 1720s tell us that by this time there were no longer any visible remains of the original Dun Castle and shortly after the building of the current William Adam designed House of Dun began.

By: Angus Whitson



The Tartan Revival

In his third instalment on tartan Angus Whitson delves into the revival of tartan after the repeal of the Dress Act in 1783 and how modern advances in the manufacturing process paved the way for a tartan industry boom.

Up until the Act of Proscription of 1746 the wearing of tartan within the Highlands of Scotland, i.e. above the Highland Line, was almost universal, but generally the tartan cloth itself was a district product – a glen by glen product – and not a clan emblem. In other words there were few what can be described as true clan tartans.

I have read a suggestion that clan tartans would have been too identifiable when clansmen travelled out of their clan districts and, in the times of internecine clan warfare and feuding, would have increased the likelihood of their being captured or killed.

Another suggestion is that pre-Culloden tartans were woven in landscape shades to camouflage the wearers when out hunting. How true either statement is, is probably lost in the mists of history but comparison can be drawn with today's Scottish estate checks or tweeds, many of which were designed as hunting or deer stalking camouflage, based on the elemental colours of the locality.

Coloured yarns

Tartan is tartan in part because of its diverse colours. Production of the coloured yarns used in the weaving of these coats of many colours up until the mid-nineteenth century depended on the raw materials available – plants, lichens, bark, organic matter - all of which affect the colour and texture of the cloth.

Within the geographic area of the Highlands and Islands there are regional differences not only in the variety of the plants and lichens used to produce the dyes to colour the yarns, but in their availability. Generally, production of dyes was on a croft scale to meet domestic demand.

Common sense tells us that it was

impossible to produce small quantities of wool dyed to the same shade time after time. The nature of the wool, the organic ingredients of the dyes, the acidity of the water, the geology, the climate, the skill and methods of individual dyers, make nonsense of the idea that there was uniformity of colours in the production of tartan cloth before Culloden.

Differing tartans

Nothing I have read suggests that at Culloden, for instance, the Jacobite clans were drawn up on the battlefield in uniform tartans. Indeed, if you accept the authenticity of David Morier's famous painting of the battle, many of the Jacobites wore several items of clothing of differing tartans. The Prince's troops identified themselves from the Highland clans fighting on the Government side by the white cockade worn in their bonnets.

Read the contemporary scholars on tartan - Telfer Dunbar, Donald C Stewart, Frank Adam, Ian Grimble – and you'll find endless references to tartan, but little of clan tartans. So when the Dress Act (Act of Proscription) was enacted in 1746, the Highland clans suffered the loss of their traditional form of dress, which was itself a badge of pride, rather than the loss of their clan tartans.

In 1822, King George IV was persuaded to come to Scotland – the first visit of a British monarch since Charles II in 1650. Sir Walter Scott choreographed a tartan pageant at which the King, in order to stamp his Highland credentials on the festivities, famously appeared all bekilted and wearing pink tights.

Sir Walter had promised his monarch the party of the century and, in order to

ensure a memorable show, he contacted all the Highland chiefs and gentlemen, and the great and the good of the Lowland gentry too, encouraging them to attend the festivities dressed in their traditional uniforms and sporting their clan tartans.

Patriotic credentials

The outcome was panic because, with few exceptions, the chiefs and chieftains had no idea what their clan tartans were. A number of tartans were historically associated with clan names such as Gordon, Cameron, Campbell, Clan Chattan, Mackenzie, Maclean, Sinclair, but they were revivals rather than survivals.

At this time the largest weaving firm of tartans in Scotland, Wm. Wilson & Sons of Bannockburn, had been designing and weaving contemporary tartans for 100 years. They were besieged with requests for tartans from frantic Scots, Highland and Lowland, anxious to authenticate their patriotic credentials in time for the king's arrival in Edinburgh. Everyone was jumping on the tartan bandwagon and to show how bad things had got, one merchant wrote – "Please send me a piece of Rose tartan, and if there isn't one, please send me a different pattern and call it Rose."

The tartan card

About 1820 the Sobieski Brothers had entered on the tartan scene. Calling themselves John Sobieski Stuart and Charles Edward Stuart, their real names were John Carter Allen and Charles Manning Allen and they had been born in Wales. They claimed to be the rightful grandsons of Bonnie Prince Charlie and to have a 16th century folio of 75 original clan tartans in their possession which had been handed down to them from their grandfather.

They played the tartan card to the limit and, building on the preoccupation with tartan generated by George IV's visit, in 1842 they published a compilation of their questionable archive under the title of *Vestiarium Scoticum*.

There cannot be any real doubt that the Sobieskis perpetrated a massive fraud upon a willing and compliant audience. Whether by good fortune or intelligent planning they had chosen the right moment to burst onto the tartan scene and the *Vestiarium* was enthusiastically welcomed by clan chiefs and the weaving industry alike. Most importantly, almost everybody wanted to believe them – the answer to the fraudster's prayer.

There were few sceptics, although Sir Walter Scott expressed doubts about the

Vestiarium's authenticity shortly before his death in 1832. JD Stewart commented that less than a dozen setts had any historical authenticity. Most seemed to have been designed on the drawing board than in traditional fashion on a loom.

So tartans of recent design were passed off as serendipitous survivors from a former classical age, saved for posterity by the vigilant Sobieskis. Practically no one thought to enquire into their credentials or question the legitimacy of their collection of tartans – and they got away with it.

Emotional outpouring for tartan

The *Vestiarium* coincided with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's love affair with Scotland which started in 1842. The Queen declared Scotland to be "the proudest, finest country in the world" and endorsed her sentiments by buying Balmoral estate. Prince Albert did his bit and designed the Balmoral tartan which started another tartan stampede. The clan tartan system was developing in a completely haphazard way.

The foundations for the emotional outpouring for tartan were laid in the period between George IV's visit to Edinburgh in 1822 and the start of Balmorality in 1842. It's easy to get misty-eyed about a supposed treasure trove of ancestral clan tartans which disappeared during the prohibition years and are lying in a dusty box waiting, like the Honours of Scotland discovered in Edinburgh Castle, to be unearthed. That's not going to happen.

New manufacturing

During the prohibition years of the Dress Act an unknown number of tartans were lost simply through their enforced abandonment. The pendulum swung the other way following the repeal of that act in 1783 and a new enthusiasm for tartan gathered momentum.

New manufacturing processes accelerated the development of the tartan industry. There was a transition from hand production methods to machines and a rise of the factory system with consequent production efficiency. The discovery of synthetic dyes around 1860 ended the large-scale market for natural dyes and marked another significant advance for tartan.

My last article in this series will consider how the chemical innovations in dyestuffs began a formalisation process that has brought the tartan industry to its present place and will look at the tartan trail that has grown up along the Celtic fringe.

For more content check out my blog at manwithtwodogs.com.

Get lost in maps of Scotland at new exhibition

A new exhibition which shows some of the world's most magnificent maps including the first map of Scotland has launched in Edinburgh. *You are here: A journey through maps* runs at The National Library of Scotland on George IV Bridge until 3 April 2017. The exhibition takes visitors through several centuries of mapping across distant continents and explains how cartographers have mapped the world out from the city streets of Scotland to the shoreline of South America. As well as the first ever map of Scotland printed in 1560, the exhibition

includes a double hemisphere world map from the famous Blaeu Atlas of 1660, a Victorian school room map of Europe and a plan of Edinburgh from 1896. Five locations will feature from Edinburgh to Scotland, onto Great Britain, Europe and finally the world with each location featuring famous or intriguing maps which will ask questions to challenge our acceptance of what is seen within them. Map curator Paula Williams who developed the exhibition, said: "Maps are everywhere- on our phones, in our cars and pockets, on walls, bus stops and adverts- but how much do we really know

about them? They help shape how we see and understand the world but they are not completely objective instruments- they are created by individuals, often with specific aims in mind. I hope visitors to the exhibition will be thrilled to see the marvellous maps on show but will also learn more about the usefulness and the limitations of different types of maps."

The exhibition includes more unusual maps including one charting the smells that waft over modern day Edinburgh, a map of Scotland where place names have been replaced by phrases revealing the

original meaning of these names and the first ever map to show population density across the UK.



Text and images: Scotland.org

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.



The Farmer's Boy

At Ardwell, Mr. McKean was always a quiet, affable and patient man who put up with me trailing around after him all day when I was old enough to 'help'. My own father, although he spent as much time as he could with my mother and me, had eventually to get back to Glasgow to work. Harry McKean allowed me to spend whole days working with him in the fields for weeks on end. I helped cut hay with a hand sickle while he used a finely honed and sharpened two-handed scythe. I helped to make haystacks, to herd in the dairy cattle and to sort the potatoes in the big sheds. I helped to feed chickens and pigs and I helped him and the other men harness the big Clydesdale horses. I delighted in being able to sit on their dependable backs, clinging to their manes, on their journeys back to the stables from the fields in the evenings.

It was during the dinner breaks when the men took respite from their work in the fields that my young head was filled, year after year, with the stories and folklore of the area. Sitting with our backs resting against newly made haystacks I learned that the cave in which Bruce, the Earl of Carrick, may have had his legendary encounter with the stubborn little spider was only a few short miles from where we sat. The ancient sea cliffs in the area abounded in sea caves carved out by seas and storms and I thought that one of those would certainly have been a fitting place for the legendary spider to have resided, the one that helped change the course of Scottish history.

Sawnie Bean

Then there was the story of Sawnie Bean, the local cannibal, who lured unsuspecting travellers to his cave, only a few miles down the road from where we rested. The travellers were destined to join him to dinner in more ways than one. My favourite legend, though, was the story about the district's own Blue Beard. He was the 'fause Sir John', a local laird dwelling at the tower on Carleton Hill at Lendel, a few miles south of Ardwell. He had acquired the practice of marrying fair young maidens for their money and property and then promptly drowning them. The place

where he drowned all seven of them was a high crag called Gamesloup, two miles further along the coast from Lendelfoot.

He finally met his match; however, when he tried to drown a young woman called May Collean. She was intended to become his eighth victim. When he was preparing her for the dastardly deed he suggested with good Scot's pragmatism that she remove her jewels and fine clothes, for there was no point in wasting good money to the sea. The modest but canny May appealed to what little remained of Sir John's gentlemanly good manners and asked him to turn his back while she undressed. He unwittingly complied. She quickly entwined her arms around his waist and threw him into the sea instead. When he in turn appealed to her to help rescue him, she reminded him that this was better than what was planned for her. He was allowed to drown in all his finery.

Ardwell Farm

Ardwell Farm had one tractor but still had a half dozen or more Clydesdale horses to do most of the draught work. The tractor shared some of the ploughing, the drilling, and the turning of the potatoes and I was sometimes allowed to stand with Mr. McKean on its triangular frame at the back. It was where the men fitted various farm machinery but we used it to stand on and hitch a lift back from the fields. Another special treat was when Mr. McCreath gave out the men's wages, early on a Saturday morning, and he sometimes gave me a half-a-crown for my effort in helping or maybe hindering the week's work.

There was also plenty of animal life to see. There were lots of mice and rats scampering around the farm, hiding in the hay and corn storage lofts and there were hidden nests of ferrets, stoats and field mice in the hedgerows. Rabbits were so plentiful that when going up into the hills behind the farm, near to the "maister's" vegetable patch, the men could just about hit one with a rock thrown at random. I also went out with Mr. McKean to set and collect from his rabbit snares in the evening, after his day's work in the fields was done. Rabbit stew with freshly mashed potatoes was a regular dish at Ardwell.

During harvest time itinerant Irish workers were taken on to pick the potatoes, 'the tattie-howkers'. Some of them lived in temporary wooden huts that were put up at the beginning of the harvest season and then taken down at the end. One year I stood on some of the dismantled wooden partitions lying on the ground and got a six-inch nail stuck through my 'wellies' and into my foot. I had to go to Girvan to have it attended to at the hospital. A large Glasgow family, year after year, set up camp at one end of the beach in a massive ex-army tent. They supplemented their holiday costs by helping with the potato harvest and I was often invited to spend time with them and their children over at their camp.

Educational experience

The hills behind Ardwell had the remains of part of an old coach road which used to run between Glasgow and Stranraer but it was no longer used. It was the modern road that followed the coastline and the cream and blue Gibbs bus that provided transport for us along the coastal plain between Lendelfoot and Girvan. The Gibbs bus acted as a school bus as well as delivering mail, parcels and other freight items to the farms along the coastal strip.

Holidays at Ardwell came to an end when Harry McKean died and his widow had to give up their tied cottage. It had been a truly educational experience for a city boy. I learned exactly where milk came

The ancient sea cliffs in the area abounded in sea caves carved out by seas and storms and I thought that one of those would certainly have been a fitting place for the legendary spider to have resided, the one that helped change the course of Scottish history.

from. I had watched a bull mount a cow, had seen horses ploughing and working the fields, piglets suckling from the sow, crops being harvested and haystacks and silo stacks being made. I had watched Mr. McCreath's housekeeper deftly chop the heads off her chickens, the ones destined for the cooking pot. I had ridden on farm carts drawn by horses and ridden bareback on the shoulders of dependable Clydesdales, the sturdy descendants of medieval war horses. I had smelled that intense pungent mixture of horse manure, hay, corn feed, animal urine and fresh straw; that wonderful smell which I would ever after associate with my happy and contented boyhood holidays spent at Ardwell Farm in Ayrshire.

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Edinburgh-*Take a walk on the haunted side*

Did you know that Edinburgh is considered to be one of the most haunted cities in the UK? The ancient, narrow streets of the city's old town are the source of spooky folklore, myths and stories of ghosts and paranormal activity. The city's rich history and reports of strange and unnatural activity have generated great interest for ghost hunters and intrepid paranormal societies from all over the world.

Text courtesy of: Scotland.org



Greyfriars Kirkyard in Edinburgh.
Photo: Kenny Lam/VisitScotland.

Edinburgh Castle

As October creeps on, the nights in Scotland grow colder and darker, the leaves begin to crinkle and fall, and the thoughts of children all over the world turn towards Halloween. If you live in New England you will be trick-or-treating. If you live in New Cumnock you will be going guising (literally: in disguise). No doubt about it, Scottish children have a ghostly history to be proud of; one rich in direct connections to some of the most terrifying supernatural figures in Western culture. Perhaps it has something to do with our landscape: seen in the right light (or should that be the wrong light?!) at the right time of year, Scotland's deep dark lochs, rain-lashed moors and chill Glens covered by slow-moving mists can certainly seem eerie enough. Indeed Edinburgh has been providing writers with spooky inspiration for some time now.

