



# the Scottish Banner



North American Edition



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*A' Bhratach Albannach*

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# Up Helly Aa

*Europe's biggest  
fire festival*

» Pg 4

## The ultimate Burns' tour in Scotland

» Pg 16

## Celebrating 60 years of Scotland's snow pioneer

» Pg 8

## Scotland makes history

» Pg 10

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0 74470 84459 4



- 01 Scotland: 2017 hot list ..... » Pg 14
- Tattoo unites with Scottish Diaspora to celebrate Splash of Tartan..... » Pg 17
- Scotland-Building a home grown grain economy ..... » Pg 25
- Is this the face of Robert the Bruce? .... » Pg 27

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The Banner Says...

# Superstitions and the New Year

- Bringing some old stories alive from long, long, ago



by Valerie Cairney

As Scots, we are a pretty superstitious crowd. I know many people, myself included, who cannot stand watching someone stirring their tea (or coffee) with a knife. Heaven forbid they should put a pair of new shoes on the table - in spite of the fact that old ones are OK. In fact if you put new shoes on the table at New Year - the chances are great that you will split with your spouse or sweetheart within twelve months - a story I was told many years ago but which I have long since forgotten from who, is based on an old Scottish saying.

**Scottish superstitions**

Speaking of shoes, remember that you must not put your left shoe on first - for if you do, you will hear bad news before midnight says another old Scots saying.

Needless to say, walking under a ladder is something nobody in their right mind ever does, and if a picture falls off your wall, duck for cover. It too is a sign of bad luck! If a mirror in your home breaks - there is even more bad news- you have seven years of bad luck heading your way should this happen to you.

Just last month (December), somebody here in the office hung a January 2017 calendar on the wall. As soon as it was seen - it was quickly and discreetly moved (I thought everyone knew not to hang the following year's calendar up prior to the old year being over).

Being more than a little superstitious myself, I was interested to read some of the Scottish superstitions surrounding the New Year and I wanted to pass some of these on to our readers.

Do not wash clothes on New Year's Day. To do so washes a member of the family away - which causes death on the 'hoose'.

Sweeping the house at New Year brings bad luck as the broom sweeps away good fortune- and therefore all that is good from the home throughout the rest of the year.

**Hogmanay**

On the other hand if you partied a wee bit too much at Hogmanay

and got a wee bit too 'merry' it is perfectly alright to stay in bed the next morning - for as long as you like. Staying tucked up under the sheets ensures a safe and prosperous New Year - according to Scots tradition.

Yet if your lover has jilted you - now is the time to get your revenge! Scots tradition says that jilted lovers can get their own back by giving the faithless swain a 'good whipping' during the hour before midnight.

This is also right when a wife is allowed to throw a bucket of water over an annoying husband. He, on the other hand, is not allowed to reciprocate until the following day. Drinking, eating black bun, performing the old fertility rite of kissing and singing *Auld Lang Syne* are all a part of Scottish tradition.

**New Year's Day**

To go 'first-footing' or perhaps, going to a friends or neighbours house with a traditional lump of coal (to keep the fires burning), a piece of shortbread to eat in the hoose, and a wee dram to sip with it - are all part of celebrating the Hogmanay in Scotland.

In the old days in Edinburgh, the first person to walk over the threshold of a house carried an evergreen branch. This was a symbol of everlasting life. This first person was then expected to go directly to the fire with the evergreen branch, stir the dying embers then turning to greet the entire household.

It was not until the 1600's that in Scotland New Year's Day was transferred from March 25th to the more logical January 1<sup>st</sup>. This caused New Year's day to fall on the 'Daft Days' otherwise known as the twelve days of Christmas. This also coincides with the mid-winter festival of Yule, which heralds when the sun-gods returned from exile - bringing longer days to our planet with them.

**Burns Night**

Yet we must also remember our Burns Night on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January. Robert Burns is still remembered

everywhere. During past evenings of these we have often had our own evenings of fun on this particular evening, and whilst I have never been a part of the attractions at these events, I have certainly hosted numerous amounts of Burns Nichts both here in the US as well as in Canada while I was still living there. I was gratified in having numerous full houses, for the Burns Night events I hosted and always closed them with numerous thanks for many people who helped put on a great evening.

These are extremely creative events and I certainly enjoyed them. I no longer host them - yet will be attending one on the evening of a Burns Nicht taking place near us. I hope you will all do the same, as this is such a very special Scottish event, and I believe we are fortunate to have these.

Yes, we certainly do have some very special occasions to look forward to. Let us add to each one by supporting those who work so hard at putting these Scots events on. After being so involved in so many of them during the past, I know from experience they are very worthwhile and fun events to help with.

**Lang may yer lum reek**

Whatever you have lined up for your New Year, or your Burns Night, may it be an overwhelming success. And may your 2017 be the same - it is a very special time of the year for Scots. And our very best wishes to you and yours throughout these dazzling and giddy times of the year.

From all of us here at *the Banner* to all our friends and readers worldwide may you have good luck and good health throughout the coming year ahead or as the Scots Hogmanay saying goes, "lang may yer lum reek" (lum = chimney, reek = smoke). Literally meaning 'long may your chimney smoke', or we wish you well and a long and healthy life.

**Do you have any New Year superstitions you grew up with or still follow today? If so please share with us your family tradition or superstition.**



Gracing this months cover: Up Helly Aa vikings. Photo: Lloyd Smith.



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# Up Helly Aa - Europe's biggest fire festival

January in Shetland means Vikings and one of the planet's greatest winter fire festivals. Scotland meets Scandinavia in Shetland with this Norse enriched event which lights up the dark Shetland nights and heralds soon a closing of winters door. Up Helly Aa is a shout of defiance at the darkness, a great celebration of community to speed spring on its way from the lightlessness of winter in Shetland.



The night procession of Up Helly Aa. Photo: VisitScotland.



Up Helly Aa vikings. Photo: Lloyd Smith.

Originating in the 1880s Up-Helly-Aa in the Shetland town of Lerwick, has been an annual occurrence for centuries, taking place on the last Tuesday of January every year. Marking the end of yule, this northern Mardi Gras is a celebration of Shetland history, a triumphant demonstration of the islanders' spirit and a superb spectacle which has gained worldwide recognition as Europe's biggest fire festival. The event has only been cancelled three years in its long-standing history for the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 and during the First and Second World War and gales, sleet and snow have never yet stopped the Up Helly Aa guizers of Lerwick from burning their Viking galley - and then dancing the dawn away, showing Up-Helly-Aa has firmly made

its mark as an iconic celebration on the Scottish calendar. Today Up Helly Aa takes place in nearly 10 Scottish settlements, and the one in Lerwick is considered the biggest fire demonstration in all of Britain. It has found its way into any number of travellers "must-see" lists but remains very much the local celebration it's always been.

### What is Up-Helly-Aa?

To Shetlanders Up-Helly Aa means many things, it is waving goodbye to the short days of winter and a welcome to the lengthening days. It is one last big party to see us through the dark & stormy winter season, it's a time to look back over the past year and laugh at the silly things they did. But all Shetlanders would agree that Up-Helly-Aa is a celebration of Shetland, their heritage,

their people and all the little nuances that make Shetland the unique place that it is. The ingredients in the Up Helly Aa recipe go back 12 centuries and more - fire, feasting, fancy dress and, above all, fun.

Up-Helly-Aa is a somewhat obscure term, in history Up Helly Night was used as an alternative name to Antonsmas (24<sup>th</sup> night after Christmas) this is the final festival of the Christmas period and Up Helly would translate to mean Final Holy. The Aa was added in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and it translates to mean all.

### So why does a festival on the small, remote island of Shetland draw such international acclaim?

Up-Helly-Aa is a lot more than a sub-arctic bonfire party. The day (and night) long celebration is planned a year in advance by

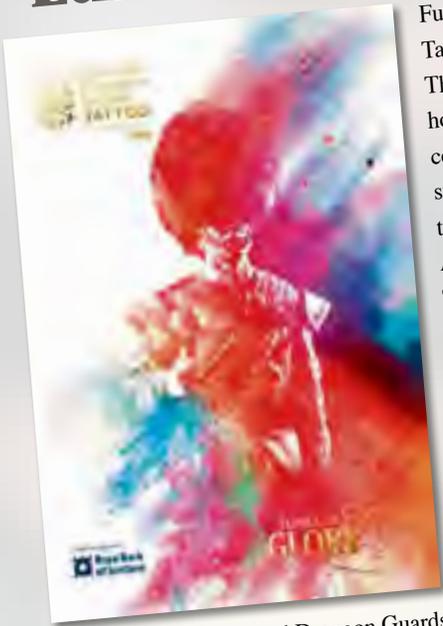
several thousand people and preparations are shrouded in secrecy. The biggest secret of all is what the head of the festival, the 'Guizer Jarl', will wear on the day. Kitted out in a raven-winged helmet, axe and shield the Jarl leads over 800 men in Viking disguise through the streets of Lerwick with blazing torches before setting fire to a long boat in the city centre. Needless to say the party doesn't end there. In true Scots style, celebrations go on through the night and into the next day with gatherings in halls throughout the town. Not surprisingly the next day is a public holiday! And, if you still have energy left, join the hardy partygoers for a second evening of dancing known as the 'Guizer's hop'. If you do miss the Lerwick Up-Helly-Aa (or if it gives you the taste for more of the same), there are another eight fire festivals in various districts of Shetland during the late winter.

For more details on Up Helly Aa see: [www.uphellyaa.org](http://www.uphellyaa.org).



## The Scottish Banner

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## Tartan of the Month - Greyfriars

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.



A woven sample of this tartan has been received by the Scottish Register of Tartans for permanent preservation in the National Records of Scotland.

The Greyfriars Tartan (Reference: 10337) was designed by Paul Moffat, a participant at the Grassmarket Community Project. The Grassmarket Community Project (GCP) was formed as a partnership between the Grassmarket Mission and Greyfriars Kirk. GCP is about supporting people through transitions in their lives and about re-connecting disengaged people. Founded on work with those traditionally labelled 'homeless', this project has been extended to adults who are facing 'deep social exclusion' and have been marginalised by lack of opportunity,

skills and aspiration. Through engaging with traditional crafts, like weaving, participants have the opportunity to develop skills and increase their social networks. Working with Greyfriars kirk, the textiles class designed the Greyfriars Tartan to represent the shared history of the area. Greyfriars, now home to the congregation of Greyfriars Tollbooth and Highland, stands in grounds that had belonged to the Franciscan convent in the Grassmarket - hence the name Greyfriars. It was the first church built in Edinburgh after the Scottish Reformation. In 1638 the National Covenant was presented and signed in front of the pulpit. During Cromwell's invasion of Scotland Greyfriars was used as a barracks from 1650 to 1653. The most famous story from the nineteenth century, however, is that of Greyfriars Bobby. Bobby was a Skye Terrier, looked after by John Gray for the last two years of the old man's life. After the death of Gray, Bobby reportedly guarded his grave for fourteen years, capturing the heart of the Lord Provost Sir William Chambers who organised for the Town Council to pay for Bobby's dog licence, and so saved him from being rounded up and destroyed. The Greyfriars Tartan represents the history of the area and the work of the community. This tartan was registered in January 2011.

# SCOTSPEAK

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

*"We are so fortunate in Scotland to have the most fascinating and inspiring history and heritage on our doorsteps, bringing the spirit of Scotland alive. The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology will highlight and showcase our history and heritage to the world. As well as our history of many well-known stories and famous, indeed some infamous, historical characters, next year will also give us an excellent opportunity to focus on Scotland's world-renowned archaeology, enticing visitors and locals alike to visit not only our known iconic landmarks with their thousands of years of history, but also our many hidden gems."*

Scotland's Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said at the launch of The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017, the ninth annual themed campaign instigated by the Scottish Government. In the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017, Scotland will celebrate the richness of nations intriguing history, impressive cultural heritage and fascinating archaeology at exciting locations with experiences and events throughout the year.

*"The President-elect of the United States called the first minister on Friday for a brief introductory conversation. The first minister offered her congratulations and, reflecting on the letter she sent him following the election, expressed her belief in the values Scotland and the United States share. The first minister and the President-elect also discussed the longstanding relationship between Scotland and the United States."*

A representative from the Scottish government said as US President-elect Donald Trump and Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon spoke on the phone for the first time. The two leaders discussed the long standing bond Scotland and the USA have and important historical link. Donald Trump's mother hailed from the Isle of Lewis and he continues to be connected to Scotland through his heritage and business

dealings such as hotel and golf projects.

*"We've long argued that a new rail link between the airport and the city centre is essential for the thousands of tourists and business travellers who fly into and out of Glasgow every day. The airport already supports thousands of jobs but this new rail link, which is the single biggest element of our city deal, will be the catalyst that takes us to a new level, vastly improving the customer experience and generating even more jobs and inward investment. We are committed to delivering this tram-train link and, best of all, the money to pay for it is already in the bank."*



Glasgow City Council leader Frank McAveety said passengers could board trams to get to Glasgow Airport if new proposals are approved by councillors. The £144m project could be operational by 2025 and travel from the airport to Glasgow Central Station via Paisley Gilmour Street Station.

*"We couldn't wish for a more experienced partner than Houston. They have a long history of facilitating government-funded launches and it is exciting to be embarking on the move to commercial space launches alongside them. Glasgow Prestwick developing a spaceport in Scotland will bring huge economic benefits - up to £320m towards our economy. This is before taking account of the further added value that the spaceport, our partners in the developing aerospace campus around us and wider*

*science in technology industries in Scotland can gain from having access to Nasa research and resources."*

Glasgow Prestwick Airport Spaceport director Richard Jenner said as the airport has signed an agreement with Houston Spaceport as it bids to become the UK's first launch site. The South Ayrshire airport is developing plans for a spaceport that could see the first satellites and rockets launched from the UK.

*"Nuts and peanuts are high in fibre, magnesium, and polyunsaturated fats - nutrients that are beneficial for cutting cardiovascular disease risk and which can reduce cholesterol levels. Some nuts, particularly walnuts and pecan nuts are also high in antioxidants, which can fight oxidative stress and possibly reduce cancer risk. "Even though nuts are quite high in fat, they are also high in fibre and protein, and there is some evidence that suggests nuts might actually reduce your risk of obesity over time."*

Research Dagfinn Aune said as Scottish nutritionists have found eating a handful of nuts a day can slash the risk of a range of diseases including stroke, heart disease and cancer. A daily snack of 20g of nuts had a "substantial effect" on health, cutting people's risk of coronary heart disease by nearly 30 per cent, their risk of cancer by 15 per cent, and their risk of premature death by 22 per cent.

*"The expectations for 2017 will mean that since 2010, the organisation's first full year, ship numbers, passengers and their spend will all have more than doubled. The success in persuading operators to include Scotland in their itineraries in a highly-competitive global market is very much a team effort by our members and support services. There is tremendous potential for more in a growth industry, through sustained promotion and quality product."*

Cruise Scotland chairman Andrew Hemphill said as the cruise industry is predicting another bumper season for

Scottish ports in 2017, following a seventh successive record year. Over 800 ships have already booked to call in 2017, 19.5% up on 2016 bringing an estimated 650,000 passengers to Scotland. Cruise Scotland's port members include Glasgow (Greenock), Oban, Portree, Stornoway, Kirkwall, Lerwick, Aberdeen, Montrose, Dundee and Edinburgh.



*"We're delighted to see that the production spend figures published today show a significant increase on previous years. This proves that Scotland's talent, crews, facilities and award winning locations continue to be of huge attraction to major international productions. In the last year we have seen Sony Starz maintain their commitment to a large scale production base at Cumbernauld, we welcomed Jason Connery's feature film Tommy's Honour, and it was great to see our wonderful capital city double for Victorian London in the landmark BBC series, The Secret Agent."*

Natalie Usher, director of screen at Creative Scotland, said as revenue from both film and television productions have risen greatly to over £50 million in the last few years. The largest factor of this increase is the worldwide television hit *Outlander* which has been filming in Scotland since 2013, whilst other productions such as *Whisky Galore* and the *Trainspotting* sequel have also boosted the industry.

## SCOTWORD

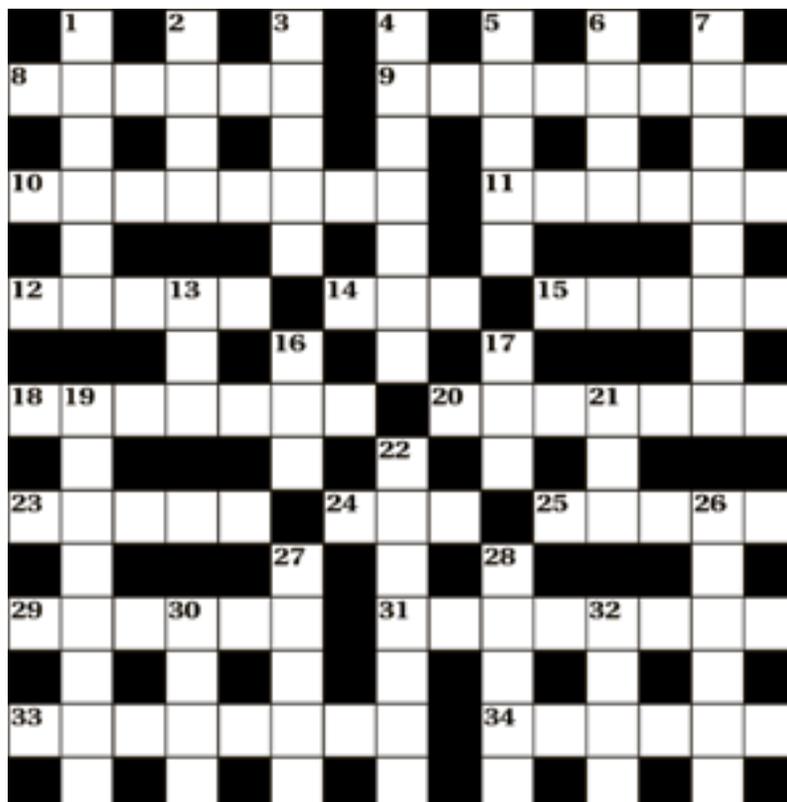
Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 23!

