



the Scottish Banner



North American Edition



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A' Bhratach Albannach

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Cairn Gorm and Britain's only **reindeer herd**

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The Banner Says...

Looking into the past this Christmas



by Valerie Cairney

It seems hard to believe that the most exciting time of year is just around the corner, and as most of us are aware - that, of course, is Christmas. This special season with its magical atmosphere has an excitement which, while only coming once a year, with shops full of colourful lights and festive music and busy shoppers overwhelmed while busily wondering about Christmas giving. Although this time of year comes with its' own magical atmosphere, it also comes with its' problems. What to buy for the big day? This is followed closely by a second question - which is - how much should I spend?

Very few seem to stay within their budgets during this season. Hearts are often bigger than budgets and the bills of January seem a long way off in these busy pre-Christmas shopping days! Perhaps this applies more so this year with the economic crunch many are experiencing today which of course is guided by our financial status.

Doom and gloom

Each time we pick up a paper or listen to a newscast, there are more tales of gloom and doom. Sales are down, jobs are becoming redundant, and world economies are falling. The financial mood of the world today is not doing very well at the present time unfortunately. Yet during these tough times, we tend to forget just how good we really do have it! Certainly we have taken a step back financially during the past year, yet still our homes are warm and safe this winter, our refrigerators are full and (by and large), we live in peaceful times.

It hasn't always been this way. Many of those who walked these paths before us had life a lot more complicated than we do. Let's take a look back for just a moment, while we take a look back at other lives' - those whose lives were much more difficult than we have today. Let's just look back and take a moment while we reflect on other folks. Just like us they wanted a better life for their families. They had heard that countries in the New World offered this lifestyle, which was basically work hard and more opportunities

would come your way for a better life. So immigration came from the 'old countries'. They boarded ships promising to take them across the ocean to a new world, one which was away from their old lives, their friends and family. Yet their hearts were full of hope, and the glimmer in their eyes betrayed the excitement which lay beneath. They never gave a thought for a possible downside to this adventure.

Life used to be much harder

And so they arrived on these new shores. They had precious little money, but they had far more to give than youth. They had strength and hopes as bright as diamonds. What more might be needed for a new life in this virgin land? They were people - just like you and I. They lived, loved, laughed and cried the way we do, (although they may have cried a little more, sometimes). They had heard that in this new (and foreign) world which lay so far away from their home land, were wonderful countries with so much to offer.

Once there you could go to the Land Register people, and for \$10.00 buy up to 160 acres of your very own land. The soil was fertile and once the land was cleared of trees, it could yield a very good harvest. A homestead could then be built, animals would graze, and the children would grow in freedom. And so they came to conquer. Forests, which had once known only the sound of birds, and the creaking of tall pines in the wind, suddenly came alive with the voices of men, and the sharp crack of axes on timber. The days were long and the work was gruelling - yet it was a time of excitement. These immigrants were shaping their new lives in a new country.

New countries were not tamed easily

But these new countries, which were predominantly, Canada, Australia, America, New Zealand, and others, were sometimes like wild animals. They could not be tamed easily and many new difficulties were placed in the way of the new settlers. The worst discomfort in the summertime was the mosquitoes, particularly in Australia.

Since the beginning of time they had been allowed to breed freely - now as the land was slowly cleared beneath them, the pests were everywhere. Even eating a meal without consuming some was often a tricky business for the newcomers. But it was in the depths of the cold winters in Canada when the newcomers needed every ounce of courage they could muster. Outside their frugal homes, temperatures were almost intolerably cold. While

inside it wasn't much better. Before leaving their homeland, they had heard that the temperature where they were moving to was cold. But how does somebody from Edinburgh compare 'cold' when faced with 40 below?

They could never have imagined a snow storm being so severe that people were actually lost, and even died - while being only five feet from their home. It was the loneliness that finally took the lives and happiness away from so many. Women, many of whom had lived in cities surrounded by family and friends, could no longer take the long cold days and nights. Some of them finally eventually gave up and returned home -either with or without their husbands.

The strong survived

The men, stayed strong, yet were buckled by the weight of work and infinitely saddened at seeing their melancholy wives miss their homes and families so badly, often gave up too. A silent figure hanging from the rafters of a barn was not an unfamiliar sight in those days. Yet they survived, and with God's help and their own strong right arm they slowly harnessed the land they had now slowly grown to love. Spring finally returned, weddings took place, babies were born, and life began anew. They are gone now leaving us to walk in their footsteps and harvest from the furrows they ploughed.

Happy Christmas

As we give thanks this Christmas, let us remember those from who we came. Without them we would not be so rich today. These are the stock from which we came! The daily news sometimes looks bleak, yet it has been worse before, and it will turn again.

All of us from the Banner wish our extended family throughout North America, Australia, New Zealand, and Britain a happy and healthy Christmas season. Merry Christmas and Happy Hogmanay to all!

If you have a story from your forebearers (or even your own) and how they began a new life abroad share it with us.



Canada Post stamp honouring our past Scottish settlers.

Gracing our front cover: Santa visits Britain's only reindeer herd in the Cairngorms. Photo: Nick Drainey.

The Forth Wonder of the World



Forth Bridge at night.

The Forth Bridge has been voted Scotland's greatest man-made wonder in new research by VisitScotland as part of the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design 2016. The 126 year old bridge and UNESCO World Heritage Site pipped Edinburgh Castle, The Kelpies and the Glenfinnan Viaduct to take the top spot, with 30% of the votes in the survey. Other 'wonders' on the list include Stirling Castle, Falkirk Wheel, Caledonian Canal, Scott Monument, Bell Rock Lighthouse and Melrose Abbey.

Architectural pilgrimage

The research reveals that almost 60% of Brits have made an 'architectural pilgrimage' in the UK i.e. travelled just

to see a famous building or architectural wonder. And rather than just an endeavour of the older generations, more than half of Millennials surveyed (16-24 yr olds) said they had done so. The most popular Scottish 'architectural pilgrimage' was to Edinburgh Castle. Six out of ten Brits also stated that a destination's architecture and design played an important role when deciding where to go on a shortbreak.

The research comes as VisitScotland celebrates another successful themed year in 2016. The Year of Innovation Architecture and Design has supported 24 events to date with highlights including Hinterland at St Peter's Seminary, Local Heroes at Edinburgh Airport, the Findhorn Bay Festival, Clo Mòr Festival of Harris Tweed and Ignite Dundee.

Awe-inspiring

The national tourism organisation hopes that visitors will continue to experience Scotland's architecture in 2016, but also take the time to discover more about the country's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology in 2017.

Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland said: "It is no surprise that our awe-inspiring Forth Bridge has taken the top spot in this research and it is wonderful to see that new man-made wonders like The Kelpies are already proving a hit with visitors. 2016 has shone a significant spotlight on Scotland's achievements in innovation, architecture and design through a wide-range of activity designed to boost tourism in Scotland. I hope many people continue to make architectural pilgrimages to Scotland throughout the rest of this year and beyond to discover some of our truly remarkable sights."

The full top ten of Scotland's greatest man-made wonders, as voted for by the British public:

1. Forth Bridge (30%)
2. Edinburgh Castle (13%)
3. The Kelpies (8%)
4. Glenfinnan Viaduct (7%)
5. Stirling Castle (5%)
6. Falkirk Wheel (5%)
7. Caledonian Canal (5%)
8. Scott Monument (4%)
9. Bell Rock Lighthouse (4%)
10. Melrose Abbey (3%)

For more information, visit www.visitscotland.com/iad2016

Did you know?



Image courtesy of Edinburgh's Hogmanay.

- Hogmanay is the Scots word for December 31 in the Gregorian calendar, and is synonymous with New Year's Eve celebrations in Scotland.
- Many Hogmanay customs are believed to have been brought over from Scandinavia by the invading Vikings in the 8th and 9th centuries.
- "First-footing" is among the most famous customs. It refers to the first person to enter friends' or relatives' homes in the early hours of New Year's Day, bearing gifts of black bun, whisky, and shortbread.
- New Year is still referred to as Yules on Shetland, where Viking influences remain strongest.
- A centuries long ban on Christmas in Scotland lent greater importance to Hogmanay, as people worked through Christmas and took time off at New Year.

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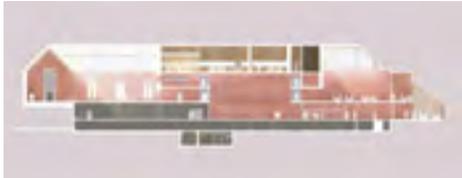
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Inside the 'new' Burrell Collection

First concept design proposals are revealed



Just days after the Burrell Collection closed its doors to the public to allow work to begin on an estimated £60-£66 million refurbishment and redisplay, the first artists' impressions of the proposed interior of the building have been made public. The early stage design concepts reveal ambitious plans to modernise and improve the visitor experience, while retaining the architectural intent of the Category A listed building which is home to Sir William's great legacy. Architects, John McAslan + Partners, together with Exhibition

Designers, Event Communications, and Project and Cost Manager, Gardiner & Theobald LLP are working with staff from Glasgow Life, Cordia and Glasgow City Council to create a world-class museum environment as befits the quality of the 9,000 objects amassed by Sir William.

The collection includes rare examples of medieval stained glass, tapestries and sculpture, ancient Chinese ceramics, bronzes and jades, exquisite Islamic pile carpets as well as French painting from the Realist movement to Impressionism. The riches of the medieval collection alone include vast assemblages of stained glass of outstanding quality and one of the largest and most significant holdings of tapestries anywhere in the world. These two impressive aspects of the collection place works from the Burrell alongside those found in

institutions such as the Victoria and Albert Museum, London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Accessible to the public

The overhaul of the building's interior will allow a greater proportion of the collection to be accessible to the public, embracing innovative solutions that open up the footprint of the museum whilst maintaining the quality and integrity of the building. As well as providing a new central vertical core and increased access to the collection, including to the lower ground floor stores, improved facilities will include a café with access from the park at ground level, enhanced retail opportunities, and landscaped terraces linking the museum to its parkland setting.

Councillor Archie Graham OBE, the Depute Leader of Glasgow City Council and Chair of Glasgow Life, says: "Sir William's legacy has been described as the greatest gift a city has ever received and we have a moral duty to ensure it is housed in the finest of buildings. Having seen the early design concepts, I've no doubt we will create an outstanding museum space, which reveals the incredible beauty, quality and depth of the collection. The Burrell Collection is a masterpiece and the refurbished and redisplayed museum will be one of Scotland's finest cultural assets."

Low carbon design

The refurbishment of the building will also be an exemplar of sustainable, low

carbon design. The current building remains entirely electrically powered, with the original mechanical and electrical equipment becoming increasingly expensive to operate. Thermal energy loss is especially high, with the original glazing no longer meeting display and conservation standards required by world-class museums today. The proposed refurbishment programme will deliver sustainable solutions to help to reduce onsite energy costs, transforming the Burrell from a building with a large carbon footprint, into an energy efficient, modern museum.

The redisplay of the collection will also provide a far richer interpretation of the artefacts, greatly enhancing access to the 9,000 works within the collection. The proposed designs are now on display at the Burrell at Kelvingrove display space, at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, giving the public an opportunity to view the designs and learn more about the museum's plans. The Burrell Collection is scheduled to reopen in 2020.





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pipe Bonnie Prince Charlie into battle at Culloden Moor. One, of course, can't wear one's mother's tartan and my late father was of Irish descent. Therefore I regularly sport the Airseag Dress Royal Stuart. I do this on the premise that a piper's kin can wear his laird's breacan. If anyone knows anything about the MacIntyre's during the Forty-Five or of Jacobitism on South Uist, please get in touch with me.

Joseph Kenneth Malone
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Irn-Bru



On reading your newspaper I find it full of interesting information! There was an article regarding Barr's Irn-Bru in a recent edition. I have discovered in my search for Kerr's Aerated Water that there could be a connection between these two. Is there anyone out there who could give me a lead regarding this, I would be 'over the moon'. I have a great amount of info on Kerr's if anyone would like to contact me. Regards,
Catherine Kerr (in Australia since 1966)
hailed from Househillwood, Glasgow.
Australia

Scottish Cromach



I am the 2016 President of the Nationalities Council of Indiana, Past President of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis, I stand 6 ft. 2 in. tall, and I am looking for a proper Scottish Cromach or Shepherd's Crook. I remain, yours, aye!
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Past President (1991-92 and 2000-04)
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The Lost Songs of St Kilda



Last year my husband and I visited the Outer Hebrides and tried to journey to St Kilda but the weather was poor and we were committed to travelling on due to booked accommodation. The closest we got was the Kilda Cruises office in Tarbert (Isle of Harris). My dear departed Dad was a great St Kilda supporter in the AFL and every Saturday during the season our family went to their games in Melbourne. Thank you so much for the prize of the CD *The Lost Songs of St Kilda*. I think the tunes are hauntingly beautiful and very evocative of those remote and forbidding islands. The CD will give me much pleasure. The story of the preservation of these songs is wonderful, if only we knew the accompanying words. Keep up the good work at the Banner, my husband and I really enjoy reading it as we both have Scottish heritage.
Robyn Whigham
Engadine, NSW
Australia

Always very interesting reading

Please find enclosed my cheque for next year's subscription to *the Scottish Banner*. I look forward to receiving it every month-always very interesting reading.
Marion Brown
Bankstown, NSW
Australia

The Clydebank Blitz



"See, dead knockin' cute and cuddly." A few days ago I did receive the March and April back issues of *The Banner* you sent to me, as a result of non-delivery of same. I contacted the post office but have had no feedback yet as to what the problem might be. I was so thankful to find the story of the Clydebank Blitz in the March issue as it is very personal to my family. My parents were living with my grandmother at that time in Clydebank and during the first air raid, part of the roof was blown off my grandmother's home from a bomb blast some distance away. The family was forced to leave the house and were loaded into the back of a lorry "wae ma Grannie's big dug licking the dust aff her face."
"Only wie, she went back hame next day and

managed to stye there as there wis bad yins goin' about stealing frae others' hooses, ye ken?" "Ah didnae ken ony o' this as Ah wisnae born until a month later on 12th May. Och, well Ah think a' that fuss about the new wain must ha'e cheered them all up quite a bit 'cos ah wis sae cute and cuddly. Nae kiddin'...dead knocking cute and cuddly.' Jist take a peek at thon photie an' that cute wee face and them eyes...ah could get anything. Ah wantit jist by flashin' ma 'een. A wee rascal, so ah wiz! HeHe! Still a bit of that today, I think!

Brian Beatson
Port Hope, Ontario
Canada

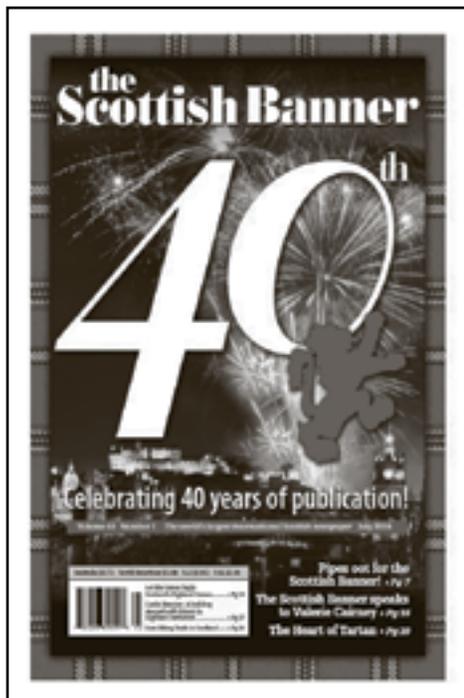
Mary Garden

I was astonished and disappointed that you failed to include the world-renowned diva, Mary Garden, in your mention of famous Aberdonians (*Scottish Banner*, March, 2016). You even made a point of noticing other singers. What an unfortunate oversight.
Kathleen Teillet
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada

Informed of the things happening back home

Thanks for an excellent paper which keeps ex-pats like me informed of the things happening back home, and the stories from the past. I've been away from "Glesga" since 1964 but it will always be the Dear Green Place to me.
Duncan Quinn
Waiheke Island
Auckland, New Zealand

40 years of the Scottish Banner



On behalf of the Honorary Chief, Vice Chiefs, Committee and members of Clan Macdonald Yarraville, I extend our heartiest expression of thanks to *the Scottish Banner* for their 40 years, congratulations on your commitment and service. The work and enthusiasm to the presentation of *the Banner* every month, the communication, information and dedication to our collective heritage is evident in the monthly offering. Your dedication has, in my opinion, assisted in keeping our community cohesive and vibrant, lang may your lum reek. Congratulations to you on 40 years! Gun cuireadh do chupa thairis le slainte agus sonas.
Yours sincerely,
Jan Macdonald
Secretary
Clan Macdonald Yarraville

The MacIntyre's

When I was a child, a now long-departed grand-uncle used to tell me how my mother's MacIntyre ancestors helped to

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Lochaber sunset



Sunset crossing the Corran Narrows, Lochaber.
Sent from **Bill Cameron**
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Scotland

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Britain's highest phone box to be saved in Scotland

The highest phone box in the UK has been saved from removal after a campaign to keep it. It sits 2,000ft up at the base of the ski-slope in the Cairngorm mountains and is considered a great back up life line to the many hikers, skiers and walkers who enjoy the area year round. Locals, visitors and the local council all petitioned British Telecom (BT) to keep the line open at Aviemore for emergency reasons. Almost a third of public payphones in Scotland have been earmarked for removal because fewer people are using them. BT is consulting on plans to remove about 1,500 phone boxes Scotland-wide. The firm said usage had declined by more than 90% over the last decade as the popularity of mobile phones surged. Of about 4,800 payphones in Scotland, fewer than five calls were made from 1,280 of them over the past year.