Edinburgh Castle has a long and bloody history and is reputed to be haunted by many ghosts, including that of a headless drummer boy. His appearance is said to be a warning that the castle is about to be besieged and was first seen in 1650 before Oliver Cromwell and his English army attacked. The castle is now a major tourist venue and is home to the Scottish crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny an ancient rock on which the Kings of Scots were crowned.

Frankenstein

Frankenstein's monster, that other staple favourite of Halloween dressing up, also has his Scottish connections. It is well known that in Mary Shelley's classic Victorian horror story the monster follows Dr Frankenstein to the Orkney Islands passing through Edinburgh on the way, but did you know that Scotland was also intimately connected to the very inspiration for the novel? Mary Shelley's husband, and the man who urged her to write *Frankenstein*, was, of course, the poet Percy Shelley. When Shelley was a schoolboy at Eton he became, in his wife's words, intimate with a man whom he never mentioned except in terms of the tenderest respect. This was Dr Lind . . . a name well known among professors of medical science. He often said "I owe that man far, oh! Far more than I owe my father!"

Dr James Lind was an eminent natural philosopher (as scientists were called then) who was born and educated in Edinburgh and whose ideas were to greatly interest the young Shelley. (This Dr Lind should not be confused with his cousin of the same name, the man who did pioneering work on the treatment of scurvy.) Lind was keenly interested in some of the more radical medical theories of the day, particularly those of the Italian physicists Cavallo and Galvani, men whose work focused on the possibility of using electricity to reanimate dead tissue. (Not as crazy as it might sound: the idea was a direct precursor to today's defibrillating machines so beloved of emergency room dramas.) Lind instilled a passion for these ideas into Percy Shelley, which was to interest him for the rest of his (sadly short) life. Shelley communicated these enthusiasms to Mary, and she in turn channelled them into the novel she was to write: so the ideas of an Edinburgh doctor were destined to live forever in the pages of her immortal tale. Incidentally the Shelleys visited Edinburgh on their honeymoon.

This was in the early 19th century, when body-snatching was at its height and the so-called resurrection men like Burke and Hare were busy digging up bodies from Greyfriars Kirkyard and selling them for medical experiments. It is entirely possible that the Shelleys would have been fascinated by this and it became another strand that Mary worked into the manuscript of *Frankenstein*.

Greyfriars

Also finding inspiration in Greyfriars around this time was Robert Louis Stevenson. The writer often used the empty kirkyard to sit and think perhaps coming up with characters like Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde while he was there. It is said that Stevenson's famous horror story *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* was based on the case of Deacon Brodie, an 18th century Edinburgh man who was a respectable businessman by day and a thief by night. Brodie was eventually caught and hanged. In fact Edinburgh can probably make a reasonable claim to being one of the most supernaturally active cities in the whole world. Greyfriars also contains

the tomb of George bloody MacKenzie, which is said by some to be the most haunted place in the United Kingdom. MacKenzie was a judge who, in the late 17th century, imprisoned, tortured and executed thousands of covenanters in Greyfriars Kirkyard (Covenanters were supporters of the National Covenant, a document which pledged to keep Scotland a Presbyterian country and who supported the parliamentarians in the English Civil War). They were outlawed and persecuted by MacKenzie's boss, King Charles II.) MacKenzie's mausoleum was opened to visitors in the late nineties and since then there have been over 350 alleged poltergeist attacks: 170 people have collapsed, tourists have reported strange hot and cold spots in the place, and some claim to have been pushed and pulled by unseen forces.

Mary King's Close



Photo: Mary King's Close.

Overactive imaginations or something more sinister? You can judge for yourself. Because Scotland's supernatural side is not just confined to the pages of literature and history: City of the Dead Ghost Tours run daily walks through the kirkyard, including a visit to MacKenzie's tomb. Or there are the six-hour Vaults Vigil which take you deep beneath the streets of Edinburgh's old town, into vaults built over two hundred years ago as storage areas for the city's jewellers, pubs and fabric stores. These spooky, dimly-lit caverns and tunnels are said to be rich in ghostly activity and visitors have reported hearing strange shouting and banging and on a few occasions there have been alleged sightings of actual spirits.

Or try Mary King's Close, which lies just below the City Chambers and is said to be one of Edinburgh's most haunted locations. The area was densely populated during the 16th century when it was ravaged by plague. Afterwards, it was sealed off by the city and stories have grown over the years about the ghosts of the people who used to live there still being trapped in the close. Continuum Tours run a guided walk through the area and, whether you are a sceptic, open-minded or an outright unbeliever in the supernatural, the tour is a fascinating experience, with guides in period costume leading you through the dark alleyways and chill vaults, and providing a backdrop of rich historical information as well as ghostly speculation. Visitors can descend into the warren of

underground streets beneath the city's Royal Mile to encounter more of the haunting characters who once roamed Edinburgh's Old Town from the 16th to the 21st century. Craig Miller, General Manager comments: 'Audiences can expect an interactive entertaining tour that gives a tongue in cheek account of the edgier side to Edinburgh's history. Whilst the facts are delivered with wit, the finer details will no doubt send a shiver down your spine!'

Not for the faint hearted, this interactive tour will reveal the whole truth behind the myths and mysteries that shroud Edinburgh's hidden city with sinister tales of plague and pestilence and murder most horrid witnessed by those who lived, worked and died in the closes. From body snatchers and witch prickers to the notorious plague doctor Dr George Rae, audiences may find themselves at the centre of direct scrutiny as they learn that Edinburgh's now picturesque Old Town was once rife with crime and corruption. This warren of underground closes was once part of the city's most vibrant streets. These hidden closes have been the source of myths and legends for years and now visitors can learn the real truth about Edinburgh life between the 17th and 19th century, not to mention some of the most dramatic episodes from the city's past. Although the residents who once used to live here have long since passed away, they are certainly not forgotten. Their story is told through a character guide who plays a one time resident of the Close. This atmospheric and dark attraction is home to the infamous ghost of Annie, a lonely young girl whose family are thought to have died in the plague.

In fact Edinburgh can probably make a reasonable claim to being one of the most supernaturally active cities in the whole world.

Roslyn Chapel

A few miles to the south-east of Edinburgh lies the stunning Roslyn Chapel. Made famous by the novel and movie *The Da Vinci Code*, this working church was built for the Sinclair family in the fifteenth century. Ghostly flames apparently flicker in the burial vault when one of the Sinclairs is about to die, and an apparition of the apprentice who carved the famous Apprentice Pillar and was then murdered by his teacher, can sometimes be seen or heard.

Why limit yourself to a scary movie on the sofa this Halloween? Come to Edinburgh and experience some of the spookier goings-on in the flesh. Take a walk on the haunted side...

Have you had a spooky experience in Scotland? Share your story with us!

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Photo: Border Livestock Exchange Ltd./Facebook.

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 weather has turned – and for the better. Yes, I can cheerfully report that it's been the warmest September for some time. It's sent some folk to the beach. Others, including us, are in the garden where the chief is on ride-on mowing duties and I am on weed alert. The doggies love it. Any excuse to chase rabbits...

The Kelso Ram Sales

I, too, am chasing woolly tails. Not least in the Scottish Borders where we take the TV cameras to one of Scotland's most famous agricultural events. The Kelso Ram Sales is the biggest one-day sale of rams in the world. Here, more than five thousand male sheep wait impatiently in vast straw-lined pens. They paw the sides of their enclosures and head-butt anyone foolish enough to put his hand in for a pat. Among them are English breeds, including Border Leicesters and Suffolks. There are incomers from Europe, including the highly popular Dutch Beltex and, last but not least, there are the Scottish traditionals like the hardy North Country Cheviot. Brown, white, black-faced, these are colourful heavyweights.

Despite a frugal diet of grass and lettuce, these boys can weigh two hundred pounds and more. They may be beefy, but they are immaculately turned out. Each is washed and brushed and has his face carefully wiped. Each must look his best before he struts his stuff in the auction ring. It is quite a spectacle. Sixteen men in sixteen rings. All gabbling away in that incomprehensible auction speak that only farmers seem to understand. You watch intensely, but dare not blink. The slightest twitch could end in you taking home rather more than you bargained for. The Kelso Ram Sales started in the early nineteenth century when a hundred and twenty tups were sold in the town for around six pounds a head. These days the average ram can make six hundred. And for the above-average, the sky is the limit. This year a Bluefaced Leicester from Ayrshire goes under the hammer for twelve thousand pounds...

Deveronvale Perfection

There are fifteen thousand sheep farms in Scotland and some turn out tups that are worth their weight in gold. Some years ago, 'Tophill Joe' was bought by farmers in Aberdeenshire for £128,000 and went on to father lambs worth a million pounds. Another Banffshire tup, 'Deveronvale Perfection', went under the hammer for £231,000. Let us hope that he, too, offered

a return for the money. If the Borderlands have a monopoly on rams, the Highlands fly the flag for the rest. Every August the village of Lairg in Sutherland puts on what is thought to be Europe's biggest one-day sale of hill sheep and lambs. Imagine it. A small community of nine hundred suddenly finding itself with twenty thousand woolly incomers...

In times past pioneering Scottish shepherds gathered their flock and crossed oceans to start farms in far-off lands. They stemmed from places like the Dumfriesshire town of Moffat where a giant stone ram bears witness to the links to these hardy creatures. There is recognition of the role they played in shaping this market town - and there is also humour. Once a year sheep with small, colourful knitted jockeys on their backs are raced along the high street, much to amusement of the crowd.

Hardy sheep

Like its men, Scotland breeds its sheep hardy. The Soay roams wild on the windswept island of St Kilda, a place where few humans could comfortably survive. Scotland also breeds them long-lived. One of the world's oldest sheep was Methuselina, a blackface ewe on the island of Lewis, thought to be nearly

twenty-six years old when she died. Sheep are part and parcel of Scottish life – which is understandable, as there are more of them than there are people. The sheep population is now 6.7 million, whilst the human count is 5.3 million. The MacGregor keeps threatening to get sheep here and pop them in our fields. He fancies the pretty white and black spotted and sometimes multi-horned Jacob breed. But someone tells me these creatures are great escape artists and can jump the highest fence. Perhaps we need to look at something a little less frisky. The thing is, how to choose? At the Kelso Ram Sales there is some advice. Choose your ram like you choose your woman, I am told by one tease. Look for firm legs and a big bottom... I think he is joking, perhaps not!

Meanwhile, some of you may have seen the latest film about the MacGregors. It aired on Channel 9 in Australia and is presented by famed broadcaster Charles Wooley. Charles is a MacGregor and came in search of his roots. He and his team stayed with us here in Scotland. What a party that was. If you see him, buy him a dram from the chief...

Follow the MacGregor clan chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, on twitter.com/theclanchiefs

Bagpipe lung warning



Bagpipe players (also those who play other wind instruments such as trumpets, saxophones, trombone, etc.) are being warned that playing a wind instrument could damage your lungs by UK doctors. This after British doctors reported a rare but fatal case that "bagpipe lung" had killed a 61 year old man who inhaled fungi growing inside his pipes causing extensive lung damage. The deceased man was an avid piper and practiced daily. The deceased man is thought to have developed a bad reaction to mould and fungi lurking inside the moist interior of his bagpipes.

Now doctors are urging musicians of wind instruments, including bagpipes, to be extra hygienic as moisture can stay in various parts of the instrument and could cause harmful pathogens. Regular cleaning of instruments is now being highly recommended and any player who gets breathless and develops a cough should consider whether their symptoms might be caused by their music practice.

For tips on how you can keep your pipes clean please see The National Piping Centre's instruction video: <https://vimeo.com/179910980>

Cowal Highland Gathering 2016 signs off with a bang



Photos courtesy of: Cowal Highland Gathering.

As family days out go, this one ranked among Scotland's very best. Thousands of people from across the world gathered in Dunoon for the spectacular climax of the Cowal Highland Gathering. Competitors and spectators alike joined forces to ensure the event's finale was a day to remember for everyone involved – as it always is. From the hundreds of dancers and pipers to the heavy athletes, runners, ceildh bands, stunt cyclists and many other entertainers on show, every participant contributed to what was a fantastic day's entertainment. The standard of competition was breathtaking, with many of the world's top competitors giving their all in a bid to go home with the silverware.

Cowal Pipe Band Championship

One of the highlights of the Gathering's final day – and one of the most fiercely contested – was, as always, the Cowal Pipe Band Championship. This year, Inveraray and District Pipe Band managed to hold

off the challenge of Johnstone Pipe Band to be crowned winners of the Grade 1 Cowal Pipe Band Championships 2016 and take home the famous Argyll Shield.

In the other sections and grades, the Cowal Pipe Band champions were:

- Novice Juvenile B – Kintyre Schools
- Novice Juvenile A – Oban High School
- Juvenile – Oban High School
- Grade 4 – Lanark and District
- Grade 4 MSR – Lanark and District
- Grade 3 – Kintyre Schools
- Grade 3 MSR – Kintyre Schools
- Grade 2 – Johnstone
- Grade 2 MSR – Johnstone

The World Highland Dancing Championships

Then came the biggest Highland Dancing competition in the world – the World Championship finals - with dancers from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA pitting their skills against the best the UK has to offer. In the end, it was Erin

Blair of California who once again emerged victorious in the World Juvenile finals, followed by Michelle Gordon of Huntly and Louise Barton of Cairneyhill. The trophy for best Scottish Juvenile Dancer went to Michelle Gordon, and the best Overseas Juvenile Dancer was Erin Blair. In the World Junior championship, California's Emma Schiff held off the challenge of Sophie Dunn (2nd) and Morgan McDougall (3rd), both of Ontario, Canada. The best Scottish Junior Dancer was Finley Duncan of Banff, and the trophy for the best Overseas Junior Dancer went to Emma Schiff. The Adult World champion was once again Ontario's Marielle Lesperance, who won every element of her competition. In second place was Alberta's Rebecca Thow, with Ellis Hayes from Newton Stewart in third. Marielle is also taking home the Mary McHarg Quaich for best Overseas Adult Dancer. The cup for best Scottish Adult Dancer went to Ellis Hayes.

A full list of the results and for more information on Cowal Highland Gathering see: www.cowalhighlandgathering.com



Champion dancers Erin Blair, Emma Schiff and Marielle Lesperance.

