



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 46 Number 7 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS January 2023

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The Banner Says...

Lighting up a New Year



by Sean Cairney

As we all look at a New Year upon us with this issue for many (and certainly for those in Scotland) this will be some of the darkest, and coldest, days of the year this month. Of course, our Australian and New Zealand readers will be trying to keep cool as they look to take in the height of summer.

The powerful symbol of fire

Scottish tradition has long incorporated the powerful symbol of fire during the dark winter nights and January is no exception to this. Hogmanay celebrations are still a huge part of Scottish culture and let's face it the Scots know how to throw a party! Hogmanay or New Year's Eve, also known as Oidhche Challainn in Gaelic, is the biggest annual celebration in Scotland. The use of fire on this night is famous the world over today but has been part of Scottish tradition for centuries. People would light fires and candles for luck for the coming year ahead, if you lost your fire it was thought to be bad luck for the household in the coming year.

In many parts of Gaelic speaking Scotland children would often go from house to house on New Year's Day and burn a sheep candle, which was sheep meat dipped in wax. Each house would offer fire for luck and protection and each member of the household would have the flame around their head, should that flame go out it was likely that person would have bad luck or worse death in the year ahead. While fire is still a focus, some may be surprised to know that not all of Scotland has celebrated the New Year on December 31st.

In Moray, the Burning of the Clavie has its origins in Pagan rituals and in fact acknowledges New Year on January 11th. The Burning of the Clavie is a Pictish celebration of the ancient Scots Hogmanay, which fell on January 11 before the Gregorian calendar was introduced in Britain in the 18th century. The event involves lighting a 100kg barrel of tar which is then carried around the town. The Clavie is then taken up Dorie Hill before being allowed to burn out and tumble down the hill. Locals then gather around the smoking remains as it is supposed to bring good luck for the year ahead. Other parts of Scotland that have had a different New Year include on January 12th on Berneray in the Outer Hebrides and Foula in the Shetland Isles who celebrate on January 13th.

Up Helly Aa

The largest fire festival in Europe happens to also take place this month in Lerwick on Shetland. Up Helly Aa is a fire festival in Shetland where 1,000 torch bearers, led by the Jarl Squad Viking, march through Lerwick and set fire to a Viking replica longship. This year amazingly will be the first that will allow females to take part as torchbearers since this iconic Norse event began in the early 1800s. The celebration of Shetland and Viking culture uses fire as a main focus of the events energy with a torchlight procession marching through the streets, culminating with fires burning throughout the night. The fires of tradition burn throughout winter in Scotland with Up Helly Aas traditionally taking place in various locations from January through to March.

In this issue

As we welcome in the New Year with this issue, we highlight some of the great things you can experience in Scotland in the year ahead. I am looking forward to my first visit to Scotland this month, after a few years absence. We also hear from our friends at the National Piping Centre in Glasgow on just some of the array of events taking place across the piping and drumming world in

Scotland and the globe. Whether you play in a band or are just a fan of the sound of Scotland, there will be plenty of opportunities to hear the pipes and drums throughout 2023.

Stonehaven is a small and picturesque town, located just south of Aberdeen, on the Aberdeenshire coast. With a picture postcard harbour and the stunning and dramatic Dunnottar Castle located minutes from the town centre, it is a great spot to enjoy for a day or longer. Stonehaven is one place I have only managed to visit once and it was for lunch, and it is on my list of not only places to return to, but for a longer period to take in its charm and beauty.

All of Scotland stopped for a moment late November as Scottish rugby legend Doddie Weir, who won sixty-one caps for Scotland, passed away at the age of 52. Weir was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in December 2016 and used his profile to raise money and highlight the need for better research and care. Though his rugby skills will forever be remembered it will be the determination and humanity he showed Scotland and the world throughout his illness which will define him forever, a statement from his family certainly summed up what the nation thought of Weir when they called him an "inspirational force of nature".

Robert Burns

On the 25 January people across Scotland and the world will pay tribute to the life and cultural legacy of poet Robert Burns. Born in Ayrshire on January 25, 1759, Robert Burns is Scotland's national bard and still today is one of Scotland's most famous Scots. Burns would never have imagined his legacy would be so far reaching and long lasting, nor could he ever have contemplated a fame like he has achieved during his short lifetime, Burns died a poor man at just the age of 37. Perhaps you will attend a Burns Supper this year or simply raise a dram to one of Scotland's greatest sons. I hope you not only find a way to enjoy Burns Night, but I wish you and yours a safe, happy and healthy 2023 ahead. 🍷

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.



The traditional Burning of the Clavie takes place in Burghead, Moray. Photo: VisitScotland.



Gracing our front cover: Dunnottar Castle. Photo: VisitScotland/Luigi Di Pasquale.

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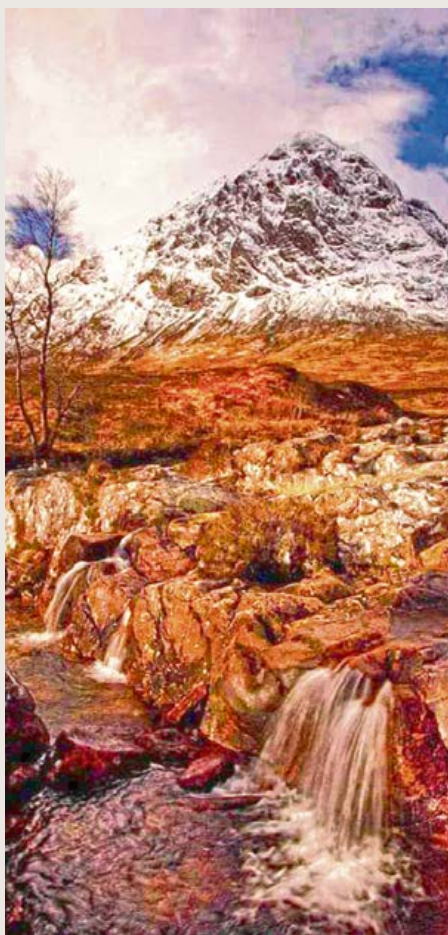
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SCOT POURRI

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?

Memories



The land I love, will always be
a part of me forever
it's been too long, since I have walked
your hills of purple heather

the years have passed, but still I yearn
to once more see the Clyde
the days and months, away from you
can't quell my Scottish pride

I long to see my homeland,
once more before I die
the beauty of the mountains,
in a Scottish Highland sky
I know I'll stay forever, forever in my mind
I long to see my homeland,
to say my last goodbye

Your glens so green, and mountains bold
I've never seen your kind
nowhere on earth, will memories hold
like you will, in my mind

Glencoe's the place, my heart remains
forever through the years
the one true place, in all the land
my heart will drown in tears

By: Scott Carscadden
Canada

Ed note: Thank you Scott for
sending us this lovely poem, which
I am sure will speak to many.

Anthony Jenkins who served as editorial cartoonist, caricaturist and writer with the *Globe and Mail* for four decades.

Please visit our website at:
www.scottishstudies.com for more information and to obtain your signed copy of this captivating new book. Best wishes and thank you for your support.
David Hunter
President, *Scottish Studies Foundation*
Guelph, Ontario
Canada
www.scottishstudies.com

Queen Elizabeth

I was interested in the letter by Alexander Sibbald of Dunedin in December's edition of *the Banner*. He quite rightly states that there was never a Queen Elizabeth 1 of Scotland, and his historical facts are correct.

Having said that, Elizabeth 11 was dearly loved in Scotland, and as a former native of Edinburgh I remember well the excitement when she made a visit. Her attachment, particularly to Balmoral, was significant as she decided to spend her last days there where she died.

My dear husband was a regular guest to The Queen's garden parties at Holyrood House due to all his public works, and I used to listen avidly to his description of these on his return home.

May our dear Queen rest in peace. We will never forget her.

June Laws
Little Mountain, Queensland
Australia

I was interested in reading Alexander Sibbald's letter in the December issue of *the Scottish Banner*. Clearly not a monarchist himself, which is of course fine, he may consider some of the context of why the late Queen Elizabeth 11 was titled the second across the globe. Mr Sibbald is quite correct that there had never been an Elizabeth I on the throne in Scotland, but there was one in England.

Back in the 1953 the then Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Hector McNeil who was Secretary of State for Scotland agreed to create a system where whichever nations regnal number was higher the reigning monarch would adopt that number. Winston Churchill said in parliament: "I think it would be reasonable and logical to continue to adopt in future whichever numeral in the English or Scottish line were higher." Thus, Queen Elizabeth used the second, and it was agreed to by Scotland. I am sure Mr Sibbald may have noted his local media also used the same references as *the Scottish Banner* did, as did BBC, CNN, ABC, CBC, *The Scotsman*, Scottish Television (STV), the Scottish Parliament and numerous Scottish councils and a multitude of government organisations the world over.

Mary Sinclair
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada

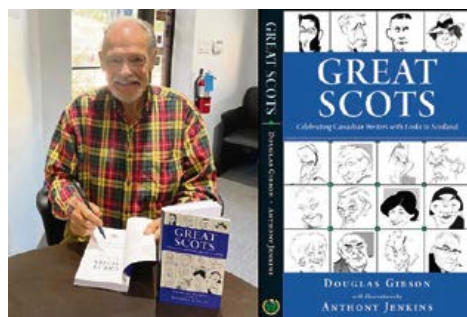
Reasons to visit Scotland in 2023



Wishing all the great writers and my fellow readers a wonderful 2023!
Claire Hunter
Christchurch, New Zealand

Ed note: Thanks for your letter
Claire and wishing you and all our readers and wonderful year ahead and have a great trip to Scotland!

GREAT SCOTS: Celebrating Canadian Writers with Links to Scotland



Earlier this year, former publisher-turned-author Douglas Gibson donated the rights to have his latest book *GREAT SCOTS: Celebrating Canadian Writers with Links to Scotland* published by the Scottish Studies Foundation to be used as a fundraiser for the Scottish Studies program at the University of Guelph.

We are excited to have received the first batch of books from the printer, all of which have been carefully inscribed by Doug. The book is full of fascinating anecdotes from his research and his career in publishing. It features 35 writers with links to Scotland, from Sir Alexander Mackenzie to Joseph Boyden, and is illustrated by co-author

Thank you very much for your listing of the 10 reason to visit Scotland in 2023 (*the Scottish Banner*, November, 2022). I try to get to Scotland every 3-5 years and that obviously has not been possible recently, but I am fired up to return in 2023! There are certainly a couple of suggestions I would be more than happy to try next year such as the Tartan exhibition at the V&A Dundee, visiting Dunfermline (I have heard the Abbey is outstanding) and I really think I will look to spend a few nights in a unique accommodation option-I am most interested in a farm stay.

The Scottish Banner is great wee paper and packs a punch of great reading each month, I echo what many of your readers no doubt feel when I say I love it from cover to cover.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

The Falkirk Wheel



The Falkirk Wheel is a rotating boat lift in Tamfourhill, Falkirk, in central Scotland, connecting the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal. It reconnects the two canals for the first time since the 1930s. It opened in 2002 as part of the Millennium Link project.
The Kilted Photographer

Heather



The Pentlands heather in full bloom.
Paul Watt Photography

Sailing down the Clyde



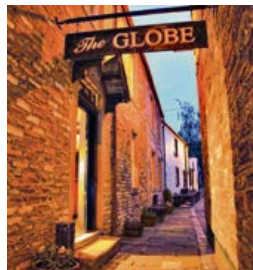
PS Waverley passing Port Glasgow.
Mik Coia

The Scott's View - Scottish Borders



Recently I revisited the borders as there was forecast for a promising sunrise with fog and I was missing the rolling hills of the Borders. Well, what can I say, the Borders delivered, again! The colours were amazing and the fog rolled in quickly and it was almost a perfect morning.
ZenscapePhoto

Celebrate the life and legacy of Robert Burns



of the country's oldest hostelries, and draw up a seat at Burns' very own dining table, surrounded by artefacts and memories. Fans can follow the town's Burns trail to Robert Burns House where he spent the last years of his life and see original manuscripts and personal belongings.

Named the world's first UNESCO City of Literature, Edinburgh is renowned for its connection to great literary figures, and Robert Burns is no exception. On 28 November 1786 when Burns arrived in Edinburgh its gates were flung open to him. On the Royal Mile, visitors can find a plaque dedicated to Burns near the entrance to Lady Stair's Close. The close contains Makars' Court, an evolving national literary monument celebrating Scottish writers from the 14th century up to the present day, where famous words have been inscribed into the flagstones. While in Edinburgh, fans of Burns will be able to see one of the most famous portraits of Robert Burns at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, painted by friend and renowned Scottish artist Alexander Nasmyth.

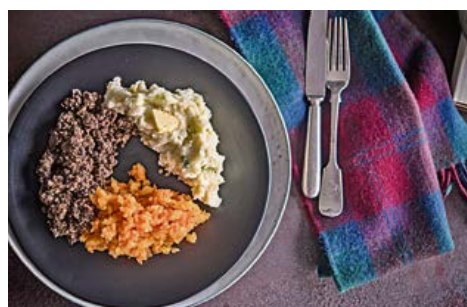
The perfect Burns Supper

Many places across Scotland will host Burns Suppers this month, but also see our events page for events taking place across the ex-pat world. Or host your own. All that's needed for the perfect Burns Night is haggis, neeps, tatties, great company...and some Scottish whisky, of course! Follow these instructions to prepare and host the perfect gathering on 25 January. To start everyone gathers, the host says a few words, everyone sits and the *Selkirk Grace* is said.

The meal- the starter is served, the haggis is piped in (by a piper in a kilt, naturally) the host performs the *Address to a Haggis*, everyone toasts the haggis and the main meal is served, followed by dessert (cranachan is a great option). After the meal the first Burns recital is performed, the *Immortal Memory* (the main tribute speech to Burns) is given, the second Burns recital is performed, and then there's a *Toast to the Lassies*, followed by a *Reply to the Toast to the Lassies*, before the final Burns recital is performed.

To end the night the host gives a vote of thanks, everyone stands and sings *Auld Lang Syne*, crossing their arms and joining hands at the line "And there's a hand, my trusty fere!"

Download Burns Night resources and hosting tips from www.scotland.org/burns. Find out more about Burns, his life, legacy, and exploring his story in Scotland at: www.visitscotland.com/burns



Scotland's winter festivities extend beyond the New Year to Burns Night on 25 January – the birthday of Robert Burns, Scotland's national bard.

There's no experience quite like a Burns Night celebration; locals and visitors alike can soak up some Scottish culture, indulge in the traditional dish of haggis, neeps and tatties and natter over a warming dram of whisky at one of the many Burns Night celebrations taking place this year. Whether toasting virtually at home or heading out to a local event, anyone can join in the celebrations this Burns Night, anywhere in the world.

Robert Burns composed some of the world's most instantly recognisable lines of poetry and song, so what better way to kick off the year than with a celebration of one of Scotland's most iconic storytellers?

Follow in Burns' footsteps

Fans of the Bard can experience the poems and songs that the spectacular Scottish landscapes inspired, explore real-life locations and uncover a wealth of stories connected to Rabbin Burns himself on a trip to Scotland. The romantic ruins and bonnie villages of Ayrshire inspired many of Burns' masterpieces. A visit to the beautiful village of Alloway will uncover what Burns' life was like back in the 18th century. There is the thatched cottage where Burns was born and a walk along Poet's Path leading to a series of weathervanes that tell the story of *Tam o'Shanter*, as well as the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum where it is possible to take a special behind the scenes tour to see the original first draft of *Auld Lang Syne*. Other nearby Burns attractions include the Bachelors' Club in Tarbolton and Burns House Museum in Mauchline.

In fact, connections to Burns scatter the surrounding area. Perched majestically on the Ayrshire cliff, not too far from Maybole where Burns' parents met, is Culzean Castle. Erected in Burns' time, visitors can roam the extensive grounds and even stay the night in one of the five impressive suites. South of the castle lies Kirkoswald, home to the "ancient, trusty, drouthy crony" Souter Johnnie who was immortalised in *Tam o'Shanter*.

Slowing down and taking in the beauty of the sea, rivers and mountains on a Whisky & Burns cycling tour through Dumfries & Galloway is the perfect way for visitors to savour traditional food and drink whilst learning about Scotland's national poet. Along the route in Dumfries, tour groups can discover the pleasures of whisky once enjoyed by the bard himself in The Globe Inn, one

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SCOTSPEAK

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

"Glasgow is already recognised as a sustainable tourism and conference destination. Our latest ranking on the Global Destination Sustainability Index places Glasgow 4th in the world of responsible tourism and events cities. Glasgow is the only city in the UK to achieve EarthCheck Benchmark Community status, and we continue to work towards realising our ambition to become the UK's first Carbon Neutral City by 2030. We want Glasgow to lead the way, and whilst we've achieved a great deal, we aspire to so much more. The new Action Plan will help accelerate the incorporation of sustainability into every aspect of our tourism and conventions sectors. This will support our industry partners to capitalise on the many advantages of supporting responsible tourism by ensuring they are aligned to the sustainable mission of major events coming to Glasgow, such as the World Athletics Indoor Championships 2024. Working together we can achieve positive transformation that will greatly benefit the people of Glasgow, our visitors, our economy - and of course, our environment."