Prince William joins the Thin Red Line Appeal

The Duke of Cambridge, known as the Earl of Strathearn in Scotland, has become Patron of Thin Red Line Appeal, to secure the future of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum. The project will enable the museum to be redeveloped to meet the expectation of visitors to one of Scotland's key heritage sites, and to educate future generations on the remarkable role played by the soldiers of one of Scotland's great Highland Regiments over the last 220 years. Brigadier Bruce Russell, the Chairman of the Museum Trust said: "I am delighted that The Duke of Cambridge, The Earl of Strathearn, has

given his support and encouragement to this appeal, designed to safeguard the memory of a unique part of the British Army and of the nation's proud military and cultural heritage". Since the museum, located in Stirling Castle, lost its Ministry of Defence funding in 2012, it has been entirely self-supporting and is now looking to raise £4m by 2019 to redevelop the museum.

New world-class concert hall in the heart of Edinburgh



The charitable trust IMPACT Scotland and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) have developed a proposal to create a new world-class arts centre in the heart of Scotland's capital, Edinburgh. The proposal is to build a facility in St Andrew Square which would be the new home of the SCO, as well as a venue for education, conferences and public engagement. The centrepiece is a 1,000 seat auditorium, as well as a studio providing rehearsal, recital and recording space to rival the best in Europe. The new building will be immediately behind Dundas House at 36 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh. The

historic Royal Bank of Scotland branch will continue to operate as a stand-alone branch. The auditorium would meet the long-recognised need for a purpose-built, mid-sized performance venue in Edinburgh, combining excellent acoustics with access for all forms of popular music, jazz, folk, chamber and other small classical music groups as well as solo and song recitals and small dance ensembles. Colin Buchan, Chairman of the SCO, said: "With this wonderful support from the SCO's long-term supporter, Dunard Fund, this project provides a fantastic opportunity for the SCO to provide an open, welcoming and unforgettable audience experience in a much-needed mid-sized performance venue with stunning acoustics in the heart of Edinburgh. Not only will it provide our internationally renowned orchestra with a splendid new home, it will also enable the SCO to reach out in ways that have not been possible in the past." The £45m venue would also be able to host rock and pop concerts, dance events and shows during the Edinburgh Festival.

Plaque unveiled on Trafalgar Day as Edinburgh marks 200 years of the Nelson Monument



A special ceremony has been held in Edinburgh marking 200 years of the Nelson Monument on the city's Calton Hill. Celebrating 200 years since the telescope-shaped structure rose into the Edinburgh skyline, the famous memorial will be decorated with colourful flags and installed with a commemorative plaque by the City of Edinburgh Council. A 40-piece naval band performed on Calton Hill before a drumhead service is held in front of the Monument. A new plaque was also unveiled before a wreath is laid inside. A two minute silence was observed for those who lost their lives on 21 October 1805 at the Battle of Trafalgar, including Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson himself. The Lord Provost Donald Wilson said he hoped the anniversary would remind locals of the story behind the Monument. He said: "The new plaque will mark the 200th anniversary of the memorial and the city's hopes for it to stand tall for at least another 200 years to come. "The iconic structure was built in memory of Lord Nelson and all Scots

who died in the Battle of Trafalgar, and a service is held every year on Trafalgar Day to remember their courage and sacrifice. I'm sure many local people and tourists won't be aware of the history sitting on top of Calton Hill, but perhaps these commemorations will serve as a reminder of the story of Admiral Lord Nelson, who was fatally shot during the battle."

At the start of the battle of Trafalgar, Nelson asked his officer to run up a signal, a simple endorsement of his confidence in his captains to lead their ships without further commands from their Admiral. On Trafalgar Day the city still runs the signal wording "England expects that every man will do his duty" up the Nelson Monument, just as it was flown on board Nelson's ship HMS Victory on October 21st 1805. The monument was designed by Edinburgh-born Robert Burn who did not live to see it completed in 1816.

In 1852, a time ball was installed at the top, designed to drop at 13:00 every day sending a signal to distant ships. On days when the weather was poor the ball could not be seen so, in 1861, a sound signal was added with the one o'clock gun still being fired to this day from Edinburgh Castle's ramparts.

Dundee icon under repair



Image: Dundee Heritage Trust.

A nine-month £350,000 repair programme has been launched on *RRS Discovery*, Captain Robert Falcon Scott's expedition ship. The ship's masts are being taken down to clean and repair rigging after a survey in 2012 revealed deterioration. *RRS Discovery* has been based at Discovery Point in Dundee, the city where it was built, since 1986. Dundee Heritage Trust, which owns the ship, has launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise an initial £40,000. The Royal Research Ship (RRS) *Discovery* is one of Britain's most important historic ships, and is registered as part of the UK's National Historic Fleet. She was one of the last wooden three-masted sailing ships to be built in Britain and is the only example of this type to survive, a unique record of Dundee's proud shipbuilding past, and renowned worldwide for her Antarctic exploration heritage.

Built in 1900 for Captain Robert Falcon Scott's first Antarctic expedition, the *RRS Discovery* was the first ship to be specifically designed for scientific research and for work in the polar regions, and incorporates a number of unique design features. In addition to the association with Captain Scott, *Discovery's* long career connects her with many other famous polar explorers and scientists such as Sir Ernest Shackleton, Edward Wilson, Tom Crean, Sir Alister Hardy and Sir Douglas Mawson.



SCOTSPEAK

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

“Winning this award makes me realise that what I’ve been doing for two and a half decades doesn’t just make my heart sing, it has a knock-on effect for the tourism industry in the Highlands of Scotland.”

English Nessie hunter Steve Feltham said as he was named Ambassador of the Year at the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards. Feltham gave up his job and sold his home in Dorset to move to Dores near Inverness 25 years ago to search for Nessie. He has previously been recognised by the *Guinness Book of World Records* for the longest continuous vigil hunting for the Loch Ness Monster.

“We set up the city centre mural trail to promote some of the fantastic street art that’s been developed over the last few years in Glasgow city centre. We want to provide an opportunity for artists to showcase their talents across the city in prominent locations. It’s also an opportunity to develop the artists, from former graffiti artists in many instances, into becoming small businesses in their own right. We are promoting the mural fund which is an opportunity for mural artists to attract funding from the council to undertake these murals and we are also promoting the trail where visitors to the city, as well as our own citizens, can enjoy the street art by following a map that takes you around all the murals in the city centre.”

Jane Laiolo of the Glasgow Mural Trail said as Glasgow has embraced the concept of street art to promote the city centre, reduce the negative visual impact of land and unit vacancies due to the current economic circumstances, and provide features that will attract more visitors. The new trail will feature all of the diverse portfolio of artworks that are within easy walking distance of the city centre and giving artists a platform to show their work across the city to a large number of people.

“It’s specifically designed for the female fashion market but is also suitable for men who want light spring and summer jackets. We’re the smallest of the three mills in the Harris Tweed industry and we had to find a proposition that would give us sustainability and allow us to participate in the growth of the sector.”

Chief executive Derek Reid of Carloway Mill on Harris, one of three working Harris Tweed textile mills in the world, which produces the renowned Harris Tweed fabric said. The new variety of Harris Tweed is lighter and softer than the traditional version and has more opportunity for various fashion groups to use. Only cloth hand-woven from virgin wool by the islanders of Lewis, Harris, Uist and Barra can be called Harris Tweed.



Historic Fort George. Photo: VisitScotland.

“Our defence footprint has been worn away through successive cuts, so it is unacceptable that the UK government has announced a near 20% reduction to our defence footprint. This comes just three years after the last Army Basing Plan, billed as offering stability and certainty. These brutal cuts spell the near total removal of the Army from large parts of Scotland and the end of the Royal Navy’s presence in Fife. It is deeply distressing to witness the announcement to close truly historic sites, such as Glencorse, home to the Army for almost 150 years, and Fort George, a garrison for almost 250 years.”

Deputy First Minister John Swinney said as

Britain’s Ministry of Defence announced that eight military sites in Scotland will close in the next 16 years, cutting the defence estate by 20%. The Scottish closures will be among 56 sites which will shut across the UK, the closures are seen as “a huge blow” for Scotland and its economy. Military locations set for closing are army bases at Fort George in the Highlands, Glencorse Barracks, near Penicuik, and Redford Cavalry and Infantry Barracks in Edinburgh. While naval base MoD Caledonia in Rosyth, Craigiehall Barracks in Edinburgh and Forthside Barracks in Stirling will also be shut down.

“Erosion by the stormy sea surrounding Orkney is a tangible threat to coastal archaeological sites. However, sometimes these same waves can reveal unique and important finds that have been lost to view for hundreds - if not thousands - of years. Following one of these storms, Dr Anderson-Whymark was examining an area of the east mainland coast that had been particularly hit during a south westerly gale and discovered something amazing - a stone that had been unearthed by the sea, projecting precariously out of the soft cliff face. This carved stone was clearly significant and needed to be quickly recovered before the next forecast storms that were due to hit the following weekend.”

A spokesman for the University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute said as an ancient Pictish stone has been rescued from an eroding cliff face in Orkney. The tablet, which was buried for centuries before being unearthed during a storm, is only the third of its kind found in the islands. The stone was discovered by archaeologist Dr Hugo Anderson-Whymark and is believed to be around 1300 years old. It has the image of a cross flanked by a dragon on one side and a beast with the remains of a staff in its mouth on the other.

“Royal Dornoch is a stunning course and golf, for many people, is a spiritual experience. As the local minister I wondered how the Church could participate positively in the 400 year anniversary celebrations so I came up with the idea of creating a Holy Round. I went out at different times of the day to get a sense of the uniqueness of each hole and then from what I saw, created a simple ‘thought’ for all 18-holes - plus another for the obligatory 19th which is the club house. The thoughts are not designed to provide people with the perfect excuse to go golfing instead of to worship, but offer an opportunity to help the game be a more complete experience that exercises body, mind and spirit.”

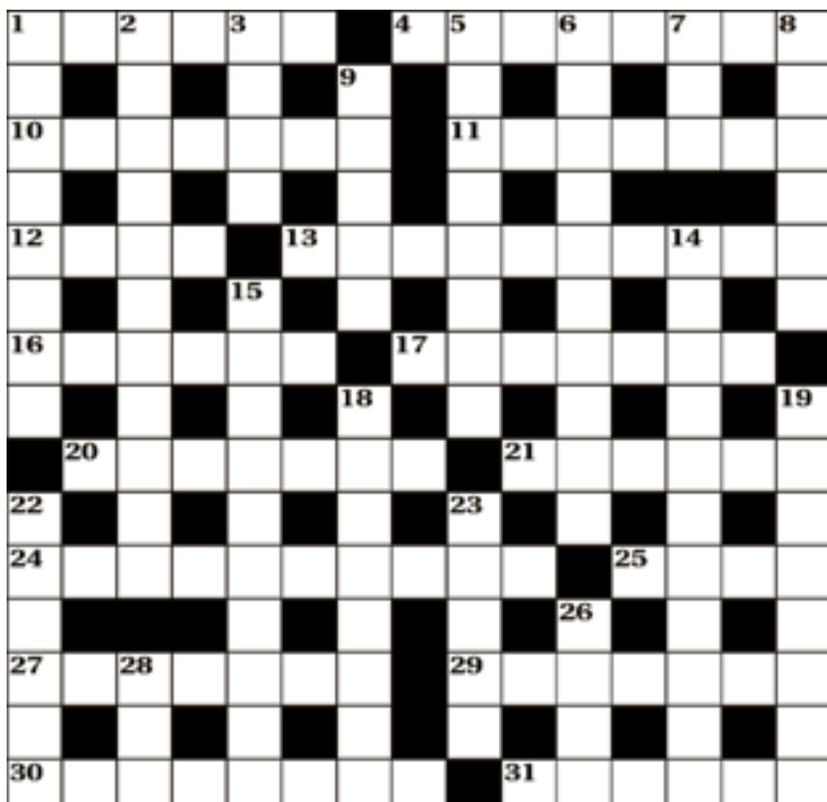
Chaplain to the Queen Reverend Susan Brown of Dornoch Cathedral said as she has written a spiritual guide to help golfers improve their game taking inspiration from the Royal Dornoch Golf Club. The Holy Round celebrates the 400th anniversary of golf being played in the area.

“I’m very, very surprised. I never in my wildest dreams expected anything like this to happen to me. The community relies very heavily on the air service. To keep that going you need lots of tourists to use it as well as the island’s population to justify the flights. With the lighthouse it’s one of the few in Scotland that’s open to the public and it’s the tallest land-based lighthouse in Britain.”

2016 Pride of Britain Award winner, 68 year old Billy Muir from North Ronaldsay in Orkney said upon winning the award in London. Mr Muir who takes on 20 vital jobs on the island which include air traffic controller, tour guide, lighthouse keeper, shepherd, binman, taxi driver, firefighter and councillor. Previously Mr Muir has also been presented with an MBE for his dedication to the island, which has a population of just 50.

SCOTWORD

Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 24!



CLUES ACROSS

- 1) A short-billed duck (6).
- 4) She handles cows! (8).
- 10) It’s a wrench in the US (7).
- 11) In Scotland they’re glens (7).
- 12) Water flow (4).
- 13) Top Scots golfing hotel (10).
- 16) The kirk’s second in command (6).
- 17) Town east of Bonar Bridge (7).
- 20) A starter for pipers (7).
- 21) A drop of water! (6).
- 24) District of Edinburgh (10).
- 25) Inner Hebridean island (4).
- 27) Put down in the sea (7).
- 29) Collectively named (7).
- 30) Close up for a punch up! (8).
- 31) Kirk office-bearer (6).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) They’re found in steamiest (8).
- 2) Mountainous US games (11).
- 3) Possesses (4).
- 5) James Watt was one (8).
- 6) Town east of Irvine (10).
- 7) View this loch in wonder (3).
- 8) Leave off (6).
- 9) Row of plants! (5).
- 14) Waterway east of Glen Shiel (4, 7).
- 15) Fife new town (10).
- 18) Mary, Queen of Scots’ fate (8).
- 19) Scottish get-togethers (8).
- 22) Made the Bruce try again (6).
- 23) Kirk congregation (5).
- 26) The true Highlander (4).
- 28) Old Scots measure (3).

Glasgow’s Santa Dash celebrates 10 years



Thousands of Santa’s will be dusting off their Santa boots and join thousands of other Santa’s for a festive 5k run in Glasgow this month. It is the 10th anniversary of the Glasgow Santa Dash in what has become a mass participation run as the city centre transforms in to a red sea of festivity! It’s a sight to beho-ho-hold – with adults, children and even dogs all welcome. 6000 Santa’s took part in last year’s race and organisers are hoping to beat that number this year and help raise funds for charity.

Glasgow Santa Dash 2016 is on Sunday 11 December, with the nominated charity this year is Beatson Cancer Charity. For further details see: www.glasgowloveschristmas.com.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By: Ron Dempsey



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, our Facebook page 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.



Edinburgh's National Records of Scotland, a great place for family research. Photo: VisitScotland.

It is the Yule season and we wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas. Historically, Christmas was always a low key time year in Scotland compared to England or other European countries. Going back to the year 1560 when the Reformation led the Protestant church of John Knox to rid itself any Roman Catholic or even Anglican celebration. It wasn't until 1958 that it became an official holiday in Scotland. Prior to that while children may have ran to the Christmas tree to see what Santa brought, Dad had already left for another day's work. However, if you are thinking there goes those dour Scots who can't enjoy

themselves, there was always Hogmanay or New Year's Eve when the real winter's celebration in Scotland began. It was their way of celebrating in the winter's approach.

Yule

Like so many Northern European nations Christmastide as we know was known in pagan times as Yule. A word so old that it hasn't been truly assessed to its original meaning. It has been associated with Norse god Oden, the old bearded one who led a hunt at this time of year. The Yule log is another feature of this time year to light up the dark of winter in the celebration. In all three Scandinavian countries Christmas

is translated as "Jul" In Finnish it "Joulu" and Estonian "Joudu" so the universality of the season is shown via the languages.

King Haakon in 8th century Norway is credited for bringing the pagan festival together with Christmas and making the season a Christian holiday. No matter what the reason for the celebration, it is a wonderful time to enjoy festivities of a feast and some libation in an oasis of heat and light amid the darkness and cold of the winter solstice.

In mentioning the Reformation in Scotland when its nobility and king decided to leave the Roman Catholic Church and adhere to Protestantism as mentioned above, one of the main characters in making that happen was John Knox c. 1510-1572. Knox is derived from the Gaelic word "cnoc" meaning hill, hump or rise of ground. John de Cnoc was recorded in 1260, he held lands in Renfrewshire known as Knock. The reputed forbearer of the name is one Adamus de Cnoc who was of Saxon stock. Knox is associated Clan MacFarlane. There is more than one Knox tartan.

Family Society

We received an interesting letter from Mr. Stan Fleming, who is affiliated with the Clan Murray Society of North America. Mr. Fleming is an acquaintance from my days of the Highland Games circuit. He suggests that it may be of interest to readers in knowing how to set up a Family Society. This is something I haven't addressed previously and I am at a loss to know why. It is a natural subject for my interest and this column. So Mr. Fleming has started me on the road to see how. My first thought was of One Name Studies and I was fortunate in finding a website entitled www.one-name.org that can help one on the quest to this goal. There is something similar by the name of www.surnames-society.org. Both are interested in the formation of one name studies as opposed a general family history for all surnames within one's family.

While not a great vehicle to pursue family members if your name is Smith or Jones, it can be especially good for less prolific names. In Scotland that could be an uncommon Gaelic name but again doesn't work so well with MacDonald's and Campbell's. In Lowland names it could be a name that can only come from geographic area such as Dollar, a land name in Clackmannanshire or Strachan in Aberdeenshire. These societies do give you a chance to compare notes with people bearing your surname and this can be enhanced even more with a comparison of DNA results.