By: Judy Vickers

Contrast against the darkness

Autumn in Scotland

Autumn is a beautiful time of year to visit Scotland, the landscapes are ablaze with autumnal colours, with glowing skies and forests as Judy Vickers explains.

The end of summer does not mean the end of excitement, wonder and awe in Scotland. Edinburgh's festival acts may have packed up, the campsites may be emptying and the beaches left to dog walkers but there is still plenty to enjoy and in many ways the country comes alive at this time of year. The natural world is an obvious place to look first. In glens across the country trees are changing colour, putting on a display of purples, browns, oranges and yellows to rival New England and drawing in crowds at places such as the Birks of Aberfeldy or the Dawyck Botanic Garden in the Borders, part of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

The peace of autumn

Sometimes it is good to enjoy the peace of autumn as mists wreath around tree-clad hillsides, frost leaves a crunch underfoot and on a crystal clear day it can appear that nature is going about its business in a steady but spectacular way. One favourite place to head is the birchwoods of Upper Deeside. Above Braemar, now the Royal Family have left after enjoying Highland Games, hunting and the chance to relax amid splendid scenery these birch trees stand, echoing to the sound of red deer stags in the full drama of the annual rut. It is the best example in Britain of Downy Birch woodland with juniper. The woodland looks pretty much the same as large parts of Scotland would have done 10,000 years ago after the Ice Age ended and the thick, frozen ice sheet receded, leaving the land exposed once more.

Nowadays the deer is the largest mammal left in Scotland's outdoors, no more elk or wolves roam, but amid the pines you may spot red squirrels

dodging toadstools at this time of year as they hoard their provision ahead of the impending winter. Overhead, huge flocks of migrating greylag geese arrive over much of Grampian, the Central Belt and the Borders, escaping the harsh, dark months of the Arctic.

Dark sky

Obviously it gets darker in Scotland too as the equinox is passed and daylight becomes shorter. But the plus side of this is the chance to stargaze. Scotland has huge swathes of "dark sky" compared to much of England and continental Europe – areas such as Galloway and the appropriately named Skye where stars shine, unaffected by light pollution found in urban sprawls. Galloway Forest Park was the UK's first Dark Sky Park because of its low levels of light pollution. Dark sky information points throughout the forest and at its three visitor centres help visitors identify some of the 7000 stars and planets visible by the naked eye.

As the nights draw in, the effects of a light and sound show can be spectacular contrasted against the darkness. Outdoor evening light shows have become something of a feature of Scotland in the autumn over the last few years. The Enchanted Forest in Perthshire was the first, conjuring up imaginative luminous effects among the trees of Faskally Woods as visitors walked around the 1.8km route. By last year, its 14th, the show boasted aerial acrobats and an original score and welcomed 62,000 visitors – around 2000 more than the woods attract during the whole of the rest of the year. Organisers say this year's show, which is called Shimmer and which runs throughout October, will be their most ambitious yet.

Just in its third year but no less ambitious, Botanic Lights, at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, this year aims to take visitors on a journey around the world in just one night. The 22-night run light and sound show will have a theme of exploration and visitors will follow in the footsteps of the original

Victorian plant-hunters and their 21st century contemporaries along a trail of spectacular light installations. And joining the trend for looking at nature aglow with multi-coloured lights and special effects is the Woodland Light Experience in Stirlingshire, which runs from November 4 to 22. Using man made light is nothing new of course.

Samhuinn

The pagan festival of Samhuinn celebrates the overthrowing of summer by winter and in Edinburgh that means, fire, music and dancing when the Beltane Fire Society mark the event in the Old Town on October 31. The festival of Samhuinn may be ancient, stretching back into the mists of time – but Scotland also has the tradition of guising on October 31 – Halloween. Rather than children knocking on doors to shout "trick or treat" as they might in England, or especially North America, they dress up and perform a song,



Dawyck Botanic Garden, Scottish Borders.

tell a joke or do a dance in return for sweets. The origin dates back to pagan times when people would dress up as spirits of the day and make lanterns - in Scotland these were traditionally made out of turnips rather than pumpkins - to scare the same spirits away. But in reality there is nothing to be scared of during autumn in Scotland, it is a time to embrace the country as it comes alive during the continual passing of the seasons.



The Enchanted Forest.

The Scottish Banner

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The Burrell Collection

The Scottish Banner speaks to James Robinson FSA, Director of Burrell Renaissance, The Burrell Collection.

The Burrell Collection is one of the world's finest, single personal collections ever amassed by one person and is home to some 9,000 antiquities, objects, tapestries and paintings. The Burrell Collection is housed in an award-winning building in the heart of Pollok Country Park in Glasgow. The collection is named after its donor, the shipping magnate Sir William Burrell. This month the Burrell Collection will close for renovation and some of the collection is now on an international loan. The Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney spoke to James Robinson, Director at the Burrell Collection about the modernisation of one of Glasgow's most loved museums and the cultural significance this collection is for art lovers from across the world.

SC: Thank you James for taking time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. For those unfamiliar with Sir William Burrell, can we begin with you telling us briefly about him and just what makes his gift to Glasgow so extraordinary?

JR: William Burrell was born in the mid-19th century in 1861 and died in 1958. So he has this huge life span over two centuries, it was incredible period to be born. Burrell had been collecting art for about 80 of those years, he in fact began collecting when he was about 16 and continued right up to his death. He was able to do this because he amassed money from the shipping trade and became a shipping magnet who speculated on shipping stock and did that very successfully. He was a captain of industry and accrued sufficient wealth for his art but certainly was not up there with the great billionaires in the American tradition. He was a very judicious collector and I don't think he ever spent more

than £20,000 per year on art, so quite measured in purchasing and made some very strategic purchases. By 1918 he and his brother who he was in business with decided to liquidate the firm and Burrell went on spend the rest of his life collecting art treasures. He developed different areas of expertise in art and had an interest in the medieval art and architecture, which was partly due to his desire to occupy a medieval castle which he in fact did in 1916 in Northumberland by the Scottish Borders. With his interest in medieval he amassed amazing pieces of stain glass, tapestries but at the same time he was collecting modern art such as works by French artist Edgar Degas. He acquired his first Degas by 1902 and this is why I am here to support our first international loan of Burrell Collection pieces. Degas is of course a major figure for those of us in art history but at the time very avant-garde and caused outrage and disgust amongst art circles. The fact that William Burrell could marry these two interests

was amazing, being able to connect with ancient art and contemporary. Apart from medieval art Burrell also collected Chinese art and Islamic textiles and ceramics, providing his collection with some very rare pieces. He certainly had very eclectic tastes, especially for that time. Burrell was very unique in Scotland for his interest in French art and bringing so many Degas into Scotland. Burrell also had access to some of the top circles of the art world including Vincent Van Gogh.

SC: This month the Burrell Collection will undergo its most comprehensive modernisation since opening in 1983. Can you tell us how long the process will take and what improvements are being planned for the iconic museum to transform it into a 21st century museum?

JR: It's important to remember that the Burrell Collection already defined our perception of what a 20th century museum should be. It was built at a time when the UK did not have any significant modern purpose built museums being made. We can't underestimate the effect it had not only on the cultural landscape but also the field of museology. When the Burrell Collection opened in 1983 it is like it blew away all of the cob webs associated with museum culture. Suddenly instead of having dark and dusty spaces that were slightly quiet and creaky, we had this amazing space filled with light and objects beautifully displayed and relaxation spaces and a restaurant and bar. The restaurant and bar was quite significant as not many places then had them and it was actually quite fun to go and have a drink at a museum, as it had never really happened before. The Burrell Collection really is right up there at the beginning of the modern museum in Britain. Many other museums have since come to Glasgow to see what we have done and how they too can emulate what has been created.

We are now building on what the Burrell has achieved and want to take it into the

21st century. The fabric of the building needs to be looked at and improved and the interpretation of the objects within the building. Much has happened in the 30 odd years the Burrell has been open and today we have a much demanding museum visitor than we had in the 1980's. Visitors today are more confident and equipped to say what they want. We know the building now lets us down in certain aspects and we now want to transform the museum to make it the most accessible and energy friendly museum in the world. So the fact we are looking at the fabric means we can really address that issue with regard to insulation and the way the energy will fuel activities in the building. At the moment we do have issues with light, whilst it's great to have light flood into the building, it is often the very enemy of museum objects. We need to maintain this wonderful architectural statement but minimise any detrimental impact that may have on the collection. The technologies with both glass and lighting have come on in leaps and bounds in the past 30 years so we know we can vastly improve the collections presentation and integrity.

We have also learned much in our 30 years of who people move around the building and can free up spaces to make sure we maximise the museum footprint and will be opening basement areas so

The Burrell Collection really is right up there at the beginning of the modern museum in Britain. Many other museums have since come to Glasgow to see what we have done and how they too can emulate what has been created.



James Robinson outside the Burrell Collection.

people can see everything we have and it becomes an even more open transparent museum.

Our target for re-opening the final quarter of 2020. However there will always be a Burrell presence in Glasgow at the Kelvingrove Museum for example, Burrell left this collection to the city and people of Glasgow. There is great fondness in Glasgow for this collection and people do seem to have a sense of ownership of it, which is great. We will now also be touring some pieces internationally which is incredibly exciting.

SC: Currently only approximately 20 per cent of the exceptional 9,000-strong artworks are currently on display. Will the new museum allow for the public to have greater access to the collection?

JR: It certainly will and opening up the basements will really change things for us. There will be more access to hidden areas of the gallery and allow us to show more. There will also be a lot of work done on the digital aspect of the collection. There are some things that are just not practical to get out, we have more than 200 tapestries for example, we simply do not have the space and there are fragility and conservation issues means we can't keep unfurling them and taking them out. However all pieces will be published in a fully comprehensive catalogue and the images and text from the catalogue will find a way to have a digital interpretation so people will be able to browse through the collections both digitally and where practical physically. This will be done in a more open way where the visitor can decide what they look at.

SC: This is the first time pieces from the Burrell Collection have been on loan internationally. How does that make you feel that international audiences not only can see some of the exquisite pieces but also will gain an interest in coming to Glasgow to see more of the collections for themselves?

JR: The four Degas pieces that have been to Australia and are coming to the US are the first pieces to ever be loaned internationally. Pieces have previously only ever been loaned with the United Kingdom. This is the first time the Deed of

Gift has been revised by Scottish Parliament in 2014 so for us this has been a very momentous occasion (The original terms of the Burrell bequest prevented the loan of objects outside the UK). What this has also done is open up the door for us to do more international outreach so we are working very hard on an international tour program which could include North America, Japan and Europe from about 2018.

This is one of the great benefits of opening up the collection and releasing it on the world stage. It will help advertise the cultural credentials of Glasgow which are immense and of course the Burrell is just one small part of it.

SC: Glasgow is home a vast variety of museums and art galleries, some may even say the city punches well above its weight in cultural attractions. From the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Riverside Museum, the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) and The Burrell Collection which are all open to the public daily and admission is always free for all to enjoy. How important are these amazing assets to Glasgow and its international reputation?

JR: It is extremely important. All museums are experiencing record number of visitors which is so extraordinary. So we know people come to visit a country and they will go to a museum more routinely than they may have 30-50 years ago. Today visitors expect that museum not only to inform them but to entertain them. Glasgow has excelled in this and all of the Glasgow museums have an emphasis on public ownership and access to the collection and it just gets better and better. The fabulous thing about Glasgow is there are nine museums in the museum service and each one offers something completely different and that is a great asset for the city because anyone staying there for any length of time gets a complete variety and a feeling of being immersed in great artistic wealth. There are few cities in the UK that can compete with Glasgow on that level and even within Europe the civic collections of Glasgow are considered the largest in Europe.

SC: Glasgow museums and art galleries are not only to be seen

inside. The buildings themselves have much to be proud of. The Burrell Collection is one of Scotland's finest examples of post-war architecture and Kelvingrove, who recently completed its own restoration, with the refurbished building an attraction in its own right. Do you have a favourite building you enjoy and how proud are you of these stand out pieces of Glasgow architecture?

JR: I think it ties in again with the diversity of Glasgow because each of the museum sites are so radically different from the other. The Riverside, St Mungo's and GoMA all are unique and striking. It is a difficult question because part of me is so immersed in Burrell it is hard for me to think of a building I love as much as the Burrell Collection, I call it my mini-MET as its sits there in Pollock Country Park as the MET does in New York's Central Park. I love working in that building as do my colleagues. The Burrell is a modern monument and it is so brilliant the way it engages with the park. It works so well and I love the church like entrance we have as well and I am so looking forward to seeing how this building develops and makes a statement for visitors. In the centre of Glasgow I think Kelvingrove is a favourite.

SC: And finally what recommendations do you have for those "culture vulture's" waiting to take in Glasgow's Museums & Galleries?

JR: Give yourself enough time, there is a lot in Glasgow and it is spread over a large area. Just the Mackintosh Trail alone would keep any culture vulture busy, as Mackintosh is such a great credit to Glasgow. What I would recommend however is not to overlook so many other things on offer. It is always best to plan in regards to which exhibits they would like to see and also give some of the lesser known places a try. For example the St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art is of course what it says it is and explores attitudes towards faith and devotional practices but it is also contains huge amounts of incredibly beautiful artwork and in fact stain glass and sculptural pieces from the Burrell Collection are housed there as well. You really have to be determined to get the best of what Glasgow has on offer. There is nearly too much for the cultural visitor to Glasgow as there is also all the theatre, concerts, sporting events and music. There is so much going on in Glasgow we are kind of in competition with ourselves it is that regard, Glasgow is a city with great dynamism.

The Burrell Collection remains open until 23 October 2016 when it will temporarily close for works to commence on the refurbishment of the Grade A category building and redisplay of the collection. The Burrell Collections Degas: A New Vision was recently at National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne and will be at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston from 16 October 2016 – 8 January 2017.



Stuart Liddell wins at Argyllshire Gathering



Photo courtesy of: Derek Maxwell Photography.

Stuart Liddell of Inveraray & District Pipe Band lifts the Senior Piobaireachd trophies at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban. This is Stuart's second consecutive year winning this prestigious prize which is sponsored by Glenfiddich Piping and Fiddle.

The event which takes place at the end of August each year is one of Scotland's premier Highland Games, world class challengers from across the globe flock to Oban to do battle; heavyweights with the caber, stone or hammer, dancing and piping.

Scottish Genealogical Research



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Scone Palace

A royal residence steeped in history

Text and photos
by: Marieke McBean



Scone Palace in Perth is the crowning place of the first king of Scots and the original home of the Stone of Destiny. The building is stunning, but a visit to the grounds will delight visitors even more.



