



the **Scottish Banner**



North American Edition



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 40 Number 10 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper April 2017

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on the top of Scotland

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The Banner Says...

Tartan Day-Celebrating the Scots



by Valerie Cairney

Here in North America it is time to dust off the kilts, position the plaid, and get ready for Tartan Day! Tartan Day is the annual celebration of the achievements and contributions that Scottish forbearers had across both Canada and the USA.

Our Australian and New Zealand readers will note that Tartan Day is celebrated in your part of the world on July 1st, marking the repeal of the 1747 Act and the banning of wearing of tartan.

This month will also see the Big Apple turn tartan at the 19th annual New York Tartan Day Parade, which takes place on April 8th and is part of Scotland Week, a week-long programme of events promoting Scotland in North America. Events will take place throughout the city, all dedicated to Scots and their important contribution to America.

Amongst the pipe bands, Clans marching, Scottish dancers and Scottie dogs will be the parade Grand Marshal actor Tommy Flanagan. Tommy was born and raised in Glasgow, Scotland and seemed very proud to be honoured as Grand Marshal of the Parade. He later said; "I have great pride in my heritage. Although I now live in Malibu, I visit Scotland regularly and visit with my family. I'll have my daughter flying her flag forever".

Past marshals have include Sir Sean Connery, Scots-born actors Brian Cox, Kevin McKidd, Alan

Cumming and Sam Heughan, and former New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg.

The origins of Tartan Day

The origins of Tartan Day however come from Canada's East Coast in 1986. Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia members Bill Crowell and Jean MacKaracher-Watson put forward a motion which stated: "That we establish a day known as 'Tartan Day'. This to be a day chosen to promote Scottish Heritage by the most visible means. The wearing of the Scottish attire, especially in places where the kilt is not ordinarily worn, i.e.: work, play or worship."

This began a decade's work of working with Scottish community groups and every province in Canada to have the day officially recognised. Scottish settlers have made a huge contribution to that country, and it is very appropriate people remember and honour the many Scots who helped shape Canada to be the nation it is now, which is this year celebrating 150 years.

As Tartan Day became better known and the momentum picked up, the Americans heard about it. They decided they too wanted to promote it, and Tartan Day gained even further recognition. This special day, little known just a few short years ago, has gathered a great deal of momentum recently, and has now become an important day in the life of those promoting the contribution of Scots to North American audiences.

Wear something tartan

Whilst not everyone can be celebrating in New York itself several events are also taking place throughout Canada and the USA. Everybody is encouraged wear something (however small) tartan. From kilts, ties, sashes, stockings to dog collars all help you make a statement on this important day.

I even received a telephone call from Australia where a charming man called to say he had stayed up half way through the night to wait for our office

to open up here in Florida, just to wish me a Happy Tartan Day. His time zone is approximately 16 hours ahead of our Florida time and that I believe, shows how strong our links can be.

Lady Fiona MacGregor

Our North American readers can read more about Tartan Day in this issue while we also explore a fascinating range of topics. Our cover couple from the Highlands who decided last month to get married on one of Scotland's highest mountains and in skis! Jonathan in his kilt and Bridget skied down in her white wedding dress. A magical day and memory for this special couple.

This month is also the Pagan festival of light in Edinburgh at the Beltane Fire Festival which has turned into a great event for the Scottish capital. The Johnstone Collection in Wick has digitally archived an incredible collection of Caithness social history, images which were collected by three generations of one family over a hundred years and *the Scottish Banner* is very fortunate to be able to reproduce some of those images in this edition. Glasgow Central Station is one of my favourite stations in Britain and we learn about the tour which now takes place there and the important role this station continues to play in the lives of Glaswegians.

And finally all of us here at *the Scottish Banner* would also like to congratulate Lady Fiona MacGregor for recently receiving an award from the British Royal Television Society. Fiona, who is also Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries, was awarded with the Contribution award in recognition of her long and distinguished career in television. This award is so well deserved and we are thrilled a long time writer and friend of *the Banner* was recognised in this way.

Will you be celebrating Tartan Day? Whether it be in North America or soon in Australasia tell us your story and share with us your views by email, post or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



The New York Tartan Day Parade. Photo: The Scottish Government.

Gracing our front cover: Getting ready to say "I do" on the top of Scotland: Photo: Hamish Frost Photography.

Major boost for Scotland's red squirrels



Scotland is home to 75% of the UK's red squirrels.

Over the next five years Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels will enlist hundreds of volunteers in three key regions to carry out practical work to protect and strengthen red squirrel populations. Scotland is home to just 120,000 red squirrels, three quarters of the UK population. The main threat to their survival comes from competition with invasive non-native grey squirrels and the spread of the deadly squirrelpox virus. Over the last eight years Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels has proved that it is possible to change their fortunes.

"Through targeted control of grey squirrels we can reverse the decline of our native reds and help them return to former territories," said Dr Mel Tonkin, Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels Project Manager. "Thanks to National Lottery players we will be able to empower communities to help protect not just their local red squirrels, but major populations of the species in Scotland, and ensure that future generations can continue to see these special animals."

Priority species

The funding has been welcomed by Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change

and Land Reform, who said: "Red squirrels are a priority species that we need to do all we can to help. Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels has led important work to conserve them since 2009. It is fantastic that players of the National Lottery will help to mobilise communities to take practical action to protect one of our best loved animals."

The three key areas for the project are North East Scotland, the Central Lowlands and Southern Scotland:

- Grey squirrel populations have been significantly reduced in North-East Scotland the last eight years. The project will continue to work towards making the area a grey-squirrel free zone by developing a rapid response system to detect and remove residual individuals.
- The Central Lowlands stretch from Argyll to Tayside. In this area coordinated control of grey squirrels will prevent them from becoming established north of the 'Highland Line'. The Scottish Highlands are home to the UK's largest population of red squirrels unaffected by greys.
- In Southern Scotland, work will focus on eight Priority Areas for Red Squirrel Conservation (PARCs). Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels will create networks of local people who are able to make an important ecological impact by monitoring squirrel numbers and trapping greys that would otherwise oust local red squirrels, making them more resilient to changes and safeguarding important populations.

Love a Scott



A mysterious sculpture has been left at the Scott Monument in Edinburgh in the lead up to Valentines Day. The concrete sculpture which mimics internationally famed British artist Banksy and features a girl reaching for a bright red mine-shaped balloon with a cut-out heart.

Placed in front of the statue of Scottish author Sir Walter Scott on Princes Street, the piece is titled *Mine Girl* by the anonymous artist Grantsy.

The figure was discovered on Valentine's Day by monument staff and is believed to be a "love note" from the artist.

A City of Edinburgh Council spokeswoman said: "Staff at the Scott Monument were surprised to see the mysterious sculpture appear overnight. It seems to be a love note of sorts and certainly makes a statement. We were content to leave it on site for Valentine's Day in the hope that the artist comes back to retrieve it afterwards. If not, it will have to be removed."

Tartan Dog Pack to feature at New York's Tartan Day Parade



Photo: Courtesy of Jennifer Leonard

Barbour Inc. have announced a special contest for Scottish and West Highland White Terriers at this month's 19th annual New York Tartan Day Parade, on Saturday April 8th, in the area's largest celebration of Scottish-American heritage.

A boisterous bunch of Scotties and Westies participate every year in the Parade, trotting up Sixth Avenue alongside

the thousands of bagpipers, dancers, bands, clans, and families to the cheers of the crowd will be the Barbour Tartan Dog Pack with 40 of the pack in wonderful new Barbour dog Coats, winners of the 2017 Tartan Day Barbour Dog Coat Competition for Scotties and Westies.

For the third consecutive year, Barbour Inc., the North American subsidiary of J. Barbour & Sons, Ltd. of

Great Britain, a premiere British heritage and lifestyle clothing brand that also makes dog coats and accessories, will sponsor this "Tartan Dog Pack."

And this year, Barbour will once again sponsor the "Win a Barbour Dog Coat Competition," where 40 lucky Scotties and Westies will win their very own Barbour Tartan Dog Coat, to proudly wear as they strut (or march or waddle or lollygag) their happy way up the Avenue!

To enter the competition, owners must first register their Scottish or West Highland White Terrier (and someone to walk them) in the New York Tartan Day Parade, at www.nytartanweek.org.

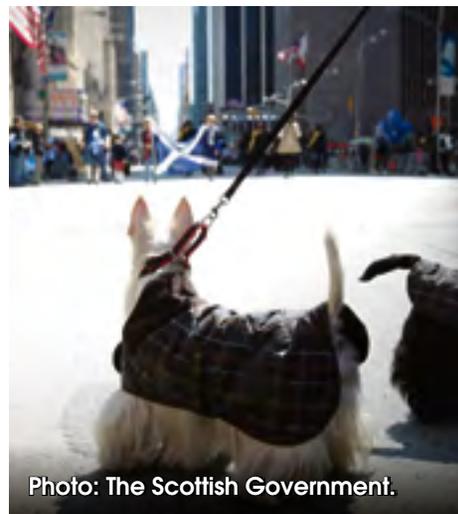


Photo: The Scottish Government.

Did you know? Fort Augustus



Photo: VisitScotland.

- Fort Augustus has a population of just over 600 and is situated on the most southern tip of Loch Ness on the Great Glen Way.
- Fort Augustus village takes its name from a fort built after the defeat of the 1715 Jacobite uprising.
- The town lies between Inverness and Fort William on the 60 mile long Caledonian Canal.
- In 1890, when Queen Victoria was still using paraffin lamps in Balmoral Castle, some villagers in Fort Augustus had the unlikely luxury of electric light because of a small water turbine installed by the monks at the nearby Benedictine Abbey. This is believed to be Scotland's first electrical installation and began operating eight years after Edison opened his station at Holborn Viaduct in London in 1882.

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.

Chief Iain Gunn of Gunn

We received our copy of *the Scottish Banner* this week and were very pleased to see our article about Chief Iain Gunn of Gunn (*Scottish Banner*, February, 2017). Thank you very much for accepting our article and the great way you presented it. I am absolutely thrilled to see an article about the Clan Gunn in *the Scottish Banner*! I knew it had been accepted since earlier in the week, I received a message of congratulations from our CGSNA member and *Banner* subscriber Lawrence Main who lives in Burk's Falls in Northern Ontario.

I have scanned a copy of your presentation of the article and will be sending a copy to Chief Iain, members of his family and many of the leading Clan Gunn members in different countries of the world to whom we regularly send copies of our Branch newsletters - about three times per year. None of our Gunn contact people knew that we prepared an article about the Chief, so it will be interesting to get the reactions.

Thanks again and best wishes,
Yours aye!

Edward (Ted) Gunn

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

A story of my Scottish forbearers

It was suggested readers share a story of our forebears (*The Banner Says... Looking into the past this Christmas, Scottish Banner*, December 2016) and how they began a new life abroad. My paternal grandfather, John Donald Michie, emigrated alone, from Badenyon, Glenbuchat, Aberdeenshire to Australia a month before his 23rd birthday. Of his 8 siblings a couple remained in Scotland, the remainder eventually moved to Ontario, Canada. Grandfather was the only one to choose Australia. For generations his kin had been tenant crofters and although he placed a very high value on education and self-betterment, he never the less, was only used to farm work. When my Grandfather left Scotland on his life changing trip in December, 1887 he never saw his kinsfolk or native Scotland again. He came to Australia on a ship called *Jumna* on a voyage which took nine weeks at sea before reaching Brisbane in Queensland.

What a shock for a young man to leave behind the snow of Scotland's north-east winter to be faced with the searing heat of sub-tropical Queensland in late summer.

Possibly in search of cooler climes my Grandfather relocated to Melbourne and worked on the Victorian railways. Grandfather Michie was also an accomplished artist, had an interest in astronomy and married a girl of Scots descent. He always wanted to return to Scotland but sadly did not but always spoke of his beloved homeland until his death in the 1980's.

I have always been passionately interested in all things Scottish, since a wee girl. Although I love Australia, the country of my birth, I am just as proud of my Scottish blood.

Thank you for producing my most favourite read, *the Scottish Banner*.

*Margaret Michie Benney
Craigieburn, Victoria
Australia*

Ed Note: Thank you Margaret for sharing your family story and your Grandfather's amazing adventure.

A Scotsman's Prayer

I was doing a bit of spring cleaning earlier this year and among the old papers and books I was getting rid of, an old faded newspaper clipping entitled *A Scotsman's Prayer* fell out, unfortunately undated and source unknown. I did search extensively on the web but have been unable to find any reference to who the minister might be.

I hope your readers will enjoy it as well.

A Scotsman's Prayer

The following prayer is said to have been delivered some years ago by a Scots Minister at Caledon, Ontario:

"O' Lord, we approach Thee this mornin' in the attitude o' prayer, an' likewise o' complaint. When we cam tae the lan' o' Canaday we expected tae fin' a lan' flowin' wi' milk an' honey, but instead we found a lan' peopled by the ungodly Irish."

"O Lord, in Thy great mercy, mak' them hewers o' wid an' drawers o' water; gie them nae emoluments, gie them nae place o' abode, ne'er mak' them magistrates or rulers amang Thy people; but if ye hae ony favour tae bestow, or any guid lan' tae gie away, gie it tae. Thine ain."

"Thy peculiar people, the Scots, mak' them members o' parliament an' Magistrates o' rulers amang thy people. But as for the ungodly Irish, tak' them by the heels an' shake them o'er the mouth o' Hell, but dinna let them fa' in, an' a' the glory shall be thine. Amen."

Brian Beatson

*Port Hope, Ontario
Canada*

Robert the Bruce



Congratulations on *the Scottish Banner's* 40 years of publication. The anniversary issue with the article about Bannockburn (*Bannockburn's Big Dig, Scottish Banner*, July, 2016) has a special significance for me, as Robert the Bruce is my 17th great grandfather. This has all been verified by the

famous Scottish genealogist, Hugh Peskett.

When the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, was campaigning prior to the last election, he called at the Double Bay park whilst some young boys, including my 8 year old grandson, Jamie, were playing soccer. Jamie bowled up to the Prime Minister and said, "Mr. Turnbull, your ancestor turned away a charging bull to save my Nana's ancestor, that's why you're called Turnbull". The Prime Minister replied, "I know now who your Nana is". The Prime Minister had previously asked me for documentation showing my descent from Robert the Bruce. Dr. Wade King told me that when he asked if there were any descendants in Australia of Robert the Bruce, I was the only person who could produce the documentation, the others based their evidence on hearsay. The photo attached shows Jamie standing in front of the Prime Minister's right arm, a boy with a green top is standing next to Jamie. Jamie is the son of my son.

*Rosemary Samios
Double Bay, NSW
Australia*

Ed note: Thank you Rosemary for sending this and glad the Prime Minister knows the great lineage of his constituents.

Burns Night in Queensland



Great night with haggis, whisky, poems, music and singing was had at the Burns Supper at Southport Masonic Hall on Saturday 28th January.

*Peter McMurtrie
Goondiwindi, Queensland
Australia*

Australian AIF Pipe Band



I have a WW1 pic - see below - of an Australian AIF Pipe Band given to me by a friend as my Pa is in it. The family have never seen this before and of course doesn't have any information as it is a photo copy.

Private William Donald McDonald, # 3403, 15th Battalion AIF [aka: Pa - Dinny McDonald] from Warrnambool, Victoria. I believe that a few of the band came from Warrnambool &/or Victoria. He is in the 2nd row, seated with head & pipes turned to the R.

I thought it may have been taken at The Codford Camp in the UK, but it's since been realised that he was in Belgium/France in 1917, so it could be there too. Wherever it was it was cold.

I am transcribing Pa's WW1 dairy & very sadly he says on 30 Sept - Oct 7 1917 that: 'Word came through that Pipe Band was knocked out. Only 2 reporting for duty next morning. McKenzie was killed. Have not heard any further particulars yet'.

I'm wondering if this can be published

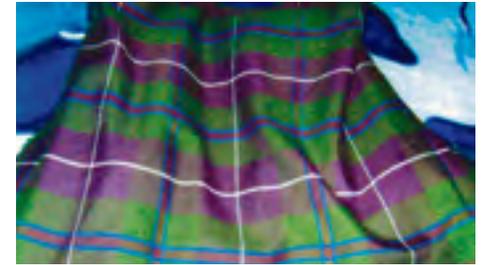
to see if any information can come to light throughout your readers?

Thanking you,
*Maryanne McDonald
Ettalong Beach, NSW
Australia*

Email: skyemezz@gmail.com

Ed note: Maryanne we hope this helps you find the missing link needed.

Name that tartan



I hope that you can help me. I was in Scotland in January this year. It was a sad visit this time as my Dad had passed away on the 10th of that month. While I was there I purchased a kilt in a Highland Hospice charity shop for one of my grandsons. I do not know what the tartan is and did not think to ask them at the shop. If someone could kindly please identify it for me I would be very grateful. I have been a *Banner* subscriber for many years and look forward to my wee bit of Scotland every month. I hope the paper can continue to publish for many more years to come.

Thank you in advance from a loyal reader.

*Morag Jones (nee Mackay)
5316 McRae Highway
Chauncey, Georgia
31011*

USA

Tel 229-868-7011

Ed note: If you can identify the tartan, please let Morag know as we are sure a reader can help.

SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGES

(Send us your photos or letters via social media)

Anstruther at dusk.



*Posted by Bob Legg
Anstruther, Fife
Scotland*

Late evening on an almost deserted Royal Mile, Edinburgh.



*Posted by Tom Barnes
Glenrothes, Scotland*



SCOTSPEAK

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

"I fell in love with the property the moment I went down the drive, with the sunlight slanting through the trees and the lighthouse in the distance. This is such a warm, comfortable and manageable house to live in. It was a magical part of our lives and I will miss it deeply. I have never seen the "green lady" ghost but others have. Once, my daughter thought she saw a phantom in the upstairs room which we used as a nursery, next door to the room where Mary, Queen of Scots is said to have stayed."

Betsy Horne owner of The Craig, a six-bedroom castle outside Montrose, said as it went up for sale for £1.65 million. The Craig comes with some amazing Scottish history with both Mary Queen of Scots and the first Jacobite leader, "the old pretender" James Stuart having stayed there. The casketed heart of Robert the Bruce is said to have also been taken there and the six-bedroom castle also has a resident ghost known as the "green lady" who comes with the sale.

"This change is extremely positive for equality in Scotland but it's also one that will be beneficial to Muirfield itself now that the R&A has confirmed the course will be reinstated as a venue for the Open, so we look forward to golf's most prestigious tournament returning to East Lothian and advancing the local economy. Scotland is a modern country that wants to see gender equality become the norm across all parts of society and today's decision is another step forward in that journey."

The Scottish Government's Sport Minister Aileen Campbell said as members of The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, at Muirfield, voted around 80% in favour to allow female members for the first time since the club opened in 1744. Lifting the ban also allows the course could again become a venue for the Open golf tournament.