Fleming

Since Fleming was mentioned let's do an origin of the name. Fleming, Fleeming or Flemming was the name of a person who came from Flanders. Flanders is part of modern day Belgium where the Dutch based language of Flemish is spoken. The name is found very early in Scottish records, where persons of that surname had land in Lanarkshire as early as the 12th century.

Others may have been transplants from Flanders when surnames were evolving prior to the 15th century. King David I promoted the settling of Dutch and Flemish people in his reign to set up market towns on the east coast to build a better economy for Scotland to enhance European trade. Fleming was one name and other was Danskin (from Danzig), that made its way in to Scottish nomenclature from this group.

There were Flemings on the Ragman roll of 1296 in Scotland, so they have a long history within the Scottish nation. There is a Clan Fleming which an amerigous clan meaning that it has no chief. Clan Motto: Let the Deed Shaw
Clan Badge: A silver goat's head with golden horns.

The last chief was said to be Charles Fleming, Earl of Wigton, who died in 1747.

Family research

Here in the north and if you are from Scotland we say at this time of year as the days get shorter and "The nights are fair drawin' in!" It is a good time to visit family research and so I thought I would throw out some tips to you. Some of them are obvious but some need repeating:

1. Start with yourself and work backwards. Never try to work forward from some famous personage with which family myth has you related. In most cases you will be disappointed.
2. Never copy from other people's family trees without documenting the facts. Family research is so much easier with arrival of the internet and so many good sites to do research, it is tempting to copy someone else's findings with whom you share a set of relatives. While they may have generations further back you cannot assume that they have the correct people on their tree without verification. Always do you own research to confirm you have the correct ancestors.
3. Never rule out an ancestor because a record has a different spelling than yours. Clergy and clerks may have been literate but their spelling was fluid. If the circumstances and dates fit your ancestor it maybe just be him or her. Why give up an ancestor in 1750 because the record has them as Clark instead of Clarke. Even if your ancestor was literate there may have been situations where they didn't see how the record was recorded to dispute the spelling.
4. Keep backups of your trees and documents in different places. Now that you have access to a computer make copies on more than one memory stick and place them in places for safe keeping and with interested family members. Things like computer crashes can put years of work in jeopardy.

Know that some of your progeny or relatives in coming generations will be very pleased that you took on this work.

The very best of the season to all the readers of the Scottish Banner. We look forward to your letters and correspondence, please keep them coming.

Hogmanay top facts

Text: Scotland.org

- Hogmanay is the Scots word for the last day of the year and is synonymous with the celebration of the New Year in the Scottish manner.
- Nobody knows for sure where the word 'Hogmanay' came from. It may have originated from Gaelic or from Norman-French Historically, Christmas was not observed as a festival and Hogmanay was the more traditional celebration in Scotland. The winter solstice holiday tended to be at New Year when family and friends gathered for a party and exchange presents, especially for the children.
- 'The Bells' is the phrase used to describe the midnight hour when New Year's Eve becomes New Year's Day.
- Robert Burns' *Auld Lang Syne* is sung to celebrate the start of the New Year at the stroke of midnight, not just in Scotland but in many English-speaking countries.
- *The Guinness Book of World Records* lists *Auld Lang Syne* as one of the most frequently sung songs in English. The song is sung or played in many movies, from *It's a Wonderful Life* to *When Harry Met Sally*.
- To sing *Auld Lang Syne* a circle is created and hands are joined with the person on each side of you. At the beginning of the last verse, everyone crosses their arms across their breast, so that the right hand reaches out to the neighbour on the left and vice versa. When the tune ends, everyone rushes to the middle, while still holding hands.
- An important element of Hogmanay celebrations is to welcome friends and strangers, with warm hospitality and of course a kiss to wish everyone a 'Guid New Year'. The underlying belief is to clear out the vestiges of the old year, have a clean break and welcome in a young, New Year on a happy note.
- 'First Footing' – the 'first foot' in the house after midnight is still very common in Scotland. To ensure good luck, a first footer should be a dark-haired male. Fair-haired first footers were not particularly welcome after the Viking invasions of ancient times. Traditional gifts include a lump of coal to lovingly place on the host's fire, along with shortbread, a black bun and whisky to toast to a Happy New Year.
- To first foot a household empty-handed is considered grossly discourteous, never mind unlucky!

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.



Glasgow's George Square at Christmas in the 1950's.

In the 1940's and 1950's, Christmas in Scotland remained an essentially religious celebration. The forceful and pervasive encroachment of commercialism upon this special time was still to come. Christmas was not even in the minds of children until well after Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night had come and gone and the shops in Glasgow didn't put up their Christmas decorations and Christmas fare until well after the beginning of December. This made Christmas all the more special. For most Scottish adults there was less of the partying and drinking at Christmas that was to become more evident in later years. Partying in Scotland was kept for the pagan New Year celebrations, although both Christmas and Hogmanay had

borrowed some of their traditions from the same ancient Celtic customs of the Winter Solstice and the Roman Saturnalia.

Hogmanay

My dad wasn't even on holiday on Christmas day during most of my childhood, because up until 1958, Christmas was not recognized as a public holiday by the shipyards and engineering shops of the West of Scotland. He got two days at New Year instead. That was a hangover from the reformed Kirk's labelling of Christmas as a Popish and Roman Catholic festival, nearly 400 hundred years before. For that reason Hogmanay became the time in Scotland when family and friends gathered together for a celebration

and a party. There was even an earlier time when it was at Hogmanay that presents were exchanged in Scotland rather than at Christmas. It was a 20th Century reaction to what was fast becoming a national holiday in offices and other places of work that enabled the trade unions to eventually negotiate a Christmas Day holiday, from 1958, for Glasgow's heavy industry workers.

With such a swollen congregation adding to the strength of the regular choir, the inherent beauty of Christmas carols made for a wonderful and inspiring experience on each Christmas Eve.

Quiet and reflective time

Christmas in my family remained a relatively quiet and reflective time, to be spent with family and friends. On Christmas Eve our whole family attended the midnight service at St James's Church. The church overflowed with people drawn from an enrolled congregation of more than two thousand adult parishioners and although St. James's was a large church building there was also a need for an annexe, the Barnbeth Hall near to where my future wife, Jean,

lived. This was needed to accommodate St James's regular Sunday worshippers as well as the even larger congregations attending services on special occasions such as at harvest time, christenings, confirmations and especially at Christmas.

Christmas carols

Even then, the church elders had to bring in extra chairs from the church hall to seat the expanded congregation in the aisles, so large was church attendance at the midnight services at Christmas. With such a vibrant congregation to draw upon, St. James's could rely upon a strong church choir to raise the spirit. With such a swollen congregation adding to the strength of the regular choir, the inherent beauty of Christmas carols made for a wonderful and inspiring experience on each Christmas Eve. Everyone in the church seemed to be at one with the world and I delighted as a child in the friendly atmosphere of these Christmas services.

On the way home from such an occasion and in the early hours of the morning, there might be snow on the ground or at least a hint of snow to come. Walking and laughing in the company of friends and neighbours after the midnight service gave me a strong feeling of community and contentment. With the carols still resounding in our ears on that special night of nights, it was not hard to see 'the stars in the bright sky, and to say to ourselves, I love thee Lord Jesus and ask Thee to stay, close by me forever and love me I pray'.

Clan Davidson Society coming to Canada



Clan Chief, Grant Guthrie Davidson, 3rd of Davidston, and his wife, Brenda.

After many years of waiting for a Davidson Clan Society to be founded in Canada, the Clan Davidson Society USA Inc. will be changing its name to the Clan Davidson Society of North America. After consultation with the Clan's new Chief, Grant Guthrie Davidson, 3rd of Davidston (resident of New Zealand), he has given his endorsement and encouragement to this change in mission and scope of operations to include all of North America, primarily in Canada. CDS-NorAm (the approved abbreviation for the expanded organization) intends to provide active support for all Davidson Clansmen (and septs) resident in all countries in North America; clearly, this will be mostly in Canada and the USA.

Clan Davidson International Gathering

Effective January 1st, 2017, the newsletter of CDS-NorAm, *The Sporan*, will be modified to reflect this change. The existing website for CDS-USA will also be modified to reflect the change, and the URL for the website will change from clandavidsonusa.com to clandavidson.org. CDS-NorAm is a member of the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC) and the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA) in the US. Although this change will become effective January 1, 2017, there will be a formal acknowledgement of this expansion at the Clan Davidson International Gathering to be held in conjunction with the Glasgow (KY) Highland Games, June 2nd through June 4, 2017. The Chief of the Clan and his wife Brenda will be the Guests of Honor for this affair.

CDS-NorAm will begin to recruit members to act as Clan Tent Conveners at Canadian-based Highland Games events, with the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games in Ontario next August already on the docket.

For further details contact:
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Sir Walter Scott's slippers go on display

A pair of slippers worn by Sir Walter Scott have been placed on display at Edinburgh's Writers' Museum. The renowned Scottish author, famous for penning *Waverley* and *Rob Roy*, was gifted the slippers in 1830 by friends who were saddened by the state of the ones they found him wearing at his home in Abbotsford. A letter from Scott's friend, Lady Honoria Louisa Cadogan, reads: "The only thing we did not admire at Abbotsford was a (pair) of ugly, uncomfortable slippers we saw in (your) study so my daughters hope you will replace them by their's."

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "We recently refurbished the Writers' Museum to include a new gallery dedicated to Sir Walter Scott and this loan adds enormously to the existing display of personal books and items belonging to the author. It is fantastic to have a local resident step forward with the offer of this loan and I hope it might encourage further donations to the city's Museums so we can continue to add to the mix of items on display. I have no doubt they will generate much interest."

Human story

The embroidered footwear will be on loan to the Museum for five years thanks to private collector Richard Wiseman. He purchased Scott's size nine slippers from a collection previously owned by the author Sir Hugh Walpole, who is said to have been inspired by Scott's writing style.

Richard Wiseman said: "We live in one



of Walter Scott's former Edinburgh homes and we came across these slippers online by chance. We love them, and we want to give other people the opportunity to see and enjoy them too. They are certainly well-worn so you never know, Scott might have sat at his writing desk in Abbotsford wearing these slippers to keep him comfortable as he wrote his later novels in the last two years of his life."

Gillian Findlay, Curatorial and Engagement Manager for the Museum, added: "Scott's slippers tell such a human story of the need for creature comforts and the compassion the author inspired in his friends, particularly at this vulnerable moment towards the end of his life. He was still mourning the loss of his wife and struggling to make ends meet since the banking crisis of 1825. He had received advances on books he hadn't written yet but a kind friend took pity on him and had these slippers made as a gift."

The City of Edinburgh Council managed museum is free to visit and allows visitors to discover the capital's rare collection of first edition books, personal belongings and portraits of great Scottish writers.

Defending the heritage of St Kilda

Photos: The National Trust for Scotland



Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has welcomed plans for a 'sympathetic and sustainable' redevelopment of military facilities on St Kilda, the islands 'at the edge of the world.' The Ministry of Defence, working with defence contractors QinetiQ and Skye-based architects Wittets, has submitted a planning application to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar for a thorough redevelopment and environmental upgrading of the 50 year-old St Kilda facility. The new design will be using expertise gained through building similar facilities in environments with challenging climates, including work for the British Antarctic Survey. Using a light environmental touch, the new facility will be constructed on stilted foundations to minimise ground impact.

St Kildan landscape

The lower segments of the new buildings will be curtained with stone walls designed to blend into the St Kildan landscape as well as offering an architectural echo of the nearby abandoned cottages and cleits of Village Bay. Wood panelling over the exterior walls will attain colours through weathering that will complement the surrounding scenery and roofs will be planted with native St Kildan grasses. The redevelopment of the St Kilda station signals a continuing commitment by the Ministry of Defence to its facilities in the Western Isles, which remain of great economic importance to island communities.

The National Trust for Scotland's Property Manager for St Kilda, Susan Bain said: "We have been very impressed by the extent to which the MoD and its partners have gone to make sure they come up with proposals that will enhance the existing site and are both sympathetic and sustainable in the vitally important context of St Kilda. Most traces of the buildings from the 1960s will be removed and their

replacements will be entirely appropriate to the setting in terms of design profile and best environmental practice. Every detail has been considered, down to ensuring that there is no chance of contaminant flora or fauna from the mainland being brought to St Kilda during the construction phase. The military has a long association with St Kilda going back to the First World War and we are very pleased to have worked in partnership with the MoD since 1957. This has been entirely beneficial to our conservation activities on St Kilda and we look forward to this relationship continuing well into the future."

World Heritage status

Famously, the last resident islanders of the north Atlantic archipelago of St Kilda, some 66 kilometres away from the nearest landfall on the Scottish mainland, were evacuated in 1930 by fisheries protection vessel, HMS Harebell. In the years since, the military tracking station was established on the main St Kildan island of Hirta in 1957 in the same year that archipelago was accepted by the National Trust for Scotland, having been bequeathed by the 5th Marquess of Bute in 1956.

St Kilda achieved World Heritage status for its outstanding natural heritage and was among the very first sites put forward by the UK for inscription on the World Heritage List in 1986. In 2004, the inscription was extended to include the surrounding marine environment and in 2005 the archipelago became the UK's first and only mixed World Heritage Site, and one of only 35 worldwide, when the islands' relict cultural landscape was also inscribed on the World Heritage List. Construction of the new MoD facility on St Kilda will take two years to complete – the rough Atlantic waters mean that there is only one short season in the summer of each year when it is possible to guarantee regular access by boat.

St Kilda facts: Did you know?

- Located 41 miles west of North Uist, the St Kilda archipelago is made up of the main island of Hirta along with Dùn, Soay and Boreray. It has the highest sea stacs in Britain – Stac Lee and Stac an Armin – as well as the highest sea cliffs in Britain at Conachair (1,400 feet).
- There is no Saint called 'Kilda'. Various theories have been proposed for the word Kilda's origin, including Gaelic and Norse appellations or simple mistranslation.
- St Kilda is an island group of superlatives:
 - It has one of the largest colonies of Northern gannet in world (60 428 breeding pairs representing 20% of the world's population);
 - It is home to the oldest and largest colony of Northern fulmar in Great Britain and Ireland;
 - It has the largest UK colony of Leach's Storm-petrel (45,000 AOBs - Apparently occupied burrows) which is 90% of the biogeographical breeding population;
 - The Atlantic puffin is the most numerous seabird on St Kilda with 135,752 AOBs;
 - There are significant populations of Great skua, Manx shearwater, Razorbill and Common guillemot.
- The marine environment surrounding the archipelago is outstanding in terms of the extreme clarity of the water, its biodiversity and composition, which includes exceptionally deep kelp forests and vast, colourful carpets of sea anemones.
- The intensely dramatic, jagged landscape of towering cliffs and sea stacs support the largest seabird colony in the north-east Atlantic, their size and diversity of global significance.
- Of particular significance are the populations of northern gannet *Morus bassanus* and Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica*. The archipelago is unique in the very high bird densities that occur in this relatively small area, conditioned by the complex and different ecological niches existing in the site and the productivity of the surrounding sea.
- St Kilda also provides three outstanding examples of remote island ecological colonisation and subsequent genetic divergence under isolation in the three endemic sub-species, the St Kilda wren *Troglodytes troglodytes hirtensis*, St Kilda fieldmouse *Apodemus sylvaticus hirtensis* and newly discovered dandelion *Taraxacum pankhurstianum*.
- The Soay sheep, so much a feature of the landscape, are a remarkable survival of a primitive type of domestic sheep from the Neolithic period providing a living testament to the longevity of human occupation of St Kilda and in addition, providing a significant genetic resource.
- The islands of St Kilda were the most remotely inhabited in the UK.
- A community lived on St Kilda for millennia, living in harmony with nature until external pressures finally led to a decline and, in 1930, the evacuation of the islands.
- A community existed on St Kilda at least 4,000 years ago, exploiting the dense colonies of seabirds for food, feathers and oil. They also farmed small plots of land which sustained them throughout the year even when they were cut off.
- Into the modern era, the community on St Kilda was a very successful one and recent research shows that, despite its remoteness, it was a solid part of a trading network that reached across the western isles and further afield.
- Under the (interrupted) ownership of the Macleod family the supply of products harvested from seabirds, especially feathers, kept it economically viable and ensured that it was never subject to clearances, unlike other parts of the Highlands and Islands.
- The village on the main island of Hirta was laid out in the 1830s, although many of the blackhouses constructed were destroyed in a great storm in 1860 and had to be replaced by the structures we see today. Not long afterwards the St Kildans began to lose their self-sufficiency, relying more on imports and revenue from tourists. As contact with the outside world increased, so too did dissatisfaction with the realities of the way of life on St Kilda given the job opportunities and better living standards available on the mainland in cities and towns and in the colonies.
- The population dwindled despite a military presence in the First World War and by the 1920s the community was mainly made up of older people with relatively few in younger age-groups. The situation prompted the remaining residents to request evacuation to the mainland and this was accomplished by HMS Harebell on 29 August 1930.
- The very last native-born St Kildan, Rachel Johnson.

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The 20th-century Scottish poet and author Nan Shepherd featured on the new Royal Bank of Scotland £5 polymer bank note.

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 a watery winter's sun shines whilst a sprinkling of snow caps the hill tops. Winter is approaching and the chief and I must allow an extra ten minutes to defrost cars in the morning. We will wrap up warmly. The log burners will be working overtime.

There is much timber lying around in the grounds and with free wood being considerably less expensive than oil or gas, that is what the chief likes to use. Economy pleases the MacGregor. Then you know what they say about a Scotsman and his wallet.

Moths fly out when it is (rarely) opened. There are the old jokes. 'The Scots have a cure for sea-sickness. They lean over the side of the ship with a dollar bill in their teeth.' Then there is the one about the Grand Canyon – it was 'started by a Scotsman who lost a coin in a ditch.' But Scotland has a more serious connection with money.