Despite being located just outside the city of Perth, Scone Palace is surrounded by wide open spaces. When turning off the main road, there is still a fair distance to cover before the palace itself becomes visible. The access road winds in between fields in which cows happily graze. The views from here are splendid; in the distance you can see the highlands looming.

Impressive

When you finally do see the palace itself it becomes clear that a visit will be worth it. Scone Palace looks well maintained and is impressive even from the outside. At the ticket office visitors are offered tickets for the palace and grounds, or for the grounds only. I was surprised by this choice, but having now seen everything I know it is likely I will visit again - for the grounds though, not the palace. First stop was the palace itself. It will remind some people of Blair Castle, 35 miles further north. The rooms are all furnished and beautifully decorated. There are many different objects on display, from a huge collection of porcelain objects to items carved out of elephant and walrus tusk ivory. The two imposing Siberian bears in a corridor look very real indeed, but are of course stuffed. The peacock posing is also long dead, although outside in the grounds

you will encounter some live ones happily wandering about.

The Stone of Destiny

Famous visitors to Scone Palace have been Queen Victoria and Bonnie Prince Charlie. Perhaps most famous of all is King Robert the Bruce, who was crowned here in 1306. Scone had been a place of Pagan worship up until the 9th century. At this time, Kenneth MacAlpin was king of Picts. He also became king of Scots, thus creating the kingdom of Scotland. He was crowned on a big rectangular stone slab called the Stone of Scone, or more famously, the Stone of Destiny. It was used for crowning Kings of Scots until the thirteenth century - including King Robert the Bruce and Charles II of Scotland. He was the last king to be crowned on the stone at Scone before King Edward I of England took it away and brought the stone to Westminster. He had it fitted into a wooden chair which is to this day known as King Edward's Chair. Most English kings and queens that followed him were indeed crowned on this seat.

In 1950 an attempt was made to bring back the stone to Scotland, but it failed. In 1997 however, the stone was indeed returned to Scotland by the British government. It was not brought back to Scone though. Instead, it is one of the most popular attractions within Edinburgh

Castle. At Scone Palace there is a replica stone, although they fail to make it clear this is indeed a replica and not the real thing. Did you know that even the current Queen Elizabeth II was crowned on the Stone of Destiny?

Famous visitors to Scone Palace have been Queen Victoria and Bonnie Prince Charlie. Perhaps most famous of all is King Robert the Bruce, who was crowned here in 1306.

Moot Hill

The palace is impressive with all its collections and precious furniture. The grounds however, are well worth visiting, too. A map will guide you past all the sights. Starting in front of the palace, a hill houses a small chapel. This is Moot Hill, the ancient crowning place of Kings of Scots. Noblemen would swear allegiance to the kings here, and it is said they always brought a handful of earth from their land with them, thus creating the mound. The chapel is open but sadly not accessible as a fence prevents people from going in; all you can do is stand in the doorway.

A beautiful stone archway indicates that at one point more buildings were here. It is part of an old wall surrounding "Old Scone". In 1803 the palace was done up and the stately home did not need a village on its doorstep, so the whole village was moved two miles down the road. The new village is indeed called "New Scone".

If you follow the well maintained paths round you get to an area full of unusual trees. This is partly thanks to David Douglas, a famous plant collector who started his gardening career at Scone Palace itself. The Douglas Fir, a very tall

fir tree that can be seen in many parts of Great Britain today, was named after him.

Beech maze

The kitchen garden is used to this day and it is a delight to see what grows in which season. The highlight for our children was most definitely the famous maze. It is star shaped and made with copper and green beech trees. This is meant to resemble the tartan of the Earl of Mansfield's family. William David Murray is the 8th Earl of Mansfield. His family has owned Scone Palace and its grounds since the 18th century.

The maze is one of the more trickier ones I have seen and a delight for all ages. A playground on the other side of the palace is also good fun, so do take children along when visiting this famous site. The palace is well worth seeing, although when I go back it will be for the grounds, which impressed me the most by far.

Visitor information: Scone Palace and the grounds are open daily from March to October. Tickets are £11 for adults, £10.25 for concessions and £8 for children, with cheaper prices available if you are visiting the grounds only. In the winter months (except January) the grounds can be visited free of charge on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, but do check the website for up-to-date visitor information: www.scone-palace.co.uk.



Moot Hill Chapel.

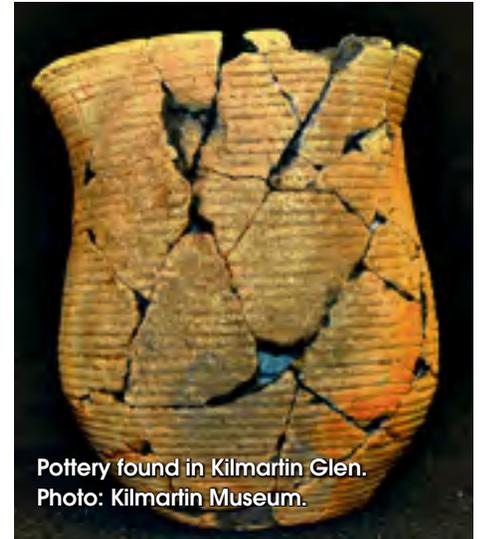
By: Nick Drainey

Kilmartin Glen-Making room for over 5000 years of Scottish history

Kilmartin Glen is located between Oban and Lochgilphead on the west of Scotland and considered to have one of the most important concentrations of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in Scotland. The Museum cares for some of Britain's oldest Bronze Age and Neolithic artefacts dating back to at least 3,500 BC and is now looking to expand and reopen a new museum in 2020 to celebrate Kilmartin Glen's unique natural and archaeological heritage.



Standing stone in Kilmartin Glen.
Photo: Nick Drainey



Pottery found in Kilmartin Glen.
Photo: Kilmartin Museum.

The glen is at the centre of the most important area for ancient monuments on mainland Scotland, with 800 ancient and prehistoric sites within 10 miles.

What could be the oldest Bronze Age “Beaker” pottery ever found in Britain has been unearthed at an ancient glen in Argyll. But the museum at Kilmartin Glen is having to expand to make room to show off the 4,500-year-old relics because it is already full of exhibits from prehistory. Three pots and a food vessel were unearthed at a quarry near to the museum and another pot was found last year, but their existence has been unknown to the public until now. Kay Owen, Redevelopment Project Officer at Kilmartin Museum, said: “As far as we are aware, there is no Beaker Pottery quite like it that has been found in Britain and which dates back that far. There is the age of it, but also the amount of it, it is quite remarkable ... we don't have room to display it.”

Some archaeologists think that the Beaker style of pottery was brought to Britain by migrants from continental Europe at the same time metal was introduced.

The pieces, decorated with patterns and with bands around them, were found at Upper Largie Quarry before work to remove stone started and Ms Owen said there could be more pottery to be found. She added: “The site of the quarry has been investigated but there are possibly other sites in that area.” The pots are still being tested by archaeologists but one is thought to have cremated remains within it. “Someone would have been cremated and their remains placed in the beaker and the beaker then placed in a burial cist. We would expect it to be an important

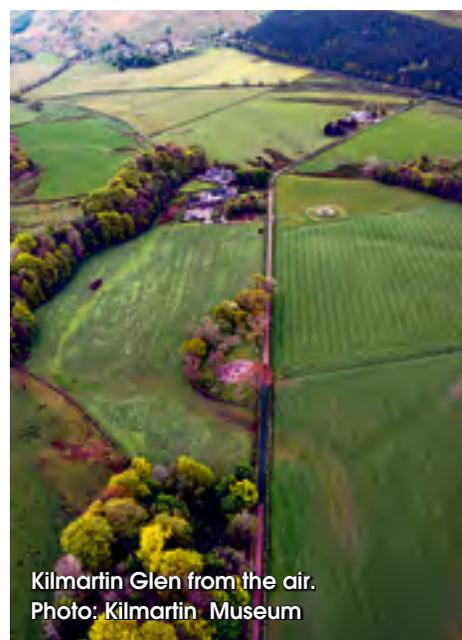
person given the extent that they have gone to and the fact that the beakers we have found are decorated.”

Impressive history

The glen is at the centre of the most important area for ancient monuments on mainland Scotland, with 800 ancient and prehistoric sites within 10 miles. And the significance of the pottery adds to the already impressive history in the area. One of the highlights of the glen is a line of chambered cairns. These date back more than 5,000 years but are not treated like Stonehenge with big fences - you can clamber in and over them making it a great place for youngsters. A few miles south is Dunadd Fort, a small hill fort occupied since the Iron Age. This place is where the Kings of Dalriada were thought to have been crowned between 500 and 900AD - a footprint in a flat stone at the top is reckoned to have been part of the coronation ritual.

Ms Owen said: “Kilmartin Glen as a whole is a really interesting and important archaeological site as far as Scotland and Britain is concerned. The sheer number of monuments here implies it was an important ceremonial place and that they came here to worship in some way. They came here to bury people as well and leave goods with them (beaker pottery). This is the most prominent site on mainland Scotland for pre-history and prehistoric monuments.”

Now, nearly 20 years after Kilmartin Museum opened the amount of space available to display the ancient artefacts has run out and more is desperately needed. “We don't have enough room. There are



Kilmartin Glen from the air.
Photo: Kilmartin Museum

more and more artefacts that the museum has which we can't display so really we need to expand the museum. These items have changed are understanding of how people have used the glen - about when we thought people were here and the activities they were carrying out.”

Protective environment

Not only is the museum display area full, but the store area as well, meaning the results of new excavations have nowhere to be kept in a protective environment. As result the museum is planning a £6.7 million redevelopment which will see it expand its area for the public as well behind the scenes where a new laboratory will allow analysis and testing to take

place as well as research by students and academics. The museum hopes half the cost will come from a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund with the rest being made up with money from sponsors, supporters and members of the public. Sharon Webb, the Director of the Museum who recently received an MBE for services to archaeology and heritage, said: “This redevelopment will secure the future of the museum, which is an important resource, not just for Argyll but the whole of Scotland. It will also help continue the archaeological work which takes place in this unique area, and safeguard this important artefact collection.”

Staffed mainly by volunteers and with a small budget, the Museum opened in 1997. An 18th century manse and surrounding farm buildings were adapted to create a permanent exhibition, café and shop. Now, however, there is not enough space to house the growing collection of artefacts and the redevelopment project is underway. A major extension, designed by award winning architects Reiach and Hall, will link two existing buildings. A new exhibition space will therefore be much larger and a Creative Space will be built which the local community can use, as well as allowing temporary exhibitions to be staged. In addition, an Education Space, will allow school children and adult learning groups to learn about the archaeology of the area.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Outlander's Jamie and Claire. Photo courtesy of Foxtel.

Outlander Season 3 begins filming in Scotland

Production has begun on Season 3 of the period drama *Outlander*, Starz and Sony Pictures Television confirmed. The 13-episode, third season is based on *Voyager*, the third of eight novels in Diana Gabaldon's best-selling *Outlander* series of time-traveling romances which follows the story of Claire Randall, a married combat nurse from 1945 who is mysteriously swept back in time to 1743, where she is immediately thrown into an unknown world where her life is threatened. When she is forced to marry Jamie, a chivalrous and romantic young Scottish warrior, a passionate affair is ignited that tears Claire's heart between two vastly different men in two irreconcilable lives. Series 3 will see Claire return to Jamie 20 years on from when she left him ahead of the Battle of Culloden. Book 3 of *Outlander* picks up right after Claire travels through the stones to return to her life in 1948. Now pregnant, she struggles with the fallout of her sudden re-appearance and its effect on her marriage to her first husband, Frank. Meanwhile, in the 18th century, Jamie suffers from the aftermath of his doomed last stand at the historic battle of Culloden, as well as the loss of Claire. As the years pass, Jamie and Claire attempt to make a life apart from one another, each haunted by the memory of their lost love. The hit show has put an international spotlight on Scotland and its history with viewers across North America, Europe, Asia and Australasia, with a series 3 release scheduled for early 2017.

Prehistoric Cochno Stone unearthed



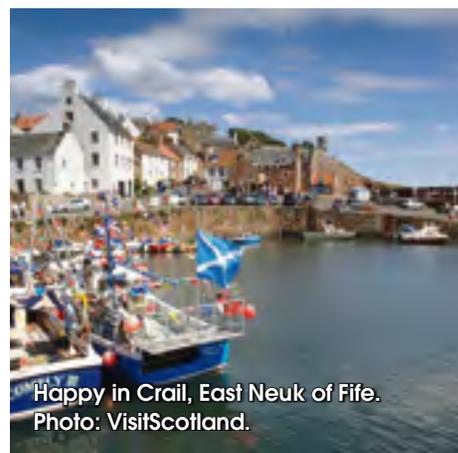
Archaeologists unearthing the Cochno Stone. Photo: The University of Glasgow.

A prehistoric stone panel said to be the "most important in Europe" has been

unearthed for the first time in more than 50 years in Clydebank. The Cochno Stone dates to 3000BC and is described as one of the best examples of Neolithic or Bronze Age cup and ring markings in Europe. With dozens of grooved spirals, carved indentations, geometric shapes, and mysterious patterns of many kinds, the Cochno Stone is considered to have the finest example of Bronze Age cup and ring carvings in the whole of Europe. Yet, for the last 50 years it has lain buried beneath several feet of earth and vegetation in what was a desperate attempt at the time to protect it from vandals. However, the famous stone is set to be unearthed once more to finally embark on an in-depth study of its enigmatic symbols in the hope of learning some of its secrets. The stone, which measures 42ft by 26ft, was first discovered by the Rev James Harvey in 1887 on farmland near what is now the Faifley housing estate on the edge of Clydebank. It is covered in more than 90 carved indentations, known as 'cup and ring' marks. Archaeologists will use 3D-imaging technology to make a detailed digital record of the site. They hope this will provide more information on the stone's history, purpose and the people who created it about 5,000 years ago. Dr Kenny Brophy, from the University of Glasgow who specialises in urban archaeology, is leading the excavation at the site next to Cochno Farm. He said: "This is the biggest and I would argue one of the most important Neolithic art panels in Europe. The cup and ring marks are extensive but the site just happens to be in the middle of an urban housing scheme in Clydebank. It was last fully open to the elements and the public up until 1965. Sadly as it was neglected it was also being damaged through vandalism and people traipsing all over it. So renowned archaeologist Ludovic Maclellan Mann, with a team of experts, decided the best way to preserve it was to cover it over to protect it from further damage. And it has lain there ever since. It has been well recorded for

archaeological purposes but we now feel the time, and the technology, is right to unearth it and see what new elements we can learn about its history and the people who created it. The local community is very engaged in what we plan to do, and they seem very proud to have this amazing prehistoric gem right on their door step." The stone, which lies on land next to a housing estate near Faifley, in West Dunbartonshire, is regarded as one of the UK's most important, but also one of its most neglected, prehistoric sites.

