



the Scottish Banner



North American Edition



Years Strong - 1976-2017 www.scottishbanner.com

A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 40 Number 8 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper February 2017

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The Banner Says...

Scotland: A lifelong love affair



by Valerie Cairney

This month many around the world will celebrate love. Valentine's Day is named after Saint Valentine, a Catholic priest who lived in Rome in the 3rd Century. Valentine was jailed for planning the banned marriages of soldiers and was sentenced to death for doing so. There, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and when he was taken to be killed on 14th February he sent her a love letter signed "from your Valentine".

Love can take on so many forms and have many meanings, a love for your partner, kids, family, friends, pets, music, travel, your work and so much more. Many will be honouring their special loved ones this month, both those who are here and those who have left us. But when you think of love it goes beyond those who are so important around us and in the Scottish community we have that in spades and what's not to love about Scotland?

Love for Scotland

Regardless of how you celebrate Valentine's Day if you are reading *the Scottish Banner* you no doubt have a great love for Scotland. One has to simply look around the vibrant international Scottish community to see the love held for Scottish heritage and Scotland itself.

Pipe bands are a great example of how thousands of talented musicians around the world whose passion for music is helping keeping Scottish culture alive and well. Their love for performance is evident each time they play, whether it be at a highland games, street parade or concert. Pipe bands are also always one of the most loved aspects of these public events. The pipe band movement is a lifelong fraternity and we encourage anyone interested in taking part to reach out your local band and take part.

The hours of practice and more practice is what gives those in the Scottish dance community the grace and skill of both Highland and Country dance. The love of dance is often nurtured from a young age (however you are never too old to start!) and is a passion that runs throughout a dancer's life.

Another great love in the Scottish community is the Highland Games. Year round somewhere in the world Scotland is being celebrated and it is a love affair that has not diminished. These tremendous family friendly cultural events bring in so many aspects of Scotland for attendees to celebrate. From music, language, dance, genealogy, athletics and more-the pride and passion of Scotland is on display for all to fall in love with. The countless hours of planning these events require (often by committee volunteers) shows such great commitment and professionalism. For the wider Scottish community this is great platform to connect with each other and enjoy the love they have for their heritage.

Fall in love with Scotland

Many people outside the Scottish community can often be surprised just how much is going on and may wonder how they too can "fall in love with Scotland". Each month our events page lists a great range of events and activities for Scots and those who want to get involved in Scottish culture. For those wanting to plan ahead you can always check our website which has events added weekly and is one of the most comprehensive international Scottish events listings available. So get out and attend one of these great events and connect with your community, you will love yourself for doing so!

Scotland a country anyone can easily fall in love with

We know many readers have been to Scotland or are planning their next visit to the land of their ancestors. Scotland itself has some incredibly romantic places to visit year round, and in this issue we look at some of those fantastic locations. The sheer beauty of the nation and rich history

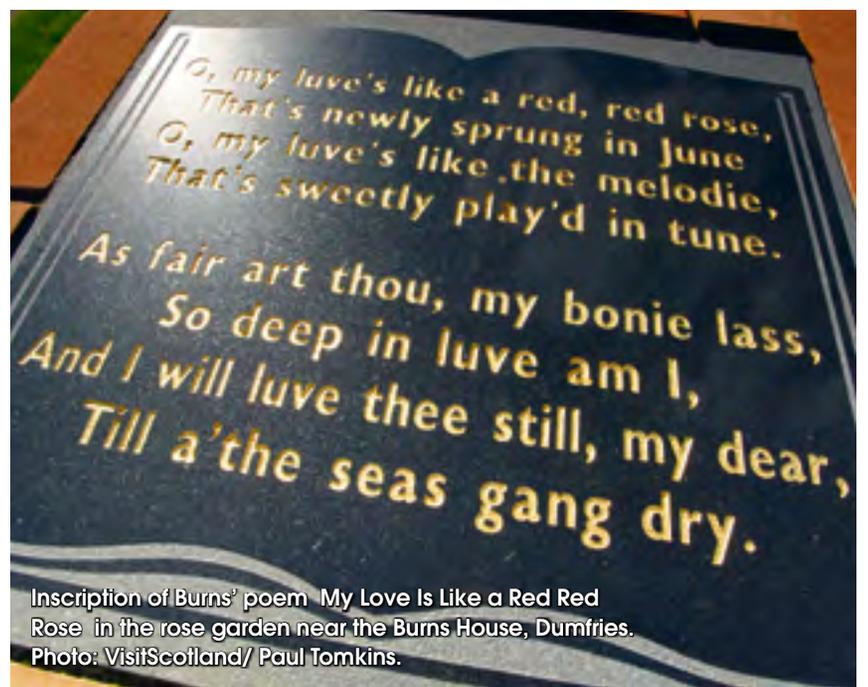
makes Scotland a country anyone can easily fall in love with. From wildlife to whisky, castles to golf, or the nations historic cities with a new modern heartbeat- this is one country that you can fall in love with time and time again.

For those with a love for history you will be spoilt (and quite possibly shocked!) by the story of Scotland. Whether it be looking at your own family story or the wider journey Scotland has taken, this small country has such a dynamic and dramatic past which you will find more exciting than any modern day soap opera. For example did you know the Gorbals area of Glasgow still today holds some of the relics of St Valentine's?

From wildlife to whisky, castles to golf, or the nations historic cities with a new modern heartbeat- this is one country that you can fall in love with time and time again.

Regardless if you celebrate the 14th of the month, the love you have for Scotland is a not only a year round celebration, but a lifelong one. I have no doubt St Valentine himself would not only approve of this love but he too would fall in love with the land and the heritage we are all so lucky to hold so dear.

What is it about Scotland or how Scottish culture is celebrated around the world do you love so much? Share with us your views by email, post or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



Inscription of Burns' poem 'My Love Is Like a Red Red Rose' in the rose garden near the Burns House, Dumfries. Photo: VisitScotland/ Paul Tomkins.

Gracing our front cover: The colours of kilts. Highland dancers at the Highland Games. Photo: VisitScotland /Kenny Lam.

Cromarty's local heroes celebrated in 2017



Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage and Museum.

The work of Hugh Miller, the Cromarty-born writer and scientist, has inspired a programme of events led by the National Trust for Scotland's Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage and Museum for 2017. The charity which conserves and promotes Scotland's heritage has secured funding from the Royal Society's local heroes fund for the programme which will engage local Cromarty Primary pupils in 'citizen science', following in the footsteps of the self-taught Miller. There will be a special study of snails, an art exhibition exploring viewpoints and perspectives and a series of 'walk and talk' workshops. Dr Alix Powers-Jones, Property Manager at Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage and Museum said: "Hugh Miller's

Birthplace Cottage & Museum is delighted to be one of the 15 recipients of the Royal Society Local Heroes grant. We look forward to working with our partners the Cromarty Courthouse Museum and the University of Aberdeen Lighthouse Research station to inspire others with the unique stories of our local citizen scientists."

Highland polymath

Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage and Museum in Cromarty celebrates prominent 19th century Highland polymath, Hugh Miller – an eminent geologist, writer and social commentator. Today the Georgian villa, Miller House, is a museum which presents his life and work, while the iconic thatched fisherman's cottage beside it was

his birthplace and early home. Miller was a renowned social justice campaigner and maintained a passionate belief in education, learning and public engagement stating that "Life itself is a school and Nature always a fresh study". He encouraged the young to "learn to make a right use of your eyes".

George John Romanes

In association with the Cromarty Courthouse Museum, the work of George John Romanes will also be explored. The pioneering animal behaviouralist worked in Cromarty in the second half of the 19th century. His mother was from the area. The funding will also support new research on Romanes and his work which will culminate in an exhibition at the Courthouse. His systematic study of these and other animals led to Romanes being credited with providing a step change in animal behaviour studies, and being seen as a founder of modern ethology. Romanes and Charles Darwin became close friends and colleagues, corresponding and supporting one another over many years.

Caroline Vawdrey of the Cromarty Courthouse Museum said: "This grant is a wonderful opportunity to tell the stories of local men Hugh Miller and George Romanes and their work to elucidate the patterns in the natural world." This project was one of 15 from across the UK selected to take part in the Royal Society grant scheme which provides funding of up to £3,000 for exhibitions and events which reveal local stories of scientific brilliance.

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

Poll tops Skye as UK's most desirable place to live



Skye has been voted the most desirable place to live in Britain. The island which was the only Scottish location in the top 10 came out on top of a recent UK wide survey conducted with nearly 25,000 people taking part. Seaside locations proved popular, with Woolacombe in Devon second and the Cornish holiday destinations of St Ives, Padstow and Newquay all placing highly. Many of the most desirable places to live have house prices below the national average, the study found. Rightmove, who conducted the survey, research manager Abiola Oni said: "The nation clearly want to retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city and settle down in some of the most beautiful places around Britain, from as north as the Isle of Skye to as south as the glitzy town of Salcombe. It's interesting that none of the areas are in the highest priced regions of Britain - London and the south east - likely because the appeal of some of the big cities is the good job options and transport links rather than moving for the amazing scenery."

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Love and romance in Scotland

This month on the 14th many will let their special one just how special they are. Scotland is a great place to celebrate romance throughout the year, bring your love or simply your love for Scotland!

Text courtesy of Scotland.org



Let's get married at Gretna Green!

Weddings have always proved a good business concern in Scotland. This is particularly true, in the old days, for the blacksmith at Gretna Green. The village just over the border from England became, for over two centuries, the by-word for elopement, the act of rushing off to get married against society's or parental

wishes. Immortality was achieved when Jane Austen had Lydia in *Pride and Prejudice* race north of the border with her soldier lover.

Gretna Green

Gretna Green, of course, was chosen for its proximity to the border, but Scotland was chosen for the difference in its

laws surrounding marriage. Firstly, the marriageable age in Scotland was 16 as opposed to 21 in England. Secondly, in Scotland a couple only had to declare their intentions to be husband and wife for their word to be law. So young lovers, sure in heart, were drawn north like bees to the honeypot. And it was the blacksmith one of the most important of tradesmen before the age of the car who officiated, with his anvil, where metal was shaped and melded, acting as the altar. One of the last 'anvil priests' had married 5,147 couples by the time he retired in 1962. The allure of Gretna Green persists and over 4,000 couples still get married there every year (about 13 per cent of all weddings performed in Scotland).

In Scots' Law it is not the place of marriage which legitimises a wedding but the qualification of the person who is licensed to officiate, i.e. the minister, priest or registrar. The result is a variety of wedding venues (herring boats, lighthouses and standing stones included), unequalled elsewhere in the UK. Of course, many couples still get married in a church or registry office, but location wins time and again for both receptions and honeymoons. Country houses and castles from the mediaeval to Victorian Baronial abound, with the exclusive Skibo Castle being the ultimate venue for the rich and famous. But lovebirds with just a tandem between them are guaranteed to find equal bliss in a lochside cottage or a mountain but'n'ben on a beautiful day the scenery and the sunsets are unrivalled.

Something in the air

But it's not just the snow-capped mountains, the Spring promise of the yellow broom, the purple haze of August moors or the immaculate Autumn gold that create this romance. It's true, that looking out to the western isles on a summer's evening when the fading light of gold falls upon rocky outline beyond outline that you can feel you're looking into infinity: the Celtic heaven on earth, lands of eternal youth Tir na n-Og. Then, be there in the glens as the dawn light shines through the rising clouds of mist and you can almost glimpse the shapes of those who've trod

here before; almost hear the echo of human song off the face of the mountain peaks. For Scotland's history is one of passion, blood, courage and folly and it's imbued in the landscape: here is a very earthly heaven that makes falling in love as easy as falling off a log. Over and over again.

And the Scottish tourist industry has never been ashamed to exploit romance to the full: it is, after all this aura of romance, this 'something in the air' an immense natural asset.

And the Scottish tourist industry has never been ashamed to exploit romance to the full: it is, after all this aura of romance, this 'something in the air' an immense natural asset.

Rekindling the flames

Of course you don't have to be betrothed or newly-weds to appreciate and experience the romance of Scotland. You can be middle aged. You can be an octogenarian. You can even be a native.

Scotland is an ideal destination for a romantic break at any time and at any stage of life. In fact, Scotland is the perfect place to kindle or re-kindle the flames.

And it's not just the wee villages with unpronounceable names at the end of single track roads (with views to die for) that you should head for. It's the cities too. There a few places the world over more elegantly romantic than Edinburgh to restore your belief in the virtues of beauty. And Glasgow - that live-wire of cities - is one of three cities (along with Dublin and Terni in Italy) which even holds relics of St. Valentine.

This little known asset came to press and public notice in 1999 when the relics were being moved from St. Francis' Church to another Gorbals church, the Blessed John Duns Scotus.

The Scottish Banner

The 2016 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Full coverage of the 67th Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo live from the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle. The world's most spectacular military Tattoo will host a parade of talent from all around the world celebrating 'Tunes of Glory'. Set against the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, the spine-tingling presentation includes the New Zealand Army Band, Imps Motorcycle Display Team, Tattoo Highland Dancers, crowd favourites the Massed Pipes and Drums plus many more. Set against the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, the spine-tingling presentation includes the New Zealand Army Band, The Royal Marines Band Scotland, Tattoo Highland Dancers, crowd favourites the Massed Pipes and Drums plus many more.

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The romantic setting of Kilchurn Castle.



SCOTSPEAK

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

"I think the islands are more significantly different - both historically and culturally - from the rest of the country. It is a very preliminary shot. It is to consider whether there is the possibility of constitutional changes. I don't have any preconceptions about where it might lead. My motion was accepted without anyone speaking against it and we are a council of independent councillors."

Independent councillor Graham Sinclair said as a Scottish islanders are considering their options after the Brexit vote - including breaking free from Scotland and the UK to become independent. A motion passed by 13 of Orkney Islands Council's 21 members has demanded the chief executive compile a report considering "whether the people of Orkney could exercise self-determination if faced with further national or international constitutional changes, or indeed to decide if more autonomy might be beneficial for the wellbeing of Orkney." The motion also says the report should look at what would be needed to "consider such opportunities for greater autonomy or self-determination" with both the UK and Scottish Governments.

"It sounds strange. Obviously it's a big honour. It's great recognition for my results of the last few years and it's obviously a very nice way to finish 2016 or start 2017, but I'm more than happy just being known as Andy, that's fine by me."

Scots tennis great Sir Andy Murray said as he has been given a knighthood in the New Year Honours list. The 29-year-old from Dunblane was previously honoured with an OBE after winning the US Open in 2012.

"They are not just tours of a railway station, but tap into the consciousness of the people of Glasgow. I never thought we would have tapped into the psyche of the city, but there is such a love for the

railway. We are helping to keep people's memories alive, such as a couple in their late 80s who came on a tour and whose parents met at the station in the early 1900s, or people who saw off soldiers leaving for the First World War from platform one, never to come back."



Glasgow Central Station historian Paul Lyons said as tours of the busy Glasgow station gain in popularity. The station tours take visitors behind the scenes of the station and include visits to the huge former coal and grain stores, and a temporary mortuary used in the First World War. Glasgow Central Station was opened by the Caledonian Railway in 1879 on the north bank of the River Clyde and today Scotland's busiest station and is used by 38 million people a year, with more than 1,000 trains a day.

"Having one of the lowest population densities and traffic levels in Scotland, let alone some of the most stunning scenery in the British Isles, it's no wonder that Orkney also has the lowest levels of anxiety and highest life satisfaction ratings."

Graham Blair, mortgage director at Bank of Scotland, said as Orkney has been named the second best place to live in the UK in a quality-of-life survey. The islands have risen in the UK table and also retain the title of the best place to live in Scotland. Orkney was followed by the Shetland

Islands, which came second in Scotland, and the Western Isles, which was third in the Bank of Scotland poll. Winchester in the south east of England, took the title of best place to live in the UK.



"We have had a fantastic year celebrating the 200th anniversary of Lagavulin, both on Islay and with the hundreds of thousands of people around the world who adore the whisky. Islay and its remarkable local community are at the heart of Lagavulin. That's why we were determined there should be a legacy from the anniversary which would directly benefit the island and its people. We believe that our contribution to Islay Heritage is not only of great significance to the island itself but is an important contribution to conserving and promoting the history and heritage of Scotland."

Nick Morgan of Diageo who own whisky distillery of Lagavulin on Islay said they plan to contribute £580,000 in community projects to mark its 200 years on the island with the release of a 24-year-old single malt bottling. Money is expected to assist seven charities on Islay: Islay Heritage, McTaggart Cyber Café, Islay & Jura Community Enterprises, Finlaggan Trust, Islay Arts, Islay Festival Association and the RSPB.

"This is an important birthday for us, it is an opportunity to look at all that has happened to the Subway since its opening in 1896, and look forward to the future. We know that the Subway holds a very special place in the hearts of many

Glaswegians, and others, so we are keen to mark these milestones. Passengers will hopefully have already seen our special 120th commemorative train with the past, present and, possibly future, livery. Throughout 2017 we hope to have many opportunities for passengers to get involved in celebrating this anniversary."

Gordon MacLennan, SPT chief executive, said as the Glasgow Subway began celebrating its 120th birthday. The world's third oldest subway system first opened on December 14, 1896, taking people from the West End to and from the city and the Southside with more ease than ever before.

Today, the Subway is celebrating the latest batch of modernisation projects and looking ahead to brand new trains and a signalling system.

"I used to play outside the Leith Theatre as a kid and always remember it as an impressive but dormant force. I recall seeing Mott the Hoople play there and thought that it was the start of good times for the impressive space. It wasn't to be and it lay empty for several decades. Now Leith Theatre is about to come of age again. The loss of city centre venues and the gentrification of Leith, making it no longer a no-go area for tourists, ensure its development as a city-wide resource is essential. And it is, and will remain, a hub for the local community."

Scottish author Irvine Walsh said as he helps spearhead a campaign to restore Leith Theatre. The 1500 capacity theatre has not been used since the late 1980's as it fell into disrepair and could not be maintained. It will be used a pop up venue for the Hidden Door Festival in May this year, with hopes it can be used for Edinburgh Festival productions and enjoyed by both locals and visitors at a cost of up to £13 million.

SCOTWORD

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. He enters into the fray! (10)
8. Golf by the seaside (5)
9. From the "Granite City" (10)
10. Corner of the chimney (5)
11. Ridiculous! (6)
12. Finishes the game of bowls! (4)
14. Stores the treasure! (6)
16. Hebridean dweller (8)
19. Sun and moon in opposition (4,4)
21. Leapt (6)
24. Acquaintances (4)
25. Full of agility (6)
27. Scots informer (5)
30. Deep reflection (10)
31. Resides in Scotland (5)
32. Bird of prey's hatch! (6,4)

CLUES DOWN

1. Mix oatmeal and cream for this (9)
2. Goes with tatties (5)
3. Firmly remained (7)
4. Travelling pedlar (4)
5. A tidy quality (8)
6. Greet is Scots! (4)
7. Spill accidentally in Scots (5)
10. River near Airlie Castle (4)
13. With an L it's perfect! (4)
15. Was Mac the first Scot? (4)
17. Seaforths, Gordons, etc. (9)
18. Val Cairney works at it! (8)
20. A Scots mattress (4)
22. First School (7)
23. Part of the Highland Dress (5)
26. A kill's motion (5)
28. Burns' vocation (4)
29. A Scot's tousled hair (4)

the Scottish Banner

40

Celebrating 40 years of publication!