Glasgow Life Chair, Bailie Annette Christie, said an action plan for Glasgow's tourism and conventions sectors has been introduced to help boost the city's green credentials and support its visitor economy. The launch of the Sustainable Tourism and Conventions Action Plan demonstrates Glasgow's commitment to becoming one of Europe's most sustainable cities, enhancing its reputation as a leading international destination for responsible business and leisure tourism.

Aligned to the Glasgow Declaration announced at COP26 – the UN Conference on Climate Change – the Action Plan has been created to support Glasgow in meeting Scotland's NetZero target and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.



"It feels good winning gold as the competition is so high at this event, you're competing against the top seven apprentices in the whole UK. It makes all the hard work and stress - not just from myself, but everyone involved - worth it. This is the second time I've competed in the WorldSkills competition and one of things I enjoy most about them is chatting to other apprentices from around the UK and hearing the different kind of jobs they're doing and their experience as an apprentice. The time management and coping with stress skills you develop throughout these competitions I think are beneficial not only now, but for my career going forward."

Stonemason Luke Maher said after winning gold at this year's SkillBuild construction 'skills Olympics'. Luke works as a stonemason for Historic Environment Scotland.

"We are now in the midst of one of the most challenging winters in recent times with the cost-of-living crisis, rising energy prices, and inflation. Many of our residents will rightly be concerned about heating their homes in the months ahead. The Warm and Welcoming Spaces initiative brings together a host of spaces across the city where people can connect with others, learn new skills, and relax. These spaces are also key in combatting social isolation, boosting mental health and wellbeing, and allowing people to access services and support in a respectful and friendly manner."

Edinburgh Council Leader Cammy Day said with the colder months of the year now upon Scotland, the city is pleased to announce the launch of a network of Warm and Welcoming Spaces across the capital. Council venues such as libraries, community centres, museums and galleries, alongside partner and community spaces, will put on free activities for a variety of age groups and provide a space where people feel safe, warm, and at ease.



"This award shows the serious commitment and behind-the-scenes hive of activity that has been HMS Unicorn over the last three years. Good conservation practice is based around careful recording, planning and consideration and it is wonderful to be recognised for our approach to vessel conservation."

The Unicorn Preservation Society's, Matthew Bellhouse Moran, said as the charity behind national treasure and one of the world's most historical ships, HMS Unicorn, has won the Excellence in Maritime Conservation Award at this year's National Historic Ships UK Awards. The Excellence in Maritime Conservation Award is UK-wide recognition of best practice in the conservation of historic vessels. HMS Unicorn is an 1824 ex-Navy frigate which has resided in Dundee for nearly 150 years and is now a popular museum and visitor attraction.

HMS Unicorn is the third oldest ship in the world and Scotland's only preserved warship.

"It's a show about Billy Connolly, but it's just as much about the people of Scotland. The show is everyone's Billy story. Because every time you talk to someone about Billy Connolly, they immediately start talking about how they met him or went to see him or what he means to them. They want to share it, and we've been fortunate enough to collect all of those stories and put them together on this show, culminating in finding out who Billy is. We think we know, but we're finding out who he is through the prism of ourselves."

Theatre creator Gary McNair said as he announced a new play about Billy Connolly will tour Scotland in 2023. *Dear Billy*, is being called a love letter to the Big Yin. Gary McNair's celebration of the trail blazing Scottish icon, will collect stories on the road, which will be woven into the show as it travels. The show will travel the length and breadth of Scotland visiting local theatres, arts and community centres.



"It's tea growing out of doors in Orkney, probably the furthest north that tea has ever grown outside. They are thriving, despite the wind, the rain, and the fact that tea plants just do not normally like this kind of condition. It looks delicious because it's so rich and black. It's a dream come true, because it's all the hard work, and all the worrying about how the plants are doing. It's all over, there's actually now a product."

Lynne Collinson of the The Orkney Tea Plantation said as a limited edition loose leaf black tea has been grown in the furthest north location in the UK for the first time ever. Grown and harvested on the idyllic island of Shapinsay, this unique project offers two varieties Norse Noir and Norse Ruby, and is the first ever tea on sale from Orkney grown plants.

SCOTWORD

Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try! If you're stuck, answers can be found on page 22.

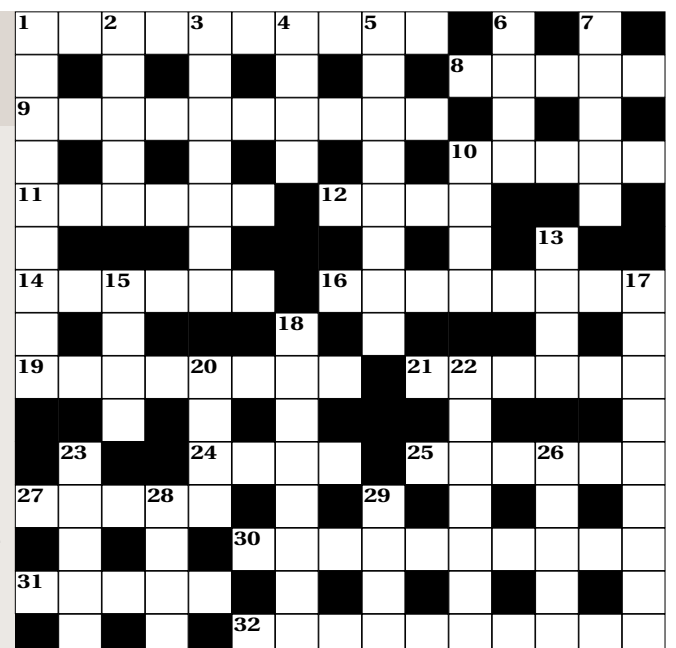
CLUES ACROSS:

- 1 January 25th (5, 5).
- 8 Porridge, soup or meal! (5).
- 9 From the Granite City (10).
- 10 Bitter to a Scot (5).
- 11 Destiny! (6).
- 12 Scots gorse bush (4).
- 14 Pain lover (6).
- 16 Fish catchers! (8).
- 19 A round of holes! (8).
- 21 Favourite food plant (6).
- 24 Waterfall! (4).

- 25 Eat out! (6).
- 27 Sound of the pipes! (5).
- 30 Village near Falkirk sounds American (10).
- 31 Kirk official (5).
- 32 Big dinners! (10).

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Peninsula near Inverness (5, 4).
- 2 Smokes in Scotland (5).
- 3 Sorrow (7).
- 4 Columba's isle (4).
- 5 Scots lassies! (8).
- 6 A little Glaswegian! (4).
- 7 Sung in kirk (5).
- 10 Winter fall! (4).
- 13 Northern fuel (4).
- 15 Pets often called wally! (4).
- 17 It lies next to Ardrossan (9).
- 18 Birthright (8).
- 20 Rattle a Scot! (4).
- 22 One of a series (7).
- 23 A Scots hit! (5).
- 26 Elaborately dressed to them! (5).
- 28 Pitch into the dance (4).
- 29 A Scots cy (4).



45th CENTRAL FLORIDA

Scottish Highland Games

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SUNDAY
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Stirling station postcards from the past reveal further information



While the work on Stirling station roof is now complete, the treasure trove of WW1 postcards that were unearthed from the roof crawl space in 2021 continues to offer insights into the lives of the men who served in local regiments. Network Rail recently shared the post cards publicly and asked for assistance from members of the public in a bid to uncover the stories of the men to whom the postcards were addressed.

In the year since, progress has been made in identifying and unearthing the stories behind these postcards. With the assistance of the Regimental museums, information, and photos, have emerged for three of the soldiers featured. As well as the stories of service and bravery during war time including in the Battle of Loos and at the Somme, the search also uncovered human stories of the men and offered insights into their lives beyond the army and back in civilian life. This included stories of marriage and starting families but also in one case, tales of theft and bigamy!

Appeal for anyone who may have further information

A year on from sharing the initial story of the post cards Network Rail felt it appropriate to share an update and reiterate our appeal for anyone who may have further information to get in touch and help us complete their stories.

Captain and Quarter Master, Arthur James MacDonald of the 8th Cameron Highlanders, re-joined the Army as a commissioned officer in 1914 at outbreak of war. He was dispatched to Stirling from Dingwall with his regiment and then went on to fight in the Battle of Loos in September 1915. During this battle, the regiment suffered heavy losses and only 58 of the original 776 men survived the day. Capt. MacDonald survived the battle and was wounded on 28th October 1918, presumably during the final Allied Offensive. Given that this was only several weeks from Armistice, the Regimental Museum believes he likely survived the war and returned home.

Private and Corporal, Walter Reddiford, it is believed was born on 19th March 1898 in Lancashire, signed up to B Company, 11th Gordon Highlanders in May 1916. He initially joined as a Private and was promoted to Lance Corporal in June 1916 and then to Corporal in August that same year. Around this time, Corporal Reddiford was sent as part of a draft to the British Expeditionary Force and after arrival in

France, he was posted to 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders. This battalion suffered many losses during the Battle of the Somme, July - November 1916. It is likely that Corporal Reddiford was posted as part of draft reinforcements to make up for the losses sustained. From 1917 until the end of the war, 2nd Battalion served in Italy. Corporal Reddiford survived the war and was awarded the Victory Medal and British War Medal. Upon his return home, he married Mary Ann Heywood in 1918 and demobbed in 1919 to live with Mary Ann in Royton. In 1920, it appears that he and Mary Ann moved to Wrexham but later that year sent Mary Ann "home to her parents". It is believed there were two children within this marriage. The next we hear of Corporal Reddiford is in a newspaper article where charges of theft, forgery and bigamy were brought against him. He was accused of stealing two cheques belonging to Colonel Gregson of Southport and of forging and uttering one of them for £6 5s. 6d. At the time of his arrest, letters were found in his possession which led to a further charge of bigamy and Florence N Stanbrooke gave evidence as to going through a form of marriage with Reddiford in March 1922.

2nd Lieutenant John Neil Campbell, born in Glasgow in October 1896 and educated at Hutcheson's Grammar School, Glasgow. He enlisted into the 11th Gordon Highlanders in November 1915.

Lt. Campbell was sent as part of a draft to the British Expedition Force in September 1916. He arrived in France on 10th September 1916 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders with the rank of Temporary Lieutenant. When the war ended, he was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal. Lt. Campbell demobbed he moved to 20 Queen Mary Avenue, Glasgow. Through the Hutcheson's Grammar school archives, we have been able to find out that Lt. Campbell married Ethel May Rodgers in 1934 and was listed as a chartered accountant, living in Cuckfield, Sussex in the England and Wales register of 1939. He died on April 20th 1968. It is believed he was survived by his three children.

Current efforts from Network Rail and the Black Watch Regimental Museum have drawn a blank with the search for the soldier serving in the 6th Blackwatch. Names could include George, Rankine, Raukine, Ranking or Rankins.



Hogman-eh! '22

Join the Scottish Society of Ottawa for their eleventh celebration of Hogman-eh! – the annual Scottish-style New Year's Eve celebration and the largest Hogmanay celebration outside of Scotland. This is a family friendly way to close off the past year and to ring in the new. The Scottish Society of Ottawa is happy to celebrate it with you in-person and in the comfort of your home!



Two ways to celebrate

Celebrate the coming of the New Year with family and friends at Lansdowne Park with brilliant live entertainment! Rock the night with Mariner's Curse, The Mudmen, and Alan Frew Band! Experience a brilliant firework show, Highland dancers including eight-time World Champion Marielle Lespérance, pipes and drums, Scottish historical booths, a Climate Café, enjoy food and drink, and of course there will be Scotch whisky! Limited tickets will be available for the event.

Prefer to celebrate in the comfort of your own home? Enjoy our spectacular **free** live streaming event with some of the evening's highlights. Online entertainment available on our Facebook page, YouTube channel or at ottscot.ca.

Ceud mìle fáilte! That is Gaelic for one hundred thousand welcomes. More than just a greeting, this phrase is a symbol, to tell you that whoever you are, or wherever you are from, we welcome you!

Visit ottscot.ca for details and tickets.

Remembering Doddie Weir



Born in 1970, rugby great Doddie Weir won the first of his 61-caps for Scotland against Argentina in November 1990, but came to prominence as a member of the Scotland side which reached the semi-final of the World Cup the following year. He would go on to appear in the 1995 and 1999 tournaments, the latter coming months after he helped Scotland claim the Five Nations Championship. At club level, Doddie was part of the outstanding Melrose side which dominated the domestic club game in the early 90's, before becoming one of Scotland's first professional players when he moved to Newcastle Falcons where he scored championship and cup success, his performances there earning him arguably his biggest accolade, namely, a call up for the British and Irish Lions in 1997 for their tour to South Africa. With several appearances for the Barbarians to his name, Doddie saw out his career with

Borders, retiring in 2004 to concentrate on business as a director of a drainage and wastewater company. Doddie would also become an accomplished speaker on the after-dinner circuit, and as a commentator, columnist and host. However, his life, and that of his family, was changed for ever when diagnosed with MND (Motor Neuron Disease) in 2016. Sadly, Doddie passed away in November at the age of 52.

My Name's Doddie Foundation

In a statement from the My Name's Doddie Foundation:

We are deeply saddened to share the news that our founder Doddie Weir has died. Doddie was a force of nature, a great family man, tremendous rugby player and loved and respected by all who knew him. Our thoughts are with Kathy, Hamish, Angus and Ben and we know you will join us in sending them our love and best wishes at this time.

Jill Douglas, CEO of My Name's Doddie Foundation and close friend of Doddie's said: "Doddie enjoyed a full life full of fun and love. And it was this approach to life which shone through in his determination to make a difference and help others when he was diagnosed with motor neuron disease. He inspired us every day with his positivity and energy and was fully committed to the work of the Foundation he launched with his close friends in November 2017. My Name's Doddie Foundation continues to shine a light on

MND and the need to seek meaningful treatments and one day, a cure for this devastating disease.

"The Foundation has raised significant funds through the amazing efforts of our incredible supporters and has committed £8 million to MND research over this time. We have also given considerable funds to people living with MND and their families to help them live as fulfilled a life as possible. With Doddie's enthusiasm and drive, we have collaborated with other stakeholders within the MND community and firmly established the Foundation as a trusted, influential and well supported charity. And our vision of a world free of MND remains at the heart of our strategy. As we look to the future, we will honour Doddie's name and deliver on his legacy. There is much still to do and with your support, we will continue our work, remaining true to the values and ambition of our founder."

Doddie's work over the past five years saw him recognised with several honours and accolades, including an OBE, presented by Queen Elizabeth for his services to rugby, MND research and the Borders community. He also collected Honorary Doctorates from both Glasgow Caledonian and Abertay Universities, as well as becoming a recipient of the prestigious Edinburgh Award.

To support the My Name's Doddie Foundation see: www.mynamesdoddie.co.uk

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.



Boating pond at Rouken Glen Park, Glasgow.

Swings and Roundabouts

*Sticks and stanes will break my banes,
But names will never hurt me,
But when I'm deid and in ma grave,
Ye'll be sorry for what ye ca'd me.*

The Scottish child's version of a very popular and universal rhyme.

"A hoy there, you boys in boat number nine, ye'r turns up. Come back in!" shouted the boat keeper at Rouken Glen Park. As a public park this one had few rivals. It was full of wide-open spaces, wooded slopes, and magical walks in a beautiful glen of overarching trees. And it had a very large boating loch.

"Aye right ye are. We're just stuck here on this wee island, mister" Callum Sharkie shouted back, holding his hands to his mouth like a megaphone and amidst the sounds of giggling and desperate splashing. The exasperated boat keeper moved along the bank of the pond to get a better view of what we were up to. We in turn slipped further around the island to try and remain out of sight. "It's no' the *Queen Mary*, son. Bring that boat around now or you'll all be payin' again. That boat should have been in here five minutes ago."

"Aye okay, nae bother, we'll be there in a tick," shouted back Alec Nicholl, unconvincingly. Of course, more than five minutes ago we had left one of our pals, Billy, on the island when he was daft enough to want to go looking for duck's eggs. He insisted that duck eggs tasted great and that his uncle often brought them back to his house from the farm where he worked. The rest of us had never tasted them. Now a large swan protecting its own nest was looking for an anxious Billy while we messed about delaying his rescue for as long as possible. We at last retrieved our friend from the island, and just in the nick of time, as the swan began to lunge with flapping wings toward him. Conventional wisdom at that time, among children like us, was that this beautiful bird that we peacefully fed scraps of bread to in Glasgow's public parks, could without warning attack us when angered and break our legs or arms with a flap of its wings. Not true of course but swans can look formidable when aroused. Anyway, we now rowed madly back around toward the moorings, just in case.

Wooden clinker-built rowing boats

"Watch oot! Watch whit yer doin' there. Keep the blade of the oar flat on the watter," shouted the boat keeper, "or you'll catch a

crab and have it over." "Whit's this about crabs?" screamed wee Billy in another panic. "Naebody told me about crabs. Ah hate crabs. Where are they then?" He shouted, suddenly moving away from his side of the boat and putting his oar up in the air. The rowing boat immediately became destabilized and started to list precariously to one side. "Sit back down you bampot or ye'll keel us over and have us all intae the water" I shouted, but luckily for us the wooden clinker-built rowing boats had a broad beam and they were really quite difficult to overturn. "Righto you lot, do that again and ye'll no be allowed tae hire a boat from here again," blurted the red-faced boat keeper as we scrambled out and he grabbed the tow rope.