### CLUES ACROSS

- 8) Scots kids (6).
- 9) Eternally (8).
- 10) Jimmy Shand's polka (8).
- 11) The -----o' the Isles (6).
- 12) A northerly flow! (5).
- 14) Row of Kirk seats (3).
- 15) Old Scots garment (5).
- 18) A capital street (7).
- 20) Village on Arran's east coast (7).
- 23) A Scot gone awry (5).
- 24) A Grampian flower (3).
- 25) Border river (5).
- 29) Arbroath delicacy (6).
- 31) Resort near Burntisland (8).
- 33) Like a stag! (8).
- 34) How dancers should be (6).

### CLUES DOWN

- 1) The true Scots tongue (6).
- 2) A Scots hillside (4).
- 3) They're surrounded by water (5).
- 4) Scots gumboots (7).
- 5) Town south-east of Elgin (5).
- 6) The last word (4).
- 7) Rain protectors (8).
- 13) Barrie's Peter! (3).
- 16) A Scot who knows! (3).
- 17) A Scots roll (3).
- 19) Military division (8).
- 21) An isolated Scots hill (3).
- 22) Jacobite emblem (7).
- 26) Eagles nests (6).
- 27) River dams (5).
- 28) Miss Laurie (5).
- 30) Narrow arm of the sea (4).
- 32) Part of the Highland dress (4).



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# SCOT POURRI



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

## Edinburgh's Canine Son



Greyfriars Bobby statue, Edinburgh. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

Happy New Year to all our readers and staff at *the Scottish Banner*, have we all got our New Years resolutions sorted out? Aye the coming of the New Year always brings great forward looking optimism in the depths of winter (or here doon under in the sweltering heat of summer), as Valerie stated in a recent editorial we have got so much to be grateful for, and a lot to take pride in as Scots. This month puts the global spotlight on one of the world's greatest poets oor very own Rabbie, all throughout Scottish history we have so many legends and hero's to look up to in pride, one of my favourites is not actually a person it's a dog Greyfriars Bobby to be precise, it was good to read in last January's *Scottish Banner* how the George Heriot School pays tribute to him every January and even play a bagpipe tribute to him, it reads on his memorial 'let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all', what a great talisman to take with us into the New Year eh? Anyway I've written a little tribute to him that I would love to share with *the Banner*.

## Edinburgh's Canine Son

Ach, it wiz lang ago, but no sae lang, in Edinburgh's cobbled streets, There lived a Bonnie Skye terrier, the nicest you e'r could meet, And auld Jock called him Bobby, his closest faithful friend, Aye, this wee terrier wiz by his side, right tae the bitter end.

As sadly auld Jock passed away, and wiz laid in Greyfriar's Church,

And wee Bobby could herdly leave his grave, 'cause he missed auld Jock so much, But the locals looked efter Bobby, tae make sure he would eat, And wi' the one o'clock gun, wee Bobby would come, wagging his tail doon the street.

On cauld winter days, through Auld Reekies haze, he'd come tearing right out of the mist, And look up tae be fed, through his black shaggy head, with eyes ye could nae resist, Then they'd gee him a feed and clap on his heid, then back tae the graveyard he'd go, But ye'd have tae feel sorry fur this poor little mite, laid oan Jock's grave in the snow.

Thin came the day, tae own a dog ye must pay, ten shillings or so fur its keep poor Bobby wiz a stray, but somedae must pay, or the wee soul would be pit doon tae sleep, But the Mayor did pay, fur this loveable stray, saving wee Bobby fae the chop, And there wiz great cheer and joy, fur wee Bobby boy, fae his friends at the Candle Row shops.

Thin fur fourteen lang years, wee bobby steid near, and made Greyfriars Kirk his abode, And right tae the end, he called oan his friends, at the shops at Candle Row Road, But wan bitter night, in Greyfriars twilight, he slept fur the very last time, So icy it was, oan his wee frozen paws, and nae mair fur Auld Jock he would pine.

He wiz true tae the end, tae his beloved best friend, in life and in death come whit may, And right fae the start, he touched many a heart, and brought sunshine tae the dreakest a days, Fur the hearts that he won, Edinburgh's dear canine son, looks lovingly doon through the crowds, As his legend lives on, though Bobby has gone, fur his wee statue stands noble n' proud!

By Andrew Heaney  
(Formerly Glasgow)  
Brisbane Queensland  
Australia

## Family of Bruce International



Family of Bruce International, Inc. (USA) had their AGM at the Stone Mountain, Georgia Highland Games 15 October 2016. The 22 in attendance represented members from Indiana, Minnesota, Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland and Kentucky.  
Polly Bruce Tilford  
National Secretary of Family of Bruce International  
USA

## Magnificent Andy Murray

I think recognition should be given to a special Andrew-Andy Murray the renowned Scottish tennis player. Born in Glasgow, schooled in Dunblane, where he was a pupil in the school, the day of the great tragedy. When in 1996 a gunman killed 16 students and their teacher, and a whole grade of students was killed. He has been working his way up the ranks over the past 8 years but in the autumn of 2016 he surpassed the other members of the big four Djokevic, Nadal and the great Federer establishing himself as no.1 in the world. This week he has been playing in the year end ATP competition in London and there in the final match beat the former no1, the seemingly unbeatable Novak Djokevic in straight sets. So at the end of the 2017 tennis season, he is now ranked number 1 and Great Britain has never had a tennis player of this calibre. Our own 21<sup>ST</sup> Century, magnificent Andrew Murray.

Andy, the pride of Scotland and Great Britain.

Sincerely,  
Janette Calder  
North Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada

**Ed note: We agree with you Janette, Andy does Scots across the world proud.**

## Hogmanay Bonfire at Biggar



It was great to see the Hogmanay Bonfire at Biggar, my home town, mentioned in the December issue of *the Scottish Banner*. They start collecting on December 1<sup>ST</sup> and it's already building up to be a great one again this year. It is many years since the oldest citizen was chosen to light it and it's now by popular vote. My dad, John Rae, had that honour in 1977 and then his sister Jenny Rae in 1993. I'm sending two photos which I hope can be included with this letter.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your readers.  
Edie Wlodarczyk  
Gilgandra, NSW  
Australia

## Kings Castles & Durty Wee Rascals

I always enjoy Jim Stoddart's column, *Kings Castles & Durty Wee Rascals*, which conjures up many happy memories of my own childhood.

In a past issue he reminisces about his holidays at Largs and it made my mind go back to our own family holidays while we lived in Scotland during the 1950s. There were seven of us at the time – Mum,

Dad and five weans. We didn't have a car, but my Dad would borrow his father's 1934 Morris to take us our holidays to Croy Shores, near Dunure. We felt like real "toffs" heading out in Grandpa's car. During the months preceding our holiday my mother would knit us new bathing suits which we were so proud to sport. We spent our days building sand castles and playing in the water, and sometimes we would all get a "pokey hat" and stroll down the beach so happy with our good fortune. Sometimes my aunt and my two cousins would come with us so our wee cottage would be overflowing, but oh the fun we had and the memories we created.

Thank you Jim Stoddart for bringing all these joyous memories alive again.

Helen W. Eade  
Little Current, Ontario  
Canada

**Ed note: Thanks for your note and memories. Jim certainly brings back some great memories back for many.**

## Skye

I have only just returned from my first trip to Scotland with my daughter, where we spent an amazing week in beautiful Skye, in October. I have Skye ancestry, hence the trip was very special to me. So am very interested in any stories, legends of the region and I have had a copy of Otta Swires book *Legends of Skye* (written a long time ago - so was thrilled to see some more stories of the Island- as I was not aware of any other authors.) I am slowing trying to learn the Gaelic as well and was able to visit Sabhal Mor Ostaig, with future plans to learn long distance.

I live in Christchurch, New Zealand and only just recently bought a copy of *the Scottish Banner* at our local Highland Games. I had not seen any copies of the paper here for a few years, after our earthquakes and would also be keen to subscribe!

Brendan Paris  
Woolston, Christchurch  
New Zealand

## SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGES

(Send us your photos or letters via social media)

### Burntisland



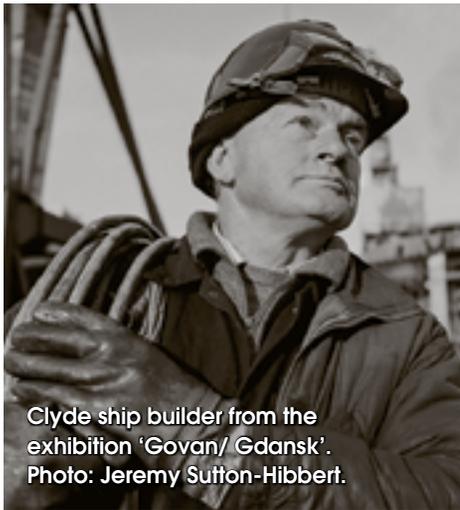
Jenny Dingwall  
Scotland



Greetings from the Independent MacGregors of Germany from The German Clan Gregor Society.  
Jürgen MacGregor  
Germany

# 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.



Clyde ship builder from the exhibition 'Govan/ Gdansk'. Photo: Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert.



A lament to shipbuilding's past. Photo: Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert.

## Bunnets & Bowlers

I guess it was partly because he had to put up with filthy clothes at work that my father always took great pride in his personal appearance away from work. Like his own father before him, he was always a well-groomed, dapper and well-dressed man, a real Burlington Bertie type. He always owned, at all times, at least one good, well-tailored suit from Burtons and whilst my paternal grandfather was always seen with a bow tie when dressed, my own father was rarely seen without a collar and tie when away from work. Being a riveter had its compensations. It was one of the better paid of the trades in the yards and so long as he could find a yard to take him on, it was a job that he could take some pride in, for it was one of the key jobs in what was still Glasgow's premier industry.

## Clydebuilt

At a time when 'Clydebuilt' was an epithet recognised the world over a Glasgow man wouldn't feel embarrassed to say he was a riveter and that simple pride and confidence in what he did came through from my father, without him ever having to say it out loud. Some men work in manufacturing industries that are important but produce small components and other products which, isolated from what is finally built, don't exactly impress the rest of us. Glasgow men who designed and worked with their hands to build bridges, locomotives and fine buildings were more fortunate for they had something to point out to their children and grandchildren. Shipbuilders were part of those elites, for my father was able to point to a massive ship ready for launching and say "See that ship over there, son. I helped to build that." Or as he was more likely to have said, "See that ship, Jim, ma rivets are haudin it thegether." He was always known to exaggerate.

## The launch

The launch of a ship was an exciting and dramatic event and it gave a purpose and celebration to the product of the men's hard labours having come to fruition. It had ritual and ceremony, with all the men allowed to down tools and gather around if it was a weekday launch. Invited dignitaries and guests, including wives and children of the workers were often given passes to enter the yard and witness the big event. My mum and I went to see some launches but most of the names of

them are lost to me now. I do know I was aged eight at one of my first launches for my mother kept our entry pass. It was at Harland and Wolff to see the launch of the motor tanker "Bollista". We entered the yard by Napier Street and went to the public enclosure. The champagne bottle was thrown vigorously at the hull of the big tanker on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1951 by Her Royal Highness, the Princess Astrid of Norway.

## The Clyde's Victory Armada

The powerful sight of the massive hull moving down the greased slipway, held in check by tons of drag chains, was incredibly impressive. The roar of the miles of drag chains finally gave way to a moment of breathless silence as the ship hit the waters of the Clyde and shot down at an angle only to immediately bob up again in a wash of water. Now safely afloat, the cheers of the spectators resounded loudly, added to by hooters and a cacophony of noises from along the banks of the river. My father could lay claim to have helped build some famous merchant and naval ships in his time, including *The Queen Mary*. During the Second World War he did his bit by helping to build what was later referred to as the Clyde's Victory Armada of nearly a thousand naval ships and boats. These ranged in size from three Battleships to 499 landing craft and the prototype for the famous Mulberry Harbour used in the D-Day landings. But the list also included 5 aircraft carriers, 13 cruisers, 117 destroyers, 18 submarines and more than 500 merchant ships.

Petty pilfering was endemic in the shipyards. Theoretically you could lay your hands on just about anything. The many stories, including the one that just about everyone in Clydebank was fortunate enough to have exactly the same Axminster carpet in their single ends as the passengers had underfoot whilst cruising on the *Queen Mary*, had its origin in the idea that ships, like the luxury liners, seemed to need to be fitted out twice over because of pilfering. My family never seemed to need to buy firewood for kindling and some of our stippled walls in Pollok looked a bit like battleship grey or the colours of P&O but that's about as much as I could have surmised might have come from a shipyard. I do remember my dad once talking about getting a bit of scrap wood and steel through the gate to make my sledge but that's about it. He did emphasise to me the difference between a man taking out a bit

of waste material from the yard and stealing someone's 'piece'. Everyone turned a blind eye to the first offence but the second one would have resulted in the culprit being thrown into the River Clyde. According to my father there was nothing lower crawling around the shipyard than a man who stole somebody else's 'piece' that is someone else's sandwiches.

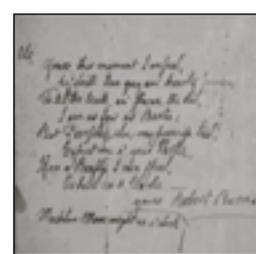
## Working conditions

The terrible working conditions and lack of job security in the shipyards was hardly conducive to bringing about loyalty to the employer. There was little guilt involved in getting one over on the bowler-hatted bosses, by walking past the gateman with a bit of something up your trouser leg. Battles between the bunnets and the bowlers were

rife with workers being able to be fined on the spot, or their wages docked, for brewing up a cup of tea and blamed for wasting company time. Officially there were no tea breaks but a brew could be got readily and unofficially, by using the riveter's furnace. A man could be summarily dismissed for such an offence so that the taking of tea breaks by the men and the banning of tea breaks by the employers became a matter of principle to both sides, leading to cat and mouse games, division, hatred and strike action. The bosses could retaliate by imposing lockouts on the men so that they were literally starved into submission and forced to return to work on the employer's terms.

Shipbuilding was an industry where security of tenure was non-existent and inter-union rivalry a way of life. Each union tried to protect the jobs of its own members so that demarcation disputes became rife. This, undoubtedly, contributed to the industry's decline and its final demise, so that when at last the owner's and bosses came to finally accept that modernisation was required for survival, the distrust between the men and the bosses, as well as between unions, was so great that co-operation was nigh impossible. When the shipyards eventually did re-equip in the late 1950's and early 1960's it was too late. They were re-equipped with technically obsolete equipment to build the type of ships for which there was no longer any demand.

## Paisley displays world's only Burns manuscript



It's been in the collections of Paisley's museum for two centuries, now a manuscript penned by Robert Burns himself has been confirmed

as the world's only surviving copy of a rare piece of the poet's work. The piece – *Sir, Yours this moment I unseal* – dates from 1786 and is described by experts as one which 'any major library in the world would be proud to have'. It was donated to Paisley around 200 years ago, just as Burns relics were becoming valuable commodities, and has been in the town's museum collection ever since. But the true significance has only now become known – with a leading Burns expert confirming that not only is the script written in the bard's own handwriting, but that it is the world's only known surviving copy of the verse.

## Important manuscript

Originally, it appears to have been donated to Paisley by John Clarkson of local threadmakers McGavin and Clarkson, at a time when the town was a thriving global textile hub. The short verse shows Burns accepting an invitation to a party or social event. Professor Gerard Carruthers, co-director of the Centre for Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow - who authenticated the piece – said: "Although this is not one of Burns' major works, it is a hugely important manuscript. It is one that any collector, town in Scotland, or major library in the world would be proud to possess. The text was used by 19<sup>th</sup>-century editors of Burns,

but then disappeared from sight for reasons that are not all that clear. The text is an upbeat poetic squib dating from 1786 and Burns' first flush of fame. In it he accepts an invitation to a social gathering, even though he says he is at this moment as drunk as 'Bartie' - which has been taken as a name for the devil. Another intriguing mystery remains, as we don't know to whom the lines have been addressed."

The item was held in the collection of the institutions which later formed the current Paisley Museum and Central Library and the item has been in secure storage in the town in recent decades.

The manuscript will go on display in the museum every January when light levels are low enough to protect the delicate ink on paper artifact, and to coincide with Burns Night. The manuscript will be displayed alongside a portrait of Burns by James Tannock (1784 - 1862) also in Paisley Museum's collection. Born in Kilmarnock, Tannock was originally a house painter, but after lessons from Alexander Nasmyth - who was a friend of Burns - became a successful portrait painter.

**The full text of the poem reads –**  
*Sir,  
 Yours this moment I unseal,  
 And faith I'm gay and hearty!  
 To tell the truth and shame the deil,  
 I am as fou as Bartie:  
 But Foorsday, sir, my promise leal,  
 Expect me o' your partie,  
 If on a beastie I can speel  
 Or hurl in a cartie.*

*Yours,  
 Robert Burns  
 Machlin,  
 Monday Night, 10 o'clock*

# Celebrating 60 years of Scotland's snow pioneer

Scottish visionary and pioneer Philip Rankin created Scotland's first ski lift at Glencoe 60 years ago. The now 99 year old Second World War fighter pilot saw potential in the mountains of Scotland and had a vision for a ski centre amongst some of the most stunning Highland scenery. This vision has translated over the decades to an industry which benefits the Scottish economy today and offers locals and visitors a great winter sport experience as Judy Vickers explains.

A campaign has been launched to honour the man who built Scotland's first ski tow out of metal "acquired" from the 1950s Clyde shipyards, spawning an industry which has gone on to generate millions to the economy every year. Philip Rankin – who is approaching his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in April – led a team of yard workers and members of the austere Scottish Ski Club to haul huge lumps of metal up a Glencoe mountain. A campaign backed by skiers, climbers and public bodies has been launched to recognise his efforts just over 60 years ago to start what was Scotland's first commercial ski centre in the snows of Glencoe.