SCOT POURRI



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

A Guid New Year

A Scottish New Year poem.

A guid New Year tae an' a',
An' mony may ye see,
An' during a' the year tae come,
O happy may ye be.

An' may ye ne'er have cause tae mourn,
Tae cry or shed a tear.
Fra ane an' a' baith great an' sma'
A hearty guid New Year!
The Auld Yin Hisel.

Tae us whas like us!

Barbra Bartz
Florida, USA

Neil Oliver



Congratulations *Scottish Banner* on a brilliant November issue, simply full of great content from Scotland. I adore Neil Oliver and really enjoyed the interview you did which I must say is a real coup to get so congratulations. Neil Oliver really comes across as someone who has a great passion for history and Scotland. I also enjoyed the features you had around Remembrance Day and honouring Scottish soldiers achievements. When I get my *Banner* I tend to read at least three times and always find another great tid-bit of information and enjoyment before passing it on to a friend who also reads it from cover to cover.

This is such a wee gem of a paper that we ex-pat Scots are so very lucky to call our own-thank you *Scottish Banner*!

Chris MacDonald
Auckland, New Zealand

Ed note: Thanks Chris for your letter and we were thrilled to have Neil Oliver in our pages and so glad you (and your friend) are enjoying the paper so much.

Fergus Highland Games

In August, my wife Isobel and I visited our son in Burlington, Ontario. While there we attended the Highland Games in Fergus, Ontario and it was awesome. Gift shops, tea rooms, pies, fish and chips, lots of Scots singing the old songs, heavy events and of course a pipe band competition. It is supposed to be the biggest in Canada. Dianna Gaboldin was also there signing *Outlander* books and we had a wonderful time.

Also I would like to mention in regard to the previous information on pipe band competitions. The Scottish Pipe Band Competitions are held in Levensgrove Park in my home town of Dumbarton.

We love the paper.

Jack Melville
Dumbarton, Scotland

Ed note: Thank you Jack for your note and glad you got to experience the Fergus Highland Games, where the Scottish Banner launched 40 years ago!

The joy the Scottish Banner brings to my life

I wait with baited breath to receive my copy of *the Scottish Banner* each month, immediately put mundane things on hold, make a cup of tea and sit down and scan the pages to find the gems contained within. I find information to add to my knowledge bank, recipes to try and details to quote to my likeminded family members. There is usually one story or photo that induces an intake of breath and a dreamy feeling as I am transported back to the most beautiful place in the world.

I was going to end with "keep up the good work", but that is a given as you obviously do. So instead I will say "thank you" for the joy *the Scottish Banner* brings to my life.

Barbara J Wilson
Albion Park Rail, NSW
Australia

Ed note: Thank you Barbara for such a kind letter and we are so happy to hear this feedback.

Bannockburn

Just a wee note or two. Regarding the anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, I heard of an amusing story that is supposed to be true about the naming of Bannockburn Ontario, a hamlet located on Hwy #62, north of Belleville in centre Hastings County, Ontario. As the story goes there was a meeting called to name the community in the early part of the 20th century. Apparently a loud and raucous debate ensued and finally one fellow got up and said, "This reminds me of the Battle of Bannockburn" which brought the house down with gales of laughter and it was decided then and there to name the community Bannockburn.

On a recent story of Mary Queen of Scots, there is an historical error. Yes Mary was imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle, but escaped a year later, and then she fled to England, claiming sanctuary from Queen Elizabeth, who kept her imprisoned for 18 years. She was implicated in an RC plot to murder Queen Elizabeth, who had her executed. It is said she wore red petticoat to indicate she was martyr to her

faith. Also it is said when she placed her head on the block, a small dog escaped her petticoat. But worst of all, it took two whacks of the axe to cut off her head!

John A.D. McLean
Belleville, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Thank you John for sharing this fascinating piece of history with the Scottish Banner.

The Lost Songs of St Kilda



Many many thanks to *the Scottish Banner* for the CD of St Kilda music (*The Lost Songs of St Kilda*) which arrived at Canberra this morning. The music is very different and absolutely beautiful. My wife and I already find it beautifully meditative.

Best wishes to all,
Graham and Margaret Cox
Canberra, ACT
Australia

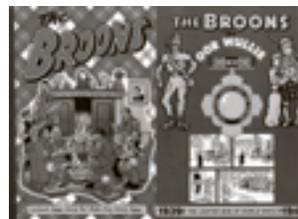
The Burrell Collection



Thank you *Scottish Banner* for featuring the Burrell Collection in recent editions. I have spent many hours at this wonderful place and you are correct the city of Glasgow is very lucky to have such an amazing civic gift bestowed upon them. I had no idea the Burrell was closing for a refurb and cannot wait to visit again once it is open to see the extra pieces they have on display. Glasgow is a great city for the "culture vulture" and reading about it has brought back some great memories and put Glasgow back on by mind soon. Well done *Scottish Banner* as I had heard nothing of this from any other source and the paper continues to keep us Scots informed and appreciate our homeland.

Helen Reed
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

The Broons



As I was reading my *Scottish Banner* which I enjoy, I came across an article in the *Scot Speak* page. I have a *Broons* and *Oor Wullie* book in mint condition, also a *Broons* book in average condition.

I wonder if they were of any value, if so anyone interested?
Ian Carruth
11/11-13 Primary School Court
Maroochydore, Queensland
4558, Australia

Burns Night

Dear Valerie,

How well I remember those Burns Nights in your restaurant in Canada. I occasionally had a minor part to play when 'Rabbie' would ask for a volunteer from the audience. We all have highlights in our lives, and I can tell you that these great times were some of mine. Your wee paper (not so wee anymore) goes from strength to strength and I am so proud to be a subscriber. Lang may YOUR lum reek Valerie, and enjoy your Burn's Nicht on the 25th! I'll ha'e a wee dram in our memory!

Baxter Henderson
Aspendale Gardens, Victoria
Australia

Shinty



Please find enclosed a photograph of Laura MacDonald of Tombo Crossing, Victoria, The Shinty Cup and the captain of the winning shinty team taken at Spean Bridge Commando Hotel in the autumn of 2008 in Scotland. Laura, then a nursing sister in London accompanied me to visit the graves of our ancestors who lay rest in the Kilmovale Churchyard. We spent some time with them and that night in the old family inn, we had an *Outlander* experience when the group of happy players, shinty supporters and families burst in holding the silver cup. We were invited to join the celebrations and were given a history of shinty plus a tasting of an ancient malt from The Shinty Cup and good wishes for the future.

N Casey
Glen Iris, Victoria
Australia

SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGES

(Send us your photos or letters via social media)



Loch na h-achlaise at sunrise last week and only -5.
Carolynn Wilson
Scotland



George Buchanan
West Peoria, IL
United States

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Harry Potter forest bought by local community

An ancient pine forest featured in the *Harry Potter* film series has been bought by the local community. Loch Arkaig pine forest near Spean Bridge in the Highlands has been sold for £500,000 by Forest Enterprise Scotland under the National Forest Land Scheme.

Woodland Trust Scotland joined forces with Arkaig Community Forest to purchase the 2500-acre forest, which was seen in *Harry Potter* and the *Deathly Hallows: Part 2* when Harry, Ron and Hermione flew over it on a dragon.

Gary Servant, of Arkaig Community Forest, said: "This is a great moment. The land has been bought and we have a fantastic opportunity to work together to restore these native woodlands and to reconnect local people with their forests."

The Woodland Trust wants to restore the forest, which is said to have been damaged by felling, overgrazing and the planting of non-native conifers, which will be removed over the next 20 years.

Ancient woods have been around for many centuries - long enough to develop into ecosystems that are rich, complex and irreplaceable. Today, ancient woodland is under increasing threat and covers only two per cent of the UK.

Barra looks to have flag recognised



The Barra community may petition the Lyon Court to ensure the island's flag gains official recognition for the first time. The recognisable green and white Nordic Cross-style flag doesn't yet have legal recognition, despite its widespread use in the local community. The Court of the Lord Lyon, the legal authority on heraldry in Scotland, has the power to authorise community flags and ensure that only one community can use any one design.

SNP MSP Alasdair Alla, who backs the move, said: "I believe Barra's flag can help boost the area's identity and economy. Ultimately, it's up to the people of Barra themselves what they want to do next. The feeling at the initial meeting that I hosted was that recognition of the flag would help boost the island's marketing efforts as well as celebrate its unique identity. I look forward to seeing how people in Barra want to take this forward, and hope it will lead to a formal petition being made to the Lord Lyon."

The next stage in the process would be to apply to the Lyon Court to have the design recorded.

John Muir Way Awarded Scotland's Great Trail Status



The John Muir Way has officially been recognised as one of Scotland's Great Trails. The 134 mile route - which stretches across Scotland's heartland running between Helensburgh in the west and Muir's birthplace in Dunbar on the east coast - joins other world famous paths which have been honoured with the prestigious award. The John Muir Way is the 28th Long Distance Route to be given the accolade by Scottish Natural Heritage. Since its launch in April 2014, which marked the centenary year of the Scots-born conservationist's death, the route has fulfilled the key criteria to earn the highly sought after status. Echoing John Muir's own personal journey growing up in Scotland's east coast town of Dunbar before travelling to the west coast, where he set sail for life in America, the route was designed to showcase the best of Central Scotland.

The John Muir Way takes in castles, historic towns and villages, stunning coastal scenery as well as Scotland's first

national park, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, and has already attracted both walkers and cyclists from as far afield as the US, Canada, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Keith Geddes, Chair of the Central Scotland Green Network Trust and the visionary behind the route, said: "The John Muir Way is an important part of honouring the work of John Muir as a renowned conservationist. By raising awareness of Muir's legacy we hope to inspire today's youngsters - and Scots in general - to join the fight against climate change and help preserve our planet. There is a growing understanding in Scotland of Muir's significance throughout the world and the award of 'Scotland's Great Trail' status will help to further raise awareness of both Muir and the route. The John Muir Way has proved to be popular with locals going out for a short walk, for those long distance walkers who complete the route on consecutive days or over several visits and to hundreds of visitors from abroad, particularly from Muir's adopted homeland wanting to learn more about Muir's life in Dunbar."

John Muir is considered the father of national parks.

St Andrews excavations uncover valuable archaeology



A piece of pottery from thousands of years ago. Photo: The University of St Andrews.

Work to lay four miles of pipeline between St Andrews and Guardbridge recently uncovered a hoard of Neolithic pottery and flint tools which had lain buried for over 4000 years. The surprise find at Kincapple, three miles west of St Andrews, was made as engineers laid pipework to connect St Andrews University's award-winning Green Energy Centre at Eden Campus in Guardbridge with the main university estate at North Haugh in St Andrews. Around 30 pieces of "grooved-ware" pottery were excavated from a pit during archaeological monitoring of pipeline works last year. Tools, fashioned from flint - most probably from Yorkshire - were also found, suggesting contacts and trade over considerable distances for the era. Analysis of this flint demonstrated that the tools had been used for stripping bark and skinning animals, amongst other tasks, and probably represented a precious tool kit for someone.

Archaeologist Alastair Rees, of archaeological and historic environment consultancy ARCHAS Ltd, responsible for the monitoring, described the finds as fascinating. He said: "These finds provide yet another piece in the jigsaw to help us reconstruct the mundane - as well as the more interesting - aspects of how societies interacted and travelled in Ancient Britain. The artefacts provide more evidence of long-distance trade, contacts and

especially ideas across the country."

Various features were discovered including pits and sections of ditch which were identified, excavated and recorded. Within one large pit, more than 30 pieces of distinctive pottery identified by specialists as "grooved-ware" were recovered.

Grooved-ware is associated with the Late Neolithic period in Britain and has been found across Britain from Orkney to the south of England. This type of pottery is very distinctive, being highly-decorated with linear incisions, pinched decoration and decorative panels and is often associated with ritual deposition or offerings.

In addition to the pottery, numerous flint tools and blades were recovered. Initial analysis of this flint, by archaeologist Dr Torben Ballin of the University of Bradford, identifies it as of great interest, having originated either from the famous flint mines at Grimes Graves in Norfolk or from Yorkshire. The flint tools, mainly scrapers and blades, are unusually large and particularly finely crafted. This combination of fine pottery and flint strongly suggests a ritual deposition rather than domestic refuse.

Further study and analysis, including radiocarbon dating, will now be carried out to help create a picture of the beliefs and behaviour of the people who lived in this era.

Trump whisky sets records in Scotland



The Trump whisky. Photo: McTear's Auctioneers.

In the lead up to the inauguration of Donald Trump as President of the United States a rare bottle of 26-year-old GlenDronach single malt whisky signed by him has gone under the hammer in Glasgow. The 26-year-old GlenDronach was bottled in 2012 to mark the opening of Trump International Golf Links in Aberdeenshire and was expected to fetch £3500, however the winning price for the bottle was in fact £6000. The lot, which includes authentication papers, was purchased by a Canadian at McTear's Auctioneers in Glasgow a week before the inauguration of Mr Trump as president. McTear's whisky expert Laurie Black said: "I suspect Mr Trump's imminent elevation to the position of 'leader of the free world' will have a significant bearing on the value of the 26-year-old GlenDronach, but the fact remains that this is also a quite stunning whisky in its own right. The Trump connection gave this particular bottle a presidential boost."

How Scotland 'invented' the Superstition



It is believed that if you rub the nose of the Greyfriars Bobby statue in Edinburgh it will bring good luck!

Friday the 13th might be a day when people are overly aware of black cats, groups of magpies and not walking under ladders; but many might not realise that Scotland is the home of many superstitions, myths and legends. In fact many of the most commonly held superstitions originate from the home of the Loch Ness Monster.

Scottish superstitions

Examples of superstitions that have originated in Scotland include:

- In the north of Scotland, some farmers believe that the birth of a black-faced sheep brings bad luck for all the flock – this is where the expression 'black sheep

of the family' originates. If a sheep has twins, both born with black faces, this signals a poor lambing season ahead.

- It's considered lucky to place silver in a new born baby's hand as it will bring great wealth to them in later life.
- Also, a person should touch iron if they see or even hear evil.
- A bride should place a silver coin in her shoe or carry a sprig of heather for good luck.
- In Scotland, a baby born on the first day of the month is considered to be lucky. Also, what day a baby is born on has an impact on its future. The famous 'Monday's child is fair of face...' poem originates from Scotland.
- First Footing on Hogmanay - In the New

Year, Scottish people "first-foot" one another, which means to be the first into somebody else's home. The first-footer must bring a gift into the home to bring good fortune for the coming year. This most likely developed because of the fair-haired -Vikings invasion of Scotland in the 8th century.

- Today, the tooth fairy that leaves money under a pillows in exchange for teeth. This highly resembles an old Scottish superstition about lost teeth that is supposed to bring a child good luck and strong teeth.
- It has been said that Scotland in fact invented the tradition of Halloween and the superstitions and traditions around it. The tradition of 'dookin' for apples, where children (and sometimes adults) attempt to retrieve apples from a water-filled basin using only their mouths is thought to be a reference back to the days of the druids. In ancient druid lore, apples were said to be a very sacred fruit.
- Scottish seafarers too often believe that salmon are bringers of bad luck and are known as the 'reid fish'. Salmon was at one time known as a sacred creature.

Places to explore Scottish superstition, myths & legends

Edinburgh – visit Greyfriars Kirk and the nearby statue of Greyfriars Bobby and rub his nose for good luck (the paint on his nose has actually started to wear off due to the number of 'rubs'!)

Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire – and chat to a local fisherman about his or her beliefs and superstitions.

Rosslyn Chapel, Midlothian – believed to be final resting place of the Holy Grail.

See in 'first footing' in the New Year after the Comrie Flambeaux fire festival in Perthshire; a spectacular events that kick off the new year with a serious and uniquely Scottish bang.

Find a lucky sprig of heather across Scotland – heather blooms twice a year in early summer and early autumn. For a classic route across heathery mountain ground, travel from near Ballater in Deeside along the A939 to Tomintoul and Grantown-on-Spey.

Check out the horseshoes (considered lucky) at the Famous Blacksmith's Shop in Greta Green, Dumfries and Galloway; now a wedding venue and visitor attraction. There are horseshoes set in an archway at the entrance to the exhibition that is a popular spot for pictures.

Get in the spirit of Halloween superstitions with a visit to one of the many rumoured 'haunted' spots in Scotland; including the Drover's Inn pub in Glasgow or Culzean Castle in Ayrshire.

It goes without saying that Loch Ness is reputed to be the home of Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster. Around one million people visit Loch Ness each year, generating around £25 million for the local economy.

Do you have a Scottish superstition you follow? Tell us at: www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

For more information on myths, legends, ghosts and superstitions check out the VisitScotland Myths and Legends e-book at www.visitscotland.com/hha2017

Treasures of historic Banffshire return to the North East

Iconic Celtic trumpet set on display at Duff House, 200 years on since its discovery.



The Deskford Carnyx.

Some of the North-East's most treasured archaeological finds have returned to near where they were discovered as part of a new exhibition which will shine a light on the lives of the Iron Age people in the area and local silversmithing. The Treasures of Historic Banffshire exhibition has opened to the public at Duff House in Banff and features internationally-renowned objects such as the Deskford Carnyx and the Gaulcross Hoard, as well as a full-scale replica of the Gundestrup cauldron.

The Deskford Carnyx is a wind instrument dating from between 80-200AD, which was discovered around 200 years ago in the parish of Deskford in the former county of Banffshire. This distinctive animal-headed horn, shaped from sheet bronze and brass to resemble a wild boar,

would have been played during war and ceremonies to inspire or terrify listeners. Today only the head survives, although it would once have featured a crest, ears, enamelled eyes and a wooden tongue.

Internationally significant collection

Careful examination of what remained of the carnyx allowed experts to make a reconstruction of it which can be played. Both the original remains and the reconstruction were among the star attractions at the recent Celts exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland, in Edinburgh.

Lorna Ewan, Head of Visitor Experience, Content and Learning at Historic Environment Scotland, which manages Duff House, said: "It's exciting and very fitting that the Historic Treasures of

Banffshire exhibition will see a unique and internationally significant collection of objects – that were all first discovered in Banffshire – go on display at a Banff landmark – Duff House.

Helping mark Scotland's Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design, this exhibition will provide our visitors with a fantastic opportunity to discover more about the iconic Iron Age trumpet, the Deskford Carnyx, and the music that might have been played on this instrument more than 2,000 years ago. Other exhibition highlights offer a real insight into the history and heritage of the region, such as its traditional and once thriving silversmithing craft." Also on display at Duff House will be the Gaulcross Hoard of Pictish silver jewellery, an offering of a pin, bangle and chain discovered in the 1830s in Fordyce, and a replica of the Gundestrup cauldron – one of the most important finds from Iron Age Europe which was discovered in Denmark in the 19th century.

Scottish Centre of Silversmithing

The exhibition also includes some excellent examples of Banff silver. During the 1700s and 1800s, Banff had a thriving silver trade, including its own Banff town assay mark, and as part of regeneration efforts by Aberdeenshire council and the Banff Preservation and Heritage Society, proposals are underway to create a

Scottish Centre of Silversmithing in the town. Details of the plans for a workshop and exhibition space for silversmiths as well as some specially-designed silver pieces created by local jewellers will also be on display as part of the exhibition.



