



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

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The Banner Says...

Watchers of the Monster



by Sean Cairney

Welcome to May where many will start to visit Scotland's shores for the upcoming travel season.

As the days get longer in Scotland and the weather improves many events start to kick off across the country. One event that is taking place this month is happening at what must be considered Scotland's most mysterious place, Loch Ness.

For anyone who has visited the UK's largest body of fresh water will know not only how beautiful it is but also famous. The legend of the Loch Ness Monster, or also lovingly known as Nessie, is known the world over and excites the imagination of many visitors to Scotland.

Sir Edward Mountain

This year marks the 90th anniversary of Sir Edward Mountain's famous expedition with the 'Watchers of the Monster', an expedition in which 20 men with cameras and binoculars were placed around the cold dark waters of the loch for five weeks in 1934. This was the first organised surface watch of Loch Ness, and its very famous resident, with over twenty sightings recorded by Mountain's team. Sir Edward was a business magnate and the founder of Eagle Star Insurance which became one of the largest insurance companies in the United Kingdom.

Later this month in honour of the anniversary of that expedition a search is again being planned (May 30-June 2nd) with the hopes that our advancing technology will further assist the organisers, Loch Ness Centre and Loch Ness Exploration, in finding some answers to the many questions many still have about the elusive monster.

NASA

Organisers are aware of many potential sightings and strange noises heard from the depths of Loch Ness, The Loch Ness Centre is planning an even bigger search as it continues its goal of uncovering the loch's mysteries. Whether you are sitting by the edge of the loch looking or perhaps sitting at home across the world and viewing by webcam everyone is being invited to help look for Nessie. This includes scientists and universities, as well as pioneers of exploration NASA to provide equipment and expertise in the search. With new equipment from experts the Loch Ness Centre is hoping science can help uncover the mysteries of the loch and the unexplainable sightings since the Watchers of the Monster expedition 90 years ago.

The legend of the Loch Ness Monster is known the world over and excites the imagination of many visitors to Scotland.

For several decades there has been reported sightings of Nessie, with the most recent being in April 2024. Last year, one of the biggest searches of Loch Ness took place as we reported, with a hydrophone capturing loud underwater noises and several potential sightings. Paul Nixon, General Manager of the Loch Ness Centre, said: "Last year we captured the world's attention with one of the biggest ever searches for Nessie, with participants joining us from America, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and more. With unexplained noises heard, alongside possible sightings, this year we are determined to find out more about the elusive Loch Ness Monster. As well as asking for the help of budding monster hunters to help us on our quest, we are asking for the help of experts. We're excited to make this search the biggest ever, as we look for new equipment to help us uncover the loch's biggest mysteries."

In this issue

Whilst Nessie may hide from the limelight tartan, tweed and Scottish design was proudly on show recently in Toronto for the Dressed to Kilt fashion event. This was the first time the 'world's most prestigious Scottish fashion show' was presented outside the USA and celebrated both Scottish and Canadian designers. Tartan of course was the showstopper and as many readers of this publication will agree, is *always* in fashion.

With many celebrations taking place across North America last month for Tartan Day it was wonderful to see Highland Dance being recognised in New York City. With dancers from across the world taking part highlighting this skilled tradition of Scottish culture.

I have been fortunate to have visited Culzean Castle, the castle perched on the Ayrshire cliffside, a couple of times. Whether it has been strolling through the grounds or taking in the incredible interiors it really is something you should consider adding to your Scottish itinerary.

Water beast

The Loch Ness Centre, which was reopened last year following a renovation, is located at the old Drumnadrochit Hotel, where, 90 years ago, hotel manageress Mrs Aldie Mackay reported seeing a 'water beast' in Loch Ness – sparking our modern-day interest in the phenomenon. Will the US space agency take up the offer to get involved with the search for one of this planet's biggest mysteries? Time will tell but it does not take rocket science to know the legend of Loch Ness is bigger than any underwater monster might be and regardless of what they do or don't discover the legend will live on. 🦄

Will you take part in the search for Nessie this month? Have you been to Loch Ness? Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or: #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner

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We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



Loch Ness. Photo: VisitScotland.



Gracing our front cover: A Celebration of Highland Dance in New York. Photo courtesy of Fling Together Collective.



BELLINGHAM SCOTTISH GATHERING

SATURDAY JUNE 1, 2024

Hosted by the City of Blaine, Washington U.S.A

ScottishDanceSociety.org



Experience Pacific Northwest Beauty and Nature beside the Salish Sea
Nestled beside the Peace Arch and international border crossing into Canada
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- Highland Dancing Championship
- Piping, Drumming & Bagpipe Bands
- Vendors, Clans and Athletics!

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SCOT POURRI

Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history?

Meh Granny



Meh granny never had the things
That maist fowk hae the day
She never saw a TV set
Or heard a tranny play
She never yaised a microwave
Eye-level grills an' things
She used tae yaise an' auld black range
An' twa gas burning rings.

Meh granny never ate kebabs
Or Chinese kerry oots
She never drank a can o' coke
Or tasted kiwi fruits
She never smelt the curried scent
O' spicy vindaloos
An' she never (though she stayed three up)
Had stairheid barbecues.

Meh granny never wore T-shirts
No even in her teens
She never wore a mini skirt
Or frayed an' torn jeans
She never had her hair in spikes
Or dyed it green or blue
An' she never had her airms tattooed
Or had a sniff o' glue.

Meh granny never had a hoose
Wi' mod cons like we hae
The kitchen was her living room
The loaby her hallway
The carpets were but clootie rugs
That she'd made piece by piece
An' her vacuum was a besom heid
That worked wi' elbow grease.

Alas meh granny's crossed the vale
Ower tae the ither side
She's sairly missed but nonetheless
That's whaur she'll hae tae bide
Hoo'ever, should she get tae hear
O' a' the things we've got
I'm shair she'd shed her heavenly wings
An' come back like a shot!

Composed by David Taylor
Dundee, Scotland

**Ed note: Thank you David for this poem
and sharing your beloved granny with us.**

Ancient tartans



After reading about Scotland's oldest tartan (*Scotland's oldest tartan recreated, the Scottish Banner*, March, 2024), it takes me back to 1958 where I started an apprenticeship in a textile company by the name of Wilson Bros (Alva) of Dalmore Works Alva. I worked there for five years, and whilst I was there the company produced very high-quality products which included dress material, tie cloth (mainly for schools) and many specialised products, and of course tartans. I should also add that our fabric designer was no less than a Blue Ribbon designer for three years in a row whose name was Peter Simpson, so I suppose it may be because of him that we also produced ancient tartans. I believe, if the mill is still in existence, it was converted into a museum. I was told this back in back in 2024, so perhaps there could be some information still on hand.

The mill was overtaken by a company from Glasgow, they sold a lot of mohair fabrics that we produced, and they made so much money that they bought Wilson Bros out and renamed the factory Glentana Mills.

Perhaps there could be some fabric samples of more ancient tartans still there.

W.E McAllister
Mt Pritchard, NSW
Australia

Ed note: Thanks for your insight into the cloth industry in Alva. We understand this building is now sadly derelict and has been empty since 2019.

The Hebridean Baker



Thank you for a lovely article with Coinneach MacLeod, aka The Hebridean Baker (*The Hebridean Baker at Home, the Scottish Banner*, February, 2024).

I have followed and greatly enjoyed Coinneach's content on social media, his love for his Scottish culture, and of course Hebridean background, is wonderful to watch. I will not make any of the book tour but will be ordering his latest cookbook and will enjoy his recipes of his homeland, and my ancestry.

Thank you also for an informative selection of articles and stories in *the Scottish Banner*, I enjoy them all immensely.

Claire MacPhedran
Long Island, NY
USA

Clan Ewing in search of a Chief



This year, Clan Ewing will appoint its first chief in almost 250 years. Since their last Family Convention in 2014, Clan Ewing has been led by its commander, John Thor Ewing, and has grown in strength and recognition. But the institution of commander can only be an interim measure. The time has now come to appoint a chief. The last known Chief of Clan Ewing was Robert Ewing of Craigtoun, who is believed to have died in 1776. Since then, the line of descent has been lost, and it has not been possible to discover the heir to the chiefship by right of inheritance. So, they have reached an impasse.

The Ewing Family Association is organising a new Family Convention to be held later this year when, unless a hereditary claimant can be securely established, a new chief will be appointed by the clan. If you cannot attend the Family Convention in person, there will also be an opportunity for eligible clansfolk to vote in advance. Among the candidates will be John Thor Ewing, current Commander of Clan Ewing. If you think you have a legitimate claim to be chief of this historic clan, or if you wish to stand for election as chief, Clan Ewing would love to hear from you now—straight away, before it's too late! The Ewing Family Convention will be held on 21st September 2024 at Strathleven House, West Dunbartonshire, Scotland, UK, and simultaneously at the Crowne Plaza St Louis Airport Hotel, Bridgeton, Missouri, USA, when, unless a claim can be proven through hereditary

right, the clan will appoint its choice of chief—the first for nearly two-and-a-half centuries. The meeting will be held under the supervision of George Way of Plean, Carrick Pursuivant and former Procurator Fiscal of the Court of the Lord Lyon.

Find out more, or register to vote at: vote@ewingfamilyassociation.org
For more information please see the *Clan Ewing* website: www.clanewing.uk or *Ewing Family Association* website: www.ewingfamilyassociation.org

Tartan Day

I love *The Banner* and have been buying it for many years. I take it and read to my dear old mother who loves anything to do with our Scottish heritage. As someone who wears the kilt and Highland dress fairly regularly, I greatly enjoy Tartan Day and personally think that our date (July 1st) here in Australia makes more sense, as it's specifically about the return of Tartan to its proper place after the harsh proscription years.

Having said that, if the US Senate and the Canadians have set the date in stone, I guess that's pretty much it. Personally, I'm happy to attend as many Tartan Day's as people want to arrange. In recent years, I've had many quite shocking experiences with members of the Australian public, of all ages, who just don't recognise the outfit at all, and I've had people use the dreaded skirt word when they see me in my kilt with no sense of rudeness, they are just completely ignorant of the significance of the tradition at all! I find it appalling that in a relatively few decades Scottish heritage seems to be out of mind, despite programs like *Outlander* being so popular. It's time for a cultural fight back!

So, the more Tartan Day's, the merrier!
Kindest regards,
David Stewart Lovegrove
Australia

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Sent to our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts—send us your photos or letters via social media (#ScottishBanner or #TheBanner):

Double beauty



Mik Coia

Anchor Mill



The iconic Anchor Mill, an enduring monument to Paisley's rich history in the textile industry.
IG: @eadietam

Winter in Glencoe



A great place to put on the fire in Glencoe.
Derek A Grist

Highland stag



Amidst the beauty of Glen Coe, stands a majestic stag.
The Killed Photographer

22nd annual Tartan Day on Ellis Island celebrates Highland Dance

All images courtesy of Tartan Day on Ellis Island.



A Celebration of Highland Dance in New York.

The 2022 Ellis Island celebration of Tartan Day featured a *Celebration of Highland Dance* through interpretive exhibits, dance costumes, performance videos and live performances. On Sunday, April 7, over 60 dancers representing the US, Scotland, Canada, and Australia performing traditional dances and a majestic mass Highland Fling in front of the New York City skyline. Performers included members of Shot of Scotch (New York City), the OzScot Dancers (Australia), the Fling Together troupe (US and Canada), the Maloney School of Dance (New Jersey) and Scotland's Lindsay School of Dancing. Emily Ritter of Shot of Scotch served as Dance Director and piping was provided by John Loiacono.

Commenting on the experience, Debra Henry of the Lindsay School of Dance from Stonehaven, Scotland said, "Dancing on Ellis Island has been an amazing experience for our dancers with the most iconic backdrop of the New York City skyscape behind the Mass

Fling. We all have memories to last a lifetime."

Opening on March 27 to kick off Scottish heritage celebrations in New York, the exhibit has been extended until April 18. The program was dedicated to the memory of beloved Scottish dance teacher Mary Stewart. Stewart (1918-2001) came to America from Glasgow in 1951 and became a renowned teacher of champion Highland Dancers.

Producer Robert Currie, Commander of the Name and Arms of Currie expressed his gratitude to the entire event team, especially the incredible dancers, the US National Park Service and the Scottish Government. Additional support and coordination was provided by ScotDance USA.

Rich cultural heritage

Scottish dancing in North America can be traced back to the migration of Scottish immigrants who brought their cultural traditions, including dance, to the continent. In the 18th and 19th centuries, Scottish settlers and their descendants

continued to practice traditional dances, adapting them to the new surroundings. These dances were often performed at social gatherings, celebrations, and events within Scottish communities, helping to preserve and pass on the rich cultural heritage. Over time, Scottish dance evolved and diversified in North America, with various styles and regional influences contributing to its vibrant presence today.

Highland dancer Mariah Rust who took part added, "Since I first participated in 2018, the Tartan Day on Ellis Island performance has become one of my favorites, not only because it's in a beautiful spot with views of the Statue of Liberty and lower Manhattan, but also for the significance dancing on Ellis Island holds. It was amazing to be able to share this experience with so many friends from Shot of Scotch, Fling Together, OzScot Australia and more. Thank you to the Learned Kindred of Currie/Clan Currie Society for organizing this performance year after year and for including me for a third time."

Part of the North American celebration of Tartan Week, Tartan Day on Ellis Island is one of the United States' major annual Scottish heritage events. Each year is highlighted by an exhibit exploring a specific aspect of Scottish-American history and culture. The celebration also features performances by a host of Scottish artists, including pipers and drummers, Highland dancers, fiddlers, jugglers and harpists. Attendance regularly exceeds eight thousand visitors per day.

Past exhibitions have included, *Scotland's Gift's to the World*, *Captain Kidd and the Hangman's Noose*, *A Celebration of Tartan*, and *Golf - Scotland's Gift to the World*.

The Society also produced the award-winning documentary film *The Crafter's Song - Tartan Day on Ellis Island* in 2003.

The event is produced by the Learned Kindred of Currie, a leading Scottish-American cultural and educational non-profit dedicated to preserving and promoting Scottish and Highland heritage and the arts through a wide variety of programs including special events, scholarships and heritage programs.



Jackie Bird, President of the National Trust for Scotland and Robert Currie, Commander of the Name and Arms of Currie.



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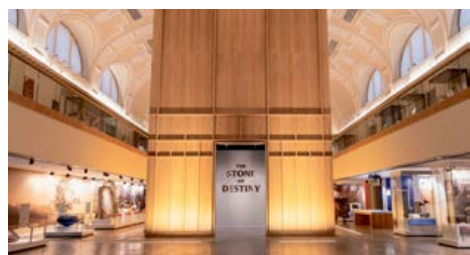
Society of Antiquaries
of Scotland

SCOTSPEAK

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

“Billy Connolly is not just a Glasgow icon, he’s a Scottish icon. He has been a fantastic ambassador for Glasgow, for Scotland, in everything that he does. One of the things that is so important to him is his upbringing in Glasgow. I think having an exhibition about Billy Connolly would be absolutely fantastic for Glasgow and probably the whole of Scotland. He’s given us so much; I don’t think it’s a lot to ask to give him something back in return.”

Glasgow Labour group leader, Councillor George Redmond, said that the city of Glasgow should put on an exhibition honouring one of the city’s most famous sons-Billy Connolly. Cllr Redmond suggested the iconic Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow’s West End as the perfect spot to create an exhibition to the globally known Glaswegian.



“A decade after proposing a new home for the Stone of Destiny close to its origins at Scone, it now sits proudly at the heart of our fantastic new museum - an attraction which joins our wider transformed cultural offer alongside Perth Theatre, the Concert Hall and Perth Creative Exchange. This is a

fantastic attraction that will bring economic benefits and tens of thousands of people to Perth to learn about our history and how we helped shape Scotland’s destiny. It is also a museum for the people of Perth and Kinross and something everyone who lives here can be proud of. It celebrates the stories, places and history that shaped us, connecting our shared past with our future.”

Perth and Kinross Council leader Councillor Grant Laing said more than 700 years since it left Scone, the Stone of Destiny has become the centrepiece of the new £27 million Perth Museum. In December 2020, Scotland’s then First Minister confirmed that the bid for the Stone of Destiny to move to Perth had been approved by Queen Elizabeth II. Alongside the Stone the museum boasts other highlights including new commissioned work made with local communities from across Perth and Kinross and telling some of the area’s most powerful stories including the impact of the Clearances on Highland Perthshire.

“These remarkable records are a fantastic resource for social researchers and those researching their own family tree. Alongside many petty thefts and incidents of drunken behaviour, we see crimes that were of their time, like snatching corpses from graveyards to sell to surgeons teaching anatomy. The harsh lives lived by many are clear from cases like that of a woman who had requested the magistrate send her to prison with the records stating the reason ‘being lame’. These records offer a glimpse at the grittier side of life in early 19th century Scotland.”

Archivist Stefanie Dempster from National Records of Scotland, which runs the ScotlandsPeople website, said a trio convicted of snatching corpses from a Midlothian graveyard are among the thousands of prisoners whose records can now be searched on the ScotlandsPeople website. Searchable indexes to the registers of Edinburgh’s Bridewell and Calton Prisons and Largs Prison in North Ayrshire have now been added to Scotland’s official genealogy website. The new records collectively cover a period of over 50 years from 1798 to 1853 with Bridewell the largest spanning 40 years and 40,000 entries.



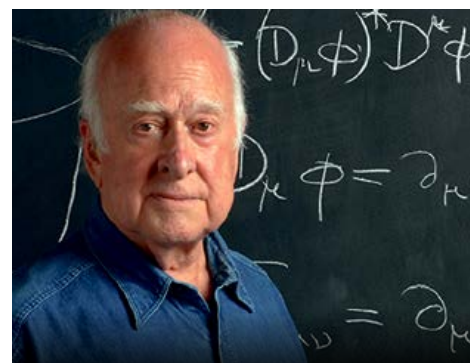
“We’re excited that the exact spot where the story of Scottish tourism began will be celebrated with a dramatic new tower and lookouts. This coincides with the return of the historic Steamship Sir Walter Scott for her first full season following a £850,000 restoration programme and other visitor infrastructure improvements at Loch Katrine. Visitors will be able to enjoy the impressive views and discover more about the rich cultural and natural heritage of Loch Katrine.”

