



# the **Scottish Banner**



North American Edition



Years Strong - 1976-2017

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*A' Bhratach Albannach*

Volume 41 Number 5 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper November 2017

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The Banner Says...

# St Andrew's Day Celebrating a nation



by Sean Cairney

This month many Scots around the world will be coming together to celebrate a Scottish tradition-St Andrew's Day. The patron saint of Scotland (and several other nations) is celebrated across Scotland and around the world with traditional dances, food, whisky, music and of course kilts, on and around November 30<sup>th</sup>.

St Andrew has been the patron saint of Scotland for over 1000 years and the celebration of St Andrew's Day in Scotland is believed to date back to the reign of Malcolm III.

Whilst our Scottish readers may enjoy a public holiday around St Andrew's Day, with many cultural and historic attractions offering free entry across Scotland. Across the world Scots will pay homage to St Andrew and their love for Scotland at a variety of events and gatherings. The international reach of St Andrew may surprise some with his remains kept in Scotland, Greece, Italy and Poland.

St Andrew is not only the patron saint of Scotland but also Russia, Barbados, Romania, Ukraine, Amalfi in Italy, Esgueira in Portugal, Luqa in Malta, Parañaque in the Philippines and Patras in Greece and each area honours St Andrew in their own unique way. The Caribbean nation of Barbados also has St Andrew as their patron saint and

use St Andrew's Day as their nations Independence Day for example.

**Beyond borders**

Beyond borders St Andrew is also the patron saint of singers, spinsters, maidens, old maids, fishmongers and women seeking to become mothers.

From anywhere in the world computer users will also note a bit of Scotland on their search functions as since 2009 Google has incorporated a St Andrew's Day Google doodle. The internet giant has in the past presented on November 30<sup>th</sup> some of Scotland's most loved landscapes such as the Isle of Skye and Loch Lomond on their general search function area reaching millions of international computer users and highlighting Scotland's day.

**In Scotland St Andrew's Day marks the beginning of the winter festival season, and opens the door for a couple of months of unique Scottish tradition and celebration.**

In Scotland St Andrew's Day marks the beginning of the winter festival season, and opens the door for a couple of months of unique Scottish tradition and celebration. With Christmas, Hogmanay and Burns Night all following behind St Andrew's Day, there is lots coming up this winter for visitors. So if you are heading back to Scotland over these next few months rug up and enjoy all the cultural events Scotland has to offer.

**In this Issue**

This month we speak to Finlay Wilson, the Kited Yogi, who has taken the internet by storm with a series

of videos shot amongst the beauty of Scotland, highlighting the ancient practice of yoga, whilst wearing a kilt. While this may sound slightly bizarre to some, it has been a hit with tens of millions of people around the world and added yet another reason to visit Scotland. If any readers are now practising yoga in their kilts we would love to hear from you. This may just may be the next craze...

This month as we celebrate St Andrew we are also taking readers to the east coast of Scotland to the historic town of St Andrews itself. I remember visiting the town as a teenager and being amazed by the beauty of the place. I don't golf but it was the charm of its historic streets perched on the North Sea that had an impact on my memory.

Period dramas have never been more popular in television and film and as we go to press cast and crew are currently working in Scotland on a new production called the *Outlaw King* about King Robert the Bruce for the television streaming service Netflix. The series covers an extraordinary and historic year when Robert the Bruce fights to regain control after being crowned King of Scots, only to be defeated in a surprise attack and made an outlaw by the English King and his occupying forces. This sounds a must see and is expected to be released in 2018, a great opportunity for Scots and the wider community to learn about an incredible period of Scottish history.

Everyone has a phobia and mine would most certainly be rats. The Shiant Isles Recovery Project has worked hard to eradicate rats who have lived on the Shiant Isles in the Outer Hebrides for 150 years in order to save Scotland's great seabirds and one of the most important bird habitats in the Northern Hemisphere. It is wonderful to see Scotland working hard to protect its natural heritage and our feathered friends.

This month just goes to show that celebrating your connection to Scotland is as easy as attending an event (see our events page for some great inspiration!), turning on a computer or maybe even practicing yoga... Whatever celebrations you have, we hope you enjoy the month ahead.

**How are you celebrating St Andrew's Day? Share your story with us by email, post or at [www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us](http://www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us)**



Celebrate St Andrew's Day November 30th. Photo: Scotland.org



Gracing our front cover: Finlay Wilson -The Kilted Yogi. Image courtesy of Hodder & Stoughton.

## Fast facts about St Andrew

- St Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland
- St Andrew is celebrated on 30 November
- St Andrew's Day is a day to celebrate Scottish culture, food and dance
- St Andrew's flag is the flag of Scotland
- The flag is in the form of a white X on a blue background and is commonly known as The Saltire
- St Andrew's Societies celebrate Scottish culture around the world
- St Andrew's Day is a bank holiday in Scotland but entitlement to leave depends on the employer
- St Andrew is also the patron saint of Romania, Greece and Russia
- Scotland is one of the few countries to have one of Christ's disciples as their patron saint
- St Andrew was one of the Twelve Apostles (disciples of Jesus) and brother of St Peter
- St Andrew is believed to have died on a diagonally transversed cross which the Romans sometimes used for executions and which, therefore, came to be called St Andrews Cross
- St Andrew's Day is connected with Advent, which begins on the first Sunday after November 26
- St Andrew's Day marks the beginning of Scotland's winterfestivals.

Text & image courtesy of Scotland.org



St Andrew's Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Scottish culture, food and dance. Initially, it was a way for homesick Scots to get together and help each other out; the first Society of St Andrews was set up in Charleston, South Carolina, on 30 November, 1729, dedicated to offering support to Scottish migrants in distress. Nowadays, it's an opportunity for a party with Scottish dancing, singing, storytelling, bagpipes and, of course, a feast featuring haggis and whisky. And with more than 40 million people around the world claiming Scottish ancestry, that's a lot of celebration.

### Patron saint of Scotland

St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. A Galilean fisherman, he was one of Jesus's 12 apostles, and was known for being strong, sociable and fair, encouraging people to share what they had with those in need. These are characteristics which people all over the world recognise in Scots, and of which Scots are rightly proud. On 30 November, 60AD, St Andrew is believed to have been crucified on a diagonal cross,

a shape which provided the inspiration for the flag named after him – Scotland's Saltire, which has a white diagonal cross over a blue background.

St Andrew is also the patron saint of Greece, Russia, Barbados and Romania.

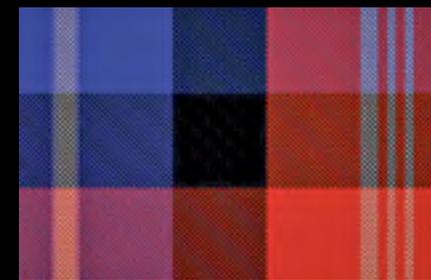
### Celebrations all over Scotland

On 30 November, 1996 the Stone of Destiny, a symbolic block of sandstone that for centuries had been used in the coronation of Scottish monarchs, but was taken by the English – was officially returned to Scotland and kept safe in Edinburgh Castle. Ever since then the Castle has opened for free every St Andrew's Day so that people can see the famous stone. A number of other Historic Environment Scotland venues offer free or discounted entry on this special day as well. Visitors usually need to apply for the free tickets online.

St Andrew's Day celebrations take place all over Scotland throughout November, from special tasting menus in the Fife town named after the saint, to street food and storytelling in Edinburgh and special film screenings and other events in Glasgow.

## Tartan of the Month

American St Andrews Societies



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.

Many this month many will be celebrating Scotland's patron saint-St Andrew on November 30<sup>th</sup>. This tartan (Ref:3414) celebrates the many societies in the USA which actively are celebrating Scottish heritage (with many other societies also outside the USA). Originally designed to commemorate the American Bi-Centennial (1776-1976) but thereafter designated as American St Andrews Societies tartan. This design was initiated by J C Thompson and modified by Jamie Scarlett MBE. Threadcount halved to show full sett. Sample of this tartan is in the STA Johnston Collection. This tartan was recorded prior to the launch of The Scottish Register of Tartans. Happy St Andrew's Day!

# THE SCOTTISH CLAN AND FAMILY ENCYCLOPAEDIA

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## Did you know?



Staffa is a beautiful island of distinctive rocks, magical caves and seabirds. Photo VisitScotland.

### Staffa National Nature Reserve

- The island (0.5 miles long and 0.25 miles wide) is off the west coast of Scotland looks like it may be from a different planet. Its hexagonal columns were formed millions of years ago by volcanic eruptions and a vast blanket of lava that spread into the Atlantic Ocean.
- Years of waves crashing against these columns created the magnificent Fingal's Cave.
- Staffa was hardly known until 1772, when the botanist Joseph Banks highlighted the wild, natural beauty of the island. It soon became a must-see location. Famous visitors have included Queen Victoria, Lord Tennyson, Jules Verne, Robert Louis Stevenson and John Keats; all fell under the island's spell.
- Staffa came into the care of the National Trust for Scotland in 1986, a gift from John Elliott, Jr, of New York in honour of his wife Elly's birthday.
- The astonishing acoustics of Fingal's Cave, inspired Mendelssohn to compose his Hebrides Overture.
- Staffa was designated a National Nature Reserve in 2001.

# The 19th annual Pipes of Christmas



Pipers from the Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band are returning to the East Coast this December to join the company of the 19th annual "Pipes of Christmas" concerts. Photo by Warren Westura.

**T**he Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its nineteenth season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December.

The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 16 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for a 3PM performance. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 17 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ with performances at 2 and 7PM.

For those weary of the ceaseless stream of secular seasonal music from department stores to TV, the Pipes of Christmas offers a spiritual and traditional take on the season that connects concertgoers to the holiday in a fresh, meaningful way. The show features tunes such as *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, *Joy to the World*, and *Amazing Grace*, all performed live on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, and organ

and brass. Not only does the performance define Christmas cheer, but also it inspires those of Celtic descent to retrace and reconnect to their ancestry.

The 2017 production will also mark the world premiere of *Beautiful Things*, an original composition by acclaimed Celtic harper Cormac de Barra. The piece commemorates the vision of the Virgin Mary at Knock Cathedral in Ireland in 1879. Earlier this year, the remains of the last remaining witness to the vision were reinterred at Old St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City from the pauper's grave where he was laid to rest in 1934. His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, supervised the service.

The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Featured performers include James Robinson from the film *Braveheart*, New England fiddle champion Paul Woodiel,

*Riverdance* uilleann piper and flutist Christopher Layer, Gaelic Mod champion harpist Jennifer Port of Golspie, Scotland, and the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Pipe Band from Redlands, CA.

### Proceeds Support Scholarships and More

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which includes the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit High School as well as annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas. Proceeds also support the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at the Royal National Mod and an annual academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Named one of New York City's "Top Ten" holiday events, the concert is made possible by a generous gift from the Grand Summit Hotel in Summit, NJ. Each year, concert highlights are webcast in hi-definition over the Christmas holiday to a global audience. The 2016 production was the recipient of the prestigious Telly Award for broadcast excellence.

**Tickets may be purchased online exclusively through SmartTix at [www.smarttix.com](http://www.smarttix.com) or by phone at (212) 868-4444. Reserved patron seats are available at both venues.**

# The 2017 New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival

**T**he 42<sup>nd</sup> NH Highland Games & Festival, one of the largest Scottish cultural events in North America, drew a crowd of 35,000 over a three-day period (September 15, 16 and 17). Held at the Loon Mountain Resort in Lincoln, NH, the Games showcased Scotland's rich history and traditions through a variety of competitions, performances, and cultural offerings. On the first day, the crowd enjoyed watching the border collies as they herded sheep through an obstacle course. The performances and competitions for solo pipers and drummers, pipe bands, and drum majors brought the iconic sound of Scotland to the festival grounds all weekend. Dancers competed in pieces including the sword dance and the Highland fling.

### Scotland's pageantry

Scotland's pageantry was on display during the Massed Bands event, which featured over 30 pipe bands marching onto the parade grounds to perform together. Throughout all three days, world-class athletes competed in heavy athletic competitions of strength and skill, including the caber toss. A Games highlight was the appearance of Europe's strongest man Hafthor "Thor" Björnsson, known for his portrayal of Ser Gregor "The Mountain" Clegane in the HBO series *Game of Thrones*. Hafthor broke a heavy stone lifting record, lifted a car to demonstrate



New Hampshire Pageantry. Photo by Pam Sullivan.

his strength, and also participated in other heavy athletic competitions. Other cultural offerings included whisky and beer tastings, Scottish cooking classes, seminars, and traditional Scottish to "bagrock" musical performances. More than 65 Scottish clans were represented in the Clan Village and there was a special youth program that included crafts, storytelling, and athletic games. In 2018, the Games

will take place on September 21-23 at Loon Mountain Resort.

**NHSCOT is a non-profit New Hampshire Corporation dedicated to furthering the dance, music, athletics and customs of the Scottish people and continuing the Gaelic culture. For more information about the NH Highland Games & Festival, or NHSCOT, call 603-229-1975, email [info@nhscot.org](mailto:info@nhscot.org), or visit [www.nhscot.org](http://www.nhscot.org).**



Heavy Athlete.



# Outlander is new 'Braveheart' of tourism



Doune Castle doubles as Castle Leoch in Outlander.

VisitScotland Chief Executive Malcolm Roughead has hailed *Outlander* as the new 'Braveheart' of tourism with visitors from around the world flocking to Scotland to experience the landscape that inspired the series, the same way that thousands travelled to the country after the release of *Braveheart* in 1995. Latest figures from the Moffat Centre's Visitor Attraction Monitor show the tangible effect the series, which is based on Diana Gabaldon's famous novels, has had on attractions in Scotland with many reporting as much as a 92% rise in visitors.

## Profound impact

Between 2014, when the series first aired and 2016, Doune Castle - which doubles as Castle Leoch in the popular show - has had an unprecedented 91.8% increase in visitors from 47,069 to 90,279. Blackness Castle,

which provides the setting for malicious Black Jack Randall's headquarters has welcomed 85.5% more visitors since 2014, rising from 16,559 visitors per year to 30,053 in 2016. Other key attractions which have seen a growth in numbers since Jamie and Claire first hit our screens include Glencoe Visitor Centre (+53%), Glasgow Cathedral (+35%) and Preston Mill (+18%).

Recent VisitScotland research has also shown the profound impact the series has had on visitors with *Outlander* being the most mentioned TV or film inspiration for people (especially those from the USA) wanting to come to the country, above *Braveheart*, *Harry Potter* and *Highlander*.\*\*

The national tourism organisation's *Outlander* locations map which features on VisitScotland.com has received hundreds of thousands of downloads since it was added in 2014 and over 24,000 hard copies of the map

have been distributed in that time. Organic traffic to the *Outlander* page on visitscotland.com has risen 15% in the past 12 months.

*Outlander* returned to screens in September for its much-anticipated third season. Based on the bestselling books by Diana Gabaldon, the *Outlander* television series is produced by Sony Pictures Television and shown in the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and in various European nations. A fourth season of the show has already been commissioned with a release yet to be determined.

## Truly exceptional

Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland said: "We have been absolutely blown away by the response globally to the *Outlander* series and the direct impact it has had on visits is truly exceptional. In past research it is always *Braveheart*, *Harry Potter* or even the *Da Vinci Code* which was mentioned as film inspiration, but in recent times it is *Outlander* which is referenced above all others. And I'm not surprised, Scotland looks truly stunning in the series and I can see why fans of Jamie and Claire want to experience the land that inspired *Outlander* for themselves. Film tourism is hugely important for the Scottish economy and year on year we see more and more set-jetties coming to our country to experience for themselves the backdrops that feature in their favourite film or movie. This is not a trend that will go out of fashion, so whether it's heading to Lewis to see where Katie Morag's adventures began or unlocking the

mysteries of the Holy Grail at Rosslyn Chapel, we hope many more will continue to come to Scotland to see the real life movie sets."

For more information on *Outlander and Scotland*, go to [www.visitscotland.com/outlander](http://www.visitscotland.com/outlander)

## Film in Scotland



Glencoe as seen in Skyfall.

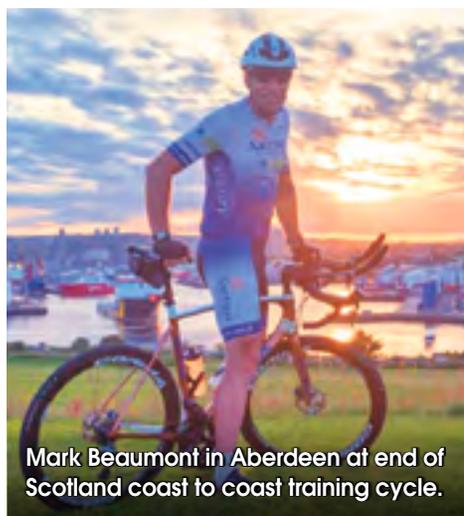
Scottish locations to have benefited from their association with movies or television shows include:

*Braveheart* (1995) – the Wallace Monument in Stirling saw visitor numbers leap from 30,000 a year to nearly 200,000 in 1996.

*The Da Vinci Code* (2006) – Dan Brown's 2003 novel had a huge effect on Rosslyn Chapel. Visitor numbers increased by 72 per cent, from 68,603 in 2004 to 118,151 in 2005. In 2006, following the release of the film directed by Ron Howard and starring Tom Hanks, visitor numbers reached 175,053.

*Skyfall* (2012) – the 23<sup>rd</sup> film in the James Bond franchise was great news for Glen Coe. Statistics from the National Trust for Scotland revealed that 114,298 people visited the region in 2013/14 - up 41.7 per cent on 2012/13.

# Great Scot, He's Done It!



Mark Beaumont in Aberdeen at end of Scotland coast to coast training cycle.

Great Scot and ultra-endurance athlete, Mark Beaumont, has set a new Guinness World Record title, taking one third off the current world record (123) days for the fastest circumnavigation by bicycle, completing the challenge in under 80 days on the Artemis World Cycle. As if that wasn't enough, en route, he also shattered the world record for the most miles cycled in a month.

As Mark returned home to Edinburgh, he credited the years of training in Scotland, 'this wonderful wilderness', from the tender age of 12, as inspiration for this epic challenge. Before setting out on the 80-day challenge, Mark did a final practice ride across Scotland. Argyll to Aberdeen, coast to coast, the ride was 240 miles and took 16 hours... the distance Mark cycled each day for 80 days during the Artemis World Cycle.

Fancy trying the Scotland cycling route yourself? Or even a portion of it? Here are some of the highlights:

## Rest and be Thankful, Argyll

Rest and be Thankful divides Glen Kinglas from Glen Coe, the highest point on the A83. From the viewpoint of this famous beauty spot you can see the old valley road, engineered by General Wade during the subjection of Scotland following the Jacobite rebellion. It's at the junction between the B828 and A83 where you can spy the words 'REST & BE THANKFUL' inscribed on a stone by the soldiers who built the road.

## Kenmore, Perthshire

Kenmore is a beautiful village at the northern end of the 14-mile long Loch Tay. Idyllic for cycling as well as sailing, canoeing and fishing. The main attraction is the Scottish Crannog Centre, one of the country's top heritage sites where you can discover what life was like over 2500 years ago! This reconstructed thatched wooden house is built on stilts over the water, with a gangway that would have been lifted up in the event of danger.

## Braemar, Aberdeenshire

Surrounded by the fine Grampian Mountains and woodland scenery, Braemar is a haven for cyclists, climbers and wanderers. There are no less than 24 Munros (mountains over 3000 ft high) as well as over 65 miles of cycle routes and high level walks of varying length and difficulty. The ancient village of Braemar is home to Braemar Castle and the world-famous annual Braemar Gathering and Highland Games.

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# SCOTSPEAK

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



*"The landscape of the Outer Hebrides is to a large extent a Neolithic landscape. When you're standing somewhere like Callanish, for example, looking out over the rest of the landscape, you're really looking at something that was to a great extent influenced and moulded by the activity of humans in pre-history. There's an awful lot more out there than those big popular sites and I think we've got a real opportunity to open people's eyes."*

Nick Smith, heritage manager with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar a local government council, said that a new report indicated that historic sites such as the 5000 year old Callanish standing stones and Dun Carloway boost the Western Isles economy by £4m a year and provide 80 full-time jobs. Over a 10-year period, the study predicts an increase of 10% in visitors who are specifically attracted to the Outer Hebrides historic sites, with the potential to create a further 80 jobs and generate up to £8m.