"Leith was once the national hub for the Scotch industry and it's really exciting to be restarting that tradition. Our business will boost the local economy by drawing more tourists and residents down to the harbour. Ocean Terminal bought into our vision when we had no money and only a plan. They've made an enormous contribution to our business and, we hope, to Leith."

Patrick Fletcher of Port of Leith Distillery said plans are well under way to open a whisky distillery in Leith. The new planned attraction will be located next to the Royal Yacht Britannia at Ocean Terminal. The £5 million project would be the first purpose-built single malt distillery to be created in Leith for more than a century.

"You could have Glasgow to Edinburgh double deckers. It means you can double the capacity on each train. If you invest the (network's) profits in running a double decker service, it would end overcrowding, would be more convenient and would mean more money could be invested."

Former Scottish Transport Minister Alex Neil said that offering a double decker rail commuter train service as they have in Europe could cut rail fares and congestion.

"If we had done nothing, then nothing would have happened. We've done something and now we've got to let it run its course - whether that increases visitor numbers, attracts people to look at retail outlets in the High Street or gives them pleasure in our own history. We've got to build on it now. This should be used as a springboard to embrace other parts of Moray that have an equally rich history which deserves to be shared and enjoyed."

Jim Royan Chairman of the Castle to Cathedral to Cashmere Project in Elgin said at the launch of the new £430,000 heritage attraction in Moray which hopes to boost tourism and celebrate the more than 1,000 years of history to life in the region.



"I have been very lucky to have been teamed with Patch over the last nine years. She has been a delight to train, work and live with. Patch and I have been inseparable over the years and I am so proud of her distinguished career. I am delighted to have had her as my shift partner and she will be remembered fondly by all those that have met and worked alongside her. I can assure you that Patch will have a very enjoyable and stress-free retirement living with my other dogs and family members at home. It's the least I can do to thank her for her many years keeping people safe across the country."

Constable Steve Warden said after nine years of loyal service, Police Dog Patch has recently retired from Police Scotland. Patch, a ten year old Springer Spaniel became one of the most experienced explosive search dogs in the country. Her main deployments were predominantly within the North East where she became a regular attendee in Royal Deeside as part of her security duties for members of the Royal Family, who continue to enjoy their holidays at the Balmoral Estate in Aberdeenshire. Over her nine year career Patch worked across the length and breadth of the United Kingdom and was even involved in deployments at the London 2012 Olympic Games and the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

"In contrast to the study of the Roman Empire and its successors, first-millennium AD northern Europe has not been studied to the same level and rarely within an international context. It is generally considered that in northern Britain and Ireland, the Roman presence had only been fleetingly felt and that these societies were less developed than those of the successor states of the Roman Empire, with a comparatively flat social and economic hierarchy and lacking in developed structures of power and governance. But increasingly, the archaeological and historical evidence can tell a different story of complex, highly stratified societies with developed strategies of rulership and governance and sophisticated seats of power."

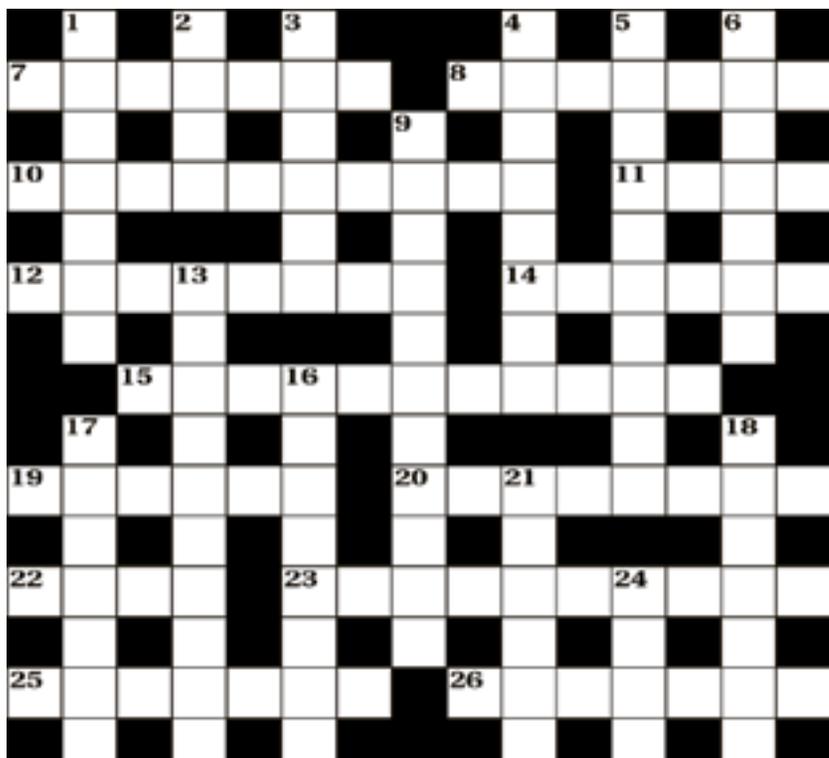
The University of Aberdeen archaeologist Dr Gordon Noble said as a £1 million grant has been awarded to study the 'lost kingdoms' of Northwest Europe. Researchers from the University will excavate sites of lost kingdoms and seats of power in Scotland and Ireland at sites such as Burghead in Moray, Aberdeenshire, Cashel in County Tipperary, Republic of Ireland, and Dunseverick near the Giant's Causeway in County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

"The Tapestry is an extraordinary celebration of Scottish history and a wonderful community endeavour that has really captured the public imagination. We hope that many local people plus tourists from far and wide will visit the impressive exhibition in the stunning surroundings of the High Mill at Verdant Works."

Marjory Knowles, Chair of The Alexander Moncur Trust said The Great Tapestry of Scotland will to return to Dundee in August as part of a two month exhibition. The Tapestry is the world's longest and details more than 2,000 years of Scotland's history and was Scotland's largest community art project.

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

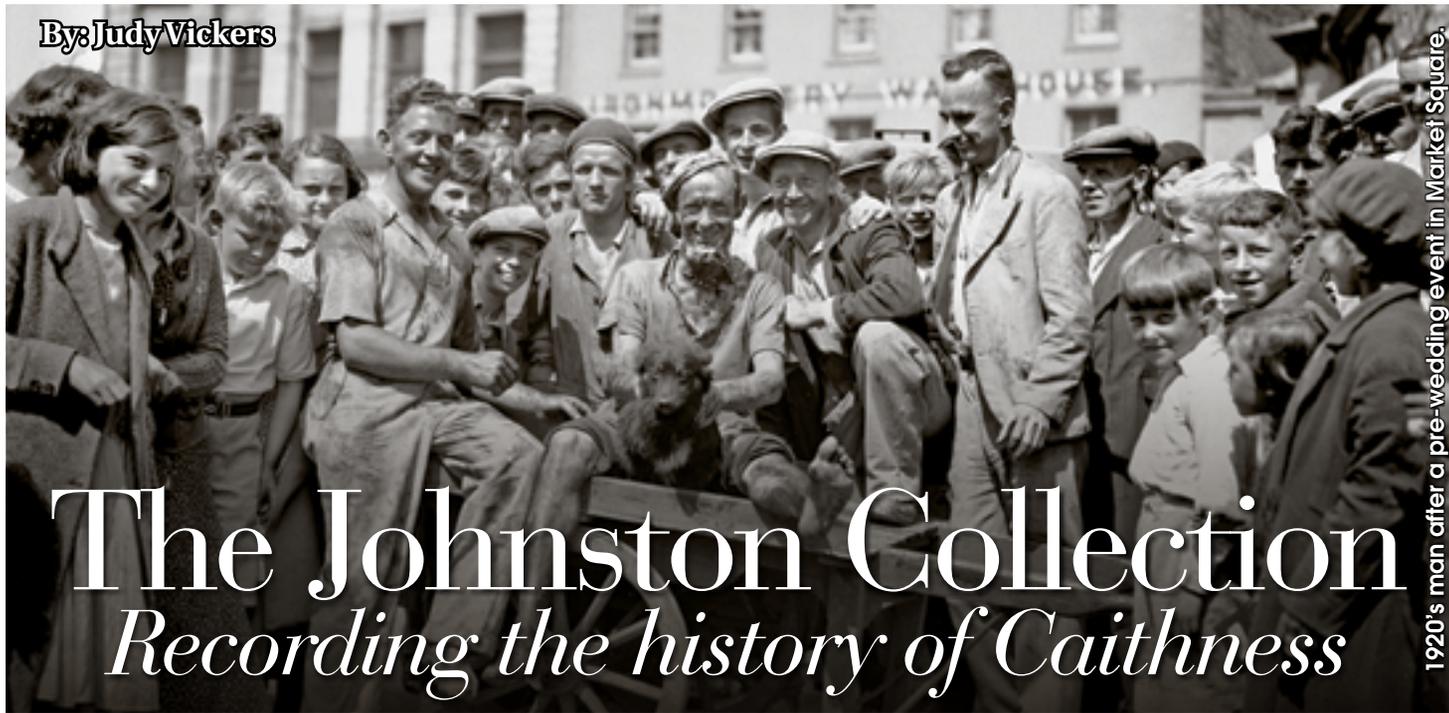
- 7) It's prettier in Scotland (7).
- 8) Small mound (7).
- 10) Island west of Girvan (5, 5).
- 11) Captures open fabrics (4).
- 12) One corner to another (8).
- 14) Glossy coating (6).
- 15) Stronghold near Rothesay (5, 6).
- 19) Rush into occupation (6).
- 20) Gives a service (8).
- 22) A threesome (4).
- 23) Town south-west of Dumfries (10).
- 25) Burns! (7).
- 26) System of servitude (7).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Old schoolmaster (7).
- 2) Played in curling (4).
- 3) A Presbyterian official (6).
- 4) Vests (8).
- 5) Top Scots stay-over (1.0).
- 6) Old mowers (7).
- 9) House near Mauchline (1.1.).
- 13) Bagpipe embellishments (5, 5).
- 16) Dignities of noblemen (8).
- 17) Top chambers (7).
- 18) Deer meat! (7).
- 21) They're kinfolk (6).
- 24) A swell (4).

By Judy Vickers

All images courtesy of the Johnston Collection.



1920's man after a pre-wedding event in Market Square.

The Johnston Collection

Recording the history of Caithness

An incredible photographic archive consisting of over 40,000 images from 1863 to 1975 and captured around Caithness by a local photographers make up the Johnston Collection in Wick. A volunteer led project to save, digitise and rehouse the ancient glass plate negatives shot over 100 years by three generations of photographers from the same family has recently been completed by the Wick Society, honouring and safe guarding this legacy of Caithness social history as Judy Vickers explains.

The shawl and the frilled cap worn by the elderly woman in the picture, the pre-electric Singer sewing machine she's working at, even the piles of peat in the background waiting to be ferried in yawls over the island of Stroma – so much has changed since this picture was taken in John O'Groats more than 100 years ago. Yet other things remain curiously familiar. There may be a practical reason why the woman – her name is Camilla Laird – is out sewing in her garden with the iconic John O'Groats House Hotel in the background but Fergus Mather, team leader of the Johnston Collection Digitisation Project, believes it's down to the slightly more cynical concept of an early photo op.

"I expect that she is in her garden which belongs to the cottage known as the last house and perhaps it is a couthy setup for a commercial postcard to cash in on the tourist trap that is John O' Groats," he says.

A dynasty of photographers

And there's more that's familiar - while the lined, worn face may be from a different age, the woman's gentle eyes and alert expression speak to the viewer as clearly and strongly as if the picture had been taken yesterday. Mrs Laird was known as the "memorable midwife", a widow whose husband had drowned at sea and who was said to have delivered 1000 children. She was captured for posterity by one of the Johnston family, a dynasty of photographers from Wick whose archives of more than 40,000 pictures dating back to the 1860s, have now been digitised and are available to view online.

The Johnston family photographic business was founded in Wick by Alexander Johnston in 1863 and he was joined soon afterwards by his brother James as the idea proved a commercial success. The pair rapidly moved into bigger premises as the fashion for photography took off, then expanded

into Thurso. Over the next 40-odd years the pair took around 60,000 studio portraits of family and individuals across Sutherland and Caithness as photography became affordable for the ordinary man and woman. They provide a fascinating record of the changing times – the formal Victorian families in velvet of the 19th century, the flurry of photographs from 1914 - men in uniform on the eve of war creating a keepsake for the dark days to come - and the more relaxed portraiture of the 1920s with children in fancy dress or with seaside accessories.

The Wick Society

By the 1920s, the business was in the hands of William Johnston, son of Alexander who had died in 1896. James passed away in 1922 and William ran it alone until his son Alex joined him in 1932. As personal cameras became more affordable, the fashion for studio portraits died and the Thurso branch closed in 1938. William died in 1950, and Alex ran the business until his retirement in 1975. He passed the negatives on to the Wick Society where they were catalogued and stored. Work began on digitising them in 2008, and, with help from the North Highland

College in Thurso and a grant from funding body Jisc, the first 10,000 images were put on a website for student research. The project was then handed over to the Wick Society, and a band of volunteers have carried out a labour of love digitising the rest of the 30,000-plus images, finishing at the tail-end of last year.

The website means the general public can now search through the thousands of images of folk from the past, a real boon for those researching family history. But while the personalities shine out from the black and white images, many of them are nameless and anonymous.

Herring capital of Europe

But Fergus is hoping that will change as the images become more widely viewed. "Some of the negatives were carefully wrapped up in newspaper with the name and address of the person who ordered them but for some we don't even have that. We do look forward to getting information we can add to the site," he says.

And while the majority of the photographs are studio portraits there is also a huge selection of shots taken on location, starting from the 19th century when Alexander ventured out into the streets with his mobile darkroom and camera on a handcart.

Wick was the herring capital of Europe at the time, with hundreds of boats appearing in the harbour during August and September fishing for the silver darlings. The Johnstons photographed the boats and their fishermen, as well as the onshore workers of gutters, curers and packers. They captured other ways of life which have since disappeared – tinkers outside their caravan and a man after a pre-wedding "doing", when a groom-to-be is captured by his friends, stripped to the waist, then coated with feathers, treacle, soot and flour before being paraded through the streets, all on the day before his wedding.

Peek at the past

Even the carefully set-up John O'Groats image reveals a glimpse of a way of life that's since disappeared. Not the John O'Groats House Hotel, which still stands – and has been refurbished as a luxury retreat – its design echoing the famous eight-sided house built by Jan de Groot, the Dutchman who gave his name to the town. The ferryman – whose 2p fare for the boat to Orkney gave the coin its name of groat – created the unusual design so that he and his seven squabbling sons each had a different door to enter the house by. That house had long disappeared even by the time Mrs Laird's picture was taken.

But it is the pile of peat behind Mrs Laird which provides a peek at the past. It is waiting to be transported to the island of Stroma in the Pentland Firth, which had no peat of its own but had rights to dig peat at a site near John O'Groats on the mainland. At the time, the island had more than 300 inhabitants but the last left in 1962. Lighthouse-keepers remained until 1997 when the lighthouse became automated but now the island is uninhabited and used for grazing – a part of Scottish life, like so much revealed in the Johnston archive, which has now disappeared.

For further details on the Johnston Collection see: www.johnstoncollection.net



Pre 1920 group of tinkers or tinsmiths.



Soldier in the 5th Seaforth Highlanders with children in July 1915.



Camilla Laird the "memorable midwife".

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.



Talking Fitba

One smir-filled day we were playing football during lunchtime, up on the red pitch, the one furthest from our classrooms. We had chosen that one because it was covered in red decayed granite, rather than the crushed slag waste of the other two pitches. We were helping wee Davie back to class after he felt dizzy and wobbly on his feet. The bell had gone a few minutes earlier and we were late for class. We could see Mr. Fearn waiting for us and our hearts miss a beat. "Where have you boys been? Didn't you hear the bell? Didn't you see the other children coming back to class?" he said in his usual angry, grumpy and very impatient voice. "Yes Sir, but we were playin' fitba' up on the red pitch. Ah threw the ba' oot tae, Davie, Sir. Ah wis the goalie. He tried tae heid the ba' away but instead it knocked him doon. He looks puzzled and he says it makes his heid feel as if it's birlin' roon...."

"I beg your pardon", interrupted Mr. Fearn, immediately. Like many Glasgow schoolchildren I had three forms of spoken language available to me, one for the classroom, one for my home and one for the street and playground. In my excitement I had used the wrong one. "I was the goalie, Sir, and I threw the ball out to David. He then tried to head the ball away but instead it flattened him and made him go dizzy," I corrected myself. Davie, looking very 'peely wally', offered up a large brown leather ball, a ball that had been 'stoated' off one too many walls and scuffed along one too many pavements. The ball had become difficult enough to kick even with our sturdy school boots. But even if we had been wearing our heavy brown leather football boots with their re-enforced toecaps and layered leather studs, this ball would have remained formidable. It was in a poor state and on a wet day, like today, with a smir of rain in the air, the battered ball had acted like a well-worn sponge, gathering up moisture as it rolled along the wet pitch. It now seemed to weigh nearly as much as a medicine ball.

Football pitches

Adding to the problem the school planners had decided that there was enough green grass around the place without wasting money on putting down nice green turf on the school's three football pitches. Instead, they had put down crushed ash and slag from the steelworks at Motherwell, as a suitable playing surface. When we took a fall on this surface we were likely to get a 'skint' knee, gravel rash - and later an impressive scabby knee as the wound tried to heal up before the next bad fall. We may not have ended up as skilled football players at Leithland Road Primary, but we all inherited strong legs and a high pain threshold from playing on its Spartan sports fields.

"Davie was lying on the ground semi-conscious, Sir", I continued, "and when we helped him up he was still feeling dizzy and wobbly on his feet. He still has a bad headache."

"Thank you, Doctor Stoddart, said Mr. Fearn with teacher sarcasm. Right, all of you back to class. Tell Mr. Lauder what's happened and that I'll explain everything to him later. Are you feeling better now, David?"

"Yes Sir, I'm feeling a bit better now", replied Davie, still with a tremble in his voice. "David, you come with me to get yourself checked over", ordered Mr. Fearn. "The rest of you - off to class, quickly!"

"Thanks, Sir", we offered with genuine relief, glad to have got off without getting the strap for being late. However, after having to cope with a ball that could knock us unconscious and having run the risk of a sprained ankle or a gashed knee on the playing fields, a quick sharp lash from the teacher's leather tawse didn't seem so terrible to contemplate.

Tri-lingualism

Scottish working class children of my generation normally used three forms of spoken language. The spoken language of school was mainly Standard English with some Scot's words and expressions tolerated and occasionally even encouraged by our teachers. That was the language that Mr. Fearn expected from me when David got knocked silly by the football. The language of home was mainly Standard English with plenty of Scots words, expressions and some slang. The language of the playground and amongst my pals was a lot of slang words and expressions, plenty of Scots words and some Standard English to let the rest of it all hang together. Most of the time we knew instinctively when it was best to use a particular form of our spoken language and we were generally at ease with our tri-lingualism.