James Fraser, CEO and Trustee of the Steamship Trust said that the construction of a scenic tower and lookouts at the location credited as the birthplace of Scottish tourism will get underway following the award of £350,000 of funding. Sir Walter Scott was inspired to write his epic poem *The Lady of the Lake* at the Rhoderick Dhu viewpoint 215 years ago, just above what is now Trossachs Pier. Scott’s vivid descriptions of Loch Katrine’s landscapes in his best-selling poem, a blockbuster of the day, along with the paintings and stories of other Victorian artists and writers, resulted in visitors flocking to the Trossachs.

“We are a small population and want to grow and encourage people to be a part of our community. Getting a full fibre connection so that people can more easily work and live here is a major part of that. We need all hands-on deck to make the island run.”

Fair Isle Postmistress Fiona Mitchell said as the first businesses on Fair Isle have been connected to full fibre, almost two years ahead of schedule. The subsea cable stretches 68 miles from the Shetland to Orkney Islands, with Fair Isle reached by a spur line. A post office and shop are among businesses which are already connected and all premises on the island can now order the service. In what is believed to be a world first, communications company Openreach had to deploy innovative engineering to boost the signal strength – a super-powered adaptation of technology currently delivered in many homes – due to the distance between the islands.

Pioneering scientist Professor Peter Higgs dies aged 94



Renowned University of Edinburgh physicist Professor Peter Higgs, has died after a short illness. Professor Higgs is best known for predicting the existence of a fundamental

physical particle that came to bear his name – the Higgs boson. He was a researcher at the University in 1964 when he predicted the particle, which enables other particles to acquire mass. His idea was validated by experiments almost 50 years later, in 2012, at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland. The discovery was followed by the award of a Nobel Prize for Professor Higgs in 2013.

Peter Higgs was born on 29 May 1929 in Newcastle upon Tyne. He graduated in 1950 with a degree in physics from King’s College London. A year later, he was awarded an MSc and in 1954 acquired his PhD. He discovered Edinburgh during

a visit to the summer festival season as young man, and went on to make the city his home. Professor Higgs joined the staff of the University of Edinburgh in 1960, when he took up a lectureship at the Tait Institute of Mathematical Physics. He was promoted to Reader in 1970, and to a Personal Chair of Theoretical Physics in 1980. He retired in 1996, becoming Professor Emeritus.

Many years later, in 2012, experiments at the Large Hadron Collider particle accelerator at Cern finally confirmed the existence of the Higgs boson. The following year, Professor Higgs was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics, jointly with Professor François Englert of the Université

libre de Bruxelles. He became a Member of the Order of Companions of Honour, the highest royal honour available, in the same year. A plaque commemorating the Professor’s legacy can be found at Roxburgh Street in Edinburgh. Professor Higgs died peacefully at home on 8 April.

Professor Peter Mathieson, Principal of the University of Edinburgh, said, “Peter Higgs was a remarkable individual – a truly gifted scientist whose vision and imagination have enriched our knowledge of the world that surrounds us. His pioneering work has motivated thousands of scientists, and his legacy will continue to inspire many more for generations to come.”

SCOTWORD

Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try! If you’re stuck, answers can be found on page 26.

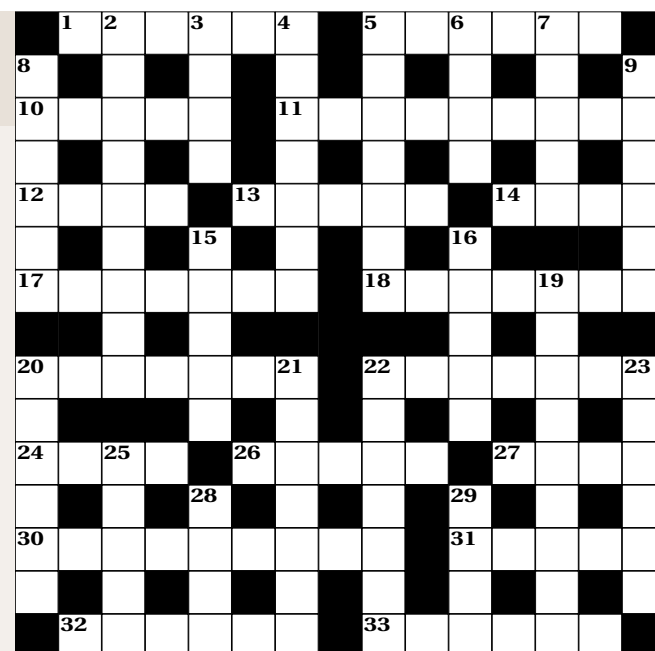
CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Traditional Scottish dish (6).
- 5) Scots brigand (3, 3).
- 10) Scots sandwich (5).
- 11) Village on shore of Moray Firth (9).
- 12) In Scots it’s terrible (4).
- 13) A Scots broom (5).
- 14) Small Scots child (4).
- 17) Grasscutters (7).
- 18) A high chest of drawers (7).
- 20) Spanner in the works! (7).
- 22) Argyll waterway (4, 3).
- 24) Curved entrance (4).

- 26) Mischievous laddie (5).
- 27) The misty isle (4).
- 30) Clydeside castle (9).
- 31) An alleyway between Scots houses (5).
- 32) Village west of Crieff (6).
- 33) They’re danced over (6).

CLUES DOWN

- 2) Village near Callander (9).
- 3) A Gaelic speaker (4).
- 4) Dribbles saliva to a Scot (7).
- 5) Government soldier (7).
- 6) Whirl quickly to a Scot (4).
- 7) Branch of peace (5).
- 8) Young fish (6).
- 9) Kirkwall’s its capital (6).
- 15) Endure a Scot (5).
- 16) Gather the herd (5).
- 19) Village near Auchterarder (9).
- 20) Protectors (6).
- 21) Shirt adornment (7).
- 22) Bagpipe dirges (7).
- 23) A hole in the shoe! (6).
- 25) Walk-on part! (5).
- 28) Glasgow holiday fortnight (4).
- 29) A sound return (4).



Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



Lady MacGregor of MacGregor – otherwise known as British writer and broadcaster Fiona Armstrong - works for ITV news and current affairs. Fiona's husband is the Chief of Clan Gregor, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor. She is an active member of Clan Armstrong, so their lives are interwoven with all things tartan. The couple live in the Scottish Borderlands, although filming and writing takes Fiona all over Scotland.



HRH the Princess Royal, laying a wreath at Lockerbie cemetery. Picture courtesy of Dumfries and Galloway Council.



HRH The Princess Royal at the MacRebur factory. Picture courtesy of MacRebur.

It's the price you sometimes pay for scenic beauty. Like where we live, in the south of the country. Just seven miles up the road is a village called Eskdalemuir; a place famous for damp and drizzle. Indeed, rumour has it, that it once rained non-stop there for three months solidly...

The Princess Royal

But enough of the wet stuff. Because a ray of royal sunshine has just touched this part of the world. Yes, here in Dumfriesshire, we've had a royal visit – and, as Lord-Lieutenant in this area (one of the King's personal representatives) I was closely involved in preparing for the event. Our special guest was none other than HRH The Princess Royal. Princess Anne is very popular in Scotland. She comes here whenever she can – and is such a hard worker - last year undertaking around four hundred and fifty engagements in the UK. My job was to welcome the royal party – and introduce them to those she would meet.

And so, the princess arrived, clad in a smart tweed coat and clutching an umbrella. Yet again, the weather did its usual trick. She was visiting a company that makes plastic roads. The award-winning firm, MacRebur, is based in the town of Lockerbie and their work involves taking recycled plastic, grinding it up, and mixing it with bitumen. It is an industrial,

but rather more environmentally friendly process of making road surfaces and our royal visitor was keen to hear all about it.

Next was a more sombre event as the princess travelled to the local cemetery to remember those who died when an American plane was blown out of the sky over the town thirty-five years ago. 270 people perished in what was the UK's worst terrorist attack. The Lockerbie bombing is one of those disasters that I, for one, can never forget. The day was 21st December 1988, and I was there on the night as a TV reporter. For her part, the princess was visibly moved as she laid a wreath to remember the victims of that terrible attack. A lighter mood emerged as HRH was driven some forty miles north to open a new meat processing plant in the village of Kelloholm. Brown's Food Group is a family-owned company, and is Scotland's biggest pork producer. A royal presence there was an endorsement for pig production which supports some fifty thousand Scottish jobs in the farming supply and processing sectors. Look out for Brown's products: from hams to sausages, their packaging comes with different coloured tartan sporrans.

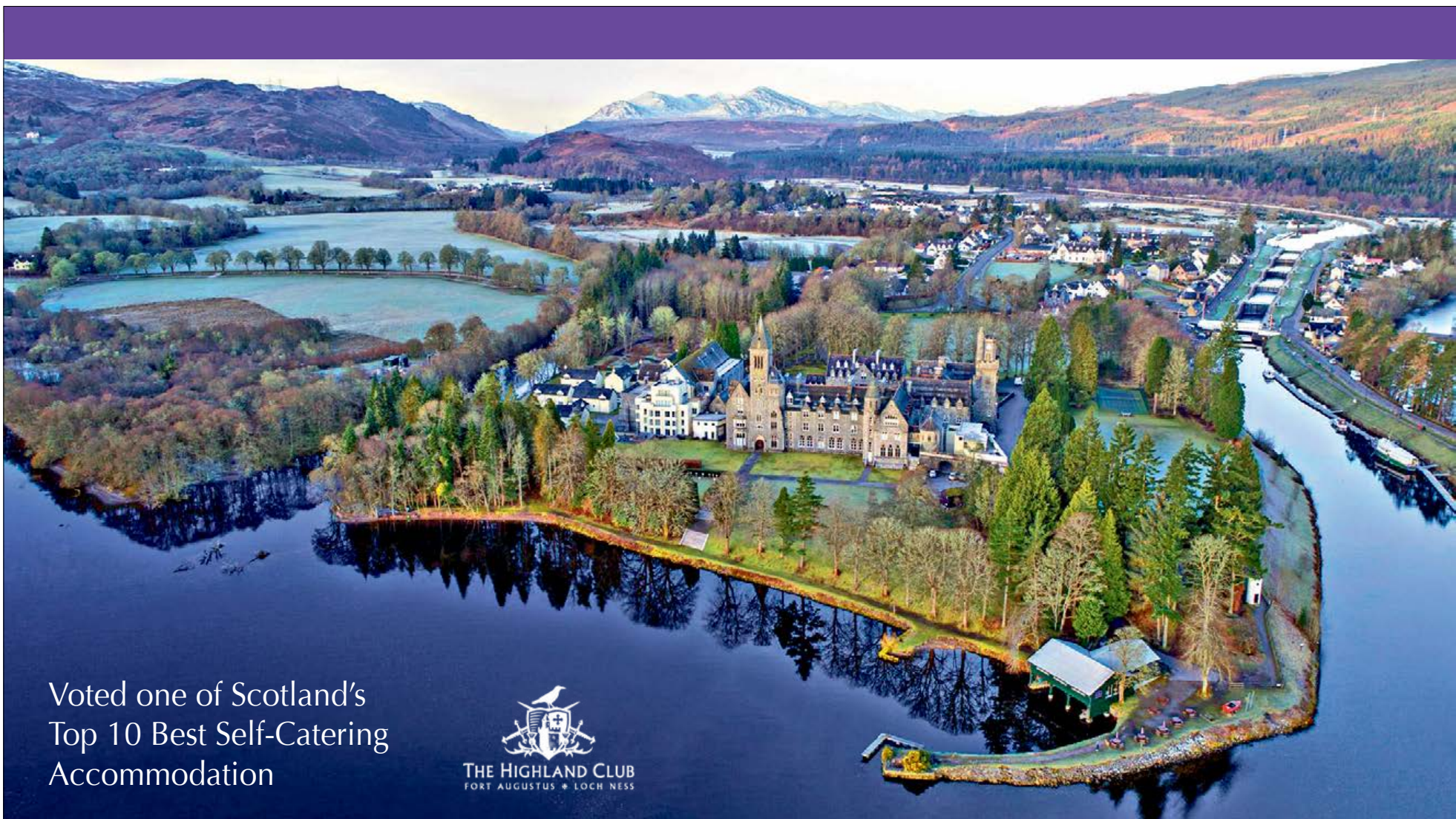
The Scots Guards

Indeed, having a member of the royal family in our region gives a real boost to all sorts of communities – and we

stay on royalty with the news that one of Scotland's most famous regiments has just said farewell to its long-serving Colonel in Chief. The Duke of Kent is the late Queen's cousin. He's held this honorary military post with the Scots Guards for fifty years, and in his leaving speech he paid tribute to the bravery, and devotion to duty of its soldiers. The Scots Guards is a historic regiment; formed in 1682, its men fought at the Battle of Waterloo, and in both World Wars. They later served in the Falklands, and in places like Iraq and Afghanistan – and, splendid in their bearskin caps, are regularly seen on parade at major ceremonial state events.

The MacGregor was once among their ranks. Indeed, my husband spent twenty years with the regiment, and now chairs of the Scots Guards Association which looks after veterans. So, as you can imagine, this was a much-discussed matter in our house. The question was: who would take over from the retiring Duke of Kent? And now we know. The new regimental Colonel-in-Chief is to be the Duke of Edinburgh. They are big shoes to fill, but Prince Edward is a safe pair of hands. He and his wife, Sophy, are among the hardest working members of the royal family. And with luck, we will get to meet them at some stage. Perhaps another royal visit?! Watch this space...

Greetings from a spring-like Scotland. Our weather continues to be mild, albeit wet. And when I say wet, I can report that several towns and cities on the east coast, including Edinburgh, have seen almost a month of rain in one week. Scotland can be wet. It's a fact of life. So, which lucky community lays claim to being the country's rainy hot spot place these days? Well, magnificent Aultbea in the Scottish Highlands is up there on the list. As is dramatic Glen Etive on the west coast where dry days are often outnumbered by wet ones.



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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.



A Betterwear Salesman

There's a boy over there in a gabardine mack, Drainpipe trousers and a D.A. back, Slip-on shoes and a rainbow tie, Kissing his teddy girl goodbye.

D.A. (ducks' arse) referring to a boy hairstyle of the late fifties and early sixties.

Once had a job as a Betterwear salesman, or more accurately as an assistant to a Betterwear salesman. I was about sixteen at the time

and John, the real salesman, worked two jobs. By day he sold Betterwear products and in the evenings he was a musician, a trombone player, in a dance band. After school we went off in his Morris Minor and I helped deliver the brushes, the mops, the polishes and other household goods that he had taken orders for days or weeks before. Most of the time we went together in his car to Corkerhill, Mossparck, Cardonald and Hillington, but if there were some local deliveries to be made in Pollok, Priesthill and Nitshill I sometimes went by foot.

When I got to a door and delivered a product, I was expected to always try for a follow-up order. "Aye thanks, son. I've been waitin' for this", would say a little old lady as I handed over a sparkling new toilet brush and she scrambled around in her purse to pay for it. "Is there anything else you might need, Mrs MacLean?" I would politely ask. "Perhaps some furniture polish or something from our new range of sponge mops?"

Make your housework easier

"Aye ah need a new mop. Is it wan o' them new-fangled squeegee thing-ma-bobs, the wans with the wee lever? That would fair help ma arthritis so it wid." "Yes, it is that type of mop, Mrs MacLean, it has a lever to squeeze out the water."

"Aye pushin' that big auld mop o' mine intae the pail and oot again and skirling it all aroon the linoleum is a right joab noo, ah can tell ye."

"I understand, Mrs. Maclean. It certainly would make your housework easier. Would you like a blue one or a red one? They cost three pounds, four shillings and eleven pence", I patiently continued. "Ma man, he had arthritis tae ye know, afore he passed awa' that is. That was - let me see - about ten years ago. No I tell a lie, eleven years ago this November - oh aye a red one thanks. Ah might not be able to find a blue one in ma loaby cupboard", she laughed. "Ma son-in-law, Shuggie, he painted it blue last summer. Ah don't really like it ye know and ma man a Celtic supporter as well. He would turn in his grave if he knew", she chuckled conspiratorially. "Ah wish he had painted it yellow - yellow always looks cheery and bright don't ye think?"

"Yes your right, so it's to be red then, Mrs MacLean?" I checked with her as I wrote out the new order. "I'll be back with-it next Friday. Thanks very much, Mrs MacLean."

"Aye, cheerio for noo, son, see ye next week", she returned, closing her door securely.

Pangs of conscience

In fact, I was never very good at follow-up sales, although I got commission for these over and above the money John

gave me for deliveries. John often encouraged me to take one of his sample cases and give full door to door selling a try. I could see how I could do better, but I got pangs of conscience trying to sell people things they probably could do without or that they might ill afford. I never felt the adrenalin rush of the true salesman who derives satisfaction from getting a sale, no matter what. These were women just like my mother who was often robbing Peter to pay Paul to balance her household budget. I was too busy asking myself whether the customer really needed the product and whether they just said yes because they were kind-hearted and felt sorry for the young chap in the raincoat, holding the toilet brushes, with the rain dripping off his hair and down his neck.

One positive thing that came about from working for Betterwear was that I had a good excuse to be around in the streets and able to knock on my 'would-be' girlfriend's door, or that of her neighbour across the landing. Bargaran Road must have found itself overserved on these occasions. John, my boss was always fair and good to work for, but when I got a chance to work as an usher at the Lorne Cinema in Kinning Park, I gave selling Betterwear products away for good. By that time I had also managed to win over my future wife, Jean, to be my steady girlfriend.

Holland Celtic Fest set to celebrate with music and dance



With summer's approach, West Michigan's Irish and Scottish (and others) will gather for the annual Celtic Festival in Holland. Sponsored by Guinness, this year's festival is June 21 & 22 at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds on Ottawa Beach Road in Holland, Michigan. More than 7,000 visited the 2nd annual event in 2023 and the 3rd annual event is expected to attract even more.

"We started in a small park in downtown Holland but outgrew that venue after the first year," said co-director Pete Grimm of Holland. "The County Fairgrounds work well for us now and give us room to grow for the future as well. Our Highland Games already are among the largest in Michigan."

"The idea for this festival was hatched during the COVID-19 pandemic", according to event co-director Craig Rich of Holland. "A bunch of us who regularly celebrate St. Patrick's Day and other ethnic festivals and events in Holland, thought that we could get together and start something great for the community."