*"Heavily truncated by millennia of ploughing, only the deepest parts of some of the post holes survived, arranged in a rectangular plan and containing sherds of early Neolithic pottery, hazelnut shell and charcoal. The width and depth of these post holes indicated that they once held very large upright timber posts, suggesting that this building was once a large house, probably home to an extended family or group of families. Up until this time, during the earlier Mesolithic period, Scotland was inhabited by small groups of hunter-gatherers, who led a nomadic lifestyle,*

*living off the land. The individuals who built this Neolithic house were some of the earliest communities in Ayrshire to adopt a sedentary lifestyle, clearing areas of forest to establish farms, growing crops such as wheat and barley and raising livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats and pigs."*

Kenneth Green, of Guard Archaeology said as a discovery of a 6,000 year old dwelling was found in Ayrshire. The find outside Kilmarnock is thought to be as one of the most important of its type in south-west Scotland in recent years and believed to be the dwelling of Scotland's first farmers. The archaeologists who are uncovering this important find have said it was older than the Callanish Stones in Lewis and Stonehenge in Wiltshire.



*"Prior to 1792 Dumfries didn't have any theatres whatsoever. Touring companies would visit the town and perform in whatever spaces were available - we just didn't have a permanent place for it. With no television or radio to compete with, theatre was the go-to form of entertainment."*

Peter Bain, Theatre Royal in Dumfries heritage and education officer, said as Scotland's oldest working theatre turned 225 years old. The Theatre Royal opened on 29 September 1792. The Guild of Players, still run the theatre to this day and have just completed a further renovation to ensure the Theatre Royal is fit to serve Dumfries for many more years to come.

*"We want to create a boutique Scotch whisky company that is truly independent, Scottish-owned and managed. At 50 years old, it may be one of the younger distilleries on Speyside but the range of casks we have warehoused*

*is tremendous, with whisky dating back to the 1970s. Our aim is to nurture this liquid, develop the single malt and a range of blends that will be admired both home and abroad."*

New owner Billy Walker of the Glenallachie Distillery in Speyside said. The 20-acre distillery plans to produce a range of quality aged whiskies for both the UK and international markets.

*"The Scots pine is Scotland's national tree and symbolises the Caledonian Forest - but the last fragments of these ancient pinewoods are dying. Without action, the chance to bring back the wild forest could slip away forever, with only the skeletons of these special trees revealing where a rich woodland once grew. We are determined to ensure these trees are not the last generation of Scots pine in these places."*

Steve Micklewright, chief executive of Scottish charity Trees for Life, said the charity has launched an initiative to save ancient Scots pines across the Highlands of Scotland from becoming the last generation in a lineage of trees dating back to the last ice age. Through the Caledonian Pinewood Recovery Project initiative, the conservation charity wants to help restore 50 areas of remnant and neglected pinewoods - mainly made up of lone, ancient 'Granny' pines which are over 200 years old but dying as they stand, with no young trees to succeed them.



*"This next phase of the redevelopment of Glasgow Queen Street station, part of the Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement*

*Programme (EGIP), takes us a step closer to a fully accessible, modern, transport facility that better serves the needs of passengers and the city. It is a further example of our continued investment in the railway as we work with Network Rail and ScotRail to build the best railway Scotland has ever had."*

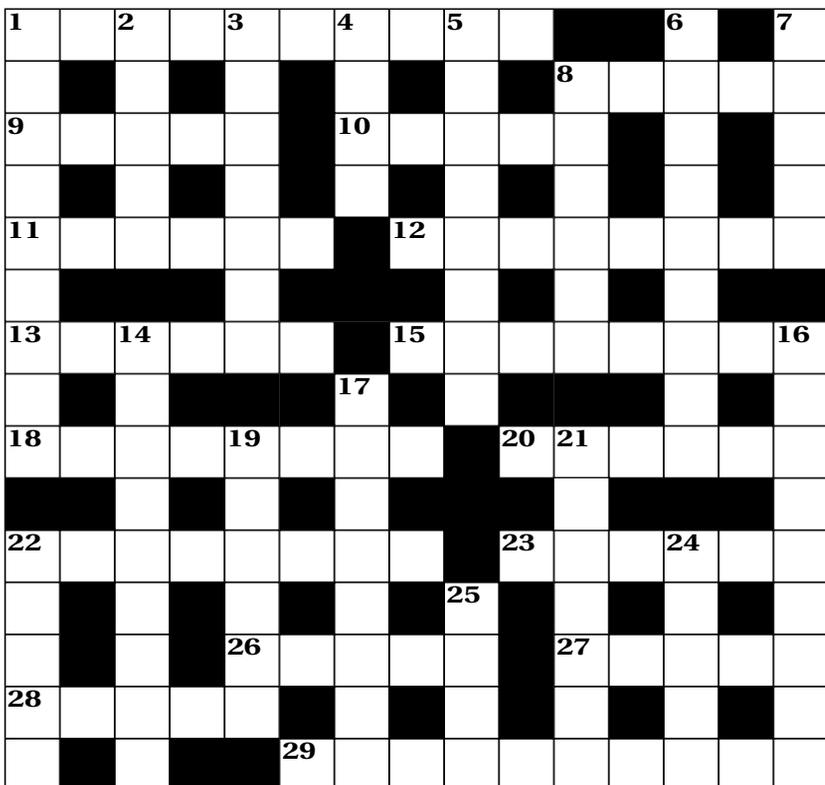
Humza Yousaf, Minister for Transport and the Islands, said as two buildings are set to be demolished as part of major redevelopment work on Glasgow's Queen Street Station, one of the city's two major train thoroughfares. The £120 million redevelopment of Glasgow Queen Street will give passengers an expanded concourse with increased capacity and circulation space, improved customer facilities and a contemporary and distinctive building both internally and externally. Work is expected to be complete by 2020.

*"The Wojtek statue attracts a lot of fond attention from locals and visitors alike. This wonderful and unique story means a lot to the people of Edinburgh and Poland. It may seem harmless, but by rubbing his nose, people are actually vandalising the statue and causing expensive damage. We'd urge everyone to please treat this treasured monument with the care and consideration it deserves so that it can continue to be enjoyed for generations to come."*

Edinburgh Cultures and Communities Convenor Councillor Donald Wilson said that tourists were harming the Wojtek statue by rubbing his nose. The statue immortalises a beer-drinking bear who saw action in World War Two and is located in Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens. Wojtek - dubbed the "Soldier Bear" - was adopted by Polish troops and helped them carry ammunition at the Battle of Monte Cassino. After the war he lived in Scotland at Hutton in Berwickshire, before ending his days in Edinburgh Zoo. A recent trend has also emerged for rubbing the nose of Edinburgh's legendary Greyfriars Booby statue in the belief it brings good luck.

## SCOTWORD

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



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1) A wood to preserve the animals (4,6).
- 8) Scots cart without sides (5).
- 9) Highland town on Moray Firth (5).
- 10) Whisky producer! (5).
- 11) Musical dramas (6).
- 12) Chained to kilts! (8).
- 13) Scots fireplaces (6).
- 15) They mangle clothes (8).
- 18) Towards the compass point (8).
- 20) A place of refuge (6).
- 22) Can be Inner or Outer (8).
- 23) He and his regiment's for me! (6).
- 26) Sharp-eyed bird of prey (5).
- 27) Hopelessly insane (5).
- 28) Official in the Kirk (5).
- 29) Town 4 miles S.W. of Coatbridge (10).

### CLUES DOWN

- 1) He's from Scotland's fourth city (9).
- 2) Banish from the country (5).
- 3) A flourish of brass (7).
- 4) It goes with Cromarty (4).
- 5) Baffies to a Scot (8).
- 6) Gaelic mouth music (4-1-4).
- 7) Bounces in Scots (5).
- 8) Two shillings in other words (6).
- 14) A kind of scone (9).
- 16) Village 3 miles S.W. of Biggar (9).
- 17) Rushed forward recklessly (8).
- 19) A young cow (6).
- 21) It's bad for your health (7).
- 22) Talk nonsense in Scotland (5).
- 24) Current movement (5).
- 25) A fairy (4).

## The reds are back in Aberdeen



Recent feeder box monitoring and camera trapping carried out in Countesswells and Foggieton Woods, near Aberdeen, indicates a rosy future for red squirrels. The work by Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) and Saving

Scotland's Red Squirrels (SSRS) builds on many years of conservation work and monitoring and indicates that red squirrel numbers in the area are increasing - and that the woods are free from non-native grey squirrels.

Philippa Murphy, Environment Manager for the FES team in the area, said "We put some sticky tape on the feeder boxes to collect hairs and these, once analysed, showed that the number of red squirrels recorded in these woodlands are increasing year on year, suggesting more and more red squirrels are taking advantage of the free treats on offer. But the best news is that we've got no trace of grey squirrels, which tend to drive reds away from local habitats. It's like getting a thumbs up from the red squirrels for our sensitive management of the forests around Aberdeen."

As well as following best practice to manage the woodlands for red squirrels, other measures taken include minimising the amount of large clearfell sites and maximising the tree species favoured by red squirrels. There has been no evidence of grey squirrels in the area for the last two years.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By: Ron Dempsey



Have a name that has you stumped? Scottish Banner readers can send in their name queries direct to Ron via the Scottish Banner. Visit our website at [www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us](http://www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us), by post or email: [info@scottishbanner.com](mailto:info@scottishbanner.com). Ron will do his best to help you with your name query and may just add that extra piece to your genealogy puzzle.



Celebrate St Andrew's Day! Photo: Scotland.org

November is another special month for Scots. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month, we celebrate St. Andrew's Day, who is the patron saint of Scotland. He was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ, along with his younger brother Simon Peter. While St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, we have to share him with Russia, Ukraine, Romania and Patras Greece who also have him as their patron saint. He was said to have been crucified at Patras. Supposedly at his own request he asked to be crucified in a "X" cross rather than being crucified in the same manner as Jesus.

## St Andrew

St Regulus or Rule was a monk and Bishop of Patras who in 345 A.D. felt inspired to take St. Andrew's relics to a safer place. The story is that they had a vision or heard angelic voices telling him to take them to a place of refuge at the ends of the earth. These relics which were some bones of the saint which were said to been transported to Fife to the area now known as St. Andrew's and so the saint's relationship with Scotland.

The legend of how that cross or a saltire as it is known in heraldic terms became the standard of Scotland goes back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. A king of the Scots and Picts named Oengus fought against Æthelstan the king of the invading Angles. Oengus' troops supposedly looked up to see clouds in the form of St. Andrew's cross on the blue sky and were inspired to win the day. This is the mythical origin of how the white Saltire on a blue field became the national Banner of Scotland.

However the stories go, the saint was responsible for a lot of Scottish boys being named Andrew or "Andra" over the centuries. As with all personal names they were also responsible for many surnames derived from the personal name Andrew. Besides the obvious Andrew and Andrews there is also the patronyms Anderson, Andison, Dand, and Dandie. The name is also in the nomenclature of the Scottish Gael with MacAndrew and MacAndie as well as Gillanders which translates to followers of St. Andrew.

Most major centres with a Scottish population hold a St. Andrew's Ball on or

near the date. Check in your local area for one near you, it's not too late to participate.

## Laught

Jody Charney of Calgary, Alberta wrote asked about the rather unusual name Laught. Ms. Charney mentions that her family originated in Dreghorn, Ayrshire where it was known as Laught but seems to have transformed to Laut after the family's arrival to North America. While most Scottish ex pat progeny are interested if their name has a clan affiliation, Ms. Charney realizes that not all Scots have clan associated with their name. I wasn't able to find any either for this surname.

Also known as Laucht, it appears to be a land name since there is place by that name near Thornhill, Yorkshire and also near Saltcoats. The earliest recording of the surname was in 1567. There is also the land name of Lag or Lagg in Dumfriesshire which may muddy the waters of this name's origin.

## Newlands

Anne Koomen of Australia wrote an encouraging letter regarding this column, which is kindly received and asked about her birth name Newlands. Newlands is self-explanatory in being a land name. Newlands is the name of a parish in Peeblesshire. In some time in antiquity, some lands must have been opened to farming or possibly some newly acquired lands through either inheritance or purchase to receive this name. An early record of the name has one Jasper Newlands of that ilk ("of that ilk" meaning he also owned the lands of the same name) in 1469. There is a Newlands tartan.

## DNA

A trend that is growing today is to have your DNA analysed for ethnicity. So many of us are interested in seeing what is the makeup of our ancestry to help discover and add to our genealogical roots. Up until the last decade so many of us like to think that we were 100% Scottish in our ancestry when for the most part most of us only know as little as five generations back or less. It is beyond that, where we might find a little difficulty in maintaining the premise that we are 100% Scots. For DNA has shown us that not all our ancestors were contained

within the three shores and border area of Scotland. Going back centuries before universal records were kept it would difficult to ascertain the origin of one's ancestors. Even the word Scottish is too narrow a scope to read one's ancestry.

The best would be is to called British as a native of the British Isles, in that it shows that individuals in one's ancestral trail were of that island and that it reflects the fluidity of generational crossings of then non-existent borders. Mainland of what we call Scotland today was inhabited by Picts, those painted individuals who kept the Roman Empire at bay, along with Strathclyde Britons are thought to be Cymric peoples, who would be akin to the inhabitants of modern day Wales.

Also in Scottish DNA one would certainly find Irish since that race of people were instrumental in populating the western islands and highlands some 1500 years ago never mind progressive "to-ing and fro-ing" over the subsequent centuries between the western islands and Northern Ireland.

## Viking

The next main factor would a percentage of Scandinavian DNA from the Viking era and the Normans who arrived after the 11<sup>th</sup> century for Normans were originally

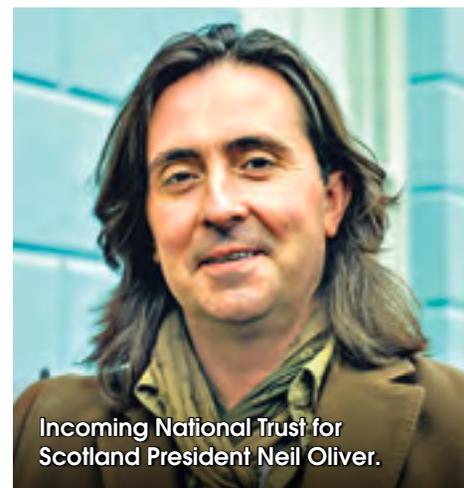
Viking in their heritage. Mixed in with the Vikings is the possibility of Finnish DNA, which would show some Finno Ugric DNA.

DNA results does not reflect your ancestry over the last few hundred years but more so of the last ten thousand after the last ice age. When peoples moved north as the ice receded. So ancestral DNA may reflect some Mediterranean roots as well as Iberian, add to that West European and less so East European influences from Anglo- Saxon invasions as well as the indigenous groups that came from France and Belgium with the Normans.

So there is the mixing pot of the possible ingredients of what one who calls themselves Scots could have in their DNA. This is not even mentioning some far flung DNA of say Thracian or Nubian ancestry brought to Britain via the Roman military. I haven't as yet had my ethnicity DNA processed but I hope to in the near future. Presently, I am studying the best way to go and I am discussing with people who have had it done. From what I gather these DNA should be looked as fun as siblings even twins can have varied results but again it is fun to see what the makeup would be.

Enjoy your November and take the time to send that query you have been meaning to send.

## Neil Oliver prepares for presidential position



Incoming National Trust for Scotland President Neil Oliver.

Archaeologist, TV presenter and author Neil Oliver is poised to take on the role of President of Scotland's largest conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland. Members of the charity were asked to confirm the appointment at its Annual General Meeting which took place in Dundee's Caird Hall on Saturday 30 September. Mr Oliver will take over from Lord Lindsay who has held the role since 2012 when he succeeded the Duke of Buccleuch.

National Trust for Scotland Chairman Sir Moir Lockhead said: "Neil has championed Scotland and its heritage throughout his career –unearthing new insights into its stories, sharing our stunning scenery and

fascinating audiences all over the world. We are very excited about the energy, enthusiasm and opportunities for more engagement that he will bring to our charity as we work to protect Scotland's heritage, and share and celebrate all that we have to offer with more people."

## What makes Scotland special

Speaking ahead of the meeting in Dundee, Neil Oliver said: "The National Trust for Scotland protects so much of what makes Scotland special. Over the years I have dug up some of its places, visited many more and been completely inspired by it all. I can't wait to get more involved and I'll be encouraging others to do the same."

Neil qualified as an archaeologist in 1988. His fieldwork experience covers everything from the early Stone Age in Scotland to the examination of the World War II coastal fortifications of Kent and Northern France. Neil also trained as a journalist, providing invaluable experience for when, in 2002, his career as a television broadcaster began. His television credits include; *Two Men in a Trench, Coast, Scotland's History: The Top Ten, A History of Scotland, A History of Ancient Britain, A History of Celtic Britain, Coast Australia, Coast New Zealand* to name a few.

Neil lives in Scotland with his wife and three children.

# SCOT POURRI



**Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.** Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history? Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Our letters page is a very popular and active one and many readers have been assisted across the world by fellow passionate Scots. Please keep letters under 200 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters, photos and any other items posted to *the Scottish Banner* cannot be returned. We prefer letters to be emailed to your nearest office or please visit our online Scotpourri form at [www.scottishbanner.com](http://www.scottishbanner.com), alternatively you may post 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.

It was only because of Andrew  
And his striking white cross on blue  
Known as the Scottish Saltire  
From which all Scotland grew.  
So hail! Hail to St Andrew!  
That all may understand  
He is the hero of all Scottish souls  
And the Patron Saint of our land.

*John Cairney  
Glasgow, Scotland*

## Kings Castles and Dirty Wee Rascals



I always seem to relate to Jim Stoddart's articles in the series *Kings Castles and Dirty Wee Rascals*. This month's (*The Last Tram, Scottish Banner*, September, 2017) reminded me of this big traffic jam. I worked in these offices as a punch card operator (early computer age). I remember this day very well. I had to walk from having caught the bus from Househillwood, which is near Pollock where Jim lived. I wonder if any other readers worked at the SCWS head offices at this time?

Thanks Jim for the many memories you bring back to me and *the Scottish Banner* for all the contributions and news.

Regards,  
*Jessie Robertson  
Australia*

## Clan MacLean

I love *the Scottish Banner*! I have been trying for years to connect with my Clan and family. I have been in touch with the Clan castle, Clan MacLean at Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull, but I want to get in touch with the Clan itself. Is there any suggestions that you could give me?

I would appreciate anything.  
Thank you!

*Karen McLean Barnett  
Gilbert, AZ  
USA*

## Dual Citizenship

Does anyone know how to obtain (the process) of dual citizenship. Our son is looking to do so. His grandfather and great grandfather was born in Scotland. We are visiting Scotland from the USA in April. We are very excited.

Thank you much for your kindness.  
*Debra Craig  
dcmilitaryfamilies@yahoo.com  
USA*

## A monthly breath of Scotland

I think it's great that we will be able to read *the Scottish Banner* online. However, I pass mine on to a dear Scottish friend who is 97 years young and in long term care. She is the one person with whom I talk in the "Mither tongue".

I, myself, just turned 95, and I guess it's true, old habits die hard, as I still prefer to hold the printed word in my hand.

It's 70 years since I left Bonnie Scotland and it's lovely to get a breath of it every month, thanks to the staff at *the Scottish Banner*.

Thank you and may I wish you continued success.

Sincerely,  
*Agnes Loosmore  
Canada*

**Ed note: Thank you Agnes for your kind comments and whether it be print or digital we are glad you are enjoying the paper and we are happy to offer both choices to our readers across the world.**

## Graham McTavish



Thank you *Scottish Banner* for a wonderful interview with Graham McTavish aka Dougal MacKenzie in *Outlander* (*Scottish Banner*, October, 2017). Your past two issues have been excellent with *Outlander* content and I am so happy this show is having such a positive impact on Scotland itself. I have read Diana Gabaldon's books and am engrossed with the TV series.