Sadly, Scottish schools during my school days were ambivalent about the use of Scots in the classroom as a legitimate part of our spoken language and it was usually frowned upon and 'corrected' as a matter of course. It was never, ever accepted in our written work. Yet, strangely enough, these same teachers who discouraged us from using much of our natural language in school would use that forbidden tongue quite happily when reciting to us the 'auld Scots ballads' and we could use the old banned words when we sang 'oor auld Scots sangs.'

Early Scots has a very legitimate pedigree having developed from Middle English, the dialect once spoken by people living particularly in Northumbria and Southeast Scotland. It became known as 'Inglis' to distinguish it from the Gaelic spoken in the Highlands and some parts of Southwest Scotland, and to differentiate it from the Welsh-related language of West Central Scotland, the Pictish of the Northeast and the Norse of the islands to the Far North. It was to become the everyday administrative language of Scotland and became known as Scots to distinguish it from the closely related but separate language of England.

Plums in their mooths

My older brother, Charlie, spoke very correct English his speech no doubt tempered by his work in his accountancy office and with his toned-down Glasgow accent, was forever giving me a row for the slang he heard me use when I was out playing with my pals. It was alright for him to be critical having had all the advantages of being raised in

gentile Govan and not Pollok. My mother and grandmother spoke very clearly without an especially strong Glasgow accent, whereas my father had a very strong accent with a lot of Scots and slang words thrown in. It was only in recent times when re-reading Neil Munro's Para Handy's Tales that I heard many of my Dad's expressions being used by the crew of the Vital Spark. That gave me a new respect for the richness of some of my Dad's language, never before fully appreciated by me.

With the advent of radio and television and announcers who spoke

with 'plums in their mooths', Scottish children were often made to feel that much of their everyday speech and vocabulary was slovenly and inferior to that spoken by the upper classes of London and the Home Counties. That perpetrated a long-term tragedy, born of an ignorance of the history of the Scots language. Many wonderful words and attractive expressions, familiar to my parents, my grandparents and to those before them were to continue to be purged and lost from our childhood vocabularies as Standard English and even American slang gradually edged out the "guid Scots tongue in a' oor heids"

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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.



Tartan Day will be celebrated on April 6th across North America. Wear some tartan and celebrate no matter where you live. Photo: The Tartan Day Parade in New York City. Image: The Scottish Government.

If I can give you some advice for this month, it would be to tell you to "tartan up!" In North America April 6th is Tartan Day so if you're Scottish wear your clan tartan, if you haven't a clan become part of the world clan "MacWannabee". There are plenty of tartans you can wear. Royal Stewart, Black Watch, district tartans from where your family originated in Scotland. I believe every State in the USA and every province in Canada has a tartan as well as national tartans. Australia and New Zealand also have a tartan (however Tartan Day is July 1st). All counties in Ireland have a tartan. So there is no excuse not to wear the tartan on this day and show people where your DNA originated- "Forrit the Tartan."

Speaking of April, where does the time go? Wasn't it yesterday we celebrated New Year? The only saving grace is that we are into Spring in the northern hemisphere, where daffodils appear and robins come back from their winter hideaways. It is so uplifting to see the days get longer and the odd day when you can comfortably sit outside. We look forward to the emerging greenery taking over what was a blanket of snow. Hopefully April will calm March's

itch to be in the garden, arranging plants and sowing seeds.

This seasonal change will also benefit our southern friends who will be glad to get a respite from what appears to have been an exceedingly hot and dry summer. Lastly, since we mentioned St. David and St. Patrick in the March column, it's only fair to mention St. George, patron saint of England who is celebrated on the 23rd of this month.

Donnachaidh

Donnachaidh is one of the list of names that Mr. Ray Parry of Casio, NSW had sent in previously. I touched upon it and mentioned it was the clan name for Robertsons. I have become hesitant to deliberate too much on Clan histories since my sources seem sometimes to be at odds with Clan societies' historians. I had mentioned that I had thought that Donnachaidh translates as clan of the Duncans.

I received a most welcome e mail from Gordon Robertson, Secretary Clan Donnachaidh Society New South Wales Inc. Stating that the their clan society describes itself as "children of the Duncans." I looked up Google translate just to confirm what I thought to be true in that clan translates as

children in English and so I was pleased to find that I am in accord with Mr. Robertson and his society. Mr. Gordon sent along a complete history of Clan Donnachaidh written by James Irvine Robertson, clan historian. It is a most illuminating work on the clan. However, it is a little lengthy for this forum and would suggest all that are interested can find it at their website www.donnachaidh.com. They also have DNA project for the clan at: www.familytreedna.com/public/clandonnachaidh.

Smollett

Ms. Anita Payne sent an email which has the name Smollett for a middle name and Anita asks about its origin. It is a name that has been in her family since at least 1880. Ms. Payne mentions that it was used as a personal name for both male and females in her family. Firstly, I am aware of the name but it appears to be not that common. I was only aware of it as a surname. It has been recorded in Scotland as early as 1513 when a person bearing the name was a sheriff in Dumbarton. This originates from the Old English "smæl heafod" meaning small head, obviously a nickname for a physical trait. A celebrity carrier of the name was Tobias Smollett who lived from 1721 – 1771 and was a Scottish poet and author.

Davie

Another name of which Ms. Payne was interested is the surname Davie. This name belongs the class of surnames known as patronyms or names taken from a parent or ancestor's name. In this case the original ancestor's name would have been David a Hebrew name meaning friend or darling, and from it we have the various diminutives such as Davy, Davie, Davies, Davis, Day, Davidson, Davison, Daw, Dawson etc. Most names of this type are not geographically specific, for every village would have smattering of personal names for surnames. However, there is the clan Davidson. The oldest record for the name in Scotland is for Meg Davy in Aberdeen in 1408.

Lennox

The same Mr. Ray Parry of Casio, NSW gave our office an extensive

list of family names that I have been working on over the last few months. One of this month's names from the list is Lennox. It is a place name for the ancient earldom of the same name. The geographic area for this earldom is Dunbartonshire and parts of Renfrewshire, Stirlingshire and Perthshire, so quite a land mass. The earldom arose from one of the ancient Celtic Mormaers of Scotland. In Gaelic it is Leven-ach which has two disputed meanings, one being smooth stream and the other place of elm trees. Again clan Lennox has a rich history which I will let our readers discover via the internet.

William

Also on Mr. Parry's list are a few patronyms from personal names that were found in every village and community throughout the realm. Names such as Williams and Williamson, from William which became very popular after the Norman conquest. It probably came north in the 12th century when young Norman lords came north with David I. William the Lion, a Scottish king also lived in the 12th century. William is a Germanic name meaning resolute protector and came via Normandy where it was in the French form of Guillaume. It has many variations and diminutives, such as Will, Wills, Wilson, Wilkins, Wilkinson, Williamson etc. With William being such a popular name its diminutives are spread far in their associations with clans. MacWilliam with Clan Gunn and Clan MacFarlane, while Wylie is Clan Donald, Will is Clan Gunn, Williamson is Clan Gunn and Clan Mackay and lastly, Wilson is Clan Gunn and clan Innes.

Another name on the list is Alan, spelled in more than one way such as Allan and Allen. One form is Ailen and is from the Gaelic meaning rock. Allan and MacAllan with both Clan Donald and Clan MacFarlane

Here's hoping your April is a happy one. Remember to send in your letters of inquiries to *the Scottish Banner*, we love to hear from you.

Selkirk community invited to help develop plans for historic William Wallace kirkyard



Residents of Selkirk and local community groups are being invited to look at the establishment of a 'Friends of the Auld

Kirk' group. The meeting follows the success of the recent archaeological survey at the Auld Kirk which uncovered the underground remains of a medieval chapel where William Wallace was likely to have been made Guardian of Scotland in 1297. A series of events took place in September last year to increase awareness of the significance of the site within Scottish history and the local area as well as reinforcing the link to William Wallace. Chris Bowles, archaeologist said; "Ruins of the Auld Kirk date from the 18th century, but we knew this had replaced earlier churches on site from the

12th and 16th centuries. It has been widely acknowledged that this was the site of the Kirk of the Forest where Wallace was made Guardian of Scotland following his and Andrew Moray's defeat of the English army at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297. We had been expecting the geophysics survey to uncover a 16th century church that we know to have existed and which was a replacement to the medieval church, but the only evidence in the survey is in relation to the medieval church. The association between Wallace and the local area is quite well documented, with Wallace using guerrilla tactics to fight the

English from the Ettrick Forest, and the Scottish nobles made Wallace Guardian of Scotland in recognition of his military successes. Wallace went on to become the legendary figure he remains today. The history of Selkirk is known to an extent, but there has been little archaeological work carried out to date. While these geophysics results suggest a medieval, possibly Norman, chapel beneath the later church, we are very restricted by the burials in the area to allow any excavation. But in the future it may be possible to conduct limited investigations in areas where there is no evidence of burial."

Young Modern Makers build bird hide for RSPB Scotland coastal reserve

Upland joins forces with ecological designer for project to encourage Wigtownshire bird watching and nature tourism.



The beautiful new bird hide created by leading ecological designer Sam Booth with young people from Dumfries and Galloway has been installed at the RSPB Scotland reserve at Crook of Balloon near Wigtown. Photo: Colin Tennant.

A leading ecological building designer has worked with six young people to create a state-of-the-art environmentally friendly bird hide at an RSPB Scotland reserve. The Modern Makers scheme, run by the Upland arts development organisation, was completed at Crook of Balloon, near Wigtown. Sam Booth, who runs Castle Douglas-based Echo Living, mentored the 16-25 year olds from across Dumfries and Galloway the skills they needed to tackle every aspect of a highly challenging project. Modern Makers was developed as part of Spring Fling, which is run by Upland, as a way to enable a new generation to learn about traditional and modern craft making techniques and to help them on the road to creative careers.

They receive 30 days of training from a professional craft maker so they can learn skills, gain insights into craft making and create a functional piece of craft. The Modern Makers scheme takes place each year and offers young people 30 days of tuition from a professional craft maker to learn heritage craft skills and make at least one contemporary functional object.

Nature-based tourism

The bird hide project was developed in order to help the RSPB Scotland bring more visitors to the Wigtownshire reserve and show how craft skills can be harnessed to support nature-based tourism. Sam said: "This is a brilliant project – creating something that will bring visitors to the

area closer to nature in this amazing environment. It's been a real group effort and we have ended up with something quite beautiful. The three young women and three young men really came together to work well as a group and support each other. They have learned about the entire design process, including budgets and feasibility to the pure poetry of what can be created. And none of them are afraid to muck in and get their hands dirty – they've all mucked in with every task."

One of the biggest problems was to create something that was highly functional, giving maximum visibility to birdwatchers – while disguising human presence from the birds themselves. The result was a hide on stilts, to lift it above the marshes and with five different angles – looking in the direction of key migration paths. Many species can be found at Crook of Balloon including golden plover, lapwing, pink-footed geese, shelducks and whooper swans. It's also a favourite hunting ground for peregrine falcons.



Aberdeen honours footballer Denis Law with freedom of city



Scotland and Manchester United legend and Aberdonian Denis Law will be granted the freedom of Aberdeen. The 77 year old still holds the record as Manchester United's third highest goalscorer and in his time consistently broke transfer record fees. Law along with Kenny Dalglish has been Scotland's top goalscorer with 30 international goals. The motion from Aberdeen City Council Lord Provost George Adam stated; "That this council confer the freedom of the city upon Denis Law CBE in recognition of his outstanding career as a world renowned footballer, his dedication to charitable endeavour, and his commitment to community sport in Aberdeen."

The Freedom of the City is the highest award the City Council can bestow. The most recent recipients were Scotland the What? (2008), The Highlanders, 4th Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland (2006), Professor John Mallard OBE (2004) and Sir Alex Ferguson CBE (1999).

Tartan Day on Ellis Island Returns April 6 - 9, 2017



Tartan Day on Ellis Island – one of the nation's largest Tartan Day celebrations – returns for its 16th annual observance from April 6-9, featuring the exhibition *A Celebration of Tartan*, as well as daily performances by pipers, drummers, Highland Dancers and a whole host of Scottish entertainment. The Clan Currie Society – one of the country's leading Scottish heritage organizations, produces Tartan Day on Ellis Island. The Ellis Island event is a highlight of NY Tartan Week – a city-wide festival of all things Scottish.

A Celebration of Tartan

The exhibition will trace the history and explore the mythology surrounding Scotland's most enduring icons. From the kilted clans of the Highlands to the runways of Milan, tartan is the definitive symbol of Scotland. Yet tartan, thanks to Scotland's gift of it, is beloved throughout the world. No other fabric is so steeped in tradition or paradoxically, so consistently at the forefront of fashion. Historians study it while designers design in it. Rockers and royals alike agree – tartan rules.

Interpretive panels will explore the fact and fiction of tartan, and how this national fabric has captured the imagination of the entire world. The blue ribbon advisory panel for the exhibition included Matt Newsome of the Scottish Tartans Museum in Franklin, NC; Dr. Hugh Cheape, formerly of the National Museums of Scotland,

fashion designer and tartan author Jeffrey Banks, Brian Wilton from the Scottish Tartans Authority, George Mackenzie formerly from the National Archives of Scotland and Alison Diamond formerly from the Scottish Register of Tartans.

Celebrate Tartan Day with music and dance

A regular feature of all the Tartan Day on Ellis Island celebrations will be music and dance and the 2017 program will be no exception. Tartan Day on Ellis Island will play host to some of the finest Scottish entertainment in New York City, including the Rampant Lion Pipe Band, kilt maker Bonnie Greene, John the Kilted Juggler and a whole host of Scottish entertainers, and traditional musicians.

About Tartan Day on Ellis Island

Tartan Day on Ellis Island is one of the principal Scottish heritage events in the United States. Playing host to literally thousands of domestic and international visitors each day, it is the largest Tartan Day celebration in the world. Ellis Island is a fitting place to observe Tartan Day. The island and its historic buildings represent America's "Golden Door."

From 1892 to 1954, more than 12 million immigrants passed through Ellis Island. Although many Scots arrived during the colonial period of our history – helping to build the new nation – an additional half-million Scots came through

Ellis Island. It has been estimated that 40% of Americans today can trace at least one ancestor's entry into the United States through Ellis Island.

Describing the annual program, noted Scottish journalist and author Roddy Martine reported that of all the Tartan Day events held in the United States, the Ellis Island observance has, "stood out as a beacon of what USA Tartan Day is all about: the emigrant ancestors of ordinary Americans who over three centuries crossed the Atlantic Ocean to create the world's greatest democracy."

The Clan Currie Society produces Tartan Day on Ellis Island. The Society began their successful collaboration with the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in 2002 in the coordination and sponsorship of their first Tartan Day celebration.

About National Tartan Day-April 6

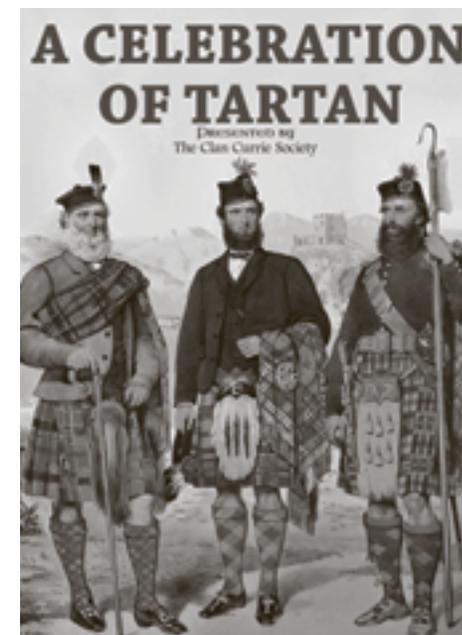
President Woodrow Wilson said of the Scots, "Every line of strength in American history is a line colored with Scottish blood." The contribution of the immigrant Scots upon North America is massive and these people have remained proud of their heritage.

However, unlike the Irish and St. Patrick's Day, Scottish-Americans did not have a national day of identity and celebration. The concept of Tartan Day began in Nova Scotia in 1986 and soon was celebrated across Canada. Australia began marking Tartan Day in 1996 and observe on July 1st.

In 1998, National Tartan Day was recognized in the US when the Senate passed a resolution recognizing April 6th as National Tartan Day. This was followed by a resolution, which was passed by the US House of Representatives in 2005.

The date commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, which asserted Scotland's freedom over English territorial claims, and may have been an influence on the Declaration of Independence.

For more information on Tartan Day on Ellis Island see: [Facebook.com/TartanDayonEllisIsland](https://www.facebook.com/TartanDayonEllisIsland).



THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Hunt the Gowk - Scottish equivalent of April Fool's Day (gowk is a cuckoo).