Great entertainment

The 3rd annual Holland Waterfront Celtic Festival and Highland Games features 16 Irish and Celtic bands on two stages over two days. Scheduled to appear are Acoustic Vagabondi, Toby Bresnahan, Selkie, Uneven Ground, Belfast Gin, Enda Reilly, The Barley Saints, The Chelsea House Orchestra, Kennedy's Kitchen, The Conklin Ceili Band, Whorled, The Leprecons,

Ironwood, and CrossBow on the Dennis Jones State Farm stage as well as a new second music stage. Headlining Friday night's "Ceilidh" are Canada's favorites, The Mudmen. Saturday evening's grand finale features The Devil's Brigade (formerly The American Rogues). Scottish Pipe and Drum bands will perform throughout the event, while area dance companies will perform Irish and Highland dance demonstrations on the United Federal Credit Union Dance Stage. Children will have fun in the kids' area with games, coloring, temporary tattoos, and more.

A full schedule of Highland Games will begin at 9:30 am on June 22, featuring more than 70 men and women athletes competing in nine events including caber-tossing, hammer-throwing and other feats of strength. A dozen ethnic food tents/trucks will assure no one goes hungry, while 20 vendors of Celtic clothing and other merchandise will please shoppers. A cash bar is available both Friday and Saturday featuring Guinness, Harp, Smithwicks, Magners and other beers,



plus wines, seltzers and more. The all-day festival is Saturday, June 22, 2024, preceded by a Friday evening, 21 & older "Ceilidh" (concert/party) under a huge "Irish Pub" Tent. Friday tickets are \$22.50 and include free return admission on Saturday as a bonus. Saturday tickets are just \$12 per person, with those 15 and younger admitted free on Saturday due to the generosity of local sponsors.

The Holland Waterfront Celtic Festival & Highland Games is produced by the Holland Celtic Society, a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization comprised entirely of volunteers.

For more information on the Holland Waterfront Celtic Festival and Highland Games see: www.HollandCelticFestival.org or follow [www.Facebook.com/HollandCelticFestival](https://www.facebook.com/HollandCelticFestival).





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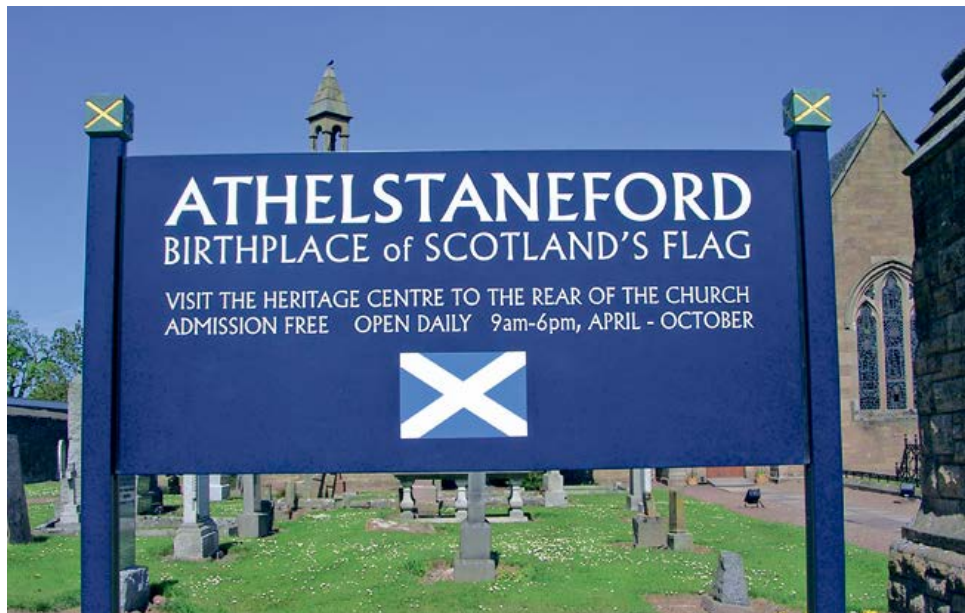
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Scotland's most celebrated historian announced as the Patron of the Scottish Flag Trust



the visitor attraction with ambitious plans for new historic interpretation and improved accessibility which will opening up the site to wider groups of visitors. The Trust is working to implement a new landscape masterplan and renovation of the Saltire Memorial.

The symbol of Scotland

Commenting Professor Emeritus Sir Tom Devine said: "Everyone in Scotland no matter their political outlook can support Scotland's Saltire and back the restoration of this important site. With the Euro 2024 a few months away there is no better time to rally behind Scotland's saltire, it is a symbol which all Scots can be rightly proud. I am honoured to become patron of the Scottish Flag Trust in succession to Dr Ewing and lend my enthusiastic support to the fundraising efforts underway now and in the future."

The St Andrew's Cross or Saltire is Scotland's national flag.

Trust Chair, David Williamson added: "The Trust is delighted to have Sir Tom as our new Patron as we continue our ambitious programme of restoration and renewal at the birthplace of Scotland's national flag. The Scottish Flag Trust promotes the Saltire as a welcoming symbol for all Scots whether they are Scots by birth, by choice or through their family roots."

The St Andrew's Cross or Saltire is Scotland's national flag. Tradition has it that the flag, the white saltire on a blue background, one of the oldest flags in Europe originated in a battle fought in East Lothian, near the village of Athelstaneford in the Dark Ages. Today the flag flies proudly all year round from the Saltire Memorial in Athelstaneford parish churchyard to celebrate this special connection. The history of the battle and the adoption of the Saltire as the symbol of Scotland is told in the Flag Heritage Centre through a unique audio-visual presentation. The Scottish Flag Trust promotes the Saltire as a welcoming symbol for all Scots whether they are Scots by birth, by choice or through their family roots.



Legend of the Saltire

Tradition has it that the flag, the white saltire on a blue background, the oldest flag in Europe and the Commonwealth, originated in a battle fought in East Lothian in the Dark Ages. It is believed that the battle took place in the year 832AD. An army of Picts under Angus mac Fergus, High King of Alba, and aided by a contingent of Scots led by Eochaidh (Kenneth mac Alpin's grandfather) had been on a punitive raid into Lothian (then and for long afterwards Northumbrian territory), and were being pursued by a larger force of Angles and Saxons under one Athelstan.

The Albannach/Scots were caught and stood to face their pursuers in the area of Markle, near East Linton. This is to the north of the modern village of Athelstaneford (which was re-sited on higher ground in the 18th century), where the Peffer, which flows into the Firth of Forth at Aberlady forms a wide vale.

Being then wholly undrained, the Peffer presented a major obstacle to crossing and the two armies came together at the ford near the present-day farm of Prora (one of the field names there is still the Bloody Lands).

Fearing the outcome of the encounter, King Angus led prayers for deliverance and was rewarded by seeing a cloud formation of a white saltire (the diagonal cross on which St Andrew had been martyred) against a blue sky. The king vowed that if, with the saint's help, he gained the victory, then Andrew would thereafter be the patron saint of Scotland. The Scots did win, and the Saltire became the flag of Scotland.

When Kenneth mac Alpin, who may have been present with his grandfather at the battle, later united Picts and Scots and named the entity Scotland, Andrew did indeed become the patron saint of the united realm. Kenneth mac Alpin, King of Scots and Picts, Ard-righ Albainn, was laid to rest on Iona in 860AD.

The Scottish Flag Trust is a registered Scottish charity which maintains the Saltire Memorial and the Flag Heritage Centre at Athelstaneford and promotes the proper use of the Saltire. The restoration and renewal project will see a new

accessible pathway with interpretive timeline telling the history and adoption of Scotland's national flag from 834AD to the present. The work is being funded through crowdfunding donations at: www.saltire.scot.

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Culzean Castle - *A Castle on a Hill*

Text and images by:
David McVey



And, of course, there are the wide-open spaces of the Country Park, Scotland's first to be so designated back in 1969.

The site of Culzean Castle has a long history of occupation, even if the Adam building and its Victorian accretions are not really that old. As such, inevitably, there are ghost stories attached to the location. A ghostly piper is said to play on stormy nights (doubters would say it's easy to imagine pipe music when there is a strong wind hammering into the crags) and also to foretell a Kennedy wedding. There are also tales of a young woman in a ball gown being seen in the castle and a 'white lady' - a traditional type of ghost but here said to be the spirit of a maltreated servant girl. I'm a sceptic about ghosts but do let us know if you see (or hear) anything!

Few Scottish historic buildings have anything like the impact on the senses that Culzean Castle does. You often hear about 'must-sees'; this one really is.

Culzean Castle is famous, perhaps world famous, and deservedly so. Less widely-known is the country park of which it is the heart.

The park is a magical gem in itself. Together, both in the care of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), they comprise one of Scotland's greatest treasures, a must-see whether you're a local or have travelled from the other side of the world.

There can be few country parks that include such a wide variety of landscapes; there's sea and shore and crag; gardens and woodland; ponds and burns and glens. While there is no moor or mountain, there is some farmland as well as the former estate buildings; and, of course, the castle itself.

Coif Castle

We don't know exactly when the first castle on the site was built but there was definitely something here by the 1400s: it went by the name of Coif (or Cove) Castle. The lands were the property of the Kennedy family from the 12th century onwards. The beginnings of the castle structure as we know it began to appear in the late 1500s when Sir Thomas Kennedy ordered a simple and rather austere L-plan tower house. However, the castle was massively rebuilt in the period 1777-1792 (it was a big project, so it took a while!) on the orders of the 9th and 10th Earls of Cassillis, as the Kennedy's had become. The architect they employed was the renowned Robert Adam. Essentially, what emerged was a new-build though the old tower house was incorporated into the new structure. The new castle is widely regarded, inside and out, as an Adam masterpiece. As we'll see, some further changes were made in the 19th and early 20th centuries, but the substance of Adam's achievement remained.

The castle came into the care of the National Trust for Scotland in 1945. The one thing everyone knows about Culzean is that a self-contained apartment within the castle was made available to Dwight D Eisenhower for the term of his life, as a thank-you from the United Kingdom for his service during the Second World War. You can see some Eisenhower memorabilia in the Castle, but his apartment is now part of an exclusive hotel that helps to fund NTS conservation work at the site.

The first thing you notice as you approach the castle is that it's huge. If you've ever seen the 1973 film, *The Wicker Man* you might have wondered how Lord Summerisle (Christopher Lee)

could inhabit such an enormous property on what was supposed to be a small island; his home was played by Culzean Castle.

Your first view of the castle is framed by The Ruined Arch: this was built as a ruin, part of Adam's design for a dramatic introduction to the castle, though the idea of a historic ruin pays tribute to the lengthy history of the Kennedy's. The arch leads to a viaduct which crosses the Walled Garden - picturesque on the left, kitchen garden on the right - and up to the castle itself. It's a breathtaking way to approach the building. The porch by which you enter the building is a Victorian addition; apparently, Adam's design didn't cope well with keeping out the westerly gales, so the porch was included in order to provide an airlock. It leads to the armoury, with, as you'd expect, patterns traced in old pistols and swords. More surprisingly, there's a First World War aeroplane propeller in the ceiling, presented to the castle by a wartime aerodrome at nearby Turnberry.

The castle's Oval Staircase is perhaps its most striking feature, an Adam innovation that gave access not only to the new-build parts of the castle but also the older elements that he retained. Some rooms, such as the Library, are actually housed in older parts of the castle, in this case the old tower house. The Dining Room, something of a favourite with visitors - we all like to imagine ourselves dining in state, *Downton*-style - was remodelled in Victorian times, but in a way that harmonised with the original Adam design.

Culzean's coastal setting

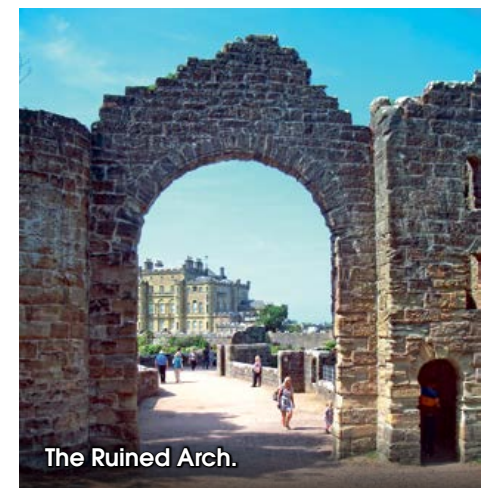
The art displayed in the various rooms is a highlight of the castle for me. Watch out especially for specially-commissioned paintings of the castle itself, and of the surrounding area, by the famous Scottish painter Alexander Nasmyth (1758-1840). As was normal in the landscape painting of the time, Nasmyth tended to exaggerate the height and ruggedness of Culzean's coastal setting but they still capture the spirit of the place.



Exotica in the Country Park.

After you've seen round the house there is still plenty to explore. In fact, a day is hardly long enough to see everything. The Walled Garden is a must, especially on a warm day; the beach is also worth a visit, though be warned, it is not a sandy paradise and can be slippery. Look out for a small, circular, domed building; this is the Round House, actually a grand ancestor of the changing cubicles at your local swimming pool! It was built in the early 1800s as a changing facility when there was a new fashion for sea bathing.

In the estate offices - actually some walking distance from the castle itself - there's a shop and café. Another outbuilding has been repurposed as a second-hand book and CD shop, something I like very much.



The Ruined Arch.


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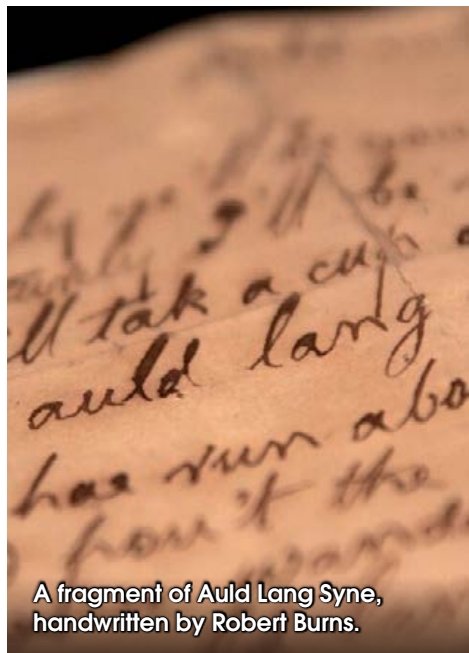




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IN SCOTLAND TODAY

Launch of global access to Robert Burns Collection



A fragment of Auld Lang Syne, handwritten by Robert Burns.

Over 2,500 historic items from the National Trust for Scotland's (NTS) internationally important collections at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum are now available to explore from anywhere in the world. NTS have launched a new portal that gives unprecedented access to manuscripts, archives and artefacts, including over 1,000 items that are held in store for their long-term preservation and protection. Anyone with an interest in Burns from across the world can now visit our website and engage with Burns artefacts as never before. With the ability to zoom in on high-resolution images to see full details on manuscripts and objects that would usually be displayed behind glass, the online collection allows users to experience Burns up close and personal – from previously undisplayed handwritten manuscripts by Robert Burns, to sharing the recently acquired items from the Blavatnik Honresfield Library, alongside photographs, letters, objects and wider archival material.

Highlights include a fragment of one of only six known manuscripts of *Auld Lang Syne* dating from 1793; Jean Armour's wedding ring; a lock of Highland Mary's hair; and Burns's blue woollen initialled socks. There are also many manuscripts

that have not previously been on display, including *Lament of Mary*, *Queen of Scots*, *On The Approach of Spring*, *Scots Wha Hae* and an unbound, uncut copy of the *Kilmarnock Edition of Poems*, Chiefly in the *Scottish Dialect*. Susie Hillhouse, Head of Collections at the National Trust for Scotland, said: "We are excited to be bringing our incredible Robert Burns Collection to people across the world through this online platform. This project, which has been in the works for over 12 months, will allow people to engage with items in the collections like never before. We're currently only able to show a proportion of these items at our award-winning Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway. Now, anyone will be able to search the collections, and zoom in to tiny details and experience the full collection of over 2,500 items, 24/7, from anywhere in the world." The National Trust for Scotland cares for more than 5,000 Burns-related items at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway. The site includes an award-winning museum experience, as well as the cottage where Burns was born in 1759.

Scotland's only circular castle re-opens to visitors



Scotland's only circular castle, Rothesay Castle, has reopened to visitors after essential conservation work. The castle, which is managed by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), had temporary access restrictions in place as part of its high-level masonry programme, which looks at the effect of climate change on historic sites in combination with other factors. Visitors can now once again enjoy the castle's history, which dates from the 11th century, when the Hebrides, including Bute, were given to Norway by Edgar of Scotland. However, the king's descendants were determined to recover the islands,

and by 1200 they had succeeded. Rothesay Castle, with its formidable defences and unique design, was built soon after to protect Rothesay against further sieges by the Norwegians. Further works took place in the grounds in the later 1400s, with the addition of an impressive gatehouse and St Michael's Chapel in the courtyard.

Having then fallen into ruins, the castle was restored in the 1800s. Rothesay Castle is also famous for its ties to the Stewarts, as it was a royal castle from 1371. To this day, the heir to the throne still has the title Duke of Rothesay. The castle is the latest site to re-open following inspections and necessary repairs to the masonry, as part of HES' high-level masonry project and also repairs to the bridge that provides access.

Largest-ever Scottish seagrass planting programme launched by unique partnership



Restoring nature in Scotland's seas will get a more than £2m funding boost, NatureScot has announced, detailing a new partnership to protect and restore Scottish seagrass meadows, with support from SSEN Distribution. This is believed to be the largest-ever single donation to marine enhancement in Scotland.

Seagrass is a wonder plant, the only true flowering plant in the sea. The meadows it creates in shallow and intertidal waters are home to a bewildering array of wildlife and are often likened to rainforests because of the thousands of species they provide food and shelter for. Scottish seas are a special place for marine habitats like seagrass, with our coast stretching 18,000 km and containing 8,000 species or more. Seagrasses have another great advantage: their leaves and roots take in carbon dioxide and lock it away, making them great natural solutions to help tackle the climate crisis as well as reducing biodiversity loss. They can also improve water quality, reduce contamination in seafood, and act as the first line of defence along coasts by reducing wave energy, protecting people from the increasing risk of flooding and storms. But seagrasses have been declining globally since the 1930s, with estimates that 7% of seagrass meadows are being lost each year. This exciting initiative will see at least 14ha of seagrass planted in Scottish coastal waters.

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Net Zero and Energy Màiri McAllan said: "Tackling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss is a global and national endeavour which will require the collective effort of governments, businesses and our whole society to deliver the necessary change. This announcement is a great example of the potential for unlocking responsible private finance to support nature restoration and could be transformative for our precious seagrass."