Fife the happiest place in Scotland



Happy in Crail, East Neuk of Fife. Photo: VisitScotland.

Fife has overtaken the Highlands to be named the happiest place in Scotland. The Happiness Index, released by the Bank of Scotland and Yougov, quantifies how happy Scots are in the communities in which they live. The study which came out in August shows that over 40% of people in the Kingdom say they're 'very happy' living in their community, jumping from a happiness score of +35.56 in 2015 to +56.56 this year. The Scottish average is +40.43. Those on a household income of £25,000-£39,999 are the most happy in Scotland, along with those aged 65+ and living in a household of two people. Dundonians, 19-to-24 year olds and those living on their own are among the least happiest. Rachel Bright, Bank of Scotland's Head of Customer Service said, "We published the results from our first Happiness Index just

over a year ago, where the Highlands came out as Scotland's happiest region. This year, Fife's happiness score has increased over twenty points, putting them at the top of the Happiness Index and pushing the Highlands in to second place. There has been a slight increase in the overall happiness score for Scotland as a whole, with women remaining happier than men. As we saw last year, happiness increases with age, and pensioners are once more the happiest age group in Scotland."

Scotland happiest regions:

1. Fife
2. Highlands & Islands
3. Mid-Scotland
4. South Scotland
5. Lothians
6. West Scotland
7. Aberdeen & surrounds
8. Glasgow
9. North East Scotland
10. Central
11. Dundee & surrounds

Ionad Hiort - St Kilda Centre for Isle of Lewis



The St Kilda Centre - Ionad Hiort - on the Isle of Lewis. Photo: Dualchas/RRA.

A world-class, remote access, visitor facility is being developed on a spectacular cliff-top site in Uig on the Isle of Lewis. Leading edge technology will reflect the natural and cultural landscape of St Kilda and celebrate the UK's only dual status UNESCO World Heritage Site. The proposed development at Mangersta, Uig, would attract thousands of visitors to the Hebrides annually, creating new jobs, providing a huge tourism boost and helping the local economy. St Kilda is a double World Heritage Site and UNESCO has adopted the project as a pilot for how to develop remote access to the many world heritage sites which are not easily available to visitors. Building what is called a "remote access" centre is a solution to capitalise on the growing number of people visiting important heritage landmarks, avoiding environmental damage to the place itself. Dramatic cliffs at Mangersta in Uig, Lewis - resembling the wild landscape of St Kilda - will provide a stunning backdrop to the proposed facility. Iain Buchanan, chairman of Ionad Hiort, said: "This would be a transformational project for a very fragile community and would bring economic benefit to the Western Isles as a whole. It will only succeed if it is a world-class facility, both as a visitor attraction and also as a research centre for the study of remote communities and the challenges they face." The centre will have a spectacular cliff-top site on west coast of Lewis with views to St Kilda, over 50 miles away on the horizon.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Battle of Largs - Scots defeated the Vikings who were attempting to invade. **1263** - Contract to construct the North Bridge, Edinburgh, signed. **1763**

2 - Birth of Sir William Ramsay, Scottish chemist who discovered helium, xenon, neon, argon, radon and krypton. **1852**

2 - Death of Sir Thomas Lipton, grocer, tea merchant and contestant for the Americas Cup. **1931**



2 - The new paddle steamer Waverley was launched from A. & J. Inglis's yard on the Clyde. After providing services on the Firth of Clyde she has been preserved and still takes passengers "doon the watter" as the oldest sea-going paddle steamer in the world. **1947**

3 - Treaty of Berwick, freeing David II from imprisonment by the English. **1357**

3 - Last Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh before the Union with Westminster. **1706**

4 - Boys' Brigade founded in Glasgow by Sir William Alexander Smith. The first uniformed youth organisation in the world, from one small company of 35 boys it has grown into a worldwide organisation with companies in over 60 countries. **1883**

5 - Balloon flight by Italian aeronaut Vincenzo Lunardi from Heriot's School, Edinburgh to Ceres in Fife. **1785**

5 - The birth of Jock Stein, famous Scottish football manager. Stein was manager of Celtic between 1965 and 1978, during which time it was one of the most successful clubs in Europe, and in 1967 became the first British club to win the European Cup. **1922**

6 - Scot Ebenezer Henderson formed the first Congregational church in Sweden. He spent many years travelling throughout Scandinavia and Russia, giving out bibles translated into local languages. **1811**

7 - Birth of Charles McLaren, one of the founders of the *Scotsman* newspaper. **1782**

8 - Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the first savings bank, born in the Manse at Lochrutton. **1774**

9 - King James IV ratified the Charter incorporating the Surgeons and Barbers. **1506**

9 - Death of Lord Home of the Hirsel, also known as Sir Alec Douglas-Home, formerly Foreign Secretary and UK Prime Minister. **1995**

10 - Writer and geologist Hugh Miller born on the Black Isle, Cromarty. **1802**

10 - Jock Stein, Scottish football manager, collapsed and died. He suffered a massive heart attack after watching Scotland draw 1-1 with Wales in a World cup qualifying match in Cardiff. As well as managing the national team, from 1965-78 he was Celtic's most famous manager, seeing them win the European Cup in 1967. **1985**

11 - Letter from Wallace and Moray to the mayors of Lubeck and Hamburg saying that "The Kingdom of Scotland has, by God's Grace, recovered by battle from the power of the English". **1297**

11 - Ship *Great Michael* launched for King James IV. **1511**

11 - The British fleet, under the command of Admiral Adam Duncan (born in Forfar in 1731), defeated the Dutch off the village of Camperdown, Holland. **1797**

11 - Scotland's first First Minister Donald Dewar died suddenly after a fall on the steps of his official residence in Edinburgh. **2000**

12 - Ramsay MacDonald, first Labour Prime Minister of UK, born in Lossiemouth. **1866**

12 - The birth of Magnus Magnusson, writer and broadcaster. Born in Iceland, Magnus moved to Scotland when only a baby. He made a career in journalism, finally achieving the post of Assistant Editor with *The Scotsman*. Magnusson died on January 7th 2007. **1929**

13 - Battle of Aberdeen, James Graham, 1st Marquess of Montrose, sacked the city. **1644**

13 - Birth of Allan Ramsay, painter and son of Allan Ramsay the poet. **1713**

14 - Second marriage of King Alexander III (to Yolanda de Dreux). **1285**

14 - Edward Bruce, brother of Robert the Bruce, killed in a battle near Dundalk, Ireland. **1318**

14 - Birth at St James' Palace, London of King James VII, second son of King Charles I and brother of King Charles II. **1633**

14 - The 50 pence decimal coin was first issued, replacing the ten shilling note. **1969**

15 - Birth of poet Allan Ramsay, father of Allan Ramsay the painter. **1686**



15 - Edinburgh's Balmoral Hotel opened its doors for the first time. **1902**

15 - Poet William Souter died in Perth. **1943**

16 - King James II born. **1430**

16 - Poet Robert Fergusson died. **1774**

17 - Battle of Neville's Cross during which King David II was captured by the English. **1346**

17 - James "Paraffin" Young obtained a patent for the extraction of paraffin from shale, starting the chemical industry in West Lothian. **1850**



17 - Bridge to the Isle of Skye opened. **1995**

18 - Aberdeen-born Denis Law became the youngest footballer to play for Scotland. At the time playing for Huddersfield Town, he was 18 years and 7 months old when he played against Wales at Cardiff. Scotland won 3-0. He has recently been nominated Scotland's best player of the last 50 years by the SFA. **1958**

18 - The death of Margaret Tudor, English princess, sister of Henry VIII, wife of James IV, and mother of James V. It was through Margaret, a paternal great-grandmother (through Henry, Lord Darnley), and a maternal great-grandmother (through Mary, Queen of Scots), that James VI based his claim to the throne of England following the death of Queen Elizabeth I. **1541**

19 - The first public-hire sedan chairs became available in Edinburgh. A sedan was an enclosed chair for one person, carried on poles by two men. They reached the height of their popularity in the 18th century, when there were as many as 180 sedans for public hire in Edinburgh. **1687**

20 - Explosion at Clarkston Toll shopping centre, killing 12. **1971**

21 - Last tram car ran in Dundee. **1956**

21 - The Queen officially opened the Burrell Collection in Glasgow's Pollok Country Park. The museum's collection had been donated to the city nearly 40 years earlier by the shipping magnate Sir William Burrell. **1983**

22 - Foundation stones of main Post Office and National Museum of Scotland laid by Prince Albert in his last public engagement before his death. **1861**

23 - Treaty between King John Balliol of Scotland and King Philippe IV of France which promised mutual help against the English - the start of the "Auld Alliance". **1295**

23 - Death of John Boyd Dunlop who re-invented the pneumatic tyre from the design of Robert W Thomson. **1921**

24 - Artist David Roberts born in Edinburgh. **1796**

25 - Elvis Presley touched down at Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire, his only visit to Scotland. This was the only time The King set foot on British soil. **1960**

26 - George III crowned, beginning a 60 year reign, one of the longest in British history. **1760**

26 - Lady Caroline Nairne, songwriter and poet, died at Gask, Perthshire. **1845**

26 - Poet Sorley MacLean born on the island of Raasay. **1911**

27 - James Cook, circum-navigator of the globe, born to Scottish parents in Yorkshire. **1728**



27 - William Smith, founder of the Boys' Brigade, born. **1854**

28 - Birth of Robert Liston in Linlithgow who was to carry out the first operation in Britain with the aid of an anaesthetic. **1794**

28 - Dr Henry Faulds, a Scots medical missionary working in Japan, published a letter in "Nature" which gave the first evidence that fingerprints could be used as proof of guilt or innocence in legal cases. **1880**

28 - Journalist and novelist Cliff Hanley (*Dancing in the Streets*) born in Glasgow. **1922**

29 - James Boswell, biographer of Dr Johnstone, born at Blair's Land, Parliament Square, Edinburgh. **1740**

30 - Caledonian Canal opened. **1822**

30 - First moving image on a television screen when John Logie Baird transmitted the image of a 15-year-old office boy in his London workshop. **1925**

31 - Pneumatic bicycle tyres were patented by inventor John Boyd Dunlop from Ayrshire. **1888**



31 - Hampden Park Stadium opened in Glasgow as the home of Queen's Park Football Club. **1903**



Clan Montgomery Society International
Join a Thousand Year Tradition

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



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
ClanRoss@theUnitedStates@gmail.com

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



Clan Sutherland Society of Australia

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

Marie Holzknecht
212 MacKenzie Street
Toowoomba, QLD
Queensland, Australia
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: galfrida@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: Heather Munro Daniel
4600 Lloyddown Road
Mebane, NC 27302



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: clan-scottaustraliagroup.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



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, Smallie, Small, Smallie, Spalding

www.clanmurray.org

Stanley B. Fleming
513 Wall Street
Fergus, Ontario, N1M 2K2

Kathy Wolf
5744 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

Scottish Associations and Societies



Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

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

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



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, preserving 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.

(920) 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.

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



The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited
ABN 30 093 578 860

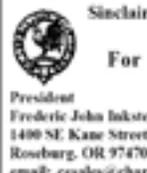
Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association.

The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC, QLD, 4101, Australia. www.standrewsociety.com



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

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



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

For further info contact

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

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

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



St. Andrew's Society of Vermont
P.O. Box 484
Essex Junction, VT 05453

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



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

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



Clan Skene Association, Inc.

Invites membership from Skene and septs Cariston, Carney-Carrie, Carndill, Dyas, Dyon, Dyon, Hall, Halyard/Halyard, MacGilliland, Rennie, 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	Gelting Highland Gathering Association
Balmoral Highland Dancing Society	Gelting 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	Morningside 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	Warmanbood & District Caledonian Society
Glenmaggie Scottish Folk Festival	Warmanbood 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@abcglobal.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

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

OCTOBER 2016

1 Toronto, ON - Scottish country dancing at Culture Days

Come try Scottish country dancing free at this special Culture Days event. Keep fit, have fun and make friends. No partner or experience needed at Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Ave. Info: Paul Barber 416 534 0516 or www.dancescottish.ca.

1 Vancouver, BC - The Gaelic Society of Vancouver Cèilidh

Dancing, tea, coffee, & goodies served & door prize at Scottish Cultural Centre: 8886 Hudson St. Info: www.vancouvergaelic.com

7 - 15 Cape Breton Island, NS - Celtic Colours

Annual Celtic festival of music and Celtic culture held on Cape Breton Island. Info: www.celtic-colours.com

7 - 10 Calgary, AB - Scots Gathering

The weekend features a Saturday night ceilidh, Sunday night ball and farewell lunch on Monday. Along with this will be classes in Gaelic, piping, whisky tasting, Highland dancing, drawing, needlework, creating a sash and instruction for the gentlemen in how to wear Highland dress. Info: www.calgaryscots.org.

8 - 22 Charlottetown, PEI - The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

More than 300 embroidered panels telling Scots stories of migration at Art Galley, The Confederation Centre of The Arts. Info: www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org

14 Montreal, QC - Taste of Scotland - Whisky Tasting Night

The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal annual Whisky Tasting Night in the Officers' Mess at The Black Watch Armoury, 2067 Bleury St. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca.

15 Toronto, ON - RSCDS Toronto Family Ceilidh

This event is for children, families, and all beginner and other dancers. All ages are welcome at St Leonards Parish Hall, 25 Wanless Ave. Info: www.dancescottish.ca

15 Vancouver, BC - Gaelic Language Lessons

For beginner and intermediate levels and will run for six weeks at Scottish Cultural Centre: 8886 Hudson St. Info: www.vancouvergaelic.com.

21 - 23 Brampton, ON - The Great Canadian Genealogy Summit

The Summit showcases Canadian genealogists who have an expertise in the record sets relating to the early settlers of Canada, includes Christine Woodcock who will talk on researching Scottish ancestors at the Courtyard by Marriott. Info: www.cangensummit.ca.

21 Ottawa, ON - The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society- Ottawa Branch Social

At Parkdale United Church 429 Parkdale Ave. Info: www.rscdsottawa.ca.