"That's okay, baldie. Keep ye'r heid on or should we say keep ye'r hair on, threw back John Munro as we headed off away from the boating pond.

"Whit's that you said?"

"We said stick yer boat and get they swans of yours under control or we'll report ye tae the Corporation," laughed Billy as we set off running across the newly mown lawns, lifting and throwing clumps of sweet-smelling grass into the air. The boatman made a half-hearted attempt to pursue us as he shouted,

"Ye cheeky wee Wait 'til ah see you next time."

"Aye you and who's army, bawheid?" we finally threw back in unison as we scampered out of earshot, and he got back to supervising his other patrons.

We arrived puffing and panting at the swing park only to be met by a group of three older youths who immediately looked us over as if we were intruders. They were lounging on the rails set onto the platform of the roundabout, nonchalantly smoking Woodbines. As we moved toward the swings they moved as one in the same direction. "Ah hope you lot are no plannin' tae use the swings for we're using them," said the biggest and ugliest of the three, drawing himself up to his full height, pushing out his chest and stepping out into our personal space.

"Naw, naw, were goin' on the slide," offered Callum, ever the diplomat. "That's whit you think," challenged the second most ugly of the trio with a smirk and a sideways glance to seek approval from the others. "Ye're no goin' tae dirty oor slide wi' ye're dirty wee bums."

"Aye and we're using the big maypole as well, before ye get any ideas about that either," said the third youth with the ferret face.

"So you three are using everything in the swing park all at the one time?" I asked, with just a hint of challenge, as I felt my temper rising in my developing barrack room lawyer voice.

"Aye any objections pal?" threw back their leader as he began to push the rail of the roundabout to get it moving. "We're usin' everythin', so get lost.

"Is it okay if we watch?" I offered in my humblest voice as a plan formed in my head and my anger subsided just a little in response.

Glasgow's magnificent public parks

"Dae whit ye like," offered the leader as he pushed harder, and the roundabout gained momentum. He finally jumped up and staggered against the centrifugal force to turn his back to the centre and join the two others on the platform.

"We can do better than that. We'll help you to get goin'. Right boys, grab a rail each and push as hard as ye can."

"Hey wait a minute. Haud oan a minute," shouted ferret face, urgently, as the speed increased immediately, and before they could do anything about it. But we quickly became puffed as the speed of the roundabout stripped away our ability to run faster and its momentum was about to drag us with it. The centrifugal forces were so great that simply jumping off the roundabout was not an option for its passengers who had ended up in a world of blurring sight and sound.

"Aye you hold on, ye big Jessies, ye big Nancy boys", we laughed. "We're offski".

"Ye'r jist big eejits," added Billy as he too made up for the insults thrown at us.

The others in our gang threw in their own insults laced with obscenities as we all ran toward Byres Road and the park gates. Glancing over our shoulders we saw the leader bravely, but foolishly, jump off to come quickly to a stop puggled and dizzied by the G forces and just about using his nose as an impromptu braking mechanism. The other two were more cautiously using one foot each to rip along the gravel and dirt to try to slow the roundabout down. One looked as if he had sprained an ankle as he hobbled away jerking his body upward, whilst the other had the sole of his sandshoe flapping about, to his dismay and anguish.

One advantage we customarily had over 'the big boys', the underage smokers and drinkers, was that we could usually run faster than them. It was time to walk back home through Thornliebank, Nitshill and The Hurlet. We had roamed the shady glen and beautiful woodlands of Rouken Glen on the lands that were gifted to the citizens of Glasgow by Lord Rowellan. We had scrambled around the banks of the Auldhouse Burn and admired its waterfall.

We had played pitch and put, rowed on the loch and although we had missed out on the swing park, we had at least dealt a blow for justice. It had been another good day at one of Glasgow's magnificent public parks.

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



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Pan Am Flight 103 terrorist suspect in US custody

The alleged bomb maker of the Lockerbie air disaster has been arrested in the United States. Abu Agila Mohammad Mas'ud Kheir Al-Marimi (Mas'ud), 71, of Tunisia and Libya, made his initial appearance in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on federal charges, stemming from the December 21, 1988, civilian aircraft bombing that killed 270 people. The victims included 190 Americans, 43 citizens of the United Kingdom, including 11 people on the ground in Lockerbie, Scotland, and citizens from the following countries: Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Trinidad and Tobago.

"Nearly 34 years ago, 270 people, including 190 Americans, were tragically killed in the terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. Since then, American and Scottish law enforcement have worked tirelessly to identify, find, and bring to justice the perpetrators of this horrific attack. Those relentless efforts over the past three decades led to the indictment and arrest of a former Libyan intelligence operative for his alleged role in building the bomb used in the attack," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "The defendant is currently in U.S. custody and is facing charges in the United States. This is an important step forward in our mission to honour the victims and pursue justice on behalf of their loved ones."

At 7:03 pm, on Dec. 21, 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 was destroyed, almost instantaneously, 38 minutes after take-off, when a bomb in the forward cargo area exploded. The plane was at 31,000 feet over Lockerbie, Scotland. It had taken off from London-Heathrow and was enroute to John F. Kennedy Airport in New York. From the time the tragic events occurred in 1988 through the present, the United States and Scotland have jointly pursued justice for all the victims of the Pan Am 103 bombing. The partnership will continue throughout the prosecution of Mas'ud.

The happiest areas to live in Scotland announced



The happy street of Galashiels. Photo: VisitScotland.

Rightmove a UK property portal and marketplace has just announced Scotland's happiest places to live. Every year the website

asks people in Great Britain to tell them how they feel about where they live. People are asked what they love about their local areas, and what makes a place really feel like home. The annual survey is now in its 11th year, and this year heard from more than 21,000 people living in towns, cities and villages up and down the nation. Residents score their local areas on things like community spirit, and how much access they have to nature and green spaces, as well as artistic and cultural activities.

This year has seen a Scottish location score among the top three places for the first time since 2016. The Scottish Borders town Galashiels has been awarded second place in the survey, scoring particularly highly on the friendliness and politeness of its locals. In terms of average prices, it also has the most affordable house prices out of all the areas that made the top ten. The average asking price of a home in Galashiels is £153,546. Galashiels real estate agent, Alice Brown, says: "Its central placement in the Borders makes it a popular location for families, giving a relaxed way of life, while being in a commutable distance of Edinburgh. Steeped in history, Galashiels has a wide variety of housing from classic period properties to new-builds. The countryside surrounding Galashiels also has much to offer, and the recently established Heartland Market brings together the town and local businesses."

Two other Scottish areas also ranked among this year's top 10 happiest places to live: the riverside city of Perth, and the historic city of Stirling. Galashiels was beat out for the top spot by St Ives in Cornwall.

Supreme Court judgment on Scottish independence referendum



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In a unanimous judgment, the Supreme Court has ruled that the Scottish Parliament does not have the power to legislate for a referendum on Scottish independence. The Scottish Government has drafted – but not formally introduced – a Bill to hold a second referendum on independence. The legislative powers of the Scottish Parliament are limited by the Scotland Act 1998. While it can legislate on devolved

matters, for example health and education, it cannot pass bills relating to matters "reserved" to the UK Parliament. Reserved matters include aspects of the constitution, such as the 1707 Union of Scotland and England and the Westminster Parliament. Under the 1998 Act, a bill's provisions are beyond the Scottish Parliament's powers if they "relate to" a reserved matter.

The UK Government said the draft Bill was outside the Scottish Parliament's powers, so the Lord Advocate (the Scottish Government's senior law officer) asked the Supreme Court to decide. In a unanimous judgment, the Court accepted the Lord Advocate's reference was a "devolution issue" as defined in Schedule 6 of the Scotland Act 1998 and therefore accepted it. On the draft Bill, the Court ruled that even if a referendum had "no immediate legal consequences" it would still "be a political event with important political consequences": It is therefore clear that the proposed Bill has more than a loose or consequential connection with the reserved matters of the Union of Scotland and England and the sovereignty of the United Kingdom Parliament. If the UK Government and Parliament were unwilling to modify those reserved powers (as they did before the 2014 independence referendum) then "the Scottish Parliament does not have the power to legislate for a referendum on Scottish independence". Responding to the judgment, the First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon tweeted that she was "disappointed" but respected the Supreme Court's judgment. She added: "A law that doesn't allow Scotland to choose our own future without Westminster consent exposes as myth any notion of the UK as a voluntary partnership and makes the case for Independence, Scottish democracy will not be denied. Today's ruling blocks one route to Scotland's voice being heard on independence – but in a democracy our voice cannot and will not be silenced." The First Minister has since repeated her request for another section 30 Order. This is the legal means by which an independence referendum could take place.

Scottish locations make Best Places to Visit 2023 list



Glasgow rooftops. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

Three Scottish locations have made an annual top place to visit in 2023 listing. Glasgow (ranked 6th), Edinburgh (ranked 9th) and Orkney (ranked 12th) all favoured well in the *Time Out UK* poll of top spots to visit in 2023. The publication used local sources and scouted locations across the UK, which are considered the best places with individuality and a community feel. All were commended for the strong cultural and food scene, as well as historic sites. Huw Oliver, *Time Out's* UK editor, explains why the places on the list have made the cut: "Rather than the usual hot spots, we want to highlight places, many of which are ludicrously underrated, which people don't automatically think to go to. In all the places on the list, you will find interesting

things to see and do, eat and drink during the day and night, a friendly welcome and a community spirit which enables you to connect with locals and really get to know a place. We recommend that you definitely put one or more of these destinations on your travel list for next year". To produce *Time Out's UK Best Places to Visit 2023* list, *Time Out's* network of local editors have selected and ranked the destinations based on their current thriving food, drink and arts scene. In addition, it was also taken into consideration for the ranking whether there are also lots of new things to get excited about in the coming year in the chosen places such as new hotels, restaurants, museums, or events to put on people's calendars for 2023. Eastbourne in East Sussex has been named the best place in the UK to go on a day or overnight trip in 2023.

First stitch in the Tapestry of the Highlands and Islands



Julie, Norma and Anne, three of The Spirited Stitchers, with designer Andrew Crummy (centre) and coordinator Kirstie Campbell (right). Photo: Paul Campbell Photography.

The Averon Centre in Alness has become the location of the first stitch to be sewn into the Tapestry of the Highlands and Islands. The project, spanning communities from across the Highlands and Islands, has over 500 stitchers of various ages ranging from aged 16 to 89. Norma Bain, lead stitcher of the nine 'Spirited Stitchers of Easter Ross', threaded the first stitch in one of 52 panels that are currently being distributed to communities throughout the Highlands and Islands as part of the tapestry. Also present for the first stitch were Julie Coghill and Anne Thackray, also part of the Spirited Stitchers group. Norma, a retired social worker from Edinburgh who moved to Easter Ross last year, said: "As my mother taught me to knit and sew at a young age, I am delighted to be part of such an exciting project showcasing stories from across the Highlands and Islands. It has really started to bring the community together and I have met lots of new people through our group."

The tapestry is being created as part of the Spirit of the Highlands and Islands project, which will encourage visitors to explore and experience the more remote and rural parts of the Highlands and Islands, as well as inspiring them to attend and support festivals and events, workshops, visitor attractions and outdoor locations across the area. Andrew Crummy, designer of the Tapestry of the Highlands and Islands was present for the first stitch, explaining the stories and symbolism behind the journey stones to be incorporated into the tapestry. Andrew said: "It is very exciting to see the tapestry finally underway. This has been a long time in the planning, and we are looking forward to visiting other stitching groups throughout the project."

Completed tapestry panels will be exhibited within the newly transformed Inverness Castle and at venues right across the Highlands and Islands.

Major programme of restoration and repair set to start at Rosslyn Castle



A major programme of restoration and repair at one of Midlothian's most historic sites is about to get underway. Rosslyn Castle, just a short walk from Rosslyn Chapel, was built by the St Clair family and the oldest parts date back to the early 14th century. Although much of the site is ruinous, the East Range, developed as a domestic residence and completed in 1622, is still partly occupied and let as holiday accommodation. However, some parts of the East Range, the former Great Hall and Tower, have remained in a ruinous state, leading to further deterioration including to the three levels of vaults below ground level.

A permanent roof will be built to cover the former Great Hall, to protect important masonry carvings, and the three levels of vaults below. This will also allow a new kitchen and living area to be created at ground level and an additional bedroom to be located in the former Tower. Work will also include the upgrading of the energy efficiency of the whole building and the development of a new sustainable heating strategy.

One of Midlothian's most historically significant buildings

Rosslyn Castle is category A-listed, recognising its architectural and historic character and its grounds are designated as a Scheduled Monument. The Castle is

in the care of Rosslyn Chapel Trust and the East Range has provided self-catering accommodation, through a partnership with The Landmark Trust, since the 1980s. The programme of work is scheduled to last for over a year and access to the ruined areas, and the bridge leading to the Castle, will not be possible during this time. Ian Gardner, Director of Rosslyn Chapel Trust, said: 'We are delighted to be at this very exciting stage when work is about to get underway. This project will help to conserve the East Range of Rosslyn Castle for future generations to appreciate and will transform the quality of the experience for guests staying here. In short, this work will secure the long-term future of one of Midlothian's most historically significant buildings.' Rosslyn Chapel Trust has commissioned Page\Park as architects to oversee the work.

Karen Nugent, of Page\Park, said: 'Rosslyn Castle is a special place nestled in the tranquillity of Roslin Glen and we are very pleased to continue our conservation work here with Rosslyn Chapel Trust. The project is a unique opportunity to add a new layer to the historic building and to pioneer sustainable heating systems in a protected setting.'

Rosslyn Chapel Trust was established in 1995. Since then, it concluded a 17-year programme of conservation at Rosslyn Chapel in 2014 and completed a two-year programme of conservation and repair at Colledgehill House, the former 17th century inn which stands at the entrance to the Chapel, in 2018.

For more information on Rosslyn Chapel and Castle see: www.rosslynchapel.com



The Ninth Annual Great Canadian Kilt Skate



The Great Canadian Kilt Skate is indelibly Scottish and undeniably Canadian. Kilt skating is a phenomenon that is spreading beyond Canada as a way to celebrate the contributions the Scots have made around the world. This event is open to everyone and returns from this month. It's a chance to nurture your inner Scot. You don't have to be Scottish, you don't even have to wear a kilt. Just come to the party with a spirit of Scottish fun and fortitude, and wear Canada's favourite colour – tartan!

For all upcoming Kilt Skates in Canada, and the US, see: www.kiltskate.com



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Scotland's the place to be in 2023

Celebrate a new year with plenty to discover across Scotland. New stories, special moments and unforgettable memories are ready to be made in Scotland in 2023. From January through to December there are plenty of reasons why Scotland should be at the top of any travel bucket list. Start the year with Burns Night Celebrations across the country, watch the blooming of bluebells, snowdrops, and fresh fauna, welcoming new wildlife in spring, before gearing up for a festival extravaganza in the summer months. Then comes the turning of the leaves casting a golden blanket over the luscious landscapes before winter rolls round again and the year closes with the sound of fireworks and revelry at Hogmanay celebrations far and wide.

There are cabins aplenty positioned under the stars for views that are out of this world, lush green forests and spectacular waterfalls spraying mists that are reinvigoratingly cool, and intimate gigs where revellers can dance the night away. So, whether seeking adventure or tranquillity, shopping or feasting – or a taste of it all – those who venture to Scotland will find a world of choices at their fingertips. And as always, visitors can expect a warm welcome awaiting them! There are many reasons to make Scotland the place to be in 2023, the list below is just a selection of some of the major openings, news updates and events to look forward to in the year ahead.

2023 highlights



Dundreggan Rewilding Centre.

Celtic Connections 30th

Anniversary, January 2023

Celtic Connections, the home of world-class music, one-off collaborations, and genre-defying spectacles, is set to celebrate its 30th anniversary in January 2023. The 30th Anniversary is a pinnacle moment for the festival as it recognises the advancements and achievements of the last thirty years and everything the organisers have overcome to bring people together in a defining cultural celebration. The internationally renowned festival marks this milestone with an ambitious and eclectic programme of music showcased between Thursday 19th January – Sunday 5th February 2023. The full programme can be viewed here: www.celticconnections.com

Dundreggan Rewilding Centre, March 2023

Opening in 2023, Dundreggan Rewilding Centre will be Trees for Life's flagship rewilding estate, a unique place rich in natural and cultural heritage where real change is happening, restoring Scotland's landscape. The new wild landscape and its ancient connections to Gaelic culture will

encourage people to 'rewild' themselves by connecting with nature and exploring the heritage of the Highlands. Dundreggan Rewilding Centre will become a gateway for people to experience rewilding in ways that are best suited to them; from a casual visit while passing through, to immersive experiences, encouraging the idea that we can work with nature rather than against it.

V&A Dundee – Tartan, April 2023

In its fifth anniversary year, V&A Dundee will offer a radical new look at one of the world's best-known fabrics through its flagship exhibition: *Tartan*. *Tartan*, the first major exhibition curated by V&A Dundee, with consultant curator Jonathan Faiers of the University of Southampton, will celebrate the global story of a unique pattern which has connected communities worldwide, expressed tradition, revolt and diversity, and inspired playful and provocative design. It is a complex, rich, and sometimes painful history unequalled by any other cloth or pattern. Tartan is a textile which is adored and derided, inspiring great works of art and design, and representative of unity and dissent, tradition and rebellion.