Commonwealth Games Scotland develops cost-effective concept to reset Games



Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS) can confirm the development of an innovative concept that could provide a solution for the 2026 Commonwealth Games without the need for significant public investment. The Commonwealth Games is crucial to the health of Scottish sport; the four-yearly event is the pinnacle for several sports and represents the only chance for many athletes to compete for Scotland on a global stage. The Games were due to be held in Australia in 2026 but Victoria, the host state, pulled out of the agreement last year. The priority is to ensure a Games takes place in 2026, and the Commonwealth Games Federation are in advanced discussions with other nations. If an alternative solution cannot be secured, CGS are ready to explore a concept with the CGF and key partners, with the aim of delivering a world class-sporting event in Scotland using a model that could be replicated across the Commonwealth for future editions.

A feasibility study was commissioned by Commonwealth Games Scotland in December 2023 to assess Scotland's viability as a cost-effective alternative host, following the Commonwealth Games Federation's decision to make available £100m to host nations for a 2026 Games as part of the Victoria settlement agreement. The CGS are satisfied that the concept developed could see a refreshed format for the Games, that would see it be delivered on time and on budget, providing significant benefit to the Scottish economy and a potential blueprint for a sustainable Games model of the future.

Ian Reid CBE, Chair of Commonwealth Games Scotland, said: "We know how important the Commonwealth Games is for athletes, sports and supporters, and we remain concerned about the impact the ongoing uncertainty around 2026 is having on everyone concerned. It is vital that a Games takes place in this cycle, and we are hopeful that a positive outcome can be delivered through the CGF's discussions with other nations. We also wanted to ensure that we had left no stone unturned in the search for solutions, should a viable alternative fail to materialise, but recognised the need for a model that did not rely on large public investment. Glasgow has a fantastic track record of delivering large sporting events within sensible budgets, with world class facilities and expertise already in place as a legacy of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games a decade ago."

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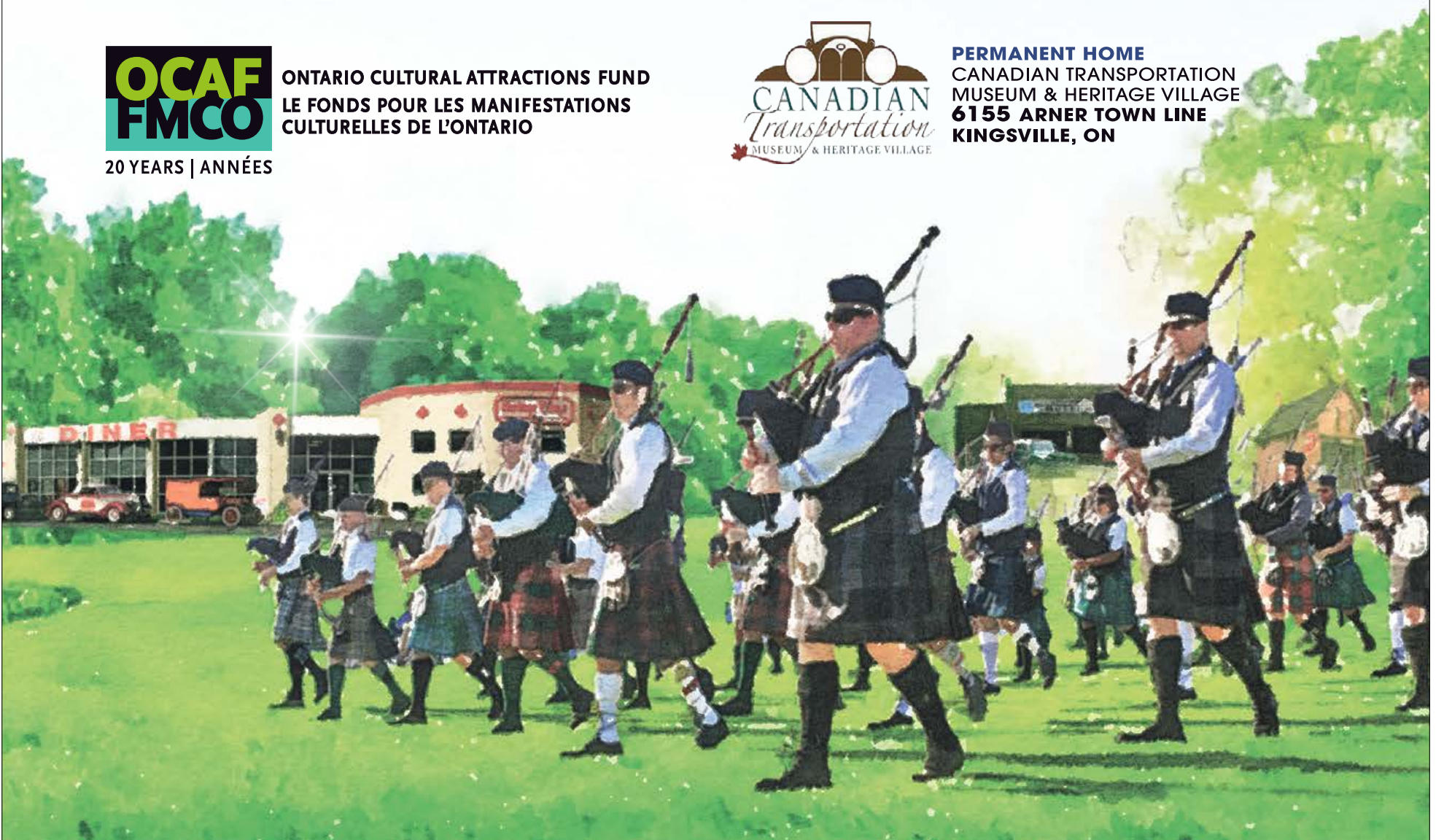


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Canadian debut reigns supreme in Toronto



Photo: Robert Okine/Getty Images for Friends of Scotland.



Founded by Sir Sean Connery and Dr. Geoffrey Scott Carroll, this iconic event has redefined the fashion landscape, merging the elegance of black-tie attire with the rich history of Scotland.

As the world's most prestigious Scottish fashion show, Dressed to Kilt celebrates the fusion of heritage and haute couture. With a legacy of celebrity-filled shows and a commitment to promoting Scottish heritage, Dressed to Kilt has become synonymous with fashion excellence and creativity.

For more information about Dressed to Kilt and future events, please visit: www.dressedtokilt.com.

Scotland's Strathmore Woollen Company donated tartan fabric to the school and upwards of nine students created bespoke designs for the runway. Their designs were wild, colourful and creative and the audience gave them a standing ovation. This collaboration with a leading university fashion program will likely be a permanent feature of the show going forward.

Celebrating Scottish fashion and culture

The success of Dressed to Kilt 2024 would not have been possible without the support of sponsors, partners, and volunteers. Their dedication and commitment played a crucial role in making this event a resounding success. As the event reflects on the unforgettable moments shared at Dressed to Kilt 2024, they extend their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to its success. Dressed to Kilt look forward to continuing the tradition of celebrating Scottish fashion and culture and watch this space as Dressed to Kilt will be returning to New York City for the 2025 show for the first time since before the pandemic. Dressed to Kilt is a global fashion phenomenon that transcends the boundaries of style and culture.



The Killed Chef.



The finest in Scottish fashion

The runway came alive with elegance and grace showcasing the finest in Scottish fashion. The energy was palpable as guests enjoyed a mesmerizing display of custom-made tartans, including the new tartan created for the Canadian Special Forces Veterans through the Blackstone Association.

"We are thrilled by the overwhelming success and reception of Dressed to Kilt 2024," said Dr. Geoffrey Scott Carroll, Co-Founder of Dressed to Kilt. "It was an honour to bring this iconic event to Toronto and to witness the outpouring of support from the community. From the stunning runway show to the incredible music, to the sold-out venue, the evening truly exceeded all expectations."

One of the new additions to this year's show was the collaboration with George Brown College School of Fashion, the leading university fashion program in Canada.



Miss Scotland.



Dressed to Kilt, the renowned annual celebration of Scottish fashion and culture, made its highly anticipated Canadian debut on April 6, 2024, at the Liberty Grand in Toronto, Ontario. The event reconfirmed Dressed to Kilt's status as the largest, most prestigious, and exciting Scottish fashion show in the world. This show now also ranks as one of the highest-profile fashion shows in Toronto in terms of press and media generation. For the first time ever, the show generated in excess of two million media impressions and counting.

The show was yet another sold-out evening. More than 400 guests attended this standing-room-only show for an evening of glamour, entertainment, and philanthropy, all in support of the Royal Canadian Legion's Poppy Fund. The Royal Canadian Legion is the largest veteran's organization in Canada.

Tartan Week celebrated in New York City

All images courtesy of Greenhouse/Ben Chateauverts/American Scottish Foundation.



Grand Marshal Dougray Scott.

New York Tartan Week 2024 was packed full of events hosted by the St. Andrews Society of the States of New York, New York Caledonian Club, the American-Scottish Foundation (ASF) and Clan Campbell. Alongside the leading organizations events were events hosted or co-hosted with Scottish Government, VisitScotland, Carnegie Dunfermline Trust, National Library of Scotland and Fringe Society. Amongst the leading visitors from Scotland were Sir Jim Walker of Walker's Shortbread and Charles Lord Bruce who offered closing remarks at the ASF Tartan Day Observance.

The week was capped off with the 26th annual New York Tartan Day Parade taking place up Sixth Avenue led by Grand Marshal, Dougray Scott. Music was at the centre of the American-Scottish Foundation program this New York Tartan week, shining the spotlight onto several artists who brought great new music to through their performances at two of ASF's events, the Supper Club and the three days of lunchtime concerts at Bryant Park.

Camilla Hellman, President of the American Scottish Foundation noted

"The ASF was delighted to be joined this year by new artists, some of whom are well known yet to audiences here. It was such a great lineup of talent".

Amongst these artists were: Jai MacDowell, 2011 winner of *Britain's Got Talent*, who performed for the very first time in the United States at both the Supper Club and at Bryant Park for the Tartan Day Observance on Friday and Scotland on the Terrace on Sunday, The Laurettes, an all-female Scottish Band who returned once again to New York Tartan Week, playing at the Supper Club and Sunday's Scotland on the Terrace, and Noisemaker, who worked together with Ainsley Hamill in showcasing their songs from their new production *Snow Goose*.

Scotland's cultural voice

Claire and Scott Gilmore of Noisemaker said: "Tartan Week is a hugely important event for us as Scottish artists based both in Scotland and in the US, to gather and share our culture, our music, and our work, with the wider Scottish-American community It is an opportunity we'd never otherwise have access to. It's both

beneficial to our artistic development and partnerships, while also deeply meaningful to us as Scots. This year was particularly special to showcase some artists we've come to know through our projects and productions back home. To come together in New York as part of the ASF events and have them perform alongside with us was a privilege and, again, underlines why Tartan Week is so uniquely important to maintaining Scotland's cultural voice on an international stage."

ASF also worked with the National Library of Scotland to bring to life scores from the 17th and 18th century that award winning New York based fiddle player, Calum Pasqua, then played with guest friends. Several of the pieces performed were taken by Robert Burns to set his lyrics too. Calum Pasqua said: "To watch the growth of Tartan Week in NYC, warms my heart knowing our traditions have been revealed to the masses, and are now flourishing. It was an honour and

a privilege to share my Scottish fiddling with I couldn't have asked for a more attentive and interested audience to perform my music for. I simply cannot wait for next year!"

Alongside the musical programming, ASF and the Carnegie Corporation also hosted *Scotland's Dunfermline: Ancient Royal Capital and Newest City* and a Tea and Talk with the National Library of Scotland entitled *The Rediscovery of Lost Burns and Scott Literary Treasures*, which spotlighted how the priceless treasures of Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott, part of the Honresfeld Library were rediscovered and brought home to Scotland in 2022.



Pipe bands always a crowd favourite.



Leading the bands.



The American Scottish Foundation.



Highland dance on Sixth Avenue.



Tartan Week at Bryant Park.



Scottish actor Dougray Scott making new friends.

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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - England declared war on both Scotland and France. **1522**

1 - Act of Union of English and Scottish parliaments proclaimed, the Union was brought about in spite of opposition by the majority of Scots. **1707**

1 - Glasgow band Deacon Blue release their debut album *Raintown*. **1987**

2 - Edward Bruce, brother of King Robert the Bruce, crowned High King of All Ireland. **1316**

2 - King James I crowned at Scone. **1424**

2 - Mary, Queen of Scots, escaped from Loch Leven Castle and revoked her abdication. She soon gathered an army and moved towards Dumbarton Castle. **1568**

2 - Loch Ness monster is sighted. Although accounts of an aquatic beast living in Scotland's Loch Ness date back 1,500 years, the modern legend of the Loch Ness Monster is born when a sighting makes local news on 2 May 1933. The newspaper *Inverness Courier* related an account of a local couple who claimed to have seen "an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface." **1933**

3 - John Knox began the Reformation in Scotland. **1557**

3 - Nearly 300 miners are arrested outside Ravenscraig in clashes with police as they try to stop lorries laden with coal entering. The steel works was the site of some of the most violent conflicts of the strike of 1984 and 85. Bottles, stones and missiles were thrown with both workers and police suffering many injuries. **1984**

3 - The Pan Am Flight 103 bombing trial opens at the Scottish Court in the Netherlands. Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988, after a bomb was detonated. All 259 people on board were killed, and 11 people on the ground also died. **2000**

4 - Marquis of Montrose victorious at Battle of Auldearn. **1645**

5 - King Charles I surrenders to Lord Leven and was later passed to the Parliamentary forces. **1646**

5 - King George VI officially opened the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow. Glasgow's Bellahouston Park played host to over 13 million people who came to visit the Empire Exhibition, a celebration of the achievements of the British Empire. **1938**



6 - Last major bombing attack on the Clyde area by the Luftwaffe; Greenock was badly hit with 280 dead. **1941**

6 - Icelandic gunboats fired live rounds at British fishing trawlers, many of them from Scottish ports, during the Cold War over fishing rights. **1959**

6 - The election of the first Scottish Parliament since 1707. Elections were held for the Scottish Parliament and the 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) took their seats on 12 May 1999. **1999**

7 - The Earl of Hertford invaded Scotland in an attempt to force the marriage of Edward, son of Henry VIII, and Mary, Queen of Scots. **1542**

7 - James Naysmith, engineer and inventor of steam hammer, died. **1890**

7 - First broadcast of the BBC television variety show *The White Heather Club* which airs nationally until 1968. **1958**

8 - Scottish-born pirate "Captain" William Kidd tried for piracy at London's Old Bailey. He was hanged on 23 May. **1701**

8 - V.E. (Victory in Europe) day marked the end of World War II in Europe. Over 50,000 Scottish servicemen lost their lives during the conflict. **1945**

9 - J M Barrie, author of *Peter Pan* born. **1860**

9 - The Marquis of Montrose and his Royalists camped at Auldearn near Nairn, enroute to attack Inverness. The Covenanters, reinforced by troops withdrawn from England because of the threat from Montrose, gathered at Inverness before marching overnight in an attempt to surprise Montrose at Auldearn. The Royalists won a fierce fight, killing 2000 Covenanters for the loss of 200 of their own men. **1645**

10 - Rev Henry Duncan opened the world's first savings bank in Ruthwell, near Dumfries. **1810**



10 - Rudolf Hess crash-landed in Scotland after his bizarre solo flight from Nazi Germany. Hitler's most trusted official and friend, he crash-landed a stolen plane at Eaglesham in an inexplicable effort to negotiate an end to the war. He died in 1987 after apparently trying to hang himself with an electrical cord. He was 93. **1941**

10 - Donovan, Scottish pop and folk singer-songwriter, was born. Upon his emergence during the mid-'60s, Donovan was anointed "Britain's answer to Bob Dylan". **1946**

11 - Covenanter martyrs, Margaret Lachlane, or McLachlan, and Margaret Wilson, refused to take an oath of loyalty to Charles II that acknowledged his authority on everything, including religious matters. They were tied to stakes in the Solway near Wigtown where they drowned as the tide rose. A reprieve had been sent from Edinburgh but never reached Wigtown. **1685**

12 - The Black Watch regiment was commissioned under General Wade to police the Highlands. The force was known in Gaelic as Am Freiceadan Dubh, "the dark" or "black watch". The regiment's motto is Nemo Me Impune Lacesit (No One Assails Me With Impunity). **1725**

12 - Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, daughter of the Earl of Strathmore, was crowned Queen of the United Kingdom with her husband King George VI. Queen Elizabeth was raised at Glamis Castle in Forfar. Queen Elizabeth reigned until 1952 and became known as the Queen Mother as her daughter, the current Queen Elizabeth, took the throne. **1937**

12 - The Scottish Parliament reconvened with Dr Winifred M Ewing MSP as acting Presiding Officer. Her first words to the Parliament were: "The Scottish Parliament which adjourned on the 25th of March in the year 1707 is hereby reconvened." **1999**

13 - The forces of Mary Queen of Scots are defeated at Battle of Langside by a confederacy of Scottish Protestants under James Stewart, the regent of her son, King James VI of Scotland. During the battle, which was fought out in the southern suburbs of Glasgow, a cavalry charge routed Mary's 6,000 Catholic troops, and they fled the field. Three days later, Mary escaped to Cumberland, England, where she sought protection from Queen Elizabeth I. **1568**

13 - James Kirk was executed near Dumfries as a Covenanter refusing to swear the oath, one of the last of the wave of deaths of the "Killing Times". **1685**



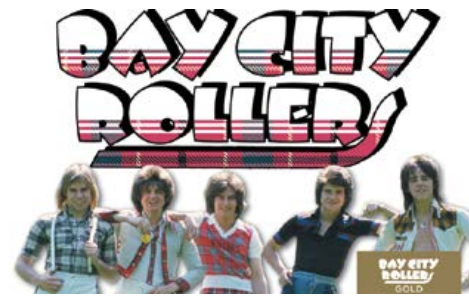
14 - St Andrews Society of Golfers constituted. In 1834 it became the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. Thus began the foremost club in both Scottish golf history and world golf in general. **1754**

15 - Mary, Queen of Scots, married Earl of Bothwell - at 4am. Mary's third marriage to James Hepburn, the Earl of Bothwell took place in the Chapel of Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh. **1567**

15 - Bobby Murdoch, Scottish footballer, died. Murdoch was a key figure in Celtic's European Cup-winning side of 1967, dubbed the Lisbon Lions. **2001**