The Gundestrup cauldron. Photo: Roberto Fortuna and Kira Ursem/National Museum of Denmark.

Dr Fraser Hunter, Principal Curator, Iron Age, Roman, Early History at National Museums Scotland, added: "The Deskford carnyx is a wonderful object, both highly significant and hugely evocative. It will be a particular treat for people to be able to view it alongside the magnificent replica of the Gundestrup Cauldron. Among the many significant details of the Cauldron is the fact that it actually depicts Iron Age people playing the carnyx. Given that the object was probably made in south-eastern Europe, it shows how widely connections ran between the peoples of Iron Age Europe".

The exhibition runs until the end of February 2017 at Duff House.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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



It seems only yesterday that we celebrated New Year's and now we are entering the second month of the year. We all know that February is for lovers which is celebrated on St. Valentine's Day, February 14th. Valentine or Valentine is a surname found in Scotland. From a Latin personal name meaning healthy and strong. There was more than one Emperor of Rome with the name. The name is not uncommon in the Kincardineshire parish of Fettercairn where supposedly many bearers of the name would be descended from Valentine of Thorntoun, who was given lands there by Robert the Bruce.

The name has probably been interchanged with Ballantyne or Ballantyne, which has a different derivation altogether. Its origins are in a place name, Belleden in Roxburghshire, according G. F. Black's *The Surnames of Scotland*. There was also a Ballintoun in Stirlingshire, which could also have lent itself to the surname. Love is also a Scottish surname that one may associate with St. Valentine's Day but it has no amorous origins but is from the Old French for wolf. The name was documented in Glasgow as early as 1472.

Celtic heritage

Now if we look at our Celtic heritage going back to Old Ireland and Gaelic Scotland. There are other features associated with the month. In the pre-Christian days there were four seasons that held sway within this community. Imbolc was in February to coincide with lambing, Beltane in May as their acknowledgement of summer. The harvest was featured at Lughnasadh, and the winter began with Samhain associated with our Hallowe'en.

Imbolc is now celebrated St. Brigid's Day February 1st. The pagan deity who ruled over Imbolc was Bride and so it is easy to see that St. Brigid's day was set to counter the pagan influence. This holiday marked the arrival the spring season and the saint was much associated with blessing the home. Food and drink would left out for her as well as clothes to be blessed.

Your family tree

How is that family tree going? I usually mention this topic in the January column each year but now is as good a time as any. If you put together even rudimentary tree I will guarantee that one of your great great grandchildren will thank you. With that legacy you can become a legend in your own clan. Let's review one of the resources of research, the census. Britain has held a census every ten years for since 1801. However, before you get too excited, until the 1841 census they were only addresses with descriptions to ascertain tax rates etc. 1841 is the banner year when they listed people at the addresses. In this year the information on them was quite basic. It included names of the individuals within household, the age, if they were born in county they wrote "Y" and if not "N" or

England, or Ireland or "F" for foreign parts. Ages of children were exact but adults were rounded off to the nearest 5 years. So some listed as 20 could be 18 or 23 in reality. This makes difficult to verify a baptism of a John Smith within a community.

The census

From 1851 the census returns were more genealogically friendly with the information it offered. They listed the individuals according to their relationship to the head of the household. They could be wife, son, daughter, nephew, niece, grandchild, father, mother, father in law, mother in law, sister in law or brother in law etc. For non-family members, there were lodgers, visitors, servants and inmates. Inmates weren't necessarily serving prison time in a penal institution but were living in institutions of some type, such as hospitals, boarding schools or convents etc.

Real ages and not the rounded forms used previously on the 1841 census were now given as far the informant who was responding to the census taker knew. Their status of marriage or single was noted, as well as occupations which also included children as scholars or fortunate persons who could live as an annuitant or "by their own means."

One of the key points of the census from this date was place of birth, again if the informant knew, persons would be recorded with their birth places showing the parish and county. Unfortunately, if the person was born outside the country, they would simply listed as England or Ireland.

Sometimes, one is fortunate in this regard in that some zealous census takers would a little extra time for those foreign born in his jurisdiction and add things like Tyrone, Ireland or York, England but this is rare.

In conclusion, it is valid to say that census reports are invaluable as a genealogical tool. They not only show a window on the life of your ancestor but how they may have moved around the country.

Partridge

From Christchurch, NZ. Heather Spence wrote ask about the name Partridge, a name from her mother's lineage. There quite a few bird names that have become surnames. Often if one's ancestor bore the name it is because his contemporaries saw them as having similar attributes as the bird mentioned. They may have gained a particular bird surname by being noisy as crow, small and lively as a sparrow, proud as hawk etc. I'm not sure what attribute to attach to someone named Partridge but there is another aspect for having such a name. It may also apply to one kept or hunted these same birds. However, Partridge also comes under what I refer to as "cross over" names, names that have more than one meaning and can change because of spelling over the centuries. With shifts in dialects and local pronunciations it may have evolved from the personal name Patrick and vice versa.



This month the Celtic world celebrates Imbolc and the return of light with fire.

Partridge is a name of antiquity in that has been recorded as early as 1279.

I may have mentioned that I develop writer's block from time to time and have a difficult time coming up with fresh material and that is why I welcome your inquiries. So often when I address one inquiry other readers write to state their connection with name. It's gratifying to know we are reaching you all in some small

way. It is especially gratifying to know that when I offer some websites or resources for research it's also satisfying to find from readers that profit from them. Here's one for this month. It is a website to help with deciphering old handwriting. I hope it helps: www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com/deciphering-old-handwriting-in-genealogy.

Please enjoy your February and keep those letters coming.



Clan Cameron Gathering

Australia

Gold Coast, Queensland

20-22 April 2018

Hosted by: **Clan Cameron New South Wales Inc.**

For detailed information and to follow the Gathering news, visit

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or contact:

Lynne Cameron -Secretary, Gathering Sub-Committee
CameronGathering2018@gmail.com

All National and International Cameron Descendants are invited to attend.

KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS

Australian Jim Stoddart was born in a Glasgow Tenement and raised in a Glasgow Housing Scheme 1943-1965. Jim will be taking readers on a trip down memory lane, of a time and place that will never be the same again, and hopes even if only a few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.



Starry-sky Pavements



Glasgow Corporation housing at Pollok.

My mother was hoping to obtain a house for rent from the Landlords Meikle & MacTaggart. They owned a large number of houses built in Cardonald and Mosspark, while Macdonald was the Factor renting houses in Hillington. My grandparents by then all lived in South Cardonald and I had some relatives living in nearby Hillington. Naturally enough my mother would have liked to have got a house in one of those suburbs. She waited patiently on the waiting lists, calling in to the Factor in Ibrox occasionally, to find out how our housing application was progressing.

Glasgow's pre-war chronic housing shortage had been exacerbated by a further loss of housing stock caused by bombing. There had been little new building of houses during the war and there were post-war shortages of building materials.

It was a very disheartening time for my mother seeing no end in sight to her wait. Nevertheless, she had also put our name down for a house on Glasgow Corporation's housing lists but so far, to no avail. It was not surprising, then, that there was a great deal of excitement and commotion when an important looking letter from Glasgow Corporation dropped through our letterbox in Blackburn Street in 1947.

Pollock

"Jean, Jean, we've got a new house", shouted my mother overly excited upon opening the letter. She threw open the toilet door to let my sister know. My sister, in turn, had a look of astonishment at having her ablutions so rudely interrupted by an over-excited mother trailed by her four year old brother. "We've to be allocated a house in Pollok", continued our mother. "Where's Pollok?" "I tentatively asked as I trailed behind her as a four year old, with some pangs of uncertainty quickly entering my mind. "Will I still be able to go to Lorne Street School next year?"

"No, not there, Pollok's too far away. But you've been to Pollok before, to Aunt Margaret's on the other side of Pollok from where we're going, I think. There's a school opposite her house that might be the school you'll go to. I don't know yet."

"So, where exactly is Pollok?" asked my sister wondering which school she might be attending in the future. She still had a year to go at Lambhill Street School, having foolishly

refused to go to Bellahouston Academy, in spite of having been dux at Lorne Street. Some of her pals didn't get the marks to go to the Academy so she didn't want to go there either. "It's up Crookston Road, towards Nitshill," offered my mother. "Nitshill? I'm not going there - and I don't want to change schools, mum." "Don't be daft, Jean. It's only the name of the place. It's got nothing to do with nits and I'm sure we can organise things so that you can continue at Lambhill Street. I'll have to talk to your dad. Anyhow, wait until your dad and Charlie hear the news. I hope they'll be pleased. Charlie will have to find out about the best way for him to get to his work at his office in the city and your dad, how best to get back to Govan to the shipyards. Anyway, we've to be there next Friday to be allocated a house number."

Cornalee Road

We took a tramcar along Paisley Road to the junction with Crookston Road where the old Crookston toll used to be. Soon a No 23 bus arrived and we boarded it for Pollok. We went upstairs so that I could see where we were going and I could watch out for Cornalee Road. Very soon we were passing an interesting set of buildings in a park on the left. "Where's that, mum?" I asked with the boundless interest of a four year old. "I think that's the 'cooking college' said my mum. "What do you mean?"

"Well I think it used to be called Ross Hall. All this land once belonged to the Ross Family who were the local aristocracy here for hundreds of years. Then it was bought over by the Education Department to become a training college for chefs, and I think for domestic science teachers." But before I got a chance to ask what aristocrats were, we were slowing down to stop in front of an even bigger and more interesting building. This one was very impressive. It was stark and sombre and looked like the backdrop to a horror picture. On a dark night, with a few lightning flashes and a dozen big bats thrown in to fly around its very imposing tower, Dracula would have felt very much at home in this old building. "What's that place? I asked a shade too loudly, showing an extra exuberant interest.

No 23 bus

"Wheesh!" said my mother, "Shush! I'll tell you in a minute" she whispered quietly." I

watched patiently as half a dozen people got off the bus at the stop, sad-faced and shoulders hunched. "That's Hawkhead Asylum," she whispered quietly. "It was once a mansion and also belonged to the Ross family." As I was to learn at a later time the Duke of York, later King James VII and II, once dined there. And even before I had time to ask what an asylum was another interesting sight caught my eye, a ruined castle. I only saw it for a fleeting moment as the bus swept past the end of Brockburn Road, but already I was thinking that Pollok was turning out to be quite a fascinating place. I had been to Pollok before but never by this interesting route. "What castle is that?", "That's Crookston Castle", "Will I be able to go there some time?"

"I'm sure you will." laughed my mother, as the bus came to a stop once again. It was the Crookston Homes and some more people got off the bus. "Soon be there I think," said my mum as we moved off again. "C'mon get aff here, hen," said the bus conductress in her tight-fitting bottle green uniform, leaning over to press the bell. "We're ther', hen. This is Cornalee Road." "Thanks very much", said my mother who had asked the cheery-faced conductress to let her know when the No 23 bus got to our destination. With my chin firmly planted on the narrow sill of the bus window, I had keenly watched as we passed the Crookston Homes and

the Barrhead Road, for the new houses of Pollok to appear.

Like wee twinkling stars

So far I had only seen open fields, trees, a few bungalows and a small row of shops at the end of Crookston Road. Even as the bus was slowing down I could only see the fields of the Haugh Hill on one side of the road and the big trees of Househillwood Park on the other side. "Where are the houses?" I worriedly asked, before the bus came to an abrupt stop. "Right in front of you," stated my sister with some confidence as we stepped off the platform and looked toward a grassy slope and a row of flats on Netherplace Road. And sure enough from where we now stood began the Pollok Housing Scheme and Cornalee Road. Work on the roadway was still in progress with tar macadam being laid down as we gingerly make our way up the hill. A rich aromatic smell came from the jet-black asphalt being laid down to make a pavement further up the hill. This was peppered with small white chips of quartz which caught my eye.

"Hey look, mum, a starry-sky pavement," I shouted, most impressed. "They're like wee twinkling stars in a big black sky", I went on to say; as the quartz chips sparkled in the sunlight on the new, clean, deep black asphalt. "Yes they do right enough, laughed my mother, or maybe diamonds, very fancy anyway". She was still happy and excited about getting a brand new house and I was happy about something as mundane as the new pavements.

Edinburgh to honour Doctor Elsie Inglis



Influential in medicine

The move has been welcomed by campaigner and historian Alan Cumming, who said it was important to remind residents of Elsie Inglis' Edinburgh roots. He said: "I think it is wonderful the Council has recognised Elsie Inglis in this way. She was a remarkable lady and influential in medicine even to this day. She helped the city's poor and thousands of people turned out to her funeral at St Giles Cathedral almost 100 years ago. It is important to continue recognising the role that Elsie Inglis played in Edinburgh."

An Edinburgh road, crescent or avenue will pay tribute to one of the city's most esteemed medical pioneers. Under moves to mark the centenary of her death in November 2017, Councillors have agreed to naming a street after Doctor Elsie Inglis (1864 - 1917). Widely regarded as a heroine of the First World War and an advocate for women's rights, Elsie Inglis was instrumental in setting up the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service Committee, an organisation funded by the women's suffrage movement for the Allied war effort.

Councillor Richard Lewis, Edinburgh's Culture Convener, said: "Elsie Inglis established better medical practices and conditions for women in hospitals and was a central figure in the suffrage movement. As we edge towards the centenary of her death, a street named in her honour would provide a new tribute to this pioneering figure."

The Council's museums service has been working to raise the profile of women's history and Elsie Inglis' work with the Museum of Edinburgh recently examining Scottish Women's Hospitals during the Great War and recount the career and suffrage campaigning of Elsie Inglis. There are five memorials to Elsie Inglis in Edinburgh, including a bronze plaque where she founded her own medical practice and maternity hospital at 219 High Street. Further plaques commemorating her life and achievements can be found at 8 Walker Street at the site of her pre-war hospice; next to the University of Edinburgh at Old Surgeon's Square; and in Holyrood Park where the Elsie Inglis Hospital stood until 1988. A stone tablet sculpted by Pilkington Jackson in her memory is on display in St Giles Cathedral where her funeral service was held in November 1917.

10 reasons to visit Edinburgh in 2017

Text images courtesy of Marketing Edinburgh.

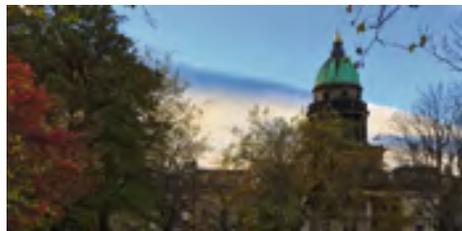
2017 is here and the people of Edinburgh are incredibly excited about what this year will bring. From world-famous festivals to iconic celebrations and blockbuster film releases, there are lots of reasons to come and join us in Scotland's Capital over the next 12 months. Read on to discover why you should pay Edinburgh a visit in 2017:

1: Outdoor spaces to (quite literally) take your breath away



Want to start your new year with a breath of fresh air? Edinburgh has some of the best outdoor spaces you can ever hope to find in a major city. From the mighty 650 acre Holyrood Park to the charming Water of Leith Walkway, you will find lots of wonderful landscapes perfect for exploring. If you're up for a challenge, have a go at conquering Arthur's Seat, which will give you a fantastic panoramic view of the city for a relatively short climb.

2: 250 years of the New Town



Stretching the meaning of "New" ever so slightly, 2017 marks the 250th year of the New Town. Building began on the beautiful and iconic Edinburgh city centre area in 1767 from designs put together by young architect James Craig. The wide orderly streets offer a stark contrast to the labyrinth of the Old Town and are considered an architectural masterpiece. It's so well renowned, in fact, that the streets of the New Town make up part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Edinburgh.

Pay a visit to Edinburgh this year and discover for yourself what makes James Craig's creation so spellbinding...

3: The Queensferry Crossing

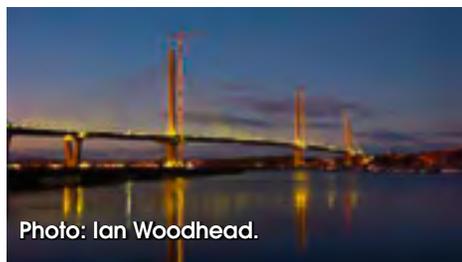


Photo: Ian Woodhead.

The long-awaited Queensferry Crossing is due to open in May 2017, joining the Forth Road Bridge and the Forth Rail Bridge in connecting the Edinburgh City Region to Fife and the North. This will make the Scottish Capital more accessible than ever before, and offer incredible photo opportunities of the new structure from nearby South Queensferry.

4: 70 years of festivals



2017 marks the 70th anniversary of the Edinburgh International Festival, the Edinburgh International Film Festival and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Since their inception in 1947, these festivals have grown to become some of the biggest events on the world's cultural calendar. In 2016 the Edinburgh Festival Fringe hosted 50,266 performers in 3,269 shows at 294 venues, making it the largest ever arts festival on the planet. Come to Edinburgh this summer and find out what makes Edinburgh's festivals so special.

5: Discover the city that inspired the magical world of Harry Potter



Did you know that the epilogue in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* was set in 2017? JK Rowling wrote the first chapters of the worldwide sensation in an unassuming cafe in Edinburgh, taking inspiration from the streets, the buildings and even the names around her. Come to Edinburgh and discover the school that inspired Hogwarts, visit Tom Riddle's grave, or even stay in the hotel room where she completed the final chapters of this global phenomenon.

6: Hidden Door Festival



Uncover the cutting edge of Edinburgh's vibrant arts culture with Hidden Door Festival 2017. Every year, the volunteers behind this unique festival turn an otherwise derelict or forgotten venue into a hub of theatre, dance, music and visual arts. This year's venue will be the Citadel Theatre in Leith, which is expected to welcome over 10,000 punters to experience the city's most exciting emerging arts talent this 26th May - 4th June.

7: Castle Concerts



At the other end of the spectrum, Edinburgh Castle Esplanade is due to welcome some of the world's biggest music acts once again

this summer as part of the Castle Concerts series. Edinburgh Castle's summer of music kicks off with Olly Murs on the 18th July, followed by Deacon Blue on the 22nd. You can also stick around until August and see the majestic Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, which runs from 4th until the 26th.

8: Go time travelling to iconic Outlander locations



Outlander season 3 returns to our screens later this year, so what better excuse to follow in the footsteps of our time-travelling heroes Claire and Jamie? Lots of iconic *Outlander* scenes were filmed in the Edinburgh area, so take a day trip to West Lothian and the Borders and discover the locations as seen on screen.

9: Learn something new



2017 promises to deliver some fascinating museum exhibitions for the people of Edinburgh, many of which are free to enter. Make some new friends at the *Monkey Business* display at the National Museum of Scotland, where you can discover impressive secrets of our closest relatives in the animal kingdom. Or go on a journey through the fascinating story of maps at the National Library of Scotland in their exhibition *You are Here*. Also the major new exhibition *Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites* at the National Museum of Scotland will tell the real story of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the rise and fall of the Jacobites.

10: Bring in 2018 at one of the biggest parties on the planet



When 2017 draws to a close, what better place to celebrate the beginning of the New Year than at one of the most famous celebrations on the globe? Edinburgh's Hogmanay is the UK's biggest outdoor winter festival and includes the beautiful torchlight processions as well as the world-famous Street Party. Why would you want to start your 2018 anywhere else?