1 - The birth of Sir William, Mr Justice MacPherson of Cluny, the noted Scottish jurist and the 27th Chief of Clan Macpherson. **1926**



2 - The College of New Aberdeen was founded. The college was founded by the Earl Marischal of Scotland, George Keith of Inverugie, and became known as Marischal College. Marischal College was the second university in Aberdeen, following the foundation of King's College in 1495 by Bishop William Elphinstone. The two universities were united in 1860 as the University of Aberdeen. **1593**

2 - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island. **1992**

3 - Murder of Duke of Rothesay, heir of Robert III. **1401**

3 - King James VI travelled to London to take up the English throne. James moved his court to Whitehall Palace in London, where they settled around the palace in an area which became known as "Scotland Yard". On his way to London he knighted 300 people, and in the space of four months in England had knighted more people than Queen Elizabeth had in her entire reign. James returned to Scotland only once, in 1617, and he liked to boast that he now ruled his northern kingdom with a stroke of his pen. **1603**

4 - Parliament held by King Robert II at Scone, resolved that his son, the Earl of Carrick should succeed his father as King (as Robert III although he was baptised John). **1373**

4 - King Robert III died and James I ascended the throne (but was not crowned until 1424 as he was a prisoner of the English). **1406**

4 - John Napier, inventor of logarithms, died in Edinburgh. **1617**

5 - Birth at Lesmahagow of composer Alexander Muir, creator of Maple Leaf Forever. **1830**

5 - Disaster at English/Scottish football match at Ibrox Stadium when part of the flooring collapsed, killing 20, injuring 200. **1902**

6 - Declaration of Arbroath - "For we fight not for glory nor for riches nor for honour, but only and alone for freedom, which no good man surrenders but with his life", was drawn up by the monks of Arbroath Abbey. The Declaration of Arbroath is widely regarded as being the inspiration behind the American Declaration of Independence in 1776. **1320**



6 - Nova Scotia officially proclaims Tartan Day. Started originally as "Tartan Day in Nova Scotia," founder and *Scottish Banner* reader Jean Watson approached every provincial Legislative Assembly in Canada, as well as other Scottish-cultural societies across Canada, to help get such a date established. **1987**

6 - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. **1992**

6 - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian province of Newfoundland & Labrador. **1995**

6 - The U.S. Senate declared April 6 to be National Tartan Day to recognize the contributions made by Scottish-Americans to the United States. **1998**

7 - Jim Clark, Duns farmer, twice World Motor Racing Champion, killed in crash, Hockenheim. **1968**

7 - The Scottish National Party was founded. The SNP was created out of the merger of a number of parties; the National Party of Scotland, formed in 1928 from an amalgamation of a number of small parties following the rejection of a Home Rule bill, and the Scottish Party, a breakaway section of the Cathcart Conservative Association. The party enjoyed its first success in 1945, when Robert MacIntyre was elected to represent Motherwell. **1934**

8 - Radical prisoners were taken from Paisley to Greenock jail under escort. The citizens of Greenock fought their escort, the Port Glasgow Militia, until they reached the jail. Still coming under attack, the Militia opened fire on the stone-throwing crowd. Eight were killed, including an eight year old boy, and ten wounded, before the militia retreated from Greenock. In the evening, the angry Greenockians stormed the jail and freed the prisoners. **1820**

9 - Second Treaty of Durham in which David I is recognised as King of an independent Scotland by King Stephen of England. **1139**

9 - Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the leading Scottish Jacobite rebel was beheaded on Tower Green, London. Lovat has the unwanted notoriety of being the last man to be publicly beheaded in Britain. **1747**

10 - King James V born. **1512**

10 - Sandy Lyle becomes the first Scottish (and British) golfer to win the US Masters tournament. **1988**

11 - Scottish settlement in Darien, Panama, abandoned. **1700**

11 - Scotland won the final Five Nations Rugby Championship. Scotland became champions by default when Wales beat England 32-31 at Wembley. If England had won the last game of the championship they would have been the champions. Both teams had won the same number of games, but Scotland won the title on points scored. The last time they won the championship was in 1990. The following season, Five nations became Six when Italy joined the competition. **1999**

12 - Union flag adopted as the flag of England, Wales and Scotland. **1606**

12 - The SNP won their first electoral victory. Dr Robert D. MacIntyre won the Motherwell and Wishaw by-election in a straight fight with Labour by a majority of 617 votes. MacIntyre later became Provost of Stirling. **1945**

13 - The Stone of Destiny, which had been removed from underneath the Coronation Chair by Scottish nationalists on 25 December 1950, was returned to Westminster Abbey after being found at Arbroath Abbey. **1951**

13 - Entertainer, actor and comedian Jimmy Logan died. **2001**



14 - University of Edinburgh founded. **1582**

14 - Aberdeen Football Club was founded. **1903**

15 - Prof Joseph Black chemist, researcher, teacher, first to identify carbon dioxide, died. **1799**

15 - Actor and comedian Rikki Fulton born in Glasgow. He was best known for his double act with Jack Milroy as Francie and Josie and as the Rev I M Jolly in Scotch and Wry. **1924**

16 - Charles Edward Stewart defeated at Battle of Culloden. **1746**



16 - Royal Yacht Britannia launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank. **1953**

17 - A British record attendance at a football match was set when 149,547 watched Scotland play England at Hampden Park, Glasgow. Until 1950, this was a world record. **1937**

17 - Alexander Mackenzie, the Scottish-born Canadian statesman, died. Mackenzie was the first Liberal Prime Minister of Canada, serving from 1873-78. **1892**

18 - Remains of David Livingstone interred in Westminster Abbey. **1874**

18 - Harbourne Stephen, the Scottish World War II fighter pilot, was born. Stephen was a Battle of Britain fighter ace who went on to forge a career for himself as a newspaper executive. On his way to a tally of 23 registered kills (though it was almost certainly higher) he shot down five enemy aircraft in a single day in August 1940. **1914**

19 - Robert II, grandson of Robert the Bruce, died at Dundonald Castle. **1390**

19 - Jim Mollison, the pioneering Scottish aviator, was born. Mollison held many individual records for distance, endurance, and speed flying, he became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from East to West. **1905**

20 - The first public meeting of the Scottish National Party was held. The meeting was held in the Central Hall, Tollcross, Edinburgh. The Scottish National Party was formed by the amalgamation of The National Party of Scotland and The Scottish Party. **1934**

21 - John Muir, the Scottish-born American naturalist, was born in Dunbar. Muir was responsible for the creation of Yosemite and Sequoia national parks in California. The 550-acre Muir Woods National Monument is named after him. **1838**

22 - Sculptor and artist Sir Eduardo Paolozzi died. Born in Leith, he was a founder of the Independent Group, which is seen as a precursor to the '60s British pop art movement. **2005**

23 - King Alexander I died at Stirling Castle, succeeded by David I. **1124**

23 - Blackout restrictions lifted as World War II heads to a conclusion. **1945**

24 - 15 year old Mary, Queen of Scots, married French Dauphin, Francis Valois (aged 14) at Notre Dame in Paris. They had no children and Francis died in 1560, ruling France for just eighteen months. **1558**

24 - Novelist R M Ballantyne, who wrote 90 books, the best known of which was *The Coral Island*, was born in Edinburgh. **1825**

25 - Malcolm III (Canmore) crowned. **1058**



25 - The Royal Navy's last battleship, HMS Vanguard, was accepted for trials by the navy. The ship was built at John Brown's in Clydebank. It was originally intended to be part of the Far Eastern Fleet fighting the Japanese but was not completed until after the war, and so became the only British battleship never to fire her guns in anger. **1946**

26 - Philosopher David Hume born. **1711**

27 - The Scottish army was routed in the Battle of Dunbar by Edward I, King of England. Hostilities started when the King of the Scots, John Balliol, renounced his allegiance to the English Crown. The battle became known as the "Dunbar Drave". **1296**

27 - James Bruce, the Scottish explorer, died. Bruce became the first European to discover Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, in 1770. **1794**

28 - Henry Dundas, powerful politician, known as "Uncrowned King of Scotland, born. **1742**

28 - Glasgow Garden Festival opened by Prince Charles and the Princess of Wales. **1988**

29 - Stephen Hendry, aged 21, becomes the youngest world snooker champion by beating Jimmy White 18-12 in the final. **1990**

29 - Lonnie Donegan, the Scottish skiffle singer, composer and guitarist, was born. Considered by some to be Britain's first pop superstar, James Anthony Donegan burst onto the scene in the mid-1950s with a distinctive, lively sound called skiffle. **1931**

30 - Royal Bank invents first overdraft, Wm Hogg overdraws by £1,000 (£66,000 at today's money). **1728**

30 - An Comunn Gaidhealach was formally instituted as a vehicle for the preservation and development of the Gaelic language. **1891**

30 - David Livingstone, the renowned Scottish missionary and explorer, died.

Born in Blantyre, Livingstone was famed for his exploration of central and southern Africa. He was the first European to see Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. **1873**



The ultimate white wedding on the top of Scotland

Images courtesy of Hamish Frost Photography.



The groom arriving at the ceremony.

A Highland couple last month enjoyed what must be one of the ultimate versions of a white wedding, instead of walking down the aisle Bridget and Jonathan Reid choose to ski down a mountain. Not just any mountain either as the epic wedding ceremony, which took place on March the 3rd, on the 4,005ft or 1221 metre Aonach Mor (the UK's ninth-highest mountain) just north of Fort William in the Scottish Highlands.

The snow sport enthusiasts opted for a less traditional wedding and Jonathan told *the Scottish Banner*; "We both love to ski and in fact had our first date on the slopes. However I ended up taking Bridget off piste and caused an avalanche in the Cairngorms!"

Perfect winter weather

Clearly this has not put Bridget off as the couple who met on skis decided to get married on skis. Last month they skied down one of Britain's highest mountains in full wedding attire, which included a white wedding dress and Forbes kilt worn by the Lonach Highland Society, in front of over 30 of the 100

wedding guests who travelled from as far away as Australia and the marriage celebrant who also had to have skis on.

When asked about how they came up with the idea of a ski wedding Jonathan said; "I am not the traditional wedding type and we both love the snow and thought it was a great idea. To share our special day in front of friends and family at one of our favourite places in Scotland. And doing it in skis was all the more better!" The couple were also blessed with perfect winter weather on their big day and with lots of snow and brilliant blue skies. Jonathan was not sure if they were the first couple to marry at the "top of Scotland" but was not aware of any weddings such as his and Bridget's which took place at the top of Easy Gully.

While many bride's worry about keeping their wedding dresses in perfect condition Bridget bought hers on Ebay for £50 which allowed her to make her entrance by ploughing through the snow on top of the world.

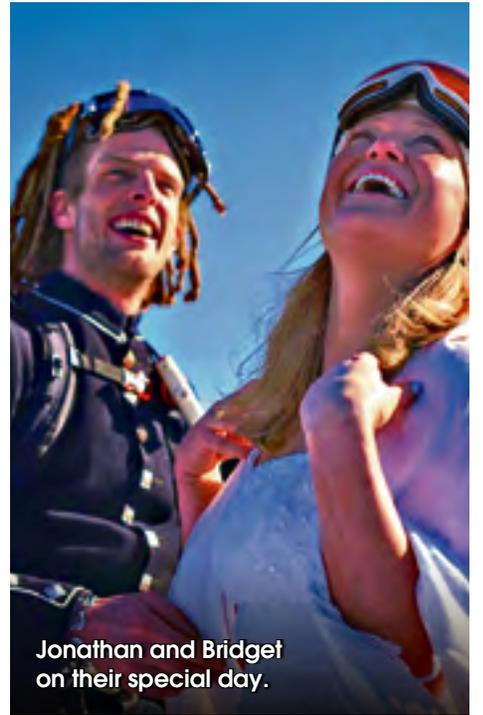
Dramatic snow covered Scottish landscape

The Nevis Range is an outdoor activity mecca and the couple from Moy have a passion for the outdoors. After saying "I do"

in skies the couple and some of the wedding party skied down the hill for a reception, indoors and without skis, which included guests who could not make it up the mountain. The dramatic snow covered Scottish landscape has proved the perfect backdrop for this couple and provided some very memorable wedding photographs. Scottish adventure photographer Hamish Frost took the pictures for the intrepid couple which have brilliantly portrayed a day of happiness, love and adventure. The bride and groom are both 36 and Bridget is a teacher and Jonathan runs his own electrical automation company in Tomatin.

One of the Scotland's highest mountains

As one of the Scotland's highest mountains

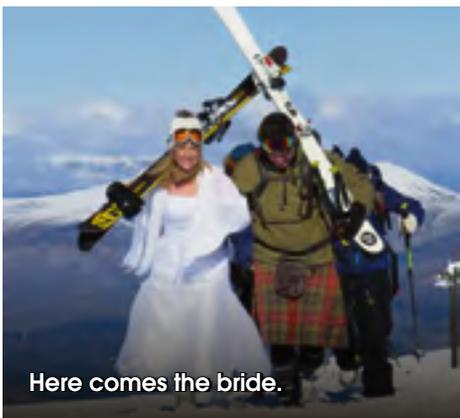


Jonathan and Bridget on their special day.

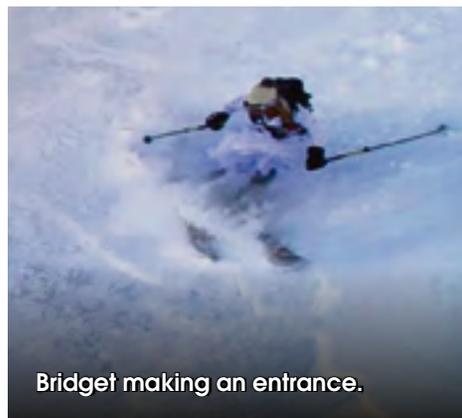
Aonach Mor has the UK's only mountain gondola and the highest runs in Britain with guaranteed winter snow (The area is open for snow sports between mid-December and March each year). The area is also great year round for touring, walking, climbing or just relaxing.

We are sure our readers will join *the Scottish Banner* in congratulating Bridget and Jonathan on their wedding and wishing them all the happiness together in the future.

Have you attended a unique Scottish wedding? Possibly not quite like Bridget and Jonathan's, but tell us your story and share with us your story by email, post or at: www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



Here comes the bride.



Bridget making an entrance.



Jonathan, Halde Pottinger from the Humanist Society of Scotland, and Bridget taking their vows.



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 thousands will again take part in New York's Tartan Day Parade to celebrate Tartan Day in Manhattan. The centrepiece of this vibrant tartan is the Avenue of the Americas (Sixth Avenue, Manhattan) host to the annual Tartan Day Parade in America's largest city. The six-lane avenue is

bordered by green for the city's many trees and parks and the white lines on maritime blue represent the three organisations who inaugurated the parade, the St Andrew's Society of New York State, the Caledonian Club of New York and the American Scottish Foundation founded in 1756, 1856 and 1956 respectively (the numeral coincidence of 56 being recorded in threads in the small blue square). Finally, the colours of three important flags are represented in the asymmetric design: the blue, white and orange of New York city's own flag; the red, white and blue of the Star Spangled Banner; and the blue and white of the Scottish Saltire. The design and the first fabric woven were donated by the Scottish Tartans Authority in appreciation of the long-serving volunteers who make this annual event possible. The registration in the Scottish Register of Tartans (Reference:10537) was designed by Brian Wilton and donated by the National Records of Scotland.

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

Lady MacGregor's Scotland



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 spring is finally here. Hurrah! Daffodils out, weather not too cold – although, as always, there is no counting of chickens when it comes to Celtic climes. I have seen snow in July and hailstones in August... In this part of the world the weather can be a law unto itself. Much milder is the south of England, from where the chief and I have just returned. We were invited to Windsor Castle to find out more about the role of a Lord Lieutenant. This person, if you recall, is the Queen's personal representative in the area he or she lives in. There are some thirty throughout Scotland - and I am Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries.

We did not see the Queen, alas. But I can tell you that her home is magnificent. Round-towered and turreted, Windsor Castle has nine hundred years of royal history behind it. It is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world. The state rooms are gilded and sumptuous. The chapel of St George which sits in the grounds is the resting place of kings and queens.

Ballindalloch Castle

Scotland, too, has its share of amazing buildings. And in Windsor we meet a Lord-



Stunning Ballindalloch Castle.

Lieutenant whose family owns a famous Highland stronghold. Forty years ago Clare Macpherson-Grant inherited Ballindalloch Castle from her father. For the next few decades she and her husband, Oliver Russell, would devote themselves to the upkeep and development of this iconic estate.

Ballindalloch is in Banffshire. It sits on the River Avon, (pronounced Arn) with Inverness to the north-west and Aberdeen to the south-east. This is whisky country and for the thirsty among us, distilleries

are dotted all around. The castle was originally a 16th century fortified tower house of Clan Grant. Then a Grant married into the Macpherson family and two of Speyside's oldest clans were united.

Over the years, various Macpherson-Grant lairds added extra wings to their increasingly grand abode – and today the place is vast. Yet, despite the size, the tourists love it: "the most homely, lived-in castle we have visited" is one comment in the visitor book. Not for nothing is Ballindalloch known as the "pearl of the North". With its gorgeous gardens, stylish rooms – and friendly 'green lady' ghost - it is one of the most romantic castles in Scotland.

And it is also one of the few private castles that has been lived in continuously by the family that built it. Many Scottish strongholds changed hands when their owners made enemies, or fell on hard times. Yet the Macpherson-Grants are still very much in residence at Ballindalloch.

Aberdeen Angus

They can boast more than a spectacular baronial pile; more than horn-clad halls and magnificently carved ceilings. In 1860

the 3rd Baronet of Ballindalloch started a special herd on the estate. Sir George Macpherson-Grant would refine the breed. These cattle would become his life's work for almost fifty years. He would help to make them the best-known and oldest Aberdeen Angus herd in the world.

These jet-black, hornless beasts have been grazing the Highlands since the 12th century. Adaptable and hardy, they can survive the worst winters. Mostly good natured, they grow quickly. These days there are Aberdeen Angus herds all over Scotland and in most parts of the world. Australia, Canada and the United States all rear them.

These animals are lovely to look at and with a delicate marbling of fat they make for deliciously tender meat. An Aberdeen Angus steak is a treat. It has become one of the world's favourite red meats and it has some high-powered fans. Prince Charles is the patron of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society with a herd at his home at Highgrove in the south of England. The prince takes a keen interest in the Highland herd at the Castle of Mey in Caithness on the northern coast of Scotland. These are cattle that his grandmother, the Queen Mother, also used to adore.

British Royal Television Society

Finally, please excuse me if I finish this report with a bit of trumpet-blowing. This month they gave me a gong. Yes, as Fiona Armstrong, I received an award from the British Royal Television Society. It is for work over three decades in the broadcasting industry. I was thrilled. You may like to see then picture. If not, turn the page. It was a great night and the chief and I went out and celebrated with a steak. Scottish, of course...

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

Statement by Minister Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, on National Tartan Day

National Tartan Day—a day for celebrating the contributions to our country of the more than four million Canadians who have Scottish ancestry. Canada joins with many other countries around the world today in recognizing the achievements of their citizens who hail from Scotland. National Tartan Day is marked annually on April 6, the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish declaration of independence, in 1320. The tartan, a traditional woolen fabric

woven in patterns that look checkered or striped (plaid), has long been a symbol of Scotland and is worn proudly by members of its diaspora, including those in Canada.

Canada's national tartan, the Maple Leaf Tartan, was created in 1964 by David Weiser in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of Confederation in 1967. It was proudly worn by Canadians for many years and elevated to official status in 2010.

The Maple Leaf Tartan

The Maple Leaf Tartan was declared an official national symbol on March 9, 2011. Created in 1964 by David Weiser, the Maple Leaf Tartan was designed in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of Canada's confederation in 1967. Inspired by the colours of the maple leaf through the changing seasons, the tartan's pattern incorporates the green of summer leaves, the gold of early autumn, the red of the first frost and finally, the brown tones of the fallen leaves before winter.

The Maple Leaf Tartan is used by The Royal Canadian Regiment Pipes and Drums, and has also been worn by the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions. A symbol of national pride, the tartan was designed to be worn by Canadians from all backgrounds – regardless of their ancestry – especially on national days like Canada Day (July 1) and Tartan Day (April 6).



Image courtesy of The Scottish Register of Tartans.



Historic journals that tell of US-UK “special relationship” now online

The remarkable story of how a Scottish diplomat and his wife helped to forge one of the first examples of the “special relationship” between the governments of Britain and the United States is being told at the National Library of Scotland. In 1796, only 13 years after the two nations fought against each other in the War of Independence, Henrietta Liston arrived in Philadelphia with her husband, Robert, who had just been appointed British Minister to the United States. By the end of their four-and-a-half year posting, the Listons had won the trust and admiration of leading figures in the new government including the first US President George Washington. It was a triumph of personal charm and cultured diplomacy.