Moreover, V&A Dundee, the first V&A museum in the world outside London, will celebrate its fifth anniversary in September 2023. For more information and to book, please visit: www.vam.ac.uk/dundee

Scottish Crannog Centre, spring 2023

The Scottish Crannog Centre is currently building a new museum located at the site of Dalerb on the North side of Loch Tay in Perthshire which is set to open in spring 2023. The aim of The Scottish Crannog Centre at Dalerb is to be the most sustainable museum in Scotland. The new visitor centre will showcase internationally significant archaeological collections, an Iron Age-inspired village of craft and technology demonstrations, and the first of three expert-led, but community-built, crannogs. For more information, please visit www.crannog.co.uk.

Tall Ships Races, July 2023

Shetland will once again host the Tall Ships Races from Wednesday 26th July to Saturday 29th July in Lerwick. The Tall Ships Races is an annual race series that has been arranged by Sail Training International since 1956 and in summer 2023 the town of Lerwick will welcome the fleet for four days of celebrations, sharing culture and international friendships. The full event programme is currently under development and is set to be published in March 2023. For more information and to keep up to date, please visit www.tallshipslerwick.com

2023 UCI Cycling World Championships, August 2023

The biggest cycling event in the world comes to Scotland in 2023! The world's greatest riders will come together in Glasgow and across Scotland to compete at the highest level, make history and show the world the power of the bike. Across 11 days of events, competitors will compete for over 200 rainbow jerseys and World Champions will be crowned in events covering everything from BMX to

Mountain Biking, Indoor Cycling to Road Cycling, Para-Cycling and much, much more. With Scotland's beautiful bike-ready landscapes, legendary cycling centres and epic arenas ready to welcome competitors and visitors from all over the world, there's never been a better time to plan a cycling trip to Scotland. This event is more than an event exclusive for elite riders, it's an opportunity for everyone to ride their bicycle! For more information, please visit www.cyclingworldchamps.com

Coast to Coast Cycle Route, Stranraer to Eyemouth, summer 2023

An exciting new 250 mile on-road cycle route covering the length of the South of Scotland has received the green light to progress to delivery stage. The Coast-to-Coast route will run from Stranraer to Eyemouth, making it one of the longest in the UK and a new challenge for experienced cyclists. Riders who want to test themselves can tackle the Coast-to-Coast Challenge route over four days but are highly recommended to slow down, immerse themselves and enjoy more of what the South of Scotland has to offer by completing the Explorer route over eight days or more. The project is aiming to be delivered in time for the 2023 UCI World Championships in Glasgow and across Scotland. Three of the 13 Championships are taking place in the South of Scotland in August next year, allowing visitors to the South to try the new route during or after the Championships.

The Scottish National Gallery, summer 2023

The transformative project to deliver an inspiring new space for Scotland's renowned collection of Scottish art is set to be completed in 2023. From summer 2023, visitors can look forward to experiencing a brand-new suite of world-class galleries at the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh. The Scottish National Gallery Project will create a beautiful space for Scotland's art right in the historic heart of Edinburgh, with striking displays drawn from the National Galleries of Scotland's broad-ranging collection alongside special loans from other leading arts institutions. Large windows will offer spectacular light-filled views across Princes Street Gardens, inviting visitors to come in and discover the work of pioneering Scottish artists such as Phoebe Anna Traquair, William McTaggart, Anne Redpath, Sir Henry Raeburn and Charles Rennie Mackintosh. For more information, please visit www.nationalgalleries.org

Scot City knows the score



New Edmiston House.

Rangers will open a new club museum in Glasgow soon. New Edmiston House will be an incredible, state-of-the-art

facility that will host a long-awaited club museum, a new two-storey Rangers Store and an events space for use on matchdays and beyond, thus enhancing the experience for supporters when they visit Ibrox. The new museum opening coincides with the Scottish club's 150th anniversary.

For budding golfers and enthusiasts alike, Glasgow also welcomes the addition of Topgolf. Make use of complimentary clubs or visitors can bring their own, take aim at the giant outfield targets using high-tech balls which automatically keep score. Enjoy climate-controlled hitting bays for year-round practice, relax in the sports bar or refuel in the onsite restaurant.

For even more golfing fun in the city, Golf It! is The R&A's brand-new golf concept that will open in Glasgow in summer 2023. The vast new indoor and outdoor attraction is a new innovation and marks a significant financial investment by The R&A towards its purpose of making golf more accessible and inclusive. The new facility will feature a range of introductory golf formats including a twist on pitch and putt, adventure golf and community putting greens plus a double decker floodlit driving range and a new look nine-hole course for all the family to play.

Have a dram



Eden Mill Distillery.

The Cairn Distillery-Late October 2022 saw the opening of The Cairn Distillery, the first new distillery to be built in the Cairngorms National Park for more than a century. Nestled on the banks of the river Spey on the northern frontier of the Cairngorms National Park, every detail of The Cairn Distillery has been considered to create a remarkable structure that is reflective of its environment. From its sedum roof which encourages insect life to thrive, to the Caithness stone pathways, every aspect is designed to respect the natural shapes and colours around it. The new distillery aims to build on Gordon & MacPhail's 127-year heritage of producing exceptional Scotch whisky to inspire future generations. With magnificent views of its stunning location just outside Grantown-on-Spey, visitors can choose from a selection of immersive experiences, each culminating in a whisky tasting in The Discovery Room.

Moffat Distillery-Dark Sky Spirits will open Moffat's first distillery soon. In keeping with the desire for sustainability and local resources,

the distillery will have the only wood-fired still in Scotland with wood collected from local, sustainable sources. The pilot set-up is a 350-litre wash still and a 200-litre spirit still which will make Moffat Distillery the smallest whisky producer in Scotland with a visitor centre.

Port of Leith Distillery-A distillery like no other, Port of Leith Distillery is set to become Scotland's first vertical distillery when it opens its doors in 2023. Set in the historic Port of Leith, the distillery will draw on the incredibly rich whisky heritage of Edinburgh and the history of Leith which was once an epicentre of the industry. The distillery forms part of the resurgence of distilling in the area and will offer guided tours, tastings and a rooftop bar with panoramic views across Edinburgh, Leith and Fife.

Eden Mill Distillery-Founded in 2012, Eden Mill was the first distillery in the region for over 150 years and today has a premium gin portfolio crafted from the finest botanicals, many foraged from in and around St Andrews.

Over ten years later, Eden Mill have an ambition to create the finest gins and Scotch whiskies with minimal environmental impact combining traditional distilling techniques with ground-breaking innovation. Eden Mill is building a stunning distillery at the mouth of the River Eden, overlooking the iconic, historic town of St Andrews. The new distillery sits at the heart of the University of St Andrews Eden Campus, a unique site dedicated to zero carbon and sustainable businesses and research.

Trip-spiration - Go your own way



From cycle paths to long-distance walking trails, set-jetting to train trips, there are many ways to follow your own path around Scotland in 2023.


A wheely good time-Avid cyclists can follow in the tracks of the world champions set to be crowned at the UCI Cycling World Championships in August and plan a bike-packing trip through the hills and glens of Scotland's stunning scenery. With routes covering the abbeys in The Borders, island hopping in the Hebrides and the dramatic coastlines in the north, there's adventure to be had in all corners of Scotland. For those looking for day experiences, an adrenaline-fuelled day at one of the 7Stanes mountain bike centres in the south of Scotland is sure to get the heart pumping or, with routes for all abilities, a day on the waymarked paths at Gravelfoyle is a great way to take in the stunning landscapes of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park at a more leisurely pace. Cities in Scotland are getting greener and Glasgow, Scotland's very own Dear Green Place, provides a variety of ways to explore the city in a more responsible way from OVO Bikes to the fully electric fleet of sight-seeing buses launching in 2023, it's never been as easy to keep it green!

Stay on track-Perhaps a different track appeals more and with the Flying Scotsman celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2023, there's never been a better reason to hop on board a train and sit back and enjoy the ride. It's easy to explore Scotland's eight cities as each are connected by a variety of rail routes meaning a day trip or longer stay to explore each of their cultural highlights, historical sites and foodie delights is only a train ride, or two, away. Scotland is home to some of the world's most iconic railway journeys and the routes are surrounded by postcard-perfect views that are guaranteed to surprise and mesmerise as the train rolls by. From Glasgow, travellers can hop on the West Highland Line to the westerly port town of Mallaig traversing remote wilderness and the world-renowned Glenfinnan Viaduct. While from Edinburgh, passengers can climb aboard the longest new domestic railway to be built in over 100 years deep into the picturesque Scottish Borders and the land of Sir Walter Scott. Departures from Inverness include the coast-to-coast Kyle Line, taking in spectacular Highland scenery and finishing with magnificent views of Skye, and the Far North Line which traces the North Sea coast up to Wick, from which it's only a short hop by bus over to John O'Groats, the most northerly inhabited point on the mainland.

These boots were made for walking-From an afternoon amble on a leafy forest path to bagging a Munro, from a city stroll to a coastal walk, exploring the great outdoors on foot in Scotland is a fantastic way to spend a holiday. The Seven Wonders of Scotland's Walking World provide a unique glimpse into Scotland's natural heritage and offer spectacular walks with views and are located across the country. Adventurous hikers can take on the West Highland Way, a 96-mile challenge between Milngavie and Fort William, or they can cross coast-to-coast on the John Muir Way or follow in the footsteps of pilgrims from centuries ago on the Fife Pilgrim Way. These walks can be enjoyed section by section or as an adventure across several days.

As scene on screen-Launched in November 2022, *Set in Scotland* is a 52-page guide featuring more than 150 films which have been shot entirely or partially in Scotland - such as *Braveheart* (1995), *Skyfall* (2012), *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018), *Avengers: Endgame* (2019) and *The Batman* (2022) - and details more than 100 film locations. Set-jetting is a great way to follow in the footsteps of the legends of TV and film and with two iconic films celebrating big anniversaries in 2023, *The Wicker Man* (1973) and *Local Hero* (1983), there's never been a better time to explore. This handy guide has all the location information needed to plot out a blockbuster trip to Scotland for 2023. The guide and more information can be found at: www.visitscotland.com/see-do/attractions/tv-film


From Edinburgh Castle, Iona Abbey and St Andrews Cathedral to Skara Brae, Urquhart Castle and The Falkirk Wheel, there are dozens of exciting attractions and sites across Scotland to visit in 2023. For more inspiring days out and exclusive offers and discounts visit www.visitscotland.com/holidays-breaks/day-trips/offers.




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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 - King James V married Magdalene of France. **1537**
- 1 - First celebration of New Year in Scotland on this date (was March 25th till then). **1600**
- 1 - Charles II crowned at Scone, the last coronation on Scottish soil. **1651**
- 1 - The constitution is drafted for the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, making it the oldest in Britain. **1783**
- 1 - The Beatles opened a 5-day tour of Scotland to promote their first single *Love Me Do*. **1963**



- 1 - The west coast shipping services of David MacBrayne are merged with those of the Caledonian Steam Packet Company as Caledonian MacBrayne. **1973**
- 1 - The United Nations examines claims of ownership of the Scottish island of Rockall (an uninhabited extinct volcano), after a request from Denmark, which has sovereignty over the neighbouring Faroes. The 1972 Island of Rockall Act, passed by parliament in Westminster, formally declared it to be part of Inverness-shire, though it is closest to North Uist in the Outer Hebrides. **2011**

- 2 - The Traverse Theatre opens in Edinburgh. The Traverse has embraced a spirit of innovation and risk-taking that has launched the careers of many of Scotland's best-known writers. **1963**
- 2 - Ibrox Park disaster, 66 supporters killed on stairway 13. The disaster led to the rebuilding of Ibrox Park as an all-seater stadium. **1971**
- 3 - General George Monck dies, he was Oliver Cromwell's Military Governor in Scotland. General Monck persuaded the British parliament to restore Charles II to the throne and was crowned King at Westminster Abbey on 23 April 1661. **1670**
- 4 - The death of George Cathcart. Cathcart was a doctor from Edinburgh who instigated the annual series of concerts now known as the Proms, short for promenade concert. **1951**
- 5 - 89,000-tonne Liberian-registered Braer oil tanker, carrying 84,500 tonnes of crude oil, hit rocks on Shetland Isles in heavy seas. **1993**
- 6 - A.J. Cronin, author of *Keys of the Kingdom* and creator of the British television series *Dr Finlay's Casebook* died. **1981**



- 7 - Glasgow University founded at the request of James II and Bishop Turnbull. **1451**
- 8 - The first newspaper in Scotland was published. *Mercurius Caledonius* offered coverage of "the Affairs now in Agitation in Scotland, with a Survey of Foreign Intelligence." It ceased publication on 28 March after only nine issues. **1661**
- 8 - King Alexander I crowned. **1107**
- 8 - Earl of Stair, held responsible for the massacre of Glencoe, died. **1707**
- 8 - Rationing of sugar, bacon and butter introduced. **1940**
- 9 - The Diocese of Glasgow was elevated to an Archdiocese by Pope Innocent VII. **1492**
- 9 - Income tax introduced for the first time. **1799**
- 9 - The first women's golf tournament took place in Scotland, at Musselburgh. **1811**

- 9 - Liner *Queen Elizabeth*, launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank, in 1938, caught a fire and sank in Hong Kong where it was to serve as a floating marine university. **1972**
- 9 - Author and *Scottish Banner* columnist Nigel Tranter died. Tranter published more than 130 novels and biographies during his 60-year-long career, most covering famous Scots and their place in the country's history. **2000**
- 10 - The Scottish Government announces that it plans to hold the independence referendum in the autumn of 2014. The No side won with 55.3% voting against independence and 44.7% voting in favour. **2012**

- 11 - John A MacDonald, first Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada in 1867, born at 20 Brunswick Street in Glasgow. **1815**
- 11 - The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Association was created. This independently funded service was responsible for Scotland's blood and blood products. The National Blood Transfusion Service in England and Wales was not set up until the 26 September 1946. **1940**
- 12 - John Buchan, author (*39 Steps* etc) and diplomat (Governor General of Canada, 1935/1940) died. **1940**
- 13 - Death of St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow (and also known as St Kentigern) and is buried at his church in Clas-gu which later becomes Glasgow. **603**
- 13 - Mary Slessor, missionary in West Africa and known to many as "Ma", died in Calabar. **1915**



- 14 - Skye Terrier Greyfriars Bobby died after staying by his master's grave for 14 years. The terrier belonged to Edinburgh policeman John Gray who died of tuberculosis in 1858. His gravestone reads: "Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all". A statue of Bobby is now one of the most popular in Edinburgh. **1872**
- 14 - Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated his telephone to Queen Victoria. She made the first call in the British Isles from her residence on the Isle of Wight. **1878**
- 15 - Neil M Gunn, author of *The Silver Darlings* and many other books and short stories, died. **1973**
- 15 - The Great Glasgow storm leaves 20 dead across central Scotland including 9 in Glasgow. The hurricane was described as Central Scotland's worst natural disaster since records began and the worst gale in the United Kingdom. **1968**
- 15 - Strathclyde Regional Council applies for 250,000 summary warrants against residents refusing to pay the highly controversial "Poll Tax", introduced in Scotland in 1989. **1990**
- 16 - Retreating Jacobite army defeated Hanoverian forces at Battle of Falkirk. **1746**
- 16 - Treaty of Union of Scottish and Westminster Parliaments ratified. **1707**



- 17 - Duddingston Curling Society became formally organised, one of the earliest in the history of curling - though Kilsyth lays claim to a date of 1716. Curling dates back to the sixteenth century in Scotland, with Scots taking the sport across the world where it still flourishes. **1795**

- 17 - Author Compton Mackenzie (*Whisky Galore* etc) born. *Whisky Galore* is based on a real-life true story. In the middle of war time rationing, the SS Politician ran aground with a cargo of 264,000 bottles of malt whisky. **1883**
- 18 - Death of Sir John Pringle, President of the Royal Society from 1772-1778 and physician to King George III. Sometimes called the "father of modern military medicine", the Scottish-born physician focused on the need to adopt a clean medical environment for the treatment of wounded soldiers. He also coined the term "influenza". **1782**
- 18 - The launch of the Scottish Labour Party. The inaugural meeting of the breakaway party was held in Glasgow. It was formed as a result of the dissatisfaction several Labour MPs felt with their party over its stance on devolution for Scotland. **1976**

- 18 - Raasay House on Raasay off Skye was badly damaged in a fire. The building was undergoing a £4m restoration project. The former stately home had been run as an activity centre since 1984 and was being restored for that purpose again. The sprawling 258-year-old mansion once belonged to the Clan MacLeod. **2009**
- 19 - A Scottish army under the Earl of Leven crossed the river Tweed into England. It remained in England for three years playing an important part in the Civil War. **1644**