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Lady MacGregor's Scotland By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

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



Greetings from Scotland where the weather has been surprisingly good. In fact, it's been too good for the time of year. Which makes us wonder if we're about to be hit by a cold snap.

Winter snow is nothing new in the Highlands. When the MacGregor was growing up in the wilds of west Perthshire the road was regularly blocked by blizzards. The local train line that ran near the house was several times impassable and he can remember his grandmother heading out with flasks of nourishing lentil soup to warm the stomachs of stranded passengers. Lady Gylla MacGregor was an indomitable lady. Aged 18 she got herself to the fighting in the First World War to help nurse wounded soldiers. In World War Two she ran the local Women's Land Army in Scotland. So an overdose of the cold white stuff wasn't going to stop her.

QE2

Here in the Lowlands and Borderlands it has been some years since we had a really bad fall of snow. But that isn't going to worry us at the moment, because the chief and I are not at home. The MacGregor and

I are actually on a cruise ship, sailing west on a transatlantic crossing. It is the famous Queen Elizabeth 2nd. We boarded the QE2 in England and for a few glorious days we'll be masters of the ocean. We'll be sailors on the high sea, as we travel across to New York, then down to Fort Lauderdale.

Between 1831 and 1931 two million Scots left their homeland to travel abroad - and not just to North America, but to places like Australia and New Zealand.

We hope it is sunny somewhere along the way. I have done this Atlantic journey before, but I have never attempted it at this time of year. Winter skies are leaden and winds whip round the deck. But waves are kind, the vessel is a sturdy one and so far, it is a gentle journey. After a glass of wine, or whisky, we are rocked soundly to sleep. The clocks go back an hour each evening, so no-one feels disorientated by different time zones.

Importantly, the food is to die for. To save me from having to be rolled down the gangway when we reach the Big Apple, I am ignoring the lifts and using the stairs.

I met a Canadian who tells me this is the difference between the North Americans and the Brits. They will always wait for a lift, whereas we don't like queuing.

This trip is part holiday, part work and both of us are giving talks. I am talking about working in TV news. I am also explaining what it means to be one of the Queen's Lord Lieutenants. The chief, meanwhile, is doing a photographic lecture and showing stunning landscape pictures of Scotland. Then we will both don our tartan and give a joint talk on how early Scots emigrated to North America. We will tell folk how they crossed the Atlantic. Just like we are doing now, but in a very different way. These days cruising is a luxurious affair. But one thinks with some horror of the difficulties our ancestors must have endured on their way to a new life in a new world.

By the 1700s Scots had settled in every British colony in North America. Then, on 4th July 1776, America declared independence. The British government suspended the right to emigrate there, so the flow of people heading westwards temporarily stopped.

Highland Clearances

Emigration picked up again in the 18th and 19th centuries as the Highland

Clearances got underway in Scotland. Emigration Societies were set up, with grand patrons like Queen Victoria encouraging people to go. The floodgates were open. In the first half of the 19th century almost sixty percent of UK settlers to America were Scottish-born. Between 1831 and 1931 two million Scots left their homeland to travel abroad - and not just to North America, but to places like Australia and New Zealand. I think about all this as we navigate the ocean. Nowadays we make the crossing with martinis and matinee shows. We dance and sing our way across the Atlantic, afternoon tea and evening cocktails a must.

Then I imagine all those brave souls who put their trust in God and a Captain to get them safely to the other side. I think about the fear and the faith they must have ventured out with. Of what they thought when they saw that beacon of hope at the entrance to New York Harbour. It will be a moving moment for us when we, too, see the Statue of Liberty. The chief says he will be wearing his kilt, in honour of those that went before...

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

Marine protections positive for Fair Isle's future



Scotland's largest conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland has welcomed the Scottish Government's announcement that a Marine Protection Area (MPA) is to be established in the waters around Fair Isle. Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham confirmed that a community-led Fair Isle Demonstration and Research MPA will be established in order to enable development of new or improved forms of marine management to protect seabirds and promote ecotourism.

Fair Isle, which is 24 miles from Shetland, is the most remote inhabited island in the UK and has been owned by the National Trust for Scotland since 1954.

Internationally important seabird colony and the marine habitats

The Trust has been supporting the islanders' efforts to have the MPA established since 1995 as it ensures the charity's key objectives of conserving Fair Isle's internationally important seabird colony and the marine habitats

that underpin it, with resulting economic benefits for the human community. The Trust acquired Fair Isle from George Waterston, founder of the island's permanent bird observatory, which was located there because of its unique importance as a bird migration watch point. As well as the migrants, the island supports one of the most important seabird colonies in Europe, hosting species such as Atlantic Puffin, Arctic Skua, Great Skua, and Arctic Tern, Common Guillemot, Razorbill, Northern Gannet, Black-legged Kittiwake and Northern Fulmar.

The marine environment is vital to the wellbeing of these seabirds and the MPA is a significant step forward.

Eco-tourism

The residents of Fair Isle make a living through crofting, traditional crafts such as boat-building, spinning, weaving and, of course, knitting – the internationally famous Fair Isle jumpers originated here. In recent times, islanders have increasingly benefited from eco-tourism and hence protection of marine and island environments is equally important to people as it is to wildlife. Dr Richard Luxmoore, the National Trust for Scotland's Senior Nature Conservation Advisor said: "I am absolutely delighted for the Fair Isle Community. They have worked long and hard to see this Marine Protection Area established and I salute

their dedication, perseverance and insight about what is important for Fair Isle's future. We now need to secure the funds to ensure that the research needed to demonstrate the sustainable management of the area for the benefit of wildlife and the community."

Find out more about the Fair Isle community's work to secure the Marine Protection Area at: www.vimeo.com/157135778





Standard Scottish weather forecast images.

Scotland: *The land of changeable weather*

From arctic blasts to “driech” summer days Scots love to talk about the weather. Many will tell there is no such thing as bad weather in Scotland, just poor dressing. Perthshire farmer Mervyn Browne has been recording Scotland’s constant changing weather cycle for nearly six decades as a member of the Climatological Observers Link team as Judy Vickers explains.



Mervyn at this Stevenson Screen weather station.

Mervyn Browne says there is “nothing you can do about it” but that hasn’t stopped him recording the weather outside his Perthshire farmhouse every day for nearly 60 years. The 88-year-old is the longest serving member of the Climatological Observers Link - a team of weather recorders across the UK who send all their readings to the Met Office.

Every morning at 9am (GMT) sharp he notes down the readings on thermometers in his Stevenson Screen weather station, a rain gauge and a sunshine recorder, which uses a magnifying glass to burn the rays on a piece of card. Mr Browne, who still works as a hill shepherd above Loch Tay, admits farmers have a reputation for moaning but says weather conditions can have a real impact on the 300 sheep he tends in his fields.

Weather watchers

Gazing out almost wistfully as rain lashes down on the mountains outside, he adds: “We would prefer a dry, cold winter so sheep don’t lie all winter with a sodden fleece, which you get with a milder winter - that is debilitating.” He adds: “Farmers are always watching the weather, that is why they complain about it. And when you have been around a few years you have the ability to forecast three or four days ahead.” But he jokes that many “blamed him” when the weather interrupted the wedding of his grand-daughter last July.

He says: “The wedding was supposed to be held on the lochside but it was filthy summer weather. People were asking me if it was going to clear but I thought it was going to be heavy showers. So we had it in the garden in a gazebo and then they were piped down to the sheep shed for the reception.”

As with many weather watchers, Mr



Browne thinks back to better days. “Wall to wall sunshine is becoming very rare – you get one day, which we call ‘pet’ days, and then a lot of gloomy days. In 1976 it looked like it was never going to end but I think 2003 was our last really good summer.” But the shepherd, who lives alone following the death of his wife Katie in 1983, says rain is part of life on a farm in the Scottish mountains. He says: “We had four inches in this area over two days recently but in 1951 we also had four inches in two days - there is nothing new under the sun - although that kind of rainfall is becoming more common.”

Mr Browne first became interested in weather on the family farm in Tyrone, Northern Ireland at the age of six. He says: “The year 1933 saw one of the vintage summers of the century and being in a farming community, everyone was talking about the weather and the drought. And I began to take an interest then from a childish viewpoint. Eventually, that crystallised and when I was 15 I remember asking my mother for a diary so I could record the temperature and the weather.”

He was given a job as a shepherd in Balquhider after finishing his National Service in 1947, where he worked for a farmer called Jimmy Fergusson, who he describes as a “second father”. A love of farming, and Scotland, was cemented and a series of jobs in the area, including at a farm in Glen Lyon before he was able to buy his farm in 1954. It was four years later that he was asked to join the Climatological Observers Link.

Long data record

He has seen many changes at his home in the hamlet of at Milton of Ardtalnaig since he began officially observing the climate nearly 60 years ago. Most dramatically, annual rainfall measurements have risen from 51 inches in 1958 to 61 inches now. As well as increased rain, and less days of continuous sunshine in summer, Mr Browne has also seen wildlife changes in the time he has spent by the loch. “We have lost a lot of small birds,” he says. “We used to get five cuckoos calling at once and now only one comes but goes away a lot earlier, Curlews are thin on the ground and pewits have disappeared.”

And it all has an impact on his sheep. He says: “The amount of rushes that are growing in places where they never grew

before is quite amazing, it reduces, of course, the grazing value.” Adam Barber, the Met Office Climate and Rainfall Network Manager, paid tribute to Mr Browne. He said: “Mr Browne is a dedicated volunteer in the Met Office Climate Network, which provides the UK with an important source of meteorological data. Mervyn has shown great commitment, providing high quality data, day in and day out throughout such a long record. Having a long data record is one of the really key aspects to maintaining a good climate record.”

Cyclical weather

Rainfall and flooding such as Storm Desmond last year, which wreaked havoc in Cumbria and southern Scotland, came as no surprise to Mervyn Browne. He says: “The rainfall has increased considerably. Every weather system seems to be more dramatic. If you get a storm, it is a real storm. Everything that happens seems to happen with a bit more vigour.”

The reasons behind the changing patterns of weather and climate he has observed are something that occupies many minds, not least the United Nations Climate Change Conference which ended recently in Paris. But Mr Browne is sceptical about blaming man for extreme weather. He says: “It is a very convoluted subject. My theory is

that it is because of cyclical - as opposed to man-made - changes that have been going on for millennia, as witnessed by the mini Ice Age of the 1600s.” Mr Browne believes a warming of the polar ice is cooling the North Atlantic, pushing weather systems further south and causing more rain in Scotland and England. “If it (the system) is to the south of us, as it is, we get filthy weather.”

Scottish weather facts:

- January and February are the coldest months in with an average of around 5 to 7 °C.
- The summer months have an average of about 15 Celsius (Glasgow).
- The annual mean temperature on Ben Nevis (1344m) is -0.3C.
- Snowfall occurs on less than 20 days near the west-coast to more than 100 days in the Cairngorm Mountains mainly in the months December to March.
- In an average year, there are around 1,500 hours of sunshine in central Scotland.
- Scottish weather is changeable year round. If you don’t like the weather, wait half an hour and it’ll change!



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By: Ron J Scrimgeour

Past Deacon, Incorporation of Weavers,
Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee.

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

Flax and Jute: Dundee and Angus *Putting Flesh on the Bones*

In the 1930's Hugh McDiarmid described Dundee as "a great industrial cul-de-sac". Is this the post script that Juteopolis should have on its gravestone? I think not. The spinning and weaving of jute, flax, wool and cotton goes back to biblical times and before. All the ancient civilisations had a history of weaving and flax seeds have been found dating back to 8000 BCE. Perhaps the most well document civilisation we have is ancient Egypt and the funeral rites of the Pharaohs and the nobles would not have been possible without quantities of linen.

Tweel

The language of textiles betrays its Middle Eastern origins. Muslin, the cloth comes from Mosul in Kurdistan. Cotton is the Arabic "quTn"; gauze comes from Gaza, Damask, damascene from Damascus meaning "carpets". Mohair comes from the from Arabic/Persian mohayyar meaning "choicest wool". Further east chintz and dungaree come from Hindi words for cotton and Calico comes from the Indian town of Calicut. Taffeta comes from the Persian word taftah indicating fine silk. The Scottish cloth referred to in broad Scots as tweel - twill, became tweed and was not named after the River Tweed! The Bible is also full of references to weaving. Job of the many trials and tribulations says in the Job Chapter 7 verse 6: "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and they come to an end when the thread runs out." Samson told Delilah the secret of his strength and how to lose it, "If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom...So she did, and tightened it with the pin."

Linen clad army

Scottish history has linen at the centre stage of the epic Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. While there is much debate about whether Templar Knights influenced the final outcome, there is no doubt that a small army of common people did mislead the English troops into thinking that professional reinforcements had arrived. Contemporary sources tell us that, "The

carters, wainmen, lackeys, and women put on shirts, smocks, and other white linens, aloft upon their usual garments, and bound towels and napkins on their spears, staves, etc. Then placing themselves in battle array, and making a great show, they came down the hillside in face of the enemy with much noise and clamour. The English, supposing them to be a reinforcement coming to the Scots, turned and fled."

This linen clad army would have been the product of the domestic linen industry where the spinning and weaving of flax took place in the winter months once the meagre harvests were brought in and the scope for outside work was limited. This was light years away from the truly epic industrial scale of linen manufacture in Dundee and Forfar, the standard bearer of which was William Baxter of Balgavies.

William Baxter

The Baxters had been settled in Dundee from about the first quarter of the 18th century and were descended from the first John Baxter, a handloom weaver, who had come to Dundee in about 1725 from the nearby village of Tealing Dates differ as to when William Baxter first began to operate the flax mill at Glamis, with various sources putting the date at 1807, 1818 and 1822. The confusion, may be due to whether he leased a mill at the earliest date and built a mill later date. 1822 is accurately given as the date when the mill at the Dens Burn in Dundee was built for the spinning of flax; the mill held 16 frames, a 16 horse-power water wheel and employed 66 people. In 1820 a 10 horse-power steam engine was added to assist when water levels were low. The site was subsequently as an old Estate Sawmill and still exists as a building.

It is worth noting that William Baxter is important for the way the flat and later the jute trade developed. William Baxter had been an "agent", buying spun flax spindles and "webs" of cloth in the farmers markets from the wives and daughters of farmers and farm workers. The quality of this yarn and cloth varied greatly as did the availability and it was evident that the

large scale production of cloth required consistency of quality and supply. William Baxter and his ever expanding family were quick to seize upon this need and met the insatiable demands of armies and navies in a gigantic way.

Women weavers

The Baxters entered a partnership in 1853 with Peter Carmichael, the world famous Dundee engineer. Steam power and mechanisation radicalised the production of flax and jute and opened the industry to possibly its greatest asset – women weavers. Power looms reduced the need for men to operate the heavy manually driven wooden looms and resulted in smaller workers – women, with looms crammed together in the "dark satanic mills" with barely enough room to edge between them. While water was important as a source of power and for retting both flax and jute, it was for the steam power that mills were located along the burns and streams of Angus, Perthshire and Dundee.

Upper and Lower Dens Works dominated the industrial scene of the east end of Dundee and the workforce was

predominantly, though not exclusively, Protestant. Genealogists find gaps in family trees frustrating and this is partly due to the habit of Irish families particularly "editing" their background. During the potato famine in Ireland, waves of Irish workers came across to Scotland and Glasgow was often their first port of call. When they moved to other parts of Scotland, married and had families, they would often cite Glasgow as the answer to the question, "Where do you come from?"

The world's worst poet?

While not in the same class as our ploughman poet Robert Burns, McGonagall is world famous, or perhaps infamous! William McGonagall, carpet weaver, poet and tragedian is listed with various birth places and the reason given above may well be the reason why. While McGonagall's life is well documented and his written legacy is huge, it is only now that researchers are analysing his works and personality in some depth. Many of his poems begin "T'was in the year..." and they frequently have lists of people, numbers of dead, factual details galore. His was a very literal interpretation of events and he had almost no time for small talk or the usual social dialogues. McGonagall's stage performances were bizarre and he would often be immune to ridicule and insult whether in the street or in some pub performing Shakespearean plays. Taken altogether, these characteristics would suggest that the "Worst poet in the World" was on the Autistic spectrum and possibly had Asperger's syndrome. An interesting thought!

How many mills?

The question is often asked and can be confusing because there is a significant difference between a jute or flax mill and a factory. Woe betides any innocent who would ask a weaver which mill she worked in. If a reply was given at all it would be "I don't work in a mill. I work in a factory." Mills did the early preparatory work of processing the raw jute and producing some of the yarn. Factories did the manufacturing side, predominantly weaving but with some finishing. Others factories specialized in finishing the cloth, calendaring and sack making.

Statistics will show that there were 62 textile "operations", factories, mill and finishing sheds.



'They fairly mak ye work for your ten and nine' - the statue to jute mill workers in Lochee, Dundee.

Dundee at its height employed 50,000 people. Females outnumbered the males in a ratio of 3:1 This is a staggering number of people employed as the 19th century became the 20th. The population of Dundee in 1901 was 161,000. However it must be remembered that children and old people worked in great numbers before the welfare state and increased school leaving ages. "Old" is a relative term. Life expectancy for adult males working in the textile industry in the mid-19th century was a mere 33 years.

The names of the factories trip off the tongue, often designated by the mill or factory owner rather than the official name of the edifices: Cox's, Caird's, Grimond's, Scott's, Thomson and Shepherd's, Spalding and Valentine's, Don Bros, Buist's, Jock Lawson's, Smart's Valley Works, Both's, Malcolm and Ogilvie, Kinmont Luke and Co, J F Robertson's, Halley's. Some works were referred to by the names of the buildings or businesses: Manhattan, Caldrum Street works, the Eagle, Bowbridge or even the more sinister Coffin Mill. South Anchor Jute works in West Henderson's Wynd was affectionately known as "Little Eddies".

From flax to jute

Flax reigned supreme for the entire first half of the 19th century, only being overtaken by jute as the staple cloth in 1855. Archivist to the Nine Trades Innes Duffus frequently refers to jute as "a flash in the pan". My response to this well intentioned comment paraphrases the former Dundee MP Mr Winston Churchill: some flash, some pan!

The archives of St Stephen and West Parish Church, Broughty Ferry tell us, "Thomas Neish, in a fit of absence of mind, bought a consignment of jute in 1822. Rather at a loss what to do with it, he managed finally to sell it to the firm of Bell and Balfour, assuring them that they would be able to spin it on their flax machinery. To no one's surprise this proved impossible. Some years later Neish repeated the deal with Balfour who by then had a new partner called Melville. On this occasion they achieved a breakthrough and succeeded in spinning at their Chapelshade works".

Emerging nations and continents needed a cheaper, almost disposable material for their exports. Wars on a continental scale saw an insatiable demand for canvas, sacking, Osnaburgs, Hessians, saddle blankets, wagon covers, sand bags, military webbings and not forgetting square miles of sailcloth for the square riggers. The market for the slightly more expensive linen shrank accordingly.

The Crimean War, the Civil War in the cotton starved United States, the Franco Prussian War all stoked the fires of Dundee steam driven jute mills. The slave trade and the cotton plantations of the American southern states also provided huge markets: many generations of slaves were clad in Forfar flax and sheltered by Dundee jute.

Whale oil

The meteoric expansion of the vast interiors of the United States, Canada and Australia, accelerated by successive gold rushes provide insatiable markets for the cheaper jute, at the expense of the older sister, "Queen Linen".