Rich detail

This is demonstrated in rich detail by Henrietta’s handwritten North American journals which are part of the Library’s Liston papers archive and are now being made available online. Although her acute observations of life in the early days of the United States have long been studied by researchers, the online offering will make them easily available to a much wider audience. In the Liston papers are invitations to the couple to dine with George Washington and his wife Martha and an invitation to the funeral oration of the former President after his sudden death in 1799. The esteem in which the Listons were held is demonstrated by Henrietta when she writes about the celebratory dinner to mark Washington’s

retirement. “I had, as usual, the gratification of being handed to the table and of sitting by the President.”

Turbulent time

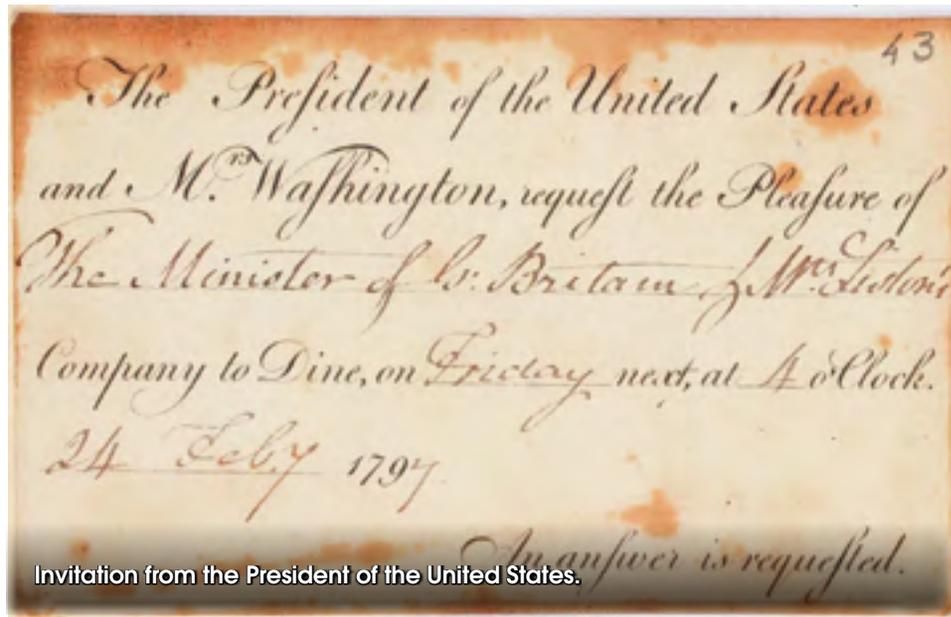
It was a turbulent time as the United States sought to establish itself as an independent nation. Relations with France – its wartime ally against the British – soured and Henrietta wrote of the prospect of war between the two former allies. “So violently does the tide now flow in favour of the English nation & against the French, – that there are moments when I think Magic-art must have worked it.”

It would be almost 150 years before the term “special relationship” would be coined by Winston Churchill to describe the bond between the two nations but Frank Cogliano, Professor of American History at the University of Edinburgh, said: “We have a hint of what is to come in the relationship between the Listons and the Washingtons in particular and the United States more generally.”

Henrietta, or Hennie as she was known, was born in Antigua to a family of Scots descent. Orphaned by the age of 10, she and her brothers were sent to live with an uncle and aunt in Glasgow where she grew up. She was 44 when she married Robert Liston, departing for the United States almost immediately.

Political power

Her writings record observations on the major figures who established the United States including Founding Fathers, Thomas Jefferson, John Jay, Benjamin Rush, and Alexander Hamilton. “Henrietta’s friendship with Washington



reflects how successful the Listons were in repairing the relationship between Britain and the US at this very uncertain and unstable time,” said Dora Petherbridge, the Library’s Curator of US and Commonwealth collections.

“She writes about sitting between the rising sun, Adams, who was to be the second president, and the setting sun, Washington, and she says she feels perfectly easy and familiar with both great men. This is extraordinary for a woman at this time to feel that ease in front of such political power.”

Travelled extensively

As well as having a front row seat in the political theatre of the emerging United States, the Listons travelled extensively throughout the country, including trips into Canada and the Caribbean. They

covered thousands of miles by stagecoach, canoe, ship and carriage.

“The journals have style and character,” said Dora. “Henrietta’s writing is full of opinion and wonderment. Her inquisitive voice fills the pages with a sense of discovery; she takes us to the streets, suppers, and taverns of the early republic.”

These travels are represented on an interactive map which is part of the new online resource. Showing the routes the Listons took, the map provides a way of searching Henrietta’s journals by the places they visited and opens up the exciting research potential of her writing.

North America celebrates Tartan Day on April 6th. The digitisation of Henrietta Liston’s American journals was made possible with a generous donation from Walter Grant Scott. They can be found at www.digital.nls.uk/travels-of-henrietta-liston



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HISTORY HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY • 2017 •

By: Nick Drainey

The Dumfries Camera Club



Heron preening in Dumfries. Photo: Edmund Fellowes.

Capturing Scottish wildlife on film

Since 1947 The Dumfries Camera Club has been capturing Scotland on film. This year the club is celebrating 70 years and is one of the most successful amateur photographic clubs in Scotland today. Wildlife film and photography continues to be popular across the world and Dumfries has just hosted the UK's very first celebration of the natural world through photography. Scotland has a unique wildlife and landscape which allows for some inspiring wildlife photography by some dedicated Scottish photographers as Nick Drainey explains.



A red squirrel al fresco dining. Photo: Tom Langlands.

We think nothing of taking hundreds of snaps on our iPhones or digital cameras in the hope that at least a few will be worthy of use on social media, as a lap top wallpaper or even in the old fashioned picture frame on the wall. But does that mean photography is getting easier? Not according to Rod Wheelans who at 70 is the new president of one of the leading camera clubs in Britain. Good reflexes, a certain amount of patience and a quality camera are what's needed to take a really good nature photograph, says Mr Wheelans, a former fellow of the Royal Photographic Society.

Nature photography is more popular than ever

The Dumfries Camera Club has recently shown off its work at the prestigious Wild Film Festival Scotland, a festival bringing together the best in wildlife film and photography, in Dumfries. Mr Wheelans says the members are rightly proud of what they do: "There are over a 1,000 camera clubs in Great Britain and we are definitely in the top ten." He adds that nature photography is more popular than ever, helped by the proliferation of nature reserves and hides which make animals easier to see. "We have a lot of variety of work but in the past four or five years nature work has become almost dominant. Ten years ago we maybe only had a couple of nature people and they were more nature lovers rather than photographers –

one of our members said they were 'more interested in the birds, the photographs are the trophies of the hunt'. These people were building their own hides and sitting in them for hours on end, days on end but there is less need for that now."

Luck and patience

One of the recent highlights of the club's work has been a photograph of a sparrowhawk catching a bird in flight, taken by outgoing president Mick Durham. It was highly commended in The British Wildlife Photographer Awards 2016. Mr Wheelans says the way the picture was taken sounds like a piece of good fortune but it was actually a tricky shot. He says: "He took it in his back garden which makes it sound like he walked down his garden and took the shot but that is not quite how it happened. He has a hide in the garden – his wife says she was having his mail redirected there because he was never in the house. He saw this sparrowhawk passing his garden when it grabbed a bird out of the air right in front of him and he got two or three shots.

"Yes, it is luck but as a lot of famous people have said, the more you practise, the luckier you get." Mr Wheelans says that good equipment is vital to capture good wildlife shots but that "considerable investment" still doesn't guarantee a superb picture. He says: "You also need to understand how the creatures behave and you also need very good reflexes to catch the shot, and there is a lot of patience

involved. It is not as easy as it looks, you still need a fair bit of skill to get the shots – a hundred people can go to a site but a hundred people don't come away with prize winning shots."

A discipline

Mr Wheelans had his first camera at the age of seven when his father won it at a fair near Edinburgh. But he jokes: "I didn't become a serious photographer until I was 11 – I went up through the normal things like Brownie 127 and I had an SLR by the time I was 13. I just went around snapping all the pictures and then taking the film to the chemist."

It is not as easy as it looks, you still need a fair bit of skill to get the shots – a hundred people can go to a site but a hundred people don't come away with prize winning shots.

In those days of film he says he had to be careful when pressing the shutter button: "I took pictures of everything really – the family, the house, the place we were, the dog, I didn't care what it was. You made a film last then. It is a discipline that you don't think of now – you thought 'I can't take two shots of this because I can't afford another film.'"

But he says the changes have not necessarily made it easier to take a good shot. He says: "People, particularly in

some subjects like nature, machine gun (the shutter). A bird is flying in and you put it on 10 or 20 frames a second and just rattle away. You take maybe a thousand pictures where you would once have taken two. It is what the cameras are capable of now, something we never dreamed of. "I am hesitant to say it is easier. It is just you can do things now that you couldn't do (in the past). You still have to make the thing sharp and you still have to catch it."

When it comes to other club members, Mr Wheelans' wife, Anne Greiner, provides his sternest competition.

They are both Masters of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain and Mr Wheelans, who is retired but worked for BT before becoming a studio and wedding photographer in his 50s, says: "I think she has the edge on me, she has an eye for the quirky. She beats me in the club competitions fairly regularly."



The Dumfries Camera Club's Rod Wheelans and his wife Anne Greiner.



Whooper swans. Photo: Tom Langlands.



Predator and prey. Highly commended in The British Wildlife Photographer Awards 2016, a sparrowhawk catching a bird in flight. Photo: Mick Durham.



Starling murmuration. Photo: Tom Langlands.



Inquisitive otter. Photo: Mick Durham.



Long tailed tit. Photo: Mick Durham.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



The First Minister sets out plan for referendum.
Photo: The Scottish Government.

Scotland announces second Referendum

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has set out plan for referendum in face of hard Brexit. The people of Scotland must be offered a choice between a hard Brexit and becoming an independent country, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said, as she confirmed plans to seek parliamentary approval to begin discussions with the UK Government on the details of a Section 30 order to enable an independence referendum to take place.

In a speech ahead of the UK Government triggering the UK's formal process to exit from the European Union, the First Minister said that, despite Scotland voting by 62% to 38% to remain in Europe, the UK Government 'has not moved even an inch in pursuit of compromise and agreement' since the Brexit vote. In addition, the First Minister said the UK Government had ruled out membership of the European Single Market 'with no prior consultation' and warned of real economic damage caused by the UK leaving the single market.

Outlining how the democratic mandate for holding another referendum is 'beyond doubt', Ms Sturgeon said that the UK Government must stand by the position it took in 2014 that an independence referendum should be, in their words, 'made in Scotland, by the people of Scotland.'

The First Minister added that there must be clarity on the implications of Brexit for Scotland – and clarity about independence – before the choice is put to the country. She therefore proposed that a referendum take place between the autumn of 2018 and the spring of 2019, when the shape of the UK's Brexit deal will become clear.

The First Minister said: "Scotland stands at a hugely important crossroads. On the eve of Article 50 being triggered, not only is there no UK wide agreement on the way ahead – the UK Government has not moved even an inch in pursuit of compromise and agreement. All of our efforts at compromise have been met with a brick wall of intransigence. UK membership of the single market was ruled out with no prior consultation with the Scottish Government or with the other devolved administrations, leaving us facing not just Brexit, but a hard Brexit.

And far from any prospect of significant new powers for the Scottish Parliament, the UK Government is becoming ever more assertive in its intention to muscle in on the powers we already have. The language of partnership has gone, completely. I will continue to stand up for Scotland's interests during the process of Brexit negotiations. But I will take the steps necessary now to make sure that Scotland will have a choice at the end of this process – a choice of whether to follow the UK to a hard Brexit, or to become an independent country able to secure a real partnership of equals with the rest of the UK and our own relationship with Europe."

The time period for a second referendum on independence is likely to be called between the autumn of 2018 through to the spring of 2019. This time frame would also coincide with the UK's final Brexit negotiations. British Prime Minister Theresa May who is undertaking a two-year process of taking the country out of the EU said a second referendum would cause uncertainty and division. A Downing Street spokesman said "Only a little over two years ago people in Scotland voted decisively to remain part of our United Kingdom in a referendum which the Scottish government defined as a 'once in a generation' vote. Another referendum would be divisive and cause huge economic uncertainty at the worst possible time."

University of the Highlands and Islands and Cairngorms National Park sign partnership agreement



Gairnsiel Bridge, Glen Gairn. Photo: The University of the Highlands and Islands.

The University of the Highlands and Islands and Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) have signed an agreement to work together to benefit communities and businesses in the park

and its surrounding area. The organisations already have a track record of collaboration and are now seeking to formalise and expand this relationship through a memorandum of understanding.

University of the Highlands and Islands' principal and vice-chancellor, Professor Clive Mulholland, and CNPA chief executive, Grant Moir, signed the document in Inverness on Thursday 9 March. It highlights key areas the park and university will collaborate on, including land use, visitor experience and community and economic development.

Speaking about the development, Professor Mulholland said: "We are excited to be formalising and extending our relationship with the Cairngorms National Park Authority. The National Park has an international reputation as a tourist destination and for its nature conservation and there are many links between our aims, specialisms and challenges. We look forward to working together to maximise the opportunities for those living, working and visiting the National Park and the Highlands and Islands region."

Mr Moir added: "There are already numerous connections between the Cairngorms National Park and the University of the Highlands and Islands and we are delighted to be strengthening our relationship in this way. Many areas of the university's research are directly relevant to management challenges here in the Cairngorms and, in turn, the National Park provides a fantastic learning resource for students at the university.

There are many areas where we can work together, ranging from forestry, land use and conservation, to rural health and physical activity. We look forward to developing further opportunities which will enable communities and businesses in the National Park to benefit from this collaboration."

City of Culture win would be "icing on the cake" for Perth, say city execs



Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

Winning City of Culture status would be "the icing on the cake" for a city that is already witnessing exciting development plans, according to Perth city executives.

Speaking after the formal launch of the 2021 UK City of Culture Competition, Culture Perth and Kinross, the charitable trust set up to deliver and develop museum and library services in Perth & Kinross, described Perth's bid as "extremely strong". Helen Smout, Chief Executive of Culture Perth and Kinross, said: "We're excited that the UK City of Culture competition has

officially launched and we believe our bid is an extremely strong one. Perth received city status in 2012. The cultural development plans and our application for City of Culture status are the latest steps on the road to putting Perth, deservedly, on the map."

Perth officially launched its intention to bid in August 2016 and the announcement has gathered increasing support from the local community and beyond.

The Perth 2021 bid is based on the Fair City's strong cultural identity and heritage. A campaign to bring the Stone of Destiny to Perth is a pivotal part of the bid, which also showcases the city's unique assets, including Perth Concert Hall, Perth Theatre, Perth Museum and Art Gallery and Perth City Hall.

The prestigious 2021 UK City of Culture title is a chance to use arts and culture as a catalyst for a city's economic and social regeneration. Running every four years, the competition is also an opportunity to raise the profile of a city's creative reputation right across the country. Other cities after the title include Paisley, Cardiff, Coventry, Sunderland, Stoke-on-Trent and Hereford. Cities have till the end of April to get their finals bids in and a shortlist will be announced in July and the winning city in December.

Scottish births, deaths and other vital events



Provisional figures for births, deaths, adoptions, marriages and civil partnerships registered during 2016 have been published by the National Records of Scotland.

The statistics show that 54,488 births, 56,728 deaths and 29,229 marriages were registered in 2016. 54,488 births were registered in the year – 612 (1.1%) fewer than in 2015. This is the lowest number of births recorded since 2005 and continues the general decline in number of births since the most recent peak of 60,041 in 2008.

At 56,728, the number of deaths registered in 2016 was 851 (1.5%) lower than in 2015. This is the second highest number of deaths recorded since 2003 (2015 was highest) although due to the growing population, the death rate (10.6 deaths per 1,000 population) is lower than it was in 2008 (10.7).

Deaths from cancer fell by 1.3% to 15,890, deaths from coronary heart disease fell by 6.9% to 6,651, and there were 4,143 deaths from cerebrovascular disease (a fall of 3.7%). There was a 5.2% decrease (to 7,271) in deaths from respiratory diseases. Deaths from dementia fell by 9.0% to 3,603 and deaths from Alzheimer's Disease rose by 10.5% to 1,963. The number of marriages fell by 462 compared to 2015 and levels remain historically low. Of the 29,229 marriages registered in 2016, 999 involved same sex couples and, of the same sex marriages, 174 were changes from previous civil partnerships.

There were 70 civil partnerships (42 male and 28 female), six more than in 2015.

Photo: Martin McCarthy/Marketing Edinburgh.

Going pagan in Edinburgh's



Celebrating the eternal battle of the seasons with fire.

enlightened New Town

By: David C. Weinczok



all the while, and caped figures painted a deep blue march wordlessly in the trail of the May Queen. Even as a committed rationalist, I have found after attending the festival four times that it's incredibly easy to start believing in it all. Perhaps not the specifics of druidic faith per se, but certainly the idea that this sort of festival touches on something quite natural and essentially human, just as much (if not more) so as the monuments to progress and ingenuity that provide the setting.

Good natured chaos

A word of warning, though, that the Beltane Fire Festival's more uninhibited side tends to get most of the fanfare when doing an online images search. 'The Reds' as they're innocuously called are a troupe dressed head to toe in red paint and not much else whose solemn duty it is to spread as much wildness, manic mischief and good natured chaos as possible. They're an absolute hoot, and a nice reminder as the warmth from the fires spreads that people in the past weren't always so ceremonious and serious like they are in history textbooks and most television programmes. Beltane wasn't Beltane without indulgence, and the Reds definitely give the evening a lively and memorable dose of that.

Hopefully you can be there yourself one day – if you're brave and are around for a while the Beltane Fire Society even takes on volunteer performers every year – but until then mark Beltane down on your calendars as a night and day to celebrate life. Be merry, gather round the hearth (a barbecue works, too), get a bit silly, and do your inner pagan proud.

*For further details on the Beltane Fire Festival see: www.beltane.org
David C Weinczok is a heritage professional, presenter and adoptive Scot based in Edinburgh. Twitter: @TheCastleHunter*

Marking the beginning of the summer season, the Beltane Fire Festival is celebrating 30 years, and takes place in Edinburgh this month. This unique event is the only festival of its kind in the world and draws inspiration from ancient Gaelic and pagan traditions with music, dance and fire as David C. Weinczok explains.

There are ancient echoes all throughout Scotland, and on the night of April 30 those echoes rise into a great clamour atop Edinburgh's Calton Hill. The Fringe Festival and Hogmanay may draw far larger crowds, but for me the celebration of the Gaelic festival of Beltane is the Scottish capital's most evocative spectacle.