- 19 - Birth of James Watt, mathematical instrument maker, developed the steam engine, invented the condenser and copying machine. **1736**
- 20 - Benny Lynch crowned world flyweight champion. Recognised as probably the greatest boxer Scotland has produced, Lynch enjoyed a meteoric rise to the top of the sport. **1937**
- 20 - The chemist Thomas Graham, was born. Graham is famous for discovering the diffusion rate of gasses, which is known as "Graham's Law". He is also called the "father of colloid chemistry", and was the author of, *Elements of Chemistry*. **1805**
- 21 - Sweetheart Abbey, near Dumfries, founded by Devorguilla, mother of John Balliol. **1290**

- 22 - Poet George Gordon Byron (later Lord Byron) born. He moved to Aberdeen at the age of four and attended Aberdeen Grammar School. The title was inherited from an uncle. **1788**
- 23 - James Stewart, the Regent Moray on the abdication of Mary Queen of Scots, murdered in Linlithgow, triggering civil war. **1570**
- 23 - William Hamilton, the Scottish Labour politician, died. He was MP for Fife West, 1950-74, and Fife Central, 1974-87. He became a controversial public figure due to his outspoken advocacy of Scottish independence and his dislike of the Royal Family. **2000**
- 24 - Birth of Publius Aelius Hadrianus, who built Hadrian's Wall to cut off Scotland from the rest of Britain. **76**



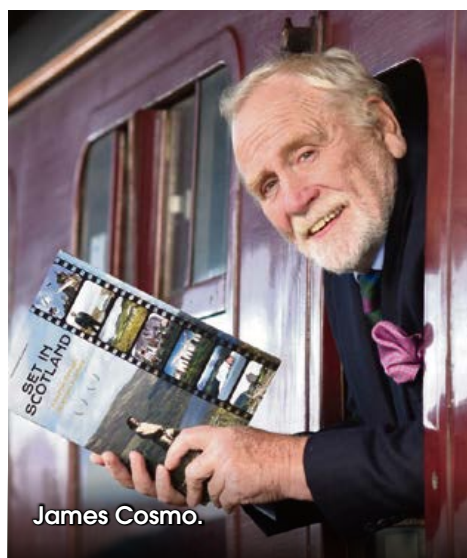
- 24 - First train over Forth Rail Bridge. The bridge is considered as a symbol of Scotland and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **1890**
- 25 - Robert Burns born Alloway. Burns Night is celebrated around the world on this night. **1759**

- 25 - First Minister Alex Salmond launches a consultation on the SNP Government's proposals for a referendum on Scottish independence. The referendum on Scottish independence was held on 18 September 2014 saw Scotland vote to remain part of the United Kingdom, with 55% voting against the proposal for Scotland to become an independent country and 45% voting in favour. **2012**



- 26 - One o'clock gun fired for the first time from Edinburgh Castle. The gun was created to complement a time ball on Nelson's Monument which was not reliable during Edinburgh foggy days. **1861**
- 26 - Kirkpatrick MacMillan, inventor of the bicycle, died. The thought of patenting his invention or trying to make any money out of it never crossed MacMillan's mind, but others saw its potential, and soon copies began to appear. However, Macmillan was quite unconcerned with the fuss his invention had prompted, preferring to enjoy the quiet country life he was used to. **1878**
- 26 - The 1st Glasgow Scout troop was registered, the first to be formed. **1908**
- 27 - *Glasgow Herald* newspaper first published. It is the longest continuously published daily newspaper in Britain. Today the paper is simply called *The Herald*. **1783**
- 27 - First public demonstration of TV by John Logie Baird. **1926**
- 28 - William Burke, murderer and body snatcher of "Burke and Hare" fame, executed. The duo was accused of killing 16 people over the course of 12 months, in order to sell their cadavers as "subjects" for dissection. **1829**
- 29 - The first adoption of GMT by Scotland. The subject has been the source of controversy ever since. **1848**
- 29 - Earl Haig, Commander in Chief of British forces 1915-18, founder of the British Legion, died. **1928**
- 29 - Members for Scottish Parliament (MSPs) vote 64-54 to back calls for a second Scottish independence referendum. **2020**
- 30 - King Charles I executed. His execution caused a change of sides by most of the Scots who had previously supported the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War as, for all his faults, Charles was still a Scottish Stuart king. **1649**
- 31 - Lachlan MacQuarie, "Father of Australia" born Ulva. Lachlan Macquarie was the governor of the colony of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821. **1761**
- 31 - Charles Edward Stewart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie" died in Rome. **1788**
- 31 - 270 Royal Navy servicemen were killed whilst on practice missions with other Royal Navy vessels in the Firth of Forth. **1918**
- 31 - *Princess Victoria*, Stranraer-Larne ferry, sank in a storm with the loss of 133 lives; 44 were rescued. **1953**
- 31 - The Scottish Court in the Netherlands convicts a Libyan and acquits another for their part in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 which crashed in Lockerbie in 1988. Lamin Khalifah Fhimah (aged 44) is cleared, but Abdelbaset al-Megrahi is found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment (in Scotland) with a recommended minimum term of twenty years. Megrahi was released from prison on compassionate grounds in 2009; as doctors reported he had terminal prostate cancer, and he died on 20 May 2012, aged sixty. **2001**

Blockbuster Scotland on Screen



James Cosmo.

One of the stars of medieval epic blockbusters, *Highlander*, *Braveheart* and *Outlaw King*, and fantasy TV series, *Game of Thrones*, is fronting a new guide to filming locations in Scotland – in a bid to entice film fans. Scottish acting legend, James Cosmo, who has more than 200 screen credits over the past six decades, pens the foreword to the revamped guidebook, *Set in Scotland*, published by Scotland's national tourism organisation, VisitScotland. The 52-page guide features more than 150 films which have been shot entirely or partially in Scotland – such as *Braveheart*, *Skyfall*, *Avengers: Infinity War*, *Avengers: Endgame*, *Fast & Furious 9*, and *The Batman* – and details more than 100 film locations. It can be downloaded from visitscotland.com/film.

To date, Scotland has appeared in five of the top 30 highest grossing films of all time, which have brought in a total of \$10.6 billion at the box office worldwide. Among them are *Avengers: Infinity War* and *Avengers: Endgame*, which showed off Edinburgh's gothic architecture and the quaint fishing village of St Abbs (which doubled for New Asgard) in the Scottish Borders, respectively. Following the release of *Avengers: Endgame*, the fishing village is now 'twinning' with New Asgard. Its popularity with film fans has given a visitor bump to nearby nature reserve, St Abb's Head.

The attraction, cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, saw a 25% increase in visitors, to 63,721, when *Endgame* was released in 2019. In the two years prior to its release, the attraction had on average 49,000 visitors. Last year's visitor numbers remained above pre-*Avengers* levels at 58,862, despite the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Research shows that around one in five visitors (18%) from the USA and 13% from Canada visit a film or TV location while in Scotland. A recent report valued screen tourism at £55 million to the Scottish economy, based on those visiting film and TV locations, creating 1220 full-time jobs.

Set-jetting

Screen tourism – or set-jetting – is a global trend in which film or TV fans are inspired to visit a location after seeing it on screen. It comes in the form of visiting the exact

filming location or providing the general motivation to book a holiday to the destination. The trend is long-term, with many visitors citing film titles released long before their trip as motivation, and so can provide ongoing financial support to the regions and businesses linked to popular locations. On the small screen, Starz TV series *Outlander*, based on the best-selling books by Diana Gabaldon, has resulted in a huge boom to screen tourism in Scotland since its first broadcast in 2014, particularly from US and Canadian visitors. Visits to *Outlander* film locations and attractions rose from 1.47 million in 2014 to 3.2 million in 2020.

Actor James Cosmo writes in the foreword: "Throughout my career I have been privileged enough to be involved in many [films] that have made a real connection with audiences worldwide. People still come up to me while in Scotland and tell me they are here because they watched Scottish films such as *Braveheart* or *Highlander*. And what is wonderful, is that the films are only the starting point. They then form a strong connection with the real country – it may be because of their ancestors or the feeling they get while they're here. That stays with them."

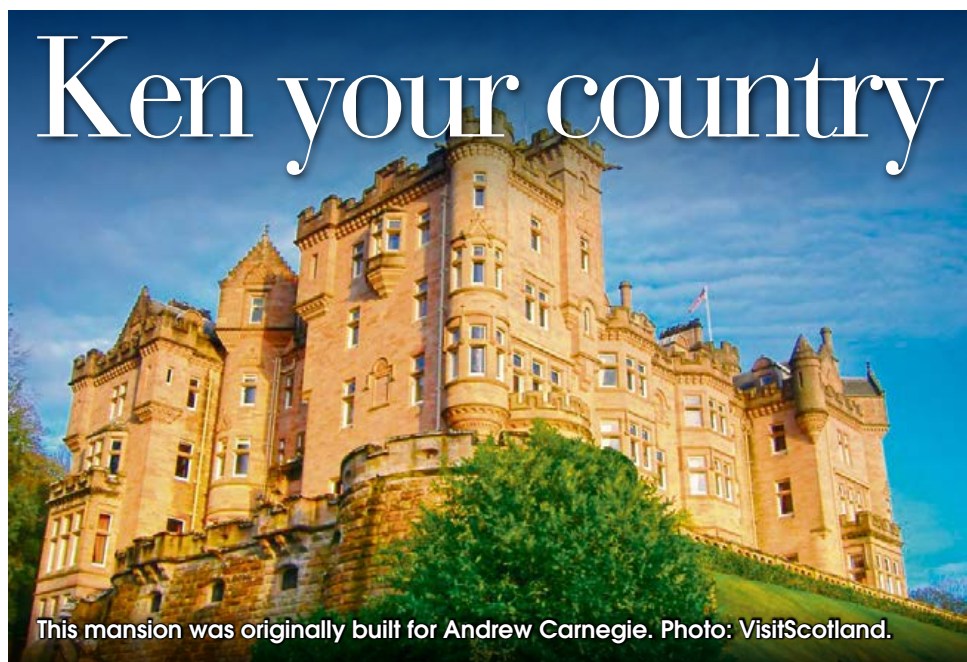
Set in Scotland covers the last 90 years, from Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 version of *The 39 Steps*, in which UNESCO World Heritage Site, The Forth Bridge, appears, to *The Road Dance*, which was filmed on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides

during the pandemic and released in May this year. *Alien*, *Avengers*, *Batman*, *Fast & Furious*, and James Bond, are among the global film franchises to have come to Scotland. The guide labels each film by genre, features web links to film themed content on visitscotland.com, and contains a new section, Monarchs of the Glens, which focuses on those films linked to Scotland's kings and queens, from Shakespeare's *Macbeth* to the Oscar-winning *The Queen*.

After the release of medieval epic *Braveheart* (1995) about Scottish freedom fighter William Wallace, the National Wallace Monument in Stirling, which commemorates the life of William Wallace, reported visitor numbers leapt from 80,000 a year to nearly 200,000 in 1996. For the 10-year period from 1996 to 2005 the average annual number of visitors to the National Wallace Monument was 135,000, and it has remained above 100,000 over subsequent years.

Dan Brown's 2003 novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, had a huge effect on Rosslyn Chapel, in Midlothian, near Edinburgh. Visitor numbers increased by 72 per cent, from 68,603 in 2004 to 118,151 in 2005. In 2006, following the release of the film directed by Ron Howard and starring Tom Hanks, visitor numbers reached 175,053, providing a major cash injection for conservation work at the site.

For more on screen tourism and to download *Set in Scotland*: www.visitscotland.com/film



This mansion was originally built for Andrew Carnegie. Photo: VisitScotland.

How well do you know Scotland? To test your knowledge, we have assembled ten fun questions on its geography, history and culture – but if you get stumped, the solutions can be found underneath. Good luck!

- 1) Which musical instrument did Robert Burns play?
- 2) How many ships of the German fleet were scuppered at Scapa Flow in 1919?
- 3) Where in Scotland is the Crinan Canal?
- 4) How long is the border between Scotland and England? a) 97 miles, b) 106 miles or c) 108 miles?
- 5) Near which Scottish island does the Isle of Raasay lie?
- 6) Which famous book was written by economist Adam Smith?
- 7) Which northerly baronial mansion was originally built for Andrew Carnegie?

- 8) Which town did Robert Burns say had "honest men and bonnie lassies"?
- 9) Name the castle where you would hear the one o'clock gun?
- 10) What name did the Romans give to Scotland?

Answers

- 1) The fiddle.
- 2) 52.
- 3) Argyll, it connects Loch Fyne to the Sound of Jura.
- 4) c) 108 miles.
- 5) The Isle of Skye.
- 6) *The Wealth of Nations*.
- 7) Skibo Castle.
- 8) Ayr in the poem *Tam O'Shanter*.
- 9) Edinburgh Castle.
- 10) Caledonia.

Ken your country



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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Cullen skink

Ingredients:

For the stock:

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

For the soup:

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

Method:

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

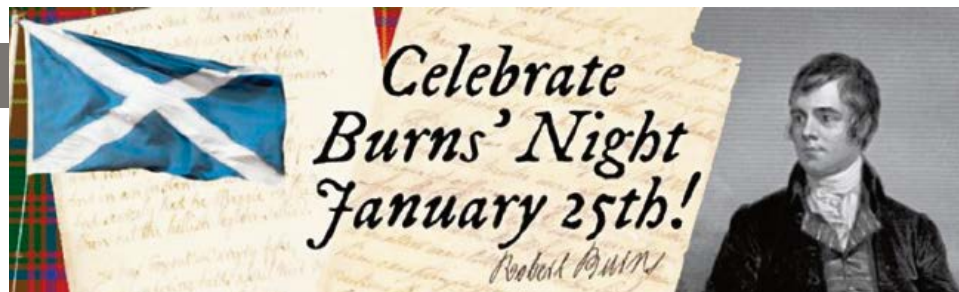
Haggis, clapsnot and whisky sauce

Ingredients:

- 500g/1lb 2oz. haggis
- For the clapsnot:**
- 500g/1lb 2oz. floury potatoes, such as Maris Piper or King Edward, peeled, chopped
- 500g/1lb 2oz. swede (yellow turnip), peeled, chopped
- 50g/2oz. butter
- 75ml/2¾fl oz. double cream
- sea salt and freshly ground white pepper
- 1 tbsp. chopped fresh chives
- For the whisky sauce**
- 500ml/17fl oz. double cream
- 2 tsp. wholegrain mustard
- 1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp. whisky
- sea salt and freshly ground white pepper
- 1 tbsp. chopped fresh chives
- ½ lemon, juice only

Method:

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



Burns Night Recipes

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

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

Bannock



Ingredients:

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

Method:

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

- 100g/4oz. sultanas
- 75g/3oz. currants
- 75g/3oz. chopped stoned dates
- 50g/2oz. Muscatel raisins
- 1 apple or carrot, coarsely grated
- 1 tbsp. black treacle
- 1 medium farm-fresh egg
- 150ml/5fl oz. buttermilk
- 225g/8oz. clotted cream

Method:

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

Bobby Burns Cocktail

Ingredients:

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

Method:

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

2023 – A Year in Piping & Drumming



As we all know, the last couple of years have been tough and it has really been felt by those of us who make music. But we are looking ahead to a 2023 that will be packed with all the things we love – pipe bands playing together, music festivals where we can share the experience of live music once again and the world's best going head-to-head throughout a full piping and drumming season. 2023 will be a special year for a number of events – read on to find out why!

Glasgow comes alive at the darkest time of year, as the UK's premier celebration of Celtic music, Celtic Connections returns with a full 18-day programme from 17th January – 5th February to celebrate its 30th Anniversary year. Opening with a spectacular 30th Anniversary concert and featuring high profile traditional musicians such as John McCusker, Treacherous Orchestra and Karine Polwart, as well as a host of up and coming artists, and those pushing the boundaries of their art forms. Head over to the website now find out more – www.celticconnections.com

As well as Celtic Connections, solo pipers are heading to Kansas City once again this January as Winter Storm, organized by MHAf, returns from 12th – 15th January, after a 2-year hiatus. The Competition League for Amateur Solo Pipers also returns in January, with an in-person event in Glasgow on 14th January. This league has an overall and online-only titles so you can compete as an amateur solo player from anywhere in the world. The latest online event saw competitors from Hong Kong to Hawai'i join the event! If you are an amateur player and would like to find out more go to www.theclasp.co.uk.

Southern Hemisphere

There is also a plethora of events in the Southern Hemisphere with pipe band events, solo competitions and more. On 1st January, New Zealand holds its first major solo piping and drumming event of the year and the 150th Anniversary of the Waipu Highland Games. Then from the 11th – 15th January, the Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Association will host its summer school. After a year's hiatus due to the pandemic, this event returns to Christchurch. This Summer School is the perfect opportunity to learn from

world class tutors, and it showcases some of the best talent New Zealand has to offer. The RNZPBA is excited to bring the NZ & South Pacific Pipe Band Championships to Christchurch on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th March. The celebration of Scottish culture and music will include pipe bands from throughout New Zealand and Australia.

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

The National Piping Centre's Adult Gatherings return from 6th – 19th February, for the first of four events across the year. You can join these schools in person or online, so you can get tuition from the world's best, wherever you are across the globe!

In Australia, Ballarat Grammar School in Victoria will host its annual pipe band contest on Sat 25th February. Pipe Bands Australia is also pleased to announce that the inaugural Australian Juvenile Pipe Band Championships will take place Saturday 30th September at SCOTS PGC College in Warwick, Queensland.