Jute had been used for "gunny sacks" in India and present day Bangladesh for centuries. Dundee did not invent jute weaving and spinning. Jute spinning weaving seemed to be an easy alternative to flax weaving, with an almost seamless transition possible. The jute plant and resulting fibre however was a difficult plant to tame and only after nine complex processes was jute cloth produced. The key ingredient and industrial turning point of course was the addition of whale oil to the water of the early batching process and it is no surprise that Dundee emerged as the largest whaling port in Great Britain.

Cox's Camperdown Works

No history of the jute trade would be complete without some reference to the colossal Camperdown Works. This epic manufacturing cathedral with 999 looms and dominated by the famous Stack towering 282' 10" high requires an article in its own right. Two points to note in the meantime. The original family name was Kok, Dutch in origin, and changed to Cock then Cox. The original Kok factories were in the area of the Loch Eye, between Butter's Loan and Myrekirk. Lochee High Street, Bank Street and Camperdown Works came into being after 1856 when a fire destroyed the original factory.

The manufacturing explosion

It is hard for us in recession hit Britain with ever contracting industries to imagine the gigantic scale of trade, resources and population increase that resulted from the exploration and development of the Americas, colonial Africa, New Zealand and Australia in the 1800s: Grain, minerals, chemical fertiliser, mountains of guano, sugar, and coffee.

While the population of Dundee trebled between 1841 and 1901, the population of the United States grew from just over 7 million in 1800 to over 70 million in 1900. Cotton plantations clothed and sheltered hundreds of thousands of slaves on the cheapest burlap, Osnaburg and Hessian.

Famine in Ireland sent original waves of immigrant Irish labour to Glasgow cotton mills but their prosperity was short-lived as a result of the blockade of Confederate ports during the Civil war. These same workers made their way eastwards to Dundee and Angus, often dropping the more Irish parts of their names and reinventing their place of origins as "Glasgow" in efforts to avoid discrimination and prejudice. These name changes and new places of birth have caused havoc with those seeking to complete family trees and genealogies.

Industrial Scotland

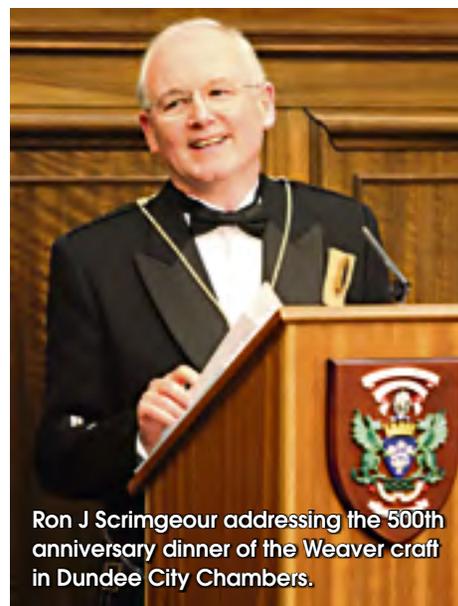
The population of Dundee grew by 30,000 between 1841 and 1861 yet in the same period only 568 houses were built in a vain attempt to meet the demand. Poverty, squalor, drunkenness and neglect sadly accompanied the population explosion. So great was the neglect of children that another Dundee image was commissioned – The Mars. Anchored in the Tay, this former Royal Navy hulk provided training, food and shelter for not just orphans, but hundreds of abandoned children in the back wynds of the mill areas. The Mars is a study in itself. Gordon Douglas has written extensively on this



The women of the Dundee jute mills.

and anyone interested can find a huge amount of information on the web site www.sonsofthemars.com.

The Tay Valley Family Historical does an amazing amount of work leading people in the search for their identity and their ancestry. I am sure they will be of assistance to *Scottish Banner* readers and can be contacted on www.tayvalleyfhs.org.uk. Many readers, as we know from the clan societies listed in *the Banner*, had their roots in Scotland. Industrial Scotland is as much an important link with the past as the islands, hills and the glens. I am sure that the names of the "Jute Barons" and factories noted in this article will resonate with ex-pat Scots. I hope that this article encourages the same people to research the social and industrial scene in the Tayside area and in so doing puts flesh on the bones of the family trees so painstakingly compiled.



Ron J Scrimgeour addressing the 500th anniversary dinner of the Weaver craft in Dundee City Chambers.

Did you know?

- There had been a linen trade in Dundee and Angus since medieval times – flax grew all over central Scotland so it was the natural cloth
- Jute came from the hot wet lands of Bengal to Dundee and could be worked only after the addition of small quantities of whale oil to the washing of the jute.
- Dundee was the centre of the whaling trade in the UK from about 1760.
- Jute then came half way round the world to Dundee to be manufactured on the former flax machines.
- There were 9 processes the fibre went through from raw jute to finished material.
- Women dominated the factory life – weavers were "queen" and earned the highest wages.
- All the factory workers lived in overcrowded tenement flats as close to the factories as possible. 12 hour days meant limited travelling time
- No washing facilities were in the houses so the "Steamy" prevailed for women washing clothes.
- The steamie or "washie" in Dundee was an early form of Facebook or Twitter – gossip prevailed!
- Limited indoor facilities meant that the "pictures" or cinema was very popular in all industrial towns.
- The slides of a Calcutta mill were taken on a visit last year and conditions and processes were exactly the same as Dundee in the 1950s. Except the workers were all men.
- Two of the huge machines still used in Calcutta were built in Blackness Foundry Dundee in the early 1900s!!



By Nick Drainey



Errochty Forest, Perthshire, winner of the Small Wood Award.

Made in Scotland

Scotland's finest woods

Queen Elizabeth Forest Park-Lime Craig.

To say that woods and forests are growing across Scotland may sound like a statement of the obvious, but they really are. Since the 1940s the amount of tree cover across the country has risen from around 4% to approaching 20%, largely due to commercial forestry. While in the past there was much criticism of rows and rows of Sitka spruce lining glens, modern day planting has proved to be more sympathetic, including more native species and seeing woods as important places of recreation.



Queen Elizabeth Forest Park-Lime Craig.

Scotland's Finest Woods Awards
Now, the annual Scotland's Finest Woods Awards have become an established recognition of excellence among those who use, own or manage Scotland's woods and forests - and a celebration of their contribution to communities. Entrants for this year's awards are currently being sought with the winners being announced at the Royal Highland Show in June. Angela Douglas, Executive Director of Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2017, said: "The Awards always generate real passion among those who own, manage and use our forests and woodland. This reflects the sheer wonder of our woodlands; there are so many different ways to enjoy time among the trees and it is great to be able to recognise and reward the brilliant

work going on across Scotland to make our forests and woodlands so special. Woodlands and forests in this county boast some of the highest standards anywhere in the world and it is important to recognise that. Great work is going on across Scotland - but it is often away from the public gaze and we want to shine a light on this excellence."

Following the end of the Ice Age 11,000 years ago trees began to colonise Scotland, first the birch and then pines and oaks until much of the country was covered. About 5,000 years ago, however, agriculture saw the start of a decline which meant half the number of trees had gone by Roman times. This then continued, especially in the 17th and 18th centuries when demand for timber for houses and

ships was high. Change came after the First World War when the government realised the shortage of timber was stark and established the Forestry Commission. Since 1919 the amount of tree cover has increased steadily. One of the biggest projects was the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park in the Trossachs which was designated in 1953 and named to honour the monarch's coronation. It is now used as an example of how commercial forestry can sit with tourism with marked trails and a Go Ape centre offering zip wires.

Natural health service

James Ogilvie, Head of Social and Planning Policy at Forestry Commission Scotland, said: "Scotland's forests and woodlands are a vital natural asset and a national treasure. If they are well looked-after - through sustainable forest management - they can produce a huge range of benefits for people and the environment as well as for the economy. Well-managed productive forests help the economy by providing timber, tourism and other associated business opportunities, ranging from small enterprises to community businesses to international corporations."

Mr Ogilvie points to the community and schools awards on offer as examples of how forestry has moved from solely producing timber to providing places that benefit health and wellbeing. He said: "As our 'natural health service', woodlands are treasured spaces, providing physical and mental health benefits to improve the lives of people and communities. As outdoor classrooms, woodlands provide inspiring environments that stimulate all the senses and motivate children to learn. Access to woodlands and greenspace has been shown to have a positive effect on people's health and well-being - especially those living in towns and cities. Trees can transform neglected and derelict landscapes and bring new woodlands closer to where people live - especially valuable near disadvantaged communities.

"Trees, woods and forests are also dynamic and important ecosystems that provide a home for wildlife and help alleviate flooding, stabilise the soil and

mitigate climate change. What makes forestry so important is that on the same area of land, all of these benefits can be provided at the same time. Revenue can be generated from timber and renewables whilst the same forests also provide great habitats for wildlife, and a huge range of opportunities for health-promoting recreation."

Modern forestry

Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive of forestry and timber trade body Confor, said forestry had moved on a lot in the last few decades from an industry focussed mainly on producing timber to one which now also looks at the other benefits trees can bring. He said: "The forestry and timber industry contributes £1 billion annually to the Scottish economy and employs 25,000 people, with both numbers likely to rise as more forests planted in the 1970s and 1980s are harvested and replanted. This will mean more jobs, growth and investment in our (more) rural communities - and more modern forests being re-planted in their place. Modern forestry delivers more open space, is more diverse and is designed to fit appropriately into existing landscapes. It can deliver wide-ranging environmental benefits, such as providing habitats for iconic species like red squirrels and sea eagles, as well as helping to reduce the impact of flooding and climate change."

Applications are now open for the 2017 Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, with trophies and almost £7,000 of prize money to be won. There are seven awards in four categories as well as the special Dulverton Flagon, made at the judges' discretion: The Quality Timber Awards, focussing on growing timber of a high standard in three categories: Newly-planted commercial woods; A small wood or a single stand or compartment of trees; Whole estates/large multi-purpose forests. The New Native Woods Award, The Schools Award and The Community Woodland Award (small and large).

Entries are accepted up to 31st March 2017. Full details, including criteria and entry forms, are available at the awards section of www.sfvva.co.uk



Commercial Woodland winner from the 2016 Scotland's Finest Woods Awards.



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Kilt up: The fabric of Scotland

Kilts are an iconic part of Scottish history and culture. The woven cloth has been part of Scotland for hundreds of years and today we have tartans covering Clans, regions and more in a kaleidoscope of colours. Whether you have your own or are looking to get a kilt for the first time, here are some kilt facts to help you enjoy your very own fabric of Scotland.

Text courtesy of: Scotland.org

Kilts are often worn instead of a black tie and suit at formal occasions such as weddings. The kilt is a really flexible outfit and can be formal or informal and traditional or modern. The pattern of the kilt and the choice of jacket, shoes and socks can make a real fashion statement.

Some typical events when you might see people wearing a kilt are St Andrew's Day, Robert Burns' Night and Hogmanay (New Year's Eve). Occasions when people wear kilts can range from weddings to ceilidhs and football and rugby matches.

The pattern of a tartan is often linked with a Scottish surname but tartans have been designed for cities and businesses too. Some surnames have more than one pattern linked with them in different colours.

If you don't have a connection with a Scottish name then don't worry, there are no rules stopping you wearing whichever tartan you like.

Take a look at the outfit options below to get some ideas for creating your own style.

Tips for wearing a kilt for the first time

1. Try to practice sitting, standing up and even getting in and out of a car
2. When you sit down make sure the front of your kilt falls between your legs to avoid embarrassment for anyone facing you
3. When you stand up sweep your hand over the back of your kilt to make sure the pleats are flat
4. It is a good idea to make sure your sporran is weighted down
5. Most importantly have fun and enjoy all the attention you will get!

Bonnie Prince Charlie

You might choose this outfit for any formal occasion including weddings and black tie dinners. At Scottish weddings it is very popular for the groom and all the male guests to wear a kilt. The Bonnie Prince Charlie is also often worn at graduation ceremonies for Scottish universities.

Day Wear Tweed

The Tweed jacket and kilt with matching colours is increasingly popular. The

colours on this outfit are usually blues and greens perfectly matching the colours of the Scottish countryside. You don't need to have a formal occasion to attend when deciding to wear a kilt.

Casual and Fashion

There are loads of great kilt designs that have taken a modern twist on the kilt. The popularity of the kilt has increased as celebrities and fashion icons have been seen wearing kilts made in a variety of patterns and materials such as leather and cotton. This is a funky way to show your individuality!

Did you know?

- The kilt originated in the Highlands.
- It's a fabric made up of horizontal and vertical stripes in different colours, on a coloured background.
- The interwoven stripes are known as a sett.
- The first mention of tartan in Scotland was in 1538.
- Originally it was an untailored, 5 metre-long piece of cloth.
- It was known as the féileadh mor in Gaelic (pronounced philamore), meaning the 'big kilt'.
- It was worn both around the waist, similar to a modern kilt, but the remaining fabric was also draped over the shoulder and pinned. This upper portion could be adjusted according to the demands of weather, temperature or freedom of movement needed.
- It grew in popularity after being chosen by Highland regiments serving with the British Army.



Photo: Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh: Photo: VisitScotland.



Scotland- Dear Green Place

Across Scotland and the UK each major city boasts some fantastic green public space which can be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, however a mapping software company has used modern technology to see which city UK city is the greenest. Scotland's two largest cities have come out tops in the green poll which has put them up against other major UK centres with 49.2%, almost half of the Scottish capital boasting green space, followed by the country's largest city at 32%. Map software specialists Esri UK analysed satellite images taken in early 2016 to pinpoint green

space and vegetation in each city, highlighting it bright green so it could be easily spotted on the map.

Edinburgh City Council transport and environment convener Lesley Hinds said: "We're delighted to be the greenest city in the UK. We think very much of our green spaces here in Edinburgh and are proud to maintain more than 130 publicly accessible parks and Natural Heritage Sites encompassing 45% of all Green Flag parks in Scotland. Our green city status will also take into account the city's many other important areas of greenery too - from allotments to privately

owned gardens - which are so valuable to the quality of life here in Edinburgh."

Glasgow City Council leader Frank McAveety said: "Glasgow truly is the Dear Green Place, with a greater proportion of urban green space than virtually every other city in the UK. Glasgow's many parks and open spaces have been used, enjoyed and appreciated by the people of the city for generations. Having readily available access to these amenities is seen as a major contributor to improving the health, well-being and social inclusion of our residents. These assets are a continuing legacy of Glasgow's care for the local environment and a tangible sign of the council's commitment to become one of the greenest cities in Europe."

The other UK green top spaces were as follows: Bristol (29%), Birmingham (24.6), Greater London (23%), Sheffield (22.1%), Leeds (21.7%), Manchester (20.4%), Bradford (18.4%) and Liverpool (16.4%).

The Monarch of the Glen could be secured for Scotland



Sir Edwin Henry Landseer R.A. (1802-1873), *The Monarch of the Glen*, c. 1849-1851. Photo: Christie's.

It is hoped that the iconic work — exhibited in London as part of Christie's 250th anniversary celebrations — could find a permanent home in the National Galleries of Scotland. First sold by Christie's 100 years ago, *The Monarch of the Glen* (circa 1849-51) by Sir Edwin Henry Landseer, R.A. (1802-1873) could find a permanent home in the National Galleries

of Scotland, providing sufficient funds are raised. Were the iconic piece to be secured, it would pass into public hands for the first time in its history. *The Monarch of the Glen* was originally commissioned in 1849 for the Refreshment Room in the House of Lords. It presents a majestic stag posed before a Scottish mountain landscape, monarch of all he surveys. Inspired by his first visit to the Highlands in 1824, Landseer spent much time hunting and shooting in Scotland, staying with Sir Walter Scott at Abbotsford, where he was a popular guest of his wealthy patrons and the royal family. Landseer began painting narrative scenes, vivid landscape sketches and deer subjects, for which he would become famous. His artistic vision reflected his connection with nature, as well as his romantic notion of life and sport in the Highlands. With *The Monarch of the Glen* Landseer elevates animal painting to high art, creating a grandiose canvas that celebrates the splendour of both the stag and the landscape it inhabits.

Summer Music School
2nd - 7th July, 2018
Outer Hebrides, Scotland
1st - 6th July, 2018
South Uist, Scotland
GAELIC • SOIIG • DAICÉ
PIPING • FIDDLE
Sgoil chlàir shamhraidh
2mh - 7mh an t-Iuchar, 2017
Uibhist a Deas
1mh - 6mh an t-Iuchar, 2018
Innse Gall, Alba
"THIG CRÌOCH AIR AN T-SAOGHAL ACH MAIRIDH GAOL IS CEOL.
THE WORLD WILL COME TO AN END, BUT LOVE AND MUSIC WILL ENDURE"
WWW.CEOLAS.CO.UK

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Tartan of the Month - *Love*

The Scottish Banner is pleased to be offering the Tartan of the Month series highlighting a variety of different, unique and colourful tartans from around the world which are registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans in Edinburgh. The Scottish Register of Tartans was established by an act of the Scottish Parliament in November 2008 and promotes and preserves information about historic and contemporary tartans from Scotland and throughout the world. Text and image use is courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans.



This month many around the world will celebrate St Valentine's Day on the 14th which is an annual festival to celebrate romantic love, friendship and admiration. The Love Tartan (Reference: 10521) was designed by Victor Spence. Inspired by the love of tartan, this is a beautiful weave of colours with romantic associations. This tartan was registered in December 2011.

Wildcat sightings in Aberdeenshire

Wildcats have been spotted at two National Trust for Scotland sites in Aberdeenshire in recent months. The charity which conserves and promotes Scotland's heritage has captured video footage of a 'good hybrid' exploring the ancient woodlands at Drum Castle from in 2016.

And at Leith Hall, a cat which was first sighted by Scottish Wildcat Action project manager Roo Campbell several years ago, has been captured on camera. The images were taken on a nearby farm, and upon examination Roo confirmed that he had seen this cat several years ago while he was working in the Huntly area.

Roo said: "I detected this cat on camera when I was doing an earlier project putting GPS collars on cats in 2013 - 2014. She was using Leith Hall and a local farm and was a regular visitor to the trail cameras I had placed there. I managed to get a collar on her and was able to look closely at how she used the area. I always hoped to see her again when we began the Scottish Wildcat Action project in the same area. Then we were sent some recent trail camera images from the farm and I realised it was the same cat! This caused me to double check some of the other images collected by Emma Rawling, our project officer in the area over the winter and true enough, it was the very same cat."

This cat was tested then and was found to have a strong genetic score of 75% - this means that while she has some domestic cat ancestry like most remaining wildcats,



A CTV still image of a cat at Leith Hall.

she has a relatively high proportion of wildcat ancestry.

Scottish Wildcat Action

Senior nature conservation advisor for the National Trust for Scotland, Richard Luxmoore said: "It's great to be able to demonstrate that we have wildcats living on our properties in Aberdeenshire. We tend to associate this elusive beast with the wilder parts of the Highlands but some of our best evidence comes from the more populated agricultural land in the north-east. Some of our most important wildlife sites turn up where we least expect them."