The Royal Bank of Scotland

The Bank of Scotland is one of the oldest banks. The Bank of England was founded in 1694 by William Paterson, a Scotsman. The world's first Savings Bank based on

business principles and paying interest to savers was founded in 1810 in by a Scottish church minister. The Rev. Henry Duncan hoped to encourage his flock to save.

Scottish thrift became legendary. Scots exported their banking system around the world and it is interesting to see that paper money was traditionally more popular in Scotland than it ever was in England. South of the border, people liked to own coin whilst north of the divide it was notes, or bills, that were sought after. Perhaps it was easier to put paper under the mattress than it was metal. Times moves on and these days, bank notes are increasingly made of polymer, or plastic. Which can be useful, especially you leave one in a shirt pocket and pop it in the washing machine...

I talk of matters financial because this month I find myself filming inside a traditional Edinburgh bank. The Royal Bank of Scotland stands in St Andrew's Square near Waverley rail station. If you visit this part of the world, you must make an effort to see it. With gilded pillars, works of arts and a fantastic domed ceiling, this is one of the city's architectural jewels.

The RBS, as it has become known, was founded in 1727. It went on to employ tens of thousands of people, but a few years ago

recorded one of the largest losses in UK corporate history during the banking crash. However, we are not there to rake over old woes, or to record the grandeur of a building that screams wealth. We are following the story of new bank notes that feature women who made their mark in Scotland.

Nan Shepherd

This is not the first time that a female face has starred on a Scottish bank note. The Queen has graced one, as did the Queen Mother. This time it the turn of a non-royal – the novelist and poet Nan Shepherd. Nan was born in 1893 on the Scottish northeast coast. She worked as a teacher and her book, 'The Living Mountain', allowed readers to see the Scottish landscape in a new light. Her volume of poetry, 'In the Cairngorms', is evocative and inspiring.

Nan is being recognized thanks to public demand. A thousand people were asked who they're like to see on the new bank notes - and she proved a popular choice. Meanwhile, another face being honoured is that of Mary Somerville, a Victorian scientist, which was a rare calling for a woman then. Mary was fascinated by physics and astrology and became known as the first Queen of Science.

Interestingly, Mary and Nan were both chosen above two eminent men. The physicist James Clerk Maxwell was on the list because he came up with an electromagnetic theory. Radio, television and mobile phones – they all owe their existence to his work. Then there was Thomas Telford, engineer extraordinaire, a man who built hundreds of roads and bridges.

Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries

Our filming brings another fascinating day and another welcome dollar. And it is another year almost gone... For some, time just flies. As Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries I recently took a card from The Queen to a couple celebrating seventy years of marriage. Peter told me that the secret is not to contradict wife Hannah. I promised I would go back when they celebrate eight decades.

If you are marking a milestone, may it be a joyful one. Have a lovely festive season. We are with the doggies for Christmas and the MacGregor and I and the MacNaughties wish you health and happiness. Any wealth that might come will definitely be a bonus!

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

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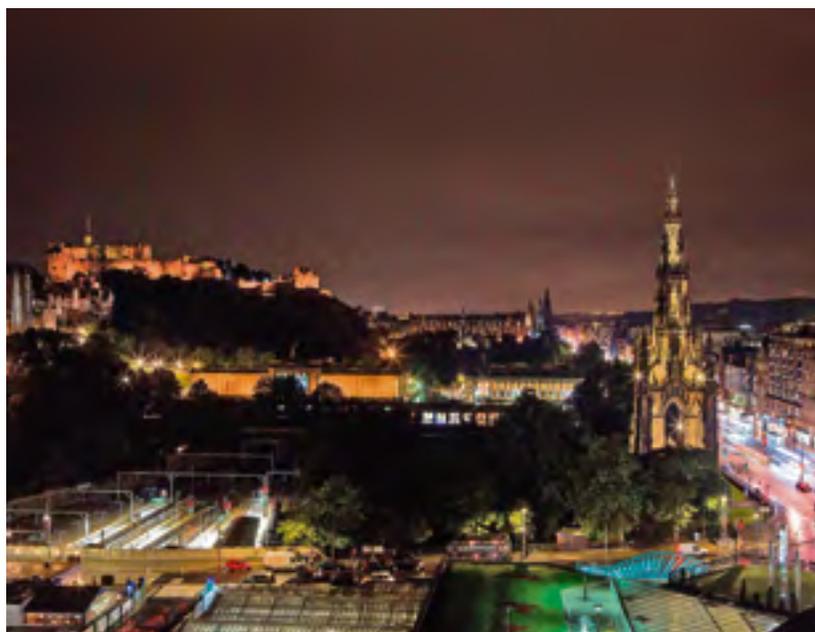
Great Scott! New lighting allows Scott Monument to shine

Edinburgh's iconic memorial to author Sir Walter Scott has been fitted with a new lighting installation by the City of Edinburgh Council. The new Scott Monument lighting began shining on the anniversary of Scott's death in September, whilst the structure has been floodlit in previous years, the new LED system - designed by KSLD - is the first bespoke lighting to be installed. The state-of-the-art design highlights the Monument's intricate architectural features with a soft warm glow, allowing the landmark to shine as part of Edinburgh's night skyline.

Edinburgh's Culture Convener Councillor Richard Lewis said: "As the world's first UNESCO City of Literature we are proud to bring the largest monument to a writer in the world out of the shadows and into the night skyline. The Scott Monument is an iconic and imposing memorial in the heart of Edinburgh and the new lights are in keeping with the 170 year-old structure. The scheme has been carefully created by a local Edinburgh firm to provide a soft night-time glow I'd like to think the original architect George Meikle Kemp would have approved of."

Superb sculpture and soaring beauty

The Scott Monument is one of the most recognisable features on the city skyline, but by night this new



project will also bring to life its mass of superb sculpture and soaring beauty. The decision to light the Edinburgh landmark forms part of the Council's citywide project to install and upgrade lighting at some of the city's key structures and buildings. The Scott Monument remains the tallest memorial in the world dedicated to a writer.

Built by public subscription in memory of the novelist Sir Walter Scott after his death in 1832, it was completed 170 years ago in August 1846. Today visitors can see an exhibition on Scott's life inside and climb 287 steps to

the top for spectacular views of Princes Street Gardens and much of the city. The monument is often the first glimpse visitors have of Edinburgh as they arrive at Waverley train station, named after Scott's famous *Waverley* novels. Eleanor Pender from the Edinburgh City of Literature Trust, added: "We are delighted that the Scott Monument is being lit up ahead of the darker nights. It is an iconic city landmark celebrating one of the world's greatest literary figures and a great visual reminder of Edinburgh's status as the world's first UNESCO City of Literature."

Did you know?



Boxing Day is a fairly recent addition to Scotland's Christmas celebrations. In some parts of the country, December 26th was Sweetie Scone Day, when the Lord or Lady of the estate would give cakes

made with dried fruit and spices to their workers and the poor (who couldn't afford these luxurious ingredients).

Best charity raffle prize ever?

An idyllic 7-Acre Scottish island estate, with its own cinema, coffee shop and adventure playground is up for grabs!



We've all fantasized about getting away from it all—of firing our boss, leaving the stress of the daily rat race behind, and relaxing into the comfort of a carefree lifestyle on some picturesque island with views of the sea, heather covered valleys, and striking granite mountains. Well, this could be the opportunity that you've always dreamed of!

Isle of Arran

Boots on the Ground (.org), a humanitarian organization best known for saving lives in the aftermath of major disasters, is giving the world a chance to win a sprawling private country estate on the stunning Isle of Arran (Eilean Arainn in Scottish Gaelic) in a charity fundraising raffle being billed as a potentially "life changing".

"We're trying to do something special here", said Sam Wilson, a spokesman for Boots on the Ground, the legal operator of the raffle. "The owners, who want to remain anonymous, could have simply sold the property and pocketed the profits—but they want to make a difference; they want

to change lives. And those profits will go to do exactly that!" he said.

The seventh-largest island in Scotland, Arran has been continuously inhabited for thousands of years—and yet it's largely unspoiled. From colossal granite highlands to sweeping heather-covered valleys, ancient standing stones and castles, to pristine beaches and rare wildlife—Arran is known as "Scotland in Miniature" because it's as if someone took the best of everything Scotland has to offer, crunched it down, and placed it conveniently just off the coast on one 167 square mile (432 square kilometer) island.

Outdoor paradise

Arran is an outdoor paradise and it has everything you could ever want in one location—sailing, surfing, gorge walking, climbing, hill walking, biking, paragliding, and more—it's been voted Europe's top tourist island. With seven different golf courses dotted around the island too, the winner can play a new round every single day of the week.

"Someone is going to walk away with much more than just an estate—they'll win the ultimate lifestyle. Similar to popular 'Dream Home' draws, this raffle is opening the door up for anyone to win a slice of paradise." Said Sam. He continued, "Not only will the winner's life be changed by winning a property they may not have been able to buy on their own, but all of the profits will help survivors of disasters and others in developing nations who deserve opportunities too. That's really exciting."

The Isle of Arran is easily accessible from the mainland by regular ferry, and close to

Scotland's major airports. The new owner can live on the property and use it as their private resort, sell it at a profit, rent it out to tourists, or lease the property and enjoy a handsome hands-off income. They'll get a spacious home with views of the sea and mountains for miles, a massive coffee shop, a 42-seat custom-built movie theater, a spacious private gym, huge adventure park with 50-foot leap of faith, ice skating rink, go karts, duck pond, the largest bouncy pillows in Europe, and more.

"We've been helping people in need all over the world in the aftermath of some of the worst disasters in modern history. There's nothing more important than serving and making a difference in people's lives—and this is a wonderful way to do that. Not everyone can deploy like we do, but they can participate in this raffle. Even if they don't win the grand prize, they'll still be helping others because those profits will fund worthy projects. Everyone who buys a ticket or tickets will be doing good." Said Sam.

Boots on the Ground

So what projects will the profits go to support? Boots on the Ground is dedicated to empowering volunteers to provide in-field emergency and other assistance required to sustain life, facilitate recovery, and to encourage and promote long-term development, stability, and peace in underserved areas of the world. Military veterans, in particular, are provided free training and the opportunity to use their background in the service of others both at home and abroad.

Another program the profits will support is in emerging technology for developing nations; Boots on the Ground will roll out TV white space broadband in remote areas. The United Nations declared internet access a human right, and we're developing low-cost high speed connectivity programs in places like Haiti, where less than 18% of the population has access to internet once a year.

Jeff Albrecht, a world-renowned artist also from California, has also donated paintings based on photographs showing the devastation left in Haiti and Japan that are going to be raffled off. Additional cash prizes will be offered, as well as, social media raffles that require no purchase at all.

For just \$75 USD, almost anyone can have the chance to win the island estate—and the odds of winning are significantly higher than state-ran lotteries or power balls.

For more information on prize inclusions or to purchase tickets, visit: www.islandraffle.com

For more information about BOTG visit: www.bootsontheground.org

For more information about BOTG White Space Internet programs, visit: www.whitespaceinternet.org



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Boots on the Ground is a 501(C)(3) international non-profit humanitarian aid and charitable organization, dedicated to empowering veterans and qualified civilians to provide in-field emergency and primary medical care, and other assistance required to sustain life, facilitate recovery, and to encourage and promote long-term development, stability, and peace in underserved areas of the world. We save lives, and you can help.



Text and photos by: Nick Drainey

Rambling Scotland



Cairn Gorm and Britain's only reindeer herd

Refresh and enliven your senses in Scotland, a country perfect for walking. Whether you want a gentle stroll in the countryside among the trees and rivers, a breezy coastal stroll along sandy beaches or a walk through the wild mountain and loch scenery, Scotland has all of this in abundance. Nick Drainey will be taking readers on some of his favourite walks around the country and this month visit's the Cairn Gorm with its unique sub-arctic habitat and home to the Britain's only herd of reindeer as he explains.



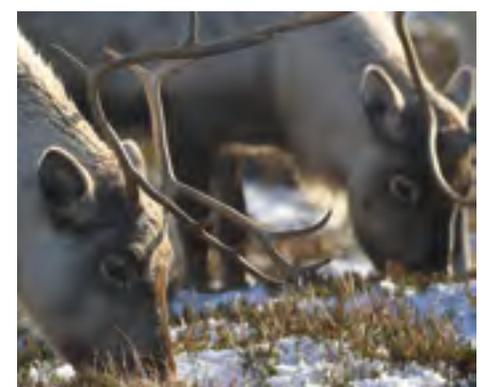
Reindeer are in demand at this time of year and the Cairngorms is without a doubt the best place in Scotland to spot them. They are not seen in the sky pulling a sleigh but Britain's only herd of the hoofed animal thrive on the 10,000 acres of sub-arctic tundra found high in the mountains.

A walk up the Cairn Gorm offers great views, especially the shattered rocks of Coire an t-Sneachda but the first thing often mentioned by visitors when they return to the Glenmore Forest below is the sight of reindeer. They were introduced in 1952 by Mikel Utsi and his wife Dr Ethel Lindgren, 800 years after they had been hunted to extinction in Scotland.

Meat source

The couple had visited the Cairngorms on their honeymoon and Mr Utsi said afterwards: "Looking across Rothiemurchus Forest to the Cairngorms from the railway bridge at Aviemore

on a cold morning in April 1947, I was instantly reminded of reindeer pastures in Lapland... species of ground, rock and tree lichens, which are elsewhere the chief food of reindeer, were plentiful and of little use to other animals." Mr Utsi, a reindeer herder from Sweden thought the animals would be a good source of food in the post-war years. However, the public did not share the same appetite to eat the hardy animals as their Scandinavian cousins.



Nevertheless, Mr Utsi grew the herd from a start with two bulls and five cows brought over from Sweden, and there are now 150 of them, visible on the mountainsides. Others can be seen in paddocks next to a visitor centre at a cottage which serves as the base for Cairngorm Reindeer, the operation founded by Mr Utsi. Looking up to the Northern Corries of the Cairngorms, Imogen Taylor, a reindeer herder based at the centre, says they are “really easy to keep because they just run around on mountains and you don’t have to do anything with them”.



Cairngorms is the only place in the UK where we have sub-arctic habitat left so they really need that habitat and wouldn’t want to go into the forest – they are not going to Glasgow because there is no grazing there. The habitat keeps them there because it is the right habitat, in the same way that you don’t get red deer wandering around town.”

That is why they are such a regular sight for walkers in the mountains.

On a walk up Cairn Gorm the reindeer can be seen in Coire Cas when the skiers aren’t around and don’t even seem bothered by the funicular railway trundling past.

The “Windy Ridge Path” leads you up to the top of the railway and the Ptarmigan Station. Here, you can take a breather from the exertions of walking up and enjoy a hot chocolate at 3,600ft. This may seem a little odd but perhaps even stranger is the sight of reindeer walking past.

The walk continues from here to the top of Cairn Gorm – the easiest of the 4,000ft mountains in Scotland to reach but with superb views. South-west is Cairn Lochan, beyond the cliffs of Coire an t-Sneachda. Slightly west of south is Ben Macdui - the second highest mountain in Scotland. To the north on a really clear day you can see as far as Morven in Caithness.

Habitat loved by the reindeer

Below are the forests which surround Loch Morlich and in the foreground the



habitat loved by the reindeer. Don’t be fooled by all the signs of civilisation on the walk – the railway, ski slopes and cafe near the summit - it is dangerous terrain and claims human lives every year when Arctic conditions prevail. Walkers in winter have to make sure they are fully equipped for bad weather and can use a map and compass, as well as ice axe and crampons. But for reindeer these conditions are ideal.

Even in winter they flourish thanks to their thick coats which provide such insulation that they don’t melt the snow when they lie down. At the same time, extra wide, splayed hooves enable reindeer to spread weight on soft snow to prevent them sinking. The reindeer can, however, be seen away from the Cairngorms at this time of the year when they are used to

pull sleighs for Santa when he visits towns across Scotland. Ms Taylor adds: “That is their job – each individual reindeer does about five or six events a year over the two months of November and December.”

The reindeer can, however, be seen away from the Cairngorms at this time of the year when they are used to pull sleighs for Santa when he visits towns across Scotland.

She adds: “They were native here and the only reason they are not any more is because we over hunted them so they obviously played a role in the ecology. Mr Utsi was going to use them as a meat source because it was just after World War Two. But people here didn’t want to eat them so he had to think of a different way - people wanted to come and see them, so it grew from there. We now run a guided tour every day and their whole purpose is tourism.”

Sub-arctic habitat

But how do you keep track of these semi-wild animals? Ms Taylor says: “Technically they could go anywhere they want but the



Walk fact box:

Distance: 4 miles.

Height climbed: 2,000ft.

Time: 2½ to 3 hours.

Map: OS Landranger 36.

Start point: A few miles up past Loch Morlich is the Coire Cas car park, next to the funicular railway station.

Tartan of the Month - Hogmanay Plaid

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.



The battle of Flodden holds a powerful and melancholic place within the people of the Borders. This month many readers will be ringing in the bells and celebrating Hogmanay and our Tartan of the Month is suitably the Hogmanay Plaid (STA ref: 2621). Created to signify the birth of ‘A Brand New Year 1st January 2000’. This tartan was registered in 1999 and created by Parklands Fabrics. The Hogmanay Plaid was recorded prior to the launch of The Scottish Register of Tartans.

New stadium planned for Aberdeen FC

Aberdeen Football Club are planning an exciting new stadium and training facility. The Dons want to build the £40m stadium at Kingsford near Westhill in Aberdeenshire, eight miles away from their current Pittodrie home. Dons chairman Stewart Milne hopes to lodge a formal planning application before the end of the year. Milne also stated that the design of development would be one the “North-east can be justifiably proud of”. The Dons have visited various stadiums throughout Europe to gain idea to be incorporated in their final design. It is understood the new all-covered, all-seated arena, which would become Scotland’s most modern football stadium, will have a capacity of 19,000.



Photo: Aberdeen Football Club.