On 11th March, the adult solo piping season kicks off in Scotland with the Duncan Johnstone Memorial Competition which is held at The National Piping Centre and managed by the Competing Pipers' Association for B and C graded pipers.

The National Piping Centre's Junior Gatherings return in April, from 3rd – 6th, with 4 schools throughout the year for pipers aged Under 18 to come and immerse themselves in playing, whilst meeting other young pipers.

Scottish summer events

The annual Chicago Highland Games has rapidly become the largest pipe band competition in North America based on the number of entrants, and the June 2023 edition will see the addition of a Grade 1 competition. The Glengarry Highland Games take place August 4-5 in Maxville, Ontario, Canada and are home of the North American Pipe Band Championships. The Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Band Competitions will take place on Saturday.

As we move into the Scottish summer (keeping everything crossed for some sunshine!) the pipe band season begins in earnest! The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association have not announced the dates for four of their five major contests yet, with usually happen at the end of May, middle and end of June and at the end of July. However, the date for this year's World Pipe Band Championships has been announced as the 18th and 19th August. Keep up with all the pipe band news at www.rspb.org

Piping Live! returns in full force to the streets of Glasgow in the run up to the World's once again as Glasgow hosts the world's biggest week of piping! This year, we are celebrating the 20th edition of our festival running from 12th – 20th August, which attracts performers and audiences from across the world. In 2022, we welcomed performers from Iran, Hungary and Estonia performing on their own styles of bagpipes, as well as Scottish Pipe Bands from Argentina, USA and Canada, as well as from across Scotland. We can't wait for the 20th edition – keep up with what's happening and register for email updates at www.pipinglive.co.uk

Solo competitions

At the end of August, the piping world turns its focus to top level solo competition, with the Argyllshire Gathering taking place in Oban on 23rd and 24th August, and the Northern Meeting in Inverness happening on 31st August – 1st September. These see the world's best solo performers gather to

compete for the most prestigious solo piping prizes, as well as a chance to qualify for the Glenfiddich Piping Championship.

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship takes place at the end of October each year, and in 2023 will celebrate its 50th event on Saturday 28th October. 10 competitors will gather at Blair Castle to compete in Piobaireachd and March, Strathspey and Reel disciplines to be crowned champion. As it is a special year there will be a host of extra special moments planned. Tickets to join us in person at Blair Castle or to watch through the livestream will go on sale around mid-July through the National Piping Centre website.

But October isn't all about solo piping, as on Saturday 21st October, the World Solo Drumming Championship takes place, here in Glasgow, with the best drummers gathering to compete of several rounds to be crowned the best. Inveraray and District's Steven McWhirter has won a record 10th straight title in 2022, so let's see what 2023 brings!

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship marks the end of the 2023 season, only for the 2024 season to start the very next weekend in London with the Scottish Piping Society of London's annual competition, which has its 85th year in 2023. Also, in the USA and Canada there are several piping events through November, with the An Crios Gréine - Sun Belt Invitational Solo Piping Competition taking place in Florida and the George Sherriff Memorial Invitational for amateur players taking place in Hamilton Ontario. Dates for these events will be confirmed later this year.

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

You can find out more about all The National Piping Centre's projects at www.thepipingcentre.co.uk or get the latest news and results from the piping world at www.bagpipe.news which will give you details of events happening across the globe.



The Glenfiddich Piping Championship.



PipingLive!

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:**

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President
3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565
Email: djbaird4@gmail.com

Regional Directors for Australia
David and Patricia Benfell
Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com
website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



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

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

Proudly affiliated with Clan Donald Australia, Victorian Scottish Union and Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group. Represented at all major Highland gatherings in Victoria.

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald

Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@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.



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CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG

CLAN BELL

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.

Website: www.ClanBell.org

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell>

Email: President@clanbell.org

Clan Bell North America

49 Greystone Lane NW

Cartersville, GA, 30121



Clan Cumming Society of the United States

Website: www.clancumming.us

Email us: info@clancumming.us

See us on Facebook

Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

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 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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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 one of these Names: Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day; Dye; Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dee; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dhal; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny; MacDhai; McKeedie. In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson. Applications may be made online: clandavidsonaus@gmail.com or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P. P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

UK: London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands
Canada: Ontario * Western Canada
Australia: New South Wales * Victoria * Queensland * Western Australia
New Zealand: New Zealand
Europe: Spain
Africa: South Africa
USA: Arizona * Carolinas * Florida * Gulf Coast * Mid-Atlantic * New Mexico * Mid-West * Northeast * Northern California * Pacific Northwest * Rocky Mountains * South * Southern California * Texas * Upper Mid-West

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/TheClanDonnachaighSociety)
Email: ivc@donnachaighd.com

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

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 Australia

"under the patronage of the High Council of the Chiefs of Clan Donald"

High Commissioner Mr A. Neil Macdonald

State Commissioners

NSW	Mr John Currie
Qld	Mr A. Neil Macdonald
SA	Mr Michael Murphy
Vic	Mr Norman A Macdonald
WA	Ms Pamela McDonald

secretary.clandonaldustralia@gmail.com

There is no joy without Clan Donald

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



All Campbells or descendants of Campbells and members of Clan Septs are welcome to join the Society.

For State Branches contact the National Secretary Margaret Vallance
Email: libertyv93@gmail.com
www.clan-campbell.org.au

Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald

Ph: 0412 090990

Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au

Web: www.clandonaldqld.org

ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.

There is no joy without Clan Donald

Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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.elliotclan-usa.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

"Royal is our Race"

CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-



Clan Chief Peter Carruthers of Holmains
(Honorary Society President)

Bi-Annual Journal, Weekly Blog, Clan Merchandise, DNA/Genealogy project etc.

www.clancarrutherssociety.org
clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

Clan Donald USA is a nationwide organization of over 2,000 families who trace their ancestry to any of the branches of Clann Domhnaill. We embrace all the MacDonalds and other surnames that are recognized as branches or adherents of the greatest of the Highland clans.

www.clandonaldusa.org

Clan Farquharson Association Australia

Membership inquiries are invited from descendants of Farquharson and descendants of Sept family names. Please contact the association by mail to:

The Secretary: Clan Farquharson Association Australia

PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777

or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com

www.clanfarquharsonaus.weebly.com

American Clan Gregor Society

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

Gregor Grier MacAdams MacNish Magruder McGehee Gregory King Peter Fletcher Gregg Lecky Black and many others

Contact our registrar: **Jeanne P. Lehr**
11 Ballas Crt.

St. Louis, MO 63131-3038

Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org
website: www.acgsus.org

Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society. Inquiries to be sent to: Sheri Lambert, Treasurer P.O. Box 5399 Vernon Hills, IL 60061 visit our website: www.clanhamilton.org

the Clan Lachlan Association

based in Castle Lachlan, Strathlachlan Strachur, Argyll, PA27 8BU, Scotland along with its branches worldwide welcomes interested persons from MacLachlans of all spellings and septs
Canada ~ Ken Godfrey ken.godfrey1@gmail.com
Australia ~ Robin McLaughlin robinknowles@bigpond.com
Britain & Ireland ~ Tony MacEwen macewen45@sky.com
New Zealand ~ Helen Chegwin kiwihc@xtra.co.nz
USA ~ Kevin McLachlan kevinmclachlan@gmail.com
Scotland ~ Todd McLaughlin cmssecstrachur@gmail.com

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

Worldwide, we welcome descendants of all spelling variations, including (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis, (Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.
Scott McInnis, Member Services: scott@macinnes.org or visit www.macinnes.org

Clan MacLeod

Societies of Australia
Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling), and descendants. **Recognised Septs:**
Askey MacAndie MacClure MacWilliam
Beaton MacAskill MacCorkill MacCrimmon
Bethune MacAulay MacCrimmon Norie
Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallum Norman
Harold MacCaig MacHaigh Tolmie
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

Clan Hay Australia

A' Hay A' Hay
A callout to all Hay's and our name variants, descendants, and supporters. Clan Hay looking for new members to join our illustrious Clan. All descendants and supporter's welcome.
Alderston; Ayer; Bagra; Beagrie; Conn (Aberdeenshire only); Constable; Delahaye; Delgaty; Du Plessis; Dupplin; Errol; Garrow; Geary; Gifford; Hayden; Haye; Hayes; Hayler; Haymes; Hays; Hayton; Hayward; Hey; Hye; Kinnou; Laxfirth; Leask*; Leith; Locherworth; Logie; Macara; MacGaradh; McKester; Peebles; Phillips (Aberdeenshire only); Slains; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester; Zester
For more information, please contact:
Australian Clan Hay convenor, Chris Hay McMor Fairbank
PO Box 70, Darrinallum, Victoria, 3325, Australia
E: clanhayaustralia@outlook.com
[clanHayAustralia@Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/clanHayAustralia)

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 Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.

Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs
Contact: N Dennis, 61 Alma Street, East Malvern 3145 Ph 03 9569 5716
Visit our website
Check out your Tartan and Sept
www.clanmackenzie.org.au

THE MACLEODS

RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS
FOR INFORMATION:
WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG
A.L. MACLEOD
3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B
WEST VALLEY CITY, UT
84120-6880

Clan Hay

April Rich
28 Oxbow Drive
Willimantic, CT 06226
clanhaymembership@hotmail.com
The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Hays(e); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Arml; Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgaty; D' Ay(e); Dellah'a'y; 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
www.clanhay.com

Clan Little Society, Inc.

Welcoming Little/Lyttle/Lytle and the like.
● Promoting our Scottish heritage
● Hosting tents at Scottish games
● Connecting our families
● Maintaining our genealogy and DNA
www.clanlittlesociety.org
Registered in the State of Georgia, USA
Proud Member of COSCA

MacLaren

Clan Labhran
Clan MacLaren Society of Australia
Information about the Clan and application for CMSA membership is available on the website or via the email address below.
Membership is open to MacLarens (all spellings), Septs, individuals and families with an association to the Clan.
<https://clanmaclarenau.org/>
clanmaclarenau@gmail.com

Clan Macnachten 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
New Second Edition!
A History of the Clan Macnachten
Paperback available through Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk, Amazon.ca

Clan Henderson Society

The MacEanruigs, proud sons of Henry, invite you to join!
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● Foster Scottish culture and activities
● Promote Scottish festivals and games
● 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
www.clanhendersonsociety.com

McAlpin/e

and variant spellings
Commander: Michael T. McAlpin
DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!
Contact: membership.macalpein@gmail.com
Website: <https://macalpein.com/>

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: kisimul@chariot.net.au

Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope
INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA
President & Commissioner: Stephen J. Hope
president@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope
highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org
Membership Chair: Cynthia Hope Henderson
membership@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org
CANADA
Commissioner: Scott Hale
commissioner@clanhope.ca
www.clanhope.ca
SCOTLAND
Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope
commissionerscotland@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClanHopeofCraighall>

Clan MacDougall Society of North America

MacDougalls, MacDowalls, & ALL Associated Families
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CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, to join us in celebrating our heritage!
website: ClanMacNeilUSA.us
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram
[@ClanMacNeilUSA](https://www.facebook.com/ClanMacNeilUSA)

Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron
Alexander H.R. Irvine of Drum,
27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name
Mary Erwin, Chairman
155 Hattaway Road, Calhoun, LA, 71225
mary.erwin@clanirwin.org
www.clanirwin.org
IRWIN • IRVINE • IRVIN • IRVING • ERWIN
And the many other spellings of the Name

INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC

The OFFICIAL Clan MacFarlane Society
Founded 1911 - Glasgow & London
Re-established - 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC
Lech Slay! We welcome all descendants of Clan MacFarlane from around the world!
Michael R. MacFarlane, FSA Scot - President
Richard G. Kilby, FSA Scot - Treasurer
John K. Manchester - Secretary
International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.
PO Box 359 Glenora, CA 91740 USA
info@macfarlane.org
Arms of the International Clan MacFarlane Society granted by Lord Lyon, King of Arms, 15 February, 2000
MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.
Treasurer
383 Ash Brook Lane
Sunnyvale, TX
75182-3250
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
PO Box 243
GYMEA 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

Europe: Will Tullin
Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +31 655 774 425

Scotland & Northern Ireland: Annie Le Roy-Lewis
SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +44 7793 317 387

Australia: John L. Macpherson
Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +61 409 122 141

England & Wales: William Macpherson
EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +44 7877 363 507

New Zealand: Tony McPherson
NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +64 274 587 813

USA: Robert T. McPherson
UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +1 360 701 8133

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 Pollock

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

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



Clan 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

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457
Pinehurst, NC 28370

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

Write or phone for our free brochure.
www.scottishheritageusa.org
email: shusa457@gmail.com
(910) 295-4448



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: learn@vsr.com.au
NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: sue.treg1@gmail.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
Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0409 322 374



YOUNG

Clan Young Australia

Invites membership from all those with the surname Young or with ancestral ties or connection to the surname.

Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot

10 Cedric Street, Parkdale VIC 3195
E: membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au

www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

For information please contact
members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



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
303-670-9611
brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com

Clan Ross America

Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.



Michael Ross, President
Nancy Ross-Anderson, VP Membership
15244 El Centro St., Hesperia, CA 92345
membership@clanross.org
info@clanross.org

www.clanross.org



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

Worldwide organization for all Wardlaws or related families. We invite you to join us.

Email: clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com

'Wardlaw ivermair!'

www.clanwardlaw.com

Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

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www.facebook.com/ScottishGaelicChoirofVictoria

Do you live in Melbourne? Are you interested in Gaelic and its music, or do you simply enjoy singing? Why not join us?

Rehearsal times:

Thursday 7-9pm during school terms,
Term 1 2020 beginning 6th February
at The Kildara Centre, rear of
39 Stanhope Street, Malvern.

Contact Raghnaid NicGaraidh
rachel.hay@inet.net.au



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 clanmaitland@yahoo.com.au
6/1 Hinemoa Ave. Normanhurst, NSW, 2076

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

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



Clan Scott Australia Group

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

Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs:
Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.

E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com



THE AMERICAN-SCOTTISH FOUNDATION, INC.

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 American-Scottish Foundation

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER



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

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association

The Secretary, P.O. Box 352, Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122
www.standrewsociety.com

NESBITT - NISBET SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



Clan Nisbet, a Borders family, welcomes new members worldwide. Whether you're a Nesbit, Nisbet, or one of the many other spelling variations, we encourage you to inquire.

WWW.IBVDIT.ORG

ENISBET@IBVDIT.ORG



Head to our official website to learn about our proud heritage. Our must-read section, "Notable Nisbets" chronicles Alexander Nisbet, Scotland's famous author of heraldry and other renowned ancestors.



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

For further info contact

President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174

Secretary : Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263

E: clansincliraustralia@hotmail.com

www.clansincliraustralia.com



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



Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

Suite 87, 139 Cardigan St
Carlton Vic 3053

Email: resource_centre@scotsfoaus.org.au
Website: <https://scotsfoaus.org.au>
Facebook: [Facebook.com/ScotsOfVictoria](https://www.facebook.com/ScotsOfVictoria)

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Please inquire: The Secretary
53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT,
Tel/Fax 0131 220 4512 **www.stewartociety.org**

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

Victorian Scottish Union Inc

Established 1905

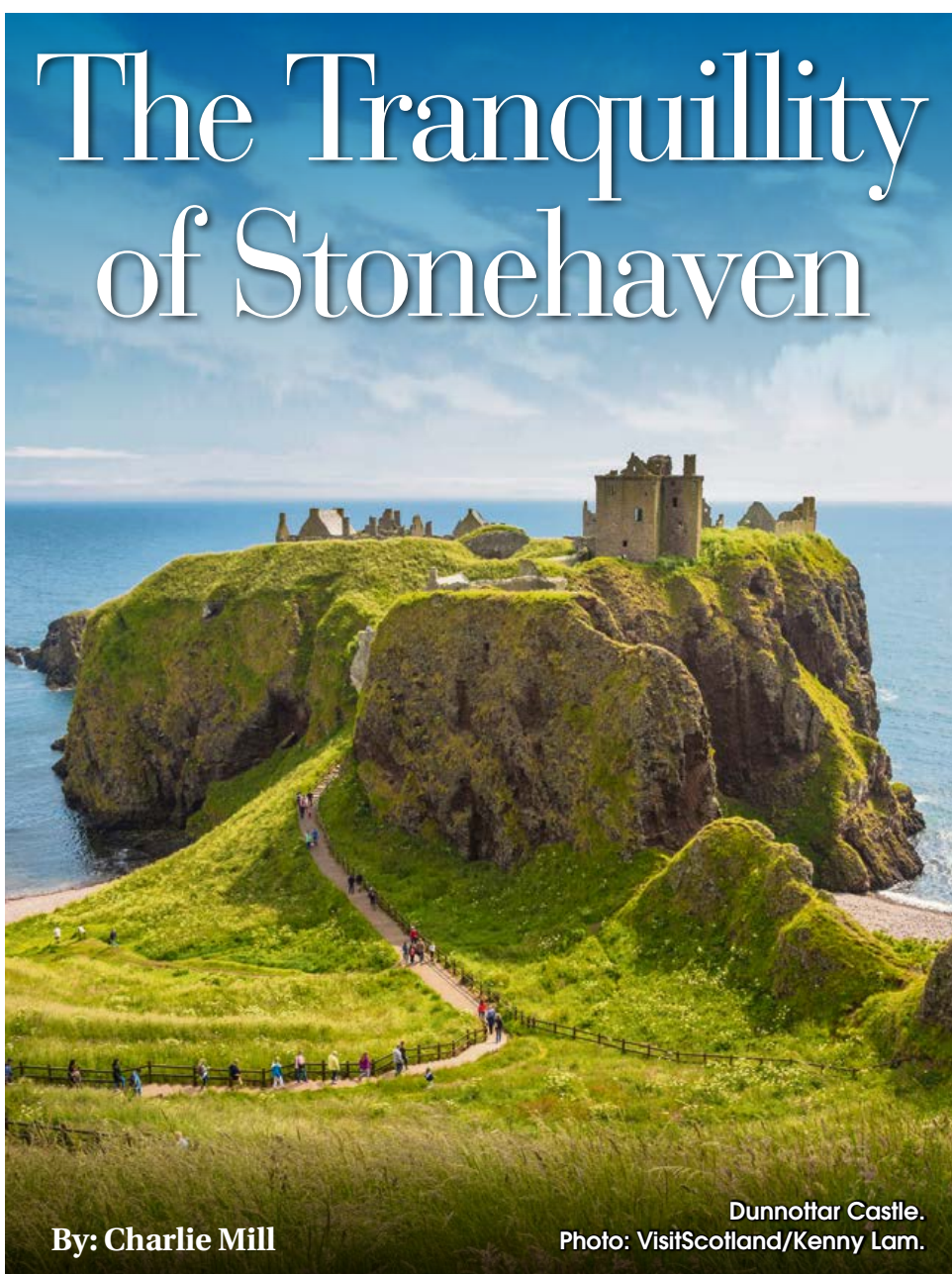
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Maryborough Highland Society
Scottish Country Dance Society of Victoria
Robert Burns Scottish Festival Camperdown
The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Warrambool & District Caledonian Society
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Chief : Mr Grant McKinna
President Norman Macdonald
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Contact details:
Email: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
Mobile 0438 584 930
Address: PO Box 116, Cobden, Victoria 3266
www.victorianscottishunion.com