The National Trust for Scotland is currently monitoring dozens of sites across the north of Scotland for signs of wildcat activity. The charity is also one of 20

organisations involved in Scottish Wildcat Action, a partnership project uniting experts from more than 20 key organisations. Its steering group comprises Scottish Natural Heritage; Forestry Commission Scotland; Cairngorms National Park Authority; National Museums Scotland; Royal Zoological Society of Scotland; Scottish Gamekeepers Association; Scottish Wildlife Trust; The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies - Edinburgh University.

Scottish wildcats are one of the UK's most endangered species. And the wildcat work is one of the key projects in the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy which aims to support the Scottish Government strategic objectives for a wealthier, fairer, healthier, smarter, greener, safer and stronger country.

Clan Gunn's historic new Chief

By: Edward Gunn

Co-Commissioner, Eastern Canada Branch
Clan Gunn Society of North America (CGSNA)

For the first time in over 230 years, one of the oldest Scottish clans has a Chief. Clan Gunn descends from the Norse Jarls of Orkney and the Pictish Mormaers of Caithness. The origin of the name Gunn comes from Gunni who married Ragnhild, the granddaughter of Earl Rognvald Kali (Saint Rognvald). She inherited a vast land in Caithness and Sutherland after her brother, Harald the Young, was killed in 1198.

One of the earliest and possibly the best known of the official chiefs of the clan was George Gunn, the Crouner, who was killed along with two of his sons, Robert and John, in a 1464 battle with Clan Keith. James, the first son, was not involved in that conflict and he subsequently replaced his father as chief of the clan - his descendants led the clan for at least nine generations.

Chiefly bloodline ceased to exist

With the death of Morrison Gunn, 9th MacHearmish, in 1785, the chiefly bloodline ceased to exist. In the Nineteenth Century, several attempts were made to find a lawful heir but without success due mainly to the fact that the claimants could not prove without a doubt their legal link to the chiefs. In 1960, the present Society was formed with Dr. William Gunn as leader assisted by his nephew Iain Alexander Gunn. Lord Lyon Innes of Learney then appointed William as Commander and, upon his death in 1968, Iain succeeded him as Gunn of Banniskirk. In 1972, Lord Lyon Monteith Grant appointed Iain as

Commander until a claimant could be recognized as the chief.

At the 1978 AGM, an invitation was issued for interested parties to present their claims and by 1993, five claimants had done so but none of them could prove his case.

In 2010, Lyon Sellar substituted the historic Derbhfine of Landed and Armigerous clansmen with a Family Convention by which a wider body of Clansmen could make an election. The only time that the Lord Lyon sanctions such a convention is when no one who has claimed the Chiefship of a clan as of hereditary right has been able to prove his case, and the Chiefly line has been effectively lost. The leading Clan members are therefore able to 'elect' the person who they consider most suitable for the job. Genealogy is not the main factor but the person must be "of the Blood".

Historic Investiture Ceremony

The new method was used in July 2015 prior to the 18th triennial Clan Gunn International Gathering at the Ayre Hotel in Kirkwall, Orkney when a Family Convention was held for the "leading members" of the clan to meet in an effort to 'Elect' the person they wished the Lord Lyon to recognize as Chief. In the presence of Mr. John Malden, who was then Unicorn Pursuivant of Arms of the Lyon Court, the Convention ended with a vote of 23 to 1 in favour of Commander Iain A. Gunn of Banniskirk. This info was taken to Lyon Dr. Joseph Morrow who, in September 2015, recognized the Petitioner



Chief Iain Gunn of Gunn, Doctor Joseph Morrow, Lord Lyon King of Arms and Ben Kinsman, Iain's grandson. Photo by Ed Aksamiit.

as Representer of the House and Family of Gunn, Chief of the Clan Gunn, and that he was entitled to the additaments of Chief to his Ensigns Armorial.

A marvellous and historic Investiture Ceremony then took place on April 16, 2016 at the Merchants Hall in Edinburgh, Scotland in the presence of about 100 clansmen and women from around the world. Dr. Joseph Morrow, Lord Lyon King of Arms, presided over the ceremony and officially recognized Iain A. Gunn as the Chief of Clan Gunn and presented him with the Grant of Arms along with the Clan Banner. Henceforth, he will be known as Chief Iain Gunn of Gunn. In consultation with the Lyon Court, the new arms of Iain Gunn of Gunn depict a red galley on a white background and the supporters are a Viking man and Pictish woman, a tribute to Gunn ancestry.

A variety of details regarding Clan Gunn as well as the Investiture video can be viewed on the websites: www.clangunn.us or www.clangunnsociety.org

Some details about Iain Alexander Gunn of Banniskirk:

- He was born on 25 March 1933, the son of John Bain Gunn and Annie Eleanor Smith.
- He graduated from Edinburgh University, Midlothian, Scotland with a Bachelor of Law (LL.B.) and a Master of Arts (M.A.).
- He was solicitor for the Shipping Federation between 1963 and 1976 and director of the General Council of British Shipping from 1976 to 1991.
- He held the office of Deputy Lieutenant (D.L.) of Caithness in 1998.
- He married Aline Lavender James in 1963. Their children are Helen Mary Aline Gunn and John William Gunn, Yg of Banniskirk.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Alexander Selkirk, a sailor from Lower Largo, Fife, rescued after four years on the island of Juan Fernandez, 400 miles off the coast of Chile; his story inspired Daniel Defoe to write *Robinson Crusoe*. **1708**

1 - Author Muriel Spark born. She is most well known as the author of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, written in 1961, a touching and funny portrait of an individual and eccentric Edinburgh teacher during the inter-war period, and the effect she has on her pupils. **1918**

2 - Feast and legal Quarter Day of Candlemass.

2 - James I married Lady Jane Beaufort, daughter of the Earl of Somerset, in London. **1424**

2 - Battle of Inverlochy, one of the Duke of Montrose's victories over the Covenanters, killing 1,300. **1645**

2 - Birth of James Chalmers in Arbroath - he devised the adhesive postage stamp. **1782**

2 - Novelist Alistair Maclean died. His books *The Guns of Navarone*, *Ice Station Zebra* and *Where Eagles Dare* were made into films. **1987**

3 - General Monck's regiment entered London, having marched from Coldstream in the borders. The regiment kept order during the period of the restoration of Charles II. It continued as a standing regiment of the British Army, becoming known as the Coldstream Guards. **1660**

4 - Charles II proclaimed king in Edinburgh - but not in England. **1649**

4 - Prince James Francis Stuart, the Old Pretender, left Scotland after a stay of only three weeks, effectively bringing the first Jacobite Uprising to an end. **1716**

4 - Honours of Scotland put on display in Edinburgh Castle after being rediscovered by Sir Walter Scott. **1818**

4 - *SS Politician* ran aground on Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides, creating the basis for Sir Compton MacKenzie's novel *Whisky Galore*. **1941**

5 - John Witherspoon, clergyman, writer, President of Princeton University 1768-94, signatory to American Declaration of Independence 1776, born in Gifford, East Lothian. **1723**

5 - John Boyd Dunlop, who patented the first practical pneumatic tyre, born Ayrshire. **1846**

5 - Writer and historian Thomas Carlyle died in London. **1881**

6 - Queen Anne, last of the Stuart monarchs, born. **1665**

6 - King Charles II, the "merry monarch" died. His last words to his brother James were "Don't let poor Nellie starve" - a reference to his favourite mistress, Nell Gwynne. **1685**

6 - Representation of the people Act received Royal assent, granting votes to women over the age of 30. **1918**

6 - King George VI dies and Queen Elizabeth II becomes monarch. **1952**

7 - Battle at Glenfruin when the MacGregors slaughtered a number of Colquhouns - the origins of the banning of the MacGregor name. **1603**

7 - The Old Pretender's Jacobite army disbanded at Aberdeen, ending the 1715 uprising. Thirty years later his son, Charles, would try again to recapture the throne for the Stuarts. **1716**

8 - Mary Queen of Scots beheaded at Fotheringay Castle. At the time of her death, Mary was 44 and had outlived three husbands. **1587**

8 - A contingent of a thousand Scots, commanded by the brothers John and William Stuart, headed to the relief of the beleaguered French garrison at Orleans. The expedition ended in disaster when the force was defeated by the English at Rouvray Saint Denis and both Stuarts were killed. **1429**

9 - Golfer Sandy Lyle born. **1958**



9 - John Noble, co-founder of Loch Fyne Oysters and Loch Fyne Restaurants died. It began as an umbrella and a trestle table and then transferred to a cowshed. Soon the venture became a restaurant, and then evolved into a chain of oyster bars. **2002**

10 - Robert the Bruce murdered Red Comyn. **1306**

10 - Lord Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, assassinated. **1567**

10 - Death of Lord Joseph Lister, pioneer of surgery and antiseptic at the University of Glasgow and Glasgow and Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. **1912**

11 - William H Fox Talbot, pioneering photographer, born. **1800**

11 - Coldest temperature ever recorded in Scotland, -27.2 (-16.96F) at Braemar. **1895**

11 - Author and politician John Buchan died in Canada. **1940**

12 - Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the world-wide savings bank movement, died near Ruthwell. **1846**

12 - George Heriot, goldsmith to King James VI and founder of Heriot's School, died. The school was originally founded as Heriot's Hospital, Edinburgh. He is thought to be the inspiration for the character, Georgie Heriot, in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Fortunes of Nigel*. **1624**

13 - Kenneth MacAlpin, King of Dalriada and the Picts, died at Forteviot. **858**

13 - Massacre of 38 of the Clan Macdonald by government order at Glencoe. **1692**



13 - Scottish Youth Hostel Association formed. **1931**

14 - Mary Queen of Scots meets Lord Darnley for the first time. They married in July 1565. **1565**

14 - Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone (Patent 174461). Two hours after it was lodged, his rival, Elisha Gray, applied for a similar patent. Bell's was granted. **1876**

15 - Decimal currency introduced, abandoning 12 pennies to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound. **1971**

15 - The Caledonian Railway company opened. The Caledonian Railway ran trains from London to Glasgow and was in fierce competition with the Edinburgh based North British Railway. **1848**

16 - Government forces under Lord Loudon attempted to capture Prince Charles Edward Stewart at Moy Hall. **1746**

16 - Scottish crime and science fiction writer Iain Banks was born in Dunfermline, Fife. He was named one of The 50 greatest British writers since 1945 and sadly Banks died from cancer on June 9, 2013. **1954**

17 - King James V passed a law which recognised Scotland's gypsies. **1540**

17 - James Renwick, last Covenanter to be executed. **1688**



18 - Glasgow's Queen Street train station opened. Originally called Glasgow Dundas Street the station was built by Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway to link the thriving city of Glasgow to the nation's capital. The station and line took four years to build. **1842**

19 - James Douglas retook Roxburgh Castle and razed it to the ground. The Black Douglas, as he was known, and sixty men gained access to the castle by climbing the castle walls using hooked scaling ladders. **1314**

20 - King James I murdered in Perth by a group led by Sir Robert Graham. **1437**



20 - Orkney and Shetland annexed from Norway. **1472**

20 - Gordon Brown, former UK Prime Minister, born. **1951**

21 - Intercity railway between Glasgow and Edinburgh opened by Queen Victoria. **1842**

21 - Eric Liddell, *Chariots of Fire* athlete, winner of 1924 Olympics 400 metres, died in Japanese internment camp in China. **1945**

22 - David II died at Edinburgh Castle. **1371**

22 - King Robert II crowned. **1371**

23 - Battle of Roslin in which a Scots army of 8,000, led by Sir Simon Fraser, Sinclair of Rosslyn and the Red Comyn, surprised an English army of 30,000 led by Sir John Seagrave and defeated them. **1303**

23 - James Herriot (pen name of James Alfred Wight), author of *All Creatures Great and Small*, died aged 78. **1995**



24 - Steam train, the Flying Scotsman went into service with London and North Eastern Railway (LNER), on the London (King's Cross) to Edinburgh route. The train was the first and the first to reach speeds of 100 mph. **1923**

24 - Footballer Denis Law who played for Manchester United and Scotland, born. **1940**

25 - Bishop Henry Wardlaw established St Andrews as a university although it was not officially inaugurated until 4 February 1414 when a Bull of Foundation was promulgated by Pope Benedict XIII. **1412**

26 - Philip van der Straten, a Fleming, was granted Scots naturalisation and set up a factory in Kelso, thus starting the Border woollen industry. **1672**

26 - Robert Watson Watt demonstrated radar for the first time. **1935**

26 - Entertainer and song writer Sir Harry Lauder died. **1950**

27 - Battle of Ancrum Moor in which Scottish forces, led by Earl of Douglas, defeated an English army twice their size. **1545**

28 - Second National Covenant signed in Greyfriars Churchyard. **1638**

29 - Patrick Hamilton, a Protestant martyr, was burned at the stake in St Andrews. **1528**



29 - The famous Glasgow theatre, The Pavilion, celebrated its opening performance. **1904**

29 - Patrick Hamilton was burned at St Andrews for the crime of heresy. Hamilton is regarded as the first Protestant martyr in Scotland. After studying in Europe, where he came into contact with the ideas of Martin Luther, Hamilton began to preach Protestant ideas in Scotland, leading to his arrest. Hamilton was sentenced to be burned at the stake but, horrifically, his inexperienced executioners underestimated how much kindling would be needed, and the fire petered out with Hamilton badly burned but alive. In all it took six hours for the flames to consume Hamilton. **1528**



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 Balaogawan,
Chief of the Clan

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

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

Contact:
L. O. Ross
107 S. Graham Ave.
Orlando, FL 32817



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

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

Visit www.turnbulclan.com or Write to secretary@turnbulclan.com



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



Clan Morrison Society of North America

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

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

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



Clan Scott Society

Membership is invited from all descendants of the surname Scott; associated families: Balnorie, 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



Clan WARDLAW Association
Founded 2004

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

'Wardlaw Iovermail'
www.clanwardlaw.com
Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457
Pinehurst, NC 28370

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

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



Clan Munro Association, U.S.A.

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

COME JOIN US!
Web site: www.Clanmunrousa.org
Write: Heather Munro Daniel
4600 Lloydrown 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: Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.
Info: Secretary, PO Box 320, Maclean, NSW, 2463
E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com
W: clanscottaustraliagroup.moonfruit.com

Scottish Associations and Societies



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: alfredhooke@gmail.com
www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



Murray Clan Society of North America

Applications for membership are invited from Murray's and the following allied families: Balneaves, Dinsmore, Dunsmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrie, Neaves, Piper, Pyper, 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 Kline Street
Littleton, CO 80127-2021



Clan Shaw Society

Invites membership or inquiries from all: Shaw, Ayson, Adamson, Esson, MacAy, MacHay, Shiach, Sheach, Sheath, Seith, Seth, Skaith, Seath and Shay.

Mike Shaw
Secretary
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020



Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

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

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



Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria
www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org
Founded in 1905

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

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

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



Clan Pollock

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

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



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

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



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

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

928-524-7473 tartans@scottishtartans.org



Clan Pringle Association (North America)

Membership cordially invited from Pringle/Prindle descendants and other interested parties.
www.clanpringle.org.au

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



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

For further info contact

| | |
|---|--|
| President Frederic John Inkster 1480 SE Kane Street Rosedale, OR 97478 email: cesales@charter.net | Membership Secretary Alta Jean (AJ) Glin 12147 Holly Knoll Circle Great Falls, VA 22066 email: ajglin@verizon.net |
|---|--|



CALEDONIAN CLUB OF FLORIDA WEST (SARASOTA, FL)

2017 Spring Schedule:
Feb. 4: *Scottish Games*
Mar. 25: *Thistle Ball*
Apr. 2: *Kirkin' O' Tartans*
May 6: *Annual General Luncheon*
Summer Socials: TBA

Contact: Robert Howard, President 941-376-5514
Email: roberthoward200@gmail.com
Web site: www.caledonianclub.org



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



Ross Clan in Australia
The clan is active again in Australia

for information contact Commander Des Ross
(By appointment David Ross Bt 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



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.stewartssociety.org



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
cynthiar5@yahoo.com <http://www.daughtersofscotia.org>



St. Andrew's Society of Vermont
FOUNDED 1974

P.O. Box 484
Essex Junction, VT 05453

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



CLAN ROSS AMERICA
ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION MERGED

Many Names - One Clan

Liz Ross, President
Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary
raumiller@abcglobal.net
PO Box 6341
River Forest, IL 60305
www.clanross.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, Duffus, Gray, Frederith, Mowat and Oliphant.

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



Illinois Saint Andrew Society

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

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

Victorian Scottish Union
Established 1905

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

Affiliated Clans & Societies for 2013-2014:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Ballarat Highland Dancing | Geelong Highland Gathering Association |
| Balmoral Highland Dancing Society | Geelong Scottish Dance |
| Begonia City Highland Dancing Society | Glenbrae Celtic Dancers |
| Brunswick Scottish Society | Horsham & District Highland Dancing Club |
| Clan Cameron | Kilmore Celtic Festival |
| Clan Donald Victoria | Maryborough Highland Society |
| Clan Grant | Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society |
| Clan Lamont Australia | Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society |
| Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc | St Andrews First Aid |
| Clan Mackenzie of Australia | The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne |
| Clan Maclean Australia | The Royal Caledonian Society |
| Clan Sinclair Association | Warrambool & District Caledonian Society |
| Glenmaggie Scottish Folk Festival | Warrambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society |

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



Clan Sutherland Society of Australia

The Society welcomes membership of all bearers of the Sutherland name and any of their septs- (Cheyne, Duffus, Frederith, Mowat (or any variation of the spelling)).

Marie Hodgkinson
212 MacKenzie Street
Toowoomba, 4350
Queensland, Australia
e-mail: william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au
<http://goldenvale.wix.com/clansutherlandaus>

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/events or email info@scottishbanner.com.

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

CANADA

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

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.

10 - 11 Regina, SK - Mid-Winter Celtic Festival

A fantastic weekend planned: Celtic music, workshops and a concert featuring the amazing Fred Morrison, on his first-ever visit to the Canadian prairies. Info: www.crp.org/mwcf

11 - 12 Ottawa, ON - Ardbrae Dancers of Ottawa Ball

Scottish country dance event at Glebe Community Centre 175 Third Ave. Info: Doug Squires 613 851-2874 or www.ardbrae.org.

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.

18 Toronto, ON - 54th Tartan Ball

A night of Scottish dance at Fairmount Royal York presented by RSCDS Toronto. Info: www.dancescottish.ca.

24 - 25 London, ON - RSCDS London Workshop Weekend

The London Canada Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society event. Info: www.rscdslondoncanada.org.

MARCH 2017

3 - 5 Belleville, ON - Belleville Workshop Weekend and Ball

Music by Scotch Mist and Scottish country dance teachers from Scotland. Info: Bill and Jan Cunningham 613-965-4212.

4 Vancouver, BC - The Gaelic Society of Vancouver Cèilidh

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

4 Winnipeg, MB - Winnipeg Scottish Festival

Celebrating Scottish Heritage at Canad Inns Polo Park. Info: www.winnipegscottishfestival.com.

10 Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day

This is a day initiated by The Bagpipe Society to celebrate the world's many bagpipes and piping traditions. Every March 10th you are invited to go out and play your pipes – anywhere, anyhow to anyone!

11 Calgary, AB - St Giles Workshop and Ball

Join for the St. Giles Dance Club's annual Workshop, Ceilidh and Ball at the Winston Heights Mountview Community Association, 520-27th Ave NE. Info: Janyn Bertram 403-585-3842.