Edinburgh welcomes the world for Hogmanay

Edinburgh's Hogmanay - Midnight Fireworks. Photo: Chris Watt.

As another year soon comes to a close, Edinburgh's world-famous Hogmanay celebration ushers the New Year in with a bang. With Edinburgh Castle as its back drop Scotland's "festival city" is ready to welcome the world with music, culture and Auld Lang Syne. In the lead up to one of the world's greatest New Year parties the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney spoke to Penny Dougherty, Director, Unique Events (producers of Edinburgh's Hogmanay) on what revellers can expect at this year's event and just what makes Edinburgh the "Home of Hogmanay".



Penny Dougherty.

SC: Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party is one of the world's greatest New Year celebrations. Can you tell us briefly about the history of Hogmanay and how Edinburgh has become one of the top cities in the world to see in each New Year?

PD: Edinburgh's Hogmanay has been produced by Unique Events since its inception 24 years ago. From relatively humble beginnings, Edinburgh's

Hogmanay has grown into a world renowned festival with a packed programme of free and ticketed events throughout the city over three days. Edinburgh is the 'Home of Hogmanay', and we are expecting another sell-out event this year, welcoming 150,000 visitors from over 80 countries who bring an estimated economic benefit of over £40 million to the city.

The success of the Festival is due to a number of reasons, not least the beautiful city of Edinburgh itself. From the Torchlight Procession on 30th December to the World Famous Street Party and through to Scot:Lands on 1st January, Edinburgh's Hogmanay makes the very best use of the landscape and buildings of the city. Five firework displays on 30th and 31st December lift from the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle, Princes Street Gardens and Calton Hill, and are watched from vantage points around the city and further afield by an estimated 200,000 people (and

that's not including the many millions that watch them live on TV).

SC: Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations certainly have something for everyone of all ages. From top music acts, ceilidhs, a candlelit concert in St Giles Cathedral and of course the fireworks displays that lights up the city. Can you tell us what visitors to Edinburgh can expect and is there any new aspects to this year's festivities?

PD: There really is something for everyone this year. The celebrations begin on Friday 30 December with the family-friendly Torchlight Procession, which welcomes 30,000 participants (including 10,000 torchbearers) who wind their way through the city streets lined with tens of thousands of spectators. On Saturday 31 December, the musical line-up across the seven open air stages in the centre of the city promises to deliver an exhilarating party soundtrack for the anticipated

75,000 revellers. The flagship Concert in the Gardens features headliner Paolo Nutini, while the various stages across the Street Party feature music legends The Charlatans, leading Scottish Celtic crossover bands Salsa Celtica, Mànran and Ross Ainslie & Ali Hutton, and in collaboration with the Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival, James Brown is Annie, Brass Gumbo and Blues n Trouble. The Frederick Stage provides the soundtrack to the whole Street Party with a heart-thumping, show stopping, disco dancing set featuring DJ's, dancers and performers from Guilty Pleasures. Buttercup and Pixels mix cutting-edge visuals to accompany the dance tunes which are relayed on seven screens along the length of Princes Street and throughout the Street Party arena.

The Candlelit Concert will take place in the magnificent setting of St Giles' Cathedral and the record-breaking Old Town Ceilidh returns to Parliament Square with two live open air stages featuring the

best in traditional Scottish music and a new sponsor in Belhaven Brewery, who will be providing revellers with the best in local food and drink. The main Ceilidh Stage features performances from Kilter and HotScotch and 'Ceilidh Makers' will be on hand to make sure everyone knows the moves. The smaller stage features the very best in young Scottish musicians, including the award-winning Talisk, Top Floor Taivers and musicians from Feis Rois, for a more informal atmosphere.

“Edinburgh is the ‘Home of Hogmanay’, and we are expecting another sell-out event this year, welcoming 150,000 visitors from over 80 countries who bring an estimated economic benefit of over £40 million to the city.”

New Year revellers across Edinburgh and beyond will enjoy a feast of fireworks with countdown displays on the hour from 9.00pm, rising to the crescendo of the spectacular Midnight Moment as the fireworks lift from the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle, Princes Street Gardens and Calton Hill. The fireworks are followed by the world's largest rendition of Auld Lang Syne as old friends and new join hands across the arena to sing Burns' universal New Year anthem. On Sunday 1 January 2017 the 'Stoats Loony Dook' sees 1,250 'Dookers' in fancy dress, ranging from the weird to the wonderful, welcome the New Year with a dip in the River Forth at South Queensferry. Thousands of spectators are once again expected to line the streets to watch the Dookers parade through the town before plunging into the chilly water under the shadow of the world famous Forth Bridges. Also on New Year's Day, Edinburgh's Hogmanay presents Scot:Lands, an adventurous journey through some of the Old Town's most magnificent buildings to enjoy the very best in music, art and theatre created and curated by Scotland's most innovative artists and musicians; a festival in itself – all FREE.

The Final Fling, Edinburgh's Hogmanay closing ceilidh, will take place at 5.30pm at the National Museum of Scotland on Sunday 1 January. For the first time in the Festival's history and due to overwhelming demand a second concert, The Night Afore with Paulo Nutini, will take place in West Princes Street Gardens on Friday 30 December. Also new for 2016/17 Edinburgh's Hogmanay introduces Sprogmanay - New Year fun for families with young children offering arts and crafts, storytelling, music and dancing over the three days of the Festival. Sprogmanay events mirror those in the outdoor adult programme, including lantern processions, live music and a family ceilidh. Sprogmanay events are all free and will be concentrated in and around the National Museum of Scotland on Chambers Street.



Edinburgh's Hogmanay - Torchlight Procession audience. Photo: Chris Watt.

SC: Fire festivals are a renowned part of Hogmanay celebrations in Scotland. One of the great events to take place in Edinburgh is the Torchlight Procession, which attracts tens of thousands of people and creates a “river of fire”. Can you tell us how Shetland Vikings bearing torchlights have found their way onto Edinburgh's streets?

PD: The Torchlight Procession has been an integral part of Edinburgh's Hogmanay since the beginning. As you say, we couldn't celebrate Hogmanay without an element of fire, and the Torchlight Procession is a wonderful introduction to the Festival and to the city as it winds through the streets of the Old Town and up to Calton Hill. One of the most famous fire festivals in the world is Up Helly Aa in Shetland which takes place in January. We invited the Up Helly Aa Vikings to join us in our celebrations in 1992 and they've been with us ever since, providing a vibrant and noisy spectacle to kick start our party.

SC: After thousands see in 2017 some will turn into “dookers” and wake up on New Year's Day to a cold start at Loony Dook in South Queensferry, and the annual dip in the freezing River Forth. Can you tell us how this tradition started, how many will take part in this sold out event, and have you yourself ever dipped your toe in?

PD: The Loony Dook celebrated its 30th anniversary last year, and has been part of the official Edinburgh's Hogmanay programme for the last seven years. Two of

the original 'dookers', Jim Mackenzie and Iain Armstrong who live in South Queensferry, have participated every single year and we are looking forward to seeing them at the head of the procession again this year. There are Christmas and Hogmanay 'Dooks' all over Scotland (apparently it's a great way to clear the head after a good party), but the South Queensferry Loony Dook has grown and grown in popularity and there are now over 1250 dookers, all in weird and wonderful fancy dress, who parade through the village and immerse themselves in the River Forth, under the world famous Rail Bridge, raising thousands of pounds for charity.

As for me – well I'm there every year and while it might seem like quite a good idea in September when we put tickets on sale, standing in South Queensferry on a chilly, blustery New Year's morning is a very different thing. There is a very special moment when the dookers reach the water's edge and you see on their faces the dawning realisation that they are expected to fully immerse themselves in a very cold river. Thanks – but no thanks. I'm definitely a spectator on this one.

SC: Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations are both the last and first festivals for the “festival city” each year making Edinburgh truly a year round event destination. How important is it for Edinburgh to have year round festival's and how do these events make it the tourist destination it is today?

PD: 2017 marks the 70th Anniversary of the first Edinburgh International

Festival and the birth of Edinburgh as the world's leading Festival City. The 12 official Festivals are hugely important not only to the financial health of the city (bringing in an economic benefit of over £200 million to Edinburgh each year) but also to the cultural health of the city. The range of Festivals, which embrace performing arts, music, visual art, science, literature, theatre, storytelling, film and so much more, enhance Edinburgh's already sterling reputation as a must see destination for travellers around the world.

SC: And finally as a local do you have any advice for someone planning an Edinburgh adventure? Whether it be during the Hogmanay and holiday rush or throughout the year do you have any must-see suggestions or hidden local tips for visitors coming to Edinburgh?

PD: Edinburgh is a city for walking and exploring – the hidden gardens and graveyards of the Old Town, the closes and wynds off the Royal Mile and if you're feeling energetic how about the seven hills of the city? Or maybe just three – the views from the top of Arthur's Seat, Calton Hill and Castle Rock are well worth the effort. There are many ways to explore: you can take a literary pub crawl, or a Rebus tour visiting the sites in the Ian Rankin books, or a ghost tour taking in some of the spookier sights, or just wander and enjoy our beautiful city – whatever the weather, whatever the time of year.



Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2016 - Fireworks from Edinburgh Castle. Photo: Chris Watt.



Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2016 - Stoats Loony Dook. Photo: Chris Watt.

By : Angus Whitson



Whitson and Sea Dog Bamse tartans - two contemporary tartans Angus was personally involved in designing.

Tartan's enduring threads

This is the fourth and last article on Angus Whitson's very personal perspective on the phenomenon that is tartan.

Probably the most significant advance in tartan's evolution was the development of aniline or chemical dyes in the mid-1800's which produced the wider range of bright, rich colours for dyeing yarns which we know today. They allowed the dyer to achieve uniformity of colour which had not been available much before 1860. It became possible to weave tartan cloth which matched cloth woven a year previously and would match that woven a year later. More to the point, because the colours were fixed, it became possible to lay down and ordain what the colours of any tartan should be. The door opened for a proliferation of new family and clan tartans piggy-backing on the success of Sir Walter Scott's outstandingly successful choreographing of King George IV's visit to Scotland in 1822, followed by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's love affair with Scotland.

The growth of tartan thereafter is well documented in a number of excellent and scholarly books by authors such as J. Telfer Dunbar, Donald C Stewart, Frank Adam, James Scarlett, Brian Wilton and others, but I want to fast forward to the present. In their restless wanderings the Scots took their values, their religion, their music, their culture, and their tartans across the world, which contributed to the global awareness of tartan and the desire to claim it. Today there are tartans for clans, for families, for corporations, for nations, for states and provinces, cities and districts, for shortbread, for sarongs – they are called kiltongs. A rabbi has registered his personal tartan; so too has a whisky-tasting society of Swiss firemen who like to drink their whisky dressed in tartan.

The fabric of fashion

There are dress tartans, hunting tartans, a Mary Queen of Scots tartan, tartans for whisky, for sport, for Scottish societies. The variations seem endless. It's the fabric of fashion; it's the proud badge of Scottish regiments. There is a US 7th Cavalry tartan. Tartan was worn at the Battle of the Alamo; the Chinese government invited the Mains of Fintry Pipe Band, Dundee, to play at the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games – wearing Macbeth tartan – before an estimated audience of four billion. Commander Alan Bean carried a cutting of MacBean tartan when he walked on the moon during the

Apollo 12 landing in 1969.

Insatiable demand for tartan

If there is an end to the diversity of tartan designs it is a long way off. It is not just Scots and those of Scots descent who want to be associated with tartan. There is an insatiable demand for tartan and, through tartan, people worldwide want to be associated with the traditional values attributed to us Scots. There are people – tens of thousands of them – who, without in any way wishing to deny their own personal identity, are ineluctably drawn to the flame of tartan. The number of tartans registered with the Scottish Tartans Authority and Scottish Register of Tartans exceeds five figures but the figure is academic because every week more and more tartans are registered.

A tartan fringe of Celtic peoples runs down the western seaboard of Britain. It starts with us Scots and crosses the Irish Sea to encompass Ireland – the Irish already had their saffron kilts - and the Isle of Man. It crosses back to Wales and Cornwall then skips across the English Channel to the Celts of the Western continent in Brittany.

Celtic identity

The Celts were ever lovers of colour and around the mid-1950s these other Celtic nations saw how Scotland had established its tartan industry and they were stirred to embrace this symbol of Celtic identity. They began to design their own tartans and they have created a tartan trail.

Realistically, we must expect that most tartans will sink into obscurity. But in a hundred year's time people will look with the same reverence at those tartans that do survive, as we look at the Victorian clan tartans which survive today.

Possibly the most famous battle order in the history of the British army, recognising tartan's patrimony, was that of General Sir Colin Campbell as he prepared to relieve the Siege of Lucknow, during the Indian Mutiny, in 1857. "Bring forrit the tartan", he bellowed. "Let my ain lads at them". It is an indication of the ferocity of the fighting that, before breakfast, the 93rd Sutherland Highland Regiment won six Victoria Crosses – VC, the highest award for gallantry "in the face of the enemy" awarded to members of the British armed forces - while the pipes played The Haughs of Cromdale.

The tartan they wore was probably the Government tartan – Black Watch – but it may have been the Sutherland Regimental which was a variation.

Alice Claire Macdonell of Keppoch, Bardess to the Clan Macdonald (died 1938 aged 83), was a true daughter of the Highlands. Her poem, *The Weaving of the Tartan*, displays the fervent Highland spirit of a lady whose great-great-grandfather was the Keppoch who led the MacDonald's at Culloden and who fell in the battle.

The Weaving of the Tartan

I saw an old Dame weaving,
Weaving, weaving,
I saw an old Dame weaving,
A web of tartan fine.

"Sing high", she said, "sing low", she said,
Wild torrent to the sea,
That saw my exiled bairnies torn,
In sorrow far frae me.

And warp well the long threads,
The bright threads, the strong threads;
Woof well the cross threads,
To make the colours shine."

She wove in red for every deed,
Of valour done for Scotia's need:
She wove in green, the laurel's sheen,
In memory of her glorious dead.

She spake of Alma's steep incline,
The desert march, the "thin red line",
Of how it fired the blood and stirred the heart,
Where'er a bairn of hers took part.

"Tis for the gallant lads," she said,
"Who wear the kilt and tartan plaid:
'Tis for the winsome lassies too,

Just like my dainty bells of blue.

So weave well the bright threads,
The red threads, the green threads;
Woof well the strong threads
That bind their hearts to mine."

I saw an old Dame sighing,
Sighing, sighing;
I saw an old Dame sighing,
Beside a lonely glen.

"Sing high," she said, "sing low," she said,
"Wild tempests to the sea,
The wailing of the pibroch's note,
That bade farewell to me.

And wae fa' the red deer,
The swift deer, the strong deer,
Wae fa' the cursed deer,
That take the place o' men."

Where'er a noble deed is wrought,
Where'er the brightest realms of thought,
The artist's skill, the martial thrill,
Be sure to Scotia's land is wed.

She casts the glamour of her name,
O'er Britain's throne and statesman's fame;
From distant lands 'neath foreign names,
Some brilliant son his birthright claims.

For ah! – she has reared them amid tempests,
And cradles them in snow,
To give the Scottish arms their strength,
Their hearts a kindly glow.

So weave well the bright threads,
The red threads, the green threads,
Woof well the strong threads
That bind their hearts to thine.

For more content check out Angus Whitson's blog at manwithtwodogs.com

The 2016 Glenfiddich Piping Championships



The 2016 Glenfiddich Piping Champion Roddy MacLeod MBE.



Group photo of the ten Glenfiddich competitors, including Roddy MacLeod, who won the Piobaireachd and is overall Champion and Willie MacCallum who won March, Strathspey and Reel.

The 43rd Glenfiddich Piping Championships took place on Saturday 29th October at Blair Castle, Blair Atholl, Perthshire. With Roddy MacLeod MBE being crowned the 2016 Glenfiddich Piping Champion for the fifth time. The Glenfiddich Piping Championship was established in 1974 to bring together

the world's finest pipers who compete with renditions of the ancient and traditional piobaireachd (the great music) and the ceol beag (the little music). This years invited competitors came from Canada and Scotland, each year the winner of the event is (unofficially) known as the best solo piper in the world.