Along with Samhuinn, Imbolc, and Lughnasadh, Beltane is one of the four seasonal festivals celebrated across the Celtic world since a time before history. Every year on the night when spring became summer entire and various communities would come together, on hilltops and high places wherever possible, to celebrate the flourishing of life together.

Bright fire

Beltane means 'bright fire', with fire seen as a purification and welcome warm light. In the old days cattle and other livestock would be driven between bonfires to

protect them before going to pasture, and a communal fire was freshly lit from which every home's hearth was ignited. Now, a great bonfire burns atop Calton Hill's National Monument, and it makes for a brilliant contrast. The Monument, which is one quarter of an intended but bankrupt replica of the Parthenon and a reason for Edinburgh's nickname of 'the Athens of the North', is a testament to the Enlightenment but also to human fallibility. Beltane is quite literally a fiery celebration of life and its cycles, a little piece of 'barbarism' in full view of the painstakingly civilised New Town.

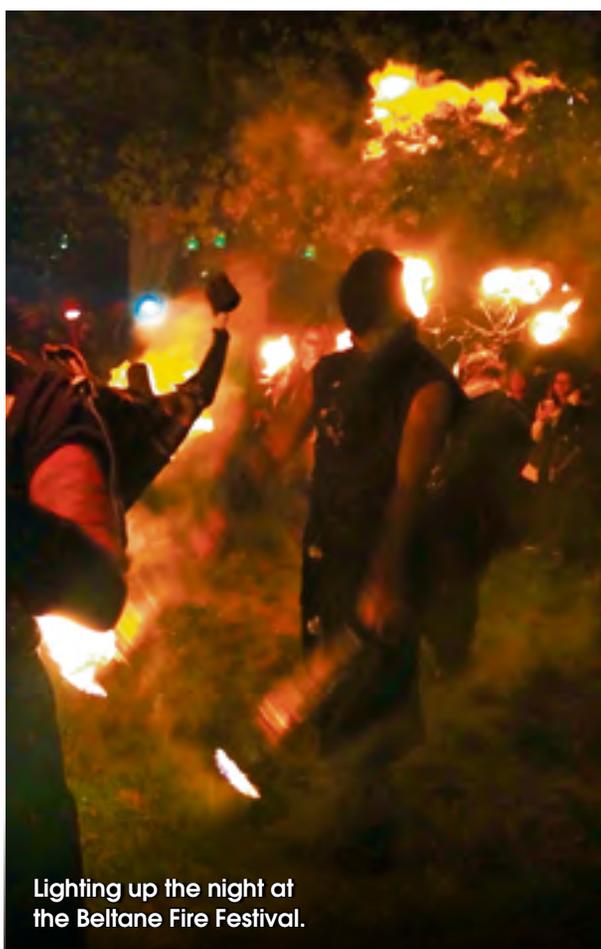
An aspect of Scotland that I find especially fascinating is how the line between the past and present is a lot more permeable than you might think. I don't mean this in the outwardly obvious ways, like kilts, pipes and aw' that. I mean in subtler ways, like how modern Christian services are now held atop Arthur's Seat as the sun rises on the first of May in a nod to Beltane; or how within living memory of

many, locals told tales of the fairy folk that dwelled beneath Calton Hill itself, a pillar of Edinburgh's refined façade atop a place of ancient ritual and mystery.

The Beltane Fire Society

There is a massive and always transfixing performance put on by the Beltane Fire Society, the organisation that has brought the pagan festival back to the capital in a big way. The first coordinated lighting of the Beltane fire in our lifetimes was in 1988, when five performers took to Calton Hill in front of a crowd of fewer than one hundred. A humble yet noble start, it turns out, as the festival now draws crowds of 10,000 and is one of the major highlights of Edinburgh's annual calendar.

One highlight of the performance is the ceremonial procession of the majestic, white-clad May Queen around the numerous secondary bonfires, themselves forged into ancient Celtic symbols. Simple yet powerful drum rhythms beat



Lighting up the night at the Beltane Fire Festival.

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50 YEARS

The Scottish Banner speaks to Paul Lyons, Railway Historian for Network Rail and Glasgow Central Station Tours

Opened in 1879 by the Caledonian Railway and sitting off the Clyde River is Glasgow Central Station. The iconic station beats the pulse of Scotland's largest city with 38 million passengers passing through each year. While many rush through the magnificent building, Paul Lyons who is the Railway Historian at Network Rail, has a passion for its history and the story of those who have built and had their lives shaped by it. At the station itself Paul Lyons spoke to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on what the station means to him, hidden Victorian platforms, sombre war time stories and how a tour no one would go on, is today one of Glasgow's most popular.



Paul Lyons taking four participants on the station tour.

SC: Paul thank you for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can we begin by you telling us how the concept of Glasgow Station Tours was conceived and what your role in the rail industry has been?

PL: I have been working for the railway for many years now. Going back a few years I was involved in the customer service assistance, to this day we have buggies where we assist elderly, infirm and disabled passengers on to the various trains. In that time before we boarded the passengers I would tell people the stories of the stations, stories I had picked up from the older rail workers when I first started, these stories not just about the station, but the city and beyond. People became very interested in those stories and the longer

I spent in Central Station I would explore different places. I got a hammer one day and knocked a hole in a wall and found the long lost Victorian platform which had not been seen for many years. It went from there and I would then do unofficial tours of the station, taking people round and point out various landmarks and tell them different historical associated stories concerning Central and the city itself.

Then came an event in the city that happens every year called Glasgow Doors Open. This is a great event in Glasgow and has been very popular in the city. They open the doors of various different buildings that the public would not normally get access to, such as the High Court, City Mortuary and various different kinds of temples as well. I approached

Glasgow City Council and I asked if we could take part in it for the first time and they agreed. They gave me a 100 tickets for that weekend and I got 83,500 applications, so it went from there.

We have seen the interest was there and since then it's been running for 3 years now and nearly 40,000 people have now been on the tour. Every single tour is sold out and it has been rated number 1 on TripAdvisor for Glasgow tours for 3 years. It really has been a revelation, but to be honest I think it has solidified to me what this building means to the people of Glasgow and beyond.

It is more than a railway station, Glasgow Central Station is central to Glasgow itself. The stories that have come from the tours, not just my stories, but the stories from the people that come on the tours are amazing. Just recently a lady came on the tour and told me how her mother during WW11 came to platform 1 of the station every single day for two and half years to see if her husband would return from the front lines. She only stopped after the telegram came through to say he was missing in action and was dead. It is these stories that sum up what this building means to people.

SC: Have you been surprised just how popular this tour has become and what changes to the tour have been implemented over the years?

PL: To be honest I have been surprised, I thought it would possibly have been a flash in the pan and maybe a couple of hundred of people would have come through, seen it and that would have been it. It has been completely the opposite and gone from strength to strength. It is like anything you do the more investigation and looking a little closer at the stories and past of the building and things expand from there. Because the money from the ticket sales has been

reinvested, it's meant we have been able to get for example the staircase built which takes you down to the Victorian platform, as it was not accessible for many years. Shortly we will relay the track down there for the first time since 1964 and we are in the process of acquiring a Victorian style railway carriage, and we have set designers designing Victorian style newspaper stands and platform shop fronts. The platform is the real deal and is intact as it was but this will enhance the space, so the tour is going from strength to strength.

SC: Glasgow Central Station has played a massive role in the social fabric of the city, how rewarding is it for you to share the story and history of this fascinating station?

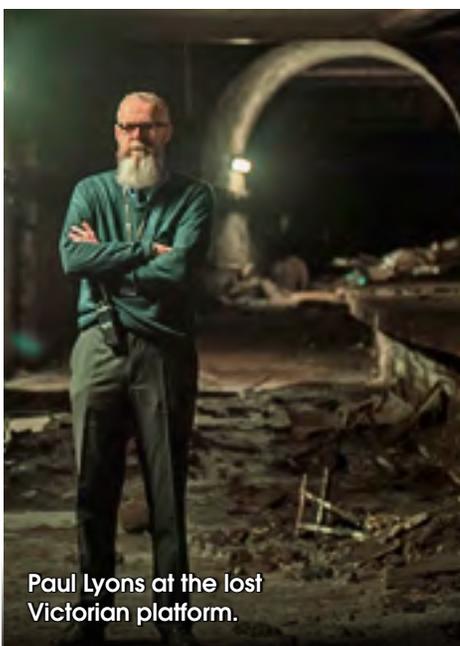
PL: I love doing this, it's more than a job for me. I look forward, even after all these years, to come into this station every single day. Which is quite unusual because I am not a Glaswegian by birth, I am from Balloch, Loch Lomond. But it was always a fascination for me growing up in a small place, the glamour and excitement of the big city and that included coming to this station.

The way the tours have organically developed it has brought together all my various historical interests. I tell the stories of the people that were forced off their land during the Highland Clearances and had to come to the city as they faced terrible hardships. I tell the story the Irish famine and those that also ended up in Glasgow, this is what made the social fabric of this city and what makes this city so diverse as well.

I never anticipated these stories would come from the tours and never knew the tour would turn out like this, we have definitely struck a chord with people. The chord is someone comes on this tour like a gentleman recently who told me his parents met on a platform in this station. I then tell the next people on a tour that story and surely that's the most important thing, we are keeping the history and memory of people alive. I never anticipated that to come from the tours but I think that is the reason it has become so successful as it strikes a chord with so many.

We live in a day and age where we think we are the smartest people with our fancy iPads, mobile phones and the rest of it, but we are missing and losing something which I see in the younger people in particular. We are losing the ability to speak to each other and tell our stories to each other face to face. That has been something very important in Scottish history, passing down oral tradition and I fear we may lose this great tradition. Scotland has so many fascinating stories and Scots care about each other. Society means a lot to the Scots and I would hate to see the fabric of that eroded.

I think the Victorians would be proud today of how important this building still is



Paul Lyons at the lost Victorian platform.



The recovered WW1 wheelchair found by Paul.

and the function it still has in modern life. This is a building that connects with not just Glasgow but all of Scotland.

SC: Much of your tour takes visitors back to other times and can tell the honest but difficult story of Glasgow's past. How important is it for you to remind people of the past and also keep people's stories alive?

PL: I think social history is very important and also the way it is told as well. History is relevant and there has been a great resurgence here in Scotland of an interest in our own history. People are becoming more socially aware and there has been a great ground swell of change in this country. People are more positive about Scotland and being Scottish. We have our pride and recognition of the things we as Scots have done through the years and the contribution Scots have made not only here but globally.

Some of the things we discuss on the tour like people being cleared from their lands we can also put into context today. Look into the things that have happened in the past and make sure some of those things don't happen again, we must heed the lessons from history or forget them at our peril.

SC: Paul some people may be surprised to learn the station once housed a morgue. Can you tell us some of your favourite bits of the stations history that most would not have heard about?

PL: Personally I don't believe in ghosts but when we go to the area that was temporarily used as a mortuary during the 1st World War for a brief period of time, you can feel the sadness there. If the walls could speak what a terrible story they would tell. History is very important and must be remembered, if we forget the mistakes of the past unfortunately we are doomed to repeat them again.

There is also an area one flight down that was a store, for grain and various different kinds of products, which unfortunately contributed to the high infant mortality rate in Glasgow. The grain would come in to these massive storage areas, unfortunately the one next door would be for coal. With the River Clyde so close the rats would come up to eat the grain and they urinated on the grain. This caused a terrible disease and caused several infant deaths. The disease was linked back to Central Station and grain was never docked here again. Coal however was brought into the station up until 1965,

mainly due to the station hotel which had coal boilers and fires.

The mortuary area is of particular importance not just to the city but to the country itself. It demonstrated to me how cheap life was and how many working class men and their families that suffered. The British government deemed to too expensive to run the mortuary and this is part of the harrowing story that needs to be told. Glaswegians have a long memory, are socially aware and have a great social conscience, we literally have had blood running down the concourse here and this needs to be told. The role of women seems to have been forgotten and we honour them on this tour as well.

SC: A new museum is about to open in the station. Can you tell us what visitors can expect to see and how have you sourced the pieces in the collection?

PL: The museum I have collected various artefacts over the years found throughout the station. I have old *Daily Express* newspapers from 1941, an empty pack of cigarettes from the 1920's, various other kids magazines, railway signs going back to the 1950's, an amazing railway posters which a chap gave me after he found it ripping up his kitchen that had not seen the light of day since 1927.

We are literally discovering things around the station all the time and I expect to collection to continue to grow

SC: Glasgow Central Station has one of the largest glass panel ceilings in Europe. I understand it also provides stunning views of the city. Can you tell us about this and can tour visitors experience this bird's eye view of the city?

PL: The station has 48,000 panes of glass in the ceiling. My plan is to introduce a standalone tour of the roof. Access to the roof in Central is near platforms 9 and 10 and the panoramic views you get of this city are remarkable. The photos you can get in an evening or at night are stunning. We will incorporate this as a standalone tour towards the summer time.

SC: You have said you keep finding new treasures within the building, can you give us some examples and remind people the vast scale the station actually is?

PL: Just yesterday I found an old WW1 wheel chair in a locked room which we had



The Station being constructed.

no keys to, so I grabbed a sledge hammer and finally broke in and found this wheel chair in great condition which would have been used during the war.

I have been scrapping away at cobble stone around the station and believe I have found an old part of a street from the 1700 or 1800's, there is still so much to learn about and explore here. I am the only person in the British railways that does, no other person does this at any station at all. I will never turn this tour into a Disneyland experience we will continue to keep it real and tell real stories.

This station is the biggest building in Glasgow and is 2.2 miles square. The aerial view of the station is when you can really grasp the sheer size of the place, seeing the massive roof from above and of course we go down many levels as well. There is nothing that is comparable to this building in Glasgow at all and it will be here forever.

SC: And finally Paul your passion for the tour and the station is obvious. What is it you hope people take away from this fascinating tour?



John Menzies shop at Glasgow Central Station.

PL: I hope people take away a feeling that their relatives and the ordinary people of this city will be remembered forever more and their stories will be told again to younger generations and never be forgotten. We owe it to these people to never forget their hardships and story. Personally I feel it's up to me to keep the stories of the men who build this place alive and the stories of all those who have been affected by the building alive. I will continue to tell these stories for as long as I can. That is what makes the tour, the story of ordinary people and the people of this city are responding to it in a way I never thought I would see.

Glasgow Central Tour operate from Glasgow Central Station on selected weekdays and weekends from 10am-4pm. For details see: www.glasgowcentraltours.co.uk



Station grocers at platform 4.



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E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com
W: clanscottaustaliagroup.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: alfredhcooke@gmail.com
www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



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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



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

For further info contact
President Wayne Sinclair 0417 146 174
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.

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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 Balnagowan)

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
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
czamembership@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 Horshoe 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:

Ballararat 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

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

APRIL 2017

4 Ottawa, ON - Senators - Scottish Heritage Night
Includes bagpipes and Celtic music at Canadian Tire Centre, 1000 Palladium Dr. Info: www.ottawasenators.com/TARTAN

6 Edmonton, AB - Edmonton Scottish Society Tartan Ball

Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish Heritage that is held on April 6th, the day on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. Info: <https://sites.google.com/site/edmontonscottishsociety2016>

6 Nationwide - Tartan Day

A celebration of Scottish heritage on April 6, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320 and started by a *Scottish Banner* reader!

7 Toronto, ON - Tartan Day Dinner & Ceilidh Dance

Celebrate Tartan Day with the St Andrew's Society Toronto at Armour Heights Officers' Mess, Canadian Forces College, 215 Yonge Blvd. Info: www.standrews-society.ca

8 - 10 Lethbridge, AB - Lethbridge Scottish Country Dance Club Beginners Workshop

Learn and develop Scottish country dancing. Info: 403 329 3582 or www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org.

8 Toronto, ON - Tartan Day Celebration

Presented by the Sons of Scotland. Info: (416) 482-1250 or www.sonsofscotland.com.

8 Mississauga, ON - Spring Ceilidh in honour of Tartan Day

Presented by Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada at Boaden Banquet Halls, 505 Queensway East. Info: www.cassoc.ca.

18 Victoria, BC - Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society spring beginner level classes

Six classes for \$36 at City Light Church, 550 Obed Ave, 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Info: 250-598-0207 or viscds@shaw.ca.

20 Toronto, ON - The Scottish Studies Society's 25th Annual Tartan Day Dinner and Scot of the Year Award

Commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in Scotland on the 6th April 1320 at University of Toronto's Hart House. Info: David Hunter 416-699-9942 or davidhunter@scottishstudies.com.

21 - 23 Picton, ON - Tartan Tea Dance Weekend in Prince Edward County

Say hello to Spring and join the Prince Edward County Scottish Country Dancers for a weekend of social dancing at the Prince Edward Yacht Club. Info: Sheila Keller 613 393-2955 or ckeller@sympatico.ca.

21 - 23 Winnipeg, MB - RSCDS Winnipeg Workshop and Ball

Come to a weekend filled with Ceilidh entertainment, dance instruction, a chance to wear your finery, enjoy a scrumptious meal, and then process to The Ball-no glass slippers required. Info: www.rscds-winnipeg.ca

23 Ottawa, ON - Tartan Day Celebrations

Presented by The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band at Parliament Hill with music and dance, wear some tartan and celebrate Tartan Day. Info: www.sospb.com.

27 Ottawa, ON - Coalmines, Council Houses & Corsets: The Life & Times of a Scottish Granny

Walk down memory lane to a time when religious segregation, clan wars and class structure were alive and well in the small coal-mining town of Cambusnethan in the lowlands of Scotland at the National Arts Centre. Info: www.ottawastorytellers.ca.

28 Vancouver, BC - Vancouver Ceilidh Dancing
Music is provided by "Calanais". All steps are taught and no partner or previous experience required at Scottish Cultural Centre 8886 Hudson St. Info: 604-263-6955 or www.rscds-vancouver.org.

29 Grimsby, ON - 10th Annual Celtic Evening
Presented by The Grimsby Pipe Band, with The Oakville Celtic Fiddle Orchestra and Irish Dancers at Mountain Ridge Community Centre; 105 Mountain Rd. Info: Gordon Scott: 905 520-7981 or www.Grimsbypipeband.com.

MAY 2017

6 Vancouver, BC - The Gaelic Society of Vancouver Cèilidh

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

7 White Rock, BC - White Rock Annual Spring Dance

Annual spring dance with music by the Tartan Players at Star of the Sea Hall, 15262 Pacific Ave. Info: www.wrsdc.org.

7 Truro, NS - RSCDS Nova Scotia Branch 35th Anniversary Royal Tea Party

Scottish country dance at St Andrews Church Hall, 55 King St. Info: www.rscdsnovascotia.ca.