*The Scottish Banner* has had some brilliant interviews lately and thank you to everyone who takes part in making this the publication we Scots across the world can call our own.

*Karen Robertson  
Hamilton, Ontario  
Canada*

**Ed note: Thanks Karen for your kind note and we are so happy Graham could take part in the Scottish Banner.**

## Are you an MacArthur, Arthur, Carter or similar name?

If so, you are part of one of the oldest Scottish clans in Scotland which is Clan Arthur/MacArthur. It is said that it descended from the legendary King Arthur. Of course, this cannot be proven but it is a romantic story. The clan has a Chief, John MacArthur of that Ilk, who resides in Stranear on the west coast of Scotland. There are branches of the clan in the U.K., USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. On 4th August this year, we marched onto the Edinburgh Castle esplanade on the opening night of the Tattoo. We issue a quarterly magazine to our members to keep them up to date current Scottish events, history and clan happenings around the world.

If you would like to know more about us, please contact:  
*Carol, email: carolmcarthur18@gmail.com*

## Spooky Scotland

First, thank you for our paper many years of wonderful reading. Regarding October's paper and the ghosts of Scotland. There is a lady in the white gown in St. Margaret's Chapel Edinburgh Castle. I looked through

the door and there she was, I looked again and she was gone. On the River Leith one evening we went to a very small pub on the river edge with tall and small sailing ships tied up and people, donkey carts wheel barrows moving about. On Culloden field two kilted men were helping a very obvious badly injured also kilted man in bonnet with a white patch on it. These sightings were mentioned to people working at these sights. Smiles and nods.

It was wonderful going home to the land of my birth.

*Derek Hutton  
Mt. Beauty, Victoria  
Australia*

**Ed note: Thanks Derek and sounds like you sure have had some amazing paranormal events whilst in Scotland!**

## SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGES

(Send us your photos or letters via social media)

### Loch Achtriochtan, Glencoe



Autumn at Loch Achtriochtan, Glencoe.  
*Carolynn Wilson  
Scotland*

### Eilean Donan Castle



Golden day at Eilean Donan Castle.  
*Ronald Stokes  
Scotland*

### Keiss Castle



Historic Keiss Castle, Caithness.  
*Franklin Wilson  
Scotland*

# Haunting photographs reveal amazing survival story

*Exhibition shows previously unseen detail in images saved from the ice.*



One of the greatest survival stories of all time is being told at the National Library of Scotland, taking visitors on an epic journey to Antarctica with Sir Ernest Shackleton and the crew of the *Endurance*. Newly digitised images, processed from fragile 100 year-old glass plate and celluloid negatives, lie at the heart of this major exhibition, revealing previously unseen detail of the crew's struggle to survive.

## Greatest ever polar journeys

The *Endurance* expedition marked one of the greatest ever polar journeys. The aim was to cross the Antarctic continent from coast to coast but the *Endurance* had to be abandoned after it was crushed by ice, forcing the men to live on ice floes for months in freezing, hostile conditions before attempting a rescue. All the men were eventually saved. The exhibition, *Enduring Eye*, honours the achievements of the men of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914–17) on its centenary. It has been prepared by the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute

of British Geographers), augmented by material from the Library's own polar collection. In addition to the haunting photographs, visitors have the rare chance to see personal items carried through every stage of the polar journey.

One of these is a tartan blanket given to expedition's Scottish geologist James Wordie by his sister. After the ship sank, it was adapted into a jacket to help give some protection against the fierce polar winter. Also on show is a paperknife, crafted from a wooden tent peg, and given to Wordie by his fellow Scot Henry McNish, the ship's carpenter whose skills were essential in getting the men to safety. The story is told in more than 90 photographs, taken from the negatives that were saved by the expedition's official photographer Frank Hurley. It is remarkable that they survived at all after being submerged in "mushy" ice inside the *Endurance* for a fortnight after the ship sank. From the 550 plates that were recovered, Hurley could carry only 150 and the others had to be abandoned. They provide an incredible lasting record of the men of *Endurance* and their fight to survive.

## Digitised for the first time

The negatives have been stored at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) for more than 80 years and have now been digitised for the first time. They unlock the remarkable detail captured originally by Hurley, including interior images of the *Endurance* and life on the pack ice of the Weddell Sea. As one of the first truly modern

documentary photographers and film-makers, Australian born Hurley hoped to have his images seen as large as possible. A century later, the exhibition fulfils that wish with large dimension prints, some over two metres in width and height, providing viewers with a sense of awe and wonder.

Visitors to the exhibition will also be able to see an original copy of the expedition prospectus which set out the plans and carried testimonials from explorers and scientists including Roald Amundsen, who led the first successful expedition to the South Pole in 1911 and Admiral Robert Peary who conquered the North Pole in 1909. In the prospectus, Shackleton appeals for funds to make the exhibition a success, stressing its importance. "From the sentimental point of view, it is the last great Polar journey that can be made. It will be a greater journey than the journey to the Pole and back, and I feel it is up to the British nation to accomplish this, for we have been beaten at the conquest of the North Pole and beaten at the conquest of the South Pole."

## Human daring and endurance

Other highlights include contemporary newspaper cuttings which are part of the Wordie papers held by the Library and correspondence between Shackleton and Lord Rosebery. Paula Williams, curator of maps, mountaineering and polar collections



at the National Library said: "Polar expeditions caught the public imagination 100 years ago and continue to fascinate to this day. The stunning photographs in this exhibition tell an amazing story of human daring and endurance in the most hostile of circumstances."

The exhibition has been researched, written and curated by Meredith Hooper, the Antarctic historian, writer and broadcaster, from original source material in the UK, Australia and New Zealand, whilst also drawing also on information provided by descendants of some of the 28 men on the expedition.

*Enduring Eye* runs until November 12 at George IV Bridge in Edinburgh. Entry is free. The National Library of Scotland is a major European research library and one of the world's leading centres for the study of Scotland and the Scots - an information treasure trove for Scotland's knowledge, history and culture. Further information is available at [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk)



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# the Scottish Banner

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# 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.



The striking Pollok House. Photo Kenny Lam/VisitScotland.

## Local History

*Poor Old Stinkers dead and gone,  
His face ye'll see nae more,  
For what he thought was H<sub>2</sub>O,  
Was H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.*

A popular children's rhyme.

When I was living in Pollok as a child in primary school, the Pollok Estate and Pollok House was still lived in by Sir John Stirling Maxwell and his family. To us, the working class children of the housing scheme, it was a big fancy house, owned by fancy people who very probably pranced around in the big park beyond the Pollok Golf Course. The House and the estate were protected by a large fence and wall and that part of Pollok was very much out of bounds to us local children. As kids, though, we didn't envy Sir John and his family their wealth, status or privileges. We simply wished we could get at his horse chestnut trees. We saw these unattainable trees laden with nuts over the wall. We saw that as a terrible and unforgivable waste of nature's valuable resources during the conker season in November.

In secondary school one of our favourite ploys, to get us out of doing science on hot, sticky summer afternoons, was to entice our science teacher, Mr McGeachan, to talk about Pollok, an older Pollok he remembered from his younger days. When we had tired of Boyle's Law, valency and chemical titrations we would invite him to tell us about Pollok of past times. "Mr McGeachan, what was it you were saying last week about there once being a poorhouse opposite Hawkhead Asylum?" came a carefully formulated question by an enthusiastic student.

"Well there was, a long time ago, and well before my time," he said with a laugh. "It was an ancient hospice for men, that in medieval times was run by monks", he continued. "This area, where you all live, has had a long history of providing care from hospitals, long before the Crookston Home, the Darnley Infectious Diseases Hospital, the Hawkhead Mental Hospital, or the Leverndale Hospital were thought about and came into being." We had got him going, once again, and I found myself slouching back into my seat to listen to his tales of local history. He was a frustrated history teacher and I was a frustrated history student, having dropped history in favour of geography before 5<sup>th</sup> form. This was the kind of history I wanted

to hear about, the history that was close to home and about places I knew well. I was always enthralled when my science teacher took time out from science to talk to us about Pollok and it's environ's distant and recent past histories.

## Cardonald

"And wasn't there another castle around here as well as Crookston castle?" asked someone else. "Yes, Cardonald Castle on the banks of the River Cart. There isn't much to see now. It was demolished and the stone used to build a farm about a hundred years ago. It once belonged to the Stewarts and when James VI was on the throne, Walter Stewart, the Prior of Blantyre, was Lord of Cardonald. In the front of the present farmhouse, built from the stone of the old castle, you can still see a carving of a knight's helmet with the motto 'Toujours Avant'. Madame Ballabanion your French teacher would tell you, if you don't know already, that means 'Always Forward'. It's the Stewart motto and the stone has the initials J. S. and the date 1565 carved on it. The lands were in the hands of the Stewarts since about 1487 and the castle built about 1505.

"Where is that, Sir?" asked someone. "Between the railway line and the River Cart, near Moulin Circus", he replied. "Aye I know where that is", said someone else. Of course we did, for it was only a few miles away. And in my case my maternal grandparents had lived in Cardonald up until a few years ago and had probably gone there when it was being described as 'the new and fashionable residential district of Cardonald, in the 1920's by T.C.F. Brothie in his book *The Borderlands of Glasgow*. "There were once a village and a corn mill up until about 1782" said Mr McGeachan musing upon the subject of Cardonald rather than the periodic table of elements. "And wasn't there a canal down there, Sir? I added to the discussion, angling for some further distraction from science. I had remembered something my paternal grandfather had told me many years before when he was living in Trinity Avenue in Mosspark, a neighbouring suburb, and a mere stone's throw from the line of the old canal.

In fact T.C.F. Brothie in his rambles around Glasgow was describing Mosspark in the 1920's as the 'new-fashioned suburb of Mosspark, having evolved only recently from a wind-swept moorland and hill over which the peesweep and the whaup held

eerie revel.' With the benefit of hindsight the pre-war houses that my grandparents lived in were far superior to the post-war jerry-built houses of Pollok.

"A canal-yes there was. But it was filled in a long time ago and used to lay the railway lines that go through the stations at Crookston, Mossspark West and Corkerhill" replied Mr McGeachan. "The rails follow the course of the old canal that ran from Port Eglinton in the city and out to a small quay near Ross Hall before heading off to Paisley."

## Picturesque rural landscape

Mr McGeachan was one of my favourite teachers. He was not only my science teacher but was also the Deputy Headmaster. He didn't live in Pollok but he could relate to us what Pollok was like in his youth, perhaps in the 1920's. He told us about his courting days when he walked along the banks of the Levern Water, under the shadow of the castle with his girlfriend and wife to be; at a time when there were still open fields, farms and woodland. The fact that this middle-aged man was ever young and had a girlfriend was astonishing enough; but for us to be able to picture the idyllic scenes that he described, of the rich woodlands of Crookston and Hawkhead, of prosperous fields dotted with cattle and sown with crops as far as the eye could see was truly remarkable and I took it all in with wonder.

He described a very beautiful place, a picturesque rural landscape where people would still have been able to hear the soft wimpling of the waters flowing through the little pools of the Cart and Levern Waters. I rested my head on my arms and took in everything he said, for I was fascinated to hear him describe what had been before, in the places that were so familiar to me. In my mind's eye I was able to take away the jerry-built houses, the streets without trees, the noise of buses and trucks and confirm that if I could only have looked down upon the Pollok of even thirty years before, and hovered in the air like a skylark, I would have seen a very different place from what I saw now in the 1950's.

## The strap

Mr McGeachan had some interesting strategies in his pedagogical approach to teaching us science which was what

he was supposed to be teaching us, instead of local history. His methodology would probably shock not only the modern, new-age parent, but I fear his modern-day teaching colleagues as well. He used the strap not only to punish us for misbehaviour but as a means to motivate us to learn science. It was a kind of quiz that warmed up the hands as well as the brain.

He would spring the quiz upon us, usually after we had completed our practical work, and had washed up the equipment we had used in his lesson and he had five or ten minutes of the lesson left to teach. He would ask each of us in turn to provide the answer to something we should have learned for homework the night before or had recently learned in class. If we got the answer right we could sigh with relief, join the self-satisfied, smiling Cheshire cats and watch what was going to happen to the other students who got it wrong. If we got the answer wrong we joined the dogs and were given a dog's chance to answer another question. If we didn't get that one right we were in for the strap. Out we went and got one on the hand, a much kindlier and lighter punishment than what we usually received for misbehaviour.

We still felt the softer sting on the hand but it was less painful and without malice for this was still considered a game by all of us. Everyone else would be laughing, something unheard of when the strap was given for real. I don't recall any one of us ever being upset by his unusual approach to teaching and learning or anyone making a complaint. We accepted the strap with good grace; we joined in on the science quiz and we all learned some science. At least I did. I was awarded the science prize in 6<sup>th</sup> form, the one and only academic prize I ever won at school, and even then probably because some of the best would-be scientists had already left school and were out working for a living. Of course he had stopped using the strap by then because like all of our teachers they didn't need to resort to corporal punishment as we got older. I chose a drawing book as my prize and not a science book. I think that may have surprised or even disappointed my favourite science teacher but I must still have held some latent artistic ambitions.



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Randy Walker (incoming Chieftain of the American Clan Gregor Society), Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor and Lois Ann Garlitz (outgoing Chieftain of the American Clan Gregor Society).

Greetings from Scotland where bags are being unpacking after a fascinating trip to the Lone Star State. This is the first visit to Texas for the chief and I. Hopefully, it will not be the last.

We are there for the annual gathering of the American Clan Gregor Society (ACGS). The ACGS was formed in Virginia in 1909 - and at the venue in San Antonio there is meeting and greeting of friends, old and new. There are talks and speeches, and a new leader is installed as Randy Walker takes the society reins from the very capable hands of the outgoing chieftain, Lois Ann Garlitz.

We toured the city in an open-topped bus. Next year it will celebrate three hundred years, so there is interest in terms of historic homes and churches. We have a drink in the bar where Teddy Roosevelt raised the legendary 'Rough Riders' to help defend the population from the Spanish.

**Tartan abounds**

Tartan abounds. Yet, seeing a piper on the streets in this part of the world is nothing new. Some forty percent of the folk that

# Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

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



originally settled Texas were Scots. And they left their mark, with towns and cities given names like McCulloch, Campbell, Wilson and Houston.

There are even two small communities called MacGregor and Armstrong. A touch of home. Plus, there is the fact that it rains non-stop. We might think we have the monopoly on wet weather in Scotland. But you have not seen rain, until you see Texan rain. It lashes down and the streets are awash.

Here in Texas, I meet up with long-lost

Smitty's eaterie are open-fire brick pits, over which meat is cooked. We sit at long, wooden tables and luscious slices of brisket arrive; links of smoky sausage and rows of spicy pork ribs on brown paper bags, all eaten with fingers. It is the traditional way to do it, we are told. Add a touch of barbecue sauce and some potato salad – and you have the most lip-smacking feast imaginable.

At the Alamo, meanwhile, are more reminders of home. Many of the frontiersmen who defended that legendary fort in 1836 had Scottish roots: among them, Davie Crockett and Jim Bowie. For us there is added interest: John McGregor was the piper who kept morale high when all seemed - and was eventually lost. The Alamo is a place for reflection and pride and its custodians have great plans to enhance the way the history is told there.

**Scotland, land of sunshine and cloud**

Back at home, meanwhile, more history is being made as one of the Scottish TV networks celebrates sixty years. In 1957 Scottish TV, or STV, as it is now known, opened to the words: 'Welcome to Scotland, land of sunshine and cloud...' Since then, the company has brought us hit series' like *Rebus* which follows the fortune of an Edinburgh policeman, or *Take the High Road*, a soap set in the fictional village of Glendarroch.

My favourite is *Taggart*. I do not know if you ever watched this detective series, but it is set in Glasgow and generally involves a few gruesome deaths. I do some digging and see that the word 'Taggart' comes from 'MacTaggart', which in Gaelic means 'son of the priest.' I am not quite sure how that fits in with murder, mystery and mayhem!

Time to lighten the mood... The chief and go to stay with friends in Stranraer. They take us fishing in the Irish Sea and I am now a convert. You can forget about long, empty hours of searching for elusive and often non-existent salmon. You do not have to fear the frustration of arriving at the river to find it's too high, too low, or simply too wet, to cast a line...

No, the one sure way to catch something in Scotland is to turn your attention to mackerel. Let that line sink into the salty depths and bang! Fish on, almost immediately... Between us we hook a bucket-load. Which we then cook in foil over a fire on a sandy beach. Oily fish is good for a body. The smell makes hungry hounds lick their lips. Naughty dogs hover, hoping for a morsel or two. The Spaniel and the Terrier have a great day on the beach. Running in and out of the waves. Wet and sandy - and with a delicious mackerel head to crunch on. The humans, too, are happy. Not quite a Texan barbecue, but good to be back home...

**Yet, seeing a piper on the streets in this part of the world is nothing new. Some forty percent of the folk that originally settled Texas were Scots.**

cousins. My aunt was a GI bride and after the second-world-war she left the UK on the arm of a dashing American pilot. The rest is history and five children, three of whom still live near San Antonio.

They take us to Lockhart, a town known as the 'Barbecue Capital of Texas'. And at

## Double Win for the Swedes in the 24th Annual World Porridge Making Championships



Photo courtesy of James Ross

Making Champion title to the Swedish Traditional Porridge Making Champion title, which she has won for the last two years in a row.

She said: "The World Porridge Making Championships is such a great event. It's a real honour just to compete in the competition, never mind to win. I can't really put how I'm feeling into words, it's just a fantastic feeling. I was very excited when Per won the Speciality title and when the judges called out my name as World Champion I couldn't believe it – I was jumping up and down, it was very exciting."

Ellinor believes that it's very important for people to think about what they are eating. In her spare time she runs foodie tours in Sweden, both in the woods and fields around her local town of Halmstaad in South West Sweden, and in some of the speciality restaurants in the town.

This year's speciality winner Per Carlsson impressed judges with his dish Nordic Porridge – Caramel Sweet and Sour, a porridge made with oatmeal, cloudberry liqueur, orange peel and whipped cream, topped with flambéed cloudberry and whipped cream.

Organiser Michelle Green said: "It's been a fantastic day for the competitors, judges, visitors and villagers alike, and we're already looking forward to the 2018 competition, when the Golden Spurtle will be celebrating twenty five years as one of Scotland's favourite culinary events."

Competitors from Sweden have scored a double after winning the main and speciality titles at the 2017 World Porridge Making Championships. Ellinor Persson took the coveted title of World Porridge Making Champion, with Per Carlsson taking the Speciality title. The 23-strong international line up included competitors from the USA, Russia, Switzerland, Holland, Iceland, Sweden and across the UK and Ireland.

The title of World Porridge Making Champion is awarded to the competitor who makes the best traditional porridge using only three ingredients – oatmeal, salt and water. The porridges are judged on three factors - consistency, taste and colour. Ellinor, who works in sales in the steel industry, adds the World Porridge

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# Protecting Scotland's

## wild seabirds

Images by Jim Robertson

**The dramatic Shiant Isles lay east of Harris and are one of the most important breeding colonies for seabirds in Europe. However for the last 150 years Scotland's seabird population has faced the threat of rats, which were introduced to the island by wrecked ships, having a devastating impact on the natural bird population. The Shiant Isles Recovery Project was set up to eradicate the islands of the rat population and ensure a safe breeding site for the struggling seabirds on this remote but majestic part of Scotland as Judy Vickers explains.**

In 1946, the then owner of the Shiant Isles, Nigel Nicolson, met two ladies at a smart party in London and invited them to stay in his remote Scottish retreat. Lady Elizabeth Lambart and Margaret Elphinstone – both later bridesmaids at the wedding of Princess Elizabeth, the future queen – took up the offer to stay at the islands, which lie in the Minch between Skye and the Outer Hebrides, in the two-roomed former shepherd's bothy which is the only habitable building.

### Great bird places

But, as Nigel's son Adam later described, their first night there - Nigel in one room, the women in the other - was a bit of a disaster. "At half-past three, he woke to hear them screeching. A rat had got inside the chest of drawers. It was running up and down the nearly empty drawers like a tap-dancer in paradise. Nigel asked through the door — this was the Forties and he was shy — if he could do anything to help. 'No, no!' they shrieked. 'If you let it out, it'll run all over us.' They spent the rest of the night shaking under the blankets."