Photos courtesy of Derek Maxwell Photography.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - The first volume of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was published in Edinburgh, edited by William Smellie. **1768**

1 - First lighthouse in Scotland opened (at Kinnaird Head, Fraserburgh). It was built by Thomas Smith and Robert Stevenson. **1787**

1 - Hurricane-force winds caused widespread damage. **1966**

2 - Mary Slessor, West African missionary, born in Aberdeen. **1848**

3 - Robert Louis Stevenson died in Samoa. **1894**

3 - His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen opened and soon became the city's leading centre of entertainment. **1906**

4 - King William I (Lion) died at Stirling and was succeeded by his son Alexander II. **1214**

4 - Treaty of London, releasing James I from his 18 years captivity in England. **1423**

4 - Essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle, best known for his *History of the French Revolution* born in Ecclefechan. **1795**

4 - Cartoon character Desperate Dan first appeared in the *Dandy* comic. **1937**

5 - King Francis II of France, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, died. **1560**

5 - Death of Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the Brechin-born inventor of radar. **1973**

6 - King Alexander II crowned at Scone. **1214**

6 - Charles Edward Stewart's entry into Derby. **1745**

6 - The Battle of Dryfe Sands took place near Lockerbie, Scottish Borders, resulting in many casualties, it was a battle between the clans of Clan Maxwell and Clan Johnstone. Many were wounded by downward sword strokes known as "Lockerbie Licks". **1593**

7 - The birth of Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, the Anglo-Scottish aristocrat and second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary married Henry, her first cousin, on the 29 July 1565, to be the uncrowned "King Henry". Darnley was the second husband of Mary and father of King James VI of Scotland and James I of England. He was assassinated in February 1567 by person unknown, although Mary's third husband James, Lord Bothwell, was seriously implicated in the murder. **1545**



8 - Mary, Queen of Scots, born Linlithgow Palace. **1542**

9 - King Malcolm IV, King of Scotland, died at Jedburgh Castle. **1165**

10 - King Edward VIII abdicated and King George VI acceded to the throne. **1936**

10 - The death of Duncan Forbes of Culloden, the Lord President of the Court of Session. As a prominent Whig, like many Scots Forbes supported the Hanoverian cause and used his influence to dissuade a number of clans from joining the Jacobites. **1747**

11 - David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope born. **1781**

11 - Architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. **1928**

12 - Anne of Denmark, wife of King James VI, born. **1574**

13 - William Drummond, poet, born. Drummond was one of the first notable Scots poets to write exclusively in English after the Union of the Crowns in 1603. **1585**

14 - James V died at Falkland Palace. Mary Queen of Scots succeeded him. **1542**

14 - Glasgow District Underground opened, powered by electricity. **1896**

14 - Will Fyfe, comedian, died. **1947**



14 - University of Stirling instituted by Royal charter. **1967**

15 - The Zoological Society of Glasgow was founded on this day. **1936**

16 - Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland. Cromwell was the only invader of Scotland to conquer the whole country. **1653**

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

17 - Marriage contract between James IV and Margaret Tudor signed by King James. **1502**

17 - Lord Kelvin, scientist and inventor, died. **1907**

17 - Petrol rationing was imposed following the Suez crisis and the closure of the canal. **1956**

18 - Many Scottish historical records were lost when the ship Elizabeth of Burntisland sank off the English coast. The records had been taken to London by Oliver Cromwell and were being returned to Edinburgh. **1661**

18 - Society of Antiquaries founded. **1780**

18 - Death penalty for murder was formally abolished in Britain. **1969**

19 - *The Scotsman* newspaper moves to new offices at North Bridge in Edinburgh, remaining there until 1999. **1904**

20 - First General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. **1560**

20 - Entertainer Andy Stewart was born in Glasgow. Stewart is perhaps best known for his STV show, *The White Heather Club*, which began in 1960, and his songs *Ye Canna Shuv Yer Granny Off A Bus* and *Donald Where's Yer Troosers*. He died in 1993. **1933**

21 - Robert Liston, who was born in Linlithgow in 1794, performed the first operation in a British hospital using anaesthetic (ether). **1846**

21 - Pan Am 747 blew up and crashed at Lockerbie, Dumfries, killing 243 passengers, 16 crew and 11 Lockerbie residents. The Pan American jumbo jet bound for New York was blown out of the sky by a terrorist bomb and crashed onto the Scottish town of Lockerbie killing all 259 passengers and 11 people on the ground. **1988**

22 - James Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, son of James II, the deposed Catholic King of England, arrived at Peterhead in north-east Scotland to lead a Jacobite rebellion. **1715**

22 - Pop mega-star Madonna married movie-producer Guy Ritchie at Skibo Castle, putting Dornoch into the media spotlight. The couple has since divorced but helped create a Scottish wedding boom. **2000**

23 - Samuel Smiles, writer and author of *Self Help* and *Lives of Engineers*, born. **1812**

23 - Major outbreak of cholera in Scotland. **1831**

24 - King William I (Lion) crowned at Scone. **1165**



24 - Edinburgh Castle surrendered to Oliver Cromwell. **1650**

24 - General George Wade was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British army in Scotland after he had reported on the need for military roads in the country. **1724**

24 - Writer and geologist Hugh Miller died. **1856**

25 - Stone of Destiny removed from Westminster Abbey. **1950**

25 - Christmas Day becomes a public holiday in Scotland. It was abolished in 1640. **1958**

25 - The Jacobite army reached Glasgow. The military campaign to return a Catholic Stewart king to the throne in place of the Hanoverian Protestant King William III. **1745**

26 - Alexander III, the King of Scots, was married to Margaret, the daughter of Henry III, King of England, in York. **1251**

27 - King Charles I, imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle, reached an agreement with the Scots who offered military aid in exchange for a promise to establish Presbyterianism in England (but only for three years). **1647**

27 - Premiere of J M Barrie's play Peter Pan at the Duke of York Theatre, London. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir in 1860. **1904**

28 - The Tay Bridge disaster occurred. 75 passengers were killed when the structure collapsed under a train during a storm. **1879**

28 - Scotland's famous outlaw, Rob "Roy" MacGregor, died. He was immortalised in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Rob Roy*. **1734**

28 - James IV who liked to gamble played 'bylis' (similar to billiards) with a man described in records as "John Anderson that wantis the feit and handies". There's also a note mentioning that the king gave Anderson 14 shilling. **1501**

29 - Charles Macintosh, who patented waterproof fabric, born in Glasgow. **1766**

29 - William Ewart Gladstone, UK Prime Minister on four occasions, born 1809. **1809**

30 - Rangers' first match at their new Ibrox Stadium. It was a 3-1 victory over Hearts in the Inter-City League. **1899**

30 - The Albion Motor Company was established. At first the firm made motor cars and commercial vehicles, but from 1913 concentrated on the latter. **1899**

31 - Prince Charles Edward Stewart, The Young Pretender, was born in Rome. Known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie", after the Gaelic pronunciation of his name, he led the 1745 Jacobite attempt to overthrow the Hanoverian monarchy. Bonnie Prince Charlie or the Young Pretender, was the son of James, the Old Pretender. **1720**

31 - 72 killed at Glen Cinema Fire, Paisley. **1929**



31 - The farthing coin (a quarter of an old penny) ceased to be legal tender. **1960**

CALLING THE CLANS

Welcome to the *Scottish Banner's* Calling the Clans section. Our "Classified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan to these pages please contact your nearest *Scottish Banner* office for full details. Our address and phone numbers are located on page 2. If you are contacting your Clan be sure to tell them you saw them in the *Scottish Banner* and please support these great community organisations.

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President
3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565
Email: djbaird4@gmail.com

Regional Directors for Australia
David and Patricia Benfell
Email: clambairds@gmail.com
website: www.clambairdsociety.com

THE CLAN CAMPBELL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA



The Society exists for the benefit of all its members.

All Campbells or descendants of Campbells and members of Clan Septs are most welcome to join the Society. Branches exist in NSW, Vic, Qld & SA.

For information contact the National Secretary Judy Campbell
Ph: (08) 8260 3637
Email: campbelljr@optusnet.com.au
www.clan-campbell.org.au

CLAN BELL

Clan Bell North America



Cordially invites membership inquiries from persons Named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Computerized Genealogical data base available to help members in their research. Quarterly newsletter published. Tents hosted at major Scottish games from coast to coast.

Your Bell ancestry is important!
Visit our web site: www.clanbell.org
Contact our Membership Chairperson:
Pauline Bell
1513 Antera Drive, Wake Forest, NC 27587
e-mail: debellncc@regan.com

Clan Campbell Society (North America)



A society for Campbells, members of recognized septs, their descendants, and their friends. Recognized septs include: Ballantine, Burnett, Burns, Caddell, Calder, Harris, Hastings, Loudon, MacArthur, MacConachie, MacDunnid, MacIver, McKellar, MacKilvie, MacKenstock, MacNichol, MacTavish, MacThomas, Moore, Muir, Orr, Pinkerton, Thomas, Thompson.

Prospective members inquire to:
Secretary (secretary@csna.org)
Clan Campbell Society, (NA)
963 Plum Tree Lane
Fenton, MI 48430
www.csna.org

Clan Blair Society

Membership cordially invited from the descendants of all Blairs

Visit our Web Site at www.clanblair.org

Charles Diman
Membership Chairman
3413 Sunnybrook Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28210
Email: clannembership@clanblair.org



CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald
Contact: Secretary
secretary.victoria@clandonaldustralia.com

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mrs Christina Milne Wilson
Contact: Secretary
secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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

Clan Elliot Society, U.S.A.

Michael D. Elliot-Clan President

Welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family. Direct inquiries to:

Membership-Treasurer
Patricia Tenyson Bell
2984 Niskayna Blvd.
Medford, OR 97504



CLAN FARQUHARSON ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA



Clan Chief: Captain A.A.C. Farquharson, MC of Invercauld

Membership inquiries are invited from descendants of Farquharson and descendants of Sept family names. Please contact the association by mail to:

The Secretary
Clan Farquharson Association Australia
PO Box 585
SPRING WOOD, NSW 2777
or by Email to: farquhars@bigpond.com

Clan Donnachaidh

Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid



People who bear any of the above names or names of any of the Septs of the Clan (see advertisement from CA USA) are invited to join with us in our activities to promote Clan Donnachaidh. "The Children of Duncan" by participating in the various activities conducted by Scottish Societies.

For information & membership application, contact Gordon Robertson
58/157 Marconi Rd. Bonnells Bay NSW 2204

CLAN FERGUSSON SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



One of the oldest Highland Clans, stretches back in history to the founder of Scotland's monarchy, King Fergus 1.

President: BJ Ferguson
Please address inquiries to:
B. J. Ferguson, President, CFSNA
192 Hawthorne Hill Rd, Jasper, GA USA 30143

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

Chief Gilbert Robertson of Struan

Membership limited to all who share the Sept names: Duncan, Robertson, Reid, Collier, Dobson, Wilson, MacConachie, MacIver, MacJames, MacLellan, Mack, and all variations.

Worldwide Clan Society Branches:

UK: London & Southern Counties * Ramoth & Highlands
Canada: Ontario * Western Canada
Australia: New So. Wales * Victoria * Queensland * Western Australia
New Zealand: North Island of New Zealand
USA: Arizona * Carolina * Florida * Gulf Coast * Mid-Atlantic * Mid West * Northeast * Northern California * Pacific Northwest * Texas South * Rocky Mountains * Southern California * Upper Midwest

Learn more about Clan Donnachaidh "our History" Membership "our Clan Museum in Brora, Scotland" the DNA Project "locate a Branch near you". Visit our website:

<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>
Facebook: The Clan Donnachaidh Society
Email: DC@donnachaidh.com

THE CLAN FRASER SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



SALTOUN NORTH AMERICA LOVAT

The Clan Fraser Society of North America is one of the five authorized national societies operating worldwide under the authority of the Rt Hon. Lady Saltoun, Chief of the Name of Fraser, and the Rt. Hon. Lord Lovat, Chief of Clan Fraser of Lovat. Members receive a newsletter, "The Nessie" and support in doing genealogical research. All those bearing the name of Fraser, recognized Septs thereof and their descendants are cordially invited to contact the following for membership information:

Gary Fraser, Chairman
Roswell, GA
info@cfnsa.com

Kimbrell Franzer, Secretary
Lenoire, NC
info@cfnsa.com

cfnsa.com

Family of Bruce International, Inc.



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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

William A. Bruce, FSA Scot, President
5556 27th Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55417-1934

Polly A. (Bruce) Tifford, Secretary
5561 Earl Young Road
Bloomington, IN 47408
www.familyofbruce.org

Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.



CHIEF: Grant Davidson of Davidson cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing one of these Names: Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day; Dye; Dyon; Dawson; Dea; Deas; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dec; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dha; Kay; Key; Key; Key; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDugan; MacDugan; MacDha; McKiddie.

In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson.

Applications may be made on our website www.clanidavidson.org, or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, JP, PO. Box 519 Bankham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

Clan Douglas Society of North America

Recognized as Septs & Allied Families

Agnew	Crockett	Markens	Pringle
Bell	Dalyell	Horne	Ravell
Blackader	Dalrymple	Horne	Ravie
Blackader	Deal	Inglis	Rule
Blacklock	Dick	Kilgore	Rutherford
Blacklock	Dickie	Kilpatrick	Sandilands
Blackwood	Dickson	Kirkpatrick	Sandilands
Blackwell	Dixon	Kirkland	Steele
Breckinridge	Drysdale	Lockhart	Steele
Brown	Forest	Lockhart	Stewart
Brownlie	Forsyth	Lockhart	Syde
Carruthers	Foster	MacGuffey	Sydenham
Carruthers	Guthrie	MacGuffey	Troup
Carson	Guthrie	Maxwell	Tyrral
Cavers	Guthrie	McClintock	Wair
Chalmers	Guthrie	McClintock	Wair
Chalmers	Hamilton	Murray	Young

Visit our website: www.clan douglasociety.org

Jim Martin, Secretary
4115 Best Oak Court, Douglasville, GA 30135

Clan Galbraith Association



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

DNA testing project, Members Only databases, Biennial gatherings, Blog, Quarterly journal.

Join from only US\$15 p.a.
www.clan galbraith.org

Clan Buchanan Society International, Inc.



Invites membership of all Buchanans and of other septs:

Behanion	Leary	MacCuberty	MacMoris	Marchion
Coleman	Lennie	MacCubie	MacMurdo	Richardson
Cormack	Macalister	MacCubbin	MacMurphy	Risk
Cousland	Macalman	MacDonlevy	MacMurray	Rusk
Drewar	Macalister	MacGeorge	MacQuinn	Spittal
Dunlavy	Macalman	MacGibbon	MacQuinn	Walter
Dove	Macalman	MacGibbon	MacQuinn	Wason
Dye	MacCalman	MacGibbon	MacWhitie	Wattson
Gibb	MacCalman	MacGibbon	MacWhitie	Wattson
Gibby	MacCalman	MacGibbon	MacWhitie	Wattson
Gibben	MacCalman	MacGibbon	MacWhitie	Wattson
Gibson	MacCalman	MacGibbon	MacWhitie	Wattson
Gibson	MacCalman	MacGibbon	MacWhitie	Wattson
Gilbert	MacCalman	MacGibbon	MacWhitie	Wattson
Gilbertson	MacCalman	MacGibbon	MacWhitie	Wattson
Harger	MacCalman	MacGibbon	MacWhitie	Wattson
MacCameron	MacCalman	MacGibbon	MacWhitie	Wattson

Graeme Paul Watson, Mem. Secretary, 128 Oak Haven Drive, Statesville, NC 28625

CLAN DONALD AUSTRALIA



Under the patronage of the High Council of the Chiefs of Clan Donald

High Commissioner Mr Lachlan Macdonald

State Commissioners:

NSW Mr Lachlan Macdonald
Qld Mr A. Neil Macdonald
SA Ms Therese McCutcheon
Vic Mr Norman A Macdonald
WA Ms Pamela McDonald

www.clandonaldustralia.com
There is no joy without Clan Donald

Clan Dunbar of The House of Gospatric the Earl



Digible blood or marriage, all descendants of The Gospatric: Dunbar, Clapton, Corbett, Dundas, Edgar, Grey, Heryng, Home, Knox, Nisbett, Poddie, Strickland, Washington, Wedderburn and all spelling variations of each name. Also all other families who were associated with The Gospatric.

Write:
Christina Rev. Philip C. Dunbar
2506 Gramercy Dr.
Deltona, FL 32738-1039

American Clan Gregor Society

EST 1909

Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

Gregor Grier MacAdams MacNish Magruder McGehee Gregory King Peter Fletcher Gregg Lecky Black and many others

Joanne P. Lehr
11 Ballas Crt.
St. Louis, MO 63131-3036
Phone: 314-432-28742, registrar@acgsus.org
website: www.acgsus.org

CLAN DONALD QUEENSLAND



Commissioner: Neil Macdonald
PH: 0412 090990
29 Pinewood St, Gedburg Qld 4034
Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.clandonaldqld.org

There is no joy without Clan Donald

DURIE

The Durie Family Association and the Chief of the Name and Arms, Andrew Durie of Durie, CBE, etc., invite membership from all variant spellings of the name including Dury, Duree, Durie etc.

Genealogy information & enquiries welcome
Visit: www.duriefamily.co.uk

Clan Gregor Society



Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor 7th Baron of Lovat, and 10th Baron of Salisburgh, 2nd Chief of Clan Gregor

Great Lakes, New England, Pacific North West, Western U.S., and Southeast Chapters

www.clan gregor.org

For membership contact:
Barbara Dunlop
120 Woodland Glen,
Nashville, TN 37203-9713

Clan Cameron NSW Inc.



2018 Australian Gathering - details on website
<http://www.clan-cameron.org.au>

President: James R. Cameron jr.ta.cameron@gmail.com
Secretary: Terry Cameron jr.ta.cameron@gmail.com

Clan Donald, U.S.A., Inc.



Membership is open only to persons of the blood of Macdonald, however spelled or of the blood of a recognized associate family or is related by marriage or legal adoption to either of these write for more info and a complete Sept list.

Diane Carey-Schmitz
1685 Caditas Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91103,
cliticw@sbcbiglobal.net

Edmonstone Clan Society



Invites membership to anyone of the surname or variations:- Edmiston'e, Edmondston, Edmanson, Edmeston, Edmonson, Edmundson, etc Contact

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

Clan Guthrie - U.S.A. Inc

MEMBERSHIP INVITED

Clan Guthrie - U.S.A., Inc.
Membership Chair
Larry Guthrie
clanguthrieinfo@aol.com
www.clan guthrie.org



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 Holzkloster
212 MacKenzie Street
Toowoomba, QLD
Queensland, Australia
e-mail: william.holzkloster@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: gcfrida@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 Lloyddownn 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, Mackinn, 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, Dismore, Fleming, Moray, Murrise, Piper, Pypet, Small, Small, Small, Small, Spalding

www.clanmurray.org

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

Kathy Wolf
574 S. Mine Street
Lafayette, CO 80127-2021



Clan Shaw Society

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

Mike Shaw
Secretary
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020

Scottish Associations and Societies



Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

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

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



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.

(928) 524-7472 tartans@scottishtartans.org



Clan Pollock

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

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



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

For further info contact

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



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



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

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association.