15 - Stagecoach Group launches a driverless bus service on the Forth Road Bridge, believed to be the world's first. **2023**

16 - Biographer James Boswell met Samuel Johnson for the first time. **1763**



16 - The Bay City Rollers form in Edinburgh. Called the "tartan teen sensations from Edinburgh", The Bay City Rollers sold 120 million records worldwide. **1966**

17 - King James V established paid judges to sit as the Court of Session, the highest civil court in Scotland. **1532**

17 - Robert Tannahill drowned himself in a Paisley canal. A compassionate poet, he explored themes of love, friendship and empathy, and often used his surroundings as inspiration, taking long walks in the country around his home. He was prone to bouts of melancholy. **1810**

18 - Robert the Bruce invades Isle of Man. **1313**

18 - The Free Church of Scotland was founded by dissenting members of the Church of Scotland. **1843**

19 - Death in Auchinleck of James Boswell, biographer of Dr Johnstone. **1795**

20 - Battle of Dunnichen (also known as Nechtansmere), south of Forfar in Angus, as a result of which the Picts stopped the advance northwards of the Angles of Northumbria. **685**

20 - The Earl of Argyll sailed from Holland to Campbeltown with 300 men in an attempted uprising. After its failure he was executed. The rebellion was designed to place Charles II's illegitimate son, the Duke of Monmouth, on the throne. The failure of this revolt led to a close bond between the Stewart monarchy and the enemies of the Campbells in the Highlands, which was to become more apparent in the subsequent Jacobite uprisings. **1685**



20 - Dunfermline, Fife, is among a record number of locations to have won prestigious city status through a competition, as part of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Dunfermline became the eighth Scottish city, joining Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness, Stirling and Perth. **2022**

21 - Clocks and watches went forward for one hour as the Daylight Savings Act brought in "British Summer Time" for the first time. **1916**

22 - Britain's worst train disaster at Quintinshill (near Gretna Green) in which three trains collided, with the loss of 227 lives. A troop train carrying the Seventh Royal Scots Regiment hit a stationary train and the night express from London then hit the wreckage. Two signalmen were later jailed. **1915**

22 - The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland voted in favour of women ministers. Soon after four women were accepted as candidates for the ministry by the Presbyteries of Edinburgh, Irvine, and Kilmarnock. **1968**

23 - Captain William Kidd, the notorious Scottish pirate, died. Born in Dundee, around the year 1645, Kidd became one of the best known pirates of his age. **1701**

23 - "The Unknown Bairn": The drowned body of a young boy is found washed up onshore at Tayport; he is never identified. **1971**

23 - A major fire at the Glasgow School of Art causes severe damage to the main building, designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. A further fire took place during the restoration in June, 2018. **2014**

24 - King David I died at Carlisle and Malcolm IV crowned at Scone. **1153**

24 - Glasgow Rangers became the first Scottish side to win the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, when they defeated Dynamo Moscow in Barcelona. **1972**

25 - John Stuart, Earl of Bute, Britain's first Scottish Prime Minister, born. **1713**

25 - Celtic FC become the first British football club to win the European Cup. The winning team was made up of eleven Scots, all born within a thirty mile radius of Glasgow. **1967**

25 - St. Enoch Centre shopping mall opened to the public in Glasgow city centre. The building is notable for its massive glass roof, the largest glass-covered enclosed area in Europe, and is affectionately nicknamed "The Glasgow Greenhouse". **1989**

26 - The parliament convened by King James I approved the arrest of a number of the Scottish nobility - and also banned the playing of football. **1424**

26 - Dunnottar Castle, the last Royalist stronghold in eastern Scotland, surrenders. Dunnottar Castle had been under siege for eight months by Cromwell's forces. Although the castle fell, the defenders managed to smuggle out the Crown Jewels of Scotland to nearby Kinneff Church. **1652**

27 - Maiden voyage of liner *Queen Mary* from Southampton to New York. Built by John Brown & Company in Clydebank, Scotland and was a luxury ocean liner for three years until 1939, when it was transformed into a troopship for the Second World War. She resumed passenger service in 1947, where it continued until 1967, when it docked permanently in Long Beach, California. **1936**

28 - Papal Bull signed by Pope Alexander VI confirming the marriage of King James IV and Margaret Tudor and the "Treaty of Everlasting Peace" between Scotland and England. **1503**

29 - King Charles II born. **1630**

29 - King Charles II returned to England. Royal Oak Day. **1660**

30 - Thomas Chalmers, the Presbyterian cleric, theologian and social reformer, died. Chalmers was a popular figure within the Kirk and held a keen interest in improving social welfare. **1847**

31 - The Royal Bank of Scotland was formed from a company of debenture holders. **1727**



31 - Start of passenger services on Edinburgh Trams. Trams previously ran in the Scottish capital from 1871 to 1956. **2014**

31 - A huge wildfire covering 30 square miles (80 km²), thought to be the largest ever seen in the UK, is brought under control by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service at Cannich in the Highlands **2023**

By: Neil Drysdale



Sandy Ritchie - *The pride of Buchan*



Sandy receiving his BEM.



The Pride of Buchan Award.



Sandy with his wife.



Sandy with his book.

Sandy Ritchie wrote his first book at 93. He's a champion of history and heritage, loves Doric and even booked Dame Evelyn Glennie to perform in New Deer. Aberdeenshire councillor, Anne Simpson, thinks Sandy is "an amazing man" and the pride of Buchan, as Neil Drysdale explains.

Sandy Ritchie has released his first book at the age of 93. He was recently awarded a British Empire Medal for voluntary services to cultural heritage and the community in north-east Scotland and champions the local Buchan community.

He's the man who his first book, *New Deer and Roon Aboot*, at the age of 93, and has gained a reputation as one of north-east

Scotland's most remarkable community champions. And Sandy Ritchie, who is now 94, has been accorded recognition at local and national level after being presented with the British Empire Medal and a Pride of Buchan award on the same day at his home in Aberdeenshire. He was privileged to receive the honour, but upset that Atholene, his wife of nearly 70 years, was not there to witness the ceremony, following her death last year.

Bertie Forbes

Mr Ritchie worked as a funeral director for many years, but has never lost his zest for life and has met everybody from renowned musician Dame Evelyn Glennie to international businessman Bertie Forbes and Flora Garry – the Buchan Poetess. He was also among the audience who thrilled at the sight of the *Book of Deer* - which is more than 1,000 years old - when it was brought back to Aberdeen two years ago and later marvelled at the news that archaeologists had discovered proof of a lost monastery close to his roots. Mr Ritchie, who has been instrumental for decades in the activities of such organisations as the Buchan Heritage Society, the Book of Deer Project and the New Deer Public Hall and Community Association, was presented with his BEM by Aberdeenshire's Lord Lieutenant Sandy Manson.

For decades, he has chronicled those he has met or families with whom he has had dealings. These included the kith and kin of Mr Forbes, who founded the eponymous business magazine in the United States, and was another who emerged from the little Scottish community. As a young lad, he took down – in shorthand – the minister's sermon on a Sunday at the Auld Kirk and subsequently read it to his grandfather when he returned home. The bond was strong.

And, as Sandy relates: "Bertie died in 1954 and was buried in New York. But in 1988, his son, Malcolm, arranged for his coffin to be disinterred and taken home and I myself had the great honour of acting as undertaker when

Bertie's remains were re-interred beside his grandfather, James Moir, in the Auld Kirkyard at New Deer." So, in death, they were back together again.

Dame Evelyn Glennie

By 1989, Evelyn Glennie had established a formidable musical reputation, just 24 years after her birth in Ellon Maternity Hospital. Despite her hearing loss as a young woman, which led to her travelling to London to meet Ann Rachlin, the founder of the Beethoven Fund for Deaf Children, she emerged as a massively gifted percussionist. In which light, Mr Ritchie must have imagined he was whistling in the dark when he attempted to coax Evelyn back to the place where her mother had played the organ for the 150th anniversary of St Kane's Church in New Deer. But, once again, the close ties ensured that he managed to bring the idea to fruition.

He explains: "I had quite a bit of negotiating to do with her people to persuade her to come – and at a reduced fee – and I was successful, I am sure, with the help of mam Isobel. A great evening ensued. I had to lay a wooden plywood covering on the church altar because Evelyn performed her repertoire in her bare feet, getting vibrations up from the floor. It was a never-to-be-forgotten evening that was enjoyed by around 800 people."

As he noted, the now "Dame Evelyn" has achieved global fame. But that didn't stop her from maintaining her links to the place where she and her family grew up. And Mr Ritchie will keep encouraging others to remember their roots and their heritage.

Gaelic bard's book brings together four languages

A collection of poetry which is presented in four languages has been created by the University of Edinburgh's first Gaelic Writer in Residence. The book by Martin MacIntyre shares a collection of 52 poems, with each published in Gaelic, Catalan, Welsh and English. The volume, called *A' Ruith Eadar Dà Dhràgon* (*Running Between Two Dragons/Corrent Entre Dos Dracs/Rhedeg Rhwng Dwy Ddraig*), was launched at an event at the University in April. The poems were all written in Gaelic by Martin MacIntyre in 2019 and 2020 from his travels in Spain and Wales.

The motif of two dragons is central to the book – with the symbol linking to the emblem on the Welsh flag and Catalonia's famous beast, which was slain by Sant Jordi, as St. George is known in Catalan. The collection of poetry has been translated into Welsh by former National Poet of Wales, Ifor ap Glyn. Noèlia Diaz-Vicedo, a leading poet and translator based at the University of the Balearic Islands in Palma, Spain, worked on the Catalan translation. Martin has translated all of the poems into English for the book, published by Francis Boutle Publishing.

Màrtainn Mac an t-Saoir

Martin MacIntyre, whose Gaelic fiction and poetry is published under the name Màrtainn Mac an t-Saoir, joined the University as its first Gaelic Writer in Residence in 2022. The award-winning writer has had eight works of fiction and a previous collection of poems published. He is also a practising GP. In this new collection, Martin touches on subjects as varied as anticipating being at a rugby match in Cardiff with his 18-year-old son, bilingual banter in a Mallorcan bakery, and watching a father capture the perfect shot of his daughter for Instagram. Written against the backdrop of the pandemic, the poet also touches on a Five Nations rugby match affected by Covid and a cheerful Mallorcan hotelier in a mask meeting and greeting guests. Martin MacIntyre said, "Inspired by what I was seeing, poem after poem arrived and that led me to Wales in

March 2020, less than a week before the Covid lockdown. Later that year, I travelled to Mallorca as people struggled to re-emerge into a fearful world. Many things caught my attention during my journey, and I managed to capture some of these in poems with which I was eventually satisfied. I'd love people to read the poems in Gaelic, Catalan, Welsh, or English. Or, indeed, in as many of those languages as they have!"



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ScottishPower Pipe Band brings Scotland's busiest train station to a standstill with surprise live performance



Dressed in their trademark ScottishPower tartan, the Pipe Band raised the roof with a captivating rendition of Dougie MacLean's *Caledonia*, followed by their take on Journey's popular hit, *Don't Stop Believin'*.

A real stand-out moment

The Pipe Band, which has played across the globe and regularly places in the World Pipe Band Championships, is led by Pipe Major Chris Armstrong and Drum Sergeant Jake Jørgensen. ScottishPower Pipe Major Chris Armstrong said: "We've been lucky enough to perform in some amazing locations across the world, but it was really special to play in Glasgow Central Station. As home to ScottishPower's HQ and the host city for the World Championships, Glasgow holds a very special place in our hearts, and it was amazing to see the reaction of the audience. We could have played all afternoon!"

ScottishPower Pipe Band brought Scotland's busiest train station to a standstill when it stunned commuters with a surprise live performance at Glasgow Central Station. The spell-binding performance from one of the world's leading Grade 1 pipe bands – which has been sponsored by ScottishPower since 1989 – stopped passengers, staff and passersby at the major transport hub in their tracks.

It was definitely one of our more unusual practice sessions and sets us up brilliantly for forthcoming competitions including the UK Pipe Band Championship on 18 May in Bangor and the British Pipe Band Championships on 8 June in Forres. Thanks to everyone who took the time to watch – and hopefully no one missed their train!"

SP Energy Networks' Scott Mathieson, who is also Chairman of the Pipe Band, said: "The ScottishPower Pipe Band always blow audiences away with their performances, but the added element of surprise at Glasgow Central Station was a real stand-out moment. We're so proud to sponsor such a talented team of pipers and drummers and loved seeing them showcase their skills in such a fun and different way. There are lots more exciting performances to come this year and we can't wait to follow them on their musical journey."

One of the world's leading Grade 1 pipe bands

The Pipe Band are one of the world's leading Grade 1 pipe bands having featured as a regular prize winner in all major competitions over several decades. Twice Cowal Champions, Scottish Champions, All-Ireland and British Champions and runners-up in the World Championships are just some of their awards.

They are in demand throughout the world. They have previously performed in the US, Canada, Japan and China.

The band have appeared before the late Queen at Braemar, for the Pope at St Peter's in Rome, with Sir Paul McCartney at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, at the Lord Mayor's Show in London, at the Official Opening of the Scottish Parliament and at the 75th Royal Variety Performance.

You can watch the magical moment the ScottishPower Pipe Band took Glasgow Central Station by surprise on the Pipe Band's social media channels: Instagram, Facebook, X and TikTok.



Walker's Shortbread takes centre stage in the Big Apple during Tartan Week Celebrations



Pipers with Sir Jim Walker.

One of America's most beloved Scottish brands wowed New Yorkers, on Saturday 6 April 2024 at the annual Tartan Week celebrations in New York City, with a miniature shortbread replica of the Empire State Building. Every April, a wave of tartan sweeps through New York, as the city that never sleeps celebrates Tartan Day and its cultural ties to Scotland. To celebrate the culmination of this year's event Walker's Shortbread recreated the iconic 102-storey Empire State Building using 527 pieces of its famous shortbread fingers.

The replica, which was built by UK food artist, Prudence Staite, and was transported to the heart of Tartan Day celebrations. The wee Empire State Building was available to visit at Pre-Parade Registration, at the Algonquin Hotel in Times Square.

The miniature Empire State Building is a fitting tribute from Walker's, which has long-standing ties with the USA. The USA was the brand's first export market in 1976 and home to Walker's first international office, and the family-owned business has

now been sharing the joy of shortbread with Americans for almost 50 years. The country is still Walker's biggest export market, with record sales recorded in 2023 and over 50 million pieces of Walker's best-selling Shortbread Fingers are enjoyed across all 50 states every year.

A proud Scottish brand

Alastair Walker, Head of International Sales at Walker's Shortbread said: "Walker's is a proud Scottish brand, however we always try to create a sense of place through our products in the close to 100 international markets that we export to. What is so important to us is that we celebrate our own heritage while also nodding to the cultures and traditions of the markets in which we're sold. Our shortbread Empire State Building is a great example of this and the ideal way for us to mark the celebrations. We first started exporting to the US, with so many ex-pats living in country it was an opportunity to provide many of them with a taste of Scotland. For almost 50 years we've experienced increased demand for our all-butter shortbread, as people want to indulge in a quality product which is made with care, from only four natural ingredients, in the Scottish Highlands."

Walker's Shortbread Ltd was established 125 years ago in Aberlour, Speyside, Scotland. Still an independent family

concern to this day, the company is headed by the founder's great-grandchildren, who faithfully maintain the tradition of producing the finest shortbread, biscuits, cakes and oatcakes to original recipes using only the finest ingredients - a policy that has earned Walker's a global reputation for quality and excellence.



46th ANNUAL

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Braised Lamb Shanks with Mash and Malt Whisky Gravy

Ingredients:

2 shanks of lamb (request to cut to the bone neatly across lower end)
 1 carrot, peeled and chopped
 1 onion, chopped
 2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
 300ml/10 fl oz. lamb stock
 60ml/4 tablespoonfuls of malt whisky
 450g/1 lb. potatoes, cooked and mashed
 Vegetable oil
 Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

Method:

Pre-heat oven to 170C/325F/ gas mark 3. Heat oil in a heavy-based saucepan or casserole dish. Season the lamb shanks and brown all sides. Add the chopped vegetables, garlic and stock and bring to a simmer. Place in the oven and cook for 2 hours, turning the shanks once or twice during the cooking. The meat should just be falling off the bone when cooked. Strain the cooking juices into a saucepan, add the whisky and reduce by one-third (to thicken the sauce a little, mash in some of the cooking vegetables) and check the seasoning. Place the mashed potato in the centre of a large plate. Put the lamb shank pointing up and spoon the sauce around. Serves 2.

Honey and whisky porridge



Ingredients:

150g/5½oz. porridge oats
 3 tbsp. double cream, plus extra to serve
 250ml/9 fl oz. milk
 1 tbsp. soft brown sugar
 dash whisky
 1 tbsp. clear honey, to serve

Method:

Place the oats, cream, milk, sugar and whisky into a small saucepan and cook over a gentle heat for 6-7 minutes, until thickened and smooth. To serve, pour the porridge into a bowl and drizzle with honey and cream.

Chicken in Apple and Whisky Sauce

Ingredients:

4 chicken breasts, skinned
 15g/½ oz. butter
 2 eating apples, peeled and sliced
 Zest of 1 lemon
 Ground black pepper 1 tabs chopped fresh tarragon
 15g/½ oz. plain flour
 ½ cup chicken stock ¾ cup milk
 4-5 tbsp. Scotch Whisky
 3 tbsp. whipping cream

Method:

Sauté the chicken in the butter for 10 minutes. Add the apples, lemon zest, pepper and tarragon. Cook for 15 minutes until the apple softens and the chicken is cooked through. Stir in the flour and cook for one minute, gradually add the stock and milk, stirring until the sauce thickens, boils and is smooth. Fold in the Scotch Whisky and cream. Heat through.

Whisky Sauce

Ingredients:

30ml/1oz. Scottish Whisky (Blended or Malt)
 150ml/5oz. Double Cream
 Salt
 Pepper

Method:

Add 30ml/1oz. of whisky to a hot saucepan and set it alight (please be careful, you don't want to set fire to the kitchen, as the flames can get very high). The purpose of lighting the whisky is to burn off the alcohol, otherwise the sauce will be too bitter.

Add 150ml/5oz. of double cream, season with salt and pepper, reduce the heat and allow the liquid to reduce to a nice thick consistency.

Once the liquid has reduced (usually by half), take it off the heat and pour over haggis or meat.

Celebrate Whisky Month in May with these recipes which add a splash of flavour using "the water of life". You can of course omit Whisky if preferred, enjoy and Slainte mhath! Your very good health!