Rats have been a problem on the 60 million year old islands since a ship was wrecked off the coast in the 18<sup>th</sup> century – and not just for humans, of which there have been rather few since the last inhabitants left in 1901 – for the bird population.

The Shiant Islands – whose name comes from the Gaelic for Enchanted Isles – is one of the most remote in the world, with around 18,000 guillemots, 11,000 razorbills, thousands of fulmars and kittiwakes, as well as nearly a quarter of a million puffins, two per cent of the world's population – including the oldest ever recorded in Britain, 34 years.

But those birds' breeding success has been dented by the presence of the

non-native black rats, around 3,600 of which gobble up the birds' eggs and chicks while storm petrels and Manx shearwaters have not been found on the islands at all, despite the fact they have been seen flying past.

### Shiant Isles Recovery Project

So a rat eradication programme was carried out during the winter of 2015-16 at a cost of £900,000. It will be March 2018 before the islands can be officially declared free of rats – provided none are found between then and now – but in the clearest sign yet that the RSPB Scotland's Shiant Isles Recovery Project is working, the bird charity has revealed that storm petrels have been recorded on the islands for the first time this year.

The characteristic "churring" call of storm petrels was heard from burrows, their breeding habitat. Storm petrels are little bigger than sparrows and only come to shore in summer to breed. There are only a few sites on off-shore islands where it's possible for them to breed because of their vulnerability to predators. They are known to abandon and avoid nesting sites where rats or other ground based predators are found.

Dr Charlie Main, Senior Project Manager for the Shiant Isles Recovery Project, said: "The churring of a storm petrel is very distinctive and we're delighted that it's been recorded on the Shiant Islands. While we are still some way off the islands being officially declared rat free these calls indicate that all the biosecurity work we're doing to keep these islands predator free and make them ideal breeding sites for seabirds is paying off.

"These calls are very positive signs for the future and we hope that next year we'll be able to record even more calls and footage of the birds. The long term aim is

to allow a breeding colony of storm petrels to establish at the Shiant Islands."

The project has been a joint enterprise between RSPB Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Nicolson family who own the islands. It was awarded £450,000 in European Union funding, and was also supported by a £200,000 grant from Scottish Natural Heritage. The remaining £250,000 was raised through donations.

### 550 acres of mud and rock

Dr Andrew Douse, Policy & Advice Manager, Ornithology at Scottish Natural Heritage said: "The return of storm petrels as a breeding species on the Shiant Islands is one of the key aims of the project for SNH, so the news of birds recorded calling is very welcome. Storm petrels only occur on islands without rats, which means that they are very vulnerable to the effects that arise from invasive species such as these. The Shiant Islands are an ideal breeding location for storm petrels and hopefully they will go on to become an important stronghold for this species."

Turning back the clock 150 years to how the Shiant Islands' wildlife would have been without the rats is just the latest chapter in the history of these islands. Made up of three main islands, the Shiant Islands – pronounced Shants – had up to 50 people living on them 400 years ago,

although that had dropped to just one family of eight who left in 1901.

They were sold by Lord Leverhulme, the soap tycoon, to novelist Sir Compton Mackenzie, of *Whisky Galore!* fame, in 1924. Nigel Nicolson – the son of diplomat and politician Sir Harold Nicholson and novelist Vita Sackville-West – bought them in 1937 for £1,200 with money left by his grandmother. He passed them to his eldest son, Adam, when he turned 21. Adam, a writer who penned the 2001 book, *Sea Room*, a joyous outpouring of his love for his 550 acres of mud and rock, has since passed them to his son, Tom, on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

### Facilities are basic

There is no quay or harbour, no trees and no sandy beach on the islands, and no running water and no electricity in the two-roomed 19<sup>th</sup> century bothy, the only building of any note. The islands can only be reached by a private boat, which costs around £500 to hire and with no phone or loo, facilities are basic. Visitors are not allowed during the lambing season – the islands are still used for grazing sheep – but some hardy visitors make the journey during the summer. Facilities are rather basic, though, as some of the instructions on [www.shiantisles.net](http://www.shiantisles.net) for visitors reveal: "There is fresh spring water in a well, marked with a yellow buoy, about 100 yards south of the house. Take the water using a shallow dish, allowing only the top 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch of water to run into the dish and then pour it into a bucket. If you put the bucket in the well you will end up with a peaty soup. Replace the well cover to prevent sheep falling in it."

The waters surrounding the Shiant Islands are famously rough and known for the legend of "The Blue Men of the Minch", who are said to have inhabited the underwater caves beneath the Sound of Shiant and who lured sailors to their deaths.

But despite all of this, visitors tend to end up falling in love with the Shiant Islands as much as the Nicolsons, enchanted by the 500-ft tall basalt rock pillars, the remains of Iron Age homes, the whales and dolphins in the surrounding seas and of course the seabirds, which now have an even brighter future.



Seabirds on Shiant Isles.



Puffin on Shiant Isles.



Shiant Isles.

# Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites

*Rare artefacts on show in the UK for the first time*

Allan Ramsay, *Prince Charles Edward Stuart*, 1745, oil on canvas, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh. Accepted in lieu of Inheritance Tax by H M Government from the Trustees of the Wemyss Heirlooms Trust and allocated to the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 2016.

Rare treasures from Rome and the Vatican have gone on display in the United Kingdom for the first time as a key part of a major exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland. These outstanding artefacts form part of the largest exhibition about the Jacobites to be held in over 70 years. *Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites* presents more than 300 spectacular treasures, drawn from National Museums Scotland's own collections and those of 44 lenders including other major institutions across Scotland, the UK and Europe. These include Royal Collection, the Royal Armouries, the Musée de Louvre, the National Galleries, National Records and National Library of Scotland as well as a number of private collections.

Three marble grave markers, formerly in St Peter's Basilica, for Charles Edward Stuart, his younger brother, Henry Benedict and their father, James VIII and III will leave Rome for the very first time, as loans from the Scots Pontifical College. James, Henry and Charles are interred in St Peter's Basilica, with James being the only king ever to be afforded the honour of burial in the Vatican. On loan from the Sacristy Museum is the stunning York Chalice and Paten. The elaborately decorated gold Communion set, inlaid with 130 diamonds, belonged to Charles' younger brother Henry Benedict Stuart (Cardinal York), who gifted it to the Church. It has never been on display in the UK.

## High standing of the Stuarts

These artefacts illustrate the high standing of the Stuarts in Roman society, where they held their exiled courts as Charles grew up. Paintings, tartan costume, jewellery, books, weapons, rare documents and personal objects owned by the Jacobite kings shed new light on a period which has long captured the popular imagination. Highlight objects in the exhibition associated with Charles Edward Stuart himself include the 'lost' Ramsay portrait of Charles, the only image of him taken

during his time in Scotland, his elaborate silver travelling canteen and a letter from an eight-year-old Charles to his father, apologising for startling his mother.

*Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites* presents a detailed and dynamic re-examination of this familiar yet much-contested story, showing how the Jacobite challenge for the three kingdoms of Scotland, England and Ireland was a complex civil war, and revealing the wider European power politics at play during this famed period of history.

## Understanding Jacobitism

David Forsyth, Principal Curator, Medieval and Early Modern Collections at National Museums Scotland, said: "The story of *Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites* holds an enduring and at times romantic fascination. Charles Edward Stuart is actually the final chapter in a story which starts in 1688 with the deposing of his grandfather, James VII and II of England and Scotland, sending the Stuarts into courtly exile. And so, as the exhibition shows, whilst Scotland is the battleground, it is in Europe - first France and latterly in Rome - where the Stuart story unfolds over this period, with courts held, honours dispensed, tributes accepted and campaigns planned.

"The 1745 rising led by Bonnie Prince Charlie is the last of five Jacobite challenges for the thrones of Scotland, England and



Oval gold fob seal with the head of James Francis Edward Stuart, with an impression in red wax, courtesy National Museums Scotland.

Ireland. The Battle of Culloden in 1746 came to mark the end of any serious prospect of the Stuarts reclaiming their kingdoms, but it is not the end of Charles' story. His father, James VIII and III, lived another 20 years after Culloden, Charles died in 1788, followed by his younger brother Henry in 1807. So, as well as being wonderful objects in their own right, these loans enable us to take our visitors to the end of the Stuart story, whilst emphasising the European connections which are central to understanding Jacobitism."

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, said: "For hundreds of years the story of *Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites* has captivated the interest and imagination of people around the world. This exhibition brings to the fore the complexity of the Jacobites' story, Scotland's strong links with Europe and the broader British and European context at the time. It is an excellent example of collaboration between National Museums Scotland and partners across Europe, which will enable rare objects to be seen by the public for the first time. Taking place during Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, this exhibition will showcase this integral part of our history. I urge everyone with the opportunity to go and see it."

## Remarkable and symbolic objects

The exhibition brings to the forefront the lives of the Jacobites in exile at the courts they established in France and later in Rome, where they were joined by many of their followers. A selection of remarkable and symbolic objects were produced to promote the Jacobites' dynastic claims to the throne both at the exiled courts and back home, where supporters paid tribute to the 'kings over the water'.

Through objects drawn from National Museums Scotland's own rich collections and loans from 44 different public and private lenders across Scotland, the UK and Europe, the exhibition reveals the depth and complexity of a story clouded by Victorian romanticism. The period and the movement are often wrongly reduced to 'Scotland vs England', 'Lowland v Highland' or 'Protestant v Catholic', none of which accurately characterise the layers of conflict and intrigue.

The Jacobites (from Jacobus - the Latin for James) were supporters of a movement to reinstate the Roman Catholic Stuart king, James VII & II and his heirs to the throne after his exile to France in 1688. Support for the cause was drawn from Scotland,



Tartan suit owned by English Jacobite Sir John Hyde Cotton, 1744, Scotland, courtesy National Museums Scotland.

England, Ireland and Continental Europe; it was part of the broader dynastic and political rivalries of Europe's great powers.

## Story of the Jacobites

The exhibition will explore the full story of the Jacobites, which spans two centuries, and encompasses Britain, Ireland and continental Europe. Bonnie Prince Charlie has a place in popular consciousness as the romantic personification and figurehead of the movement.

James VII & II had ascended the throne in 1685 after the death of his brother, Charles II. By 1688 political and religious pressures drove a wedge through the family. James' Catholic faith caused widespread concern and, when he announced the birth of a male heir which heralded the prospect of a Catholic succession, he was deposed and replaced by his daughter Mary and her husband, William of Orange, while her baby half-brother was smuggled out the country for his own safety.

These events led to James VII & II, Bonnie Prince Charlie's grandfather, spending the rest of his days in exile in France, where his son, James Francis Stuart, grew up. Three further challenges to the throne were mounted in 1708, 1715 and 1719. Charles Edward Stuart was born in Rome in 1720, and was raised there as a prince. He only spent 14 months of his life in Britain as he led the ultimately doomed 1745 challenge, advancing as far as Derby before retreating, pursued by Government forces to eventual catastrophic defeat at Culloden.

The denouement to the story and to the exhibition is the remaining years in exile of James, Charles and his brother Henry who joined the priesthood of the Catholic Church, being ordained as a priest in 1748. Charles' his ambitions were thereby effectively thwarted once and for all, and he dwindled towards a dissolute end. Henry, Charles and their father James are all buried in the Vatican, the latter being the only king interred there.

***Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites runs to 12 November 2017 at National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh. For further details see: [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk)***



Silver travelling canteen of Prince Charles Edward Stuart c. 1740, courtesy National Museums Scotland.



Tabard or herald's coat in yellow, blue and pink safin, embroidered in red and silver with lions, fleur-de-lis and a harp, Scottish, early 18th century, courtesy National Museums Scotland.



Images by Simon Buxton for Hodder & Stoughton Books. [www.simonbuxton.com](http://www.simonbuxton.com)

# The Kilted Yogi - *The Scottish Banner speaks to Finlay Wilson*

**Earlier this year a cheeky video featuring Finlay Wilson, a Dundee based yoga instructor, and Tristan Cameron-Harper, a former hockey player and current Mr Scotland, was released as the pair did a yoga routine in kilts, showing off their athleticism, Scottish national dress and stunning Scottish scenery. Finlay Wilson took time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on how he got into yoga, what it is like to become an internet sensation and how Scotland's iconic kilt has created a Kilted Yogis phenomena.**

**SC:** Finlay thank you for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can we begin with you telling us how you would best describe what the practice of yoga entails?

**FW:** For me, the practice of yoga involves intense focus, controlled breathing and yoga poses. This mixes together into a meditative practice with many physical benefits.

**SC:** You actually began yoga following surgery on your legs and initially hated it,

can you tell us what lead you to yoga and why you stuck with it?

**FW:** I ended up with issues in my legs causing complications when walking around the age of 19, bone spurs had grown and were causing problems with moving around and I was in a lot of pain. After two operations, 6 months between each other, and lots of nerve damage later I was on mobility aids for quite a few months to get stable on my legs. I didn't get

much aftercare so I took to yoga because someone told me it was easy, and it wasn't! But, I am a very stubborn person.

**SC:** You have a yoga studio in Dundee and practice Forrest Yoga, can you tell us what that is and how important it is for you to incorporate yoga to everyday situations?

**FW:** Forrest Yoga uses very intelligent sequencing to work with the modern body. Just as with music, you wouldn't throw notes

together and hope to get a melody and much in the same way, poses have to be put together in a sensible order. This allows people to work with their body, regardless of injury and learn how to make great, healing choices all the time. When it comes to moving off the yoga mat, you become more aware of your posture daily and of patterns of behaviour that don't serve you and your dreams for the future.

**SC:** The Kilted Yoga was first posted by the BBC's *The Social* on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and

had 43 million views in five days. How did the idea of incorporating a kilt with an ancient technique come to be? And are you amazed by the reaction you have so far received?

**FW:** When I put the video together, I wanted something that would get my sense of humour across while showing yoga and the beauty of Scotland. I was totally shocked by the reaction. Even posts I put up with kilt photographs send people into a frenzy with thousands of likes!

**SC:** Your videos have been shot in some amazing Scottish locations, how much do you enjoy connecting with nature and showing off Scotland to an international audience of millions of people? I also hear you also would like to incorporate Scottish folklore in your videos, can you tell us more?

**When I put the video together, I wanted something that would get my sense of humour across while showing Yoga and the beauty of Scotland. I was totally shocked by the reaction.**

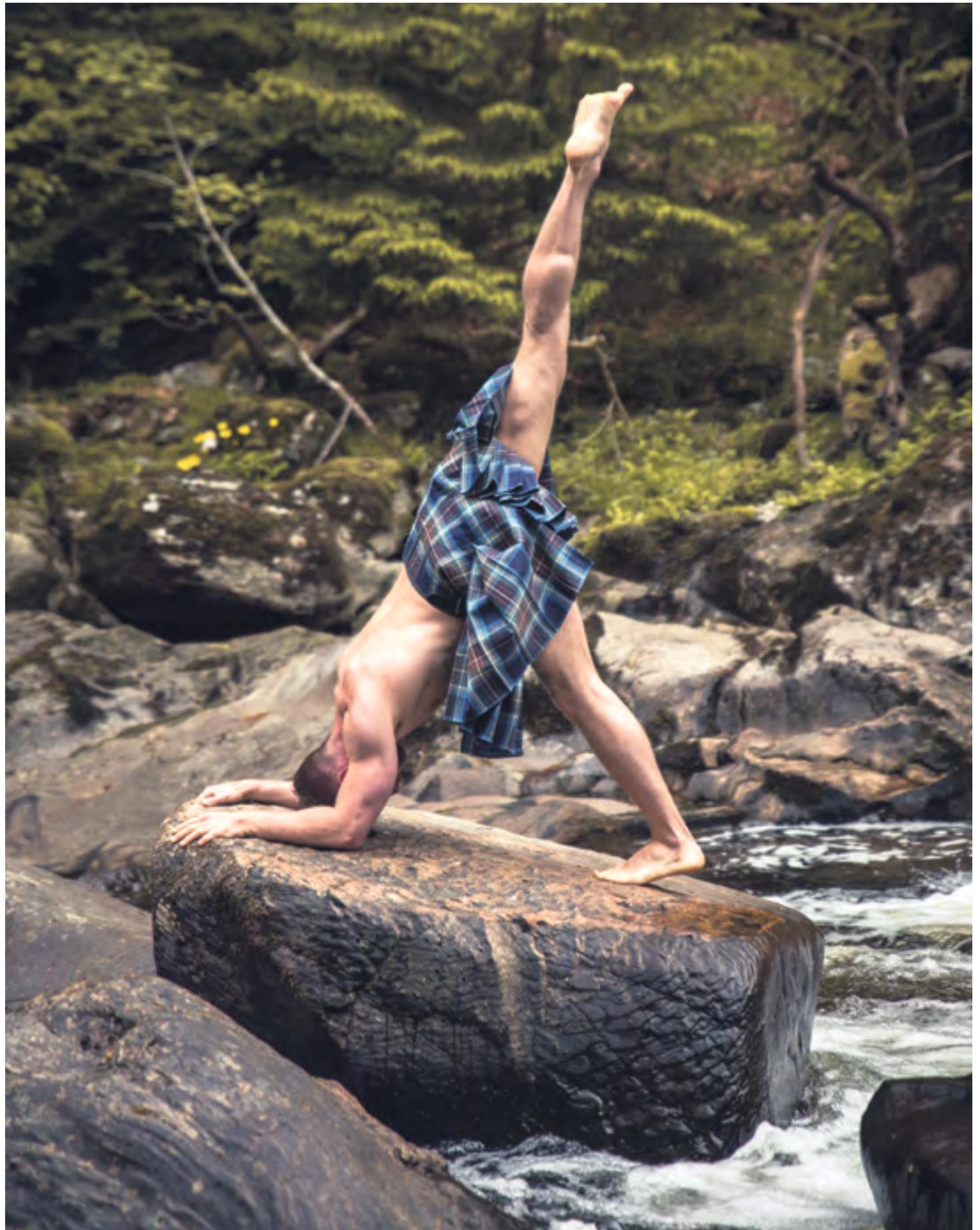
**FW:** Scottish wildlife and the outdoors have always been part of my life growing up and what I studied at university. There was always a way to connect to the land. I want people to start to see some of the strange customs and folklore in Scotland. There are hidden gems and stories in most towns throughout Scotland and I think that video is a great way to attract an audience in a different way.

**SC:** Kilts are synonymous with Scotland, have you always worn a kilt? And with millions of people seeing the Kilted Yogis, does anyone ever ask you what a Scotsman wears under his kilt?

**FW:** I remember us wearing them ceremonially growing up, special occasions and dances. I think that you can see from the video about what “true Scotsman” means and if we do that!

**SC:** Both yourself and Tristan Cameron-Harper recently attended the New York Tartan Day Parade, what was that experience like and might international Scots get a chance to see either of you at other Scottish events in the future?

**FW:** On the run up to the parade we had so many people come to take photographs with us, we even photographed with Tommy Flannigan while we were waiting to set off. When we stepped out on to the parade, it was incredible to be in the sun, the street was ours to walk down. We timed our walk carefully so that we could get ahead and do some poses and sequences to the screaming crowds. I saved some of my best moves to the end and so many people came up to take selfies that we



were delayed by over an hour! It was a heady experience and one I would happily do again. I hope, especially with some of the other work that I am doing with film and writing, that people will have more opportunity to see me.

**SC:** Finlay you and your brother Alastair recently released a video to help young people acknowledge and cope with depression, something you both have faced in your own lives. Can you tell us how important this campaign is for you and any message you have for anyone who is may feel they are suffering?

**FW:** Our campaign isn't limited to young people. It sadly afflicts people of all ages. It is close to our hearts as we have both suffered and experienced the loss of friends who have taken their own lives. People have been in touch from all over the

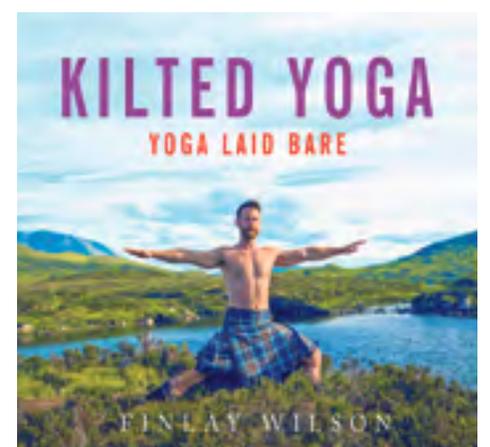
planet about their story and loss and the overarching message is that people wish they had spoken up. We hope that seeing two men talking, especially brothers, will inspire people to reach out when they think they can't.