## First commercial ski centre in Scotland

Before the 1950s the only people who ventured into the Scottish mountains in winter were hardened climbers but Philip Rankin, a former Spitfire pilot who had been shot down and injured over the North Sea in World War Two, saw skiing as an exciting new sport. In 1954, Mr Rankin, who had by now left his engineering job in Glasgow and moved to Ballachulish to concentrate on the venture, drew up plans. Members of the Scottish Ski Club, made up largely of doctors and lawyers, then joined forces with the Clan Mountaineering Club whose members came from the shipyards of the Clyde to build the tow in 1955 on the slopes of Meall a' Bhùiridh.

Family friend Louisa Gardiner, who is behind the campaign, said the metal plate and steel cables needed for the tow came from Glasgow's shipyards and "were 'acquired' and carried up the hill on the backs of these tough Clydesiders, all under Philip's supervision."

It was ready for use in February 1956 and its opening marked the creation of the first commercial ski centre in Scotland.

## Scottish Rural Award

As he sits in his home surrounded by the mountains of Glencoe, Mr Rankin recalls the tough task of building the tow. He said: "It was absolutely crucifying work. In order to make sure we were on a good line we had to start at the top and worked our way down which meant everything had to be carried up the mountain – that took a lot of time, and sweat and tears." But more than 60 years on he said Glencoe is still leading the way. He said: "I think Glencoe has come out top of the pops – It is my baby and I am liable to boost it up but it is certainly the nearest approach to Alpine



Philip Rankin (right) with renowned mountain rescue pioneer Hamish Mac.

skiing that we have got in Scotland."

Now, a Facebook campaign to give him some public recognition has been launched. Those behind it have entered him for a Scottish Rural Award but would also like to see greater awards, including the Queen's honours.

Mrs Gardiner said: "I feel he has been so fundamental to skiing in Scotland. He is the most wonderful man ... I would hope that he gets recognition for the amount of work he did and how it has influenced the ski industry and tourism. Showing there was another winter sport, other than climbing, really was down to him."

Friend and neighbour Hamish MacInnes, who was developing mountain rescue techniques when Mr Rankin ran the ski centre, backed the calls for him to be recognised for his work. He said: "He was a real pioneer and he ought to be honoured more; Glenshee and all these places started after he had been going." Mr MacInnes, who used the chair lifts and tows to help transport search and rescue dogs up the mountains for training, said that at the time Mr Rankin had an excitable nature and didn't suffer fools gladly. He said: "He kept getting complaints about not having any toilets up there and his quote to the press was: 'We don't have people up here who are incompetent or incontinent.'"

## Innovative engineering

Angela Anderson's earliest memories are of the original ski tow at Glencoe. Her father, Chris Lyon, an engineer at John Brown's shipyard, had helped to build it and she remembers as a four-year-old riding on it. "It was a single bar you put between your legs. It had a really big kick, you were thrown substantially in the air." The engineers and tradesmen who came from the Glasgow shipyards at weekends to ski and stayed in vans and caravans worked hard at developing the tow and rectifying the "kick". "There was a lot of innovative engineering which went on at the beginning," she says.

"I remember Philip, he looks now much the same as he looked then, quite an Air Force-y type face and a very droll, dry sense of humour. I can see him and wife and their two dogs down at the bottom station selling the tickets and talking to people and running everything out of their wee office the size of a telephone box," she says. By the time she was seven, a chair lift had been added and Glencoe was becoming noticeably busier even to a child. "I remember there being lines and lines of cars up and down the road," says Angela, now 61 and the President of the Glencoe Skiing Club. "And I remember huge lines of folk queuing to come up."

More lifts and tows were added in the 1960s, 70s and 80s by which time skiing was enjoying a boom time, partly thanks to the TV programme *Ski Sunday* and partly thanks to the growth in car ownership which meant people weren't relying on organised bus trips to reach the resort.

And in the last seven years, since current owner Andy Meldrum took over Glencoe Mountain Resort, Mrs Anderson says it's gone from strength to strength. "It's a very friendly place, there is a lot of camaraderie," she says – helped by the fact that there are many children and children's children of the original skiers still visiting or working at the resort.

## Glencoe Mountain Resort

Mr Rankin had suffered back injuries when his plane was shot down over the English Channel towards the end of the Second World War and on impact he was thrown out through the canopy. It was a Canadian doctor at Stoke Mandeville hospital who brought on a love of snow sports when suggested he could recover through exercise, particularly if he walked uphill in snowshoes. As a result of this he eventually left his Helensburgh home and made his way to Glencoe to set up the ski centre. His wife Gudrun, an East German refugee who died in 2003, was ticket collector and book keeper while he used his engineering skills to operate the resort, which he did so until the 1990s, seeing the number of lifts and runs increase.

The current owner of Glencoe Mountain Resort said Scotland's snow sports industry today is "deeply indebted to Philip Rankin". Speaking on behalf of Ski-Scotland, Andy Meldrum added: "He was one of the individuals who had the vision to see that skiing could be a commercial operation in the Highlands, in particular on Meall a' Bhùiridh where Glencoe opened for skiing just over sixty years ago. Since then four

other resorts have opened - Cairngorm, Glenshee, The Lecht and Nevis Range. They, together with Glencoe, now generate around £30 million each year for the Scottish and UK economy, with much more of that spent in a wide range of local businesses than is spent at the ski resorts themselves. This revenue boost during winter and spring is hugely important to Scotland's tourism. The whole country should therefore be grateful to Philip for his foresight and energy in making skiing happen at Glencoe so long ago."

Scott Armstrong, VisitScotland Regional Partnerships Director, said the organisation would support any recognition for Mr Rankin. He said: "Philip Rankin's impact on Glencoe, and skiing in Scotland more widely, has been immense and we would support any plans to recognise the legacy of his work."

Mr Rankin's reaction to the campaign was one word: "Fiddlesticks." "It would be very nice to have it put on permanent record but it doesn't bother me if I don't get something. I am delighted to see Glencoe (ski centre) going well in the end – uncomfortably near the end at 99.6. It is pleasing."

## Did you know?

- When Philip Rankin's ski tow was built on the slopes above Glencoe it meant Scotland's first commercial ski centre was open for business.
- Since that day in 1956 the skiing industry has grown to see five resorts welcoming more than 200,000 skiers a year and generating around £30 million a year to the country's economy.
- The first ever record of skiing in Scotland was in 1892, by William Wilson Naismith in the Kilsyth Hills and the Scottish Ski Club was founded in 1907 to promote the sport. But it wasn't until the resorts, with their permanent lifts and tows, were built that skiers could flock to the piste.
- Glencoe Mountain Resort now covers 200 hectares of mountain landscape and, like the other resorts, has diversified to offer snowboarding, sledging and even avalanche rescue training, as well as skiing.
- Glenshee is the largest ski centre in the UK, with 21 lifts and tows running over 4 mountains and 3 valleys. Its origins go back to the famous Dundee Ski Club which ventured out on the mountains near the Spittal of Glenshee in the 1930s. But it wasn't until 1957, after the Glencoe tow had shown the way, that the resort we see today started to take shape.
- Cairngorm Mountain followed in 1961 with a chair lift which has since been superseded by a state of the art funicular railway which has helped to make it possibly the best known of the resorts.
- The Lecht ski centre began in 1977 but the Nevis Range didn't open until 1989. Its gondola is used year round – by skiers in winter and mountain bikers who head for the area at other times of the year.



The first Glencoe ski tow.



Erecting the first Glencoe ski tow.

# 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 or email: [info@scottishbanner.com](mailto: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.



**A** Guid Ne'er Day to one and all. Here we are another year older but hopefully wiser. When I was a teenager, I remember reflecting on the far distant future, about when the calendar would read the year 2000. I thought to myself "When that year comes I will be an old man."

Well here it is 2017 so I must be really old? I may be older but I don't feel it. Age is just another number. New Year is a time for resolutions which are usually abandoned by day three. Last year I made one, which I rarely do and managed to follow through with it and found myself the beneficiary of it. So maybe there is something to be said for resolutions at this time of the year after all.

## Scots dialect

The holiday season brings the brightness of Christmas and an old fashioned Scots Hogmanay complete with a sparkling house, listening for the bells and a salute with some obscure amber liquid and the night of Hogmanay is only completed with the first foot crossing the threshold.

No sooner are you rested from all that when the next celebration is upon us when we pay homage to the Scottish Bard on January 25<sup>th</sup>. From humble beginnings Robert Burns wrote eloquently about the plight of the everyman in 18<sup>th</sup> century Scotland and did so articulately in their own language of broad Scots. Which made his work that more poignant. It is sad to realise that this language of Scots-English is slowly ebbing.

As I grew into an adult I was annoyed to have people refer to the Scots dialect as "slang". We children in the playground at

school in the fifties spoke with a northern Glasgow accent and dialect. We found to our peril that same language upon which we were weaned was not permitted in the classroom. To my friends, I would say "Ah stoated a ba' aff the wa'" in relating to the teacher same account it would rendered that I had bounced a ball off the wall. There is more than one dialect in Scotland-Highland, Northeast (known as Doric or Buchan Claik), Tayside and Fife, Lowlands also known as Lallands (which Burns spoke) lastly Glaswegian. Glaswegian is a Lowlands dialect but has its own unique features such as the glottal stop where a pound of butter becomes "pun o' butt-ah!"

## Distinct language

There was always a discrepancy as to whether Scots was a distinct language. Except for the Highland areas including the islands, where Gaelic was spoken. It was spoken throughout these areas mentioned up until the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the majority of the population. Scots has the same roots as English, in that it was a product of Middle English. It developed its own vocabulary that was distinctive to all other forms of English and left to its own devices would certainly have become a language in its own right as different as Norwegian is to Danish. As the union with England dawned in 1707 and the Scottish lords already were receiving their education in English schools, Etonian upper class English crept north as the "proper" medium for communication exchange.

In last fifty years the language use in Scotland has changed dramatically in that everyone speaks BBC English with a light Scottish accent. It is, however, refreshing to hear the odd person slip into the old dialect which is much more succinct in conveying some subject matters. I mean try and translate the terms "Scunner" and "Scunnered", any attempt at doing so tells you that there is no English word that comes near to describing what is meant by those words. I hope we keep the dialects going for many more generations.

## Thaw

At this writing, shopping is still the order of the day and while my dear wife goes in search of the perfect thing, I try to find a bench to wait out the time by people watching. On my last occasion of this experience, a fellow long suffering husband joined me on the bench and we exchanged pleasantries when I noticed his Scottish accent. Having lived in Canada for many years I had adopted a Canadian accent as a young man, but I am proud to say I can switch to my native Scots in a moment's notice. So I consider myself bilingual...with this in mind, it's always fun for me to switch and say "Where dae ye come fae?" which usually takes them aback a little. He told me Fife and as usual I managed to find out, politely what his last name was.

This was fun for me because his last name was Thaw. I have never met anyone prior with this surname. I was intrigued since I have a 4 x great grandmother by the surname Thaw from Strachan, Aberdeenshire. This made me want to address the name again as it had been many years since I'd looked at it. Thaw seems synonymous with Thow and Thew. These names are from the Old English for a servant or a bondsman possibly even a serf.

## New

Since a new year is beginning, I thought it would interesting in addressing all those names that have the word "new" as an element of the name. Some are self-explanatory others not so much. People in new buildings were known such names as Newbigging, Newhall or Newall, or Newhouse. Fortified places had names such as Newberry, Newbury or Newcastle which became the surnames for some of their inhabitants. A person who just arrived in the neighbourhood may have been known as Newman, Newcomb (as in newly come) and Newhusband, who was a new bondsman who had taken on the lease of cottage or farm.

Farming people who either had just arrived or were residing in new areas of agriculture had names such as Newton, Newham, Newland and Newby. The "new" element in the names stayed even when many years passed. Fifty years may have passed since a building was erected but still it was called the "new house". Even now, we have communities that were built in 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century and we still call them by such names as Newcastle.

## Dalling

Lastly Mrs. Lottie Mackay of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada was asking about some family names which are quite unusual. The first of note in her tree is Dalling. Dalling is a place name in Norfolk, England. Not to be confused with Dolling, which means "dull one." Another name is Denver or Denvir, also a place name from Norfolk.

Whatever troubles you may have had in 2016, let us hope they are well behind you and we can look forward to a healthy happy 2017. Please remember we love to hear from you so get those letters of inquiries to us and we can see what we can do.

*A very Happy New Year to you and all of yours.*

## Ghostly goings on add to intrigue at Crathes Castle

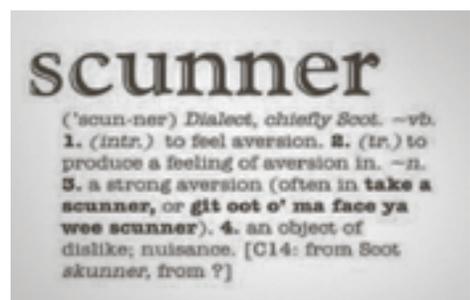


daughter Coleen, granddaughter Jessica and great-grandson Findley who live in Kent (all pictured). Coleen spotted the shadowy shape standing in the doorway and contacted staff to see if there was an explanation, as the door was closed.

## Green lady

Property Manager James Henderson explained: "There have been a number of mysterious sightings in and around the castle of late, in particular around Halloween, and the castle guides have reported that things have felt strange. They have reported a chill down the back in an otherwise warm room, odd noises in an otherwise empty building. Could this photograph be related to this? Or, perhaps it is a sighting of the Green Lady." Crathes Castle's Green Lady is usually spotted in the same room, carrying an infant child. It is said that the skeletons of a woman and child were discovered under the fireplace during renovations and that Queen Victoria herself witnessed the apparition. Another ghost, thought to be Lady Agnes has also been seen. She died suddenly after she apparently poisoned her son's sweetheart and is said to reappear on the anniversary of her death.

*Have you had a spooky event when in Scotland? Share your story with us at: [www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us](http://www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us)*





# Brodie Castle set to transform

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has submitted a planning application to Moray Council to seek approval for changes that will radically transform the visitor experience at the historic Brodie Castle. Brodie Castle, near Forres, is to be the subject of £2.8 million of investment as one of the Trust's 'priority properties', which collectively will attract tens, if not hundreds,



of thousands more visitors and widen support for Scotland's heritage. Visitors frequently comment that Brodie 'is all about the family' and that observation is at the heart of Brodie's transformation. To celebrate that, a 'Garden of Playfulness' will prove irresistible to families and everyone looking for an exciting and stimulating day out.

## National Daffodil Collection

Inspiration has been drawn from the story of the castle as well as the Brodie family history, most notably the connections between the late Ninian Brodie, the 25<sup>th</sup> Brodie of Brodie, with the acting profession on stage and screen. A visitor pavilion will be constructed at the entrance to the new garden, which will be located within the existing walled garden, and this will include high quality catering facilities

and an indoor play area, as well as space for exhibitions and events that will be available for hire. The Garden will also host Ian Brodie's remarkable National Daffodil Collection. Alongside the extensive landscaping and features to create the new garden, there will also be significant changes to the supporting infrastructure to accommodate more visitors, provide more parking and to create a new catering kitchen to prepare food using locally-sourced ingredients.

## One of Scotland's most significant heritage attractions

If planning permission is granted, work will commence to ensure the new features are open to the public next year. The National Trust for Scotland's Chief Executive, Simon Skinner said: "We are creating nothing less

than one of Scotland's most significant heritage attractions in the heart of Morayshire. Brodie Castle is packed with historical and architectural importance, and we are building upon its colourful story to create features that will offer a fantastic visitor experience. Families will come away having learned a great deal about Brodie but will also have fun in doing so. We expect Brodie Castle and its Garden of Playfulness to be a great boost for the local economy, attracting many more visitors and offering the regional community a wonderful place to enjoy on their doorstep."

## Brodie Castle - The Ancestral Home of the Brodie Family

Brodie Castle, the ancestral home of the Brodie Family is a fine 16<sup>th</sup>-century tower house in a parkland setting between Forres and Nairn. The family's association with the area goes back to at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century, as it is believed Malcom IV gave these lands to the Brodies in 1160 before the castle itself was built. Substantial additions were made to the building in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, resulting in the castle you see today. Now owned by the National Trust for Scotland, it contains an impressive collection of art and antiques including fine French furniture, English, continental and Chinese porcelain and a major collection of paintings. These include 17<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch art, 19<sup>th</sup>-century English watercolours, Scottish Colourists and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century works, which together with the 6,000 volumes in the library attracts large numbers of tourists every year. The grounds contain a unique collection of daffodils, woodland walks and abundant wildlife which can be observed from the specially constructed hides.

# Scotland makes history

Great Roman Bake-Off, large scale projections of Viking imagery, a live archaeological dig of St Kilda in Minecraft and a colourful international weaving festival are just a few of the events lined up to make history in 2017. With over one third of visitors drawn to Scotland for its history and culture, VisitScotland has hailed the 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology as an exciting opportunity to relive Scotland's fascinating past through a range of events and activities. A total of nine events - supported by a £300,000 Signature Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology Events Fund have been announced with more to be revealed in the coming weeks.

## The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology

Highlights of the programme (which includes both brand new events and new programmes within existing events) include a spectacular sound and light projection event at New Lanark World Heritage Site to bring to life the mill as it was in the heart of the Industrial Revolution (Shining Lives). The Heart of Neolithic Orkney will "Glow in the ArchaeoDark" on World Heritage Day with interactive storytelling, music, food and glow-in-the-dark paint (Scotland in Six). And a unique event in the Outer Hebrides will celebrate the islands' rich South Asian history with music and art collaboration,

exhibitions and performances (Purvai).

The year also provides the opportunity to promote and celebrate a much wider programme of events celebrating Scotland's history, heritage and archaeology. Partner events within the year include Scot:Lands, which kicks off the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology celebrations on 1 January with an adventurous journey across Edinburgh's Old Town, closely followed by Celtic Connections (19 Jan - 5 Feb) - the UK's premier celebration of Celtic music. And at the end of January, the national bard will come into focus with Robert Burns events celebrating the poet's rich history.

In April (1-16) Edinburgh International Science Festival will celebrate Scotland's Themed Year with Moments in Time - a family friendly outdoor installation, situated on the Mound featuring a series of iconic Scottish police boxes that will 'transport' visitors back in time to pivotal moments in Scotland's scientific history.