13 Toronto, ON - West Toronto Ball

Scottish country dance event with music by Scotch Mist. At Sala Caboto, Columbus Centre 40 Playfair Ave. Info: www.dancescottish.ca.

20 - 21 Regina, SK - Saskatchewan Highland Gathering & Celtic Festival

Saskatchewan's premier Scottish attraction at Victoria Park. Info: 306-789-6516 or www.saskhighland.ca.

21 - 22 Victoria, BC - 154th Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival

A full weekend of Scottish fun and includes the CSAF Canadian Men's Championships at Topaz Park. Info: 250 598 0120 or www.victoriahighlandgames.com.

27 Kingston, ON - Kingston Scottish Festival

Highland dancing competitions, solo piping and drumming events and more at Rideau Acres Campground, 1014 Cunningham Rd. Info: www.kingstonscotfest.com.

28 Fort Langley, BC - Fort Langley Whisky Tea Dance

The Fort Langley Voyageurs invite you to their Whisky Tea Dance, followed by a sumptuous Tea with strawberries and cream at Fort Langley Community Hall, 9167 Glover Rd. Info: 604 888-1223.

31 - 4 Perth-Andover, NB - The Gathering of the Scots

The premiere Celtic event in the Maritimes at Perth Ball Field. Info: (506) 273-6710 or www.gatheringofthescoats.com

USA

APRIL 2017

1 - 2 Columbia, SC - 7th Annual Tartan Day South Celebration

Honoring Celtic heritage at Carolina Ale House-Vista. Info: www.tartandaysouth.com.

1 Minneapolis, MN - RSCDS Twin Cities Branch 41st Annual Ball

In celebration of the Auld Alliance at Columbia Manor, and will feature a music workshop on Saturday morning. Info: www.rscds-twincities.org.

1 Dunedin, FL - Dunedin Highland Games & Festival

A full day of Scotland at Highlander Park, 1920 Pinehurst Rd. Info: www.dunedinhighlandgames.com.

2 Sarasota, FL - Kirkin' o' the Tartans

Join us as we celebrate the annual Blessing of the Tartans, at the Church of the Palms. Info: William Wallace (941) 378-0085 or www.caledonianclub.org.

6 - 9 New York, NY - Tartan Day on Ellis Island

Celebrate the 16th anniversary celebration of with pipers and drummers, Highland Dancers, kilnmakers and more at Ellis Island Immigration Museum. Info: www.tartandayonellisland.com.

6 Nationwide - Tartan Day

A celebration of Scottish heritage on April 6, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320, and started by a *Scottish Banner* reader!

8 - 9 Huntersville, NC - Loch Norman Highland Games

This festival celebrates Scottish Heritage, enjoy Celtic music, Highland dance, Highland heavy athletics, historic encampments, Scottish food and more at historic Rural Hill. Info: 704-875-3113 or www.lochnorman.com.

8 - 9 Longmont, CO - Colorado Tartan Day Festival

Celebrate Celtic heritage and meet the Clans honoring our ancestors at Boulder County Fairgrounds. Info: www.coloradotartanday.com.

8 New York, NY - New York Tartan Day Parade

Pipe bands, Clans and more marching down Sixth Avenue with pride for Tartan Day, and a love of Scotland and all things Scottish, and to celebrate the unique friendship of Scotland and the USA. Info: www.nytartanweek.org.

11 - 16 New York, NY - Scottish Ballet at the Joyce Theater, New York

The Scottish Ballet will showcase its innovative and inspiring work in New York, through a triple bill performance from critically acclaimed choreographers at a theatre with a reputation for delivering the highest quality dance. Info: www.scottishballet.co.uk

29 Battle Creek, MI - A Celtic Evening

Hosted by Greater Midwest Pipe Band with Scottish music and food at Masonic Temple Battle Creek, 133 E Michigan Ave. Info: www.gmpbcelticevening.eventbrite.com.

29 - 30 Las Vegas, NV - 13th Annual Las Vegas Highland Games

A full weekend of Scottish events at Floyd Lamb Park. Info: www.lasvegascelticsociety.org.

29 - 30 Woodland, CA - Sacramento Valley Scottish Games & Festival

A weekend of Scotland at the Yolo County Fairgrounds. Info: www.sacramentoscotgames.org

29 Modesto, CA - The San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers Live

More than 100 fiddlers backed by piano, drums, cellos, guitars, harps and even flutes at the Gallo Center for the Arts. Info: www.tickets.galloarts.org.

MAY 2017

5 - 7 Arlington, TX - Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Celebrate Scotland at Maverick Stadium. Info: 254-675-3992 or www.texasscottishfestival.com.

6 Savannah, GA - 41st Annual Savannah Scottish Games

The 4th oldest Scottish games in the Southeastern United States at historic Bynah's Field at Bethesda Academy, 9520 Ferguson Ave. Info: www.savannahscottishgames.com.

13 Mount Airy, MD - Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival

Celtic entertainment, food, vendors and more at Mount Airy Fire Department Carnival Grounds, 1003 Twin Arch Rd. Info: www.midmarylandcelticfestival.com.

13 Melrose, MA - Boston Highland Ball

Presented by the Boston Branch, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society at Melrose Memorial Hall, 590 Main St. Info: www.rscdsboston.org.

13 Norton, OH - 13th Annual Celtic Beltane Festival

Presented by The Scottish American Society at Columbia Woods Park, 4060 Columbia Woods Dr, with entertainment from the Celtic community, including pipe bands, Scottish and Irish dancers, Celtic musicians and more. Info: Margaret Frost 330-903-4573 or www.scottishamericansociety.org.

13 Winston-Salem, NC - 17th Annual Bethabara Highland Games

A great day of Scottish heritage at 2147 Bethabara Rd. Info: 336-924-8191 or www.BethabaraPark.org.

20 - 21 Maryville, TN - Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games

Authentic Scottish Highland festivities right here in the East Tennessee Highlands at Maryville College. Info: www.smokymountaingames.org.

20 Elkton, MD - 57th Annual Fair Hill Scottish Games

A day of athletics, music, dancing, food, and arts celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture at Fair Hill Race Track. Info: www.fairhillscottishgames.org.

27 - 28 Costa Mesa, CA - Scottish Fest

Southern California's largest Scottish Highland Games at the OC Fair & Event Center, 88 Fair Dr. Info: 714-708-1500 or www.scottishfest.com.

27 - 28 Alma, MI - 50th Alma Highland Festival and Games

A full weekend of Scottish music, dance, heavy events, Clans, entertainment and more. Includes US Pipe Band Championships at Alma College. Info: 989-463-8979 or www.almahighlandfestival.com

SCOTLAND

APRIL 2017

1 Spean Bridge - Highland Haggis Festival

Celebrate Scotland's national dish and eat, drink, and dance. Info: www.highlandhaggisfest.co.uk.

1 - 2 Balloch - Springfest: The Scottish Food and Drink Festival

One of the largest food and drink festivals in the country. Around 80 food and drink producers and suppliers set up their stands on the stunning banks of Loch Lomond Shores. Info: www.lochlomondspringfest.co.uk.

2 Edinburgh - Geological Walk

The geology of the Water of Leith forms the foundation for its character, shaping it into an important source of both water power and building stone. This walk in the Dells provides an opportunity to see many of its geological features including Carboniferous sedimentary rocks, glacial features and fossils, as well as the site of Redhall Castle. Info: www.waterofleith.org.uk.

10 - 13 Glasgow - Young Stars Spring Piping School

Specially tailored for 16 and Unders, this 4 day school will enhance their piping with practice, lessons, games, workshops and more at The National Piping Centre, 30-34 McPhater St. Info: +44 (0) 141 353 0220 or www.thepipingcentre.co.uk.

15 Strathpeffer - Eddi Reader Live

From the traditional to the contemporary, Eddi Reader brings life to all forms of song at Strathpeffer Pavilion. Info: www.eddireader.co.uk.

15 Belpre, OH - Scottish & Celtic Heritage Festival

Day long Scottish/Irish music, dancing, food, genealogy, Clan exhibits, Scottish/Irish vendors, exhibits, displays, raffles. Tickets are \$5 for adults, kids 12 and under are free. Included in this year's entertainment line up is Scottish Fiddler Melinda Crawford at 209 8th St. Info: Pam Brust 304-488-8009.

18 Falkirk - Scotland in Six-World Heritage Day 2017

On World Heritage Day 2017, Scotland celebrates our six iconic World Heritage Sites with six toe-tapping, mouth-watering, jaw-dropping, heart-pumping events from dawn to dusk. Info: www.digit2017.com.

23 Edinburgh - Great Edinburgh Run

A ten mile race in Scotland's capital taking in landmarks including Edinburgh Castle, Greyfriar's Bobby and the Royal Mile. Info: www.greatrun.org/great-edinburgh-run.

26 - 7 Edinburgh - TradFest

Tradition goes live in Edinburgh, with an annual showcase of traditional arts and culture in Scotland's capital. Info: www.tracscotland.org/festivals/tradfest

27 - 1 Speyside - Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival

Thousands of visitors from around the globe celebrate Scotland's national drink at one of the world's biggest whisky events. Info: www.spiritofspeyside.com.

28 - 30 Campbeltown - Kintyre Songwriters Festival

A music festival aimed at showcasing and promoting Kintyre's home grown musical talent, along with appearances by a selection of higher profile guests. Info: www.kintyresongwritersfestival.co.uk.

28 Edinburgh - Ceilidh at The Counting House

Come and dance to Annasach Ceilidh Band at our regular Ceilidh at The Counting House, Edinburgh from 8pm. All dances will be called so beginners welcome. Info: www.annasach.co.uk.

Scottish Genealogical Research



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Answers to Scotword on Page 5

ACROSS: 7 Bonnier; 8 Hillock; 10 Ailsa Craig; 11 Nets; 12 Diagonal; 14 Enamel; 15 Kamescastle; 19 Career; 20 Minister; 22 Trio; 23 Dalbeattie; 25 Streams; 26 Serfdom
DOWN: 1 Dominie; 2 Ends; 3 Deacon; 4 Singlets; 5 Gleneagles; 6 Scythes; 9 Ballochmyle; 13 Gracenotes; 16 Earldoms; 17 Garrets; 18 Venison; 21 Nieces; 24 Toff

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Kedgeree

Ingredients:

½ onion, finely chopped
 55g/2oz. butter
 300g/10½oz. basmati rice
 1 tsp madras curry powder
 freshly grated nutmeg
 200ml/7fl oz. milk
 110ml/4fl oz. double cream
 300g/10½oz. naturally smoked haddock, or similar, picked over, bones removed and flesh cut into chunks
 sea salt and cracked black pepper
 small bunch parsley, chopped
 3 hard-boiled eggs, shelled and halved
 good pinch cayenne and freshly ground nutmeg (optional)
To serve:
 knob of butter
 wedges of lemon

Method:

Cook the onion gently in the butter for a few minutes, then add the rice.
 Continue cooking gently and stirring, adding the curry powder and nutmeg. After a few minutes, add the milk, cream and 250ml/9fl oz. water.
 When the mixture begins to simmer, add the fish and continue simmering, stirring occasionally until the rice is cooked. (You may need to add a little water if the mixture becomes dry.)
 Season, add the parsley and stir. Add the eggs and garnish with cayenne and nutmeg if using. Serve topped with a knob of butter and wedges of lemon.

Roast leg of lamb with rosemary and garlic

Ingredients:

2kg/4lb 8oz. leg of lamb
 1 bulb garlic
 large bunch rosemary
 sea salt and black pepper
 2 carrots, roughly chopped
 3 white onions, quartered
 250ml/9fl oz. dry white wine
 olive oil
For the mint sauce
 1 tbsp. caster sugar
 3 tbsp. white wine vinegar
 6 sprigs mint, leaves only, finely chopped

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.
 Use a small, sharp knife to make 12-14 slits all over the lamb. Peel two garlic cloves and slice them into shards. Roughly squash the remaining garlic and put into the bottom of a large roasting tin.
 Push a few slivers of garlic and small sprigs of rosemary down into each slit in the lamb and season with plenty of salt and pepper.
 Put the carrots and onions into the roasting tin, drizzle with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Lay the lamb on top and roast in the preheated oven for 45 minutes.
 For the mint sauce, mix together the sugar and vinegar until the sugar is dissolved. Add the mint and mix well. Season with salt and pepper and transfer to the fridge to steep.
 Remove the lamb from the oven, pour in the wine then return to the oven and roast for a further 45 minutes.
 When cooked, remove the lamb from the oven and transfer to a board. Cover with foil and leave to rest for 15-20 minutes.
 Carve the lamb into thin slices and serve with the mint sauce and roasted vegetables.

Roast potato



Ingredients:

5 tbsp. duck fat
 16 medium-sized Maris Piper or King Edward potatoes (each about 175g/6oz)
 8 garlic cloves
 8 sprigs thyme
 sea salt

Method:

Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.
 Parboil the potatoes in salted water for 7-8 minutes until almost cooked (they will still feel firm when pierced with a knife). Drain thoroughly using a colander, then shake the potatoes around a little in the colander until the outsides are roughened.
 Put the duck fat for the roast potatoes

into a small roasting tin and heat in the oven for five minutes.

Add the drained, roughened potatoes to the tin of hot duck fat, then sprinkle over the garlic cloves, thyme and sea salt and mix until the potatoes are well coated in the fat.

Return the tin to the oven and roast for 45-60 minutes, or until golden and crunchy.

Hot cross buns



Ingredients:

For the buns:
 625g/1.3lb strong white flour, plus extra for dusting
 1 tsp. salt
 2 tsp. ground mixed spice
 45g/1.5 oz. unsalted butter, cut into cubes, plus extra for greasing
 85g/3oz. sugar
 1 lemon, zest only
 1½ tsp fast-action yeast
 1 free-range egg
 275ml/10fl oz. tepid milk
 125g/4oz mixed dried fruit
For the topping
 2 tbsp. plain flour
 vegetable oil, for greasing
 1 tbsp. golden syrup, gently heated, for glazing

Method:

For the buns, sieve the flour, salt and ground mixed spice into a large mixing bowl, then rub in the butter using your fingertips. Make a well in the centre of the mixture, then add the sugar and lemon zest and yeast.

Beat the egg and add to the flour with the tepid milk. Mix together to a form a soft, pliable dough.

Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface. Carefully work the mixed dried fruit into the dough until well combined. Knead lightly for 5 minutes, or until smooth and elastic.

Grease a large, warm mixing bowl with butter. Shape the dough into a ball and place it into the prepared bowl, then cover with a clean tea towel and set aside in a warm place for one hour to prove.

Turn out the proved dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knock back the dough. Shape it into a ball again and return it to the bowl, then cover again with the tea towel and set aside for a further 30 minutes to rise.

Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and divide it into 12 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a ball, then flatten slightly into a bun shape using the palms of your hands. Cover the buns again with the tea towel and set aside to rest for 5-10 minutes.

Grease a baking tray with butter and transfer the buns to the tray. Wrap the tray with the buns on it loosely in greaseproof paper, then place inside a large polythene bag. Tie the end of the bag tightly so that no air can get in and set aside in a warm place for a further 40 minutes to rise.

Preheat the oven to 240C/475F/Gas 8. Meanwhile, for the topping, mix the plain flour to a smooth paste with 2 tablespoons of cold water.

When the buns have risen, remove the polythene bag and the greaseproof paper.

Spoon the flour mixture into a piping bag and pipe a cross on each bun.

Transfer the buns to the oven and bake for 8-12 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. As soon as you remove the buns from the oven, brush them with the hot golden syrup, then set aside to cool on a wire rack.

Easter cake

Ingredients:

100g/4oz. glacé cherries
 225g/8oz. butter, softened
 225g/8oz. light muscovado sugar
 4 large eggs
 225g/8oz. self-raising flour
 225g/8oz. sultanas
 100g/4oz. currants
 50g/2oz. chopped candied peel
 2 lemons, grated zest only
 2 tsp. ground mixed spice
For the filling and topping:
 450g/1lb. marzipan
 1-2 tbsp. apricot jam, warmed

Method:

Preheat the oven to 150C/280F/Gas 2. Grease and line a 20cm/ 8in cake tin.

Cut the cherries into quarters, put in a sieve and rinse under running water. Drain well then dry thoroughly on kitchen paper.

Place the cherries in a bowl with the butter, sugar, eggs, self-raising flour, sultanas, currants, candied peel, lemon zest and mixed spice and beat well until thoroughly mixed. Pour half the mixture into the prepared tin.

Take one-third of the marzipan and roll it out to a circle the size of the tin and then place on top of the cake mixture. Spoon the remaining cake mixture on top and level the surface.

Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 2½ hours, or until well risen, evenly brown and firm to the touch. Cover with aluminium foil after one hour if the top is browning too quickly. Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes then turn out, peel off the parchment and finish cooling on a wire rack.

When the cake is cool, brush the top with a little warmed apricot jam and roll out half the remaining marzipan to fit the top. Press firmly on the top and crimp the edges to decorate. Mark a criss-cross pattern on the marzipan with a sharp knife. Form the remaining marzipan into 11 balls.

Brush the marzipan with beaten egg and arrange the marzipan balls around the edge of the cake. Brush the tops of the balls with beaten egg and then carefully place the cake under a hot grill until the top is lightly toasted.

Whisky cocktail

Ingredients:

1 thick slice orange peel
 1 maraschino cherry, with stem
 1 tsp sugar syrup (also sold as gomme syrup)
 2-3 drops whisky bitters
 ice cubes, as necessary
 50ml/2fl oz. Scotch or bourbon
 twist of lemon peel, to garnish

Method:

Take the orange peel and squeeze it with your fingers. Rub the peel around the insides of a whisky tumbler, then place into the glass. Add the cherry, sugar syrup and bitters, along with three ice cubes.

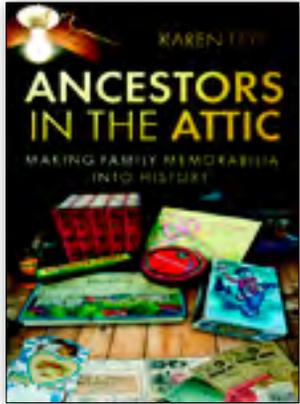
Add half of the scotch or bourbon and stir for about ten seconds. Add more ice and the remaining scotch or bourbon and stir again for 10-15 seconds.

To serve, garnish with lemon peel.