**SC:** And finally congratulations on your new book *Kilted Yoga: Yoga Laid Bare* which not only introduces many to this ancient practice but also some spectacular Scottish scenery. Are you now hoping to start a kilted yoga phenomena? And what is next for the Kilted Yogis?

**FW:** I just received photographs and video from Comicon in the states and some people were there supporting Saltire, a Scottish superhero, they were doing Yoga in Kilts! I was so proud! For me, I am continuing to work with the book, do some book and teaching tours

and make more videos for the BBC. There are some other parts of the video I did with my brother that BBC *The Social* will release. So keep your eyes open!

**Kilted Yoga: Yoga Laid Bare is now available, for further details see: [www.finlay-wilson.com](http://www.finlay-wilson.com)**



IN SCOTLAND TODAY



# Royal Bank of Scotland's new £10 note enters circulation and another atmosphere

Primary school pupils in Perth, Scotland have helped Royal Bank of Scotland launch its new £10 polymer note by sending it into space. The launch pays homage to the face of the new note, Scottish scientist and astronomer Mary Somerville. The £10 is the second in a new series of 'Fabric of Nature' themed notes made from De La Rue's Safeguard® polymer material and contains a variety of new security features, making it difficult to counterfeit but easy to authenticate. The note will be 15% smaller than its paper equivalent and the new material will be cleaner, more secure and more durable than traditional cotton notes, on average lasting 2.5 times longer. The choice of Mary Somerville for the new £10 note was made following a public vote across social media.

Malcolm Buchanan, Chairman of Scotland Board, Royal Bank of Scotland said: "This is our most advanced note yet and we wanted the public to help influence its design. It is fitting that the public vote led to the choice of Mary Somerville, a person who helped advance our understanding of the world which surrounds us and the stars above us." The launch of the note into space took place at the schools' shared campus with help from scientists, Sent into Space. Attaching a camera to a weather balloon, the note was photographed and filmed through its ascent, before landing safely in the north of Scotland.

## Ulva community looks for buyout option



The sale of an island in the Inner Hebrides that was recently placed on the market recently with a price tag of £4.25 million has been halted after last ditch plans for a community buyout emerged. The island

of Ulva, which once had 500 residents now has just six permanent residents, won't now be imminently sold as the new plan is put together in a development that has been welcomed by land reform campaigners. The island, which sits between two peninsulas near Mull, has no tarmac roads, is accessible only by a ferry and has no pubs or restaurants anywhere on its 4,500 acres.

However, it has attracted well-known names over the years, including explorer David Livingstone and children's author Beatrix Potter and was the inspiration for Sir Walter Scott's poem, The Lord Of The Isles. Ulva was being marketed by estate agents Knight Frank after it was inherited by the children of Jean Howard, who died in 2014. Mrs Howard inherited Ulva in the 1970s from her mother, Edith, Lady Congleton, granddaughter of Lord Strathcona. Lady Congleton had bought it for just £10,000 after the Second World War with money from a fortune amassed by her grandfather, who had worked on the Pacific Railway in Canada. Ulva was gifted to Mrs Howard's son and daughter shortly after her death but they had now decided to sell. Ulva is not the first Scottish island to attempt a community buyout, the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust purchased the Isle of Eigg in 1997 for £1.5m.

## Police Scotland rolls out dual English-Gaelic Logo



Police Scotland has introduced its dual language logo featuring both English and Gaelic. The branding will be introduced on the service's website and intranet. It will also be carried on signage, stationery and vehicles, and will be introduced on these items as they are replaced on reaching the end of their serviceable life. The changes are being made as part of the

force's commitment to implementing its Gaelic Language Plan, which sets out the service's pledge to creating a sustainable future for the language in Scotland by integrating it within Police Scotland's services and corporate identity. Assistant Chief Constable Andrew Cowie (Local Policing – North) said, "This is the latest step being taken by Police Scotland as we move towards full implementation of our Gaelic Language Plan.

"We are keen that Gaelic speaking communities across the country are well served and ably represented by the national service."

"Upholding tradition and supporting native languages is important, as is making the service as accessible as possible for members of the population who use Gaelic. More work will take place in the coming months and years to deliver the improvements contained within our Gaelic Language Plan."

"We have a keen group of Gaelic speaking officers/staff who are ably assisting in progressing these improvements."

Speaking on behalf of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Daibhidh Boag, Director of Language Planning and Community Developments said, "The inclusion of Gaelic as a normal part of Police Scotland's identity is a really significant milestone for the language. By including Gaelic as part of the logo renewal process, Police Scotland have contributed significantly to the Scotland-wide effort to raise the profile of Gaelic and have done so in as cost-effective a manner as possible.

"We very much welcome Police Scotland's commitment to Gaelic generally and to increasing the visibility of the language across the communities that they serve."

Police Scotland's Gaelic Language Plan is a five-year project, scheduled until 2021. Work will be ongoing throughout that time.

## Scotland snow-free after 'glacier' melts

An 11-year-old patch of snow nicknamed "Scotland's glacier" has melted, marking the first time in more than a decade that Scotland's hills have been snow-free. The

snow section was located on Britain's third highest mountain, known as the Sphinx, the snowfall at Garbh Choire Mor on the 1,296 metres high Braeriach melted late summer. Affectionately known by climbers and walkers as "Scotland's glacier", Britain's longest-lasting patch of permanent snow has melted away and it last defrosted in 2006 and has only been thought to have melted seven times in the last 300 years – in 1933, 1953, 1959, 1996, 2003, 2006 and now 2017.

## Record-breaking summer for Scotland's historic sites



It's been a spectacular summer for Scotland's historic sites as Historic Environment Scotland (HES) announced record-breaking visitor figures for the 2017 summer season. The period from April to September 2017 saw the historic sites in the care of HES record an impressive overall 20% increase in footfall on the same period last year, making it the busiest season on record. HES manage over 70 ticketed Historic Scotland visitor attractions throughout the country, including Edinburgh Castle, Iona Abbey and Fort George. August 2017 saw over 870,000 visitors flocking to Scotland's iconic historic sites, making it the busiest individual month ever recorded.

As well as a record-breaking season overall, individual sites across the length and breadth of the country have also hit milestones. The top 10 most-visited Historic Scotland paid-for attractions – including sites such as Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and Urquhart Castle - have all recorded their best ever season. A further 13 sites have already exceeded their visitor totals for last financial year. The seasonal figures also show sites continuing to celebrate the "Outlander effect", with those featuring in the television series continuing to see large increases in visitor numbers. Blackness Castle saw the most significant rise in visitors at 44%, closely followed by Doune Castle - famed for its role as the fictional Castle Leoch in the series – with a 42% increase.

The announcement comes as Scotland celebrates Heritage Awareness Day, the first-ever day dedicated to showcasing the country's rich and diverse heritage and encouraging individuals, organisations and communities all over Scotland to share and celebrate heritage in all its different forms.

The top ten paid-for heritage attractions for April to September 2017 were: Edinburgh Castle - 1,433,896 Stirling Castle - 430,405 Urquhart Castle - 405,388 Skara Brae - 104,224 Doune Castle - 96,497 St Andrew's Castle - 71,763 Linlithgow Palace - 66,860 Fort George - 62,301 Iona Abbey - 61,531 Melrose Abbey - 49,962

By: Nick Drainey



Filming location Blackness Castle.

# The Outlaw King

**An epic, period drama about the legendary King of Scots Robert the Bruce has begun to be filmed in Scotland. Telling the extraordinary historic year when Robert the Bruce fights to regain control having been crowned King of Scots, only to be defeated in a surprise attack and made an outlaw by the English King and his occupying forces and now this incredible story is being made for audiences around the world as Nick Drainey explains.**

“To this man, in as much as he saved our people, and for upholding our freedom, we are bound by right as much as by his merits, and choose to follow him in all that he does.” The words are from the Declaration of Arbroath written in 1320 by a group of nobles and addressed to the Pope. The stirring statement, declaiming Scotland’s right to be an independent nation with a king of its choosing, has long been dear to Scots everywhere, over and above its historic value.

## Robert the Bruce

And the man that those nobles credited with saving the people and upholding Scots’ freedom was Robert the Bruce, one of the country’s most famous revered kings; the hero of Bannockburn and the man who finally forced the English to recognise Scotland’s independence after years of warfare. But Bruce’s place in history was far from assured just 14 years before the Declaration was written in Arbroath Abbey and signed by 51 magnates and nobles.

In 1306, at Greyfriars Monastery in Dumfries, Bruce and his fellow guardian of Scotland, John Comyn, had come to blows. Comyn was stabbed, Bruce was outlawed by the King of England, Edward I and excommunicated by the Pope. Despite being crowned King of Scotland at Scone just a few weeks later, he was then defeated by the English at the Battle of Methven and his wife, daughter and sisters captured. A bleak time for the would-be king but a fascinating one for historians, and now filmmakers, as Bruce began his fight back from outcast to hero.

## Precarious period

This autumn a new film, *Outlaw King*, is being shot around Scotland, charting that very precarious period. It is being created by Scottish director David

Mackenzie – who made last year’s Oscar-nominated movie *Hell or High Water* - and is being shot using some of the country’s most picturesque locations, including Linlithgow Palace, Dunfermline Abbey, Glasgow Cathedral, Doune Castle, Blackness Castle and Craigmillar Castle, several of which are already familiar on the screen to fans of *Outlander*.

The Netflix film promises to be an epic period drama and reunites Mackenzie with actor Chris Pine, the 37-year-old star of *Hell or High Water* and as James T Kirk in the *Star Wars* series. Pine plays Bruce, with

Aaron Taylor-Johnson as James Douglas and Florence Pugh as Elizabeth de Burgh. Tony Curran and Billy Howle also feature, as does Alastair Mackenzie, the director’s brother and star of the popular TV series *Monarch of the Glen*.

Already, residents near Craigmillar Castle in Edinburgh have been treated to the sight of the actors in full Medieval get-up, with Alastair Mackenzie riding a black steed draped in a black robe and Pine on horseback with a greying beard and dishevelled hair.

Mackenzie, who also wrote the screenplay along with Bash Doran, James MacInnes, Mark Bombback and renowned Scottish playwright David Harrower, said: “I am so happy to have the opportunity to dig deep into the story of Robert the Bruce and to discover some of the truths that often get obscured by legend. This is my sixth feature film shot in Scotland and autumn is my favourite time of year to shoot so I am excited to bring this film to light in the beautiful Scottish elements - come rain, shine, storm or snow. I am proud that our little Glasgow based production company, Sigma films, has been able to make this film and thank Netflix for letting us do it.”

## King of Scots

He continued: “I am also delighted that Chris Pine, with whom I had a great time on our last film, has joined our Scottish and international cast and crew including the excellent Aaron Taylor-Johnson and the exciting emerging talent of Florence Pugh and Billy Howle. I know Chris will bring intensity and flair to Robert the Bruce and his struggle to take back his country, being crowned King of Scots, then suffering a disastrous defeat and left on the run with just a handful of supporters only to claw his way, with bravery and cunning, back to victory. This was an early form of guerrilla warfare against the might of a vastly bigger better resourced enemy and is one of the great comeback stories of history.”

Netflix’s Scott Stuber added: “David’s talent as a filmmaker and storyteller is undeniable. We are excited to be working with him on a project of this scale bringing such a powerful story to life. We believe in the universality of this David and Goliath tale, and that it will be enjoyed and appreciated by audiences all over the world.”

The movie is one of the highest profile titles Netflix currently has in production and insiders say the company hopes it will plug the gap for such dramas when *Game of Thrones* comes to an end. It is a great feather in the cap for Glasgow-based production company Sigma Films, which was founded in 1996 by Gillian Berries and Mackenzie – its previous credits include *Last Great Wilderness* and *Hallam Foe*. Supported by Creative Scotland, shooting will take place around Scotland until the end of November. The film is set for release in 2018.

## Robert the Bruce overview

Robert the Bruce was born into a noble family on July 11, 1274, in Ayrshire. His grandfather claimed the right to the Scottish throne in 1290 but English King Edward I backed John Balliol.

This led Bruce’s family to later support Edward I when he invaded Scotland. However, his allegiances changed again, and after the death of William Wallace he became a guardian of Scotland with John Comyn, Balliol’s nephew.

Bruce stabbed Comyn to death in 1306 in a church in Dumfries and was outlawed by Edward and excommunicated by the Pope. Despite this, Bruce was crowned King of Scotland at Scone in March of that year. Peace came in 1327 with the coming of Edward III and Robert the Bruce died two years later. He was buried at Dunfermline and although he wanted his heart taken to the Holy Land it was eventually buried at Melrose Abbey.



Filming location Linlithgow Palace.



Chris Pine as Robert the Bruce.



## Clan Cameron Gathering Australia Gold Coast, Queensland 20 – 22 April 2018

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Dawyck Botanic Garden situated in the Tweed Valley, Scottish Borders.

**D**on't miss the golden time to see Scotland's famous autumn colours. If anything stirs the heart and soul, it's a walk through a woodland in Scotland: as the leaves turn rich red, gold and warm orange, as the crisp air moves in, before settling in front of a crackling fire for a comforting hot chocolate or wee dram. Visitors to Scotland this autumn can follow in the footsteps of poets William Wordsworth and Robert Burns who felt inspired by the rich tapestry of autumn: from enchanted Perthshire forests, to the fairy glens of the Highlands, to the coastal trail of Aberdeenshire, among many other places to visit. Autumn in Scotland is a truly magical time.

**Driving routes**

If you are visiting Scotland this autumn and driving around the country look out for these gorgeous car routes which will help you celebrate the season.

**Aberdeenshire Coastal Trail**- New for 2017, the trail covers 165 miles from St Cyrus & Stonehaven, heading north towards Balmedie and Cruden Bay, and then on to Fraserburgh and MacDuff. Take in coast, clifftop walks and beauty spots including Bannff beach, Dunnotar Castle, Pennan and the beautiful surroundings of Duff House in autumn.

**If anything stirs the heart and soul, it's a walk through a woodland in Scotland.**

**Queen's View, Perthshire**-A drive through the Perthshire countryside is perfect for getting a taste of the autumn colours. And the B8019 road is ideal for seeing the Queen's View. The Queen's View is said to be one of the most photographed views in

Scotland; its location on the North Shore of Loch Tummel in Highland Perthshire has everything - lochs, mountains and forests. The view was named after Queen Victoria visited there in 1866 and loved it.

**Fife Coastal Route**-Covering 85 miles, the Fife coastal route starts from Kincardine and goes to Newport on Tay. From Fife's famous bridges, passing through historic towns and the picturesque fishing villages of the East Neuk with their distinctive pantiled roofs and unspoilt beaches, the Coastal Tourist Route gives a taste of all that Fife has to offer.

**Mystical walks**

There is nothing like seeing open spaces in Scotland by foot, slip on a pair of comfy shoes and stroll the land of our ancestors.

**Fairy Glen, Rosemarkie, Black Isle**-If spotting dolphins at Chonornry Point off the Black Isle wasn't magical enough, 'leaf-peepers' can indulge in the magic of autumn colours on

a walk at Fairy Glen in Rosemarkie. With two picturesque waterfalls, the Fairy Glen was once the scene of a well-dressing ceremony, where the children of the village decorated a pool, next to a spring, with flowers. This was said to ensure that the fairies kept the water supply clean.

**The Hermitage, Perthshire**-Take a wander around this landscaped, almost cathedral-like, wooded grove of towering trees overlooking the spectacular falls of the River Braan. Perched high above is the delightfully restored Georgian folly of Ossian's Hall, the perfect spot from which to spy red squirrels and salmon leaping up the falls.

**Killin, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park**-Fuelled by the autumn rain, the Falls of Dochart make for a sound and sight spectacular as the water cascades over the rocks and under the bridge. Follow part of the 12 mile route from Killin to Ardtalnaig, along the famous Rob Roy Way, for views over the head of Loch Tay towards the Tarmachan Ridge and Ben Lawers range.

**Dawyck Botanic Garden, Scottish Borders**-Take in the fiery colours at Dawyck Botanic Garden as well as the autumn fruits; from acorns to crab apples, maple keys to fir cones and everyone's favourites, the conkers produced by the horse chestnut trees. The Garden is a feast for all the senses; take in the gorgeous caramel scent of the large Japanese Katsura tree.

**Glentool, Dumfries & Galloway**-Wanderers can get lost amongst the trees for an hour or two and gaze out across the tranquil waters of Loch Trool. Part of Galloway Forest Park, the UK's only dark sky park, stay until night falls at Glentool and wonder at the magic of a sky studded with thousands of stars.



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# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

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

**1** - Bank of Scotland founded by an Act of the Scottish Parliament. **1695**

**1** - Scotland made a serious bid to enter the lucrative English sea-trading market. The Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies issued a subscription list to stockholders in London. Later known as The Darien Company, £300,000 sterling was quickly raised, but London merchants saw it as a threat to their own East India Company. They put pressure on the King, and the English subscriptions were withdrawn at the behest of their government. **1695**

**2** - Tom Johnston, one of Scotland's best known Secretaries of State, born in Kirkintilloch. **1881**

**3** - Queen Elizabeth officially opened an underwater pipeline to bring the first North Sea oil ashore. **1975**

**3** - Liz McColgan won her first marathon in a record time. **1991**

**3** - The Scottish expedition to Darien landed at 'New Caledonia'. The expedition left Leith on the 12th July 1698, heading for the isthmus of Panama. The enterprise began in 1695 when the Scottish Parliament passed an Act for the establishment of the 'Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies'. **1698**

**4** - Birth of King William III. **1650**



**5** - Opening of the original Mitchell Library, Glasgow, now the largest public reference library in Europe. **1877**

**6** - Celtic Football Club formally constituted in Calton, Glasgow, to alleviate poverty in Glasgow's East End parishes. **1887**

**7** - Writer and World War Two garrison commander Eric Linklater died in Orkney. **1974**

**8** - Scholar and philosopher John Duns Scotus died. His dry subtleties led to the word "Duns" or "dunce" meaning dull and incapable of learning. Beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1993. **1308**

**9** - In Edinburgh, Sir James Young Simpson delivered Wilhelmina Carstairs while chloroform was administered to the mother, the first child to be born with the aid of anaesthesia. **1847**



**9** - The Royal Yacht Britannia left the Clydebank shipyards to begin her speed trials. Built by John Brown's shipbuilders, she was famously luxurious and entertained countless dignitaries in opulent style. The Britannia carried the royal family on more than 1000 visits to over 600 countries. Today she is moored at Ocean Point, Edinburgh. **1953**

**9** - Dorothy Dunnett, the cult Scottish novelist, died. The writer of intricate and meticulously researched historical novels, she attracted a devoted following with her multi-volume sagas. **2001**

**10** - Journalist Henry M Stanley found the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone with the classic "Dr Livingstone, I presume?" **1871**

**11** - Armistice Day, marking the end of hostilities in World War I. The guns were finally silenced on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Though Scots made up only 10% of the UK population at the time, a total of 147,609 Scottish people were killed during the war, a fifth of Britain's total dead. **1918**

**11** - Today is Martinmas, Scottish Quarter Day. The feast of St Martin of Tours was traditionally the day for slaughtering livestock and salting it for preservation through the winter.