## Significant anniversaries

Over the summer season, visitors and residents alike can soak up Scottish historical culture with the Festival of Museums (May), a major Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland (June - Nov) and in August, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will unite with the Scottish Diaspora to create a 'Splash of Tartan'. Scotland will be celebrating

a number of significant anniversaries through the historical year including the 70th anniversary of Edinburgh as a world leading festival city (with early celebrations beginning at Edinburgh Hogmanay's Midnight Moment), the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scottish Crannog Centre, 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Edinburgh New Town Plan, 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beltane Fire Society and the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the General Register of Sasines - the oldest public land register in the world.

Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland said: "Scotland is the land where great legends were made throughout history, and so it is only apt that we should have such a unique line-up of events and activities for the 2017 Year of History Heritage and Archaeology.

"We know for a fact that visitors come to Scotland in their droves to experience its heritage whether that's visiting a castle, exploring a battlefield or tracing ancestral roots. From World Heritage Sites to ancient monuments, cultural traditions to our myths, stories and legends - the year-long programme will spotlight some of our greatest assets and icons as well as our hidden gems. We look forward to delving into Scotland's past with visitors and locals alike and coming face to face with history, heritage and archaeology across the country."

As a main partner, the Heritage Lottery Fund is supporting the year with a dedicated programme called Stories, Stones



Scotland's six World Heritage Sites are painted on the faces of models.

and Bones. The £1/2million fund will encourage people in communities across the country to uncover and celebrate their local history, customs and traditions.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES), the lead public body for Scotland's historic environment, will also be carrying out research work, increasing its programme of living history events across the country from Duff House to Edinburgh Castle, and training Scotland's young people in the provision of traditional skills that will help protect Scotland's historic buildings now and for the future.

**The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017 will begin on 1 January 2017 and end on 31 December 2017.**

**For more information, please visit: [www.visitscotland.com/hha2017](http://www.visitscotland.com/hha2017) The hashtag for the year is #HHA2017**

# 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.



Stately Drumlanrig Castle.  
Photo: Sir Malcolm MacGregor.

**A** new year, a new start... Let's hope it's a good one. 'Lang may yer lum reek,' as they say here in Scotland. The literal translation is: I hope your chimney continues to smoke well. In short: may you never be without wood for your fire...

## Drumlanrig Castle

Keep warm. But don't get so comfortable that you won't want to venture outside. Here, the snow is well and truly on the hills and the glens sparkle with frost. It is a perfect winter picture. No wonder the chief gets up before the dawn to capture Scottish views on his camera. He has been busy of late taking photos of castles for glossy magazines, including one of Drumlanrig Castle in south-west Scotland. Sited north of Dumfries, this place is called a castle, but it looks more like a stately home. Indeed, this pretty pile is known locally as the pink palace.

Drumlanrig was built in the late seventeenth-century for a member of the Douglas clan. The Duke of Queensberry spared no expense on the building, but he would live to regret his extravagance. In fact, His Grace was said to have been so disgusted by the final cost of his new abode that he only ever spent one night there.

This Buccleuch stronghold now stands as a monument to elegance and a symbol of wealth. Pink sandstone glows in the sun. A delightful horse shoe-shaped entrance pulls the visitor in and Drumlanrig has a heart. Well, it actually has hundreds. They are carved into the stonework and they adorn elaborate plasterwork. They grace ceilings and carpets and are dug into garden beds.

The motif remembers a Douglas ancestor who was tasked with taking Robert the Bruce's heart to the Holy Land – and to get a good shot of this decorated place you must prepare to suffer. The best angle from which to photograph Drumlanrig is from a nearby hill. Which is not for the faint-hearted. The

MacGregor, though, is a ruffy-tuffy clan chief and he is up there like a mountain goat. Being fit at fifty-five is quite a thing. Then he was in the army for many years.

## Edinburgh

This year I resolve to get back into some sort of shape. Few can believe it, but I was

once the gym queen - and if not quite ever wafer thin, I was certainly a lot slimmer than I am today. These days the pounds are harder to shift, even though I exercise by dog-walking and a thrice-weekly swim. 'Could do better' is probably the verdict. Edinburgh is as good a place as any to keep fit. The city was built on a series of hills and walking round, your muscles don't half get a workout. Especially if you are carrying shopping bags. For the annual sales are on and the Scottish capital is buzzing with bargain hunters.

Ocean Terminal on the sea front at Leith is considered the city's largest shopping mall and here, a bus-ride away from the centre, you will find more than seventy shops. Here berthed in Leith Docks you will also find the Royal Yacht Britannia. During her forty-five year's service she sailed more than a million miles around the world and visited hundreds of countries. Now as a tourist attraction, visitors can go on board to see how the Queen and members of the royal family lived as they travelled on this floating royal residence.

For those who like small and niche, though, there is no shortage of weird and wonderful shops in Edinburgh. 'Lickety Splits' has been called the cream of the sweetshop world. At 'Armstrong's Vintage

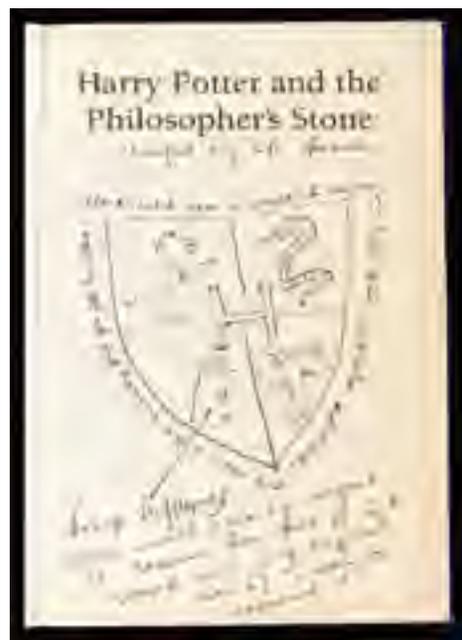
Emporium' you might pick up a 1950s dress. At Mr Wood's Fossil shop near the Grassmarket you could find yourself the owner of a dinosaur bone.

There are the whisky and kilt making outlets - and there are the Edinburgh shops that are no more. Goldbergs department store once boasted five floors, a roof garden and an exotic bird menagerie. Another store, Maules, stood at the far end of Princes Street. 'Meet me at Maules' was an advertising slogan and its elegant tea room was a popular place to be seen. John Menzies (pronounced Ming-iss) is another of Edinburgh's lost shops. Started in the 1830s as a bookseller and stationer, this small firm went on to be a national newsagent chain before being sold in the 1990s.

Finally, on the subject of 'Scotch' business, let's hear it for the Stornoway Black Pudding, recently taken down to London for a Taste of Scotland showcase. Produced in the Western Isles and consisting mainly of beef suet, oatmeal, onion and blood, it was deemed a big hit with all who tasted it. Add a slice or two to a Scottish breakfast and you'll be up those hills in no time!

**Follow the MacGregor clan chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, on [twitter.com/theclanchiefs](https://twitter.com/theclanchiefs)**

## Rare first-edition Harry Potter featuring drawings by J.K. Rowling on display in Edinburgh



**A** rare first-edition of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, featuring personal anecdotes and illustrations by author J.K. Rowling, are now on display at Edinburgh's Writers' Museum. The original hardback book was annotated by J.K. Rowling in 2013 to raise money for English PEN and the author's international charity, Lumos, which supports millions of children in orphanages around the world to return to family life. Featuring 43 annotations, including 22 original drawings by the author, the book [pictured] includes



a sketch of baby Harry asleep on the doorstep of the Dursleys; the author's thoughts on Quidditch; and the Hogwarts Crest featuring a bear rather than a badger as the Hufflepuff house mascot.

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture Convener at the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "This unique first edition features a remarkable glimpse into the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. In it, J.K. Rowling opens her heart about her characters and creations and makes beautiful illustrations of magical scenes from the series. It is a privilege to display this book by one of the world's

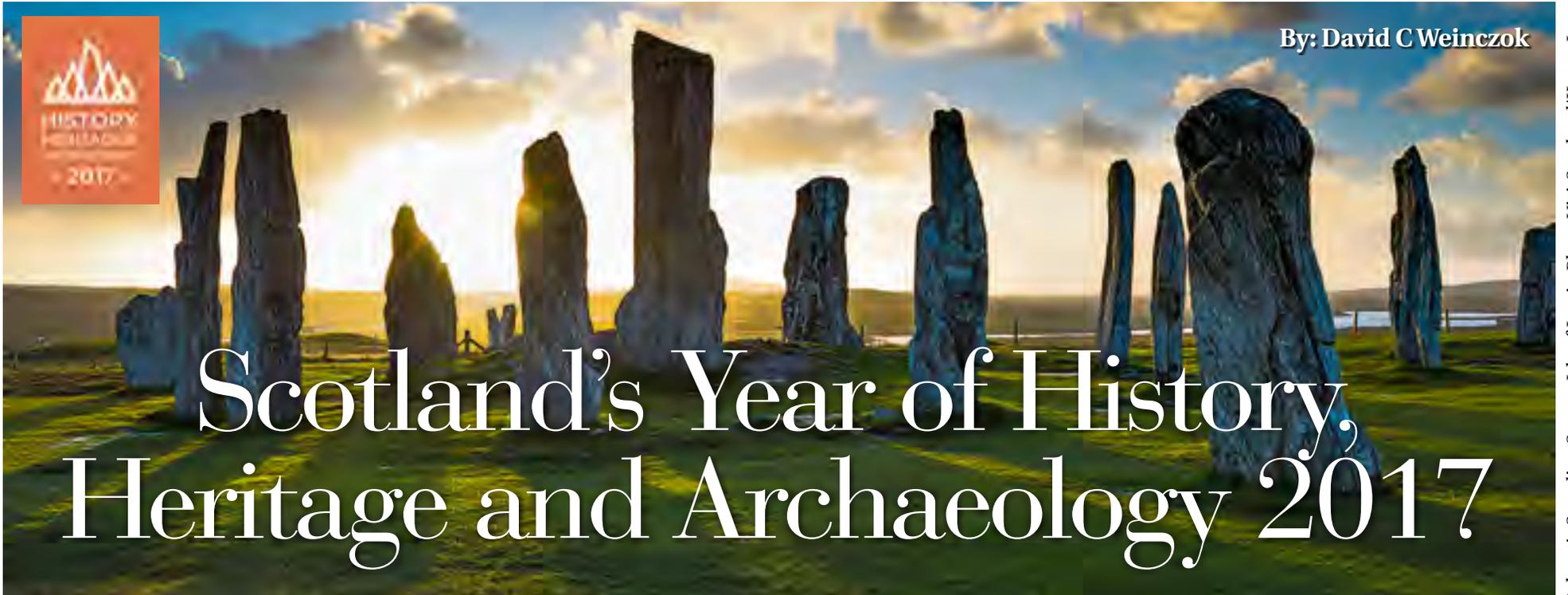
most popular authors in the city's Writers' Museum. The historic building houses rare books and items belonging to some of Scotland's greatest ever writers and is the perfect place to display J.K. Rowling's classic, annotated, book. We are thankful to the private lender, J.K. Rowling and the Scottish Book Trust for their generous support."

## City of Literature

Harry Potter at the Writers' Museum will offer visitors the opportunity to see the one-of-a-kind book opened at different, annotated, pages on set days so that no two visits to this exhibition are the same. Edinburgh is the world's first UNESCO designated City of Literature and widely regarded as the home of Harry Potter. In 2008, J.K. Rowling was presented with the Edinburgh Award by the city's Lord Provost. The award honours outstanding individuals who have made a positive impact on the city and gained national and international recognition for the Scottish Capital. The Writers' Museum occupies the historic A-Listed Lady Stair's House, built in 1622 by Sir William Gray of Pittendrum, an Edinburgh merchant burgess. Celebrating Edinburgh's continued status as a home of great writing, the Museum showcases a new, temporary exhibition and events space. This area shines a light on contemporary writing in the museum.

**Discover the display at the Writers' Museum for free until Sunday 8 January 2017.**

By: David C Weinczok



Calanais Standing Stones, Isle of Lewis. Photo VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

# Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017

*The 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, running from 1 January to 31 December, is a celebration of Scotland's people, distinct culture and traditions, and historic landscapes, attractions, icons, as well as hidden gems and amazing stories. From World Heritage Sites to ancient monuments, listed buildings to historic battlefields, cultural traditions to myths, stories and legends, 2017 is the year to explore Scotland's fascinating past. Discover how this past has shaped the thriving Scotland we know today and its future, with its proud and welcoming spirit.*

Few stories are as vivid, heartrending and awe-inspiring as Scotland's, and it is to this ongoing epic that the nation turns with the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017 (HHA2017). Individuals, organisations, and places of remarkable diversity are collaborating to celebrate Scotland's past and explore how it can be a pillar for the future.

## Scotland's themed years

Themed years, coordinated by the national tourism body VisitScotland, are a way for Scotland to shine a spotlight on the elements that make it unique. 2016's theme was 'Innovation, Architecture & Design,' delving into subjects from Charles Rennie Mackintosh's art nouveau masterpieces in Glasgow to Scottish companies who are today pushing the boundaries of 3D modelling and virtual reality (which, as it happens, is fantastic news for historians and archaeologists too). Past themes include 2014's Year of Homecoming for the clans. Now it's history, heritage and archaeology's turn to take centre stage.

And oh boy, is it a big cast. Scotland has not one but six World Heritage Sites to show off - St. Kilda, Edinburgh's Old Town and New Town, the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, New Lanark, the Antonine Wall, and the Forth Rail Bridge. It is dotted with the ruins of over 2,000 castles, many of which make for jaw-dropping backdrops to visitors' pictures every day. There are hundreds of events run by dozens of organisations and made possible by tens of thousands of volunteers and supporters in every corner of the country. All the major players and lots of smaller but no less important ones are involved, including Museums Galleries Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland (TRACS) and the delightfully quirky Caithness Broch Project.

## History and culture

For many people, history is the first thing they think of when Scotland comes to

mind. Tens of thousands of people from all over the world, regardless of any familial connection to Scotland, have visited and indeed moved here, as I did, precisely to connect with the impossible romance of its built and natural heritage. It's a huge factor behind people's motivation to come to Scotland, with 32% of visitors surveyed by VisitScotland citing 'history and culture' as the primary reason for their trip, and 57% seeing a castle or historic house on their journey. That number, swelled by the ranks of *Outlander* fans in recent years, is only going up.

But such numbers are a secondary matter. More importantly, HHA2017 is part of a conscious effort to bring history, heritage, and archaeology into people's everyday lives, and of recognizing that Scotland's heritage is not just a boon to tourist figures but indeed to the wellbeing of Scots themselves and all those who get hands-on with history for whatever reason.

## Redefining heritage

Mention 'archaeology' and most people picture test pits and trowels. While they're not going anywhere any time soon, a big priority for HHA2017 is to expand people's idea of what history and archaeology can be. Have you ever watched a YouTube video about a local place of interest? You're picking the fruits of archaeology. Ever carve your and your lover's initials into a brick or block of stone somewhere in town? While I can't condone it, according to at least one archaeologist of graffiti I know, you're making history. While it can be difficult to take on such a broad definition, the attempt is noble; to democratise heritage so that your story, your family's story and all the small moments usually glossed over by the history books become a part of something greater than ourselves.

In a sense, you could say that broadening our understanding of what heritage is the true theme for 2017. The endgame of HHA2017, as stated by VisitScotland, is to drive participation and engagement with Scotland's heritage, and

this spirit is perhaps best exemplified by the idea of the 'historic environment', a phrase that has leapt into the mainstream over the past few years. History and heritage aren't just brick and mortar sites, for instance, a castle. It is your reason for going there in the first place instead of doing something else. It's the trail or road you took to get there, and the fields, forests or football pitches nearby it and the story of how they became what they are. It's the sense of joy and discovery while standing on the parapets, and the conversations and memories you share about it all later – maybe much later, with children and grandchildren.

## Get involved

All through 2017 there is a non-stop parade of programmes and projects. Dr Jeff Sanders, Project Manager for 'Dig It! 2017', an organization promoting Scotland's heritage and archaeology, sums it up. "There's an event for everyone in our programme - whether you want something more traditional or completely different. There will be lots of opportunities to get your hands on history with digs and exhibitions. At the same time, we're inviting people to delve into archaeology through YouTube videos, winter walks, fireside ghost stories and *Outlander*."

Learning about history through pop culture phenomenon, experimental archaeology and storytelling? Why, that sounds suspiciously like fun. Here are a few ways you can learn more and get involved, from anywhere in the world:

- Head to VisitScotland's HHA2017 webpage for all the nuts and bolts: [www.visitscotland.com/hha2017](http://www.visitscotland.com/hha2017)
- Browse Dig It! 2017's online events programme at [www.digit2017.com/events](http://www.digit2017.com/events)
- Indulge in *Outlander*, re-watch *Monty Python & the Holy Grail* (shot largely in Scotland and especially at Doune Castle), and enjoy *Braveheart* one last time before we tell you it's mostly fiction
- Ask questions and share content on social media using #HHA2017

Most importantly, remember - if you love Scotland and want to make it a better place, you're a Scot, and that's all there is to it. No matter where in the world you are reading this, know that this is your story and your heritage. So, in whatever way you can and desire, get involved! It wouldn't be the same without you.

**David C Weinczok is a heritage professional, presenter and adoptive Scot based in Edinburgh.**

**Twitter: @TheCastleHunter**



New Lanark.  
Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

# Sir John A's Great Canadian Kilt Skate: *Indelibly Scottish, Undeniably Canadian*



The 2016 Sir John A's Great Canadian Kilt Skate in Ottawa. Photo: Homero Martinez.

For the third straight year, skaters across Canada will take to the ice this winter in their kilts and tartans to celebrate their Scottish heritage, and the birthday of Canada's first Prime Minister. This winter, temperatures are predicted to hit record lows (on a mid-December day, it was colder in Toronto than it was on Mars). Canadians will display that particular obstinacy of Scots to go ahead in the face of adversity!

## Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday

The national kilt skate began in 2015 to mark the bicentennial of Sir John A. Macdonald, the architect of Canada's confederation and

its first Prime Minister. In 2017, to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, six cities will join together for the Third Annual Sir John A's Great Canadian Kilt Skate.