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



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

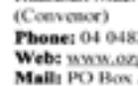
William L. Pringle, III
e-mail: williampringle3@gmail.com
Clan Pringle Assoc. (North America)
6538 140th Ave., Holland, MI 49423



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

For further info contact

President Frederic John Inkster 1490 NE Kane Street Rosburg, OR 97470 email: csales@chartr.net	Membership Secretary Alta Jean (AJ) Ginn 12147 Holly Knoll Circle Great Falls, VA 22066 email: alja.ginn@verizon.net
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Ruairidh MacAonghais, Neach Cathrach (Convener)
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fiom@ozgaelic.org
Web: www.ozgaelic.org
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235



Daughters of Scotia

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

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



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

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



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

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



Clan Skene Association, Inc.

Invites membership from Skene and septs Cariston, Carney-Carrie, Carndill, Dyas, Dyon, Dyon, Hall, Halyard/Halyard, MacGilliland, Rescoe, 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 Mackinn Australia	The Royal Caledonian Society
Clan Sinclair Association	Warrnambool & District Caledonian Society
Glenmaggie Scottish Folk Festival	Warrnambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society

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



CLAN ROSS AMERICA
ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION MERGED

Many Names - One Clan

Liz Ross, President

Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary
crmembership@abcglba1.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 1959. 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

DECEMBER 2016

2 Montreal, QC - The St Andrew's Society of Montreal St. Andrew's Ball

An Evening of dining, dancing and pageantry celebrating one hundred and eighty-one years of Scottish heritage in Montreal. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca.

3 Verdun, QC - Christmas Dinner

6:00pm Scottish Centre of Montreal 1610 Stephens Ave. Tickets: \$10.00. Info: Marilyn Cantley 514-366-0608.

17 Ottawa, ON - Ardrae Dancers of Ottawa Christmas Pot-Luck & Dance

At Parkdale United Church Hall, 429 Parkdale Ave. 6-10:30pm. Info: www.ardbrae.org.

25 Nationwide - Happy Christmas

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Christmas!

31 Victoria, BC - Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society New Year's Eve Social

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

31 Ottawa, ON - Hogman-eh! New Year's Eve 2016

See in 2017 Scottish style, presented by The Scottish Society of Ottawa at the Aberdeen Pavilion, Landsdowne, 945 Bank St. Info: www.thescottishsocietyofottawa.com.

31 Nationwide - Happy Hogmanay

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for 2017!

JANUARY 2017

14 Montreal, QC - Sir John A's Great Canadian Kilt Skate

Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday and Canada's first Prime Minister at an event both uniquely Canadian and undeniably Scottish. Info: www.kiltskate.com

20 Toronto, ON - Burns' Night Dinner Celebration

Celebrate the bard with the St Andrew's Society of Toronto at The University Club of Toronto, 380 University Ave. Info: www.standrews-society.ca.

20 Montreal, QC - St Andrew's Society of Montreal Burns Supper

An evening to celebrate Robert Burns at the University Club. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca ;

21 Regina, SK - Robbie Burns Tartan Ceilidh

Join the Sons of Scotland, Camp Balmoral #177 for the 118th Annual Robert Burns Dinner and evening of Scottish entertainment at St. Mary's Hall, 2020 Winnipeg St. Info: SOS_BurnsNight@yahoo.com.

21 Toronto, ON - Sir John A's Great Canadian Kilt Skate

Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday and Canada's first Prime Minister at an event both uniquely Canadian and undeniably Scottish. Info: www.kiltskate.com

21 New Westminster, BC - Burns Supper

Celebrate the Bard at Centennial Lodge Queen's Park Info: John Todd 604-939-3631.

21 Verdun, QC - Robbie Burns Dinner

Scottish Centre of Montreal 1610 Stephen Ave. Ticket \$25. Info: John Rodger: 450-691-1676.

21 Kincardine, ON - Kincardine Scottish Pipe Band

Each January, The Kincardine Scottish Pipe Band arranges a dinner in his honour, following a traditional Burns Supper of music, poetry and memories of Burns at the Royal Canadian Legion. Info: www.kspb.ca.

21 Vancouver, BC - Vancouver Branch of the RSCDS Burns Supper

Traditional Scottish meal with all the trimmings, music from the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, entertainment and more at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St. Info: burns@rscdsvancouver.org or www.rscdsvancouver.org.

25 Nationwide - Burns Night

Celebrate the bard! January 25th marks the annual celebration of Scotland's national poet Robert Burns.

28 Cobourg, ON - Robert Burns Night Dinner

The Cobourg Highland Games Society is proud to present our annual Robbie Burns Fundraising Dinner at 560 Dodge St. Info: 905-376-2441 or www.cobourghighlandgames.ca

28 Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC - West Island Robbie Burns Night

Shanks Events & Entertainment & Montreal Celtic Society celebrate Robert Burns at Karnak Shriners Center. Info: www.brownpapertickets.com

28 Ottawa, ON - Robbie Burns Night

Traditional Burns Supper-Ballroom and Scottish dancing, Sons of Scotland Pipes and Drums at St Elias Banquet Centre, 750 Ridgewood Ave. Info: 613-410-2460 or campargyle26@gmail.com.

28 Ottawa, ON - Sir John A's

Great Canadian Kilt Skate
Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday and Canada's first Prime Minister at an event both uniquely Canadian and undeniably Scottish. Info: www.kiltskate.com

28 Winnipeg, MB - Sir John A's

Great Canadian Kilt Skate
Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday and Canada's first Prime Minister at an event both uniquely Canadian and undeniably Scottish. Info: www.kiltskate.com

28 Saskatoon, SK - Sir John A's

Great Canadian Kilt Skate
Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday and Canada's first Prime Minister at an event both uniquely Canadian and undeniably Scottish. Info: www.kiltskate.com

28 Halifax, NS - The Halifax Burns

Club 20th Burns Supper
Celebrate Robert Burns at the Delta Halifax. Info: www.halifaxburnsclub.org.

USA

DECEMBER 2016

2 - 4 Alexandria, VA - Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend

Celebrate Scotland and support The Campagna Center. Info: (703) 549 0111 or www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend

2 Annapolis, MD - USNA Pipe Band Concert

United States Naval Academy, the only active duty pipe band in the Department of the Navy, live at Mahan Hall. Info: www.navyperforms.showare.com.

3 Dunedin, FL - Dunedin Scottish Arts Foundation Solo Piping & Drumming Contest

Piping and drumming competition at the DSAF Hall, 1134 Douglas Ave. Info: www.dunedinhighlandgames.com.

4 Vernon, WA - Scottish Music Session

Scottish and Celtic music at the Littlefield Celtic Center. Info: www.celticarts.org.

6 Rockville Centre, NY - 3rd Annual NY Metro Pipe Band Holiday Party

Celebrate with NYMPB for the holidays at St Agnes Parish Center, 26 Quealy Pl. Info: www.nymetropipeband.com.

17 - 18 New York, NY - 18th

Annual Pipes of Christmas
From the bold sounds of the bagpipes and the harmonious blending of brass, strings and percussion, to the poetic and lyrical words that complement them, the Pipes of Christmas is a festival for the soul. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com.

25 Nationwide - Happy Christmas

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Christmas!

26 Anchorage, AK - Boxing Day

Scottish Country Dancing
Dance off the turkey at Fairview Recreation Center, 1121 E 10th Ave. Info: www.akcelts.org.

31 Nationwide - Happy Hogmanay

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for 2017!

JANUARY 2017

13 - 15 Kansas City, MO - Winter Storm Weekend

Pipes & Drums event; consisting of master classes, concerts, and competitions for piping and drumming enthusiasts. Info: www.mhaf.org

14 Jackson, CA - Mother Lode Scots Annual Robert Burns Supper

Celebrate the bard with Mother Lode Highland Games and Mother Lode Scots. Info: www.MotherLodeScots.com

14 - 15 Winter Springs, FL - 40th Central Florida Scottish Highland Games

Experience traditional highland athletics, dance, art, music, culture, food and a Gaelic spirit at Central Winds Park. Info: www.flascot.com.

14 Modesto, CA - Piping at the Mansion

An afternoon of Scottish music as a dozen of Northern California's finest bagpipe soloists perform at the McHenry Mansion. Info: Michael Akard (209) 380-8683.

20 New York, NY - The 22nd Burns Night Gala Celebration

The American-Scottish Foundation event held in association with the University Club, New York. Info: 212 605 0338 or www.americanscottishfoundation.com.

21 Sarasota, FL - Sarasota St Andrew Society Burns Supper

Celebrate the bard at the Palm Aire Country Club. Info: www.standrewsocietyarasota.com.

21 Edgewater, MD - Robert Burns Society of Annapolis Burns Night Dinner

Honor the life and legacy of Scotland's most famous poet with its 40th annual Burns Supper at the Annapolis Elks Lodge No. 622, at 2 Pythian Dr. Info: 410-721-7550 or www.robertburnssocietyofannapolis.org.

21 Denver, CO - St. Andrew Society of Colorado Burns Supper

An evening of Celebrating the life of Robert Burns with fine food and Scottish entertainment at Denver Marriott Tech Center, 4900 S. Syracuse St. Info: 303-779-1100 or www.coloradoscots.com.

21 Hollywood, FL - The Scottish American Society of South Florida Burns Supper

Commemorating the 258th Anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns at the Orangebrook Golf and Country Club, 400 Entrada Dr. Info: www.sassf.org.

25 Nationwide - Burns Night

Celebrate the bard! January 25th marks the annual celebration of Scotland's national poet Robert Burns.

28 Eureka, CA - North Coast Scottish Society Burns Supper

Celebrate the bard. Info: Denise (707) 498-3014 or www.northcoastscots.org.

28 Studio City, CA - 2017 St. Andrew's Society Los Angeles Burns Supper

An evening to celebrate Scotland's National Bard, Robert Burns at Sportsmen's Lodge. Info: www.saintandrewsla.org.

28 Anchorage, AK - Haggis Basher's Ball and Burns Supper

The 17th anniversary of the Anchorage Robert Burns Supper in honor of Scotland's greatest poet, Robert Burns at Sheraton Anchorage. Info: 907-277-7555 or www.tarbas.org.

28 - 10 Seattle, WA - Celtic Arts Winter School

Immerse yourself in Celtic music—learn from some of the world's most talented Celtic musicians. Info: (360)416-4934 or www.celticarts.org.

SCOTLAND

DECEMBER 2016

1 - 31 Stirling - Stirling's Winter Festival

Stirling greets the winter with a programme of events of festive events including Hogmanay, including a Santa Parade, festive film screenings and a Resolution Run on 1 Jan. Info: www.stirlingwinterfestival.com.

1 - 31 Edinburgh - Edinburgh's Christmas

The festival is a fantastic Christmas celebration, and great fun for the whole family. Info: www.edinburghschristmas.com.

1 - 31 Glasgow - Glasgow Loves Christmas

Marvel at the magical festive spectacular of the Style Mile Carnival, The Christmas Market also returns to St Enoch Square and George Square, with stalls, food and rides. and more. Info: www.glasgowloveschristmas.com.

9 - 11 Glamis - The Glamis

Castle Christmas Market
Crafters and delicatessen shall fill the courtyard at the back of the castle and shall provide lots of festive goodies for all your Christmas shopping needs at Glamis Castle. Info: +44 1307 840393 or www.glamis-castle.co.uk.

25 Nationwide - Happy Christmas

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Christmas!

29 Ayr - The Red Hot Chilli Pipers Live

A unique brand of 'bag rock' with stirring tunes and energetic performances. Info: www.rhcp.scot.

30 - 1 Edinburgh - Edinburgh's Hogmanay

Highlights include the torchlight procession, the world famous Street Party, with live music stages, traditional Ceilidh dancing, famous Midnight Moment fireworks lifting from Edinburgh Castle and much more. Info: www.thisisedinburgh.com

31 Aberdeen - Aberdeen's Hogmanay

Welcome in the new year with exciting live performances from local bands before a spectacular fireworks display is fired from the rooftop of His Majesty's Theatre in the heart of the city. Info: www.aberdeeninvestlivevisit.co.uk.

31 Glasgow - Hogmanay Hootenanny

Bring in the New Year with family and friends at The National Piping Centre's Hogmanay Hootenanny. Info: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk.

31 Biggar - The Biggar Bonfire

South Lanarkshire town's own New Year celebration with ancient fire. Info: www.biggarbonfire.org.uk.

31 Stonehaven - Stonehaven Fireball Festival

A parade of fireballs swingers that starts on the bells at midnight to welcome in the new year. in Stonehaven. Info: www.stonehavenfireballs.co.uk.

31 Nationwide - Happy Hogmanay

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for 2017!

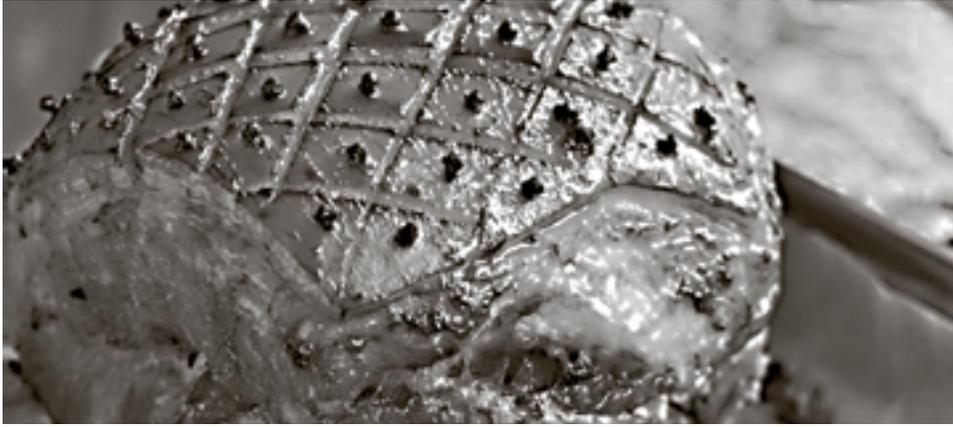
Answers to Scotword on Page 7

ACROSS -1 Wigeon; 4 Milkmaid; 10 Spanner; 11 Valleys; 12 Tide; 13 Gleneagles; 16 Beadle; 17 Dornoch; 20 Chanter; 21 Icicle; 24 Portobello; 25 Mull; 27 Ditched; 29 Clanned; 30 Ringside; 31 Elders.

DOWN -1 Washtubs; 2 Grandfather; 3 Owns; 5 Inventor; 6 Kilmarnock; 7 Awe; 8 Desist; 9 Drill; 14 Lochcluanie; 15 Glenrothes; 18 Beheaded; 19 Ceilidhs; 22 Spider; 23 Flock; 26 Gael; 28 Tun.

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN

This month gather friends and family around and eat perhaps a bit more than you should, and celebrate Christmas and Hogmanay with a great range of food and drink. From our table to yours-Happy Holidays!



Glazed Christmas ham

Ingredients

For cooking the gammon
2-4kg/4lb 8oz. -9lb unsmoked boneless gammon joint, tied
2 onions, halved
2 carrots, unpeeled, cut into 5cm/2in pieces
2 celery stalks, cut into 5cm/2in pieces
4 bay leaves
12 black peppercorns
small handful cloves
For the glaze
4 tbsp. runny honey
4 tbsp. English mustard

Method:

Place the gammon joint into a large lidded saucepan, cover with cold water and bring to the boil over a high heat. Drain the water from the saucepan, add fresh cold water, add the onions, carrots, celery, bay leaves and peppercorns and bring to the boil once more. Reduce the heat, cover with a lid and simmer the gammon and vegetables gently for 20 minutes per 500g/1lb 2oz. (If your pan is not quite large enough to cover the joint completely, turn the gammon over halfway through the cooking time.)

Remove the gammon from the water and set aside to cool for fifteen minutes. (The cooking liquid can be strained and reserved for making soup for another time.)

Pre-heat the oven to 200C/400F/ Gas 6 and line a large roasting tin with aluminium foil.

Use a small knife to remove the rind from the gammon joint, leaving as much of the fat intact as possible. Score the fat in a diamond pattern, and push a clove into the centre of each 'X'.

Place the gammon into the foil-lined roasting tray, ensuring that the sides of the foil come half way up the joint to contain any roasting juices.

For the glaze, mix the honey and mustard together and brush half of it evenly over the gammon, including one side of the joint. Roast in the centre of the oven for ten minutes, then take the joint out and brush the top and remaining side with the rest of the glaze. Return the gammon to the oven for a further 10-15 minutes, rotating the roasting tin so that

the opposite side of the gammon faces the back of the oven.

The gammon is ready when the fat on top is glossy and golden brown. Cover loosely with foil if the top begins to look too brown. Remove the gammon from the oven and set aside to rest for 15 minutes before carving.

Pour any juices that have collected in the aluminium foil into a small pan, and warm through gently.

Carve the gammon, serve on a large platter and spoon over the warmed juices.

Christmas turkey



Ingredients:

20ml/¾fl oz. rapeseed oil
1 x 5kg/11lb good-quality free-range turkey, preferably organically reared, wishbone removed (ask your butcher to remove the wings and neck and chop them into 2.5cm/1in pieces to use in the dish)
40g/1½oz unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
2 pinches sea salt flakes
2 pinches freshly ground white pepper
200ml/7fl oz. water
salt and freshly ground black pepper
1-2 tsp ground arrowroot (depending on how thick you like your gravy), dissolved in 1 tbsp. cold water
roast potatoes and steamed seasonal vegetables, to serve

Method

Remove the turkey from the fridge and bring to room temperature - this will take at least an hour.

When you are ready to cook, preheat the oven to 230C/220C fan/Gas 8.

Heat the rapeseed oil in a large, heavy-based roasting tray on the stove top. Add the chopped turkey wings and neck and fry for 8-10 minutes, turning the pieces over every 2-3 minutes, or until evenly browned all over.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, soften the butter with the back of a dessert spoon, then season with the salt and freshly ground white pepper. Using a pastry brush or your hands, smear the seasoned butter all over the turkey. Add any remaining

butter to the roasting tray once the chopped wings and neck have browned.