**12** - St Machar Day, patron saint of Aberdeen.

**12** - Edinburgh University first admitted women to the study of medicine. Sophia Jex-Blake and her friend Edith Pechy were the first to attend the prestigious medical school. Though Jex-Blake passed her exams, she was not allowed to graduate as regulations prevented women from actually serving on the wards. **1869**

**13** - King Malcolm III (Canmore), last of the Celtic kings was killed at the Battle of Alnwick. Succeeded by Donald III. **1093**

**13** - The birth of Robert Louis Stevenson, author and poet, in Edinburgh's New Town. His books included *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. He died in Samoa, aged 44. **1850**

**14** - Speed limit for horseless carriages was raised from 4mph (2mph in towns) to 14mph. **1896**



**15** - Statue to Greyfriar's Bobby, who stayed by his master's grave for 14 years was unveiled. **1873**

**15** - The Stone of Destiny was finally returned to Scotland. Legend has it that the stone is a relic from the Holy Land and once belonged to the biblical Jacob. From an early date the kings of Scotland were inaugurated sitting on a royal chair with the stone in its base. In 1296 Edward I removed the stone and installed it at Westminster Abbey. It remained there until it was kidnapped by Scottish nationalist students in 1951. They managed to hide the stone in Scotland for four months until it was found and returned to Westminster. It was moved from there to Edinburgh Castle in 1996 amid much celebration. **1996**

**16** - Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show opened in the East End Exhibition Buildings, Duke Street, Glasgow. **1891**

**16** - James Macpherson, the famous fiddling freebooter, was hanged at Banff. The town clock was said to have been advanced to forestall a messenger carrying a reprieve for his hanging. Legend has it that before the notorious outlaw musician was hanged for sheep and cattle stealing he treated the crowd to one of his own compositions, *Macpherson's Rant*, and then broke the fiddle over his knee. When Burns heard of the tale he wrote the song *Macpherson's Farewell*. **1700**

**17** - David Livingstone reached Victoria Falls in Africa. Livingstone was born at Blantyre, south of Glasgow and went on a mission to reach new peoples in the interior of Africa and introduce them to Christianity. **1855**

**18** - Sir David Wilkie who later became a well-known painter of historical and religious works as well as portraits, was born near Pitlessie, Fife. **1785**

**18** - Robin Hall, the Scottish folk singer and musician, died. Hall achieved national fame in the sixties along with fellow Scot, Jimmie Macgregor, on the BBC TV show, *Tonight*. Hits included *The Mingulay Boat Song* and schoolboy favourite, *Ye Cannae Shove Yer Grannie Aff a Bus*. **1998**

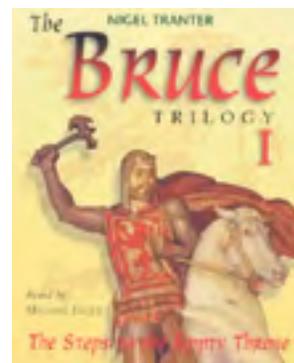
**19** - King Charles I born. **1600**

**20** - James Bruce, 8th Lord Elgin, the Scottish Liberal statesman and diplomat, died. During his career he served as Governor-General of Canada, 1847-54, and India, 1862-63 and was special envoy to China and Japan. During a visit to China he burnt down the emperor's famous Summer Palace in Beijing, destroying thousands of priceless works of art, in order to intimidate the emperor and force him to sign an unratified treaty. **1863**

**21** - King James VII married Mary of Modena. **1673**

**22** - Birth of Mary of Guise, the French Queen Consort of James V. She was regent of Scotland during the minority reign of her daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. **1515**

**22** - Jack McConnell elected First Minister of Scotland, succeeding Henry McLeish who had resigned. **2001**



**23** - Historical novelist Nigel Tranter born in Glasgow. He was the most prolific Scottish writer of all time, writing mainly factual and fictional books related to Scottish history and was also a columnist for *the Scottish Banner*. **1909**

**24** - David II (aged 7) crowned at Scone. **1331**

**24** - The Scots army defeated at the Rout of Solway Moss. King James V had sent a huge force of 10,000 men into England which was defeated by an English force under the command of Sir Thomas Wharton. James died shortly afterward, and was succeeded to the throne by his baby daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. **1542**

**25** - General Tam Dalyell raises a regiment to suppress Covenanters which later became the Royal Scots Greys. **1681**

**25** - Helen Duncan the last person to be jailed in the UK under the British Witchcraft Act of 1735 was born. **1897**

**25** - Steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie born in Dunfermline. Carnegie became a powerful businessman and a leading force in the American steel industry. Carnegie believed that the wealthy had an obligation to give back to society, so he donated much of his fortune to causes like education and peace. **1835**

**26** - Death of John McAdam, inventor of "macadamisation" road surface with a smooth hard surface with a camber to ensure rainwater rapidly drained away. **1836**

**26** - Elsie Inglis, the Scottish nursing pioneer and suffragette, died. Inglis is perhaps best remembered for her role in the First World War, where, convinced that women could play an active role in the conflict, she led volunteer medical units of women who served in France and in Serbia, where Inglis herself was taken prisoner. Winston Churchill wrote that Inglis and her nurses "would shine in history". **1917**

**27** - The greatest storm on record hit Britain with the loss of 8,000 people in 24 hours. **1703**

**27** - The first deaths from an E.coli outbreak in Lanarkshire were reported. The outbreak was subsequently traced back to a butcher's shop in the town of Wishaw, and by early 1997 twenty people, mostly senior citizens, had died, making this the world's worst outbreak of E.coli poisoning. **1996**

**28** - Battle of Rullion Green on the Pentland Hills, south-west of Edinburgh, in which the King's army led by Sir Tam Dalyell defeated the Covenanters. **1666**

**28** - W.Oliver Brown, the candidate for the fledgling National Party of Scotland (NPS), polled 4,818 votes in the Renfrew East By-Election. In doing this he became the first NPS candidate to save his election deposit. The National Party of Scotland amalgamated with the Scottish Party in April 1934 to form the modern Scottish National Party/SNP. **1930**

**29** - Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII of England was born. She later married King James IV of Scotland in the "Union of the Thistle and the Rose". It was due to her bloodline that King James VI of Scotland was able to inherit the crown of England in 1603, after the death of his cousin, Queen Elizabeth I. **1489**

**29** - Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons granted its charter by King James VI. **1599**

**29** - Thomas Edison demonstrated the phonograph publicly for the first time. **1877**

**30** - St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais') – celebrate the patron saint of Scotland. St Andrew, according to Christianity's teachings, was one of Jesus Christ's apostles, the twelve followers chosen by him.



**30** - Stone of Destiny, stolen from Scone by King Edward I of England in 1296, returned to Scotland and installed in Edinburgh Castle. The stone had previously been taken from Westminster Abbey in London by university students in 1951. **1996**

**30** - World's first international football (soccer) match, Scotland V England at West of Scotland Cricket Ground. Result was 0-0. **1872**

**30** - *HMS Vanguard*, Britain's biggest and last battleship, was launched at Clydebank. **1944**







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220 South Orchard Drive  
Burbank, CA 91506

June Alvarez-Fetzer  
Membership-Treasurer  
8516 Lookout Cliff Pass  
Austin, TX 78737-8539  
[www.clanmorrison.net](http://www.clanmorrison.net)

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

**CLAN SCOTT AUSTRALIA GROUP**

**Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch K.B.E**  
**Commissioner: Heather de Sylva**

Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs: Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.  
Info: Secretary, PO Box 320, Maclean, NSW, 2463

**E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com**  
**W: clanscottaustaliagroup.moonfruit.com**




**Clan WARDLAW Association**  
Founded 2004

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

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

**Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.**

P.O. Box 457  
Pinehurst, NC 28370

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

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

**Clan Munro Association, U.S.A**

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

**COME JOIN US!**  
Web site: [www.Clanmunrousa.org](http://www.Clanmunrousa.org)  
Write: Heather Munro Daniel  
4600 Lloydrown Road  
Mebane, NC 27302



**Clan Scott Society**

Membership is invited from all descendants of the surname Scott; associated families Balwearie, Bucklew, Geddes, Harden, Laidlaw, and Langlands (however spelled); as well as those who have an interest in the heritage of the Middle March of the Borders of Scotland.

Clan Scott Society  
PO Box 13021  
Austin, TX 78711-3021  
USA  
Info@ClanScottSociety.org • [www.ClanScottSociety.org](http://www.ClanScottSociety.org)



**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](mailto:alfredhcooke@gmail.com)  
[www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au)



**Murray Clan Society of North America**

Applications for membership are invited from Murray's and the following allied families: Balneaves, Dinsmore, Dunsmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrie, Neaves, Piper, Pypier, Smail, Smeal, Small, Smeale, and Spalding.

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

In the U.S. contact: Robert W. Murray  
2000 Cambridge Ave #329  
Wyomissing, PA 19610-2738



**Clan Shaw Society**

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

Mike Shaw  
Secretary  
2403 West Cranford  
Denison, TX 75020



**Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.**

Promoter of International Tartan Day, Brisbane, Queensland  
PO Box 3188, South Brisbane 4101  
Bi-Monthly Newsletter, All things Scottish  
All persons of Scottish Descent welcome. [www.aussie-scots.org.au](http://www.aussie-scots.org.au), Email: [secretary@aussie-scots.org.au](mailto:secretary@aussie-scots.org.au), Ph 07 3359 8195

**Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria**

[www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org](http://www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org)  
Founded in 1905

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

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

**Contact** Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277  
Email: [scottishgaelicsocietyvic@gmail.com](mailto:scottishgaelicsocietyvic@gmail.com)




**Clan Pollock**

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

A. D. Pollock, Jr.  
PO Box 404  
Greenville, KY 42345  
e-mail: [apollockis@comcast.net](mailto:apollockis@comcast.net)



**Clan Sinclair Australia**

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](mailto:clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com)



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

Ruaraidh MacAonghais, Neach Cathrach (Convener)  
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: [fos@orgaelic.org](mailto:fos@orgaelic.org)  
Web: [www.orgaelic.org](http://www.orgaelic.org)  
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235



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

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association.

The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC, QLD, 4101, Australia. [www.standrewsociety.com](http://www.standrewsociety.com)



**Clan Pringle Association (North America)**

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

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



**Clan Skene Association, Inc.**

Invites membership from Skene and septs Cariston, Carney/Carnie, Currehill, Dyas, Dyce, Dyer, Hall, Halyard/Hallyard, MacGalliard, Rennie, and Skains.

Al McGalliard  
President  
273 Amy Clegg Drive  
Gray, GA, 31032  
Email: [alrx95@gmail.com](mailto:alrx95@gmail.com)

**CALEDONIAN CLUB OF FLORIDA WEST (SARASOTA, FL)**



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

Contact: Robert Howard, President 941-376-5514  
Email: [roberthoward200@gmail.com](mailto:roberthoward200@gmail.com)  
Web site: [www.caledonianclub.org](http://www.caledonianclub.org)



**St. Andrew's Society of Vermont**

P.O. Box 484  
Essex Junction, VT 05453

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



**Ross Clan in Australia**

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

We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest

**contact Commander Des Ross at [lonepiper.ross@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:cynthiar5@yahoo.com) <http://www.daughtersofscotia.org>

**Victorian Scottish Union**  
Established 1905

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

**Affiliated Clans & Societies for 2013-2014:**

Balarat 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](mailto:secretary@victorianscottishunion.com)  
[www.victorianscottishunion.com](http://www.victorianscottishunion.com)



**CLAN ROSS AMERICA**  
ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION MERGED

Many Names - One Clan

Liz Ross, President  
Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary  
[czamembership@abcglobal.net](mailto:czamembership@abcglobal.net)  
PO Box 6341  
River Forest, IL 60305  
[www.clanross.org](http://www.clanross.org)



**Clan Sutherland Society of Australia**

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

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



**Clan Sutherland Society of North America, Inc.**

The Society cordially invites membership of all Sutherlands (however the name is spelled) and of the associated families: Cheyne, Duffus, Gray, Frederith, Mowat and Oliphant.

Richard Langford  
1106 Horseshoe Lane  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
e-mail: [richard@langfordmail.net](mailto: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](http://www.chicago-scots.org)

# 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](http://www.scottishbanner.com/events) or email [info@scottishbanner.com](mailto:info@scottishbanner.com).

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

## CANADA

### NOVEMBER 2017

#### 2 - 4 Ottawa, ON - Sir John A. Macdonald - The Musical

Takes you back 150 years to the birth of Canada to tell the story of the Father of Confederation—a proud Scotsman, MacDonalld served as Canada's first (and third) Prime Minister at the Centrepointe Theatre. Info: 613-580-2700 or [www.centrepointetheatre.ca](http://www.centrepointetheatre.ca)

#### 4 - 5 Duncan, BC - Duncan Highland Dance Competition, Premiership & Workshop

Presented by The Cowichan Valley Highland Dance Association. Info: [www.cvhda.com](http://www.cvhda.com)

#### 7 Vancouver, BC - The Gaelic Society of Vancouver Cèilidh

Join in at the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St. Info: [www.vancouvergaelic.com](http://www.vancouvergaelic.com)

#### 10 Mississippi Mills, ON - Celtfest Harvest Cèilidh

Join Almonte Celtfest for a casual evening of Celtic and folk music in celebration of the harvest season at Almonte Old Town Hall 14 Bridge. Info: [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca), [www.almonteceltfest.com](http://www.almonteceltfest.com)

#### 12 Toronto, ON - 2017 Annual Church Parade

St. Andrew's Society of Toronto church parade at the historic St. Andrew's Church. Info: [www.standrews-society.ca](http://www.standrews-society.ca)

#### 18 Toronto, ON - The St. Andrew's Charity Ball Toronto

Experience Scottish hospitality and revel in Scotland's rich history and traditions, co-hosted by the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto and the 48th Highlanders of Canada at Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West. Info: [ball@standrews-society.ca](mailto:ball@standrews-society.ca) or [www.standrews-society.ca](http://www.standrews-society.ca)

#### 18 Vancouver, BC - St Andrew's Ball

Join the British Columbia Pipers' Association at the Coast Hotel, Denman Street for a formal, four course dinner, music by the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, entertainment by Shot of Scotch and dancing all night long. Info: [www.bcpiipers.org](http://www.bcpiipers.org)

#### 18 Orléans, ON - Scotland Tonight

An afternoon of Celtic excellence featuring the pipes, drums, song and dance in a showcase of local Celtic talent. With something for everyone, Scotland Tonight is a wonderful way to enjoy the Celtic arts in a grand variety show at Shenkman Arts Centre, 245 Centrum Blvd. Info: [www.shenkmanarts.ca](http://www.shenkmanarts.ca)

#### 18 Calgary, AB - 134th Annual St Andrew's Ball and Workshop

Scottish music, dance and food with the St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary at Rosemont Hall. Info: 403-968-786 or [www.standrewcaledonian.ca](http://www.standrewcaledonian.ca)

#### 24 - 26 St. Anns, NS - Gaelic Weekend

Take some time to develop your Gaelic skills Spend the weekend at The Gaelic College while learning the Gaelic language in an exciting, useful, and enthralling way. Info: 902 295 3411 or [www.gaeliccollege.edu](http://www.gaeliccollege.edu)

#### 24 Embro, ON - 81st annual St. Andrew's Night Banquet

Celebrate Scotland at Embro Zorra Community Centre, 355644 35th Line. Info: Jim Walton 519-475-4451 or [info@embrohighlandgames.ca](mailto:info@embrohighlandgames.ca)

#### 24 Winnipeg, MB - 147th Annual St Andrew's Day Dinner

Join the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg and celebrate Scotland's patron saint at Fort Garry Hotel. Info: [www.standrews-wpg.ca](http://www.standrews-wpg.ca)

#### 25 Toronto, ON - RSCDS Toronto's 60th Anniversary Dance

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Toronto celebrates their Diamond Anniversary year with a gala dance at the Sala Caboto Ball room. Info: [www.dancescottish.ca](http://www.dancescottish.ca)

#### 30 Nationwide - Happy St Andrew's Day

Wishing all our readers and friends a happy St Andrew's Day! Celebrate St Andrew's Day, Scotland's national day.

December 2017

#### 1 Montreal, QC - 2017 St. Andrew's Ball

Evening of dining, dancing and pageantry celebrating one hundred and eighty-one years of Scottish heritage in Montreal at The Marriott Château Champlain Hotel, 1 Place du Canada. Info: [www.standrewsball.com](http://www.standrewsball.com)

#### 17 Montréal, QC - St Andrew's Society of Montreal Burns Supper Children's Christmas Party

There will be food, games, presents and Santa Claus from 1 to 4 pm at Black Watch Armoury, 2067 Rue de Bleury. Info: [www.standrews.qc.ca](http://www.standrews.qc.ca)

#### 25 Nationwide - Happy Christmas

Wishing all our readers and friends a very Happy Christmas and festive season!

#### 31 Nationwide - Happy Hogmanay

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2018!

#### 31 Ottawa, ON - Hogman-eh!

At the Aberdeen Pavilion with the Scottish Society of Ottawa—a unique New Year's celebration with a Scottish flavour, celebrating the Scots love of music, dance, history, sport and literature. Info: [www.thescottishsocietyofottawa.com](http://www.thescottishsocietyofottawa.com)

## USA

### NOVEMBER 2017

#### 1 - 1 New York, NY - A Spooky Night

Join the American-Scottish Foundation in association with Burns Society NY at Cafe Tallulah, 70th Street & Columbus Ave. Celebrate the "Halloween" of Robert Burns with verse and music. A haunting fun evening for all. Info: [www.americanscottishfoundation.org](http://www.americanscottishfoundation.org)

#### 3 - 5 Myrtle Beach, SC - The Association of Scottish Games and Festivals Conference

A conference of resources and information to assist in the production of Highland Games throughout the United States. Info: [www.asgf.org/conference](http://www.asgf.org/conference)

#### 4 - 5 Austin, TX - Austin Celtic Festival

Multi-stage and programming of all things Celtic out at the beautiful Pioneer Farms in North Austin. Info: [www.austincelticfestival.com](http://www.austincelticfestival.com)

#### 4 Milwaukee, WI - Tripoli Scottish Highlanders Tartan Ball

Scottish music, food and fun at Tripoli Shrine Center, 3000 W. Wisconsin Ave. Info: [www.highlandertartanball.com](http://www.highlandertartanball.com)

#### 4 Denver, CO - 2017 St. Andrew's Gala

Presented by St. Andrew Society of Colorado at Denver Marriott Tech Center, 4900 S. Syracuse St. Info: [www.coloradoscots.com](http://www.coloradoscots.com)

#### 4 Seattle, WA - 53rd Annual Heather Tartan Ball & Silent Auction

Featuring pipe band performances, auction, Scottish country dancing & music. Presented by the Seattle Scottish Highland Games Association at Seattle Latvian Center 11710 3rd Ave NE. Info: [www.sshga.org](http://www.sshga.org)

#### 6 Havana, FL - St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee Kirkin' of the Tartans

At Havana Presbyterian Church, 213 1st St NE, Info: [www.saintandrewtallahassee.org](http://www.saintandrewtallahassee.org)

#### 17 - 19 Pacific Grove, CA - Asilomar Scottish Country Dance Weekend & Workshop

Scottish country dance weekend & workshops at Asilomar Conference Grounds, 800 Asilomar Ave. Info: Patti Cobb, Asilomar Weekend Chair (510)858-7588 or [www.Asilomar.rscds-sf.org](http://www.Asilomar.rscds-sf.org).

#### 17 - 19 Pittsburgh, PA - Balmoral Classic

Weekend includes a Friday night reception, the US Junior Solo Bagpiping and Solo Snare Drumming Championships on Saturday, and a Saturday night concert featuring Alasdair Fraser, long regarded as Scotland's premier fiddle ambassador, and brilliant Californian cellist Natalie Haas. Info: [www.balmoralclassic.org](http://www.balmoralclassic.org)

#### 18 Pittsburgh, PA - Fraser and Haas in Concert at Balmoral Classic

Scottish traditional music on Scots fiddle and cello at the Balmoral Classic. Pittsburgh's Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming presents Alasdair Fraser and Natalie at McGonigle Theatre, Central Catholic High School, 4720 Fifth Ave. Info: 412 323- 2707 or [www.bagpiping.org](http://www.bagpiping.org)

#### 18 Dunedin, FL - Dunedin Celtic Music & Craft Beer Festival

Traditional and contemporary Celtic music and both local and national craft beer at Highlander Park. Info: [www.dunedincelticmusicfestival.com](http://www.dunedincelticmusicfestival.com)

#### 25 Las Vegas, NV - Celtic Thanksgiving

Las Vegas Pipe Band's annual Celtic Thanksgiving concert showcases the best of Southern Nevada's diverse Celtic performing arts community on one stage: Scottish & Irish dancers, Celtic singers, bagpiping & Scottish drumming at Clark County Library 1401 East Flamingo Rd. Info: [www.lasvegaspipeband.org](http://www.lasvegaspipeband.org)

#### 25 Parker, TX - Celtic Festival at the Farm

Spend a beautiful fall day with us on a working farm, where Celts and Celts-at-heart will gather to enjoy live bagpipe music, Scottish food, gift vendors, kids games and crafts, historic costumes, silent auctions, Outlander fan meet-up, and more at Jacob's Reward Farm 4308 Church Lane. Info: [www.facebook.com/metroplex.united](http://www.facebook.com/metroplex.united)

#### 29 New York, NY - Eve of St Andrew's Day Dinner

Celebrate Scotland's patron saint with the Scottish-American Foundation with Scottish food, drink and cheer at Maggie Place, 21 East 47th St. Info: 212 605 0338 or [www.americanscottishfoundation.org](http://www.americanscottishfoundation.org)

#### 30 Nationwide - Happy St Andrew's Day

Wishing all our readers and friends a happy St Andrew's Day! Celebrate St Andrew's Day, Scotland's national day.