Hot toddy fruitcake



Ingredients:

For the cake:
 200ml/7 fl oz. hot, strong black tea (use any type)
 3 tbsp. whisky
 3 tbsp. good-quality orange marmalade, thin or medium shred
 700g/3.5 cups mixed dried fruits
 100g/ ½ cup mixed peel
 100g/ ½ cup glacé cherries (natural colour)
 225g/ ½ lb. butter
 225g/ ½ lb. golden caster sugar
 4 eggs, beaten
 225g/½ lb. plain flour
 1 tsp ground mixed spice
 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 finely grated zest 1 lemon
To feed the cake:
 2 tsp caster sugar
 50ml hot black tea
 1 tbsp. whisky (or use orange juice if you prefer)

Method:

Mix the hot tea, whisky and marmalade in a large bowl until the marmalade melts. Stir in all of the dried fruit, peel and cherries, then cover and leave to soak overnight.

Next day, heat oven to 160C/320F fan 140C/285F/gas 3 and grease and double-line a 20cm round, deep cake tin with non-stick baking paper. Using electric beaters, cream together the butter and sugar until fluffy. Add the eggs a little at a time, beating well after each addition, then fold in the flour and spices, followed by the lemon zest and soaked fruit. Add any liquid that hasn't been absorbed by the fruit, too. Spoon into the prepared tin, level the top, then bake for 1½ hrs. Turn the oven down to 140C/285F /fan 120C/250F/gas 1 and bake for another 1½ hrs. or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack in the tin.

While the cake is still warm, use the skewer to pepper the cake with holes, poking it all the way down. Dissolve the sugar in the tea, add the whisky or orange juice, then spoon over the surface. If you're making the cake ahead of time, feed it with a fresh swig of hot toddy every week, but take care not to make the cake soggy. Can be kept for a month well-wrapped in an airtight container in a cool, dry place. If short on time, the cake can be made the same day that you decorate it.

Bannockburn Cocktail

Ingredients:

1 nip whisky (whiskey/bourbon)
 1 dash Worcestershire sauce
 1 dash tomato juice
 slice lemon

Method:

Pour into a cocktail glass and garnish with a slice of lemon.

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Edinburgh was weaving Paisley shawls 40 years before Paisley, a new exhibition shows



Heriot-Watt Archivist Helen Taylor at The Great Tapestry of Scotland exhibition, *A Passion for Paisley*.

Edinburgh was weaving what became known as Paisley shawls in the 1700s more than 40 years before the Renfrewshire town they were named after, a new exhibition claims. Hosted by Heriot-Watt University and The Great Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels, the exhibition reveals that Edinburgh weavers were the first in Britain to create replicas of the Kashmir shawls brought back from India, the first recorded being in 1767. It wasn't until 1808 that Paisley's weaving industry started making the shawls, and later gave the garment its iconic name. The exhibition, called *A Passion for Paisley*, features a selection from the range of more than 100

shawls and shawl fragments that forms part of the University's textile collection, housed in the Scottish Borders Campus in Galashiels.

Iconic motif

Helen Taylor, Archivist at Heriot-Watt University, said: "Paisley design has stayed a very iconic motif and has remained a fixture even as fashions have changed. Our collection in the Borders is a very good one and was really developed for teaching and research. You can't recreate the weaving, because the looms don't exist anymore. But if you're looking for design inspiration, Paisley shawls are a great example of East-West influence."

Paisley shawls are richly patterned and often feature a distinctive Persian-style teardrop motif. This is inspired by the Babylonian Tree of Life, a magical tree from Mesopotamian mythology that grew in the centre of paradise. Other motifs include floral and tendril designs, a striped zebra design and an oblong motif known as a 'temple door' design. Red was a recurring colour in Paisley shawls, alongside blues, greens, yellows and other colours, all created from natural plant dyes. Paisley shawls were hugely popular in the 18th and 19th centuries. Empress Josephine, Napoleon's first wife, was known to own about 400 of the woollen shawls.

"When the British empire was expanding, people started bringing back Kashmir shawls as gifts," Ms Taylor explained. "They were very expensive and were actually woven in cashmere. Weavers in Edinburgh started making reproduction shawls, and the first record of a reproduction Kashmir shawl being woven was in Edinburgh in 1767."

Outsourcing to Paisley

Edinburgh in the 1700s already had a damask industry – when designs are woven into fabric rather than printed onto it – and it was these weavers who started making the reproduction Kashmir shawls. But when fashions evolved and the shawls got bigger, the Edinburgh weavers started

outsourcing to Paisley, where weaving skills and technology were advancing and amongst the best in the world.

"In Edinburgh, shawl weaving was more of a cottage industry, with small looms being used around the city's Old Town and shawls being woven in sections and sewn together," Ms Taylor said. "In Paisley, they started using Jacquard looms, which used punch cards and allowed more complex design to be woven more easily."

Heriot-Watt School of Textiles and Design dates back to 1883, when classes in weaving, dyeing and chemistry were introduced to train workers for the local textiles industry. The School is a centre of excellence in design, with Honorary Graduates including British fashion icon Dame Vivienne Westwood. It is based on Heriot-Watt's Scottish Borders Campus, which is built around a historic mill in Galashiels, at the heart of Scotland's luxury textile industry.

A Passion for Paisley runs to 12 July 2024 at The Great Tapestry of Scotland, 14-20 High St, Galashiels. The Great Tapestry of Scotland visitor centre was purpose-built to house The Great Tapestry of Scotland, one of the world's largest community arts projects. The Tapestry was hand-stitched by a team of 1,000 stitchers from across Scotland and charts 420 million years of Scotland's history, heritage, innovations and culture through 160 panels.



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Calling the Clans

Welcome to our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our office for full details. Our contacts are located on page 2. If you are contacting your Clan be sure to tell them you saw them in *the Scottish Banner* and please support these great community organisations.

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

Clan Baird Commander

Richard Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood
Rickarton House, Stonehaven, Scotland.

Hereditary President of Clan Baird Society Worldwide

Debra J. Baird, Ph.D. FSA Scot, CBSW Convenor
Email: djbaird4@gmail.com
Website: clanbairdsocietyworldwide.co.uk



CHISHOLM

Clan Chisholm
Society of Australia Inc

Membership is invited from Clan Chisholm descendants of all spellings of the name (Chisholm, Chisolm, Chism, Chisum, Chisam, etc)
Contact: Kim Polley OAM

PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301

Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com

www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/AUSmembership.php

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CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald

Contact: secretary.clanaldonaldvic@gmail.com

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mr Lindsay McDonald

Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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

Clan Fraser Society of Australia



Invites all Frasers and Fraser septs to join our clan society.

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts

Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com

Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/>

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Invites membership inquiries from persons named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Various resources available for genealogical research. Quarterly newsletter. Tents hosted at major Scottish games nationwide.

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Online membership: <https://clanbell.org/membership.html>

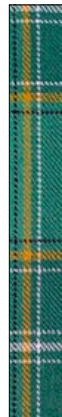
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Duncan Robertson Reid

People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh "The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.

For information and membership application, contact Richard Harvey, Secretary
Email: c2100575@uon.edu.au



Clan Galbraith Society

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

DNA testing project, members only databases, Biennial gatherings, blog, Quarterly journal.

www.clangalbraith.org



Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce President 1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Stillwater, Minnesota 55082	Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary 5561 Earl Young Road Bloomington, IN 47408 www.familyofbruceinternational.org
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Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

CHIEF Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing the name Davidson or one of the Septs shown on the member application form available from the Clan's Facebook Group link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/360160657504253/> or by contacting the Hon. Secretary:

Dennis Hill, PO Box 519
Baulkham Hills NSW 1755
E: dhill1@bigpond.net.au, P: 0431 527 662

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Membership invited to all who share the Sept names: Duncan, Robertson, Reid, etc.

UK: London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands
Canada: Ontario * Western Canada
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New Zealand: New Zealand
Europe: Spain
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Visit our website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, our History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you.

<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>
Facebook: [The Clan Donnachaidh Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheClanDonnachaidsociety)
Email: ivc@donnachaids.com

CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

Est: 1822 in Edinburgh Scotland

Patron: Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor

Membership enquiries for USA: usa@clangregor.com

Rest of the World: membership@clangregor.com

Web: www.clangregor.com

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Edmonstone Clan Society

Invites membership to anyone of the surname or variations:- Edmiston/e, Edmondston, Edmanson, Edmeston, Edmonson, Edmundson, etc. Chieftain Sir Archibald Edmonstone Bt of Duntreath

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



Clan Gregor Society Australasia

All MacGregors and Septs of our clan are invited to join the Clan Gregor Society Est 1822. If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative:

Frank McGregor
PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002
Email: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com
Web: www.clangregor.com
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National Clan Cameron Australia Inc.

Celebrates those who trace their ancestry to Clan Cameron or are connected to the Clan through marriage or partnership or are from families acknowledged as Septs of Clan Cameron.

President: Alistair Cameron

Secretary: Terry Cameron

secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com

www.clan-cameron.org.au



Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald
Ph: 0412 090990
Email: clanaldonaldqld@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.clanaldonaldqld.org
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Jim Dougherty - Clan President welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family.

Direct inquires to: Marianne Elliott, Membership Chair
Email: marianne@mmelliott.com

Website: www.elliottclan-usa.com



American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909 Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

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St. Louis, MO 63131-3038
Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org
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CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

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Inquiries to be sent to:
Sheri Lambert, Treasurer

P.O. Box 5399

Vernon Hills, IL 60061

visit our website:

www.clanhamilton.org

Clan Hay

April Rich
28 Oxbow Drive
Willimantic, CT 06226
clanhaymembership@hotmail.com

The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquirers from descendants of: Hay(s); Hays(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Arml; Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgatie; D' Ay(e); Dellah'aY; Errol(l); Garrad; Garrow; Gifford; Hawson; Haygood; Hayter; Hayward; Haywood; Haynie; Hayden; Hayfield; Hayne(s); Leask(e); Leith; Lester; MacGaradh; Peebles; Peeples; Peoples; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester

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Beaton MacAskill MacCorkill MacWilliam
Bethune MacAulay MacCrimmon Norie
Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallum Norman
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Lewis MacCaskey MacRaid Williamson

- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
- South Australia - Alex McLeod 08 8327 0925
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334

• Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

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- Assist in genealogical research
- Foster fellowship among kith and kin
- Promote the history of Scotland
- Promote charitable and educational activities via a scholarship fund
- Gather the Clan, as directed by our Chief, Alistair of Fordell

Contact: Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
0439 330 012

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McAlpin/e

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Membership is open to MacLarens (all spellings), Septs, individuals and families with an association to the Clan.

<https://clanmaclarenau.org/>
clanmaclarenau@gmail.com

Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide

Descendants and Septs of the CLAN MACNAUGHTON are invited to join our Worldwide Association to learn and share our MacNaughton and Scottish heritage. For more info go to: clanmacnaughton.net or contact Mary Nivison Burton, Membership Secretary at: membersec@clanmacnaughton.net

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For more information please email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au, visit us at facebook.com/clanmacfieaustralia or our website: <https://clanmacfie.com.au>

Clan MacLaren

MacLaren MacLaurin Lawrence
Lawson Low[e]
Low[e]ry Law[e] Patterson
MacPatrick MacRory

Mark A. McLaren, President
President@clanmaclarenna.org

Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: John McNeil

21 Coopers Avenue, Leabrook, South Australia 5068
Phone: 08 833 33990
Email: mcolmjmcneil@outlook.com

Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron
Alexander H.R. Irvine of Drum,
27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name
Mary Erwin, Chairwoman
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CLAN LAMONT SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

invites membership from Sept names refer to Web Site www.clanlamontaustralia.com

Clan Chief Peter Lamont of that Ilk resides in Sydney Australia.

For all enquires about the Clan and Membership contact :-
President Ian McLucas.
Email ianandbevmclucas@bigpond.com
mobile 0448 778 799

Clan MacInnes Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

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Scott McInnis, Member Services: scott@macinnes.org or visit www.macinnes.org

Clan MacLellan

Kevin S Gates
Treasurer
2610 Kuykendall Dr.
Arlington, TX
76001-6726
Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of surname spelling to join in preserving our heritage. Various family names are MacLellan(d), McClellan(d), McLellan(d) and Gilliland.

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail
of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac
Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson
55 Arcadia Ave
GYMEA BAY NSW 2227
www.clanmacnicol.org



Clan Macpherson Association

Clan Macpherson welcomes enquiries from Macphersons and members of our Associated families. For information about local activities visit our web site www.clan-macpherson.org/branches

Africa. Derek Macpherson
African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +265 999 512 620

Canada. Denise Lagundzin
Canada.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +1 519 507 4465

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The **Clan Macpherson Museum** is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1st April to 31st October. Ph + 44 1540 673 332. See <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/>



Clan Morrison Society of North America

Clann MhicGillehoire: Morrison + Gilmore + Brieve

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.

www.clanmorrison.net



Clan Sinclair Australia

Membership and inquiries from all Sinclairs, Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants.

For further info contact
President: Wayne Sinclair 0417 146 174
Secretary : Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263
E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com
www.clansinclairaustralia.com



The American-Scottish Foundation

Through our platform of projects and events ASF helps share and strengthen the heritage and cultural message of Scotland's past and future. A bridge between the United States and Scotland.

www.americanscottishfoundation.org



The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

If your surname is MacRae, or you are descended from a person having the surname MacRae (any spelling) or that of a Sept of the Clan then you are eligible to join our Society.

Australian Contact: Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054
email: clanmacraeausnz@gmail.com

NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth
email: sue.treg1@gmail.com



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nesbittnisbet.org.uk



Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary

clansutherlandsocietyaustralia@gmail.com
<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus>
Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia

For further details contact John: 0427 990 754
Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com
www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com



Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

We invite MacRaes of all spelling variations and their descendants to join our Clan MacRae Society. Learn your Scottish MacRae history and family lineage!

www.macrae.org
Need more info? Contact:
Bruce McRae, President
720-793-7530
brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com



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Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

Email: Secretary@ClanSutherland.org
Website: www.ClanSutherland.org



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in Newcastle, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas. Members and interested people are welcome to attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night, St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.

Web: hvscots.org Email: hunterscots@gmail.com
P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289



Clan Maitland Society


Chief: Ian Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale!
We are all related! Contact your local society

North America: Rosemary Maitland Thom
rthomnvrpcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Amanda Maitland
clanmaitlandaustralia@gmail.com
12 Settlers Way, Westleigh, NSW, 2120

New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz
33 Disley Street, Highbury, Wellington 6012. NZ

We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at: www.clanmaitland.org.uk



Clan Pollock

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

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




YOUNG

Youngs of Scotland in Australia

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Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot
E: membership@clanyoungaustalia.com.au
www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/
<https://clanyoungsociety.com/australia>



The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

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

For Membership Information contact:
Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973
Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au



Clan Muirhead Society

A NON-PROF. CORP.

Muirhead, Muirhede, Morehead, Moorhead and all Variant Names

www.clanmuirhead.com

Rev. Ret. Chev. Raymond L. Morehead, GOTT, FSA Scot,
Chief Officer Elect Clan Muirhead Society
Email: raymondktj@msn.com or raymond@clanmuirhead.com



Clan Ross in Australia

for information contact Commander Des Ross
(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowan)

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

Contact: Commander Des Ross at
lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853



YOUNGS OF SCOTLAND

Membership inquiries:
Ms. Laura Young,
33 McKeen Street,
Jarvis, Ontario,
Canada N0A 1J0

4scottishthistles@gmail.com



The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

For information please contact
members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

[Find us on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/scottishaustralianheritagecouncil)

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



CLAN MUNRO ASSOCIATION

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

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BECOME A MEMBER, CONTACT RAY MUNRO

munro.ray@hotmail.com
0410 663 760




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Enjoy North America's top Scottish event listings in the Scottish Banner. Please check directly with event contacts for the most up to date information. You can also see our latest updates (including events listed across Scotland and Australasia) or add your event at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

Canada

MAY 2024

Music & Dance

4, Dartmouth, NS

With band and solo performances by Dartmouth & District Pipe Band (Grades 5 and 3), the 78th Highlanders Halifax Citadel Pipe Band (Grade 1), and Highland dancers. Info: www.dartmouthpipeband.com

The Scottish Club Of Windsor Ceilidh 10, Windsor, ON

A traditional evening of Scottish music, with a live band, dancing and fun at The Scottish Club of Windsor, 1340 Tecumseh Rd E. Info: Isobel at 519 971 1575 or www.facebook.com/ScottishClubWindsor

Saskatchewan Highland Gathering and Celtic Festival 18, Regina, SK

Saskatchewan's premier Scottish festival with pipe bands, Clans, dancing and more at Victoria Park. Info: www.saskhighland.ca

161st Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival 18-19, Victoria, BC

The longest continually running Highland Games in North America at Topaz Park. Info: www.victoriahighlandgames.com

World Whisky Day

18, Nationwide

World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Events are taking place all over the globe. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

WhiskyFête

23, Montréal, QC

An evening of unique and rare whiskies in aid of the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital at Mount Royal Club, 1175 Sherbrooke Street West. Info: www.whiskyfete.org

Hamilton Police Pipe Band Rise Again Concert 25, Hamilton, ON

A concert event celebrating the next chapter of Hamilton Police Pipe Band, with friends at the Scottish Rite Hamilton, 4 Queen St South. Info: www.hppb.ca

Okanagan Military Tattoo

25-26, Vernon, BC

Featuring internationally renowned military bands, dancers, musicians, and marching troops, this riveting and immersive show seeks to bring people together through music, dance, and the commemoration of Canadian military and monarch history. Info: www.okanagantattoo.ca

Winnipeg Police Pipe Band - Scotch Tasting and Cigars 26, Winnipeg, MB

Join the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band and celebrate their 100th anniversary at The Metropolitan Entertainment Centre, 281 Donald St. Info: www.wppb.ca or www.facebook.com/WinnipegPolicePipeBand

JUNE 2024

The Gathering of the Scots

6-9, Perth-Andover, NB

Celebrating 20 years of Scottish culture and athletics. Info: www.gatheringofthes Scots.com

Georgetown Highland Games

8, Georgetown, ON

Boasting over 1,000 competitors who gather to compete in Piping, Drumming, Highland Dancing & Heavy Weight events throughout the day. Traditional Highland Games at Georgetown Fairgrounds. Info: <https://georgetownhighlandgames.com>