The Tranquillity of Stonehaven

By: Charlie Mill

Dunnottar Castle.
Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

For many centuries the wee fishing port on Scotland's east coastline has been a magnetic location for summer tourists, a distinction it retains to this day. Made up of delightful seascapes, an enchanting harbour and a lively town centre, it is an ideal spot for a day trip or a longer visit. Lying on a picturesque bay 13 miles south of Aberdeen, Stonehaven, or "Stoney" as it's known by the locals, is sadly no longer a high-level fishing port, but it still preserves a great deal of its historic attractions.

As well as the age-old harbour there is the 15th century Tolbooth which includes an enchanting museum of local history and fishing. Another crowd-puller is the

impressive sight of Dunnottar Castle which is perilously perched on a rocky cliff just south of the town. Besides having many historic connections, the scenic castle has recently been used for the location of several smash hit movies. The harbour was constructed to supply Dunnottar Castle and for many years the tiny port was very busy. In fact, at the turn of the last century when the herring fishing was in vogue as many as 150 boats regularly tied up at Stonehaven, so much so that one could "walk" from one side of the harbour to the other without getting your feet wet! Now only a handful of vessels fish regularly, and the harbour is utilised mainly by pleasure craft. But there has been a fresh

revival in the fishing industry by scallop boats which arrive in the summer months from as far away as the Isle of Man to dredge the sea bottom just offshore of Stonehaven Bay.

The Feein' Market

Another attraction Stonehaven presents is the Feein' Market, held in the Market Square the first Saturday in June. This is a restoration of the old feein' market when, at the end of a working contract, farmhands who fancied a change of service, gathered to become "fee'd" with new employers after thrashing out a working arrangement regarding fresh terms of employment. The new Feein' Market is currently organised by the Stonehaven Business Association and covers the entire Market Square, giving visitors a rare spectacle of how farm-life survived all those generations ago.

The initial settlement at Stonehaven was little more than a number of tiny fishing huts positioned around Stonehaven Bay, but that all changed in 1600 when the wee hamlet was upgraded to become the County Town of Kincardineshire when the seat of the Sheriffdom of Kincardine was shifted from the ancient Kincardine township at Kincardine Castle close to the village of Fettercairn. When the fishing port was elevated to become the administrative centre of the county, it was most crucial to acquire a municipal building and at the time the only appropriate building in the vicinity was the storehouse owned by the Earl of Marischal on the harbour's northern confines. The repository was hastily adapted to embody a courthouse and prison and, having been repaired and renovated over the centuries, it still stands to this day.

The New Town

Stonehaven's New Town expanded in around 1781 when a bridge was erected over the Carron Water by Robert Barclay of Ury, giving more easy access to the town by those living to the south. The New Town was created around the nucleus of the Market Square with the town expanding as ripples from its centre. The famous clock tower was raised in 1857.

Stonehaven expanded as the years passed and it was not long before the railway came to town. The railway did in fact reach the town but due to the ground features of the area it was obligatory to construct the station just up the hill from the town. This resulted in more houses being constructed and a thriving suburban area soon connected Stonehaven with its railway station.

In more recent times the entire length of the town's main road was extensively restored. Great care was taken to re-lay the old cobblestones on the surface of the street to recreate a 19th century atmosphere. The streetlamps were also given the time treatment with fine reproductions of old gas streetlights. So, if you find yourself on the north-east coast road travelling north to Aberdeen or south to Dundee, make sure you leave the main road and drive a few hundred metres down into Stonehaven. Spending a couple of idyllic hours in the tiny hamlet will put your mind completely at rest and set you up nicely for the remainder of your journey.

For many centuries the wee fishing port on Scotland's east coastline has been a magnetic location for summer tourists, a distinction it retains to this day.

The wee town's premier event though ironically takes place at a time of year when only a handful of proper tourists stay in the district, yet visitors from all over Britain descend on the town to witness it. The Stonehaven Fireball Ceremony is held every Hogmanay (December 31st) and is an extravaganza observed by thousands. The highlight of the ritual is when participants walk through the towns streets twirling gigantic fireballs above and round their heads! The fireballs are constructed of wire netting bags crammed with various kinds of combustible substances, and are swung round the head with the help of a long wire rope attached to a handle. The etiquette is said to stretch back to Pagan times where twirling the fireballs acted in fending off evil spirits which might endanger the town during the next 12 months.



The Aberdonian Steam Train. Photo: The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust.



Stonehaven Harbour. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

Enjoy North America's top Scottish event listings in the Scottish Banner. Please check direct 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

JANUARY 2023

Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas

British Columbia Tour

6-12, Various venues

Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser and brilliant Californian cellist Natalie Haas blend Scottish tradition with cutting-edge string explorations with gigs in Courtenay, Victoria, Qualicum and Vancouver. Info: www.alasdairandnatalie.com

A Celebration of Robbie Burns with Blackthorn 14, Coquitlam, BC

Fiddler, Rosie Carver, with Celtic band Blackthorn and a special guest piper feature the musical traditions of Scotland with a special focus on Burns' songs and poems at Place des Arts 1120 Brunette Ave. Info: www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-celebration-of-robbie-burns-with-blackthorn-tickets-392870725917

Burns Night Dance

20, London, ON

Join RSCDS London Ontario Canada and celebrate Robert Burns at Elmwood Ave. Presbyterian Church. Info: www.rscdslondoncanada.org

Robbie Burns Dinner

20, Hamilton, ON

Join Hugh Murray Lodge to celebrate the life and legacy of the Immortal Robbie Burns, poet, philosopher and the "Bard of Scotland". Info: www.parkbench.com/event/robbie-burns-dinner-2

Annual Burns Dinner

21, Toronto, ON

The St. Andrew's Society of Toronto looks forward to holding their traditional Burns Dinner in conjunction with the University Club of Toronto. The event follows the time-honoured format with the Address to a Haggis, The Immortal Memory and Toasts to the Lassies and Laddies. Musical entertainment will be provided by Old Man Flanagan's Ghost. Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

Robbie Burns Night 2023

21, Sarnia, ON

Come and celebrate Scotland's most cherished poet. Haggis, Pipes, Highland dancers, and much more at Sarnia Legion Branch 62, 286 Front Street North. Info: www.sarnialegion.com/event/robbie-burns-night-2023

Burns Night 2023: The Bard & His Ballads

22, Campbell River, BC

Join songsmith Bruce Coughlan with special guests Daniel Lapp, fiddle & piano and René Cusson, pipes & whistles and celebrate Burns Night with them in-person or watch from anywhere – virtually through Livestream available for 48 hours until Robbie Burns Day. Info: www.songsmyth.ca

Happy Burns Night

25, Nationwide

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

Burns Statue Celebration

25, Toronto, ON

Everyone is welcome to celebrate the birthday of Scotland's national bard. There will be piping, haggis, neeps, tatties, singing, and good cheer at Robert Burns Statue (Allan Gardens -Sherbourne and Carlton). Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

Robbie Burns Celebration

25, Cobourg, ON

Presented by the Cobourg Highland Games Society, a traditional Scottish meal, including Haggis. Entertainment by the Cobourg Legion Pipes and Drums and Highland Dancers at the Best Western Plus Cobourg. Info: www.cobourghighlandgames.ca

Vancouver Ceilidh

27, Vancouver, BC

At the Scottish Cultural Centre Free lesson 7pm-7:45 Dancing 8pm to 10:30pm, Admission \$15 for adults, \$10 for students. Everyone welcome, no experience or partner required. Loads of fun and live music too with the resident Ceilidh Band Calanais. Info: www.vancouverceilidh.org

51st Annual Robbie Burns Dinner

28, Edmonton, AB

Join Clan MacNaughton Pipe Band for dinner, entertainment, an address to the haggis, and more in celebration of Robbie Burns Day at Dutch Canadian Club 13312 142 St. Info: www.eventbrite.ca/e/51st-annual-robbie-burns-dinner-tickets-424291416047

Great Canadian Kilt Skate-Montreal

29, Montreal, QC

Put on some tartan and join the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal on the ice as we celebrate Scottish culture and heritage in true Canadian fashion at Verdun Auditorium, 4110 Boulevard LaSalle. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca/kilt-skate.html

FEBRUARY 2023

Edmonton Caledonian's 51st Workshop & Ball

10-12, Edmonton, AB

Scottish country dance events at Chateau Lacombe Hotel. Info: www.rscdsedmonton.com

Great Canadian Kilt Skate-Calgary

12, Calgary, AB

The Great Canadian Kilt Skate is back in Calgary. After two years of Covid cancellations, we're returning to Olympic Plaza as part of the final day celebrations of the Calgary Chinook Winter Blast festival at Olympic Plaza. Info: www.kiltskate.com

Monthly Ceilidh – Comunn Gàidhlig Thorontó

17, Virtual event

Comunn Gàidhlig Thorontó is inviting you to a Zoom Ceilidh. Join us to speak and learn Gaelic, enjoy cultural fun and activities, share a story, song or dance and help grow our Gaelic community together. Info: gaelictoronto@gmail.com or www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html

Vancouver Ceilidh

24, Vancouver, BC

At the Scottish Cultural Centre Free lesson 7pm-7:45 Dancing 8pm to 10:30pm, Admission \$15 for adults, \$10 for students. Everyone welcome, no experience or partner required. Loads of fun and live music too with the resident Ceilidh Band Calanais. Info: www.vancouverceilidh.org

Intro to Curling Social

25, Toronto, ON

If you have always wanted to try curling, this is the event for you! The session is open to the public and all experience levels are welcome. It will feature a combination of instruction and play. There will be drinks after the on-ice session to raise a glass with teammates and new friends at the ... Read more

Ottawa Highland Dancing Association

February Competition Weekend

25-26, Ottawa, ON

In the Nation's Capital Saturday February 25, 2023: Open Pre-Premier & Premier Competition. Sunday February 26, 2023: Choreography Competition. Info: www.ohda.ca

USA

JANUARY 2023

Florida Keys Celtic Festival

7-8, Marathon, FL

A celebration of Celtic culture and entertainment at Marathon Community Park, MM49 US Hwy 1 Ocean Side. Info: www.floridakeyscelticfestival.com

Winter Storm Weekend

12-15, Kansas City, MO

The Pipes and Drums event in Kansas City. World-class concerts, competitions, and master classes. Info: www.mhaf.org

Boston Celtic Music Festival

12-15, Boston, MA

The 2023 festival will showcase Greater Boston's deep tradition of music, song and dance from Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton and other Celtic communities. Info: www.passim.org/live-music/bcmfest-2023

Havre de Grace Winter Celtic Festival

13-16, Havre de Grace MD

A weekend of all things Celtic at the Star Centre, 700 Congress Ave. Info: www.hdgburnsgathering.org

Central Florida Scottish Highland Games

14-15, Winter Springs, FL

Experience traditional highland athletics, dance, art, music, culture, food and a Gaelic spirit at Central Winds Park. Info: www.flascot.com

The 27th Annual ASF Burns

Night Gala Celebration

20, New York, NY

Celebrate Scotland's National Bard, Robert Burns. Hosted by the American Scottish Foundation and University Club, New York. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

The Saint Andrews Society of

Jacksonville Robert Burns Dinner

21, St. Augustine, FL

Traditional haggis, bagpipes and drums, Scottish dancer, Scottish poetry, and all the fun toasts that come with celebrating Robert Burns, including the Salute to the Haggis at Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Dr. Info: www.jaxsaintandrews.org/burns-dinner

Robert Burns Supper

21, San Diego, CA

Presented by the San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering of the Clans, celebrate the bard! Info: www.sdhhighlandgames.org

Burns Supper

22, Naples FL

Burns Supper at Long Shore Lakes Clubhouse with the Saint Andrew's Society Naples. Info: www.saintandrewssocietynaples.com

Happy Burns Night

25, Nationwide

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

Robert Burns Supper

28, Los Angeles, CA

Join the St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles in celebrating the bard with food, music and more. Info: www.saintandrewsla.org

SASSF Burns Supper

28, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Commemorating the 263rd Anniversary of the Birth of Robert Burns with The Scottish Society of South Florida. A full night of entertainment with the traditional Address to a Haggis, Toasts, Immortal Memory and more at Tropical Acres Steakhouse, 2500 Griffin Rd. Info: www.sassf.org/Burns-supper

Burns Night Supper

28, Camp Hill PA

Celebrate the life, poetry, and music of Robert Burns. Sit-down dinner with an address to a haggis, toasts, reflection on Burns, and musical entertainment provided by Charlie Zahm and Tad Marks at Penn Harris Hotel. Info: www.pennscots.org

Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland

Games Burns Night

28, Lake Park MN

Celebrate the life and poetry of Robert Burns, Scotland's 'National Bard' at Torg Brewery. Info: www.mnscottishfair.org

FEBRUARY 2023

Tenth Annual Celtic Family Jamboree

3-4, Brookesville, FL

Celtic music, workshops, Highland athletics demo, Celtic merchandise and more at the Rustic Sertoma Youth Ranch, 85 Myers Rd. Info: www.celticheritageproductions.com/fj.htm

MacMillan Pipe Band Live

4, Germantown MD

Enjoy a 2-hour performance by the award-winning MacMillan Pipe Band at BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Dr. Info: www.blackrockcenter.org/event-details/an-tilleadh-with-the-macmillan-pipe-band-1

Great Kilt Skate New Hampshire 2023

5, Concord, NH

Show your pride in Scottish culture by skating in kilts, tartans and other Scottish regalia at the skating pond at White Park. Info: www.kiltskate.com

Tallahassee Highland Games

11-12, Tallahassee, FL

Featuring multiple All American Highland Games qualifiers, All American Highland Games Caber Toss Championship, Scottish heritage activities, music, dance, food, fun for the kids and more. Info: www.tallyhighlandgames.com

Asheville Celtic Fest

18, Asheville, NC

A winter indoor Celtic Festival bringing the Celtic spirit of the Seven Nations to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, will be held inside of the Davis Center at the WNC Agricultural Center. Info: www.ashevillecelticfest.com

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band

Association, Intercontinental Solo

Drumming Championship

18, Dunedin, FL

Hosted by the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association and supported by Dunedin Scottish Arts Foundation at Dunedin Community Centre. Info: www.dunedinscottisharts.com

Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival

18-19, Mount Dora, FL

Celebrate the Scottish Culture in Mount Dora with bagpipers, Highland Athletics, Celtic music, dancing, Society and Heritage Clan Village, Shortbread Contest, and more. Info: www.mountdorascot.com

Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival

25, Green Cove Springs, FL

Enjoy the athletics, music, food and fun of the Highland Games and a "Wee Bit o' Scotland" to the Northeast Florida area at Clay County Fairgrounds. Info: www.neflgames.com

Red Hot Chilli Pipes Live

25-March 11, Various venues

Bagrock with attitude in Maine, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. Info: www.rhcp.scot

Scotland

JANUARY 2023

Edinburgh Royal Choral Union

135th Annual New Year Messiah

2, Edinburgh

A long-treasured tradition to welcome the New Year, The Edinburgh Royal Choral Union will perform Handel's Messiah at the Usher Hall for the 135th time at Usher Hall. Info: www.usherhall.co.uk

Celtic Connections

19-February 5, Glasgow

Celtic Connections will return for its 30th anniversary edition as the UK's premier celebration of Celtic music at venues across Glasgow. Info: www.celticconnections.com

The Rabbie Burns Ball 2023

21, Edinburgh

The Ghillie Dhu Ballroom will play host to the 2023 Rabbie Burns Ball. A traditional Black Tie Burns Supper and Ceilidh in aid of the Scottish Association for Mental Health. Info: www.citizenticket.co.uk/events/the-annual-rabbie-burns-ball/the-rabbie-burns-ball-2023

Scotland's Trade Fair Spring

22-24, Glasgow

Held at the SEC in Glasgow is Scotland's biggest and only trade fair, with exhibitors who are gift and food wholesale suppliers from Scotland and beyond. Trade only event. Info: www.scotlandstradefairs.com

Happy Burns Night

25, Nationwide

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

A Poetic Burns Night

25, Dundee

A rousing celebration of our National Bard is always a sentimental affair at Forgan's- expect classic Scottish fayre with a twist, and an extensive selection of Scottish gins and whiskies to toast the man himself. Info: www.designmynight.com/uk/restaurants/dundee/forrans-beyond-ferry/a-poetic-burns-night

Burns&Beyond Festival 2023

26-29, Edinburgh

A celebration of the life & legacy of Robert Burns through traditional and contemporary art & culture. Info: www.burnsandbeyond.com

Up Helly Aa

31, Lerwick

Up Helly Aa is a torchlight festival. This event takes place once a year on the last Tuesday of January in the Shetland Isles. Info: www.uphellyaa.org

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:

- 1 Burns Night
- 8 Pease
- 9 Aberdonian
- 10 Snell
- 11 Kismet
- 12 Whin
- 14 Sadist
- 16 Trawlers
- 19 Eighteen
- 21 Lentil
- 24 Rain
- 25 Picnic
- 27 Skirl
- 30 California
- 31 Elders
- 32 Beanfeasts

Down:

- 1 Black Isle
- 2 Reeks
- 3 Sadness
- 4 Iona
- 5 Heathers
- 6 Wean
- 7 Psalm
- 10 Snow
- 13 Peat
- 15 Dugs
- 17 Saltcoats
- 18 Heritage
- 20 Tirl
- 22 Episode
- 23 Skelp
- 26 Nines
- 28 Reel
- 29 Girn

ScotlandsPeople 1921 Census: Who Will You Find?