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Ancestors In The Attic

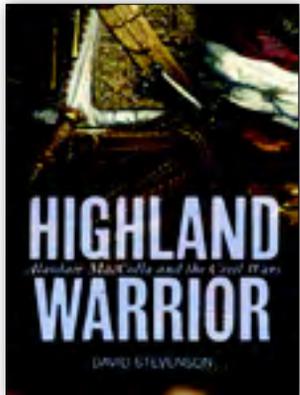


By: Karen Foy

A guide to a fantastic and often overlooked resource to learning more about ancestors' everyday lives. Much family history focuses on digging around archives and web searches, but this book shows that attics and closets can often hide a treasure trove of personal documents and ephemera. Boxes full of photographs, hastily written notes, old tickets, postcards, ration books, a soldier's hat, a bundle of letters, perhaps a diary, are all invaluable sources of information about family history. **Paperback 208 pages, IPG 4282, \$20.00 USD/\$22.00 CDN + S/H**

Highland Warrior

Alasdair MacColla and the Civil Wars

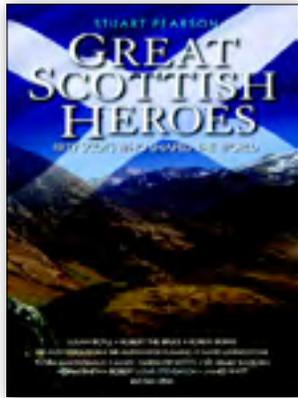


By: David Stevenson

In 1644 James Grahame, the Marquis of Montrose, stormed his way into legend with a series of astonishing victories over the Covenanters. At his side stalked a shadowy but terrible ally, Alasdair MacColla, who had a far more ancient agenda of his own. MacColla's aim was nothing less than the effective destruction of the power of Clan Campbell and its replacement by the older overlordship of the Macdonalds. This work argues that it was in fact MacColla, and not Montrose, who was the true architect of the "Year of Victories," and that without his Highland ally, Montrose's blunders would have doomed him to disaster, thus presenting a compelling and radical reappraisal of Scottish history during the crucial years of the 1640s. Superbly written, *Highland Warrior* is a compelling and dramatic sweep through some of the most eventful years in Scottish history. **Paperback 336 pages, IPG 1941, \$20.00 USD/\$22.00 CDN + S/H**

Great Scottish Heroes

Fifty Scots Who Shaped the World

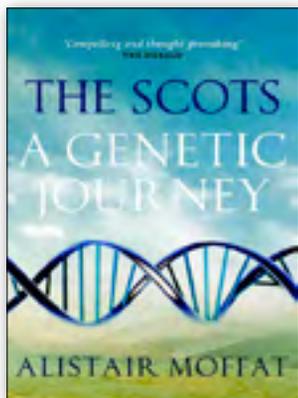


By: Stuart Pearson

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

The Scots

A Genetic Journey



By: Alistair Moffat

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

Angels of Mercy

Nurses on the Western Front

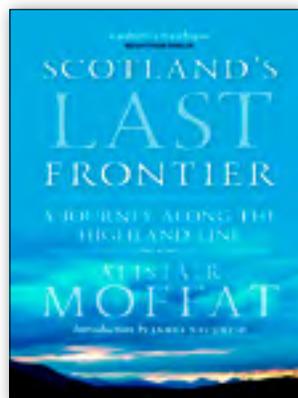


By: Eileen Crofton

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

Scotland's Last Frontier

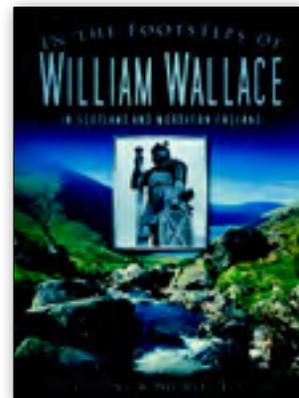
A Journey Along the Highland Line



By: Alistair Moffat

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

In The Footsteps of William Wallace



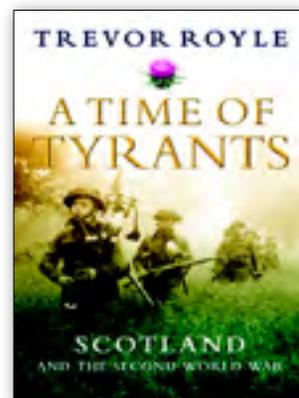
By: Alan Young,

Photographs By: Michel J. Stead

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

A Time of Tyrants

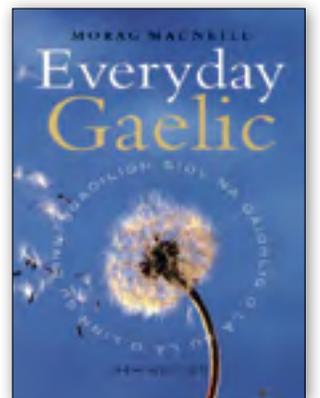
Scotland and the Second World War



By: Trevor Royle

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

Everyday Gaelic



By Morag MacNeill

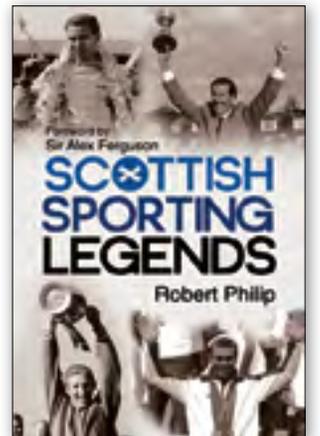
Since English is also spoken in the Gaelic-speaking areas, communication in Gaelic is not so much a matter of necessity as of choice and interest. This book covers more than just the phrases needed by an outsider in a foreign land; it also dips into the chatty aspects of the language. **160 pages, paperback.**

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Scottish Sporting Legends



by Robert Philip

A celebrations of Scotland's rich sporting history, profiling 50 of the nation's all-time greatest sportspeople. Scotland may not have won a World Cup (yet!), but many of the country's sportsmen and women are revered as global legends. In football, the likes of Denis Law, "Slim" Jim Baxter, and Jimmy "Jinky" Johnstone would not have looked out of place in the canary yellow of Brazil, while managers Sir Matt Busby, Bill Shankly, and Jock Stein have become part of football folklore, as has Sir Alex Ferguson in more recent times. **Paperback 256 pages, IPG 5544, \$10.00 USD/10.00 CDN + S/H**

Keeping Scotland's mountains on track

Photos: National Trust for Scotland/Facebook.



Some of the NTS Mountain Path Team, helping maintain mountain trails.

Whether admiring from the roadside or strapping on your boots and taking on one of Scotland's many stunning mountain ranges, many may be surprised that Scotland's rugged peaks need care and attention to maintain their dynamic but sensitive environment. Scotland's largest conservation charity The National Trust for Scotland is doing its bit to help maintain and conserve the over 400 miles/643 km of mountain paths, walking paths and trails around some of Scotland's most amazing natural wonders.

The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) looks after 82 high-level routes across the seven mountain properties of Arran, Ben Lawers, Ben Lomond, Glencoe, Kintail/West Affric, Mar Lodge Estate and Torridon, and their involvement in mountain and wild land care began back in 1937 with the publication of Percy Unna's guiding principles. Before 2003, upland path-work was carried out as and when required in small areas of the Trust's mountain properties. Although some of the best

work was completed during this time, it was felt that a more systematic and proactive approach was required. So the Trust began assessing every metre of our upland paths, grading them to give a measured account of both the current damage and the repair costs. Five-yearly path audits have taken place on all routes ever since, allowing them to fine-tune the maintenance plans and budget for the work required.

Scotland's Mountain Heritage Project

In 2003, the Trust launched the Scotland's Mountain Heritage Project to conserve the 376 miles of mountain paths in the Trust's care. It ran until 2008 and set the standard for upland path repair and maintenance. The maintenance and conservation techniques have provided path specialists across Britain with a model for best practice. For much of the last decade the Trust has run training courses in path conservation techniques, and many of the

40 people who attended these have gone on to enjoy successful careers in the industry, including members of the Trust's in-house Mountain Path Management Team.

Mountains for People Footpath Project

The Mountains for People project was launched by the Trust in April 2009 to conserve and repair some of the most challenging upland routes in Torridon, Glencoe and on Arran. The project runs in four year cycles, during which time workers and volunteers renovate miles of upland paths in the Trust's care that require urgent attention. These are set amidst some of the most stunning, but also some of the most fragile, mountain landscapes. Several of the routes are particularly remote and this poses some serious logistical and technical challenges to the project team.

Mountains for People also encourages members of the public to discover the vital conservation work the Trust is carrying out. So, whether you're a seasoned mountaineer, regular hill-walker or someone who just wants to admire the hills without seeing ugly erosion scars, there's something here for you.

It's vital to ensure all this good work is honoured by not allowing our upland



It wouldn't be Glen Torridon without its signature rainbow.

paths to deteriorate. Both the Mountains for People project and the Mountain Path Management Team are committed to conserving and maintaining the Trust's network of upland paths for future generations to enjoy.

Get involved

There are a number of ways in which you can be involved in the work the Trust does to help protect and conserve the mountain landscapes. From Thistle Camps and Trail Blazers to regular or weekend volunteering, there are regular hands-on activities at the Trust's mountain properties throughout the year. Thistle Camps (18 years and over) and Trail Blazers (16-17-year-olds) offer the chance to learn or improve practical conservation skills amid some truly outstanding scenery. They are also great for kick-starting your fitness routine, and a lot of fun.

Conservation Volunteer (CV) Weekends are for volunteer teams carrying out short projects on the properties. Participants often enrol through colleges or universities but the weekends are open to anyone. Recent CV events have taken place on Arran and Glencoe. For more details, click here. Volunteer opportunities are regularly available at the individual mountain properties. In addition to practical involvement, the property managers and rangers at Glencoe, Torridon and Arran regularly host events such as guided walks, visits from schools and other groups and land-rover safaris.

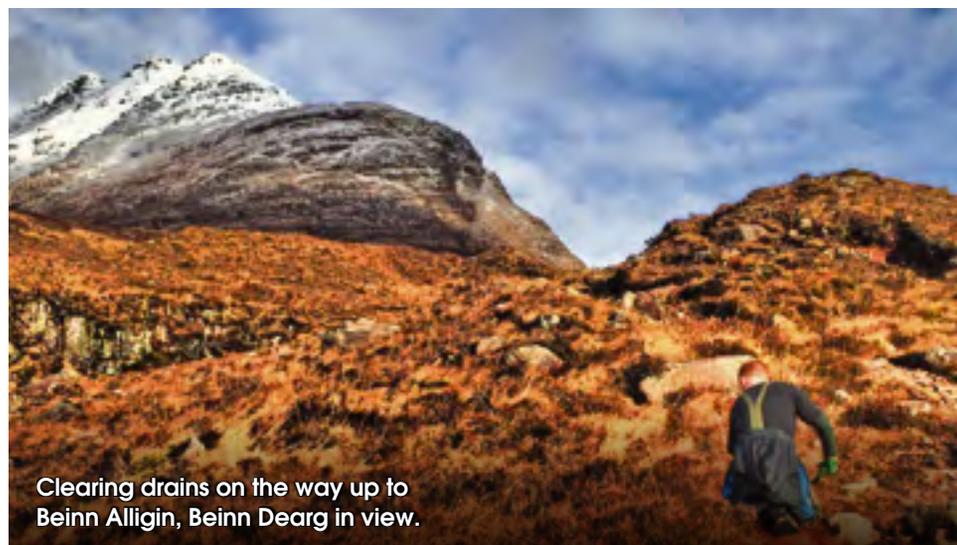
Donate to the Sole Trading fund

Money raised by the Trust's Sole Trading fund allows the Mountains for People project to continue its vital repair and conservation work on the mountains of Arran, Glencoe and Torridon. It also enables the Trust's Mountain Path Management Team provide ongoing maintenance and repair at these and other Trust mountain properties. It is largely due to the team's skilled work (all year round and in all weathers!) that the repaired paths remain protected and that further erosion is prevented. All this is made possible by the Sole Trading fund which raises money specifically for mountain conservation and supports a specialised team, the Mountain Path Team, and numerous dedicated volunteers who work hard to halt the effects of erosion.

If you would like to help the National Trust for Scotland to maintain Scotland's mountain conservation, visit: www.footpathfund.org.uk



Coire Mhic Nobuil with Beinn Eighe in the distance.



Clearing drains on the way up to Beinn Alligin, Beinn Dearg in view.



Early evening sunshine over Loch Torridon.

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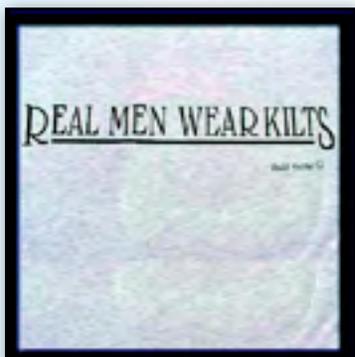
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March 5th saw the official opening of the Lews Castle Museum and Archive project by the Right Honourable Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland. The opening marked the completion of a flagship cultural and economic regeneration project led by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

The £19.5 million project, undertaken in phases over a 5 year period, has fully restored Stornoway's main landmark building as a visitor and hospitality destination. At the heart of the scheme is a new Museum nan Eilean and Tasglann nan Eilean - the first public archive for the islands. The modern museum extension with views over Stornoway, the harbour and the Minch beyond, echoing the former glass-houses is a visible symbol of the re-birth of the Castle.

Innovative Gaelic-led approach

Since public opening in July 2016, over 34,000 people have visited the museum and archive, with many more enjoying the beautifully restored public rooms of the castle, the Storehouse Café in the dramatic glass roofed courtyard and the adjacent Outfitters Shop. The museum galleries examine the long human occupation of

the Outer Hebrides with themed displays focusing on the relationship between the people the land and the sea, working life, community life and contemporary issues. An innovative Gaelic-led approach to interpretation mixes objects, images, audio visual displays and interactive exhibits to provide an accessible and family-friendly experience which is proving popular with local people as well as visitors to the islands.

Particular highlights include a stunning cinematic gallery which takes the viewer on a virtual journey through the diverse landscapes of the Outer Hebrides across the seasons and in all weathers and the 'Eileanaich' (islanders) gallery in which a cross section of people talk about life in the Outer Hebrides. Through a partnership with the British Museum, six of the world famous Lewis Chessmen take their place as a centrepiece within the main gallery. These fascinating playing pieces, carved from walrus tusk and whalebone some 800 years ago were discovered on Uig beach on the west coast of Lewis in 1830.

Over one third of the objects on display have been loaned by National Museums Scotland, including archaeological finds from across the Outer Hebrides, a

spectacular Viking hack-silver coin hoard and a three-wheeled Morgan car from the 1920's which was the first private motor vehicle on the Island of Berneray. Comainn Eachdraidh (local historical and community heritage societies) have played a key role in the project and are signposted in the new museum to encourage visitors to explore the unique and rich local collections that exist across the Outer Hebrides.

Gothic Revival glory

The restoration of the Lews Castle fulfils a long-held aspiration of the local community to see the iconic building brought back to life. The 19th century castle had lain vacant for almost 20 years and was at risk by the time the initial repair works started in 2012. The main public rooms on the ground floor of the castle have been restored to their Gothic Revival glory, including ornate plaster ceilings and a fabulous 19th century wall mural in the Morning Room. The exception is the spectacular Adam style ballroom which Lord Leverhulme extended and remodelled in the 1920's and has been restored in that style. The ballroom and other public rooms have already hosted a wide range of functions including what is believed to be the

first wedding ever held at Lews Castle.

First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, said: "The opening of the Lews Castle development is a historic occasion for Stornoway and the whole of the Outer Hebrides and I'm delighted I could be part of the event. I'm pleased the Scottish Government and its agencies could provide funding to help restore this iconic castle to its former glory as well as providing a key cultural and heritage hub for the area. It is also very fitting that the refurbishment has been completed this year – the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. The Comhairle and its partners must be congratulated on developing what is now a beautiful venue for both local residents and visitors to the island to enjoy, telling the unique story of the islands in an amazing setting. It will also be a fantastic boost for the local economy, increasing tourism, creating jobs and bringing additional revenue to the islands."

The final phase of the project has created luxury holiday accommodation on the upper floors of the Castle with 23 bedrooms in a flexible configuration of individual suites and apartments with one to three bedrooms which will launch this month.

For further details see: www.lews-castle.co.uk



Council Convenor Norman Macdonald, Council Leader Angus Campbell, FM Nicola Sturgeon, Alan MacKenzie, VisitScotland Island Manager VisitScotland, Alasdair Allan MSP, Na h-Eileanan Siar at the official opening of the Lews Castle and Museum.

Scotland's culinary heritage marks the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has teamed up with Shirley Spear, owner and retired Head Chef of the Three Chimneys Restaurant on the Isle of Skye and Highlands and Islands Ambassador for Food, Drink and Tourism to mark a year of celebration of Scotland's culinary heritage during the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology.

Scottish traditions and folklore

Shirley Spear has always been fascinated by the Scottish traditions and folklore associated with our food and cooking in every part of the country. She believes that the history and heritage of our daily bread was directly connected with the whole way-of-life in different regions of Scotland.

Our culinary history is such a fundamental part of Scotland's story. Scots were great merchants and seafarers and traded worldwide, returning to our ports with goods from around the globe.

Food culture was associated with our crofting, fishing and farming communities as well as the differing classes in our cities, county

towns, villages and countryside estates. Shirley comments: "I hope that the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology will encourage people to get out and about exploring some of our outstanding, historic places and archaeological sites, having fun learning about our heritage of food and cooking, as well as eating and drinking some of the great produce that continues to be such an important part of our culture in Scotland."

Traditional produce

Elaine Jamieson, Head of Food and Drink at HIE, added: "We are delighted to have Shirley on board this year. Scotland is full of traditional produce and brimming with successful food and drink producers that continue to draw inspiration from the past to provide amazing dishes and products. At HIE, we have supported the food and drink sector for over 50 years and in recent years there has been a notable rise in smaller start-up businesses such as micro-breweries, gin distilleries and smokehouses that take inspiration from the past to bring new products to market. 2017 looks set to be another great year for the industry."

Scotland has an amazing history and some of the oldest rock formations in the world and archaeological sites proving that community life existed in Scotland long before the pyramids were built. Discoveries have

shown that man has been hunting, fishing and farming for his family for thousands of years, in ways which are surprisingly sophisticated and with ingredients that remain familiar to us in our diet today.

Scotland's natural larder

Shirley has been a lifelong champion of Scottish food and drink. In 2016, she was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Scottish Rural Awards and later on in the year, an OBE for her services to the Scottish Food & Drink Industry. Shirley continued: "Our culinary history is such a fundamental part of Scotland's story. Scots were great merchants and seafarers and traded worldwide, returning to our ports with goods

from around the globe. With women playing a significantly important role in kitchens of all kinds, our diet was surprisingly healthy and has been well-documented since the 1500s. In the earliest cookery books, there are many recipes which reflect Scotland's natural larder. An outstanding resource for hundreds of years, we are blessed with a huge variety of ingredients, both wild and farmed. We used every part of every beast. Nothing was wasted and domestic cooks had consummate skills."

Today, Scotland's food and drink industry is a great success story and 2017 the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, is a great opportunity to highlight how the past continues to influence the present day in what we choose to eat and drink.



Shirley Spear on Skye.