Toronto is the most recent addition to the kilt skate phenomenon. On January 21<sup>st</sup>, skaters will strap on the blades at the rink at Nathan Phillips Square in front of City Hall. This is expected to generate big crowds and considerable attention by the national media. The Scottish-born Canadian musician, Murray McLaughlin, immortalized skating at Nathan Phillips Square in his hit song *Down by the Henry Moore* ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJ1S7LE6vmY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJ1S7LE6vmY))

In Ottawa, the kilt skate will cap off a month-long festival of things Scottish, which begins with "Hogman-eh!" celebrations at the Aberdeen Pavilion, continues with the display of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry throughout the month at the Main Branch of the public library, and includes the annual Robbie Burns dinner.

For 2017, a Sir John A's Great Canadian Kilt Skate is scheduled for:

- Montreal (January 14)
- Toronto (January 21)
- Ottawa (January 28)
- Winnipeg (January 28)
- Saskatoon (January 28)
- Calgary (February 12)

## Celebrating Scotland's contribution to Canada's multicultural heritage

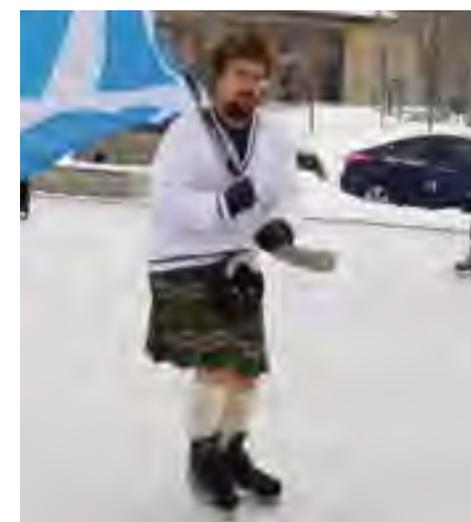
This year, the Scottish government is helping to support Scottish organizations in the six cities. Funding is available to ensure that there is birthday cake and hot chocolate, insurance and permit fees, a sound system for opening ceremonies, and publicity to let everyone know they're welcome to join the fun. We're celebrating Scotland's contribution to Canada's multicultural heritage.

The kilt skates first began as a private house party to celebrate Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday, which is January

11<sup>th</sup>. When the Scottish Society of Ottawa (SSO) asked whether the party could be expanded to include the Nation's Capital, the event soon morphed into a celebration in five of Canada's ten provinces.

The SSO hopes to expand it further next year. "There's a strong Scottish connection to Atlantic Canada," says SSO's Chair, Kevin MacLeod, who hails from Cape Breton. "We're going to make a determined push to encourage Scottish societies there – and anywhere in Canada – to contact us. We'll celebrate Sir John A. with bare knees and ice."

To contact SSO: <http://ottscot.ca>. For more information on Sir John A's Great Canadian Kilt Skate: [www.kiltskate.com](http://www.kiltskate.com).



The World Pipe Band Championships, coming back to Glasgow in August. Photo: courtesy Glasgow Life.

By: The National Piping Centre



Happy New Year from The National Piping Centre! Across the world each year there are lots of opportunities to hear Scotland's national instrument, and these are some of the key events here in Scotland and abroad.

Celtic Connections, now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, kicks off the year in style as Glasgow's annual folk, roots and world music festival, celebrates Celtic music and its connections to cultures across the globe. From 19 January – 5 February 2017, over 2,100 musicians from around the world will descend on Glasgow and bring the city to life for 18 days of concerts, ceilidhs, talks, art exhibitions, workshops, and free events. Its annual piping concert is always a highlight!

In February, our National Piping Centre

Junior Piping Championship returns, one of a host of fantastic contest for young pipers aged Under 18 across the country every year. It aims to encourage all young players to compete, with chanter competitions through to Piobaireachd events.

In early April our teachers head to Dunedin, Florida to teach and run workshops as part of the Dunedin Tide Festival of Piping, if you are in the area, please join us! And from April, things start to heat up as competition season really starts.

## UK Pipe Band Championships

There are 5 major pipe band championships in the UK, and this year they are: British Pipe Band Championships: 20<sup>th</sup> May – Paisley

UK Pipe Band Championships: 10<sup>th</sup> June – Belfast

European Pipe Band Championships: 24<sup>th</sup> June – Forres

Scottish Pipe Band Championships: 29<sup>th</sup> July – Dumbarton

Then the last championships is the biggest and the best. It is part of the world's biggest week of piping here in Glasgow. Piping Live!, which in 2016 won Event of the Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards will take place from 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August. This festival brings together musicians from across the globe, who come to the city with pipe bands and music groups from many different countries to take part. With Pipe Idol, The Piping Live! Big Band, The Masters, Evening Concerts, the festival club, Street Café and more, Piping Live! has something for everyone.

This all leads up to the World Pipe Band Championships on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August. For 2 days the piping world gathers on Glasgow Green (even via the live streaming of the event!) to celebrate a new world champion. Will Field Marshal Montgomery retain their crown in 2017, with Inveraray and District running them so close... we'll wait and see!

This marks the end of the UK pipe band season. Other significant worldwide contests include the North American Pipe Band Championships at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario which is 4<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> August 2017, and the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships, this year in Nelson on 10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> March.

## Solo competitions

Once the Pipe Band season is over, thoughts turn to major solo competitions. The end

of August and start of September see The Argyllshire Gathering and Northern Meetings, the two most prestigious solo piping competitions in Scotland. Each event takes place over 2 days with competitors taking part in Piobaireachd and light music events. Once the winners have been announced for these, then the 10 competitors for the Glenfiddich Solo Piping Championship are announced.

This solo championship, taking place at the end of October each year has been called the de facto world solo championship, where the 10 best pipers of the year compete for the overall trophy.

The Glenfiddich is the end of the 2017 season, only for the 2018 season to start the very next weekend in London with the Scottish Piping Society of London's annual competition, which has its 78<sup>th</sup> year in 2017.

So if you are travelling this year, come and hear piping in Scotland – or look out for it around the world!



# Scotland: 2017 hot list

**Heading to Scotland in 2017? Here are just some of the great moments that will again see the nation bursting with reasons to visit and things to do. In a land of myths, legends, bustling cities, stunning landscapes and plenty of #ScotSpirit, there's always something new happening in Scotland. Read on for more about Scotland's anniversaries, legendary movies, exhibitions and literature and a taste of something much more, as Scotland gets ready to welcome to world in 2017.**

## Edinburgh – 70 years as the Festival City



Edinburgh will next year mark its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the Festival City. Edinburgh has now grown into a year-round festival city with twelve major festivals attracting attendances of 4.5 million each year from around the world.

The Edinburgh International Festival was established in 1947 to create “a flowering of the human spirit” in the Scottish capital. In that same year the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the Edinburgh International Film Festival also started.

Other festivals followed, from military grandeur to intimate jazz and blues, captivating science to underground theatre and children's entertainment. As these festivals grew into world leading celebrations, international excellence in art, culture and science became a permanent and inescapable part of Edinburgh's identity. This year's Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will include a Splash of Tartan and pay homage to the international Scottish Diaspora community. [www.edinburghfestivalcity.com](http://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com)

## Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017



2017 has been designated a year that will celebrate the country's unique history and heritage with a programme of activity

aimed at supporting and driving the nation's tourism and events sector. Scotland has a wealth of riches in history, heritage and archaeology: from World Heritage Sites to ancient monuments; listed buildings to historic battlefields; cultural traditions to our myths, stories and legends; the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017 will shine a spotlight on some of Scotland's greatest assets and icons, as well as our hidden gems. History and heritage is already a key motivator for visits to Scotland and an important part of the visitor experience. [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

## Queensferry Crossing



The stunning, globally unique bridge forms the centrepiece of a major upgrade to the important cross-Forth transport corridor in the east of Scotland. Providing another link from Edinburgh and the Lothians to Fife, the 1.7 miles (2.7km) structure will be the longest three-tower, cable-stayed bridge in the world. Located on the Firth of Forth just outside Edinburgh and due to open in May 2017. [www.forth-bridges.co.uk](http://www.forth-bridges.co.uk)

## Eigg - 20th anniversary of becoming a fully sustainable island



The Isle of Eigg, which is located to the south of the Isle of Skye, marks 20 years

as a fully sustainable island in 2017. Notably it generates virtually 100% of its electricity using renewable energy. The island was bought in 1997 by the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, a partnership between the residents of Eigg, the Highland Council, and the Scottish Wildlife Trust. The island is also notable as it records an average of 130 species of bird annually. The island has breeding populations of various raptors: golden eagle, buzzard, peregrine falcon, kestrel, hen harrier and short and long-eared owl. [www.isleofeigg.net](http://www.isleofeigg.net)

## The bridge at Carrbridge – 300th anniversary

The town of Carrbridge is famous for the 1717 packhorse bridge, one of the most iconic landmarks visitor attractions in the Cairngorms National Park. The bridge was built so that residents could carry coffins across the water when the river was in spate. During the summer months, hardy locals leap off the bridge into the icy depths below to cool off. Incidentally, Carrbridge is also famous for the annual Golden Spurtle World Porridge Championships! [www.carrbridge.com](http://www.carrbridge.com)

## Legends and Literature King Arthur: The Legend of the Sword



Scotland is home to many connections to the Arthurian legend and the film is partly filmed on the Isle of Skye (among other UK locations) and set for release worldwide in 2017, this blockbusting take on the classic Excalibur myth, tracing Arthur's journey from the streets to the throne, is directed by Guy Ritchie and stars Charlie Hunnam (*Sons of Anarchy*) as King Arthur, alongside Jude Law, Eric Bana and David Beckham. [www.kingarthurmovie.com](http://www.kingarthurmovie.com)

## Rob Roy – 200th anniversary

2017 marks 200 years since the publication of the Walter Scott novel. *Rob Roy* is set against the backdrop of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715, which aimed to restore the Stuart monarchy in the person of James Edward, the 'Old Pretender', son of the deposed James II. It is narrated by Frank Osbaldistone, the son of an English merchant who

travels first to the North of England, and subsequently to the Scottish Highlands. [www.walterscott.lib.ed.ac.uk](http://www.walterscott.lib.ed.ac.uk)

## Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites

The first major exhibition on the Jacobites for 70 years, it will reveal the truth about the rise and fall of the Jacobites, with a key focus on Prince Charles Edward Stuart, better known as Bonnie Prince Charlie. It will feature exceptional material from National Museums Scotland's collections and spectacular treasures from across the UK and France. The exhibition will open on 23 June 2017 at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk)

## 20 years of Potter mania

In June 1997, Bloomsbury published *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J.K. Rowling with an initial print run of 1,000 copies. There are various stories around locations in Edinburgh and Scotland providing some inspiration for the series of books; what is true is that Rowling would write in cafés around Edinburgh, including The Elephant House. In February 2007 it was reported that Rowling wrote on a bust in her hotel room at the Balmoral Hotel in Edinburgh that she had finished the seventh book in that room on 11 January 2007.

## Bladnoch Distillery



Inspired by the traditional flavours of Lowland Scotch Whisky, visitors can savour Single Malts that honour their rural roots, alongside contemporary, progressive whiskies. Established in 1817 by brothers John and Thomas McClelland, Bladnoch enjoyed a reputation as a leading Lowland Scotch malt whisky distillery under several owners, including Arthur Bell and United Distillers. After ceasing production for several years, Australian businessman David Prior purchased Bladnoch thanks to his passion for Scotch whisky and a desire to restore the heart and soul of the local community and reinvigorate the brand. The distillery located in Wigtown, Dumfries and Galloway will re-open in 2017 and celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. [www.bladnoch.com](http://www.bladnoch.com)

## Did you know?

After Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus, Robert Burns has more statues dedicated to him around the world than any other non-religious figure. *Auld Lang Syne* is recognised by the *Guinness Book of World Records* as being one of the top three most popular songs in the English language. The other two are *Happy Birthday* and *For he's a jolly good fellow*. The Soviet Union was the first country in the world to honour Burns with a commemorative stamp, marking the



160th anniversary of his death in 1956. Robert Burns was the first ever person to appear on a commemorative bottle of Coca-Cola, in 2009.

# The Mysterious illness of Robert Burns

Text: The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum



asked by our visitors. Yet, upon looking at the history, Robert Burns's medical problems seem to be complex, with a range of symptoms and complaints.

### Mental health

One major influence on his health throughout his life was his struggle with mental health. For example, as a young man living in Irvine, Burns suffered a terrible breakdown. Described as hypochondria at the time, he suffered from what we would now describe as a serious case of depression and anxiety. This depression would return to him periodically when he had financial struggles, problems with his love life, or when he found himself in difficulties due to his politics. At these times, he was often incapacitated by his depression. For example, in December 1789 he wrote to his friend, Mrs Dunlop, saying that 'For now near three weeks, I have been so ill with a nervous headache, that I have been obliged for a time to give up my exercise books, being scarce able to lift my head.' Certainly, his tendency to succumb to depression didn't help him as physical symptoms appeared in his 30s as he stated that, "My Physician assures me that melancholy and low spirits are half my disease."

It therefore seems that depression was a contributor to his death, but as we get into the mid-1790s, it is quite

clear that Burns is suffering from serious physical complaints. In 1795 he complained of 'the rigid fibre and stiffening joints of old age coming fast o'er my frame' and although he was only 35, he seemed to have begun to feel like an old man. This progressed into the year with him complaining about toothache and weakness, saying at one point that he felt barely able to lift his pen. On some days it appears he struggled to get out of bed, while between December 1795 and 1796, the death of his 4 year old daughter gave him rheumatic fever.

### Sea-bathing

He seemed to recover in the spring of 96, but a remark in his letter to his friend Thomson perhaps shows that the end was near: 'Rheumatism, Cold and Fever, have formed, to me, a terrible Trinity in Unity, which makes me close my eyes in misery and open them without hope.' Certainly, as spring turned to summer, those who saw him said he looked 'consumptive' and like he was 'already touching the brink of eternity.'

In July, a last ditch attempt of a cure was sought and Burns was advised to travel out to the Solway Firth and immerse himself in the water. However this did not seem to work as he wrote letters saying that he was incredibly weak, with no appetite,

and barely able to stand. On returning to Dumfries, his friend John Syme recorded him as being emaciated and shaken and that death seemed certain. And only a few days later it was over – Robert Burns was dead.

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**Yet, upon looking at the history, Robert Burns's medical problems seem to be complex, with a range of symptoms and complaints.**

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So what was this mysterious illness? Modern doctors looking at these accounts seem to think that Robert Burns died of a heart condition Endocarditis and believe that the sea-bathing 'cure' recommended to him probably hastened his death.

*Robert Burns Birthplace Museum offers a truly unique encounter with Scotland's favourite son and is located in Alloway, Ayrshire. For further details see: [www.burnsmuseum.org.uk](http://www.burnsmuseum.org.uk).*

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# The ultimate Burns' tour in Scotland

*This month many will honour Robert Burns our national Bard. When next in Scotland you may fancy incorporating the places that impacted Robert Burns in your next Scottish itinerary, where would you go to discover Robert Burns in Scotland?*

Text: Scotland.org



## 1. Ayr

Any journey has to start in Ayr, the beginning of the Burns story - a No 1 Spot is Burns Cottage in Alloway. It's not just a museum - it's an icon, celebrated in pictures all over the world and even has a perfect replica in Atlanta, Georgia!

Standing in that simple house, built by his own dad's hands, you feel carried back to a life we can't imagine. The back-breaking work of the farmer with the lack of money, meat or social security. Yet you feel the gifts that were given; family love, education, independence of spirit. The museum alongside gives you the chance to check the words of *Auld Lang Syne* (and there's no 'for the sake of') against

the manuscript in Rabbie's own hand, to see the very first Kilmarnock edition of his poems (which started off this whole phenomenon) or to see the pistols he fired chasing smugglers along the Scottish coastline.

You could use his poem *Tam o'Shanter* as a guide round the adjoining Heritage Park - no witches today in the Alloway Auld Kirk (unless you're brave enough to check it out at midnight?) but there is the poignant gravestone to Rabbie's father, a testament to a son's love and honour. At the Brig o'Doon itself you'll find a graceful mediaeval arch over the river where Tam crosses running water and so eludes capture by the witches - as you

walk across you'll imagine horseshoes clattering in the distance. Catch the magnificent views of Burns Country from the top of the elegant Monument (the enterprising architect who designed it sold the design twice - so you can see it again on Calton Hill in Edinburgh) and enjoy the park and its facilities.

## 2. Mauchline



For those of you wanting to catch the spirit of Rabbie the poet, the lover, the frequenter of controversies and bars alike, the place to visit is Mauchline which comes as the second recommendation. They say in the town that Burns 'was born in Alloway, died in Dumfries but lived in Mauchline'. And the locals take great care of those memories especially on the day in May annually when the town is transformed into The Holy Fair to become the Mauchline of the 1780s as celebrated in Roberts poems. Horses, carts, haggises, singers and entertainers jostle in a street fair around the buildings our poet knew so well: the Burns House Museum (where he and Jean first set up home) and of course, the old pubs - Poesie Nancys and Nance Tinnocks - which are a bit more demure now than when our lad passed their portals!

## 3. Dumfries



Number three on the list is the pretty town of Dumfries where Robert and Jean brought up their growing family in what's now called Burns Street. You can see the house where he died aged only 37 and where Jean bore their last son on the day of his father's huge funeral. They all three lie round the corner at St Michael's churchyard. The poet's mausoleum dates from slightly later but captures a feeling

of pride and reverence for a genius taken too soon and will be a pilgrimage point for thousands this year.

Rabbie was often inspired as he walked or rode around the countryside, and there are pleasant walks to be taken around Dumfries. What better, after a brisk ramble through the brambles, than to close the day at the Globe Tavern - which Burns called 'my favourite howff'. Here where you can have a quiet pint or a wee dram and see the very chair that Burns sat on while entertaining the company in the evenings after his hard days work as an exciseman.

We can find Burns in the big cities, too.

## 4. Mitchell Library, Glasgow



Glasgow's collection of Burnsiana in the Mitchell Library is unsurpassed in the world - a constant stream of academics and fanatics use this as the motherlode of scholarship. So it is the 4<sup>th</sup> choice. It's a huge and varied hoard, ranging from another *Auld Lang Syne* and many early books and manuscripts to a rather grisly plaster cast of the poet's skull.