Greater Moncton Highland Games and Scottish Festival 11-15, Moncton, NB

Events includes highland dance, pipes & drums, heavy events, and sword competitions as well as demonstrations, workshops, live entertainment, and cultural exhibitions at the Hal Betts Sportsplex, corner of Assomption Blvd and Vaughn Harvey Blvd. Info: www.monctonhighlandgames.com

Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games 14-15, Port Hope, ON

New name and location for the previously known Cobourg Highland Games. Two days of Scottish celebration at Port Hope Agricultural Park. Info: www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca

ScotFestBC

14-15, Coquitlam, BC

The British Columbia Highland Games-with Scottish entertainment, information, displays and competitions. Info: www.scotfestbc.com

1000 Islands Celtic Roots Festival

14-15, Mallorytown, ON

Featuring: The Mudmen, The Fiddleheads The Steel City Rovers & The Celtic Kitchen Party at Happy Green Acres. Info: www.happygreenacres.com

Water Valley Celtic Festival

15, Water Valley, AB

A one day lively and totally unique experience that features talent of all levels involving music, dance and stories performed by individuals and groups covering the range from amateur to professional level. Info: www.watervalleycelticfestival.org

The Kingsville-Essex Highland Games

22, Kingsville, ON

New venue at the Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village, 6155 Arner Townline, Kingsville. Pipes & Drums, Highland Dancing, Scottish Athletic Heavy Events, Tug of War, Clan Village, Sheep Herding, Haggis Hurl, vendors and so much more. Info: www.facebook.com/kingsvillehighlandgames

Manitoba Highland Gathering

22-23, East Selkirk, MB

Pipe Bands, Highland Dancers, Heavy Games, Canoe/Kayak Races, Sheep shearing, Clan booths, Sword demos at Legacy Park. Info: www.manitobahighlandgathering.org

Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo

28-July 1, Halifax, NS

There's something for everyone at the Tattoo: marching bands, acrobats, dancers, military displays, pipes and drums, and much more. Info: www.nstattoo.ca

KitchenFest-Féis a' Chidsin

28-July 6, Cape Breton, NS

Concerts and céilidhs, pub nights and square dances-a celebration of Gaelic culture. Info: www.kitchenfest.ca

USA

MAY 2024

KVMR Celtic Festival

3-5, Grass Valley CA

Featuring five musical stages and six demonstration stages, the festival brings international performers to Nevada County, at Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Rd. Info: www.kvmrcelticfestival.org

Savannah Scottish Games

4, Savannah, GA

A celebration of Scottish heritage, with Celtic music, Scottish clans/societies, pipe bands, highland dancing, heavy athletic events, children's activities, sheep herding, falconry, genealogy and more held on the grounds of Historic Bethesda Academy. Info: www.savannahscottishgames.com

Great Basin Scottish Highland Games

4-5, Sparks NV

Come see Nevada Mesh with Scotland in this fun crowd pleaser. Heavy Athletics, Vendors, Food, Music, Scottish Dancers, Bag Pipes and more at Gandolpho Rodeo Arena, 2200 Loop Rd. Info: www.nntco.org

Loch Badin Celtic Festival

11, Badin NC

Heavy athletics, music, Clans and vendors on the rolling grounds of the historic 1913 Badin Inn, 107 Spruce St. Info: www.facebook.com/events/741332393784579/

World Whisky Day

18, Nationwide

World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Events are taking place all over the globe. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

Fair Hill Scottish Games

18, Elkton, MD

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

Finger Lakes Celtic Games & Festival

18, Canandaigua NY

This event includes: Highland Heavy Games, bag pipes, dance exhibitions, demonstrations, a large gathering of Scottish Clans, historical & heritage societies, artisans, kids activities, Celtic music with the headlining band 1916, and more. Info: <https://flceltic.org/#/>

Blue River Highland Games

18, Shelbyville IN

60 athletes competing in each of the 9 Highland Games events at Shelby County Fairgrounds. Info: www.shelbyparks.com/highland-games

Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games

18-19, Townsend, TN

Pipes, drums, dancers, athletes, entertainers, and authentic food and wares. At the Townsend Visitor Center, 7906 E. Lamar Alexander Pkwy. Info: www.smokymountaingames.org

Scottish Fest

25-26, Costa Mesa, CA

Two packed days of family fun with bagpipes, drums, Highland dancing, Scottish clans and genealogy, Scottish athletics and more at the OC Fair & Event Center. Info: www.scottishfest.com

Alma Highland Festival

25-26, Alma, MI

Gather on Memorial Day Weekend to celebrate all things Scottish. Info: www.almahighlandfestival.com

JUNE 2024

1, Bellingham Scottish Gathering

Blaine, WA

Pacific Northwest beauty abounds with the new home of the Bellingham Scottish Gathering in Blaine, WA. The annual festival features the City of Bellingham Open Highland Dancing Championship, bagpipe, drum and band competitions, food and merchandise vendors, clan tents, athletics, Scottish breed animals and the Scotland FOREver Golf Tournament. Nestled between Seattle, WA and Vancouver, BC, and adjacent to the Peace Arch border crossing. Enjoy waterfront views of the Salish Sea, Mount Baker and Semiahmoo resort where whale and bird watching are popular. Info: www.scottishdancesociety.org

Garrett County Celtic Festival

1, Friendsville, MD

Celebrating heritage of the Scots, the Irish, the Welsh and all things Celtic with music, dance and fun at Friendsville Community Park. Info: www.gccelticfestival.com

Blairsville Scottish Festival & Highland Games

8-9, Blairsville, GA

Highland dancers, Scottish athletes, family clans, bagpipes and drums and traditional musicians come to celebrate their heritage at 490 Meeks Park Rd. Info: www.blairsvillescottishfestival.com

Utah Scottish Festival and Highland Games

14-16, Salt Lake City, UT

The largest Scottish Festival in Utah at Utah State Fair Park. Info: www.utahscots.org/highland-games

Chicago Scottish Festival & Highland Games

14-15, Wheaton IL

A celebration of Scotland at Dupage County Fairgrounds. Info: www.chicagoscotts.org/festival

Holland Celtic Festival and Highland Games

21-22, Holland MI

Scottish & Irish music, Clans, Highland Games, Celtic food and more at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds, 1286 Ottawa Beach Rd. Info: www.hollandcelticfestival.org

Ohio Scottish Games & Celtic Festival

21-22, Berea, OH

The Games highlight the traditional dance, music and athletics of the ancient Highland Games, at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. Info: www.ohioscottishgames.com

Tacoma Highland Games

22, Graham WA

Promoting Scottish culture at Frontier Park, with dancing, piping and drumming and athletics and more. Info: www.tacomagames.org

San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering of the Clans

22-23, Vista, CA

A weekend of Scottish culture, entertainment and fun at Brengle Terrace Park. Info: www.sdhhighlandgames.org

Alaska Scottish Highland Games

29-30, Palmer, AK

Featuring all things Scottish-Bagpipes, Heavy Athletics, Celtic Dance, Drumming, Kilted Mile, Scotch tasting, Salmon Tossing, Highland Coo, Tug-Of-War and more at the Alaska State Fairgrounds. Info: www.alaskascottish.org

Scotland

MAY 2024

Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival

1-6, Speyside

The doors to Speyside's world-famous distilleries open, inviting visitors from across the globe to meet the makers, taste the world's finest whiskies and discover the passion behind them. But that's not all, there are events fit for a foodie, live music, talks, tastings, tours and more. Info: www.spiritofspeyside.com

Shetland Folk Festival

2-5, Lerwick, Shetland

The UK's most northerly folk festival. Concerts are organised throughout the isles, consisting of some of the best International, British and Shetland music that the world has to offer. Info: www.shetlandfolkfestival.com

The Girvan Traditional Folk Festival

3-5, Girvan, Ayrshire

The finest in traditional music and song at one of Scotland's longest established gatherings of traditional musicians. Info: www.girvanfolkfestival.org.uk

Edinburgh Tradfest 2024

3-13, Edinburgh

A festival showcasing the very best in traditional arts with an unmissable line-up of live music, talks, new commissions, and traditional storytelling. Info: www.edinburghtradfest.com

Clan Arthur International Gathering

10-12, Dalmally

Members of Clan Arthur will meet on the banks of Loch Awe and the Portsonachan Hotel. Info: <http://clanarthur.org/events/clan-arthur-international-gathering>

Gourock Highland Games

12, Gourock

There will be pipe band and drum major competitions; Highland dance competitions; heavyweight events; mini-Highland Games; children's entertainment; gift and craft stalls - a great day out for all the family at Battery Park. Info: www.facebook.com/GourockHighlandGames or <http://inverclyde.gov.uk/ghg-24>

World Whisky Day

18, Nationwide

World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Events are taking place all over the globe. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

Gordon Castle Highland Games

19, Fochabers, Aberdeenshire

Pipe bands, athletics, Highland dance and a Gordon Setter canine gathering at Gordon Castle. Info: www.gordoncastle.co.uk/gordon-castle-highland-games-2024

Fèis Ile-Islay Festival

24-June 1, Isle of Islay

A gathering of whisky and Islay fans from across the globe, bringing with it a wealth of music, song, dancing, chatting, meeting new people and savouring a dram or two of Islay whisky along the way. Info: www.feisile.co.uk

Spring Fling Open Studios Weekend

25-27, Dumfries and Galloway

A record-breaking 104 studios will be welcoming in the public for Dumfries and Galloway's 22nd annual Spring Fling Open Studios Weekend. Renowned as the foremost event of its kind in Scotland, Spring Fling embraces everything from paintings, original prints, ceramics, glass, jewellery, furniture, photography and textiles to experimental and installation art. Info: www.spring-fling.co.uk

Atholl Gathering

26, Blair Atholl, Perthshire

The Atholl Highlanders officially open the Highland Games with a 'March On', led by the sound of their pipes and drums. Strongmen from around Scotland take centre stage to battle it out and much more at Blair Castle. Info: www.atholl-estates.co.uk/events/atholl-gathering

Scotword answers from page 6

Across	Down
1 Haggis	2 Aberfoyle
5 Rob Roy	3 Gael
10 Piece	4 Slavers
11 Ardersier	5 Redcoat
12 Affy	6 Birl
13 Besom	7 Olive
14 Wean	8 Sprats
17 Scythes	9 Orkney
18 Tallboy	15 Thole
20 Gremlin	16 Flock
22 Loch Awe	19 Blackford
24 Arch	20 Guards
26 Scamp	21 Necktie
27 Skye	22 Laments
30 Dumbarton	23 Eyelet
31 Close	25 Cameo
32 Comrie	28 Fair
33 Swords	29 Echo.

Thousands attend the 2024 New Zealand Pipe Band Championships



Canterbury Caledonian Society Pipe Band.

Thousands of Kiwis descended onto Onewa Domain in Auckland to take in the 2024 New Zealand Pipe Band Championships, the biggest pipe band event outside of the United Kingdom.

Fifty-two bands from across Australia and New Zealand competed at the two-day event, culminating with the reigning New Zealand champions, Canterbury Caledonian Society, retaining their premier grade title.

“The strength of the entries and the standard of music right across the grades is testament to how strong the pipe band movement in New Zealand is, and the renaissance we are seeing with young people from all walks of life deciding to take up the bagpipes and drums,” RNZPBA President Iain Blakeley says. “The adjudication panel said this year’s event was the highest standard of competition they had heard in New Zealand in a long time. Having high-quality music across all of the competition grades both helps inspire players to constantly reach for excellence as well as inspire new people to take up the instruments.”

Pipe bands are for everyone

Of note, the 2024 competition played host to the biggest under-18 juvenile event in the world, and for the second time in the history of the national championships a female was awarded Champion Drum Major. Iain continued, “We are proud of the fact we have so many young people from all walks of life wanting to play the bagpipes or drums.

It’s an incredible environment for young people to learn new skills, make new friends and have fun. The strength of the public interest in this year’s event shows the unique contribution we can make to communities right across New Zealand. There are strong signs that the event will continue to grow and diversify which is an exciting prospect. No matter your background, pipe bands are for everyone.”

The winners of each grade were:

- Grade One: Canterbury Caledonian Society’s Pipe Band (Christchurch, New Zealand)
- Grade Two: Celtic Pipe Band (Nelson, New Zealand)
- Grade Three: City of Melbourne Pipe Band No. 1 (Melbourne, Australia)
- Grade Four ‘A’: Hamilton Caledonian Society (Hamilton, New Zealand)
- Grade Four ‘B’: South Canterbury Highland Pipe Band (Timaru, New Zealand)
- Juvenile: St. Andrew’s College Pipe Band (Christchurch, New Zealand)
- Champion Drum Major: Wendy Chisholm (Canterbury Caledonian Society’s Pipe Band)



The City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band, Grade Three winners.



Grade One winners Canterbury Caledonian Society Pipe Band.

The 2025 New Zealand Pipe Band Championships will be held in Invercargill 7-8th March 2025, at the Cricket Grounds, Queens Park. The event will be livestreamed for piping fans across the world to enjoy.

Gather the Clan this summer at the Sherwood Park Highland Gathering 2024



The Sherwood Park Highland Gathering returns to Broadmoor Lake Park in Sherwood Park, Alberta, on July 22 and 23, 2024. More than 12,000 people attended last year’s Sherwood Park Highland Gathering with over 400 competitors participating. Saturday offers an amazing cultural experience with sanctioned events in pipes, drums and massed bands, along with highland dancing and heavy events, also new this year will be a Corporate Tug O War.

Saturday evening from 6 pm – 11 pm, you’ll find a family friendly Ceilidh featuring local Edmonton band, Celtara, with their uniquely identifiable Canadiana

Celtic sound along with the North Stratton Pipe Band and Celtic Ceilidh Dance Academy. Sunday you’ll find sheep & duck herding demonstrations, other canine capers and a Viking village.

Both days you will also find Food Trucks, a Celtic marketplace, Kids Zone, pet rest area & beer gardens! The Highland Gathering will be open from 9 am to 4 pm both days. Parking is available on-site and we are also encouraging cyclists to ride down and park in our special Cycle Parking area.

Bring your lawn chair and enjoy these action-packed, fun-filled days in Sherwood Park.

For more information, to purchase tickets or to volunteer, please visit: www.sphg.ca.

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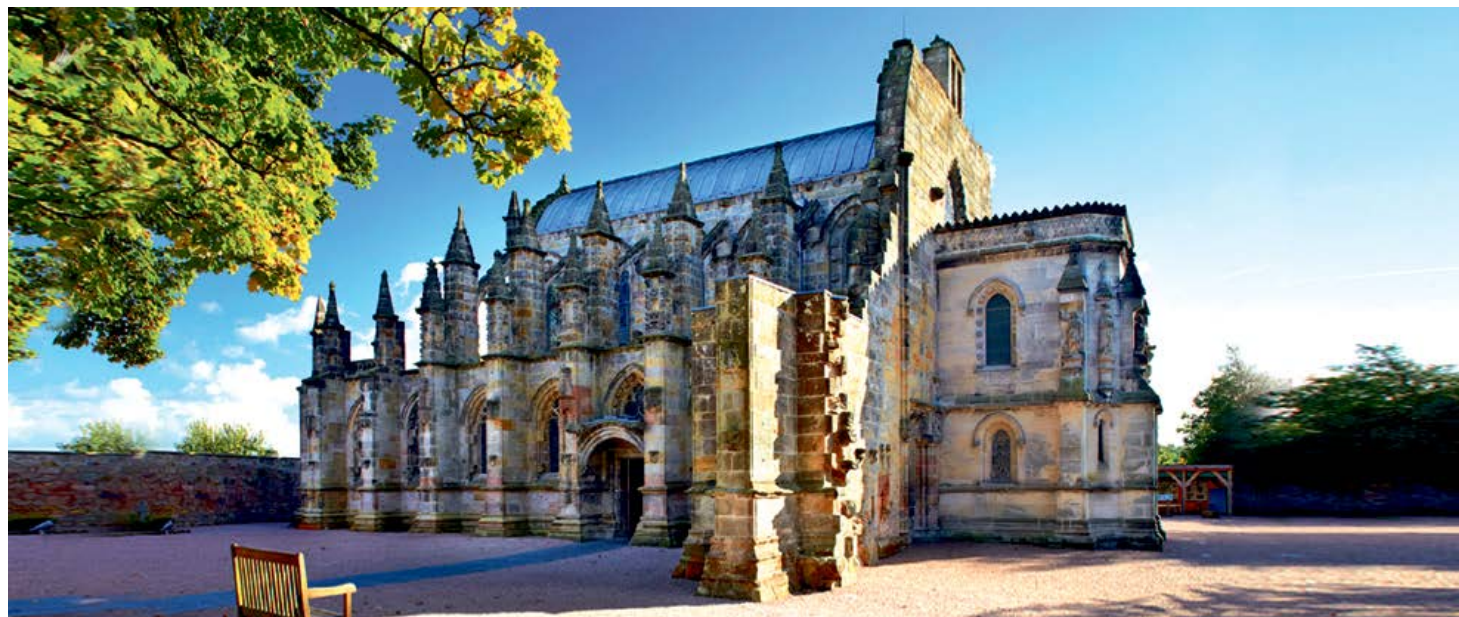
Research reveals Da Vinci Code impact at Rosslyn Chapel - 21 years after publication

Visitors to Rosslyn Chapel, in Midlothian, are still strongly influenced by its role in *The Da Vinci Code* according to new research undertaken to mark the recent 21st anniversary of the book, which was first published on 18th March 2003.

Research carried out by Shanks Research Consultancy with 6,677 Chapel visitors between March 2023 and March 2024, reveals that:

- 49% of visitors said that Dan Brown's novel, and the subsequent film, was a factor influencing their decision to visit the historic site.
- 72% of them had read the book and seen the film.
- 43% of them said that *The Da Vinci Code* was either a 'very important or important' influence.

Ian Gardner, Director of Rosslyn Chapel Trust, said "It is remarkable that *The Da Vinci Code* continues to have such a strong influence on our visitors, 21 years since it first appeared. It has had a huge impact on the profile of Rosslyn Chapel and has significantly increased levels of visitor numbers, which rose from 38,141 to 79,916 after the book was published and to more than 176,000 when the film was released. This has helped us complete a comprehensive conservation project at the Chapel and undertake a major programme of restoration and repair at



Rosslyn Castle, enabling future generations to appreciate these unique buildings."