### DECEMBER 2017

#### 1 Tallahassee, FL - St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee St. Andrew's Day Dinner

Celebrate Scotland's patron Saint at Tallahassee Women's Club featuring the Seven Nations Band. Info: [www.saintandrewtallahassee.org](http://www.saintandrewtallahassee.org)

#### 1 Akron, OH - Scottish American Society St. Andrews Celebration

Potluck dinner served at Northwest Family Recreation Center, 1730 Shatto Ave. Info: [www.scottishamericansociety.org](http://www.scottishamericansociety.org)

#### 1 Bellevue, WA - Scottish fiddler Brandon Vance

World-Class violinist and Scottish fiddler, Brandon Vance, is an innovative performer-composer, creating new music in a traditional style, while honoring the classics of the Scottish fiddling tradition at SOMA Towers 288 106th Avenue Northeast. Info: [www.resonance.events](http://www.resonance.events)

#### 2 Rockville Centre, NY - NY Metro Pipe Band Christmas Ball

Celebrate Christmas and the band at the Parish Center at St. Agnes Cathedral, 26 Quealy Pl. Info: [www.nymetropipeband.com](http://www.nymetropipeband.com)

#### 16 - 17 Atlanta, GA - Celtic Christmas

Fiddlers, dancers, harpists, singers, Highland pipers, and bards from the Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Appalachian traditions have enchanted Atlanta audiences of all ages at Rialto Center for the Arts at Georgia State University, 80 Forsyth Street Northwest. Info: (404) 413-9TIX (9849) or [www.rialtocenter.org](http://www.rialtocenter.org)

#### 16 New York, NY - The Pipes of Christmas

NYC's favorite Celtic Christmas event at 2pm, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, 921 Madison Ave. Info: [www.facebook.com/ThePipesofChristmas](http://www.facebook.com/ThePipesofChristmas)

#### 17 Summit, NJ - The Pipes of Christmas

NYC's favorite Celtic Christmas event at 2 & 7 PM, Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St. Info: [www.facebook.com/ThePipesofChristmas](http://www.facebook.com/ThePipesofChristmas)

#### 25 Nationwide - Happy Christmas

Wishing all our readers and friends a very Happy Christmas and festive season!

#### 30 Tryon, NC - Jamie Laval's Celtic Christmas

An entertaining and thought-provoking family holiday experience, the show weaves a tapestry of music, dance, poetry, and stories which hearken back to the ancient Celtic celebrations associated with the Winter Solstice and Christmas at Tryon Fine Arts Center, 34 Melrose Ave. Info: 828-859-8322 or [www.tryonarts.org](http://www.tryonarts.org)

#### 31 Portsmouth, VA - Olde Towne Scottish Walk

Modeled after Scotland's Hogmanay Festival, the walk is a day when townspeople honor their community and merchants, wishing good luck and prosperity in the coming year. Join the procession of families, friends and visitors led by bagpipe-and-drums. Info: 757-650-3052 or [www.portsvaevents.com](http://www.portsvaevents.com)

#### 31 Nationwide - Happy Hogmanay

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2018!

## SCOTLAND

### NOVEMBER 2017

#### 2 - 5 Denholm - Denholm Folk Festival

A wee folk festival for a wee village. The weekend's programme includes evening concerts, workshops and an open stage competition. The main events are joined by continual sessions for uninterrupted foot-tapping. Info: [www.denholmfolkfest.co.uk](http://www.denholmfolkfest.co.uk)

#### 4 Edinburgh - Big Gaelic Beasties

Bilingual, interactive fun with big beasties from traditional Gaelic storytelling lore at the Scottish Storytelling Centre. Info: [www.tracscotland.org/scottish-storytelling-centre](http://www.tracscotland.org/scottish-storytelling-centre)

#### 8 - 19 Forres - Colours of Cluny

A sound and light spectacular lighting up Northern Scotland skies for 12 nights at Grant Park, Victoria Rd. Info: [www.coloursofcluny.com](http://www.coloursofcluny.com)

#### 11 Glasgow - Glasgow's Whisky Festival

Glasgow's festival of the national tippie is especially interested in distillers and bottlers from in and around Glasgow itself, but they welcome all, big or small at Hampden Park, Letherby Dr. Info: [www.glasgowwhiskyfestival.com](http://www.glasgowwhiskyfestival.com)

#### 17 - 26 Oban - Oban Winter Festival

The coastal town gets frosty with a series of activities. Info: [www.obanwinterfestival.com](http://www.obanwinterfestival.com)

#### 17 - 6 Edinburgh - Edinburgh's Christmas

Edinburgh's Christmas is a spectacular, six-week season of festive entertainment in the heart of the city centre. Info: [www.edinburghschristmas.com](http://www.edinburghschristmas.com)

#### 18 Howden, Livingston - Eddi Reader Live

From the traditional to the contemporary, Eddi Reader brings life to all forms of song at Howden Park Centre. Info: [arts@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:arts@westlothian.gov.uk)

#### 18 Broxburn - West Lothian Family History Weekend

Who do you think you are—West Lothian style! Have you ever thought about researching your family tree, but don't know where to start? Come to Broxburn Library to start your search. Info: [www.westlothian.gov.uk](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk)

#### 23 - 25 Dundee - Dundee Mountain Film Festival

The UK's longest continuous running mountain film festival at Bonar Hall, The University of Dundee, Park Place. Info: [www.dundeemountainfilm.org.uk](http://www.dundeemountainfilm.org.uk)

#### 30 - 3 Irvine - illumination: Harbour Festival of Light

Irvine's historic waterfront will light up with fireworks as the country's newest art and light spectacular comes to life. Info: [www.illuminationfestival.co.uk](http://www.illuminationfestival.co.uk)

#### 30 - 3 East Lothian - The Saltire Festival

Celebrate St. Andrew's Day and the Home of the Flag and celebrate Scotland's fascinating heritage, wonderful culture, delicious food & drink traditions, best of Scottish music, arts, innovation and entertainment. Info: [www.visiteastlothian.org/the-saltire](http://www.visiteastlothian.org/the-saltire)

#### 30 Nationwide - Happy St Andrew's Day

Wishing all our readers and friends a happy St Andrew's Day! Celebrate St Andrew's Day, Scotland's national day.

### DECEMBER 2017

#### 1 - 31 Kinross - Kinross-shire's Winter Festival

A mix of family fun including pantos, music, street market, carols, fairs and Christmas activities. Info: [www.kleo.org.uk](http://www.kleo.org.uk)

#### 1 - 17 Scottish Borders - Scottish Borders Winter Festival

The Scottish Borders is overflowing with history and beauty. This is a winter festival with events taking place in Galashiels, Kelso, Jedburgh, Selkirk and Hawick. Info: [www.facebook.com/ScottishBordersWinterFestival](http://www.facebook.com/ScottishBordersWinterFestival)

#### 8 Darvel, East Ayrshire - Skerryvore

Expect blazing bagpipes, accordion and fiddle mixed with standard rock instruments as the 'boy band of Scottish traditional music' play live at Darvel Town Hall. Info: [www.skerryvore.com](http://www.skerryvore.com)

#### 23 Hawick - The Red Hot Chillii Pipers Live

Bagpipes with attitude, drums with a Scottish accent at Hawick Town Hall, High St. Info: [www.rhcp.scot](http://www.rhcp.scot)

#### 25 Nationwide - Happy Christmas

Wishing all our readers and friends a very Happy Christmas and festive season!

#### 28 Paisley - Family Festive Ceilidh

Celebrate the end of 2017 at the Festive Family Ceilidh with Clamjamfrie; a traditional evening of Scottish music and ceilidh dancing for everyone to enjoy at Paisley Town Hall. Info: [www.whatsonrenfrewshire.co.uk](http://www.whatsonrenfrewshire.co.uk)

## 🍷 DID YOU KNOW?

The Scottish Banner has one of North America's most comprehensive Scottish events listings available! With hundreds of Scottish events listed from around the world and updated weekly.

See our most up to date listings and add your event anytime at: [www.scottishbanner.com/events](http://www.scottishbanner.com/events)

## Answers to Scotword on Page 6

**Across:** 1) Deerforest; 8) Float; 9) Nairn; 10) Still; 11) Operas; 12) Sporrans; 13) Ingles; 15) Wringers; 18) Northern; 20) Asylum; 22) Hebrides; 23) Gordon; 26) Eagle; 27) Idiot; 28) Elder; 29) Uddingston

**Down:** 1) Dundonian; 2) Exile; 3) Fanfare; 4) Ross; 5) Slippers; 6) Portabuel; 7) Stots; 8) Florin; 14) Garibaldi; 16) Symington; 17) Breenged; 19) Heifer; 21) Smoking; 22) Haver; 24) Drift; 25) Peri

## Scottish Genealogical Research



**Let us build your Scottish Family Tree!**

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LOC 1L0, Canada

Email: [dempseyrand@gmail.com](mailto:dempseyrand@gmail.com) for details.

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



## Rosemary Roasted Scotch Lamb

### Ingredients:

Leg of Scotch Lamb weighing 1.8kg/4lbs.  
A couple of stems fresh rosemary  
6 baking potatoes about 1.4kg/3lbs., peeled  
1 onion, sliced  
2 cloves garlic, sliced  
1tbsp olive oil  
¾pt/350ml. lamb stock

### Method:

Preheat the oven to 240°C/475°F/Gas 9. Season the lamb with freshly ground pepper and roast in a medium roasting tray in the preheated oven for 15 minutes. Lower the heat to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Remove the lamb from the tray and pour off the excess fat. While the lamb is roasting, heat the oil in a pan, add the onions and cover and cook for 5 minutes till soft. Remove the cover from the pan, add the garlic and rosemary and cook for a further 5 minutes. Remove the onions from the pan. Lay a layer of potatoes into the roasting tray and lightly season with black pepper. Lay 1/3 of the cooked onions onto the potatoes, repeat this process until you have three or four layers of potatoes and onions. Bring the lamb stock to the boil and pour over the potatoes, press down with a spoon till the potatoes are all submerged. Place the lamb on top and return to the preheated oven and continue to cook for 3 hours. The lamb should be meltingly tender and the potatoes and onions should have absorbed the stock and lamb juices.

## Cullen Skink



### Ingredients:

**For the stock:**  
75g/2½oz butter  
1 tbsp. vegetable oil  
2 leeks, roughly chopped  
2 onions, peeled, roughly chopped

2 fennel bulbs, roughly chopped  
250ml/9fl oz. white wine  
500g/17½oz smoked haddock  
750ml/1 pint 7fl oz. water  
**For the soup:**  
75g/2½oz butter  
1 tbsp. vegetable oil  
2 leeks, finely chopped  
2 shallots, peeled, finely chopped  
2 garlic cloves, peeled, crushed  
300g/10½oz potatoes, peeled, chopped  
500ml/17½fl oz. double cream  
1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley  
pinch freshly grated nutmeg

### Method:

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

## Crusted Haddock, Sunblushed Tomato Couscous, Buckies, Arbroath Smokie & Fennel Salad

### Ingredients:

4 fillets of fresh haddock or similar  
4 slices of sandwich bread  
25g/.88oz. butter  
100g/3.5 oz. giant couscous (boiled in salted water)  
30g/1.05oz. sunblushed tomatoes in oil (chopped)  
1 clove of crushed garlic

## St Andrew's Day Menu

*Celebrate this St Andrew's Day with a traditional dinner using some of the finest recipes from Scotland's natural larder. Sample some great Scottish food and drink on November 30<sup>th</sup> with your friends and family and enjoy a St Andrew's Night!*

2 tbsp. diced tomato flesh (discard seeds and skin)  
1 tbsp. chopped chervil  
1 tbsp. chopped chives  
30g/1.05oz. buckie/piriwinkle meat (if unavailable try cockles)  
½ tsp lemon zest  
1 bulb of fennel  
1 Arbroath Smokie (or similar) picked off the bone  
Juice of ½ lemon  
Chive batons

### Method:

For the fish, cut the crusts off the bread slices and place in between two sheets of plastic food wrap. Use a rolling pin to flatten the bread to 2mm thick. Season the bread with a little salt and pepper. Fold each haddock fillet in half and place on top of the bread. Trim the bread with a knife so the bread and fish are the same size. It is now ready for cooking. Once the couscous has been cooked, strain through a colander and mix all remaining ingredients together with the couscous. Season well, reserve and keep warm until ready to serve.

For the salad garnish, simply shave the fennel using a mandolin then toss together with the smokie meat, lemon and chives. Use a pan that is suitable to go in an oven. Set the oven at 160°C/Gas mark 4. To cook the fish, warm the pan with a little oil over a moderate heat. Place the fish into the oil bread side down. Remove from the heat after a short time (30-40 seconds) and cook in the oven for approx 5-6 mins. When the fish is cooked, remove from the oven and flip it over to reveal the golden bread crust. Serve fish on a bed of couscous and top with salad garnish.

## Skirlie mash



### Ingredients:

1kg/2.2 lbs. floury potatoes  
85g/3oz. butter  
2 onions, finely chopped  
50g/1.76oz. pinhead or medium oatmeal (not flakes)  
6 tbsp. double cream  
handful curly parsley, chopped

### Method:

Boil the potatoes until very tender, about 20 mins. Meanwhile, make the skirlie. Heat the butter in a frying pan, add the onion and cook for 10 mins until golden and soft. Add the oatmeal and stir until the butter is absorbed and the mix looks dry. Continue cooking until the skirlie is toasted, stirring (skirling round the pan) all

the time for 5 mins, but do not let it catch and burn. Remove and keep warm. Drain the potatoes, return to the hot pan and mash really well. Beat in the cream, parsley and skirlie, then season to taste. Serve immediately before the skirlie softens.

## Scottish cranachan with a wee twist



### Ingredients:

**For the cardamom honey:**  
1 x 250g/9oz jar clear honey  
20 cardamom pods, seeds only, finely ground  
**For the cranachan:**  
40g/1½oz medium or coarse oatmeal  
200g/7oz raspberries  
400ml/14fl oz. double cream  
2 tbsp. cardamom honey (from above), or to taste  
3 tbsp. malt whisky  
½-1 tsp rosewater, or to taste  
rose petals, to garnish (optional)

### Method:

To make the cardamom honey: crush the cardamom pods in a pestle and mortar to separate the dry pods from the seeds. Discard the husks. Toast the seeds in a dry pan to release their oils so they become aromatic. Pour half of the honey into a pan and add the crushed and toasted cardamom seeds. Gently heat through until the honey has become more liquid and starts to bubble at the edges; if you have a probe thermometer, the temperature should be 75C/165F. Remove from the heat and pour the flavoured honey back into the jar with the remaining honey. Stir gently, and leave to cool, uncovered. When cool, put on the lid and ideally store for 24 hours before using.

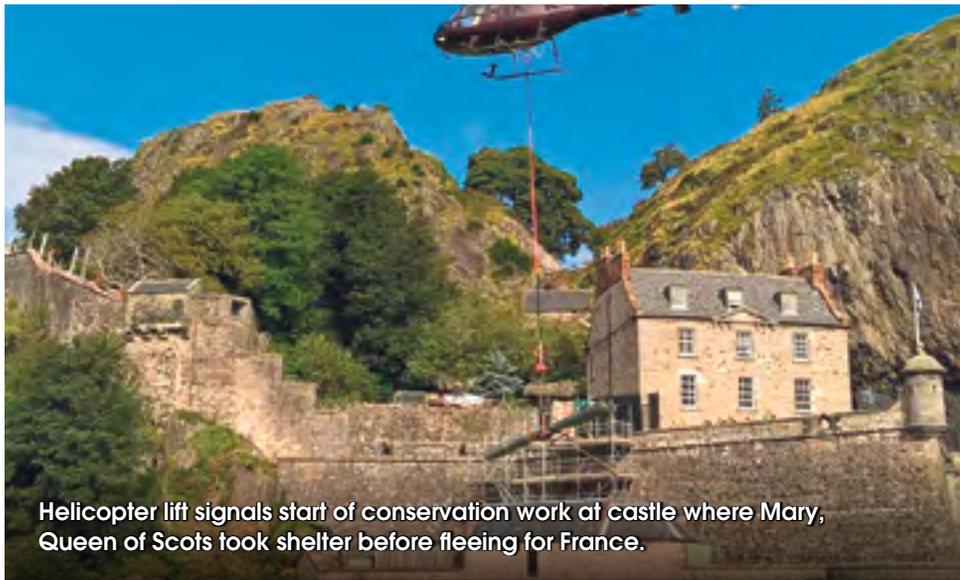
To make the cranachan: heat a heavy-bottomed pan and toast the oatmeal over a low heat, stirring occasionally, until it smells warm and nutty and has changed colour. This will take 10-15 minutes, sometimes as long as 20 minutes. Leave to cool.

In a bowl, crush half of the raspberries to make a rough mash. In a separate bowl, whisk the cream with the honey, whisky and rosewater until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed, then fold in the crushed raspberries.

Fold in the toasted oatmeal and two-thirds of the remaining whole raspberries. Adjust the honey and rose water to taste. Spoon the cranachan into small glasses, and garnish with the remaining raspberries and some rose petals, if using. Drizzle with a wee bit more of the cardamom honey and serve.

# Dumbarton Castle lifts eyes to the sky

Text and image courtesy of Historic Environment Scotland.



Helicopter lift signals start of conservation work at castle where Mary, Queen of Scots took shelter before fleeing for France.

A helicopter lift has signalled the start of a £42,000 conservation project by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to restore a stone sentry turret at the castle where Mary, Queen of Scots took shelter before fleeing for France. The sentry cupola, which would have provided shelter to soldiers standing watch over Dumbarton, was constructed during renovations which took place between 1600 and 1700. These were intended to convert the medieval castle visited by Scottish royalty into a modern artillery fortress. In winter 2016, it was struck by lightning, and since then Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has been developing plans to conserve the prominent feature.

Debris and surviving stonework from the tower was removed, with HES stonemasons hand-carving replacement stones for the ornate domed cupola roof. Work to restore the turret is now beginning on site, however due to the challenges posed by the location of the tower, a helicopter is being used to lift materials to the upper levels of the castle. Scaffolding was then be erected around the remains of the turret to allow staff access, and to build up traditional wooden propping to support the roof as it is reconstructed. Once the keystone at the summit of the dome has been fitted, the roof will be self-supporting and the props removed. HES stonemasons will then undertake repointing work on the turret and the

surrounding area, before the scaffolding is removed in Spring 2018.

## The geology of the rock

Professor David Mitchell, Director of Conservation for HES said: "The damage caused to the sentry cupola by lightning earlier this year caused significant damage to electrical systems and the masonry tower - I visited the site soon after the incident and was taken aback at the destructive power of the lightning strike. By combining the conservation and traditional craft skills of our stone masons we will be able to re-construct the tower, retaining as much historic fabric as possible.

"The geology of the rock was of course a key attribute in its use as a place of fortification - the ease of defending the site and the dramatic vista from the rock were key to its success. Those same attributes present us with challenges in transporting heavy materials safely to the top of the rock. In this scenario it is often quicker and safer to use a helicopter to transport the materials to where they are needed. This work forms part of a wider programme of investment at the Castle, which will be running until next spring. We will provide interpretation to visitors to explain this latest chapter in the castle's story."