## 5. The Writers' Museum, Edinburgh



And for No 5, let's go over to Edinburgh, where one of the most enjoyable of Scotland's small museums is The Writers' Museum, tucked away off the Royal Mile. A jackdaws nest of memorabilia to do with our hero (and you also get marvellous objects relating to two other global figures in our literature: Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson). What better than to share in the life and works of our national poet as you track the man himself down to the places he walked and talked, and then wrote himself into the history books.

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# Tattoo unites with Scottish Diaspora to celebrate Splash of Tartan



The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo has announced a new partnership with the Scottish Diaspora. The partnership will look to ignite renewed interest in Scotland's national fabric while at the same time reaching out to everyone with a link to Scotland: those that live in Scotland, those with a family connection, those visiting and those simply with an interest.

Taking inspiration from VisitScotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology and a Royal Navy lead, organisers unveiled the 2017 theme as Splash of Tartan at the closing of the spectacle's final sell-out show in August last year. Splash of Tartan will be reinforced through a range of separate partnerships and initiatives, including a tie up with The National Museums of Scotland, The National Trust of Scotland and Historic Environments Scotland who are promoting its own emphasis on The Jacobites.

## Tattoo and Tartan

Each year, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo stages its colourful show for a live audience of 220,000 against the backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, with a TV audience reaching 300 million. The most iconic scene of the Tattoo each year is the Massed Pipes and Drums. Drawn from the Scottish Regiments and across the world, they march across the Castle Drawbridge with tartan and uniforms aplenty, pipe banners fluttering and stirring tunes to the fore. Tattoo and Tartan are always seen together but now organisers want to go a stage further.

Clan Chiefs are being invited to lead their clansmen to the Castle, on their own special designated evenings, and to take part in the opening ceremony of the Tattoo. In addition, clans and families are being encouraged – with some support from the Scottish Government through the Scottish Clan Event Fund: Splash of Tartan - to arrange their own family events around Scotland. The Fund is being managed by EventScotland and applications are open until 9 January 2017. All of this will contribute to an already exciting and colourful summer for all visitors to Scotland.

Everyone who attends the Tattoo - whether they have a clan connection or not - is invited to dress for the part; a rich mixture of tartan clothes, headgear and accoutrements of all forms. Those looking to attend the Show without a clan or family connection are being encouraged to join in with the Clan festivities and enjoy the rich history, talismans and tartan of Scotland.

## Scotland's clan heritage

Brigadier David Allfrey, Chief Executive and Producer of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, said: "In 2017 when Scotland's heritage and history are once again to the fore, Splash of Tartan offers a fabulous opportunity for everyone to get involved, dress the part and join in the celebration and pageantry at the Tattoo. We are looking to get the word out, not just across Scotland and the United Kingdom but to everyone abroad who is linked to Scotland - in whatever way - to join us in a remarkable set of celebrations in front of our great Castle

at the heart of the City of Edinburgh. Kilts, trews, sporrans, plaids, hose and bonnets are all de rigeur. We hope the Tattoo will provide a perfect excuse for families to come together at the Show and further afield. We want everyone to celebrate their links with Scotland by looking the part in August."

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, 24th Chief of Clan Gregor, and Chieftain of the Children of the Mist, who has been instrumental in setting up the relationship, added: "Our partnership with The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo has been a long-time coming; it's an excellent way to propel the fascinating history of Scotland's clan

heritage to the fore, and encourage others to explore their Scottish roots, of which there are many. The Clans and Families are steeped in history, but it is within a modern context and making it relevant for today that matters. It's going to be a wonderful sight to witness people from the Highlands, Lowlands and Borders of Scotland and the world, descending on the iconic grounds of Edinburgh Castle, tartan aplenty!"

**Clan members wishing to get involved with the event should contact their appropriate Clan Chief for further information. For further information on Clan Chiefs email: [info@clanchiefs.org.uk](mailto:info@clanchiefs.org.uk)**



MacNab, Leslie, Carmichael and Bruce Clans prepare for the 2017 Tattoo's Splash of Colour. Photo courtesy of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

**25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PANAMA CITY SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES**

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Newhailes. Photo: National Trust for Scotland.

## Spotlight falls on the cradle of Scottish enlightenment

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland is seeking planning permission for the first, £2.4 million stage of an ambitious programme of development that will kick-start the return of Newhailes near Musselburgh to its rightful glory. This survivor of old Edinburgh's rural hinterland originally dates to the 1680s and in 1709 the estate was purchased by the powerful and influential Dalrymple dynasty in the form of Sir David, 1st Baronet of Hailes, who served as Scotland's Solicitor General and Lord Advocate. In the decades that followed Newhailes House came to be seen as one of Scotland's most beautiful Palladian-style country houses set among extensive and gorgeously landscaped grounds. It was claimed that Dr Samuel Johnston described Newhailes' library as "the most learned drawing room in Europe" and it became a centre of attraction for many figures involved in the Scottish Enlightenment and a location for many fevered conversations on society, politics, economics, art and science that helped shape the world as we know it today. The National Trust for Scotland took possession of Newhailes in 1997 and the new investment represents the first phase of a programme of development, entitled *The Newhailes Revival*, that will ultimately restore and re-interpret major portions of the landscape and the house itself and provide exciting new features and facilities for visitors. The National Trust for Scotland's Chief Operating Officer, Patrick Duffy said: "Our ambition is to do nothing less than reawaken Newhailes and return it to the elegance and excitement of its Enlightenment heyday. These first steps will provide the means to attract many more visitors to see what was once one of the great cultural and intellectual hotspots – but in ways that are innovative, engaging, accessible and enjoyable. The estate represents one of the original pleasure grounds and the combination of parkland, natural beauty, formal

gardens, historic buildings and play is a potent one which will be especially appealing to families."

### Rare map found in chimney



Photo: National Library of Scotland.

A rare antique map that was found stuffed up a chimney in Aberdeen to stop draughts has been saved following intricate conservation work at the National Library of Scotland. It has been revealed to be a late 17<sup>th</sup> century wall map of the world produced by the Dutch engraver Gerald Valck and there are only two other known copies in existence. The map was recovered during renovation on a house, and was destined for the skip before someone had second thoughts and it was gifted to the National Library. It was in a very poor condition, encrusted with dirt, and severely damaged in places after being attacked by vermin and insects. It arrived at the Library rolled up in a plastic bag. Once removed, it looked like a bundle of rags and had to be handled extremely carefully as fragments of the map fell off like confetti every time it was moved. On closer examination, it became clear that the canvas backing on the map had survived better than much of the paper itself which had disintegrated in a number of places. The map is large, measuring 2.2 metres by 1.6 metres (7ft x 5ft). In its hey-day, would have been hung on a wall to be admired by visitors. A similar map from the same period is shown in the famous painting by Vermeer called 'Painter in his Studio'. The work to clean and restore the map proved to be one of the most complex yet undertaken by the Library's conservation department and involved a variety of specialist treatments. National Librarian Dr John Scally said: "This is one of the most challenging tasks our conservation

team has faced and they have done a terrific job. Although significant sections of the map have been lost, the remainder has been cleaned and stabilised for future study and enjoyment. It would have been very easy for this map to end up at the bottom of a skip but thankfully it can now take its place among the magnificent maps held within our collection."

### Stirling Castle wins at 2016 Scottish and Outdoor Leisure Awards



Stirling Castle has claimed the title of Scotland's Best Visitor Attraction at the inaugural 2016 Scottish and Outdoor Leisure Awards. The centuries-old stronghold, which welcomes around 460,000 visitors through its iconic gates each year, was voted for by members of the public and visitors alike before being fully researched and reviewed by an independent judging panel. Established to recognise and celebrate the very best in Scotland's outdoor and leisure trade industry, the awards saw Stirling Castle go up against other iconic attractions including RZSS Edinburgh Zoo and Dynamic Earth in the Scotland's Best Visitor Attraction category. Winners from across 17 different categories were announced at the very first Scottish Outdoor and Leisure Awards at a ceremony held in Glasgow. Liz Grant, Executive Manager of Stirling Castle, which is managed by Historic Environment Scotland, said: "To be named as Scotland's Best Visitor Attraction in this new nationwide awards programme is a wonderful achievement. Scotland's heritage attractions, such as Stirling Castle, form an important part of the country's wider tourism and leisure offering and it's great to see this recognised. This accolade is made doubly special as

it is initially voted for by members of the public and our visitors. It's a real testament to the dedication of our staff who help bring centuries of Scottish history and heritage to life every day for visitors from all over the world." Stirling is one of Scotland's greatest stone castles built on a volcanic crag and has been fortified since ancient times.

### £40m Jedburgh distilleries proposal approved



Scottish Borders Council has unanimously backed proposals to build a grain and malt whisky plant, visitor centre and 200-seater restaurant near Jedburgh. The £40 million distillery plans being led by Mossburn Distillers, part of Dutch drinks firm Marussia Beverages BV, would see it build a grain and malt whisky plant, visitor centre and 200-seater restaurant near the Jedforest Hotel at Camptown, three miles from Jedburgh. The proposal, which would see 50 new jobs created, still needs to be cleared by the Scottish Government which is considering potential flooding concerns flagged by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. The developers plan to build a small distillery in the first phase of development, expected to open by 2018, and then a larger-scale distillery to come on line by 2021 which together would produce more than seven million bottles annually. The first phase of the development between 2017 and 2018 would see a small distillery built to educate visitors in the craft of making spirit. A larger-scale distillery, capable of producing millions of bottles per year, would be completed by 2021.

### First Class 385 arrives in Scotland



Scotland's rail revolution took another leap forward when the ScotRail Alliance unveiled the first of its 70 new Class 385 electric trains in Glasgow. Built by Hitachi Rail Europe at their Newton Aycliffe plant in County Durham, this first test train has begun night testing on Scotland's rail network. These faster, longer, greener trains will come into service from September 2017, with all Edinburgh – Falkirk High – Glasgow journeys operated by the new trains from next December and the whole fleet delivered by 2019. Based on pioneering Japanese engineering and inspired by the famous 'Shinkansen' bullet train, these new Class 385 trains will offer rail travellers in Scotland a 21<sup>st</sup> century passenger experience. These state-of-the-art trains are lighter, because they are built with aluminium and without heavy diesel engines, which means they can accelerate faster and offer the potential for shorter journey times.

# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

*Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past*

**1** - King James V married Magdalene of France. **1537**

**1** - Charles II crowned at Scone, the last coronation on Scottish soil. **1651**

**1** - James Stewart the "Old Pretender" died. **1766**

**1** - First celebration of New Year in Scotland on this date (was March 25<sup>th</sup> till then). **1600**

**1** - The Beatles opened a 5-day tour of Scotland to promote their first single *Love Me Do*. **1963**

**2** - Ibrox Park disaster, 66 supporters killed on stairway 13. The disaster led to the rebuilding of Ibrox Park as an all seater stadium. **1971**

**3** - O H Mavor (James Bridie) physician and prolific playwright, born in Glasgow. **1888**

**3** - Poet and critic Edwin Muir died. **1959**

**4** - The death of George Cathcart. Cathcart was a doctor from Edinburgh who instigated the annual series of concerts now known as the Proms. **1951**

**5** - 89,000-tonne Liberian-registered Braer oil tanker, carrying 84,500 tonnes of crude oil, hit rocks on Shetland Isles in heavy seas. **1993**

**6** - A.J. Cronin, author of *Keys of the Kingdom* and creator of the British television series *Dr Finlay's Casebook* died. **1981**



**7** - Glasgow University founded at the request of James II and Bishop Turnbull. **1451**

**8** - The first newspaper in Scotland was published. *Mercurius Caledonius* offered coverage of "the Affairs now in Agitation in Scotland, with a Survey of Foreign Intelligence." It ceased publication on 28 March after only nine issues. **1661**

**8** - King Alexander I crowned. **1107**

**8** - Earl of Stair, held responsible for the massacre of Glencoe, died. **1707**

**8** - Rationing of sugar, bacon and butter introduced. **1940**

**9** - The Diocese of Glasgow was elevated to an Archdiocese by Pope Innocent VII. **1492**

**9** - Income tax introduced for the first time. **1799**

**9** - The first women's golf tournament took place in Scotland, at Musselburgh. **1811**

**9** - Liner Queen Elizabeth I, launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank, in 1938, caught fire and sank in Hong Kong where it was to serve as a floating marine university. **1972**



**9** - Author and *Scottish Banner* columnist Nigel Tranter died. Tranter published more than 130 novels and biographies during his 60-year-long career, most covering famous Scots and their place in the country's history. **2000**

**10** - Pop star Rod Stewart born. **1945**

**11** - John A MacDonald, first Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada in 1867, born at 20 Brunswick Street in Glasgow. **1815**

**11** - The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Association was created. This independently funded service was responsible for Scotland's blood and blood products. The National Blood Transfusion Service in England and Wales was not set up until the 26 September 1946. **1940**

**12** - John Buchan, author (*39 Steps* etc) and diplomat (Governor General of Canada, 1935/1940) died. **1940**

**13** - Death of St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow (and also known as St Kentigern). **603**

**13** - Mary Slessor, missionary in West Africa and known to many as "Ma", died in Calabar. **1915**

**14** - Skye Terrier Greyfriars Bobby died after staying by his master's grave for 14 years. The terrier belonged to Edinburgh policeman John Gray who died of tuberculosis in 1858. **1872**

**14** - Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated his telephone to Queen Victoria. She made the first call in the British Isles from her residence on the Isle of Wight. **1878**

**15** - Neil M Gunn, author of *The Silver Darlings* and many other books and short stories, died. **1973**

**16** - Retreating Jacobite army defeated Hanoverian forces at Battle of Falkirk. **1746**

**16** - Treaty of Union of Scottish and Westminster Parliaments ratified. **1707**

**17** - Duddingston Curling Society became formally organised, one of the earliest in the history of curling - though Kilsyth lays claim to a date of 1716. **1795**



**17** - Author Compton Mackenzie (*Whisky Galore* etc) born. *Whisky Galore*

is based on a real life true story. In the middle of war time rationing, the SS Politician ran aground with a cargo of 264,000 bottles of malt whisky. **1883**

**18** - Death of Sir John Pringle, President of the Royal Society from 1772-1778 and physician to King George III. Sometimes called the "father of modern military medicine", the Scottish-born physician focused on the need to adopt a clean medical environment for the treatment of wounded soldiers. He also coined the term "influenza". **1782**

**18** - The launch of the Scottish Labour Party. The inaugural meeting of the breakaway party was held in Glasgow. It was formed as a result of the dissatisfaction several Labour MPs felt with their party over its stance on devolution for Scotland. **1976**

**19** - A Scottish army under the Earl of Leven crossed the river Tweed into England. It remained in England for three years playing an important part in the Civil War. **1644**

**19** - Birth of James Watt, mathematical instrument maker, developed the steam engine, invented the condenser and copying machine. **1736**

**20** - Benny Lynch crowned world flyweight champion. Recognised as probably the greatest boxer Scotland has produced, Lynch enjoyed a meteoric rise to the top of the sport. **1937**

**20** - The chemist Thomas Graham, was born. Graham is famous for discovering the diffusion rate of gasses, which is known as "Graham's Law". He is also called the "father of colloid chemistry", and was the author of, *Elements of Chemistry*. **1805**



**21** - Sweetheart Abbey, near Dumfries, founded by Devorguilla, mother of John Balliol. **1290**

**22** - Poet George Gordon Byron (later Lord Byron) born. He moved to Aberdeen at the age of four and attended Aberdeen Grammar School. The title was inherited from an uncle. **1788**

**23** - James Stewart, the Regent Moray on the abdication of Mary Queen of Scots, murdered in Linlithgow, triggering civil war. **1570**

**23** - William Hamilton, the Scottish Labour politician, died. He was MP for Fife West, 1950-74, and Fife Central, 1974-87. He became a controversial public figure due to his outspoken advocacy of Scottish independence and his dislike of the Royal Family. **2000**

**24** - Birth of Publius Aelius Hadrianus, who built Hadrian's Wall to cut off Scotland from the rest of Britain. **76 AD**

**24** - First train over Forth Rail Bridge. **1890**

**25** - Robert Burns born Alloway. Burns Night is celebrated around the world on this night. **1759**



**26** - One o'clock gun fired for the first time from Edinburgh Castle. The gun was created to complement a time ball on Nelson's Monument which was not reliable during Edinburgh foggy days. **1861**

**26** - The 1st Glasgow Scout troop was registered, the first to be formed. **1908**

**26** - Kirkpatrick MacMillan, inventor of the bicycle, died. The thought of patenting his invention or trying to make any money out of it never crossed MacMillan's mind, but others saw its potential, and soon copies began to appear. However, Macmillan was quite unconcerned with the fuss his invention had prompted, preferring to enjoy the quiet country life he was used to. **1878**

**27** - *Glasgow Herald* newspaper first published. It is the longest continuously published daily newspaper in Britain. **1783**

**27** - First public demonstration of TV by John Logie Baird. **1926**

**28** - William Burke, murderer and body snatcher of "Burke and Hare" fame, executed. **1829**

**29** - Earl Haig, Commander in Chief of British forces 1915-18, founder of the British Legion, died. **1928**



**29** - The first adoption of GMT by Scotland. The subject has been the source of controversy ever since. **1848**

**30** - King Charles I executed. His execution caused a change of sides by most of the Scots who had previously supported the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War as, for all his faults, Charles was still a Scottish Stuart king. **1649**

**31** - Lachlan MacQuarie, "Father of Australia" born Ulva. **1761**

**31** - Charles Edward Stewart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie" died in Rome. **1788**

**31** - Princess Victoria, Stranraer-Larne ferry, sank in a storm with the loss of 133 lives; 44 were rescued. **1953**

**31** - 270 Royal Navy servicemen were killed whilst on practice missions with other Royal Navy vessels in the Firth of Forth. **1918**







**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](http://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 - (Cheyne, Duffin, Funderth, Mowat for any variation of the spelling).