22 Brampton, ON - St Andrew's of Brampton 50th Anniversary Dance

Celebrate 50 years of Scottish Country Dancing at the Chris Gibson Recreation Centre, 125 McLaughlin Road North. Info: Ann Campbell (905) 459-5213 or www.maloneys.ca/SAB/50thanniversarydance.html

22 Toronto, ON - Gaelic Society of Toronto Annual General Meeting

All are welcome to participate in the 136th AGM. Members will review initiatives of the previous year, set priorities, address Society business, and vote in a new Board of Directors. Info: www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com.

23 Toronto, ON - St. Andrew's Society of Toronto East End Get Together

At Dora Keogh Pub, 141 Danforth Ave. Come out and say hello at a casual get together, and bring friends who would like to know more about the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto. Info: www.standrews-society.ca.

29 Toronto, ON - Gaelic Society of Toronto Young Pipers Championship & Ceilidh

The Annual Championship is open to all pipers 21 years and under and according to grade. Pipers will compete for trophies and medals will be awarded. Deadline for entries: October 11th. Join us afterwards for dinner and a Ceilidh. Info: www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com.

29 - 12 New Glasgow, NS - The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

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

29 Windsor, ON - Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Windsor Branch Annual Ball

Scottish dance presented by RSCDS Windsor at Roseland Golf and Curling Club. Info: www.rscdswindsor.org.

30 London, ON - Kirkin' o' the Tartans

St. George's Presbyterian Church, 1475 Dundas Street, hosts its annual Kirkin' o' the Tartans service at 10:30 am. Bagpipe music and Scottish fare after the service. The Rev. Dr. David Thompson preaching. Ample parking. Info: Keith McKee, 519-455-5760.

NOVEMBER 2016

4 - 6 Kingston, ON - Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Kingston Branch 50th Anniversary Weekend Workshop & Ball

Join your dancing friends in Kingston to help celebrate the 50th Anniversary. Friday evening welcome dance, Saturday workshop, and Saturday banquet followed by an evening ball. Info: www.rscdskingston.org.

5 Vancouver, BC - The Gaelic Society of Vancouver Cèilidh

Dancing, tea, coffee, & goodies served & door prize at Scottish Cultural Centre: 8886 Hudson St. Info: www.vancouvergaelic.com

12 Toronto, ON - Toronto Scottish Country Dance Workshop and Afternoon Tea Dance

8:30 to 5:00 PM, presented by the RSCDS Toronto. Info: www.dancescottish.ca.

18 Ottawa, ON - The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society- Ottawa Branch Social

At Parkdale United Church 429 Parkdale Ave. Info: www.rscdsottawa.ca.

19 - 1 Montreal, QC - The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

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

19 Victoria, BC - Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society St Andrews Social

Scottish country dance at Church Hall, 550 Obed Ave. Info: www.viscds.ca.

19 Toronto, ON - St. Andrew's Society of Toronto Charity Ball

At Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West, a highlight of the annual calendar and a tremendous opportunity to experience Scottish hospitality and revel in Scotland's rich history and traditions. The Ball is co-hosted by the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto and the 48th Highlanders of Canada in support of the charitable activities they both serve. Info: www.standrews-society.ca.

19 Calgary, AB - 133rd Annual St Andrew's Ball

At the Polish Canadian Club, 3015 15 St NE. Info: www.rscdscalgary.org

30 Halifax, NS - The Scots St. Andrew's Day Event

Celebrate Scotland's patron saint. Info: 902-406-4228 or www.thescots.ca.

30 Nationwide - Happy St Andrew's Day

Celebrate Scotland's patron saint with food, music & friends. The day celebrates the Feast of Saint Andrew and is National Scotland Day on November 30th!

USA

OCTOBER 2016

1 Felton, CA - Big Trees Scottish Gathering and Highland Games

At Roaring Camp Railroads with pipe bands, Scottish events and fun. Info: www.bigtreescotts.com

1 Laurinburg, NC - Scotland County Highland Games

Celebrate Scotland on the grounds of the John Blue Home and Historical Complex. Info: www.schgnc.org.

7 - 9 Ventura, CA - Seaside Highland Games

The premier Scottish event on the central California coast at Seaside Park. Info: 818-886-4968 or www.seaside-games.com.

8 Indianapolis, IN - Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games and Festival

Presented by The Scottish Society of Indianapolis and The Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis at German Park, 8600 S Meridian St. Info: www.indyscotgamesandfest.com

9 Scotland, CT - Scotland Highland Games

Full Scottish games at The Waldo Homestead, 96 Waldo Rd. Info: www.scotlandgames.org.

14 - 16 Atlanta, GA - 44th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games

A great weekend to celebrate Scotland on the meadows of the Stone Mountain Park. Info: (770) 521-0228 or www.smhg.org.

22 - 23 Richmond, VA - Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games

A full weekend of Celtic fun at Richmond Raceway Complex. Info: 804 356 1093 or www.vacelticfestival.com.

28 - 30 Elizabethtown, NC - Carolina Caledonian Fest

A unique Scottish heritage festival that pays homage to the Highlanders who settled the Cape Fear Region of North Carolina at Lu Mil Vineyard, 438 Suggs-Taylor Rd. Info: www.caledonianfest.com.

28 - 30 Pacific Grove, CA - RSCDS San Francisco Branch Asilomar Weekend

Spectacular Scottish country dance weekend. Info: www.asilomar.rscds-sf.org.

28 - 29 Charlotte, NC - A Reel Scottish Weekend in North Carolina

The Charlotte Scottish Country Dance Society invites you to our 44th Annual weekend dance and workshop With Friday evening welcome concert and dance, the Saturday workshop, and a Saturday evening ball. Info: JPRES79334@aol.com.

29 Sarasota, FL - Celtober Fest - Sarasota

Celtoberfest is proud to bring to Sarasota some of the most innovative bands touring America today who are on the forefront of the Celtic Fusion, Celtic Folk, and Celtic Rock scene, bands include: Seven Nations, Off Kilter, Celtic Conundrum and more at Sarasota County Fairgrounds & Roberts Arena, 3000 Ringling Blvd. Info: www.celtoberfest.org.

NOVEMBER 2016

4 - 6 Gainesville, FL - North Florida Fall Ball and Workshop

Sponsored by Gainesville Scottish Country Dancers at Ustler Hall, University of Florida, 162 Fletcher Dr. Info: 352-234-3773 or gainesvillescd@yahoo.com.

4 - 6 Moab, UT - Moab Celtic Festival

A weekend of Celtic events at the Old Spanish Trail Arena, 3641 South Highway 191. Info: 435-210-0080 or www.scotsontherocksmoab.com.

5 - 6 Austin, TX - Austin Celtic Festival

At Fiesta Gardens, 2102 Jesse E. Segovia St. Info: www.austincelticfestival.com.

11 - 13 Alexandria, VA - Argyle Weekend

Sponsored by RSCDS Northern Virginia Branch with classes and ball at St Stephen's and St Agnes Lower School, 400 Fontaine St. Info: www.argyle-weekend.org

11 - 13 Salado, TX - 55th Gathering of the Scottish Clans & Highland Games

A 3-day event filled with the skirl of the bagpipes and the wearing of the Tartan at Central Texas Area Museum, 423 S Main St. Info: www.saladoscottishfestival.com/2013-scottish-games

11 - 12 Clover, SC - Feis Chlobhair Clover Highland Games & Scotch-Irish Festival

Celebrate Celtic culture at Blue Eagle Academy. Info: www.cloversc.org.

12 - 13 West Point, NY - Jeannie Carmichael Ball Weekend

Sponsored by New York area Scottish Country Dance groups at MacArthur Ballroom, Thayer Hotel, US Military Academy, West Point. Info: 201-941-5821 or www.rscdsnewyork.org.

19 McKinleyville, CA - North Coast Scottish Society St. Andrew's Day Dinner

6 pm at Six Rivers Brewery, Central Ave. Info: (707) 498-3014 or www.northcoastscots.org.

30 Nationwide - Happy St Andrew's Day

Celebrate Scotland's patron saint with food, music & friends. The day celebrates the Feast of Saint Andrew and is National Scotland Day on November 30th!

SCOTLAND

OCTOBER 2016

1 - 6 Glasgow - The Mackintosh Festival 2016: Mackintosh The Innovator

A participatory and creative event including an exhibition and other activities imagining what Mackintosh might have created with the technologies of today. Info: www.glasgowmackintosh.com.

1 - 30 Pitlochry - The Enchanted Forest

Set amidst the stunning Autumn woodland of Faskally Wood in Highland Perthshire, Scotland's premier sound and light event. Info: www.enchantedforest.org.uk.

6 - 9 St Andrews - Alfred Dunhill Links Championships

Adding some celebrity stardust to the golfing scene, the Dunhill Links pits A-list actors, sports stars and musicians alongside top European Tour stars at St Andrews, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns. Info: www.alfreddunhilllinks.com.

6 - 10 Shetland - Shetland Accordion & Fiddle Festival

Various artists perform traditional Shetland music. Info: www.shetlandaccordionandfiddle.com.

7 - 16 Dunoon, Argyll - Cowal Fest

A 10 day annual Walking and Outdoors Festival which is the largest and most varied walking festivals in Scotland, with more than 80 walks. Info: www.cowalfest.org.

8 - 15 Crieff, Perthshire - Drovers' Tryst Walking Festival

Eight days of guided walks throughout the region to celebrate the life and work of the people who made Crieff the cattle-droving crossroads of Scotland in the 1700s. Info: www.droverstryst.com.

14 - 15 Glasgow - The National Piping Centre CLASP Workshop Weekend

At The National Piping Centre, open to any enthusiastic amateur bagpipers, which will further work on the tunes that you have chosen to play for competition. Info: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk

19 - 23 Dundee - Dundee Literary Festival

5 days of adventures in books, in Dundee. Comics, bright minds, fantastic fiction, book design, events for the family, debut voices and more. Info: www.literarydundee.co.uk/festival

21 - 30 Edinburgh - Scottish International Storytelling Festival

A ten-day celebration of traditional and contemporary storytelling, oral traditions and cultural diversity, bringing together artists and audiences from Scotland and beyond. The theme of the 2016 festival is The Right to Dream, connecting with our ability to dream something different into existence. Info: www.tracscotland.org/festivals/scottish-international-storytelling-festival

Answers to Scotword on Page 6

ACROSS: 1 Macduff; 4 Gar; 8 Oar; 9 Alyth; 10 Rowan; 12 Era; 13 Agley; 14 Satan; 15 Ardle; 19 Byre; 21 Skier; 22 Dallas; 23 Alness; 25 Annie; 26 Wary; 28 Slean; 34 Extol; 35 Watts; 36 Eve; 37 Tenor; 38 Talon; 39 Een; 40 Tod; 41 Kilsyth.

DOWN: 1 Moray; 2 Cawdor; 3 Foula; 4 Greys; 5 Raasay; 6 Myrtle; 7 Chanters; 11 Nail; 15 Awa; 16 Delta; 17 Essay; 18 Dinna; 19 Braes; 20 Range; 22 Dalkeith; 24 Sin; 26 Wattle; 27 Relent; 29 Kist; 30 Agency; 31 Tweed; 32 Stank; 33 Perth.

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN

Things may go “bump in the night” in the kitchen this month and we hope these spooky recipes are enjoyed in the lead up to Halloween.



Pumkin soup

Ingredients:

1 x 4kg/8lb. 13oz. pumpkin
125g/4oz. butter
2 medium onions, peeled, finely chopped
1 cinnamon stick
freshly grated nutmeg
salt and freshly ground black pepper
1.7 litres/3 pints chicken stock (vegetarians may substitute vegetable stock)
3 tablespoons sherry

Method:

Cut the top off the pumpkin and set aside. Scoop out the seeds and fibres from the middle and discard. Using a sharp knife and a spoon, carefully hollow out the pumpkin, removing the flesh and setting aside. (It is imperative that you do not cut right up to the inside of the skin or pierce it. Leave 2cm/1in of flesh all around the inside). Roughly chop the scooped-out pumpkin flesh. Melt the butter in a large pan with a lid over a low heat and add the onions. Cook the onions gently for 10-15 minutes, until they are softened and golden-brown. Add the pumpkin flesh, the cinnamon and nutmeg, and season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Increase the heat to medium and cover with the lid. Cook for 40-45 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent the base from burning, until the pumpkin is cooked through. Add the stock and bring to the boil. Remove from the heat and allow to cool slightly. Transfer the soup to a food processor in batches and blend until smooth. Return the soup to the pan and bring to a low simmer and cook for a further half an hour. Forty-five minutes before eating, preheat the oven to 170C/335F/Gas 3. Pour the soup into the hollow pumpkin shell, add the sherry and stir to combine. Place the reserved pumpkin ‘lid’ onto the pumpkin and place onto a large baking tray. Cook in the oven for about 45 minutes, to bring the soup up to temperature. To serve, carefully remove from the oven and serve the soup in the pumpkin at the table. Ladle into bowls and serve.

Slow cooker chicken and butternut squash stew

Ingredients:

100g/3½oz. plain flour
4 tbsp sunflower oil
500g/1lb 2oz. boneless, skinless chicken thigh, chopped into 2.5cm/1in pieces
1 onion, chopped
4 garlic cloves, finely chopped

2 chillies, finely chopped
175ml/6fl oz. white wine
½ butternut squash, peeled, chopped into 2.5cm/1in pieces
300ml/10fl oz. chicken stock
5 sprigs fresh thyme
3 bay leaves
4 tbsp. crème fraîche
salt and freshly ground black pepper
small handful chopped fresh parsley

Method:

Sprinkle the flour onto a plate. Heat half of the oil in a frying pan, dredge the chicken pieces in the flour and fry for 4-5 minutes, or until browned all over. (You may need to brown the chicken in batches.) Tip the browned chicken into the slow cooker. Heat the remaining oil in a frying pan and fry the onion for five minutes, then add the garlic and chilli and fry for another 2-3 minutes. Add the wine and continue to cook for another few minutes, or until the volume of the liquid is reduced by half. Tip the onion mixture into the slow cooker. Add the butternut squash, chicken stock, thyme and bay leaves to the slow cooker. Stir everything together, pressing down so that everything is covered in liquid. Cook for 8-10 hours on low. About 30 minutes before serving, stir in the crème fraîche and season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Cook for a further 30 minutes, then stir in the parsley.