Place the turkey on top of the wing and neck pieces, then roast in the oven for 30 minutes.

Remove the turkey from the oven and baste all over with the cooking juices.

Reduce the oven temperature to 160C/150C fan/Gas 3.

Pour the water into the roasting tray, then return the turkey to the oven and continue to cook for a further 1 hour, basting the bird with the cooking juices every 20 minutes (do this quickly to prevent the heat escaping from the oven).

At the end of the cooking time, test that the turkey is cooked through by inserting a skewer or roasting fork into the thickest part of its thigh; if the juices run clear, the meat is cooked. Alternatively, use a meat thermometer; if cooked, the temperature should be 74°C or above. If the turkey is not fully cooked, return it to the oven for a further 20 minutes or until the juices run clear.

Remove the turkey from the oven and transfer the bird to a large, deep-sided tray, reserving the roasting tray the turkey was cooked in along with the cooking juices. Set the turkey aside to rest for a minimum of 30 minutes and up to 1½ hours.

While the turkey is resting, cook your roast potatoes and vegetable dishes.

When you're almost ready to serve the meal, return the roasting tray used to cook the turkey to the stove top. Bring the cooking juices to the boil over a medium heat, scraping up any burned bits from the bottom of the tray using a wooden spoon.

Collect the juices released by the turkey as it was resting and add them to the gravy. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper, if needed.

Reduce the heat until the gravy is simmering, then stir in the dissolved arrowroot and cook until the gravy has thickened.

Strain the gravy through a fine sieve into a warmed jug. Keep warm.

To serve, bring the turkey to the table and carve into slices. Serve with the roast potatoes and vegetables. Pour over the gravy.

Brandy butter



Ingredients:

110g/4oz. unsalted butter, softened
85g/3oz. light muscovado sugar
85g/3oz. icing sugar, sieved
3 tbsp. brandy or cognac

Method:

Put the butter in a bowl. Beat well with a wooden spoon till soft or for speed use an electric hand whisk (and if you use a food processor then there is no need to sieve the icing sugar).

Beat in both the sugars till smooth, then

add the brandy. If you are over generous with the brandy it will curdle so just beat in more sieved icing sugar and it will come smooth again.

Serve with the Christmas pudding or even as a addition to a mince pie.

Eggnog



Ingredients:

6 medium free-range eggs (preferably organic and as fresh as possible), separated
150g/5½ oz. golden caster sugar
500ml/18fl oz. whole milk
400ml/14fl oz. double cream
350ml/12fl oz. rum, bourbon or a mixture of the two, depending on your preference
freshly grated nutmeg, to taste

Method:

Whisk the egg yolks in a bowl with 100g/3½ oz. of the caster sugar until the mixture is pale yellow and thick (this is best done with an electric handheld mixer).

Stir in the milk, double cream, and the rum and/or bourbon. You can add a little grated nutmeg as well, if you like your nog this way.

Pour the mixture into two 750ml/1½ pint bottles with stoppers and store in the fridge for up to two weeks. (The alcohol will prevent any spoilage of the eggs or cream.)

Place the egg whites in a box and freeze until ready to serve the egg nog.

When ready to serve, defrost the egg whites into a clean metal or glass bowl.

Using a handheld electric mixer, whisk the egg whites until foamy and opaque. Add the remaining 50g of sugar and whisk the egg whites until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed.

Pour the egg nog from the bottles into a large bowl and fold in the egg whites until well combined. Ladle the egg nog into glass tumblers and serve with a little freshly grated nutmeg over the top of each glass.

Spiced mulled wine

Ingredients:

½ bottle red wine
1 cinnamon stick
2 star anise
2 cloves
1 orange, sliced
1 lemon, sliced
50g/1¾oz. brown sugar

Method:

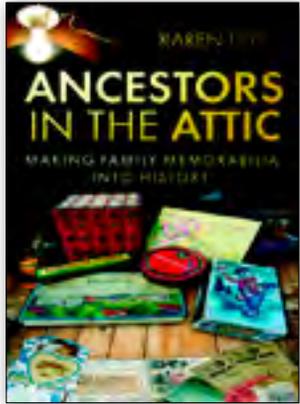
Place all of the ingredients into a saucepan and simmer gently for 6-8 minutes, without boiling. Alternatively, place the ingredients in your slow cooker and cook on low until warm (1-2 hours, depending on your slow cooker).

To serve, pour the mulled wine into heat proof glasses.

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Ancestors In The Attic

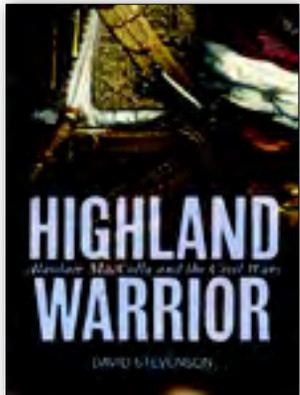


By: Karen Foy

A guide to a fantastic and often overlooked resource to learning more about ancestors' everyday lives. Much family history focuses on digging around archives and web searches, but this book shows that attics and closets can often hide a treasure trove of personal documents and ephemera. Boxes full of photographs, hastily written notes, old tickets, postcards, ration books, a soldier's hat, a bundle of letters, perhaps a diary, are all invaluable sources of information about family history. **Paperback 208 pages, IPG 4282, \$27.95 USD/\$27.95 CDN + S/H**

Highland Warrior

Alasdair MacColla and the Civil Wars

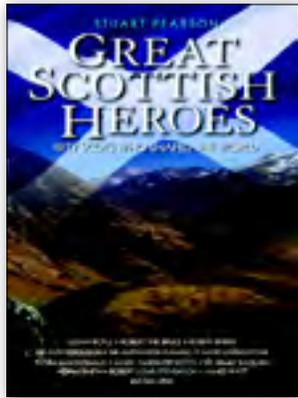


By: David Stevenson

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

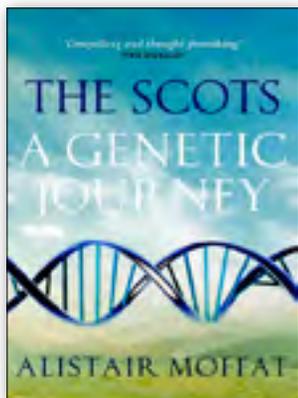


By: Stuart Pearson

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

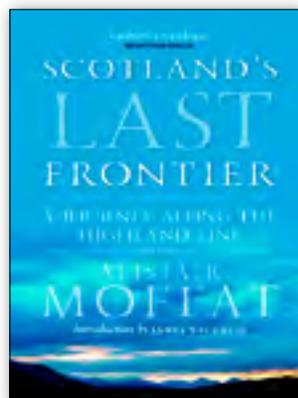


By: Eileen Crofton

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

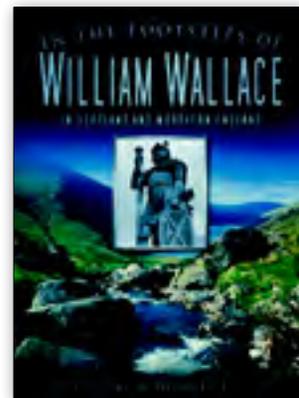
A Journey Along the Highland Line



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



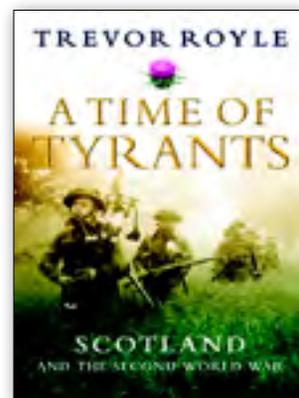
By: Alan Young,

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

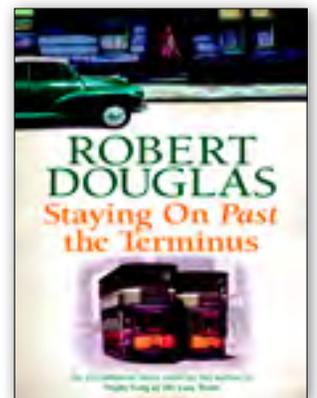
Scotland and the Second World War



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.**

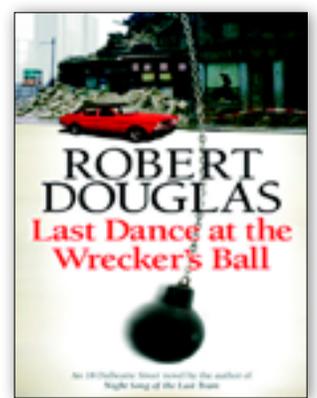
Staying On Past the Terminus



By: Robert Douglas

Glasgow 1961. It is ten years since we last visited the close at 18 Dalbeattie Street in Maryhill. The stalwarts are still there...Ella, Drena, Rhea and Granny Thomson (86). Irma the German war bride speaks fluent Scots nowadays. Well, fluent if you were brought up in the same close as *The Broons* and *Oor Wullie*. Glasgow's beloved trams still run on the Maryhill Road. But not for long. There will not be a tramcar left in Glasgow by the end of next year. The new tenant, Frank Galloway knows all about this - he's a driver. The other new arrival is Ruby Baxter who impresses no one with her attitude - as Granny Thomson says she's no better than she ought to be, that yin! Robert Douglas brings his usual blend of laughter and tears to this latest novel and his many fans will not be disappointed. **416 pages, IPG-0299, paperback, \$12.95 USD/\$12.95 CDN +S/H,**

Last Dance at the Wrecker's Ball



By: Robert Douglas

Glasgow, 1971. The old way of life is under threat for the tight-knit community in Dalbeattie Street, Maryhill. The shadow of the wrecking ball looms large over their homes, and they must face the choice of moving to a new estate or dispersing throughout the city. But powerful friendships refuse to be broken; these characters have gone through too much together to be destroyed by some measly planning scheme. They all face this with the same inimitable Scottish humor and strength of spirit that have carried them through other tough times. Douglas' vivid portrait of 1970s Glasgow recreates, in glorious detail, a particular time and place, but at its heart are the universal themes of love, friendship, and community. **416 pages, IPG- 0312, \$13.95 USD/\$13.95 CDN + S/H.**

By: Judy Vickers



Hogmanay - Scotland's holiday

Few countries celebrate and throw a party on New Year's like Scotland. Scots light up the night with fire (and fireworks!) and traditions dating back to Viking times. Scotland's ancient celebrations are still very much a part of Scottish society today and will be lighting up the night again this month as Judy Vickers explains.

It's a sign of how important Hogmanay is to the Scots – or perhaps just how well they celebrate it. While in many parts of the world, New Year's Day – January 1 – is a public holiday, only in Scotland is January 2 also an official day off. New Year has been a bigger festival than Christmas in Scotland for hundreds of years. In fact, Christmas Day only became a public holiday in 1958 and Boxing Day in 1974. Some say that tradition dates back to the 17th century when in 1640 an Act of Parliament made "Yule vacations" illegal; "Christ's Mass" sounded all too suspiciously Roman Catholic in the then fervently Protestant country and all the feasting and frivolity that went on was rather too wasteful, sinful and disorderly to be being done in God's name.

The Act was repealed some 20 years later – as was a similar law south of the Border in England. But while the English cheerfully went back to holding their winter celebrations at Christmas, the Presbyterian Scots, perhaps mindful of the Kirk's dislike of a festival with no Biblical basis, kept their carousing at New Year.

Stonehaven Fireballs

However, it could well be the case that New Year was always the festival of choice for Scots, dating back to Viking and pre-Christian times. Martin Sim, of the Stonehaven Fireballs Association, points out that the Silver Bough by F Miriam McNeill, the authoritative work on Scottish folklore and belief, doesn't list any ceremonies for December other than those on December 31. He says: "For the majority of Scots Hogmanay and the 11 of January (New Year in the



old Julian calendar) were the main days of celebration in Scotland up until the Second World War. Christmas was just not celebrated at all."

Whether from Reformation or Viking roots, fire ceremonies have always been a key part of Scots' New Year celebrations, bringing light to the darkest days of the year. "In Scotland there were mid-winter bonfires at Dingwall, Campbeltown, Invergordon, Comrie, Biggar, and Newton Stewart. Boat burning was also a custom in coastal communities like Stranraer and Bettyhill in Sutherland as well as all up the north-east coast," says Mr Sim.

Many of these have died out – "Sadly the huge loss of young men in the First World War, the social changes that happened after 1918 and then the effect of the Second World War added to their demise," says Mr Sim. But several survive, perhaps the most famous and spectacular being the fireballs of Stonehaven.

Beginning just before the bells at midnight on Hogmanay, a group of around 45 locals take to the High Street swinging their fireballs; wire balls filled with combustible material, from coal to wood and even old jumpers – each swinger has their own recipe. Held on a wire handle around two feet long, the swingers twirl the fireballs as they walk towards the harbour, before hurling them into the sea. The idea is to burn off the bad spirits of the Old Year so that the spirits of the New Year can be welcomed in.

Biggar bonfire

Another fire ceremony which dates back hundreds of years is the Biggar bonfire. Every Hogmanay, the South Lanarkshire town's oldest resident lights the huge bonfire in the town centre at 9.30pm – building it this year started on December 1. The tradition was kept alive even during the Second World War when there was a blackout – a candle in a tin was lit at the site of the bonfire. The biggest bonfire ever recorded burned for five days and these days there is also music and dancing as part of the celebrations.

In Perthshire, Hogmanay is celebrated with the Comrie Flambeaux Procession. Torches – 10-ft long birch poles soaked in paraffin and wrapped in hessian sacking – are lit and marched around the town, led by a pipe band. Locals are decked out in fancy dress, and the torches, said to contain evil spirits, are thrown into the River Earn to bring good luck for the New Year, in a ceremony which is believed could date back to Pictish times.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day are marked in Orkney with the Ba', a giant street game of football, played with a handmade leather ball between the "Uppies" and the "Doonies", depending on which part of the town holds the individual's allegiance. The match, one of many mass street games once played across Scotland, has no time limit and often goes on until after dark. Cuts, bruises and even fractured bones are common but there has only been one fatality ever recorded – a heart attack back in 1903.

In Burghead, a fishing village on the Moray Firth, the New Year is also brought in with the help of fire – but on the "old" New Year of January 11, which officially disappeared in 1752 when the new Gregorian calendar was introduced in Britain. A clavie, a wooden barrel filled with tar and timber, is set ablaze, mounted on a pole and carried through the streets by the "Clavie crew", led by the Clavie king. The ceremony, which dates back at least 1,600 years and may have been Pictish in origin, ends at Doorie Hill, where it's placed on a stone monument and allowed to burn down – spectators then take embers to light their first fire of the new year, for luck and to send abroad to Burghead ex-pats.

Hagmane

The origins of the word Hogmanay are disputed itself, with Gaelic, Flemish, French, Anglo-Saxon and Viking roots all being possible. But the word was certainly being used by 1693, when the pamphlet Scotch Presbyterian Eloquence Displayed recorded: "It is ordinary among some Plebians in the South of Scotland to go about from door to door upon New Year's Eve, crying Hagmane."

The custom the 1693 publication is referring to might well be first footing. First footing is still practised by many Scots who make sure the first person over the threshold of their home after the bells is someone they believe will bring good luck over the following year. There are variations on the custom – most say that the first-footer should be male and dark-haired (believed to date back to times of Viking invasions when no one wanted blond men arriving at their door) but some rule out those with eyebrows that meet in the middle or who have flat feet. The first-footer should be outside the door before the bells and generally needs to bring something in with him – usually a piece of coal and a nip of whisky, but sometimes salt.

That first-footer should be coming into a clean home – traditionally all debts



Stonehaven Fireballs.

need to be paid by the bells and the house thoroughly cleaned, a process known as "redding". In particular the ashes of the fireplace should be swept away. And many Scots still celebrate New Year's Day with a special meal, usually steak pie. While Scots butchers already have their signs up asking customers to order their steak pies early, one custom which has died out is Handsel Day – the giving of presents on the first Monday of the New Year.

The Loony Dook

As some customs die, though, others spring up. The Loony Dook was only started in 1986 but now attracts 1,500 participants and around 4,000 spectators. On New Year's Day, those hardy souls, in fancy dress, will throw themselves into the chilly waters of the Firth of Forth at South Queensferry for a quick "dook". It was originally thought up as a cure for a Hogmanay hangover by three locals but is now part of the official Edinburgh Hogmanay celebrations and two other "dooks" take place in North Berwick in East Lothian and in Kirkcaldy in Fife.

And no piece on Hogmanay would be complete without mentioning Auld Lang Syne. Partially written by Robert Burns in 1788, it is a staple of Hogmanay parties across the country, and the world. Burns himself said some of the lines weren't his own but "taken down from an old man" and the tune is a folk melody. In Scotland, it's traditional to hold hands in a circle, then only at the beginning of the last verse to cross your arms over your chest and re-hold hands with your neighbour.

2017 courses available from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye

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**Some of the courses are shown here, but for a full list and further information, please visit: www.smo.uhi.ac.uk.
Thigibh a chèilidh oirnn!**



Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) was founded in 1973 in old farm steadings at Ostaig in Sleat, known as the 'Garden of Skye'. While the initial aim was to establish a Gaelic library, the long term plan was for a Gaelic-medium college providing vocational further education for Gaelic speakers, in their own language and rural environment, while also giving the growing number of Gaelic enthusiasts the opportunity to learn the language. Today, it's the only college of its kind offering further and higher education courses through the medium of Gaelic, the national language of Scotland. Courses on offer include full-time and part-time, undergraduate and postgraduate, distance-learning courses and short courses.



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- Learning through Living Culture (Gaelic in Flodigarry)
- Accordion Course with Mairead Green

Tha cùrsaichean a bharrachd air an làrach-lìn againn a leithid na cùrsaichean Gàidhlig Ìrean 1-10. A full list of courses is available on our website including Gaelic Levels 1-10.

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