Marie Hodgkinson  
212 MacKenzie Street  
Toowoomba, QLD  
Queensland, Australia  
e-mail: william.hodgkinson@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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.turnbullclan.com) or Write to [secretary@turnbullclan.com](mailto:secretary@turnbullclan.com)



**The Scottish Australian Heritage Council**

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

Applications for membership can be obtained from:  
The Hon Secretary, SAHC  
Susan Cooke tel: 02 6255 6117  
Email: [galfrida@bigpond.com](mailto:galfrida@bigpond.com)  
[www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](http://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](http://www.Clanmunrousa.org)  
Write: Heather Munro Daniel  
4600 Lloydown 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](mailto:heatherdesylva@bigpond.com)  
W: [clan-scottaustraliagroup.moonfruit.com](http://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](mailto:clanwardlaw@yahoo.com)

**'Wardlaw Ivermair!'**  
[www.clanwardlaw.com](http://www.clanwardlaw.com)  
Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books



**Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria**  
[www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org](http://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](mailto:scottishgaelicsocietyvic@gmail.com)



**Murray Clan Society of North America**

Applications for membership are invited from Murray's and the following allied families: Balneaves, Dinmore, Dunmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrie, Neaves, Piper, Piper, Small, Smale, Small, Smeal, and Spalding.

In Canada contact: William J.M. Murray  
1001 Cordero Crescent  
Campbell River, BC V9H 0C3

In the U.S. contact: Kathy Wolf  
5764 S Nine Street  
Littleton, CO 80127-2021



**Clan Shaw Society**

Invites membership or inquiries from all Shaw, Ayson, Adamson, Esson, MacAy, MacHay, Shisch, Sheach, Sheath, Seith, Seith, Skathi, 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](http://www.aussie-scots.org.au). Email: [secretary@aussie-scots.org.au](mailto:secretary@aussie-scots.org.au), Ph 07 3359 8195



**SCOTTISH TARTANS MUSEUM**  
86 East Main Street  
Franklin, North Carolina 28734  
[www.scottishtartans.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
E: [clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.standrewsociety.com)



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

William L. Pringle, III  
e-mail: [williampringle3@gmail.com](mailto:williampringle3@gmail.com)  
Clan Pringle Assoc. (North America)  
6538 140th Ave., Holland, MI 48423



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

For further info contact  
President: Frederic John Inkster  
1490 NE Kane Street  
Rosburg, OR 97470  
email: [csales@chartraz.net](mailto:csales@chartraz.net)

Membership Secretary: Alta Jean (AJ) Ginn  
12147 Holly Knoll Circle  
Great Falls, VA 22866  
email: [alta.ginn@verizon.net](mailto:alta.ginn@verizon.net)



Ruairidh MacAonghais, Neach Cathrach (Convener)  
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: [fiom@ozgaelic.org](mailto:fiom@ozgaelic.org)  
Web: [www.ozgaelic.org](http://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](mailto: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 Bahagowan)

We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest contact Commander Des Ross at [lonepiper.ross@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.chicago-scots.org)



**Victorian Scottish Union**  
Established 1905  
Umbrella group representing the interest of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria.

Affiliated Clans & Societies for 2013-2014:

Balfour Highland Dancing	Geelong Highland Gathering Association
Balmoral Highland Dancing Society	Geelong Scottish Dances
Begonia City Highland Dancing Society	Glenbrae Celtic Dances
Brunswick Scottish Society	Honsham & District Highland Dancing Club
Clan Cameron	Kilmore Celtic Festival
Clan Donald Victoria	Maryborough Highland Society
Clan Grant	Morningside Peninsula Caledonian Society
Clan Lament Australia	Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
Clan Macdonald Terrville Inc	St Andrews 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](mailto:secretary@victorianscottishunion.com)  
[www.victorianscottishunion.com](http://www.victorianscottishunion.com)



**CLAN ROSS AMERICA**  
ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION MERGED

Many Names - One Clan

Liz Ross, President  
Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary  
[crmembership@abcglba1.net](mailto:crmembership@abcglba1.net)  
PO Box 6341  
River Forest, IL 60305  
[www.clanross.org](http://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.stewart-society.org](http://www.stewart-society.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: Cheyne, Duffin, Gray, Froderith, Mowat and Oliphant.

Richard Langford  
1106 Horseshoe Lane  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
e-mail: [richard@langfordmail.net](mailto:richard@langfordmail.net)



**The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.**

- Promotes interest in the works, life and milieu of the Scottish Poet Robert Burns
- Celebrates Scottish Culture
- Conducts Annual Burns Supper, Poetry Afternoons & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

For Membership Information contact:  
Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 9306 7495  
Email: [noelwright@netspace.net.au](mailto:noelwright@netspace.net.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](http://www.scottishbanner.com) or email [info@scottishbanner.com](mailto: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

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:burns@rscdsvancouver.org) or [www.rscdsvancouver.org](http://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](http://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](http://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 [campargyle2@gmail.com](mailto:campargyle2@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](http://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](http://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](http://www.kiltskate.com)

#### 28 Halifax, NS - The Halifax Burns Club 20th Burns Supper

Celebrate Robert Burns at the Delta Halifax. Info: [www.halifaxburnsclub.org](http://www.halifaxburnsclub.org).

### FEBRUARY 2017

#### 5 Calgary, AB - 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](http://www.kiltskate.com)

#### 10 - 12 Edmonton, AB - 47th Annual Workshop & Ball

Presented by RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch at Chateau Lacombe Hotel, 10111 Bellamy Hill Rd NW. Info: 780-456-8122 or [www.rscdsedmonton.com](http://www.rscdsedmonton.com).

#### 17 Montreal, QC - Whiskyfete

An evening of unique and rare whiskies in aid of the establishment of the Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies at McGill University at The Mount Royal Club, 1175 Sherbrooke St. W. Info: [www.whiskyfete.org](http://www.whiskyfete.org).

#### 18 Toronto, ON - 54th Tartan Ball

A night of Scottish dance at Fairmount Royal York presented by RSCDS Toronto. Info: [www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca).

## USA

### JANUARY 2017

#### 1 - 28 New York, NY - The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart

Presented by National Theatre of Scotland and The McKittrick Hotel which has been transformed into a high-spirited Scottish pub for the production at 530 West 27th St. Info: [strangeundoing.com](http://strangeundoing.com)

#### 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](http://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: [to.www.MotherLodeScots.com](http://to.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](http://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](http://www.americanscottishfoundation.com).

#### 21 Sarasota, FL - Sarasota St Andrew Society Burns Supper

Celebrate the bard at the Palm Aire Country Club. Info: [www.standrewsociety.sarasota.com](http://www.standrewsociety.sarasota.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](http://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](http://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](http://www.sassf.org).

#### 25 Nationwide - Burns Night

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

#### 28 Brunswick, ME - Robert Burns Luncheon

Celebrate the bard at The Daniel at 10 Water St. Info: [www.mainehighlandgames.org](http://www.mainehighlandgames.org)

#### 28 Eureka, CA - North Coast Scottish Society Burns Supper

Celebrate the bard. Info: Denise (707) 498-3014 or [www.northcoastscots.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.celticarts.org).

### FEBRUARY 2017

#### 4 New York, NY - NY Caledonian Club Burns Supper

Celebrate Burns at 3 West Club, 3 West 51st St. Info: [www.nycaledonian.org](http://www.nycaledonian.org).

#### 4 Chicago, IL - Chicago Scots Burns Supper

Gather together to celebrate the birthday (25 January), life and work of the Scottish poet, Robert Burns at University Club of Chicago. Info: [www.chicagoscots.org](http://www.chicagoscots.org).

#### 4 Sarasota, FL - Sarasota Highland Games and Celtic Festival

A full of Scottish event at Sarasota Fairgrounds, 3000 Ringling Blvd. Info: [www.sarasotahighlandgames.com](http://www.sarasotahighlandgames.com).

#### 11 Dallas, TX - The Dallas Knights of St. Andrew Burns Supper

Celebrate the birthday of the National Bard of Bonnie Scotland Robert Burns at Crystal Dining Room of the Dallas Scottish Rite Cathedral, 500 S. Harwood St. Info: [www.knightsofstandrew-dallas.org](http://www.knightsofstandrew-dallas.org).

#### 13 Long Beach, CA - Robert Burns Supper

Celebrate Scotland's best-loved bard, Robert Burns, with a traditional Burns Supper including haggis, whisky, traditional Scottish music and dancing in the Queen's Salon aboard the Queen Mary. Info: [www.queenmary.com](http://www.queenmary.com).

#### 18 - 19 Long Beach, CA - The Queen Mary Scots Festival & International Highland Games

An array of authentic activities, athletics, dancing, entertainment and cuisine in ode to the Queen Mary's Scottish legacy. Info: 877 342-0738 or [www.queenmary.com](http://www.queenmary.com)

#### 18 Newark, NJ - Metro Cup Solo Piping Competition

Each February the premier solo bagpipe competitors meet face to face to compete, presented by Metro Branch of the EUSPBA at Ramada Inn, 160A Frontage Rd. Info: [www.themetrocup.com](http://www.themetrocup.com).

#### 21 New York, NY - The Scots Who Built New York's Landmarks-1664-1750 The Easrly Days

This illustrated talk, presented by architect and architectural historian, John Kinnear, will look at the Scots role in the development of the City from its Dutch beginnings at the Friars Club. Info: 212 605 0338 or [www.americanscottishfoundation.com](http://www.americanscottishfoundation.com).

#### 25 Green Cove Springs, FL - Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival

Enjoy the athletics, music, food and fun of the games at Clay County Fairgrounds, 2497 State Road 16 West. Info: [www.neflgames.com](http://www.neflgames.com).

#### 26 Port Washington, NY - Long Island Scottish Burns Supper

Entertainment will include immortal memory, address to the haggis, pipes and drums, fiddle/piano music, songs, dancing, poems, and stories of Burns and his life at Harbor Links Golf Club. Info: Andrew McInnes 516 747-7589 or [www.liscots.org](http://www.liscots.org).

## SCOTLAND

### JANUARY 2017

#### 1 South Queensferry - The Loony Dook

The world Famous Loony Dook raises lots of money for good causes, and you get to watch lots of Loony's jump in the sea on New Years Day. Info: [www.theloonydook.co.uk](http://www.theloonydook.co.uk).

#### 19 - 5 Glasgow - Celtic Connections

A winter music festival in Glasgow, featuring artists from around the globe alongside the best Scottish talent at various venues around the city. Info: [www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com).

#### 19 - 21 Glasgow - The Glasgow Tattoo

A showcase of musicians and dancers from Scotland, Ulster and across Europe as Glasgow hosts its first Tattoo at the SECC. Info: [www.theglasgowtattoo.com](http://www.theglasgowtattoo.com).

#### 19 Glasgow - Gaelic for Beginners

The classes will start from complete beginner level, with the conversational basics, as well as other useful Gaelic expressions. It will also give insights into Gaelic and Highland culture, and why it is so important to piping at The National Piping Centre. Info: James Beaton: [jbeaton@thepipingcentre.co.uk](mailto:jbeaton@thepipingcentre.co.uk).

#### 20 - 28 Dumfries - Big Burns Supper Festival

Features a heady mixture of cabaret, comedy, music and entertainment in over 20 different venues as the town goes bonkers for nine days of winter magic. Info: [www.bigburnssupper.com](http://www.bigburnssupper.com).

#### 20 Alloway - Haggis Hooley

The Borland Ceilidh Band and a variety of talented local musicians will perform while you enjoy traditional Burns Supper fare at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. Info: [www.burnsmuseum.org.uk](http://www.burnsmuseum.org.uk).

#### 22 - 24 Glasgow - Scotland Trade Fair Spring

Trade only event which includes a wide range of Scottish goods for Scottish retailers at the SECC. Info: [www.scotlandstradefairs.co.uk/spring](http://www.scotlandstradefairs.co.uk/spring)

#### 22 Edinburgh - Burns Unbound

A mini-festival in honour of Burns Night and the Bard himself, with performances and workshops for all ages centred around his life and work. Info: [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk).

#### 25 Nationwide - Burns Night

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

#### 25 - 28 Edinburgh - Burns Night Ceilidh with Annasach Ceilidh Band

An informal celebration of Burns the bard, with a ceilidh, buffet supper and a dram of Famous Grouse. Info: [www.annasach.co.uk](http://www.annasach.co.uk).

#### 25 Alloway - Robert Burns Birthplace Museum Burns Supper

Celebrate the Bard's birthday in the place where it all began. This promises to be an exclusive and unforgettable evening with piper, toasts, recitations, music and speeches at Burns Cottage. Info: +44 1292 443700 or [burns@nts.org.uk](mailto:burns@nts.org.uk).

#### 27 Glasgow - Night at the Museum: Extending Burns Heritage

Celebrating Scotland's national bard, this special Night at the Museum event celebrates Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology and highlights new University of Glasgow research into Robert Burns at Hunterian Museum & Art Gallery. Info: [www.gla.ac.uk](http://www.gla.ac.uk).

#### 31 Lerwick, Shetland - Up Helly Aa 2017

Celebrate Viking history with fire and tradition that originated in the 1880s. Info: [www.uphellyaa.org](http://www.uphellyaa.org).

## Answers to Scotword on Page 5

**ACROSS:** 8 Bairns; 9 Evermore; 10 Bluebell; 11 Tangle; 12 Scapa; 14 Pew; 15 Plaid; 18 Princes; 20 Lamdash; 23 Agle; 24 Don; 25 Tweed; 29 Smokie; 31 Kinghorn; 33 Antlered; 34 Instep.

**DOWN:** 1 Gaelic; 2 Brae; 3 Isles; 4 Wellies, 5 Keith; 6 Amen; 7 Brollies; 13 Pan; 16 Ken; 17 Bap; 19 Regiment; 21 Law; 22 Cockade; 26 Eyries; 27 Weirs; 28 Annie; 30 Kyle; 32 Hose.

## Scottish Genealogical Research



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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



# Cullen skink

**Ingredients:**

**For the stock:**

- 75g/2½oz. butter
- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 leeks, roughly chopped
- 2 onions, peeled, roughly chopped
- 2 fennel bulbs, roughly chopped
- 250ml/9fl oz. white wine
- 500g/17½oz. smoked haddock
- 750ml/1 pint 7fl oz. water

**For the soup:**

- 75g/2½oz. butter
- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 2 leeks, finely chopped
- 2 shallots, peeled, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled, crushed
- 300g/10½oz. potatoes, peeled, chopped
- 500ml/17½fl oz. double cream
- 1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley
- pinch freshly grated nutmeg

**Method:**

For the stock, heat the butter and vegetable oil in a large pan and gently fry the leeks, onions and fennel for 3-4 minutes, or until softened. Add the white wine to the pan and bring to the boil. Add the smoked haddock, pour in the water and bring back to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes, skimming off any scum that rises to the surface, until the haddock is cooked through. Strain the haddock, reserving the cooking stock. Chop the haddock into bite-sized pieces. For the soup, heat the butter with the vegetable oil and fry the leeks, shallots and garlic for 3-4 minutes, or until softened. Add the potatoes and the chopped smoked haddock to the pan. Add the reserved cooking stock and bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 10-15 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender. Stir in the cream and briefly blend the soup with a stick blender. Serve the soup with crusty bread and sprinkle with the chopped fresh parsley and a sprinkling of freshly grated nutmeg.

## Haggis, clapshot and whisky sauce

**Ingredients:**

- 500g/1lb 2oz. haggis
- For the clapshot:
- 500g/1lb 2oz. floury potatoes, such as Maris Piper or King Edward, peeled, chopped
- 500g/1lb 2oz. swede (yellow turnip),

- peeled, chopped
- 50g/2oz. butter
- 75ml/2¾fl oz. double cream
- sea salt and freshly ground white pepper
- 1 tbsp. chopped fresh chives
- For the whisky sauce
- 500ml/17fl oz. double cream
- 2 tsp. wholegrain mustard
- 1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp. whisky
- sea salt and freshly ground white pepper
- 1 tbsp. chopped fresh chives
- ½ lemon, juice only

**Method:**

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Wrap the haggis tightly in aluminium foil and place onto a baking tray. Bake in the oven for 45 minutes to one hour, or until cooked through. Meanwhile, for the clapshot, boil the potatoes and swede in separate saucepans of salted water for 15-18 minutes, or until tender. Drain well. Add the drained swede to the drained potatoes and mash thoroughly. Add the butter and cream and mash again until smooth and well combined. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground white pepper. Stir in the tablespoon of chives. Set aside and keep warm. For the whisky sauce, heat the double cream in a pan over a medium heat. Add the wholegrain mustard, Dijon mustard and whisky and stir to combine. Increase the heat until the mixture is simmering and continue to cook for 1-2 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground white pepper. Stir in the tablespoon of chives, then whisk in the lemon juice. To serve, divide the clapshot equally among four serving plates. Place a spoonful of steamed haggis alongside each. Spoon over the warm whisky sauce.

## Vegetarian haggis stuffed mushrooms

**Ingredients:**

- 4 large flat open/Portobello mushrooms
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 75g/2½ oz. breadcrumbs
- 2 tbsp. pine nuts, toasted
- 2 tbsp. pecorino, grated
- 2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
- 350g/12 oz. vegetarian haggis, sliced

**Method:**

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Place the mushrooms onto a baking sheet and drizzle with a little oil. Cook in the oven for 5-6 minutes or until beginning to soften.

Mix together the breadcrumbs, pine nuts, pecorino and parsley. Remove the mushrooms from under the grill and top each mushroom with a slice of vegetarian haggis. Spoon the breadcrumb mixture over the haggis and drizzle with a little more oil. Return to the oven for about 15 minutes or until the cheese is slightly melted and the filling is hot and bubbling. Serve one mushroom as a starter or 2-3 with tatties and neeps as a main course.