Roast pumpkin seeds



Ingredients:

100g/3½oz pumpkin seeds
¼ tsp celery salt
¼ tsp salt
¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
¼ tsp paprika
1 tsp vegetable oil

Method:

Brush a frying pan with a very small amount of oil and place over a medium heat. Add the pumpkin seeds, stirring frequently. They will expand and brown fairly quickly, and when this is done, place

them in a bowl and add the salt, celery salt, freshly ground black pepper and paprika. This is delicious if the pumpkin seeds are reasonably fresh.

Pumpkin cider cake

Ingredients:

For the pumpkin purée:
1 small pumpkin or squash (such as onion, crown prince and kabocha)
For the cake:
butter, for greasing
250g/9oz light brown sugar
300g/10½oz pumpkin purée
100ml/3½fl oz. medium dry cider
100ml/3½fl oz. vegetable oil
2 large free-range eggs
250g/9oz plain flour
½ tsp. salt
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. ground ginger
¼ tsp. ground cloves
For the decoration:
75g/2¾oz. unsalted butter, softened
200g/7oz. full fat cream cheese, at room temperature
100g/3½oz. icing sugar, sifted
brown fondant (optional)

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. To make the pumpkin purée halve the pumpkin, scrape out the seeds and stringy bits with a spoon and discard. Place the pumpkin halves, cut side down, onto a baking tray and bake for 45 minutes, until it feels soft to the touch. Allow to cool, then scrape out the cooked flesh and mash with a fork until smooth. Set aside to cool. Grease and lightly flour a small bundt tin 21cm/8¼in in diameter. In a large mixing bowl, combine the brown sugar, pumpkin purée, cider and oil. Beat with a handheld electric mixer until thoroughly combined. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating until they are completely mixed in. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, salt, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and the spices. Beat this into the wet ingredients for 2-3 minutes until it is thick and smooth. Measure out half the batter into the prepared bundt tin (it should be about 550g/1lb 4oz of mixture). Bake for 30-35 minutes, until the top is springy to the touch and a wooden skewer inserted into the cake comes out clean. Allow the cake to cool in the tin for 5 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely. Wash, dry, and grease and flour your bundt tin again, and bake the other half. Meanwhile, make the cream cheese icing. Beat the softened butter in a bowl with a handheld electric mixer until it is light and fluffy. Add the cream cheese and beat until smooth. Gradually add the icing sugar and beat until well incorporated. When both cakes are completely cool, use a sharp knife to slice off a thin layer of the bottom of the cake to flatten it (reserve the cake trimmings). Place the 2 cakes, cut sides together, to see if it makes a convincing pumpkin shape. If necessary, trim off a little more so that the curves of the bundt tin line up with each other. Spread a little of the icing onto the bottom cake, then cover with the top cake layer. Use the reserved cake trimmings to fill in the hole in the middle of

the cake. Spoon the icing onto the top of the cake and let it run down the sides. Create a fondant stem from the brown fondant, stick a toothpick in the end of the stem and secure it in the cake.

Halloween scary cookies

Ingredients:

250g/9oz. unsalted butter, softened
250g/9oz. golden caster sugar
2 free-range eggs, lightly beaten
½ tsp vanilla extract
500g/1lb 2oz. plain flour
red and black food colouring (optional)
1 tsp baking powder
Halloween-themed cookie cutters
red, white and black writing icing
200g/7oz. ready-to-roll fondant icing
1 tbsp. apricot jam, warmed with 1tsp. water

Method:

Beat together the butter and sugar in a large bowl, preferably using an electric mixer, until the mixture is light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs and vanilla extract. (If the mixture looks a little curdled, add a spoonful of the flour.) If you’re using food colouring, add a few drops to the mixture. Sift together the flour and baking powder in a separate bowl. Stir the flour into the butter mixture and work into a dough using floured hands. Turn onto a floured work surface and knead into a ball (the dough will be quite wet). Divide the dough into two portions, wrap in cling film and leave to chill in the fridge for at least one hour. Preheat the oven to 170C/325F/Gas 3. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper. Roll the dough out to a 0.5cm/¼in thickness on lightly floured work surface. (It’s best to roll out one portion of the dough at a time, leaving the remainder in the fridge.) Cut shapes out with the Halloween cutters. Take a few limbs and heads off the gingerbread man for added gore. Place the cookies onto the baking tray, leaving a gap between them in case they spread a little. Bake for 12-15 minutes, leave on the tray for 10 minutes and then move to a wire rack to finish cooling. Once cool, let your imagination run wild. Use the red writing icing along the edges of the missing limbs and heads as blood. For the skeletons and mummies, roll the fondant icing out to a 0.5cm/¼in thickness on a work surface dusted with icing sugar and cut out shapes using the same cutters as the cookies. Brush the cookies with the warmed apricot jam and stick the icing onto the cookies. Decorate with the white and black writing icing.

Skull punch

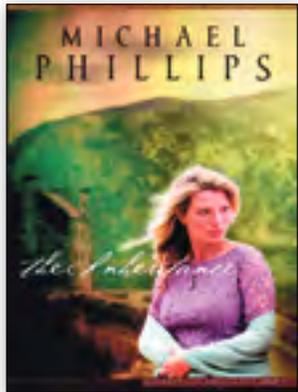
Ingredients:

For the spiced pumpkin purée:
1 medium-sized pumpkin, flesh scooped out and chopped, fibres removed; seeds removed, toasted and reserved for garnish
1 litre/1¾ pints freshly squeezed orange juice
2 tsp. ground allspice
2 tbsp. clear honey
For the cocktail:
½ litre/18fl oz. spiced pumpkin purée (see above)
½ litre/18fl oz. pressed pineapple juice
3 tbsp. grenadine syrup
crushed ice
1 litre/1¾ pints chilled lemonade
Halloween jellies, to serve

Great Books From Banner Shop-at-Home

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The Inheritance



By Michael Phillips

The death of clan patriarch Macgregor Tulloch has thrown the tiny Shetland Islands community of Whales Reef into turmoil. Everyone assumed Tulloch's heir to be his much-loved grandnephew David. But when no will is discovered, David's calculating cousin Hardy submits his own claim to the inheritance, an estate that controls most of the island's land. And Hardy knows a North Sea oil investor who will pay dearly for that control. While the competing claims are investigated, the courts have frozen the estate's assets, leaving many of the locals in dire financial straits. The future of the island and its traditional way of life hangs in the balance.

Paperback 432 pages, BETH 7487, \$14.95 USD/ \$16.95 CDN + S/H

Highland Warrior

Alasdair MacColla and the Civil Wars



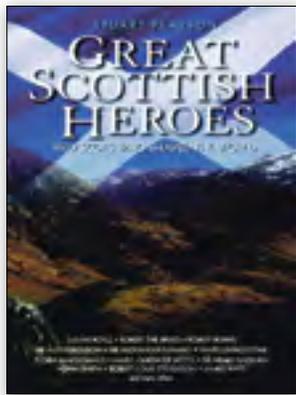
By David Stevenson

In 1644 James Grahame, the Marquis of Montrose, stormed his way into legend with a series of astonishing victories over the Covenanters. At his side stalked a shadowy but terrible ally, Alasdair MacColla, who had a far more ancient agenda of his own. MacColla's aim was nothing less than the effective destruction of the power of Clan Campbell and its replacement by the older overlordship of the Macdonalds. This work argues that it was in fact MacColla, and not Montrose, who was the true architect of the "Year of Victories," and that without his Highland ally, Montrose's blunders would have doomed him to disaster, thus presenting a compelling and radical reappraisal of Scottish history during the crucial years of the 1640s. Superbly written, *Highland Warrior* is a compelling and dramatic sweep through some of the most eventful years in Scottish history.

Paperback 336 pages, IPG 1941, \$21.95 USD/23.95 CDN + S/H

Great Scottish Heroes

Fifty Scots Who Shaped the World

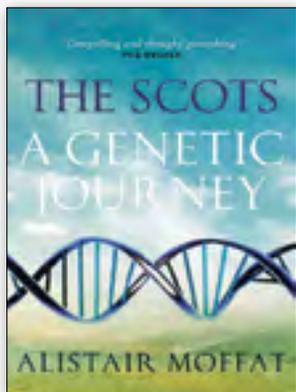


By Stuart Pearson

Celebrate 50 of Scotland's most exceptional and influential individuals with biographies noting how they helped to change the world. Which Scottish anti-slavery campaigner lost a son in a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp during the American Civil War? Was the enemy of Scotland's first "freedom fighter" not England, but ancient Rome? What was the laboratory accident that led to one of the greatest discoveries in modern medicine? How did the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320 influence the legal foundation of the greatest superpower the world has ever seen? The answers to these and many other questions can be found in *Great Scottish Heroes*, covering 2,000 years of Scottish history and encompassing outstanding leaders in a broad range of pursuits, including the arts, exploration, medicine, sports, religion, and politics. Paperback 288 pages, IPG 3752, \$15.95 USD/\$18.95 CDN + S/H

The Scots

A Genetic Journey



By Alistair Moffat

History has always mattered to Scots, and rarely more so than now at the outset of a new century, with a new census appearing in 2011 and after more than ten years of a new parliament. An almost limitless archive of our history lies hidden inside our bodies and we carry the ancient story of Scotland around with us. The mushrooming of genetic studies, of DNA analysis, is rewriting our history in spectacular fashion. In *The Scots: A Genetic Journey*, Alistair Moffat explores the history that is printed on our genes, and in a remarkable new approach, uncovers the detail of where we are from, who we are and in so doing color vividly a DNA map of Scotland. 356 pages, INT-9411, PB, \$16.95.95 USD/\$18.95 CDN +S/H

Angels of Mercy

Nurses on the Western Front

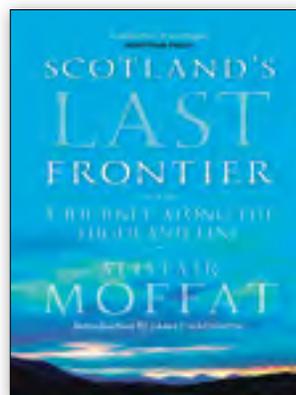


by Eileen Crofton

Drawing on their diaries and letters, this is the little known story of the gritty and free-spirited women who, in 1914, put aside their fight for the vote to set up a hospital in an abandoned French abbey to treat the appalling injuries sustained on the Western Front. The Scottish Women's Hospitals unit offered their services to France and opened a hospital in the ancient Abbey of Royaumont, near Paris. Uniquely, the hospital was staffed entirely by women—from the doctors, surgeons, nurses, bacteriologists, and radiographers to the orderlies and ambulance drivers. The hospital operated from 1915 to 1919 and became famous for its nursing care, cleanliness, and efficiency, recognized by the French authorities as a key wartime hospital. 320 pages, IPG-0638, paperback, \$17.00 USD/\$18.00 CDN +S/H

Scotland's Last Frontier

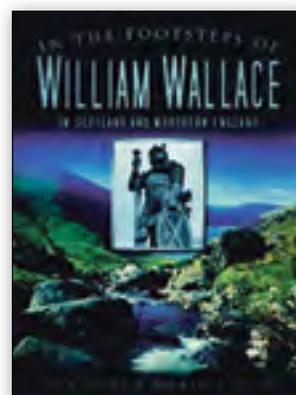
A Journey Along the Highland Line



By Alistair Moffat

The Highland Line is the most profound internal boundary in Britain. First recognized by Agricola in the first century AD (parts of its most northerly portion mark the furthest north the Romans got) it divides the country both geologically and culturally, signalling the border between highland and lowland, Celtic and English-speaking, crofting and farming. In *Scotland's Last Frontier* best-selling author Alistair Moffat makes a journey of the imagination, tracing the route of the Line from the River Clyde through Perthshire and the northeast. In addition to exploring the huge importance of the Line over almost two thousand years, he also shows how it continues to influence life and attitudes in 21st-century Scotland. The result is a fascinating book, full of history and anecdote. Paperback 288 pages, IPG 3310, \$12.95 USD/ \$15.95 CDN + S/H

In The Footsteps of William Wallace



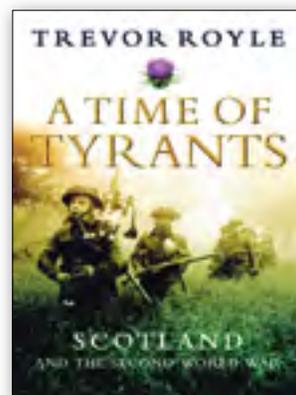
By Alan Young,

Photographs By Michel J. Stead

A superbly illustrated journey through the landscape and events of the life of the iconic Scottish knight who was brought to life in the film *Braveheart*. For nearly 700 years debate has raged over the true nature of William Wallace and his role in Scotland's turbulent history—was he the Braveheart of Blind Harry's legendary account, the bold, but savage, hero of the Scottish wars, or, as some contemporary chroniclers attested, was he nothing but a villainous thief and vagrant fugitive? It traces Wallace's journey from his modest upbringing in southwest Scotland and his first victory as a "guerilla" leader and military commander at Stirling Bridge to his painful death seven years later, including his "invasion" of Northumberland and Cumberland. This is an essential traveling companion for a journey through Wallace's kingdom and to learn more about the myth and the man. Paperback 208 pages, IPG-6386, \$24.95 USD/27.95 CDN + S/H

A Time of Tyrants

Scotland and the Second World War

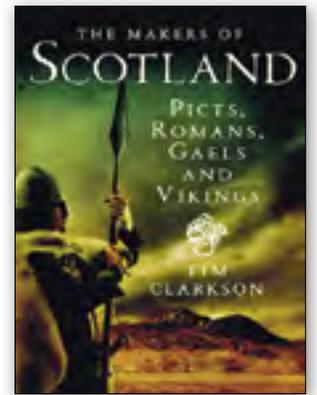


By Trevor Royle

Trevor Royle examines Scotland's role in the Second World War from a wide range of perspectives. The country's geographical position gave it great strategic importance for importing war material and reinforcements, for conducting naval and aerial operations against the enemy, and for training regular and specialist SOE and commando forces. 416 pages, IPG-0645, paperback, \$16.00 USD/\$17.00 CDN +S/H.