25 Brampton, ON - West End Workshop and Tea Dance

Full day workshop and tea dance for Scottish Country Dancers in the Toronto area. Lunch and afternoon tea included at Turner Fenton Secondary School, 7935 Kennedy Rd. Info: www.dancescottish.ca

25 Montreal, QC - Curling for Dummies-St. Andrew's Society Curling Night

The St. Andrew's Society is calling on all those who are interested in trying their hand at curling at The Montreal West Curling Club, 17 Ainslie Road Montreal West. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca.

USA

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.

4 Cranston, RI - 54rd Annual Burns Night Supper and Dance

Entertainment will be provided by The Irish Express and RI Highlanders Pipe Band. The evening will include a traditional Haggis Ceremony at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet Ballroom, 60 Rhodes Pl. Info: 401 434 0386 or BurnsSupper@cox.net.

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.

4 Sarasota, FL - Sarasota Highland Games and Celtic Festival

A day of Traditional Scottish games competition, music, Scottish dancers, Bagpipe band competitions, sheep dog herding demonstration at the Sarasota County Fairgrounds. Info: William Wallace (941) 378-0085 or www.caledonianclub.org.

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.

11 Anaheim, CA - The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society The Orange County Branch February Beginner Dance

At Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 E. Center St. Info: www.rscds-sgvg.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.

17 - 19 Honolulu, HI - Aloha Winter Weekend

An event-filled weekend of dance lessons and social dancing, including live music and a ceilidh. Info: www.rscdshawaii.org.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

MARCH 2017

4 - 5 Phoenix, AZ - 53rd Phoenix Scottish Games

Scotland in the desert at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E Indian School Rd. Info: 480-788-6694 or www.arizonascots.com.

4 Redding, CA - Redding Bagpipe Competition

Solo piping competition Grade 1 through 4. Indoor event. Ceilidh after the event at Red Lion Hotel. Info: www.reddingbagpipecompetition.com

4 Plantation, FL - Southeast Florida Highland Games

Full day of Scottish event at Plantation Heritage Park, 1100 S. Fig Tree Lane. Info: 954 460 5000 or www.sassf.org.

4 Panama City, FL - Panama City Scottish Festival

Florida's annual Scottish festival and Highland games at Frank Brown Park, presented by The Celtic Heritage Alliance. Info: 850 556 5714 or www.pscotfestival.com.

10 Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day

This is a day initiated by The Bagpipe Society to celebrate the world's many bagpipes and piping traditions. Every March 10th you are invited to go out and play your pipes – anywhere, anyhow to anyone!

18 Madison, WI - Madison Scottish Country Dancers 40th Anniversary Ball

With musicians extraordinaire Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas at Union South, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Info: www.madisonscottishcountrydancers.org.

18 Dothan, AL - Southeast Alabama Highland Games

Clans, kids events, pipe bands and more at The Houston County Farm Center, 1701 E Cottonwood Rd. Info: www.wiregrasshighlandgames.com.

22 Chapel Hill, NC - Tales and Tunes of the Scottish Highlands

An evening of traditional stories and bagpipe tunes from the Scottish Highlands and the North American Gaelic diaspora: tales of landscape goddesses, sea maidens, shape-shifting, tragic love, heroic struggle and unexpected encounters at Morehead Lounge, Graham Memorial 109, Univ. N. Carolina. Info: www.gaelicusa.org.

25 Sarasota, FL - Caledonian Club of Florida West 31st Annual Thistle Ball

Celebrate with us at our annual formal Scottish dinner dance. Wear your finest Scottish attire and dance the night away with us at Palm Aire Country Club. Info: Mary Ellen McMahon (941)-888-2412 or www.caledonianclub.org.

31 Annapolis, MD - USNA Pipe Band Concert

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

SCOTLAND

FEBRUARY 2017

1 - 28 Various - Scottish Snowdrop Festival

Each year the Scottish Snowdrop Festival gathers together some of the best gardens and woodlands where you can see swathes of snowdrops, so that you won't miss out on the arrival of these dainty little flowers – one of the most delightful signs that spring is on its way. Info: www.nts.org.uk.

3 Pathead, Midlothian - Victorian Seance and Ghost Hunt

A paranormal investigation on the grounds of the apparently-haunted coaching inn-The Stair Arms Hotel. Info: www.ukghostnights.co.uk.

9 - 12 Aberdeen - SPECTRA - Aberdeen's Festival of Light

Celebrate the Scottish Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology exploring Aberdeen's past through this year's theme "A New Light". Info: www.spectraaberdeen.com.

11 Perth - NYPBoS Thunderstruck

The National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland are staging a major concert at Perth Concert Hall. The band will be showcasing new material including an exciting new arrangement of the Gordon Duncan classic "Thunderstruck" that gives this exciting new show its name. Info: www.horsecross.co.uk.

11 - 17 Edinburgh - Crime and Punishment in Medieval Scotland

Executioner Gilbert Savage recounts the nature of crime and punishment during turbulent times in Medieval Scotland at Edinburgh Castle. Info: www.edinburghcastle.gov.uk/events.

15 - 19 Perth - Around the World with The Black Watch

Discover some of the places The Black Watch have visited in the past 300 years and create a craft from on of the countries where they have served at The Black Watch Castle and Museum. Info: www.theblackwatch.co.uk.

16 Dunoon - A Winter Walk in the Garden

A winter walk through the Garden, followed by a soup and sandwich lunch at Benmore Botanic Garden. Info: www.rbge.org.uk.

18 Perth - The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra Live

The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra is the country's foremost large ensemble for traditional music. Info: www.sfo.org.uk.

23 - 26 Edinburgh - Edinburgh's Georgian Shadows

Six buildings in Edinburgh's New Town, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, are brought to life using inventive lighting. Info: www.edinburgh.org

25 - 8 Inverness - Inverness Music Festival

Vocal, instrumental, speech, Gaelic and Scottish performances. Info: www.invernessmusicfestival.org.

25 Aviemore - North Hop

A beer and food festival with an impressive selection of craft beer, cider, gin, whisky, cocktails, street food, sweet treats and live music. Info: www.northhop.co.uk.

26 Edinburgh - Coolest Walk on Earth

A guided walk through Holyrood Park discovering how the magnificent geological features around Arthur's Seat and the crags were shaped and sculpted by ice, free. Info: www.historicenvironment.scot.

MARCH 2017

1 - 5 St Andrews - StAnza: Scotland's Poetry Festival

Joining the locals for readings, performances, slams and open mics, jazz, films, workshops and poetry-related art exhibitions, installations and films are a host of local and international wordsmiths. Info: www.stanzapoetry.org.

1 - 15 Various - Scottish Snowdrop Festival

Each year the Scottish Snowdrop Festival gathers together some of the best gardens and woodlands where you can see swathes of snowdrops, so that you won't miss out on the arrival of these dainty little flowers – one of the most delightful signs that spring is on its way. Info: www.nts.org.uk.

4 Lanark - Blazin' Fiddles Live

On fiery form, these contemporary fiddle players from the Highlands and Islands mix solo and ensemble sets to create a unique blend of energy and sensitivity. Info: LanarkMemorial@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk.

9 - 26 Glasgow - Glasgow International Comedy Festival

Glasgow's comedy festival birls back into your life, getting ever more impressive with each outing. Info: www.glasgowcomedyfestival.com.

10 Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day

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Answers to Scotword on Page 5

Across: 1. Contestant; 8. Links; 9. Aberdonian; 10. Ingle; 11. Absurd; 12. Ends; 14. Hoards; 16. Islander; 19. Neap tide; 21. Sprang; 24. Kith; 25. Lissom; 27. Clype; 30. Meditation; 31. Bides; 31. Osprey eggs

Down: 1. Cranachan; 2. Neeps; 3. Endured; 4. Tink; 5. Neatness; 6. Girn; 7. Skell; 10. Isla; 13. Idea; 15. Adam; 17. Regiments; 18. Editress; 20. Tike; 22. Primary; 23. Plaid; 26. Swing; 28. Poet; 29. Birt.

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Macaroons

Ingredients:

125g/4oz. ground almonds
200g/7oz. icing sugar
3 free-range egg whites
2 tsp. caster sugar
½ tsp cream of tartar
pinch red powdered food colouring

For the chocolate filling

200g/7oz. dark chocolate, chopped
200ml/7fl oz. double cream
1 tsp brandy
15g/½oz. unsalted butter

Method:

Blend the ground almonds and icing sugar in a food processor until well combined. Set aside.

Using an electric whisk, slowly whisk the egg whites in a large bowl at a low speed until stiff peaks form when the whisk is removed. Slowly whisk in the cream of tartar and caster sugar until the mixture is smooth and glossy, increasing the speed of the whisk as the mixture stiffens.

Gently fold in the food colouring and blended ground almonds and icing sugar until the mixture resembles shaving foam.

Spoon the macaroon mixture into a piping bag fitted with a 1cm/½in round nozzle. Pipe 5cm/2in circles onto the baking tray lined with greaseproof paper. If a peak forms, wet your finger and smooth it down. Sharply tap the bottom of the tray to release any air bubbles from the macaroons, then set aside for 60 minutes (the macaroon shells are ready to go in the oven when they are no longer sticky to the touch).

Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 160C/315F/Gas 2½.

Bake the macaroons in the oven for 10-15 minutes, or until cooked through. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool for 5 minutes. Carefully peel away the greaseproof paper and set aside to cool completely.

Meanwhile, for the chocolate filling, heat the double cream and chocolate in a saucepan over a low heat, stirring occasionally, until smooth and well combined. Add the brandy and butter and stir until smooth, then remove from the heat and set aside to cool completely.

Use the filling to sandwich the macaroons together then chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Hazelnut butter grilled scallops with salad

Ingredients:

For the scallops

1 tsp. olive oil
1 shallot, peeled, finely sliced
75g/2½oz. butter, softened
½ lemon, zest only

1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh chervil
1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh chives
45g/1½oz. hazelnuts, finely chopped
salt and freshly ground black pepper
6 scallops, cleaned

For the salad

½ tsp. wholegrain mustard
½ tsp. good quality white wine vinegar
1½ tsp. good quality rapeseed oil
1 Little Gem lettuce, leaves separated
1 punnet pea shoots

Method:

For the scallops, heat a frying pan until warm, add the olive oil and shallot and fry gently until softened but not coloured.

Place the butter into a bowl and add the cooked shallot, along with all the remaining scallop ingredients, except the scallops. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper and mix well.

Preheat the grill to high. Place the scallops onto a grill tray and top each scallop with a spoonful of the hazelnut butter. Place under the grill for 3-4 minutes, or until just cooked through. Remove from the grill and set aside to rest for one minute.

For the salad, whisk the mustard, vinegar and oil together in a bowl. Place the lettuce leaves and pea shoots into a bowl, drizzle over the dressing and stir to coat.

To serve, place three scallops onto each of 2 serving plates and serve with a pile of salad.

Fillet steak with a spiced herb butter and fondant potatoes

Ingredients:

For the spiced herb butter:

200g/7oz. unsalted butter, softened
1 small shallot, finely chopped
1 garlic clove, finely chopped
2 tsp capers, finely chopped
2 tsp finely chopped gherkins
1 tsp finely chopped anchovies
1 tsp finely chopped chives
1 tsp finely chopped chervil
1 tsp finely chopped tarragon
1 tsp finely chopped flatleaf parsley
1 tsp thyme leaves
1 bay leaf
2 tsp curry powder

For the fondant potatoes:

4 medium Maris Piper potatoes, peeled
50g/1¾oz unsalted butter
300ml/10fl oz. fresh chicken stock
For the glazed vegetables
150g/5½oz baby carrots
50g/1¾oz caster sugar
50ml/1¾fl oz. chicken stock
75g/2½oz unsalted butter
150g/5½oz sugar snap peas

For the steak:

2 tbsp. olive oil
4 x 140g-175g/5-6oz. fillet steaks

Method:

For the spiced herb butter, place all the ingredients in a large food processor and blend until smooth. Lay a piece of aluminium foil on the work surface and lay the blended butter in a line along the foil. Roll the butter in the foil into a cylinder, tighten at both ends and place in the fridge to set. For the fondant potatoes, trim both ends of the potatoes and use a peeler to shape them into a

barrel shape. Heat a large frying pan and add the butter. Once melted, add the potatoes and fry until golden-brown.

Add the chicken stock and cook for 20-30 minutes until soft, but not falling apart - they need to hold together.

To make the glazed vegetables, place the carrots, sugar, chicken stock and butter in a saucepan over a medium heat and cook for 10 minutes. Remove from the heat and set aside.

Meanwhile, place a small saucepan on the heat and add water. Once boiling, add the sugar snaps. Cook for 4-5 minutes, drain and refresh in cold water before setting aside.

For the steak, place a large frying pan over a high heat. Once hot, add the oil and then cook the steak for two minutes on each side, or until cooked to your liking. Place a slice of the spiced herb butter on top of the steaks and place under the grill for 1-2 minutes, or until the butter has melted.

To serve, place a frying pan over a medium heat and add a little of the carrot cooking liquor. Add the carrots and sugar snap peas and cook for a couple of minutes, or until hot.

Place the vegetables at one side of each plate and a fondant potato at the opposite side. Place the steak in the middle and serve immediately.

Mushroom and spinach pancakes



Ingredients:

For the pancakes

125g/4½oz. plain flour or buckwheat flour
1 free-range egg
150ml/5fl oz. milk
olive oil, for frying

For the filling

1 tbsp. olive oil
1 small onion, chopped
handful mushrooms, sliced
2 handfuls baby spinach
2 tbsp. crème fraîche (optional)
few sprigs fresh parsley or chives, chopped (optional)
salad leaves, to serve
salt and freshly ground black pepper

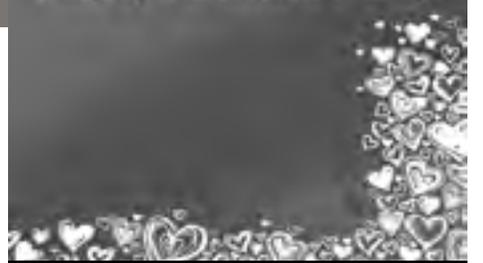
Method:

For the pancakes, sift the flour with a pinch of salt into a mixing bowl, then crack in the egg and mix well. Add the milk and 150ml/5fl oz water, then beat well until smooth and well combined. Set aside while you make the filling.

For the filling, heat the oil in a frying pan and fry the onion until softened, then add the mushrooms to cook through. Season well with salt and pepper, add the baby spinach and cook for 2 minutes until it wilts, stirring frequently. Set aside while you cook the pancakes.

To cook the pancakes, heat a little olive oil in a large frying pan, pour in a ladleful of batter and swirl around until it thinly covers the base of the pan. Fry for about

Happy Valentine's Day!



After all the food and fun of the holiday's one would think February is a quiet month, however with Valentine's Day (Feb. 14th) and Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday (Feb. 28th) it certainly is going to be a tasty month!

a minute until the underside is set and beginning to turn golden-brown. Turn over using a spatula and cook the other side.

While the pancake is still in the pan, spread half the crème fraîche over one side (if using), scatter over half of the mushroom and spinach mixture, and sprinkle with parsley and chives (if using). Fold the sides of the pancake over the filling and lift onto a serving plate.

Repeat with the remaining batter and filling to make another pancake (if you have any batter leftover, fry-up another pancake for dessert). Serve with salad leaves.

Pancakes with berries and white chocolate

Ingredients:

50g/1¾oz. plain flour
small pinch salt
1 medium free-range egg
150ml/5fl oz. milk
2 tsp vegetable oil or melted butter, plus extra for frying

For the topping:

100g/3½oz. white chocolate, broken into small pieces
200g/7oz. mixed frozen berries

Method:

Put the flour and salt in a large bowl. Make a well in the centre, pour in the milk and crack in the egg. Using a whisk, gradually incorporate the flour into the wet ingredients until you have a smooth batter. Add the vegetable oil and mix thoroughly.

Heat a large frying pan over a medium heat. Add a little oil and use kitchen paper to smear it all over the base of the pan. Add a small ladleful of batter and swirl it around the pan to create a thin, even layer.

Cook for 1-2 minutes, or until the batter is a little darker and set in the middle (to check, lift the edge of the pancake and check the underside is lightly golden-brown). Flip it over and cook the other side for 30-40 seconds. Transfer to a warm plate and cover with a clean tea towel to keep it warm. Cook the remaining batter in the same way to make 3 more pancakes.

For the topping, melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of gently simmering water. Alternatively, melt the chocolate in short bursts in a microwave. Put a pancake on each serving plate and divide the frozen berries between them. Drizzle the melted chocolate over the top and serve immediately. The heat of the pancakes and chocolate will thaw the berries quickly, but you want them to be chilled (it's the contrast of temperatures that makes it so special).

Glasgow's Kelvin Hall re-opens



Glasgow's iconic Kelvin Hall has been officially reopened following a major £35 million refurbishment. The reinvention of Glasgow's historic exhibition hall as a cultural, academic and sporting complex of international significance is helping to drive forward the city's capacity for learning and innovation, contribute to its cultural, social and economic regeneration and inspire a new generation to lead a healthier and more actively lifestyle. The Kelvin Hall is a hugely popular building and much-loved by the people of Glasgow and further afield. New life has been breathed into part of its vast interior to create a vibrant, cultural hub for the city. It is an example to the rest of the UK of how sport, learning and heritage can thrive together

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: "I am delighted to officially reopen the first phase of the redevelopment of Kelvin Hall. Having seen a variety of uses in its 90 year history, the Kelvin Hall is now home to some of Glasgow's finest cultural attractions, housing the National Library of Scotland's Scottish Screen Archive and hosting the hidden treasures of the Hunterian and Glasgow Museums collections. And it's fitting

that following the huge success of Glasgow 2014, one of Scotland's biggest health and fitness centres in now open at the Kelvin Hall. The Scottish Government will provide a further £2 million to the second phase of redevelopment to complete the Kelvin Hall's transformation to a showcase for Scotland's culture and heritage for decades to come."

Facilities at the Kelvin Hall include:

- One of Scotland's biggest health and fitness facilities – Glasgow Club at Kelvin Hall – incorporates a state-of-the-art Glasgow Club health and fitness centre, with an 8 court multi-purpose sports hall, 4 court gymnastics hall, 3 dedicated group fitness studios and one of the largest fitness gyms in Scotland at over 1,000m2. There are more than 50 cardiovascular, strength conditioning and fixed resistance stations including the very latest 'Unity' screens that supports virtual training and allow users to surf the web. It includes the largest functional training space in the city, capable of hosting group classes for 20 people. The facility is also home to over 100 weekly fitness classes.

Did you know? Forth Rail Bridge Restoration



- A major restoration began in 2002 and lasted 10 years, with investment of £130 million.
- 4,000 tonnes of scaffolding were used.
- A total 4.5 million working hours were spent on the restoration.
- 1,550 people were employed since 2002.

- At its peak up to 400 tradesmen were employed.
- 240,000 litres of paint were used in the first ever complete repainting of the bridge.
- The steelwork was recoated with a high-tech three-coat system.
- The three-part coating system originated from the North Sea oil industry where it has been used to protect offshore structures in severe marine environments.
- The topcoat will last for at least 20 years and was mixed to 'Forth Bridge Red' to match the original red oxide colour used in 1890.
- Forth Bridge Red Paint – it would cost you £6 per m2 to apply the paint to a wall in your home but putting it on the bridge, due to the difficulties of access, costs around £370 per m2.