One of Scotland's iconic attractions

In 2023, the Chapel welcomed 142,211 visitors, as numbers started to increase following the pandemic. In the story of *The Da Vinci Code*, the main characters, Robert Langdon and Sophie Neveu, investigate a murder in the Louvre and, in doing so, follow a set of clues to unravel a mystery to find the Holy Grail, taking them to London and then to Rosslyn Chapel. Since publication, the novel has been translated into 44 languages and has sold more than

an estimated 80 million copies, making it one of the best-selling novels of all time.

Neil Christison, VisitScotland's Regional Director, said: "Rosslyn Chapel is one of Scotland's iconic attractions and a hugely important driver of tourism in Midlothian. *The Da Vinci Code* was a global phenomenon and it's wonderful that the book and film are still influencing visitors to this day. This new research chimes with our own visitor surveys which continue to show that film and television productions are still referenced by visitors, sometimes decades, after their initial release." He continued: "Scotland's historic sites have been the backdrop to many productions, and

this is a great example of the positive impact of screen tourism, which can help support the conservation of our amazing built heritage."

Rosslyn Chapel was founded in 1446 by Sir William St Clair. The beauty of its setting, in rural Midlothian, and the mysterious symbolism of its ornately carved stonework have inspired, attracted an intrigued visitors and artists ever since. The Chapel is open to visitors throughout the year.

Dan Brown has previously said: "When I decided to write *The Da Vinci Code*, I knew that its finale would have to take place at the most mysterious and magical Chapel on earth – Rosslyn."

Aug 31
Sept 1

Celebrating Celtic culture in the Canadian Rockies!

CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES

TASTE OF THE HIGHLANDS
SATURDAY, AUG 31, 5 - 9 PM

CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES
SUNDAY, SEPT 1, 8 AM - 5 PM

THE CANMORE CEILIDH
SUNDAY, SEPT 1, 6 - 11 PM

See all information at: canmorehighlandgames.ca

Canada's Premiere Pipe Band Coming to Kingsville-Essex Highland Games



The 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band.

While modern day Highland Games have changed significantly over the years, there are still three pillar competitions that are consistent throughout the world; Highland Dancing; Scottish Athletic Heavy Events; and Piping, Drumming & Pipe Bands.

Since its return in 2019, the Kingsville-Essex Highland Games has always proudly presented all three of these events and 2024 will be no exception. The Committee is beyond excited to announce that the prestigious 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band will be competing in Kingsville on June 22nd. The 78th Fraser Highlanders are a top-tier pipe band, one of eighteen Grade 1 pipe bands in the world, only three of which are in Canada.

Since its inception in 1982, The 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band has been an international leader in bagpiping and drumming, boldly presenting innovative music with subtle hints of Celtic tradition. The band travels to Glasgow, Scotland every year to compete on the international stage at the most advanced level (Grade 1), in the World Pipe Band Championships. The 78th holds 14 Canadian Championship titles, 14 North American Championship titles, a ranking position as one of the top 12 bands in the world over twenty times, as well as a very prestigious and historic title: that of being the first non-Scottish pipe band to win the World Pipe Band Championships in Grade 1 (1987).

The ancient sounds of the bagpipe and drum

Also, the Toronto Police Pipe Band has now registered to return for the Kingsville-Essex Highland Games competition. As ambassadors of both the Toronto Police Service and the City of Toronto, the band is dedicated to playing good music well and to help bring the ancient sounds of the bagpipe and drum to the people. The Toronto Police Pipe Band are currently a Grade 2 Pipe Band and have competed on the national and world stage over decades. There are 5 grade levels for competing pipers, drummers, and pipe bands, with 1 being the highest.

"We are truly honoured to have these bands choose to compete in Kingsville as they don't attend all Highland Games. This year is shaping up to be a real treat for everyone who comes to the Kingsville-Essex Games on June 22nd, it's not every day you have the chance to hear bands of this calibre" said founder and chairman, Doug Plumb. And it doesn't end there,

check the website regularly for updates on the bands that will be joining these two Canadian icons in June.

The Kingsville-Essex Highland Games takes place on Saturday June 22nd, 2024. This year there is a new venue at the Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village, 6155 Arner Townline, Kingsville, Ontario. For more details see: www.kingsvillehighlandgames.com.



The 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band.



Toronto Police Pipe Band.



This strath is just south-west of Inverness. Photo: VisitScotland/Paul Tomkins.

How well do you know Scotland? To test your knowledge, we have assembled ten fun questions on its geography, history and culture. This month all 10 answers begin with 'strath', a soft, level meadow land or wide valley. So, get your map of Scotland out and start, but if you get stumped, the solutions can be found underneath. Good luck!

- 1 This Strath is the administrative region of western Scotland comprising the former counties of Ayr, Bute, Dumbarton, Lanark and Renfrew?
- 2 This Strath is a Fife village just 3 miles west of St Andrews?
- 3 This Strath is a town 7 miles south of Hamilton?
- 4 This Strath is a valley covering the Tayside and Central regions just north-east of Dunblane?
- 5 This Strath is a small town in the Kingdom of Fife, just 2 miles south-west of Auchtermuchty?
- 6 This Strath is a Highland village, 4 miles west of Dingwall, and famous for its mineral springs?
- 7 This Strath is a lovely village in the north-east, 12 miles east of Tomintoul?
- 8 This Strath is a valley to the south-west of Inverness which crosses Glen Urquhart?
- 9 This Strath is a huge fertile valley separating the Highlands from the Central Lowlands, stretching from the foot of Loch Lomond to Stonehaven in the north-east?
- 10 This Strath is a valley, village and forest between Loch Voil and Loch Lubnaig, just below Lochearnhead?

- Answers:**
- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Strathclyde. | 6 Strathpeffer. |
| 2 Strathkinness. | 7 Strathdon. |
| 3 Strathaven. | 8 Strathglass. |
| 4 Strath Allan. | 9 Strathmore. |
| 5 Strathmiglo. | 10 Strathyre. |

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New finds at Culloden Battlefield shed more light on intensity of battle

Image courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland.



Recent finds of grapeshot from the Battle of Culloden and the remains of what's believed to be a shoe belong to the Cameron chief known as 'The Gentle Lochiel'.

Latest investigations by National Trust for Scotland archaeologists at Culloden Battlefield have recovered a wide range of artefacts, including a buckle they believe to be the shoe buckle of Donald Cameron of Lochiel, who led the 400-strong Camerons regiment into the battle. The large number of musket balls and grapeshot unearthed by the conservation charity's archaeologists and volunteers in a small 60 sq m area close to the Government frontline, vividly illustrate the intensity of the fighting on the Jacobite right wing. The charity has revealed the findings, made during test pit excavation and metal detecting, as it recently marked the 278th anniversary of the battle on 16 April 1746, which saw around 1,600 men killed in less than an hour.

Of particular significance and interest to the Trust's archaeologists were two items found in close proximity – a single piece of heavy lead grape shot and a broken copper alloy buckle. Derek Alexander, the National Trust for Scotland's Head of Archaeology, explained, "The grape shot has obviously hit something with great force as one side of the lead ball has been completely flattened. The ball would have been around 2-3cm in diameter and, at 102g, weighed about four times a standard musket ball. The flattened side of the impacted ball has a striped impression, with part of the surface gouged and rolled back and an angular cut on one of its edges. It looks like it hit something angular with enough force to flatten the ball but also at an angle to cause the gouge across it."

The Gentle Lochiel

The other item found in the same hole was a flat copper alloy object. This appears to be part of a broken rectangular framed buckle for a strap measuring 26mm wide. The buckle is decorated on the outside with cast beaded dots, plain lines and a central twisted-roped pattern, with a shape reminiscent of the flat, slightly-curved shoe buckles often shown in contemporary illustrations.

Derek Alexander continues, "The juxtaposition of both these artefacts, recovered from the same hole and within 20-30m of the British Army front line, is intriguing and the obvious conclusion would be that the grape shot hit the shoe buckle and broke off one end. This is of particular significance as one of the most recounted stories of the

Jacobite charge at Culloden is the wounding of Donald Cameron of Lochiel, known as 'The Gentle Lochiel'. The late Christopher Duffy, a leading authority on the Battle of Culloden, tells how Lochiel 'advancing at the head of his regiment [the Camerons], was so near Barrell's [Government Regiment] that he fired his pistol, and was drawing his sword when he fell, wounded with grapeshot in both ankles. This description shows us that Lochiel was hit in the ankles charging forward and if he had been wearing shoes with buckles, it is possible that these would have been hit and partly absorbed the impact. We can't prove that this is what happened but both objects combine to tell the story of the terrible events that took place on that day.'

Donald Cameron of Lochiel (1695-1748) was the hereditary chief of Clan Cameron and led their 400-strong regiment at the Battle of Culloden. A staunch Jacobite, he played a key role in the 1745 Rising and marched with his clan regiment to Derby and back. Despite being wounded at Culloden, he managed to escape to France with Bonnie Prince Charlie in September 1746. He died of a stroke in northern France at the age of 53 in 1748. After the Rising, he was given the nickname 'The Gentle Lochiel' due to him preventing the Jacobite army from sacking the city of Glasgow in 1746.

Donald Cameron of Lochiel, the current (28th) chief, commented, "This fascinating archaeological discovery adds to the legends surrounding one of my most famous ancestors, the Gentle Lochiel, and certainly tallies with the fact that he was injured by grape shot in that particular location at Culloden."

We will of course never know the full picture but it's intriguing that the battlefield is still producing such interesting artefacts even today."

Sharing the stories of Culloden

Gail Cleaver, the National Trust for Scotland's Operations Manager for Culloden, added, "Culloden Moor is a powerfully emotive place, and it's rare for a landscape of this age to be so relatively intact. The National Trust for Scotland has been acquiring and caring for parts of the battlefield since 1937. But the field of battle and the views that surround it are increasingly under threat from development, and as well as sharing the stories of Culloden, our charity works hard to protect its sense of place. This is why we set up the Culloden Fighting Fund in 2021. The fund helps us care and protect the battlefield in many ways, including setting up our five-year archaeology programme which has transformed our understanding of the battle and strengthened our advocacy against improper development around the battlefield. As we mark the 278th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden, our charity is grateful to people from all over the world who generously support our work here. Their donations to the Fighting Fund, as well as the encouraging words they send to us, are greatly appreciated and remind us more than ever of how privileged we are to care for Culloden and how important is our work to protect, care for and share it. If you'd like to support us in that, you can donate at nts.org.uk/Culloden-fighting-fund."

Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games



The former Cobourg Highland Games has a new name and location for the calendar this summer, and looks forward to celebrating the same great Scottish Canadian tradition as it has for sixty years.

After calling Cobourg home since 1963, the Cobourg Highland Games Society are moving to a new location in Port Hope for their 60th anniversary on June 14 and 15th, 2024. To coincide with the move, they are changing the event name to the Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games. Everything else stays the same. You will still be entertained by Celtic music, see competitions in solo Piping and Drumming, Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing and Heavy events, learn about your Clan heritage and visit food and merchandise vendors. There's fun for the little ones too, in the Wee Highlanders area. The

Games are thrilled to announce that Bruce Fummey will be the Honourary Chieftain this year. Bruce is taking time out of his *Stories of Scotland* Canadian Tour to take on the role of Honourary Chieftain for our Northumberland Highland Games.

Why the move to Port Hope?

The decision was not made lightly, nor in haste, however there are several reasons for the move to Port Hope. While Victoria Park in Cobourg is a beautiful setting beside Lake Ontario, the event is outgrowing the park and in need of a larger space for competitors, vendors and attendees. The Port Hope site offers that



additional space, dedicated spots for all events, as well as a large outbuilding where Highland Dancing can take place.

It's not only Northumberland residents who attend the Games, with approximately 1,000 competitors from all over Ontario and the USA, who bring family and friends, bringing lots of out-of-town visitors. A big bonus for the new site is the Games can now offer free parking for all guests. As a non-profit organization, comprised solely of volunteers, the Cobourg Highland Games Society are very aware of their financial health. Operating costs in Port Hope will be reduced and that allows them to pass the savings to guests. As a result, one of the first things they have done, is to lower the entry fee for 2024. But best of all? Parking is free!

Where will the 2024 Games take place?

The new location is at the Port Hope Agricultural Park, which Northumberland residents will know as the site for the Port Hope Fair. If you are not familiar

with the site it's in the east end of town at 62 McCaul St. Port Hope, ON, L1A 1A2. There is easy access to the park from both Highway 2 and Highway 401. Free parking is available at the park. The Games will always cherish its connection with Cobourg - being able to host an event for 60 years in the town is a remarkable achievement. The committee feel the new title Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games better reflects our ties with Northumberland County and the communities within. The committee is working hard to make this 60th anniversary memorable, so there's lots of planning and behind the scenes activities happening right now.

The Northumberland Scottish Festival & Highland Games will take place June 14 & 15, 2024 for full information see: www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca or follow them on Facebook and Instagram for the latest news. You can also email the Games at: info@cobourghighlandgames.ca.



2024 National Tartan Day Award



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 are courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans (SRT).

May is Whisky Month and this month we raise a glass to this whisky inspired tartan. The Uisge Beatha tartan was inspired by the whisky-making traditions of Islay and the colours of the Islay landscape. Uisge Beatha is the Scottish Gaelic term for whisky, translating as 'water of life'.

The yellow is intended to reflect the colour of barley, the main ingredient in Islay Single Malt. The white lines are based on the colour of Islay's traditional whitewashed buildings, the distilleries and lighthouses, which line the coast.

Green reflects Islay's close links, both historically and geographically, with Ireland - it is said that the Irish people taught local crofters on Islay how to set up illicit stills during whisky prohibition. The grey/green colour was inspired by moss on the aged stone of Islay's ancient monuments. Blue is for the sky and pink for the Sea Thrift, which grows on the coastline. The sett number reflects the distance of the Island, running 25 miles from north to south, 15 miles from east to west, and 40 kilometres north of the Northern Irish coast. This tartan (reference: 14043) was designed by Tartan Caledonia and registered in September, 2023.



The Scottish Coalition USA (TSCUSA), announces the presentation of the 20th annual National Tartan Day Award to Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil, for his outstanding contribution as a leader and volunteer to our Scottish American community, both here and abroad. Presented annually, The National Tartan Day Award is presented as a part of the National Capital Tartan Day Celebrations taking place during the April celebrations of Tartan Week. The Scottish Coalition USA member, John Bellasai, President, Council of Scottish Clans and Associations noted, "We were unanimous in our choice of awardee. Viscount Dunrossil devotes untold hours to supporting and promoting Scottish-American culture in the USA, from developing the outstanding Tartan Week festival in San Antonio each year during Tartan Week to attending Highland Games throughout the US and Canada. Serving on many leading organization boards including COSCA and SHUSA, Dunrossil is United Kingdom Honorary Consul General to San Antonio, Honorary Patron of the American Scottish Foundation and US Representative for the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. He is Clan Morrison, Chieftain.

Scottish American Diaspora

In 2024 the Scottish Coalition USA has grown the organizing committee from the founding members of American-Scottish

Foundation (ASF), Association of Scottish Games & Festivals (ASGF), Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA), Scottish-American Military Society (SAMS), Scottish Heritage USA (SHUSA) to going forward to include: Tartan Day West (12 leading Scottish West Coast organizations) and Tartan Day South.

Together The Scottish Coalition USA looks to promote the national platform of events taking place each year on April 6. The National Tartan Day Award was introduced in 2003 to recognize the efforts of those that help to sustain and grow the Scottish American Diaspora, TSC USA. Nominations are accepted from organizations throughout the United States Past recipients include our first recipient in 2003 - Duncan Bruce author of *Mark of the Scot*, which each Senator was given by Senator Trent Lott to progress the passage of Resolution 41 through Congress. In 2008 Sen. Trent Lott received the NTA, with more recently Robert McWilliam in 2016, long time board member of COSCA and SHUSA and in 2020 Bob Crieghton and in 2021 to Gus Noble - the Scottish Coalition USA is so honored to be able to recognize such outstanding pillars of our Scottish American Community in such a way.

In 1998, National Tartan Day of April 6 was officially recognized on a permanent basis when the U.S. Senate passed Senate Resolution 155 recognizing April 6th as National Tartan Day. This was followed by companion bill House Resolution 41 which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on March 9, 2005.

Northumberland Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Port Hope Agricultural Park, ON

June 14 & 15, 2024

2024 is our year for change

Formerly known as the Cobourg Highland Games, we now have a new name and location.

Welcome to the Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games being held on June 14th and 15th in Port Hope, Ontario. Our Highland Games events and entertainment are just as you remember, but the big news is that admission prices are lower and there's free parking at the park!

<p>Friday, June 14th</p> <p>Bar opens at 5.30pm</p> <p>Ceilidh, featuring</p> <p>Cobourg Legion Pipe Band</p> <p>Scottish Country Dancers</p> <p>Bang on the Ear</p> <p>Madman's Window</p>	<p>Saturday, June 15th</p> <p>Highland Games Competitions</p> <p>Massed Pipe Bands</p> <p>Ceilidh, featuring</p> <p>Bang on the Ear</p> <p>Donegal Fiddlers</p> <p>Caledon County</p> <p>Madman's Window</p>	<p>At our Festival enjoy</p> <p>Solo Piping & Drumming</p> <p>Pipe Bands</p> <p>Highland Dancers</p> <p>Heavy Athletes</p> <p>Clans</p> <p>Food & Merchant Vendors</p> <p>Wee Highlanders Area</p> <p>Massed Pipe Bands</p>
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Get complete details about our Festival and purchase your online tickets at:

www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca

Scottish Comedian Bruce Fummey is taking time out from his Canadian tour to be our Honorary Chieftain.



COME JOIN US FOR ALL THE FUN, FOOD, AND HIGHLAND GAMES!

June 21 & 22, 2024



Friday, June 21, 2024
7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Irish/Scottish Cèilidh (party!)
in the Pub Tent with Live Music!
Music begins at 7:00 PM

\$22.50 Admission
Cash bar

Saturday, June 22, 2024
9:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Highland Games begin 9:30 AM
Festival grounds open until 8 PM
(Music continues until 11:00 PM)

\$12 (16 & older)
15 & under - FREE

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

Traditional Irish and Scottish foods
Celtic Genealogy Assistance | Vendors of Celtic goods
Irish Pub tent | Scottish Clan Tents | Kids area



FOR TICKETS, VISIT: HollandCelticFestival.org

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HOLLAND CELTIC FESTIVAL

Ottawa County Fairgrounds

DeZwaan Windmill photo by Norm Hoekstra. Other photos by Erika Tinney & Cassie Veen-Haveman