The project to restore the sentry cupola is part of a wider programme of investment in Dumbarton Castle by HES. This has also seen invasive ivy and scrub plants cleared from parts of the Castle and Rock, improvements to utilities,

and extensive conservation work on the Governor's House. Further work to conserve the Magazine and French Prison is planned through 2018 and 2019.

**Dumbarton Castle is located in Dumbarton and is open daily except from 1 November to 31 March which is daily except Thursday and Friday. For details see: [www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)**

## Did you know?



- Dumbarton Castle guards the point where the River Leven joins the River Clyde. Its recorded history goes back 1,500 years
- Alexander II of Scotland built the medieval castle around 1220 as a defence against the threat from Norway, whose kings ruled the Hebrides and the islands in the Clyde.
- The castle rock was formed some 340 million years ago and displays some fine geological features of volcanic and glacial activity.
- Dumbarton was an important royal castle in the Middle Ages and last saw military action as recently as the Second World War.

# Sherlock Holmes in Edinburgh



Edinburgh the UNESCO City of Literature. Photo: VisitScotland.

125 years ago, the first collection of Sherlock Holmes stories were published, and the rest is history. Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> October marked the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the first collection of Sherlock Holmes stories, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Scotland, as the birthplace of author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, is the ideal location for following in the famous detective's footsteps, with dedicated tours as well as the chance to explore Scotland's wider literary heritage.

In 2004 Scotland's capital city Edinburgh was designated the first UNESCO City of Literature. Sir Arthur

Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh in 1859, the beauty of the city provided the perfect inspiration for his writing. Scotland is also the birthplace of other literary giants such as Irvine Welsh, Robert Burns and Ian Rankin.

With such a literary pedigree, check out what's in store for literature lovers and would-be detectives in Scotland this autumn: The Real Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour-Take a step back in time to Victorian Edinburgh, and join Sherlock Holmes on a magical walking tour to discover the hidden history and forgotten places where the Holmes legend really began. Learn about how, as a young medical student, Arthur Conan Doyle

met the man who would inspire the idea of a new kind of fictional detective, and visit the Sherlock Holmes statue on Picardy Place, and site of Arthur Conan Doyle's birth. The Edinburgh Literary Pub Tour-In 1996 this award-winning tour was the first literary tour launched in Edinburgh. The guides will lead you on a brilliant and witty dramatic tour through the wynds, courtyards and pubs of Edinburgh's Old and New Town.

## Iconic Literary Locations

### Scott Monument, Edinburgh

Based in the heart of Scotland's capital city Edinburgh, the magnificent Scott Monument was built after the death of Sir Walter Scott in 1832. The city came together to agree on a fitting monument to remember this outstanding Scottish literary figure.

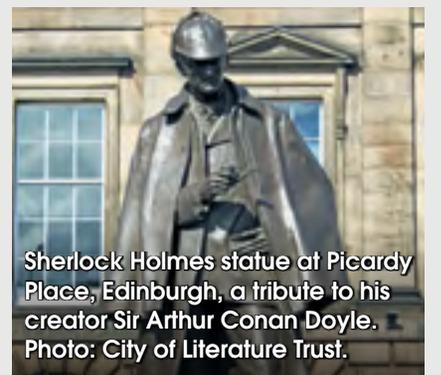
### JM Barrie's Birthplace, Dundee and Angus

Visit the birthplace of J M Barrie, author, playwright and creator of the much loved character Peter Pan. It was here that he spent his early years, growing up immersed in the traditions of the small weaving community, and finding inspiration in everything around him.

### Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, Ayrshire

Enjoy a visit to the museum and enjoy a 21<sup>st</sup> century tribute to Burns. It houses the world's most important collection of Burns' original works and personal belongings, in a bright and modern building.

## Did you know?



Sherlock Holmes statue at Picardy Place, Edinburgh, a tribute to his creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Photo: City of Literature Trust.

## Literary facts:

- Printing and book importation were firmly established in Scotland when the first printing press was set up by Andrew Myla and Walter Chepman in Edinburgh in 1508.
- There is a 'Literature Quarter' area of Edinburgh which contains the Scottish Poetry Library, Scottish Storytelling Centre, Scottish Book Trust, Canongate Books, The Writers Museum, Makars Court and the National Library of Scotland.
- There are more than 50 bookshops in Edinburgh, ranging from chains to independents, antiquarian to second hand. Some of these include the Old Town Bookshop, McNaughton's Bookshop and Gallery and Lighthouse.
- The Scott Monument is the largest monument to a writer in the world. It commemorates Sir Walter Scott. Waverley Station in Edinburgh is named after Scott's novel *Waverley* and is the only railway station named after a work of fiction in the world.

# Holmwood-*Thomson's landmark villa*

**Glasgow based architect Alexander 'Greek' Thomson created one of Glasgow's most unique buildings Holmwood in the 1800's. Today this historic house is managed by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and is part of an ongoing conservation project to keep the works of one of Glasgow's great sons alive as David McVey explains.**



Images courtesy of David McVey.



The first name most people would think of when asked to name a Glasgow architect or designer would be Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Not surprising and quite right too. However, early in his career Mackintosh was awarded the Alexander Thomson Travelling Studentship. This honour for aspiring architects commemorated an earlier Glasgow-based architect-artist. Thomson, unlike Mackintosh, was fully recognised and feted during his career. His profile is, however, less prominent today not least because many of his fine buildings have been lost.

Thomson was born in 1817 in the Stirlingshire village of Balfron, just north of the Campsie Fells, the seventeenth of his parents' children! From the age of 12 he worked in a Glasgow lawyer's office but later became apprenticed to the architect Robert Foote. In 1847 he married Jane Nicholson, something of a dynastic architectural match; Jane's father was an architect, as was Peter Nicholson, her grandfather. In 1802 Peter had designed Laurieston House, on the south bank of

the Clyde in Glasgow's Carlton Place. It's still impressive today, albeit sadly unused.

## Magnificent church buildings

Jane's brother-in-law John Baird was yet another architect; Thomson formed a partnership with him when striking out for himself. However, in 1856 he formed a new partnership, A and G Thomson, with his brother George. The firm designed buildings prolifically, especially in and around Glasgow. They specialised in domestic villas that, at the time were strikingly modern yet which incorporated elements of classical design from Greece and Egypt - hence the rather overused 'Greek' Thomson nickname.

Thomson also designed some magnificent church buildings in Glasgow. Queen's Park Church was destroyed by bombing during the Second World War whereas the Caledonia Road Church, also in the city's Southside, remains only as a neglected shell; a particular tragedy since it was the church where Thomson himself worshipped and served as an elder. Another Thomson church, the Chalmers Memorial Free Church, was demolished after a fire in 1971. The St Vincent Street Church, however, survives as a place of worship and as a testament to Thomson's abilities. It is owned by Glasgow City Council and has been occupied since 1971 by a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland.

## Prominent figure in the architectural world

Thomson became a very prominent figure in the architectural world; he was a founder member of both the Glasgow Architectural Society and the Glasgow Institute of Architects and served both as president. After his death in 1875, a Travelling Studentship was awarded in his memory, and, as we have seen, it had



a notable early recipient. The Glasgow Institute still exists and continues to award the studentship.

There has been quite a toll of Thomson's buildings over the years. Although original and innovative at the time, they suffered during the 1960s and 70s from being labelled 'Victorian' and many were culled. Today, the Alexander Thomson Society does an excellent job of keeping the architect's name and reputation alive and they hosted an exhibition at Glasgow's Lighthouse centre that commemorated the 200th anniversary of Thomson's birth. However, it's possible to really get inside Thomson's work at Holmwood in Glasgow's Southside.

## Holmwood

Holmwood is a domestic villa built in 1857-8 for James Couper, who managed the nearby Millholm Paper Mills. It was built near the then village of Cathcart, now long swallowed up in Glasgow's southern suburbs. Couper had requested a villa with 'Grecian' influences and he certainly picked the right architect for that. However, Holmwood was an innovative design; certainly there were many Greek influences on structure and decoration but the building has a pleasingly sprawling modern, asymmetrical look. It quickly became famous because in 1868 it featured in *Villa and Cottage Architecture*, a copiously illustrated book.

**Holmwood is one of Glasgow's lesser-known attractions but it represents one of the masterworks of a city architect who deserves to be much better remembered.**

This book was published by Glasgow firm Blackie and Son. In 1902, Charles Rennie Mackintosh was commissioned by Walter Blackie of the same company to design his legendary Hill House in Helensburgh. As Mackintosh would there, Thomson exercised considerable control over the interior and exterior decoration

of Holmwood, not just the architecture. Over the years and successive ownerships of the house, some of this was lost and furniture dispersed.

Among these later owners were the Grays, who occupied the house from 1919 to 1931. James Gray stood as a Liberal for parliament and lost, despite receiving campaign support from David Lloyd George. At Holmwood you can see a photograph of the two men, taken in Holmwood's drawing room in 1928.

From 1958 to 1994 Holmwood was occupied by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. As well as various local good works, the Sisters established a primary school in the grounds of the house. The local education authority took over management of the school in 1967 and various support buildings joined the school building in clustering round Holmwood, yet the original building remained surprising untouched. The school moved to larger premises in 1992 and the Sisters vacated Holmwood in 1994.

A property developer wanted to build 93 houses and flats in Holmwood's grounds but instead the property went to the National Trust for Scotland - who also manage Hill House in Helensburgh. Holmwood has been open to the public since 1998 but research and restoration of the house and grounds are ongoing. Visitors can actually see the work happening.

## Surprisingly small

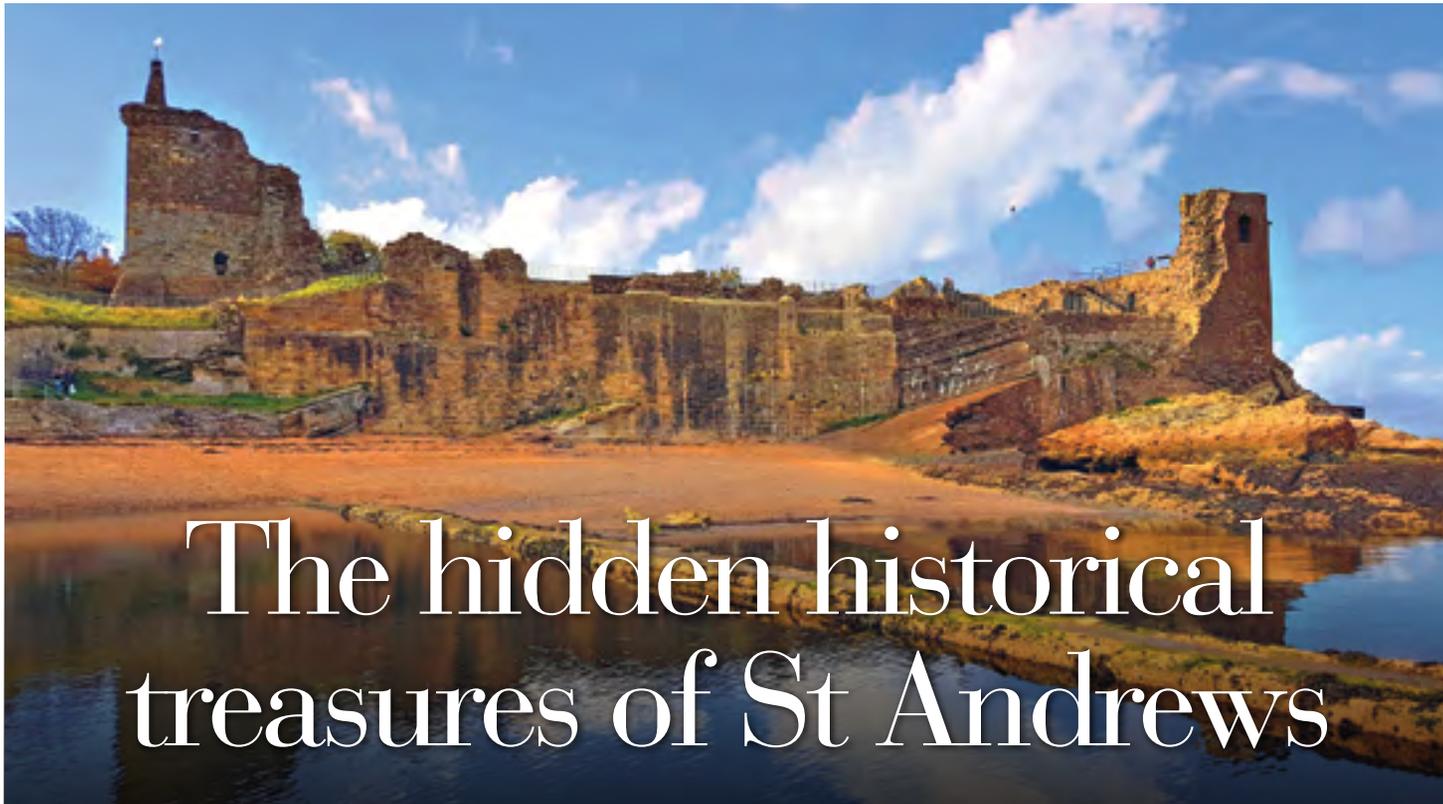
It's best to reach Holmwood by train; it's 10-15 minutes' walk from Cathcart Station. You approach the house by a wooded avenue and enter the grounds through modern-looking yet original gates. The setting is peaceful and green with the River Cart audible in its glen far below. All of the school buildings have been swept away as if they'd never been and the grounds and gardens are restored to something like their original appearance.

Holmwood is surprisingly small - much smaller than a typical NTS property, but it would have been imposing enough as a businessman's home. Perhaps the most impressive room is the dining room, where the distinctive Greek-themed decoration is being conserved and restored. Figures of naked Greek heroes weren't suitable for the room when the Sisters used it as their chapel, but instead of destroying them they merely covered them up, thus ensuring their survival. Here, and elsewhere in the house, the Villa and Cottage architecture volume has been invaluable for recreating the decoration and furnishing of the building.

Holmwood is one of Glasgow's lesser-known attractions but it represents one of the masterworks of a city architect who deserves to be much better remembered.

**For further details see:**  
[www.alexanderthomsonsociety.org.uk](http://www.alexanderthomsonsociety.org.uk) or  
[www.nts.org.uk/Visit/Holmwood-House](http://www.nts.org.uk/Visit/Holmwood-House)

By: David C Weinczok



***Known the world over for golf, the historic seaside town of St Andrews in Fife boasts some amazing historic treasures waiting to be uncovered. This month as many will celebrate St Andrew's Day and David C Weinczok looks into the history of the town that bears the name of Scotland's patron saint and discovers some of the secrets of the town from both above and below ground.***

As St Andrew's Day approaches, the town of St Andrews itself is understandably in the spotlight. With its world-renowned golf course, university, and historic sites St Andrews is one of Scotland's most appealing destinations. My eye is instinctively drawn to its historic gems, and while both the mighty castle and magnificent cathedral are obvious highlights of the town's history they each contain completely unique and awe-inspiring features that often go unexplored. As a tribute to St Andrew's Day 2017, here are the lesser-known treasures contained within the town's two greatest historical landmarks.

**The Siege Mines of St Andrews Castle**

St Andrews Castle is, naturally, a major attraction in the town. The seat of the Bishops of St Andrews, it protected what was by far the wealthiest and most powerful ecclesiastical centre in Scotland in the Middle Ages. The medieval diocese of St Andrews comprised a massive portion of Scotland, stretching as far south as the Borders and as far north as Aberdeenshire. With this territorial expanse came incomparable amounts of power and wealth, and both had to be defended. As a result of its significance the castle seen more than its fair share of action, with perhaps the most famous episode being the great siege of 1546-7.

Cardinal Beaton had the Protestant preacher George Wishart burnt at the stake outside the castle walls, a process that allegedly lasted an agonizing six hours. The reaction to this martyrdom was swift and vengeful, and Fife's Protestant lairds used stealth to enter the castle and murder the Cardinal. His body was stuffed into the castle's bottle dungeon along with sufficient salt to ward off the smell. Though highly destructive, the subsequent siege too root out the rebellious lairds by Scotland's Regent, the Earl of Arran,

bequeathed to St Andrews Castle one of the most extraordinary archaeological sites anywhere in Europe.

Tunnelled underneath the castle are the siege mines: dark, narrow and desperate passageways. These are utterly unique in that they are the only siege mines you can enter anywhere in the world. There are two main sections to the mines, one dug by the attackers that is easily tall and wide enough to comfortably stand up in, and the counter mine dug by the castle's defenders. Panic would have set in as the attacker's mine crept ever closer to the walls, and the panic shows – the counter mine is cramped and barely large enough to crouch in. There were two false starts to the counter mine before they got it right and managed to intercept the subterranean attackers.

Imagine, for a moment, the shock of digging away and the rock in front of you suddenly crumbling to reveal the equally shocked face of a foe directly in front of you. Extreme close quarters combat ensued, the ferocity of which is hard to fathom. There are indeed some who cannot enter the mines due to claustrophobia, or because the hunched-over scramble through the counter mine of the mine is too physically taxing.

The siege ended with a bang when a French fleet arrived in support of Regent Arran and bombarded the castle until little was left. Amongst the defenders who were captured was John Knox, who would go on to lead the Protestant Reformation in Scotland and transform the ecclesiastical face of the nation forever. With the siege ended the mines were blocked up to ensure they could never again be a threat. Fortunately Historic Environment Scotland, the national heritage body that cares for St Andrews Castle, has once more opened them up to create an exhilarating if somewhat daunting experience for visitors to the fortress.

**The Saint Andrews Sarcophagus**

St Andrews Cathedral is, even in its ruinous state, a sight to behold. A religious site has existed here since at least the early eighth century, and its prominence was enhanced when Viking raids on the west coast made Iona too dangerous a location for the emerging nation's spiritual capital. The cathedral was consecrated in 1308 with Robert the Bruce in attendance, and he knew full well the acclaim and legitimacy that would flow from being involved in such a ceremony.

Within the St Andrews Cathedral Museum is something altogether unexpected – a sarcophagus. This, however, is no Egyptian import, but a native Pictish masterpiece. It is not known for certain who was buried within, but the sophistication and intricacy of the carvings that adorn it suggest someone of high importance, perhaps even royalty. The sarcophagus was discovered in 1833 while graves were being dug near St Rule's Tower. Several carved slabs were unearthed, and it soon became clear that these parts formed an astonishing whole.

It almost certainly dates from the middle of the 8th century, a time when St Andrews was still called by its Celtic name, Cell Rìgmonaid, anglicised as Kilrymont. In that case, a likely contender for sarcophagus' recipient is the Pictish king Oengus. It was he who ruled in the time when the relics of St Andrew were brought to the settlement (which included an arm, kneecap, three fingers and a tooth), an act that gave it its current name.

One of the fascinating aspects of the sarcophagus is its depiction of both Christian and pagan iconography. This blending of beliefs is something seen on many Pictish crosses, for instance, with one side usually showing a cross and the opposite side showing traditional scenes such as hunts, battles, and mysterious Celtic beasts. In the case of the St Andrews Sarcophagus King David of the Israelites can be seen slaying a lion by prying its mouth apart, with King David being a sort of motivational symbol for good kingship. A mounted hunter can also be seen with a pack of hounds, locked in battle with a ferocious animal – possibly a lion – reared up on its hind legs. This iconography would certainly be worthy of King Oengus who amongst other achievements conquered the kingdom of Dal Riata, homeland of the original Scots who migrated from the north of Ireland.

Aside from the sarcophagus the museum is a treasure trove of Pictish and medieval carved stones, though many visitors likely pass it by in favour of wandering the sprawling cathedral grounds. In doing so, they miss the opportunity to see one of the finest Pictish artefacts in existence and indeed one of Europe's most remarkable early medieval objects.

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



Winged mermaid carved medieval stone.



St Andrews siege mines (countermine).



St Andrews Cathedral.

# January 13-14, 2018

Saturday 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM  
Sunday 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM

Winter Springs Florida • Central Winds Park



41st Annual  
Central Florida

# Scottish Highland Games



[flascot.com](http://flascot.com)