- A Collections' Centre for all key partners - safe, secure and publicly accessible museum storage is being created to house the internationally significant collections managed by The Hunterian and Glasgow Museums. Around 1.9 million objects, currently stored in various locations around the city, will be relocated to this new facility. 1.4 million objects will come from nine locations housing artefacts from The Hunterian and 400,000 objects – the last of Glasgow Museums' 1.4 million objects not housed in modern stores – will be moved to their new home.
- National Library of Scotland at Kelvin Hall – visitors can access the Library's extensive digital resources held within its world class collections. The interactive space offers visitors a unique experience to explore films, maps, books and manuscripts in electronic format, as well as being able to enjoy events and talks previously only available in Edinburgh. Kelvin Hall is the new home for the Library's Moving Image Archive, offering easy access to thousands of films and videos capturing over 100 years of Scotland's history.
- University of Glasgow at Kelvin Hall – Kelvin Hall has created inspiring spaces and opportunities for world changing research, teaching and learning. New facilities in Kelvin Hall Phase 1 and the co-location of study collections, allows the University of Glasgow to build on its international reputation for collection

based research and teaching, allowing greater access to collections while forging new academic, curatorial and educational practice. Infrastructure includes research and teaching labs, conservation studios, research and seminar rooms and a dedicated post-graduate study space and conference suite.

- Glasgow Museums at Kelvin Hall – the project will provide publicly accessible storage for approximately 400,000 objects currently stored in Maryhill. These include the Glasgow/Scottish history and archaeology collections, and the furniture collection including panelling and some fittings and furnishings for 15 interior spaces - tearooms, billiards rooms, corridors and utility areas - designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh for Miss Cranston's Ingram Street tearooms.

The second phase of the refurbishment of the Category B listed building, will build on the current partnership, with The Hunterian expected to move into the building, while Glasgow Museums will add to the city's contemporary art spaces and displays and the city's Charles Rennie Mackintosh treasures will be shared with the public. There will also be enhancements to the National Library of Scotland's Moving Image Archive, events and civic spaces and the Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum will connect with the space.

More information on the project can be found at www.kelvinhall.org.uk

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On the Scott Trail

Glasgow based artist and sculptor Andy Scott, alumni of Glasgow School of Art and an Associate of the Royal British Society of Sculptors, may well be known for the internationally famous Kelpies found in Falkirk. However an unprecedented concentration of his distinctive public art work can be found throughout Clackmannanshire on the Andy Scott Public Art Trail, blending the traditional with the modern as David McVey explains.



River Spirit also known as Striding Man.



Everybody loves The Kelpies; if the Forth Bridge is, as it's sometimes suggested, Scotland's Eiffel Tower, then perhaps The Kelpies are our Statue of Liberty. And there are two of them!

The Kelpies are said to be the world's largest equestrian sculptures. Their name evokes Scottish myth and legend, but The Kelpies are also very much a tribute to the heavy horses that used to haul boats along the adjacent Forth and Clyde Canal. They were created by sculptor Andy Scott, and based on two real-life gentle equine giants; Baron and Duke were two of Glasgow City Council's heavy horses who regularly appeared at events as well as delighting tourists in the city's Pollok Park. Both are now enjoying retirement but are immortalised as the glittering, magical Kelpies.

Andy Scott Public Art Trail

Scott is a graduate of the Glasgow School of Art and operates from a workshop in the north of the city. Prior to The Kelpies, his most famous work was the 1997 Heavy Horse sculpture by the M8 motorway just east of Glasgow. Art in public locations, in the manner of Anthony Gormley, is very much one of Scott's specialities. A concentration of his work in the wee county of Clackmannan has now been formalised into a Sculpture Trail.

There are currently seven items in the Andy Scott Public Art Trail, with an eighth option rather distant from Clackmannanshire and its main town of Alloa (more on that one later). The official publicity suggests that the artworks should be seen while driving, but all are accessible on foot for those getting there

using public transport, and this is a better way of getting close to them. Who wants to experience art just as something that flashes by the car window?

In any case, one of the artworks, entitled I Can See for Miles, is particularly well-positioned for public transport users; it occupies centre stage in the square

The Andy Scott Public Art Trail is a great introduction to one of Scotland's leading creators and to his work in public art.

adjacent to Alloa Railway Station. An adult in a flat cap, a symbol of Alloa's working past, helps a child reach towards a high



viewing point; it's supposed to be an optimistic, forward-looking work but no doubt you'll come away from it, as I did, with The Who's song of the same name running around in your head.

Symbolic human figures

Some of the other sculptures are positioned on traffic roundabouts. All feature idealised, symbolic human figures. River Spirit, a homage to the River Forth, is on the Collylands Roundabout and is a companion to Air Spirit, a figure on the Muirside Roundabout. He's become commonly known as "Striding Man" because, well, that's what he is.

In Nova Scotia Gardens in the Ochils Hillfoots village of Menstrie, alongside the main road, is the most whimsical of the featured sculptures: Fox Boy is a figure of a small boy in hoodie and trainers, but he has a fox's head and tail. This, apparently, is a reference to a past habit of young local lads of keeping foxes as pets (and, I have to add, don't try this at home). The sculpture also incorporates a maple leaf, a reference to a curious local connection; the name of the gardens is also a clue to this. Sir William Alexander was born in Menstrie Castle in 1577 and was appointed Governor of Nova Scotia in 1621. Menstrie Castle survives, partly as private homes, partly as a small museum managed by the National Trust for Scotland that tells the story of Alexander and Nova Scotia. Menstrie is a place with a fascinating history and well worth a visit; if you travel by bus, the eastbound bus stop is handily placed for studying Fox Boy.

Back in Alloa, Lifeline adorns the Shillinghill Roundabout near the centre

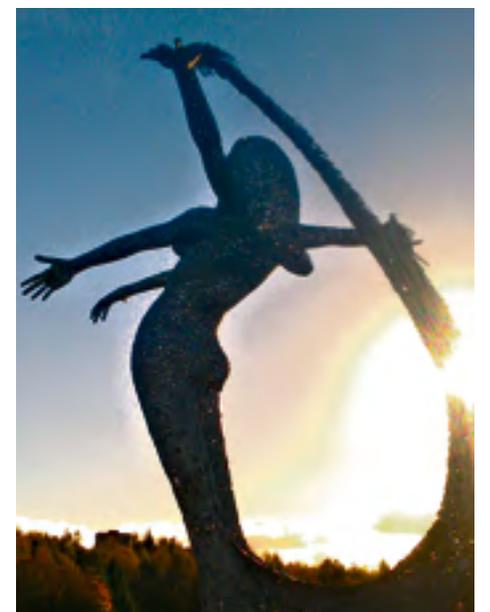
of town while This Journey's End can be found on the Mary Wood Roundabout between Alloa and Clackmannan. The latter work commemorates the opening of the Clackmannanshire Bridge over the Forth and features a male and a female figure joining hands like a bridge. The female clutches a kind of streamer made up of 23 stars. Ironically, in the light of the major events of 2016, this symbolises the community of the European Union.

A symbol of regeneration

There's one additional sculpture that's an optional element in the trail, and it stands some distance away by the M80 at Cumbernauld in North Lanarkshire. Arria was commissioned to be a symbol of regeneration for the architecturally nondescript and oft-derided new town, and was unveiled in 2010. The name 'Arria' was chosen because it was the name of the mother, and also of the half-sister, of the Roman emperor Antonine; the wall he commissioned, of course, ran very close to here over the summits of Bar Hill and Croy Hill.

Arria is a dramatic, curvy female figure, like Shirley Bassey in her heyday, only with four arms, not two. This is no accident; the figure's hairstyle is intended to be sixties in style since, after all, the sixties was when the new town was born. It's not an artificial addition to the Clackmannanshire Scott Trail since many who set out from the west to view the sculptures will pass this way. However, the sculpture can also be visited on foot through Cumbernauld Community Park.

The Andy Scott Public Art Trail is a great introduction to one of Scotland's leading creators and to his work in public art. Besides the Heavy Horse and The Kelpies, much else of his work is available to view, and not just in Scotland. Australia is one of many other countries keen on Scott's work; for example, check out Argestes Aqua or another equine work, Arabesque in Queensland. Effectively, there are several Andy Scott trails.



By: David C. Weinczok

A History Mystery - *The Battle of Roslin*

This month marks the anniversary of The Battle of Roslin, one of the largest battles within Scotland during the First Scottish War of Independence. This often forgotten Scottish military success saw 8,000 Scots soldiers face and defeat a large mounted English army of up to 30,000 and considered one of the bloodiest battles ever fought on British soil, or was it, as David C. Weinczok explains.

It seems apt that the first snows to blanket Edinburgh are falling as I revisit one of Scottish history's greatest cold cases. Here's what we know: On 24 February 1303 a battle was fought at Roslin, the now world famous glen to the south of Edinburgh. The Scots, against superior numbers, triumphed and one wave in a seemingly ceaseless tide of English invasions was pushed back.

Now here's where things get iffy. History is often akin to a spider's web – one errant thread can bring the integrity of the whole business into doubt – and the Battle of Roslin's tangles have tangles. Were there tens of thousands involved, as the old chroniclers say, or mere hundreds? Are local place names, like Shinbanes Field and Stinking Rig, testaments to a terrible slaughter or echoes of folk imagination? If all this sounds too arcane, fear not. There's a love story too.

The Conventional Wisdom

The traditional account is that the Scots had 8,000 men hastily raised from Biggar, led by Sir John Comyn (the same man murdered by Robert Bruce in Dumfries in 1306) and Sir Simon Fraser. The English force, separated into three divisions, was some 30,000 strong and led by Sir John Segrave, first lieutenant to Edward I in Scotland. These are huge numbers, and if accurate easily exceed those at the much more famous battles of Stirling Bridge, Falkirk and Bannockburn. It all came to a head when Segrave fell in love with a local beauty, Lady Margaret Ramsey of Dalhousie, while in command of Edinburgh Castle. Margaret had other plans, however, involving Sir Henry Sinclair of Roslin, a gallant young man who won his spurs alongside Wallace. When Margaret was betrothed to

Henry in 1302, Segrave wrote to Edward I asking permission to launch a punitive raid into Scotland fired by his scorned heart. The punitive raid bit is important, as we'll see soon.

The Scots used local terrain to outwit and outfight a much larger foe, which rings true of Scotland's other victories of this period. The English army was faced in waves, each defeated before the next could engage. Twice the Scots thought themselves victorious only to see another English division, at which point prisoners were executed and the grim business continued. Great speeches were given, the common folk's raw courage overcame raw martial might, and for good measure a giant St Andrew's Cross was laid out on the Pentland Hills to inspire them. This is starting to sound too good to be true.

Sceptics, including historian Chris Brown, posit that the battle was not between masses of infantry but small contingents of armoured riders, and the elements of surprise and local knowledge won the day for a Scottish force roughly equivalent to the English host. Let's examine the evidence.

The Politics

One reason why the Battle of Roslin may have gone underappreciated by the chronicles is that when Robert Bruce became king, the name of Comyn – Bruce's chief rival for the throne - was effectively blacklisted. Since John Comyn was the senior commander at Roslin, was his great victory buried in an attempt to make the Bruce star shine even brighter?

On the other hand, much of the conventional wisdom about the battle comes from Walter Bower's *Scotichronicon*. While thrilling, his account is not only colourful in its details but coloured by its target audience,

the Stewart Dynasty. Nothing quite gains the attention of the ruling class like tales of their countrymen overcoming impossible odds. Throw in a Knight Templar or two, as fantasists are wont to do, and it has all the elements of a tale rather than a record.

The Armies

In the same way that we now know that it wasn't 300 Spartans against one million Persians at Thermopylae, we now know that most contemporary or near-contemporary accounts of Scottish battles suffer from the same habit of inflation beyond plausibility. While not completely out of the realm of possibility, 8,000 was a massive number of troops for Scotland to raise in the early 14th century, and at Roslin they were supposedly gathered in great haste and from one locale, making the claim stretch believability even further.

As for the English, armies of 30,000 marched into Scotland both before and after Roslin but only ever under the direct command of a king. Remember how I said that the 'punitive raid' aspect would matter later? According to some contemporary sources, Segrave's force was raised quickly from the gentry and aristocracy of northern England. Given this haste, the personal nature of the feud and the fact that such raids were far more common than massed battles, this suggests a modest force of mounted men striking relatively soft targets before retiring with their vengeance sated. It's not as romantic, but it's far more realistic.

Local names add another factor into the mix. There's no doubt that something big and bloody happened at Roslin. The aforementioned Shinbanes Field was so named because even in the 19th century



River North Esk.

cartloads of bones were recovered from the site, and the waters of the Killburn flow nearby. And yet, the sceptic's accounts talk of highly localized and targeted attacks, and the carnage of such encounters could easily leave behind a staggering number of bones that would, at a glance, seem to be the product of an epic struggle.

The Verdict

While reading numerous sources for the battle, what struck me was the familiarity of it all – a peasant force against armoured knights, and speeches about freedom and liberty allowing the Scots to overcome sheer exhaustion and nigh-impossible odds, well, just because. It's a fantastic story, but just as we don't believe that a turtle ever actually raced a hare, it seems prudent to view these accounts as representative of an ideal rather than a reality. In the end, it seems, all evidence for or against a great battle at Roslin is circumstantial, but my money is with the sceptics. The devil, as ever, is in the details.

David C Weinczok is a heritage professional, presenter and adoptive Scot based in Edinburgh. Twitter: @TheCastleHunter



Roslin Castle.

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Two Scots and a bike

Travelling the world one pedal at a time



Taking in the beauty of the Canadian Rockies.

Scots have made their mark across the world visiting every bit of the globe by all means of transport, however two Scots have been exploring our planet in a slightly different manner-by tandem bicycle. World travellers Clif and Susan Anderson have pedalled their way across Canada and more recently Australia seeing places that most simply pass by. Clif took time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on what it is like travelling with two wheels and a Scottish accent.



Clif and Susan's tandem bike resting at home in Scotland.

SC: Clif thank you for speaking to *the Scottish Banner* and congratulations to you both for such amazing accomplishments. Can you start by telling us where you are from and just where the idea of tandem cycling across vast distances came from?

CA: My wife Susan and I are from Edinburgh, Scotland. Now technically my wife Susan is English but as she has lived for the past 32 years in Scotland, loves haggis and is even fond of the occasional malt whisky then I'm sure we can class her as an 'honorary' Scot. We are now both retired from working but feel it is important to keep physically and mentally challenged.

A few years ago we watched a documentary on BBC Scotland about two retired ladies who cycled across Canada in 2007 (Patti Kagawa, also wrote a book titled



Clif and Susan reaching Sydney Harbour.

From Sea to Shining Sea). We were inspired by their adventure and agreed it would be a great experience to mark our retirement. So that's how we found ourselves cycling 8,000km from Vancouver Island to St. John's, Newfoundland, in 2014. Yes, it's very hard work on the bike but afterwards the memories and experiences of that trip last longer than the tiredness and when we looked back we remembered it very positively - 'best trip of our lives'. That's why we decided to do it all again cycling 5000km from Perth to Sydney.

SC: Riding a tandem bike is quite different than the more traditional bicycle, can you tell us some of the challenges and benefits with travelling tandem?

CA: Susan and I cycle on day trips on mountain bikes back in Scotland and Europe. We are not fast, fantastically fit or technically great - we are just an ordinary couple who love getting outdoors. However, when cycling individual bikes we are together but not quite - conversation is difficult and we both ride at different speeds. So for Canada we decided to ride in tandem so we could chat as we cycled and tackle the climbs together. We chose a recumbent tandem because it's so comfortable with its mesh padded seat. When you are on a bike all day every day then saddle soreness can become an all-consuming pain. Riding a recumbent tandem is quite different. On a normal bike balance is achieved through upper body movement whereas on a recumbent tandem your centre of gravity is lower, your body is fixed in position and balance is through the steering. It's best described as like sitting in a kayak and balancing with the paddle.

SC: Your first large adventure was across Canada. Can you tell us briefly where the trip took you to and some Canadian highlights?

CA: We started in Victoria on Vancouver

Island and then headed east towards the Canadian Rockies. However, as the journey was never about the quickest way across we cut north to Jasper and cycled southwards along the wonderful Icefield Parkway to Banff. From Banff we headed through Calgary, Saskatoon, Winnipeg and then through Toronto and the other major cities to Nova Scotia and then onto Newfoundland Island. We remember the wonderfully friendly people, Tim Horton's for coffee and donuts, the mountains and stunning scenery. Our favourite city was Quebec and our favourite province was British Columbia. We also loved Newfoundland as it's the scenery is so much like Scotland - the hills have a very similar character. Unfortunately, the weather was pretty similar too.

SC: More recently you have just wrapped up an epic cycle across Australia. What route did you follow and what was it like for a couple of Scots riding in the heat of the big brown land?

CA: We started in Perth and headed east towards Norseman. From there we cycled 1100 km through the desert like conditions of the Nullarbor Plain and across to Adelaide. Rather than take the shortest route west to Sydney we headed south east to Melbourne then north east to Sydney. 5000km in total.

SC: Travelling with your partner this way certainly is unique, some may say riding tandem across a foreign land may end in divorce! Have these amazing adventures changed you as a couple?

CA: Well, for a start it helps that we get on well together and enjoy each other's company. When we cycle on these long distances there is the shared challenge of the hardship. Believe me cycling this tandem with a 50Kg trailer day after day is tough and as we get older our ability to recover each day isn't as great as it once was. The only way



Welcome to Newfoundland and Labrador.

to keep going is to cycle with a positive frame of mind. This means patience with each other, no arguing and being understanding. Sometimes it's not easy. These trips have taught us to be very resilient and able to tackle issues and situations in a very positive way whether we are on or off the bike.

SC: Clif how has the reception of people you have met along the way been and has your Scottish accent (and Saltire on your bike!) helped you along the way?

CA: Wherever we cycle it's apparent that the Scottish heritage is everywhere. As far as I'm concerned the Scots built the world but then I'm slightly biased. In both Canada and Australia we met countless people whose grandparents have emigrated and they could recount small village names in Scotland where they were from. In Nova Scotia, Canada, the Scots influence was so evident. Of course, along the way we meet the odd Scottish traveller and it is always nice when people recognise the Saltire. Most people recognise my Scottish accent and I can almost forgive those that think I'm Irish! I suppose it's close enough geographically!

SC: At home have you undertaken similar rides and if so what is your favourite part of Scotland to cycle in?

CA: We don't do long distance cycles on the tandem in Scotland. We have a motorhome and we tend to take our mountain bikes with us. We love riding around Edinburgh, down the Scottish Borders around Melrose and also up by Pitlochry.

SC: And finally Clif do you know just how many miles/kilometres you have in fact cycled? And where next is it for you both and will it involve a tandem bicycle?

CA: Our two trips across Canada and Australia have totalled 13,000km to date. This year we plan to take the motorhome to the Italian dolomites to cycle and we will save the next long distance cycle for 2018. Our current plan is to cycle from Jacksonville, Florida, to San Diego in California. That's only 4000km and will be our shortest trip - should be easy.

You can follow Clif and Susan's blog at www.rollingrolling.wordpress.com.



Clif at Kimba halfway across Australia.