The Makers of Scotland

Picts, Romans, Gaels and Vikings

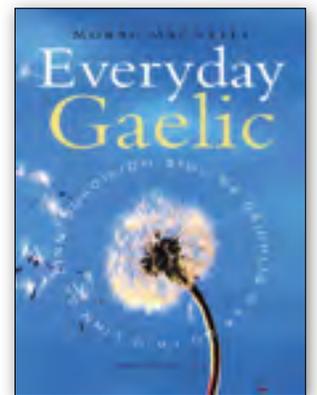


by Tim Clarkson

Covering a thousand years of Scottish history, this account incorporates both historical and contemporary research into old theories and controversies. During the first millennium AD, the most northerly part of Britain evolved into the country known today as Scotland. The transition was a long process of social and political change driven by the ambitions of powerful warlords; tribal chiefs and Roman generals, at first, followed by dynamic warrior-kings who campaigned far beyond their own borders. From Lothian to Orkney and from Fife to the Isle of Skye, fierce battles were won and lost, but, by AD 1000, a dynasty of Gaelic-speaking kings, the Picts, and Scots began to forge a single, unified nation which transcended enmities. With maps to illustrate the history, this chronicle brings to life the great warrior-kings of early Scotland.

240 pages, paperback. IPG-1736 \$16.00 US/ CDN \$17.00 + S/H.

Everyday Gaelic



by Morag MacNeill

Since English is also spoken in the Gaelic-speaking areas, communication in Gaelic is not so much a matter of necessity as of choice and interest. This book covers more than just the phrases needed by an outsider in a foreign land; it also dips into the chatty aspects of the language. 160 pages, paperback. With CD, INT-3709 \$23.95 USD/\$25.95 CDN + S/H. Without CD, INT-3402, \$13.95 USD/ \$15.95 CDN + S/H

By: Jenny Heidewald

Speckers of Scotland *Exploring Scottish mythical creatures*

Scotland has long been a beautiful, evocative land with a rich history full of ruins and hauntings, mists and mysteries. From Hadrian's Wall on the border, to castles in various conditions, to the Standing Stones of Callanish, it is no wonder that the Scottish people have abundant tales to send chills up the spine. Due to the compact nature of the British Isles and the mixing of cultures between the different nations, the Scots, Irish, Welsh and English have a certain overlap of myths and supernatural creature legends, usually with only a few minor differences between them. In this short exploration of the supernatural beings of Scotland, we'll start with a selection of those that favour animal forms.

Image courtesy of Jenny Heidewald



Nessie

The best known, and beloved, monster legend of Scotland by far is the Loch Ness Monster, fondly known as "Nessie". Lake monster legends are common the world over, and even in other Celtic lakes such as "Morag" in Scotland's Loch Morar, but none has captured the world's imagination like Nessie. This mythos has fascinated and frustrated people for decades. Part of this is due to the "monster" being confined to a searchable space, unlike Bigfoot or UFOs. There have been elaborate attempts to find the beastie since the 1950s via underwater photography, sonar sweeps, and even dragging the loch. Realistically the loch does not support enough aquatic life to feed a single large creature such as Nessie, let alone a reproducing population. But the sight of such things as stray waves, otters, diving birds, logs, and more is enough to keep the myth alive, to say naught of tourism promotion!

Fairy dog

The cu-sith, or "fairy dog," is the Scottish version of the phantom black dog commonly found in Celtic myth. The Scottish variant is said to have a green pelt rather than black, green indicating that

something is from the fairy lands, and is more wolf-like in form. Said to be the size of a calf or young bull, the appearance of this phantom didn't bode well for whomever saw it, and even less if one heard it. Generally silent, it sometimes uttered three eerie howls, the third heralding the victim's death of fright if they hadn't run to safety before then. A chilling omen of impending death, the cu-sith was there to take your soul to the underworld, or fairy realms.

Cat-sith

Continuing the trend is the cat-sith, or "fairy cat," another portent of calamity. It was described as black with a white patch of fur on its chest, the size of a large dog and ferocious if cornered. The other belief is that the cat-sith is actually a witch in cat form, she can only change nine times, the final time she must remain a cat. The interesting part of the cat-sith mythos is that it is likely based on the real life Kellas cat, which is named after the Highland village near which they were found. Tests on captured Kellas cats revealed they are a hybridization between the European or Scottish wildcat and domestic cat. A genetic variation in coloration occasionally produces a striking black pelt, this is called melanism. Unfortunately the hybridization, along with habitat encroachments, threatens the population of the pure Scottish wildcat. Two organizations, the Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, say that only about 400 pure-bred wildcats remain. A third, the Scottish Wildcat Association, disagrees with some criteria that defines pure-bred Scottish wildcat put forth by the SNH and RZSS, and says that less than 100 of these beautiful animals remain.

An each usige is the Highland water horse, a fine looking steed that haunts the sea and sea lochs. It is similar to the kelpie, but with an awful twist; once the victim is lured to mount the creature, its

skin becomes sticky like glue, thus the hapless person cannot escape. The each usige gallops off with the panic stricken rider, plunging into icy sea water, to drown and then devour its victim. Inhabiting the sea lochs or inlets of Scotland's west coast, the boobrie is another of those pesky and malevolent shape-changing creatures. Among the forms attributed to it are, gigantic aquatic bird, a horse, a bull, and a large insect. The favoured food of boobries are otters, and livestock, such as lambs. The ferocious boobrie is possibly based on long ago sightings of the great auk, and its bull-like call on the rarely heard bittern, which has a deep, almost water drop sounding call.

The glastig

There are a variety of human shaped monsters as well after all, what is more terrifying to humans than something shaped like us but not human? Many of these only have a minor bodily difference, or habit, from humans, and that gives away their true nature. Hopefully the intended victim notices before it is too late and they are on their way to the underworld!

The glastig is a solitary creature taking the form of a beautiful woman with the legs of a goat, which she conceals by wearing a long green gown. With a seemingly bipolar nature, traits attributed to the glastig include: bewitching men and then draining their blood; throwing stones into folk's paths; helping a family by keeping an eye on the children while the parents took care of milking; and protecting cattle, for which a libation of milk was appreciated and even expected. The glastig is sometimes referred to as the green woman or lady, with tales that she was once a mortal woman who ended up with a fairy side and immortality, either through a curse or her own wishes. There are additional stories of green ladies throughout Scotland, women who died tragically for love, and are now ghosts haunting various castles such as Fyvie Castle of Aberdeenshire, and Knock Castle on the Isle of Skye.

The ceasg

The Scottish version of the mermaid is called the ceasg, "maiden of the wave/sea," with her form being uniquely half salmon and half human female. This mermaid sometimes had love affairs with sailors, or settled down with a man, and any offspring became great sailors. If a person could capture a ceasg she was obligated to grant three wishes yet another common trait with creature legends worldwide.

On the Orkneys, islands where Celtic and Nordic tales intertwine, a terrible monster is said to roam. Unlike the tendency towards fickleness of most other

supernatural creatures, the nuckalavee is pure evil. A sea monster, the nuckalavee prowled on the land just as often, taking the terrifying form of a glistening red, skinless man's torso attached to the back of an equally gruesome horse. This dreaded being hated freshwater, its only weakness, and the smell of burning seaweed. It is a nightmare apparition that spread terror, pestilence, blight and misfortune wherever it wandered! Luckily, in the spring and summer, a benevolent being, the "Mither O' the Sea," reined in the nuckalavee, so the Orkneys weren't terrorized all times.

From Hadrian's Wall on the border, to castles in various conditions, to the Standing Stones of Callanish, it is no wonder that the Scottish people have abundant tales to send chills up the spine.

Washer woman

The bean nighe, or "washer woman," is similar to the Irish banshee, as the sight of either spectral figure portends a death. This spirit appears by water, washing blood from the shroud belonging to the person about to die. The tales allege that if you ask her politely she will tell you the name of the person whose death she is foretelling. The washerwoman has two appearances, the first as a beautiful woman, and the second that of an ugly woman with one nostril, a single snaggletooth, extremely pendulous breasts, and a pair of webbed feet. Bean nighs are said to be spirits of women who died giving birth, but they are only tied to the duty of spectral washer woman until their normal lifespan would have ended, and then they are able to pass beyond.

I hope you enjoyed this small foray in to the world of supernatural creatures. Inspired by fears and a way to explain the unexplained, there are even more creatures lurking in corners, lochs, dales, basements, and ruins all about Scotland; it is a land that leads the human psyche down fascinating roads of imagination. Though these days we are not liable to suspect a bogey man or malicious fae spirit of trying to do us harm, we still enjoy when tale spinners treat us to shivery tales of mystery, magic, woe, hauntings, and boogey men. Scared delight leads to wide eyes, and a cold finger down the spine, when the suspension of belief for a moment makes you think, "What WAS that bump in the night...?"

Tartan of the Month *Pride of Scotland Autumn*



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

This month across Scotland the glorious autumn colours will appear setting the landscape on fire. To celebrate we highlight the Pride of Scotland Autumn tartan (STA ref: 6479). This tartan was recorded prior to the launch of The Scottish Register of Tartans. Design owned by McCalls of Aberdeen and woven exclusively by Lochcarron of Scotland.

Discovering Clan MacGregor

Tasmanian Charles Wooley is a Australian broadcaster, journalist and writer and may be best known to the wider community as a presenter on 60 Minutes. However Charles also shares Scottish Banner readers Scottish ancestry and passion for the land his forbearers came from. Recently Charles and a 60 Minutes team went to Scotland to learn more about the Clan and the land of his heritage that continues to shape his life today.



From 3rd from left Charles Wooley, Lady Fiona MacGregor, Chief Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor enjoying tug of war at the Highland Games. Photo courtesy of: Richard Findlay-FotoFling Scotland.

There are nearly two million Australians who claim Scottish ancestry, which historically, when you add the Irish, helps to explain our innate national suspicion of the English. But after my adventures in Scotland, as a Scots descendent I must admit that in the case of my clan, the English are not entirely to blame. My Scots have been their own worst enemy. Recently I immersed myself in my clan history and I found it a salutary experience. Sometimes it is not a good idea to poke around in your family past unless you know exactly what you are going to find. Australians with their own dark convict history have always known that. But for some reason I expected a happier story on the other side of the world in the Scottish Highlands. I was wrong.

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor

I had been invited to visit my Clan Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor. He was an impressive figure awaiting me in clan tartan in the gardens of his stately home (more of a pocket castle actually) dating way back before Captain Cook happened upon our distant part of the world. The Chief's assuredness and quiet dignity immediately suggested to me that here was a man bred for the task rather than one who had learned on the job. Indeed, Sir Malcolm is the 24th Chief of Clan Gregor. He is a direct descendant of the fiercest highland warrior Rob Roy, but despite his blood soaked lineage he is a civil and generous host.

You can't entirely disguise a pedigree as belligerent as the MacGregor. My old Dad, Charles MacGregor Wooley, formerly of the Isle of Arran, was a quietly spoken and gentle man. But as a kid I once saw him change in an instant and flatten a man who had been rude to my Mum in an Australian street. He once similarly sorted out two underground miners in the tough Tasmanian mining town of Rossarden who were merely making fun of his Scottish accent (this was long before the universal popularity of Billy Connolly). The old man was never teased again and became a useful and valued member of the community. He was one of the few



Charles Wooley and fellow Tasmanian Frank MacGregor, Australasian representative of Clan MacGregor.

literate people in that backwoods town and he owned a pen. People were forever bringing their documents to our door for interpretation and signing.

The Children of the Mist

Throughout history the MacGregors were as fiery as their (generally) red hair and this dispossession bequeathed them a grim and bloody history. They picked more fights with other clans and with their own Scottish Government and later with the English than they could ever hope to win. "We were not diplomats and perhaps we were sometimes too quick to raise the sword," the Chief conceded. "But those were not diplomatic times. We were surrounded by bitter enemies whose dearest wish was to wipe us out."

I am a newcomer to my violent heritage, but the way I see it, in Scotland the Proscriptive Acts of 1603 were something akin to an ethnic cleansing of the MacGregors. Their name and their tartan became illegal. A MacGregor could be killed on sight with legal impunity. Any woman who took up with a MacGregor was whipped and branded on the face. Seems to me that my mob probably didn't have many girlfriends back in those days. For almost two centuries the clan was hunted, either emigrating or surviving somehow in the remotest wilderness of the Scottish Highlands. With no name and no lands we became known as "The Children of the Mist", probably the most romantic title in Scottish history.

"While there's leaf in the forest and

foam on the river, MacGregor despite them shall flourish forever." Sir Malcolm MacGregor quotes Sir Walter Scott as he brandishes the family claymore, the 'great sword' five foot long and six and a half pounds. It takes two hands to wield it and the chief summons up his ancestral demons and lunges at me, snarling. "A blow from this, Charlie would split your skull." Happily he brings it down instead on the roast ham hock deliciously scenting the air of his baronial dining room. After that there's enough single malt whisky to ease the pain of history and when I come to, the next day, I am in my kilt marching in a sea of MacGregor tartan to do battle with our enemies.

Tartan tragedies

Thankfully as a new Australian recruit I discover clan battles are now ritualized and take the form of Highland Games. Gentle pursuits like caber tossing, hammer throwing and lifting impossibly huge granite boulders, which today satisfy the modern Scottish warrior. No doubt this also enriches the local physiotherapist. This day I am marching with one of Australia's greatest tartan tragedies. He is fellow Tasmanian Frank MacGregor, the Chiefs representative in Australasia. Frank is a second generation Australian but his heart is in the highlands. "I love Tasmania." he told me. "I'd never leave it for anywhere else in the world, except for Scotland."

Earlier this year Frank organized for Sir Malcolm and his lovely wife, Lady Fiona, to visit our home state of Tasmania. It's

the southern-most state, a wee scrap of mountainous land the size of Ireland, hanging off the southeastern end of Australia. In its rugged grandeur it's often regarded as an antipodean Scotland. In the historic sandstone heart of the old colonial waterfront capital of Hobart, a leading Hotelier Lloyd Clark generously hosted the MacGregors in his magnificent Lenna Hotel. It's in MacGregor Street of course and built by the 19th century shipping magnate Alexander MacGregor. No black pudding for guessing where he came from. As Tasmanians always fall in love with Scotland so too did the Chief and his wife fall in love with Tasmania. They are hoping many Tasmanians will make the pilgrimage back to the glens next in 2018 for the World Gathering of the MacGregors. As Frank MacGregor points out to all Australians, "You might be a MacGregor without even knowing it, since so many of our forebears changed their names to avoid persecution."

So if you are among the millions of Scots descendants living abroad and if like me you've got red-haired kids with a bit of a temper, it might be worth checking out your genealogy. You might be a MacGregor.

Throughout history the MacGregors were as fiery as their (generally) red hair and this dispossession bequeathed them a grim and bloody history.



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