## Bannock



**Ingredients:**

- 1 x 7g sachet fast-action yeast
- 1 tsp. caster sugar
- 500g/1lb 2oz. strong white flour
- 125g/4½oz. unsalted butter, melted
- 250g/9oz. dried mixed fruit
- 50g/2oz. light muscovado sugar
- beaten egg, for glazing

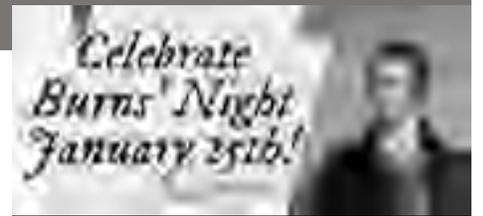
**Method:**

Mix together the yeast, caster sugar and 250ml/9fl oz. lukewarm water in a large bowl. Leave to stand for 10 minutes until the mixture is frothy. Add the flour and butter and mix thoroughly. Tip onto a lightly floured surface and knead for about five minutes to form a smooth elastic dough. Place the dough into a clean, lightly oiled bowl and cover with a damp tea towel. Leave to prove in a warm place for about one hour or until doubled in size. When the dough has risen, remove the tea towel and punch the dough down. Tip onto a lightly floured surface and knead in the fruit and muscovado sugar until well combined. Shape the dough into a round shape and place on a lightly greased baking sheet. Cover again with a damp tea towel and leave to rise in a warm place again for 30 minutes or until it has doubled in size. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Brush the bannock with a little beaten egg to glaze. Bake for 45-50 minutes until risen and a rich brown colour. If the bread is getting too dark, cover lightly with parchment paper or foil. When the bread is ready it should sound hollow when the underneath is tapped gently. Leave to cool slightly before slicing and serving warm with plenty of butter.

## Clootie pudding

**Ingredients:**

- 225g (8oz.) plain flour, plus 25g (1oz.) for sprinkling
- 1 tsp. bicarbonate of soda
- 1 tsp. mixed spice
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- ¼tsp. sea salt
- 175g/6oz. caster sugar, plus 1 tbsp for sprinkling
- 100g/4oz. shredded suet
- 100g/4oz. sultanas



## BURNS NIGHT RECIPES

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,  
Great chieftain o' the pudding-race!*

*The Burns Supper on January 25th is an institution of Scottish life: a night to celebrate the life and works of the national Bard. Suppers can range from an informal gathering of friends to a huge, formal dinner full of pomp and circumstance, enjoy!*

- 75g/3oz. currants
- 75g/3oz. chopped stoned dates
- 50g/2oz. Muscatel raisins
- 1 apple or carrot, coarsely grated
- 1 tbsp. black treacle
- 1 medium farm-fresh egg
- 150ml/5fl oz. buttermilk
- 225g/8oz. clotted cream

**Method:**

Sift the flour, bicarbonate of soda, spices and salt into a bowl and stir in the sugar, suet, dried fruits, and the grated carrot or apple. Mix the black treacle with the egg and some of the buttermilk and mix into the dry ingredients to give soft mixture with a cake-like dropping consistency. Dip a large piece of muslin, an old pillowcase, a pudding cloth or a tea towel into boiling water, remove it and squeeze out the excess water. Lay it out on a surface and sprinkle a 30cm/12in circle in the centre with the 25g/1oz. of flour and the 1 tbsp. of caster sugar. Spoon pudding mixture on top and tie securely with string, leaving a little room for the pudding to expand. Rest a large heatproof trivet or container in the base of a large pan so that the pudding is not in direct contact with the heat. Place the pudding on the trivet/container, knotted side up. Pour in enough water almost to cover the pudding, cover with a tight-fitting lid and simmer gently for 3-4 hours. Take a peek every now and then and then to check the water level and top it up if necessary. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Lift the pudding out of the pan and dip it briefly in a bowl of cold water (to ensure that the outside of the pudding does not stick to an ovenproof serving plate). Then remove the cloth and place the pudding on an ovenproof dish/plate. Slide it into the oven and leave it for 15 minutes until the outside of the pudding has dried off. Serve in chunky wedges with scoops of clotted cream and perhaps a small glass of whisky.

## Bobby Burns Cocktail

**Ingredients:**

- 60ml/1.5 oz. Scotch whisky
- 30ml/3/4oz. red vermouth
- 2 dashes Benedictine

**Method:**

In a mixing glass with ice, add the whisky, vermouth and Benedictine and stir until condensation forms along the outside of the glass. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a twist of lemon peel.

By: Nick Drainey



***Scottish lands have been feeding its people for generations and whilst the country grows wheat it is not used for the staple of bread. One Scot hopes to change this and introduce nutritious Scottish wheats, suitable for low-impact farming and better for people through innovative enlightened agriculture projects as Nick Drainey explains.***

**A**ndrew Whitley wants to change the world, through bread. He sat at the kitchen table of his Borders farmhouse in an open-necked shirt and slacks, he doesn't look like a revolutionary but in many ways he is. For him, the enemy is made up of supermarket chains and multi-national grain buyers who work to create mass-produced loaves we usually find when out shopping.

These, he believes, bring us next to no nutritional goodness and do not encourage farmers to make the environment stronger and healthier.

**Scotland the Bread**

Mr Whitley is a leading member of the Scotland the Bread project which aims to take old varieties of wheat which have been ignored for centuries, grow them organically and create loaves which are more nutritious than anything to be found on store shelves at the moment.

He says: "We are looking for the most nutritious grains that will grow in this climate and the best starting point is to look for the grains that once upon a time did grow in this climate and were developed by Scottish farmers for Scottish millers and bakers."

For the last three years Mr Whitley has been researching and bringing "heritage" specimens from seed banks across the world, including Russia, the US, France, Scandinavia and the UK. He then grows these seeds, many not used for decades but kept in case they become useful again, with the purpose of discovering the most nutritious grains that can be grown in Scotland.

**Patrick Shirreff**

"We are bringing grains home from strange parts of the world where they have lain in gene banks – notably in Russia where there were two samples, the only known

samples, of grain from Patrick Shirreff." In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Patrick Shirreff, who farmed near Drem in East Lothian, discovered wheat growing by the side of his land and took samples across the world. Mr Whitley adds: "He was the premiere plant farmer and breeder in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and it is probable that some of his varieties went over to Northern Europe as part of the incredible degree of exchange in seeds in those days."

**Scotland the Bread is now using a network of growers across Scotland, including himself, farmers and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, to plant the seeds he has found and see which can grow best in Scottish conditions.**

Scotland the Bread is now using a network of growers across Scotland, including himself, farmers and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, to plant the



seeds he has found and see which can grow best in Scottish conditions. Once harvested, they are sent to laboratories to be tested for their nutritional qualities. The project is now looking for more funding to allow it to develop a network of local flour and bread production across Scotland. Mr Whitley, one of seven directors of Scotland the Bread, says this would provide healthier loaves which he believes could be "part of the glue that holds communities together".

**Nutritional quality of grain**

Mr Whitley questions the need for imported modern varieties of wheat which he says are based around intensive chemical fertilisers, pesticides and fungicides. As well as having to be fortified with minerals, the modern varieties also cause health problems, Mr Whitley says: "To give you an example of how it can all go wrong due to the law of unintended consequences: there are more of the protein epitopes that are known to trigger celiac and similar responses in modern varieties than older ones.

"Heritage is healthier, it is more mineral dense, particularly in the case of iron and zinc – there are 2 billion people who don't get enough iron and zinc in their diet and that is not just in the third world, there some population groups in the UK.

"There is every reason to look at particularly older grains to give us more of what we need from our food and doing so in a way which is less dependent, and I would argue should be completely independent, of fossil fuel derived chemical inputs.

"If we continue to rely on those we are hitching our wagon to the fossil fuel industry which we know we have to break free from."

Mr Whitley wants to see a rethink of the "entire system" of wheat growing in Scotland, where farmers are rewarded for the nutritional quality of grain which can be used for bread production. This would allow wheat to be grown locally and then milled before being baked at local bakers.

"In Scotland we have a stark example of the dysfunctionality of the cereal growing system," he says. "It grows a million tonnes of wheat but virtually none is used for making bread – it would only take about 150,000 tonnes of wheat to feed the entire Scottish population with all the bread it eats at the moment and yet we don't seem to be able to do that. Farmers are being asked to grow varieties of wheat for other purposes; they are going into distilling, animal feed, starch production and increasingly to biofuels."

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Lab and Forest Brewing

# The Scottish Banner speaks to James Macsween-*The Haggis Maker*

*This month across the world many Scots (and those who wish they were) will be celebrating Robert Burns with poetry, dance and food. Haggis plays a large role in the celebration, however as many know Scotland's national dish can be enjoyed year round. The Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney spoke to James Macsween, Managing director of Macsween of Edinburgh on what really goes into a good haggis and the role haggis not only goes into this month's Burns Suppers but also its importance in Scotland's culinary signature across the world.*



James with the next generation of Macsween of Edinburgh, his sons.

**SC:** James thank you for taking the time to speak to the Scottish Banner and can we start with you telling us a bit of the background of the over 60 years of Macsween of Edinburgh?

**JM:** Macsween of Edinburgh has been at the forefront of Scotland's national dish – haggis - for well over sixty years. We were founded in 1953 and employ over 75 staff. I started work in the business as a butcher in 1992. We moved out of high street butchery retailing in 1996, when we built the world's first haggis facility. We initially focused our energy, purely in manufacturing and wholesaling. In the last ten years, we have continually innovated

our brand and products. We are also the first manufacturer ever to win three gold stars from the Guild of Fine Food for our traditional haggis. We take great pride in being the leading haggis brand and everything we do is to the benefit of the haggis industry. We are pioneers in the Scottish food scene and proud of all our achievements from our innovative microwavable Haggis in a Hurry range to our award-winning Special Editions such as Venison Haggis, Three-birds Haggis and Beef and Haggis Burgers.

**SC:** Haggis seems to get a bad rap from some foodies with a general misunderstanding of what actually goes in haggis versus other

foods. Can you set the record straight on what makes a great haggis?

**JM:** Haggis is not a wild and illusive animal found roaming the Scottish Highlands – it's a delicious, savoury dish made using lamb, beef, oats, onions and spices. The gentle mix of spices means haggis pairs perfectly with flavours from a variety of different cuisines, including Italian and Mexican. The list of ingredients claimed to be included in haggis is endless, but only the finest lamb and beef makes it into our family recipe – that's what makes a great haggis.

**SC:** This month many will be enjoying a piped in haggis at a variety of Burns Nights around the world. How does this make you feel that the haggis still plays such a vital role in our culture and how do you think it is best served?

**JM:** Macsween is a brand steeped in tradition - just like eating haggis is for many at Burns. It's great that Scots still turn to a traditional haggis to celebrate such occasions. While traditionally served with 'neeps & tatties', there's so many alternative ways you can enjoy haggis, from casseroles to nachos!

**SC:** I know I don't need to tell you that haggis is so much more than Burns Night. It really is a dish that can be enjoyed throughout the year and at all meal times. Do you have any preferred recipes or examples to try haggis that may be considered "outside the box"?

**JM:** Haggis is an extremely versatile ingredient and brings something really unique to a dish. If you want to try something different, try adding haggis on top of your nachos along with some melted cheese – trust me, it's delicious!

**SC:** Haggis is known the world over as Scotland's national dish, however some say we stole it from Scandinavia in fact! Can you tell anything about the dishes origins and history?

**JM:** It's actually thanks to Scottish writer Robert Burns and his famous verse, 'Address to a Haggis' that one of the biggest myths surrounding haggis is that it belongs to Scotland. It's essentially a very ancient dish with roots in many cultures across the globe – it was traditionally made using a variety of wild animals depending on what was being hunted.

**SC:** The haggis industry has adapted with the times and offers products outside the traditional haggis range such as vegetarian

and gluten free options. How important is it do you feel for the industry to offer these types of varieties for today's option driven consumer?

**JM:** It's extremely important to us that we create delicious products for everyone. We're constantly monitoring food trends and working with our teams to develop different recipes that suit the option driven consumer. We're excited to announce that we're also going to be launching Gluten Free Haggis ahead of Burns in January 2017. It will contain a perfect blend of ingredients suited for gluten intolerant consumption, allowing coeliac consumers to enjoy the same delicious taste of regular haggis without compromising on taste.

**SC:** Imported Scottish haggis has been banned in the United States for almost half a century. There is rumour that possibly in 2017 U.S. authorities may lift this ban. Can you tell us what this means for your business and the industry as a whole?

**JM:** This would be extremely exciting not only for us, but for the Haggis industry as a whole. It would be great to offer our products to the United States and see what unique ways they use haggis in their dishes. It would also be great to be able to reunite Scots living in the US with a treat from home.

**SC:** And finally James Macsween is a family business which has been operating for over 60 years. You seem to have haggis in your blood and call yourself a "haggis guru". Today the company operates the world's first haggis factory in Midlothian. How do you feel the founders Jean and Charlie Macsween would feel about where the company is now and the fact it is still a family business?

**JM:** I think Charlie would be incredibly proud of where the business is today. We never lose sight of our values and continue to strive for the business to be the best it can be.

**SC:** James I am already looking forward to having some Macsween haggis on my next visit to Scotland!



Haggis a taste of Scotland.



# Is this the face of Robert the Bruce?

Images courtesy of the University of Glasgow.



Could this be the face of Robert the Bruce, as it has never been seen before?

Scientists and historians have joined forces to create detailed virtual images of what could be the head of Robert the Bruce, reconstructed from the cast of a human skull held by the Hunterian Museum. Funded by £5,000 from the University of Glasgow's Chancellor's Fund in 2014, the realistic images are the outcome of a collaboration between historians from the University and craniofacial experts from Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU). One image depicts the subject in his prime, a large and powerful male head that would have been supported by a muscular neck and stocky frame – a match for the super-athletes of today.

**Privileged individual**

This was a privileged individual who enjoyed the benefits of a first-class diet,

and whose physique would have equipped him for the brutal demands of medieval warfare. Robert Bruce, hero-king of Scots from 1306 until his death in 1329 aged around 55, was no stranger to the battlefield. He waged war to wear down his Scottish opponents and the English regime in Scotland, culminating in the battle of Bannockburn in 1314. To legitimise his kingship and free his kingdom, Bruce also campaigned in northern England and Ireland. However, the second image reveals that strength co-existed with frailty. The skull exhibits likely signs of leprosy, disfiguring the upper jaw and nose.

Historians believe Bruce suffered from an unidentified ailment, possibly leprosy, which laid him low several times during his reign, and probably killed him. In Ulster in 1327, he was said to be so weak that he could only move his tongue. The project to put a face to the Hunterian skull was led by Dr Martin MacGregor, a senior lecturer in Scottish history at the University of Glasgow.

**Scotland's greatest king**

Dr MacGregor was inspired by the discovery of the skeleton of King Richard III of England beneath a car park in Leicester in 2012. "I was aware of previous attempts to recreate the face of the skull linked to Robert the Bruce," he said. "The case of Richard III revealed how far the technology had advanced. I saw an opportunity to apply the technology to the Hunterian skull held here at Glasgow: first to test the credibility

of its connection to Bruce, and then to try to add to our knowledge of Scotland's greatest king." Dr MacGregor requested the expertise of Professor Caroline Wilkinson, Director of LJMU's Face Lab and a world-renowned craniofacial identification expert, to carry out the facial reconstruction of Robert the Bruce. Professor Wilkinson was also responsible for the facial reconstruction of Richard III. Professor Wilkinson said: "Using the skull cast, we could accurately establish the muscle formation from the positions of the skull bones to determine the shape and structure of the face. But what the reconstruction cannot show is the colour of his eyes, his skin tones and the colour of his hair. We produced two versions – one without leprosy and one with a mild representation of leprosy. He may have had leprosy, but if he did it is likely that it did not manifest strongly on his face, as this is not documented."

**DNA**

No reliable visual depictions of Robert the Bruce were made in his own time, and written records tell us nothing about his appearance. DNA would offer another way to establish hair and eye colour – but there is a problem. "The skull was excavated in 1818-19 from a grave in Dunfermline Abbey, mausoleum of Scotland's medieval monarchs," explains Dr MacGregor. "After the excavation the original skeleton and skull were sealed in pitch and reburied, but not before a cast of the head was taken.

Several copies of the cast exist, including the one now in The Hunterian, but without the original bone we have no DNA. The Hunterian also holds a piece of toe-bone said to have come from the same grave, and not returned to it. We had hoped to try and obtain DNA from this and test it against a living descendant of Robert the Bruce, but the bone would probably have been destroyed in the process."

Professor Wilkinson added: "In the absence of any DNA, we relied on statistical evaluation of the probability of certain hair and eye colours, conducted by Dr MacGregor and his team, to determine that Robert the Bruce most likely had brown hair and light brown eyes. There have also been a number of advances in facial reconstruction techniques since previous depictions of this Scottish hero, including better facial feature prediction and more advanced CGI. This is the most realistic appearance of Robert the Bruce to-date, based on all the skeletal and historical material available."



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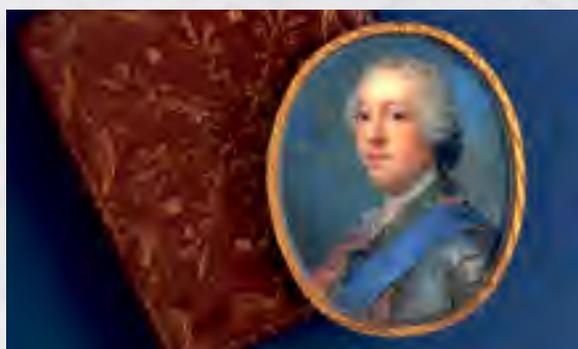
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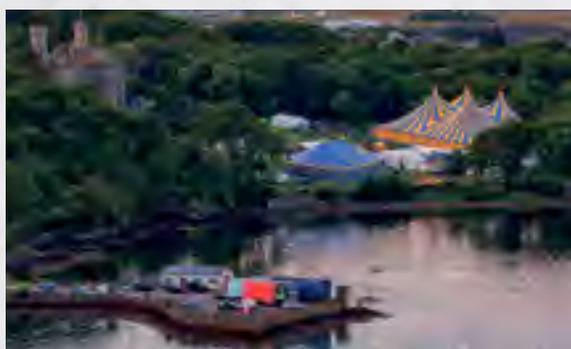
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## HIGHLIGHTS



### BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE AND THE JACOBITES EXHIBITION 23 JUNE - 12 NOVEMBER 2017

Visit the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and discover the real story of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites - a gripping tale of love, loss, exile, rebellion and retribution.



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