The 1921 census records, made up of over 9000 volumes of enumeration district books, have now been released by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) on the online research service ScotlandsPeople. 200,000 images of 4.8 million individual records can now be searched, viewed and downloaded and have been added to the census returns already available on the website, covering every 10 years from 1841. The census is a survey which collects information on every household, building and vessel in Scotland on a particular night. The enumeration books contain all of the information transcribed from the household schedules (which were destroyed after work on the census was completed) and can be seen online as full colour images.

The 1921 census revealed that the population of Scotland had reached 4,882,500 inhabitants; twice as large as had been recorded in 1831, and three times the size as in 1801. The effects of the First World War (1914-1918) and the influenza pandemic known as 'Spanish

'Flu' (1918) had been felt, however, by local communities and were reflected in the 1921 returns. Between the 1911 and 1921 census the male population had grown by 38,803 and the female population by 82,790, totalling 121,593 individuals or a growth of around 2.5%. This was, however, the smallest increase since 1801 in any census period due to war and emigration.

Over the years, the questions which formed the census have varied, but all are a guide to what the government at the time wanted to know about its population, including its size and age, location, sex and the variety of occupations employing its citizens. Details captured by the census were used to inform government policy at the time; immediately after the census was taken, as is still the case, statistics were made available publicly for demographic purposes. Today, however, these records offer a rich resource of contemporary information which can be explored by historians and genealogists alike in order to trace people, the history of buildings or local areas.

Delivering the 1921 census

In Scotland the work of delivering the census was led by the Registrar General who relied on a network of registrars and enumerators to get census forms called "schedules" out to every household, filled in and returned. The information from the schedules was then copied into enumeration books by hand. It is images from the pages in those books that customers can find on ScotlandsPeople.

The census of 1921 was taken on 19 June. Making the personal data of a census available is an unusual undertaking in that it unites two teams of workers 100 years apart. The Census Act of 1920 ensures that once the statistical information has been created from household data the personal information like names, relationships and ages must be kept confidential for 100 years. Only at that point can it be opened for members of the public to view.

To give people an efficient way of searching, digital copies have been taken of every page of every enumeration book and then every handwritten name transcribed into a computerised index. Quality review work has also been undertaken to improve accuracy. With a ScotlandsPeople account people can search for their ancestors or other people of interest at no charge with just names and an idea of where they might have been living. There's a fee to view the images. An account also offers website users handy ways of storing their finds in timelines so key information can be found quickly. The more information about where someone was living the better the chances of finding them. While there are no guarantees that a person is listed it is likely that they will be included if they lived in Scotland at the time.

There are online guides full of hints and tips for users. Using the census is a great opportunity to turn detective and NRS invites everyone to tell them: who will you find?

For more information see: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

New Learning Subsidy for PPBSO Amateur Drummers

With an eye on the future of drumming excellence in the province, The Pipers' & Pipe Band Society of Ontario (PPBSO) has committed to providing financial support for those amateur drumming members interested in pursuing tuition at places like workshops, seminars and summer schools. With an annual budget currently set at \$1000 the plan will see \$200 learning subsidies provided to each of five solo drummers (bass, tenor or snare) to assist the financial cost of an educational session, like a workshop or summer school.



"We are doing what we can to allocate tight resources to developing the musicianship of our membership," said, Jim McGillivray, Chair, PPBSO Music Committee. He added, "We recently partnered with The Piobaireachd Society to help advance our solo amateur pipers and I think this kind of initiative will help encourage our drumming community."

"It's a modest start," said Michael Grey, PPBSO president, "but we've got to start somewhere. As we encounter new funding opportunities these initiatives will naturally grow in size and scope - for both drummers and pipers."

Interested drummers should email PPBSO administrator, Sharon Duthart: admin@ppbso.org, with details of their planned educational session. The subsidy will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis with final approval of the subsidy application made by the Music Committee of the PPBSO.

The Scottish Highlands named as one of the "Best of the World" destinations for 2023

The Scottish Highlands has been named as one of *National Geographic's* 'Best of the World' destinations for 2023.

The publication revealed that the region is one of only two UK destinations to make the annual list. It has been shortlisted in the nature category, alongside Botswana, Slovenia, Big Bend National Park in Texas and Azores. The travel list, which is created, researched, reported and written in collaboration with *National Geographic Traveler's* international editorials teams, celebrates Scotland's rewilding efforts, which aim to restore the original landscape of the Highlands by replanting and restoring native species. It references areas such as Alladale Wilderness Reserve and the Affric Highlands project which will start restoring 500,000 acres stretching from Loch Ness to the West Coast.

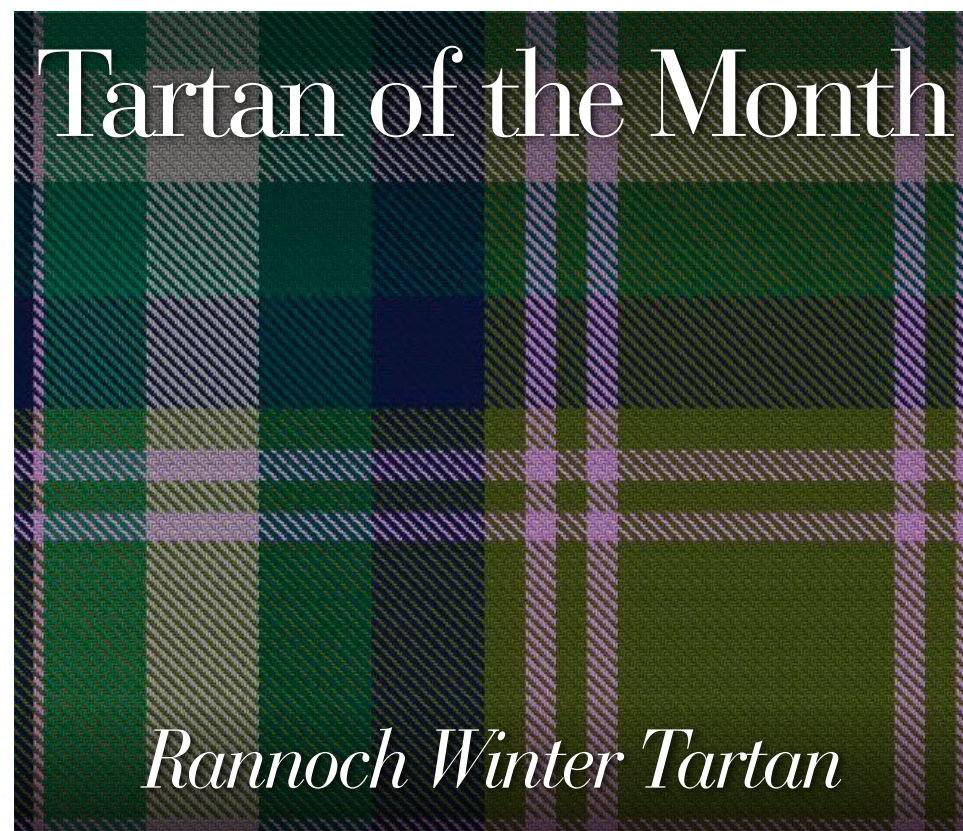
Natural assets

In response to the Highlands addition to the National Geographic Best of the World line-up, Tourism Minister Ivan McKee said: "This is excellent news, Scotland continues to go from strength to strength in developing sustainable tourism and to be recognised alongside Botswana and the Azores reinforces that tourism and environmental protection can be developed alongside each other through strategic planning and appropriate interventions. Our scenery is one of the largest draws for our international visitors and it's important that we preserve it for generations to come. Sustainability is therefore a key strand of our Tourism Strategy: Scotland Outlook 2030 and it's encouraging to be recognised for this."

Highland Council Leader, Cllr Raymond Bremner, said: "To have the Highlands shortlisted as one of only two UK destinations in such a prestigious list of nominees is testament to the stunning unspoilt nature of the place we are lucky enough to call home. What is really pleasing is to receive recognition from *National Geographic* for the efforts in restoring the Highlands' ecosystems through projects like Affric Highland in the rewilding of 500,000 acres, re-introducing native species, improving biodiversity being carried out in areas like the Alladale Wilderness Reserve, and in the rewilding planned to improve biodiversity across 500,000 acres as part of the Affric Highland Project." He added: "Our natural assets bring thousands of visitors to the region every year. Like the rest of the world however we are not immune to the effects of Climate Change. As a region it is vital that we work together in the development of a more sustainable tourism infrastructure. Areas like the Alladale Wilderness Reserve are proof of what can be achieved when you focus on restoring the balance of nature."



Hillwalker in the ancient Caledonian Pine Forest at Coire Loch, Glen Affric. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.



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).

As winter sets in and the days are short during January in Scotland, this tartan is for the winter season in Rannoch in Perthshire, Scotland. The design was inspired by the local area and the colours found in the landscape. This tartan (reference: 12884) was designed by Janet Washington and registered in July, 2020.

Central Florida Scottish Highland Games



The Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, the largest community event in Seminole County, is organized each year by the Scottish-American Society of Central Florida. The event was created to promote and preserve the area's strong Scottish and Celtic heritage. Each January, the two-day gathering welcomes thousands of visitors to Central Winds Park in Winter Springs, just minutes north of Orlando, for a celebration of community and culture. In 2023, the festivities will begin on Friday evening with the annual whisky tasting, where visitors are welcome to

sample from an array of expertly curated spirits, presented by the Whisky Cabinet - a group of dedicated local whiskey enthusiasts who regularly tour the region to engage, educate and entertain whisky newbies and connoisseurs alike.

Things take off on Saturday with a number of competitions in traditional heavy athletics - including the Stone Put and the Caber Toss - Highland dance, bagpiping, and shortbread & scone baking. There is also the popular Boulder Boogie event, where contestants vie for bragging rights of carrying a heaviest rock the farthest distance without dropping it.

A family friendly event

The weekend also hosts several cultural activities, including Border Collie demonstrations, a gathering of Scottish clans, musical performances, a medieval camp, axe throwing, and much more. As always, the festival is a family friendly event featuring "Kids Games" version of the traditional heavy athletics and loads of other activities for the wee ones. Let's not forget the unique shopping opportunities.

The Central Florida Scottish Highland Games features some of the best Celtic artisans presenting jewelry, clothing, artistry, weaponry and more. Get yourself a kilt or new sporran. Add to your Celtic jewelry or purchase items typically found only in Scotland and the UK. There is plenty of food and drink. Come out and have a beer, wine or whiskey with your haggis, scotch-egg, or fresh fried fish and chips. Finally, there is the Ceilidh, a Scottish and Celtic music fest featuring Albannach, Barley Juice and others performing on the main stage.

Whether you are looking to explore your heritage and enjoy a walk through the clan village or cheering on the displays of strength and skill on the athletic fields, or simply enjoy some drink and food with friends while listening to the music, there is something for everyone at the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games.

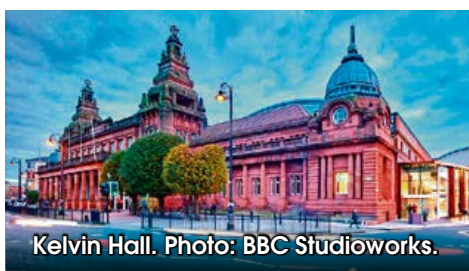
The Central Florida Scottish Highland Games takes place January 14-15, 2023 in Winter Springs, Florida. Tickets are now on sale at: www.Flascot.com/tickets. For more information see: www.flascot.com.



BBC Studioworks launches new TV Studio in Glasgow's Kelvin Hall

BBC Studioworks has officially launched its new purpose-built studio, set in the heart of Glasgow's West End in the iconic Kelvin Hall. Co-funded by the Scottish Government, through Screen Scotland and Glasgow City Council, the facility is a major boost to Scotland's capacity to produce multi-genre TV productions and fuels the growth of Scotland's creative workforce. BBC Studioworks has invested in the latest technology for Kelvin Hall, while ensuring consistency with its other studios and the ability to easily adapt as technology continues to evolve. As well as installing HD facilities to ensure the best possible picture quality, Kelvin Hall features high quality audio equipment for pristine broadcast-grade sound. Resilient internet connectivity together with hardwired and radio communication systems ensures an enhanced level of robustness in production communications, user flexibility and performance.

Covering a large footprint of 10,500 sq. ft, Kelvin Hall can accommodate both long-term residencies and spot bookings for a wide range of entertainment shows



Kelvin Hall. Photo: BBC Studioworks.

across multiple genres. The sound and lighting galleries are the largest that BBC Studioworks has built across its entire UK footprint.

With the launch of the Kelvin Hall studio, alongside the growing demand to make more TV shows in Scotland, the requirement for local production talent will grow significantly. BBC Studioworks, alongside its partners, Screen Scotland and the NFTS, are investing in the development of a skilled, dynamic and diverse pipeline of creative talent to support the expansion in the sector and put Scotland on the map as a major television production destination. Joint investment has already been made as part of a Multi Camera TV Conversion Programme, to help individuals with some experience in the industry kickstart their careers in studio entertainment production. The intention is for this investment to continue.

Andrew Moultrie, CEO BBC Studioworks said: "This is a new and exciting chapter for BBC Studioworks as we expand our footprint across the UK. This is also a new chapter for this historic and much-loved building. Adding to its rich and varied history, Kelvin Hall now boasts a purpose-built studio facility which is futureproofed with cutting edge and industry leading technology. We are proud to continue Kelvin Hall's amazing legacy which has spanned many generations, complimenting the creative sector here in Glasgow and helping Scotland's creative communities thrive."

Masterplan commissioned for home of Auld Lang Syne



Architects and heritage experts will develop vision for Robert Burns farm.

Some of Scotland's leading architects and heritage experts are to develop a masterplan for the only home built by the poet Robert Burns. A consortium led by Delfinity Limited won the contract to develop a sustainable future for Ellisland Farm and Museum near Dumfries, where the poet wrote *Auld Lang Syne* and *Tam o' Shanter*. The £30k masterplan and viability study was commissioned by the Robert Burns Ellisland Trust charity, which has run the site since 2020. The plan will be funded by The Architectural Heritage Fund/Historic Environment Scotland, South of Scotland Enterprise and The Holywood Trust.

The project will explore how to grow audiences and deliver creative learning on the romantic site which was Burns's first home with young wife Jean Armour. It seeks to improve biodiversity and access, including by foot, bicycle and public transport. Ellisland has 170 acres of land and is the best place to see nature through the poet's eyes. The site has been run as a heritage attraction since 1928, thanks mainly to the efforts of volunteers. The masterplan will propose ways to create world class facilities, restore the 1788 buildings and develop new trading income streams as the charity receives no regular public subsidy. The Delfinity team includes Oliver Chapman Architects and HarrisonStevens Landscape Architects who

have worked on the sensitive development of Edinburgh's Old Town and heritage expert Lyndsay Clark whose experience includes projects with the V&A in Dundee and National Museums Scotland. Engagement with local community, cultural and youth organisations is an essential part of the six-month project.

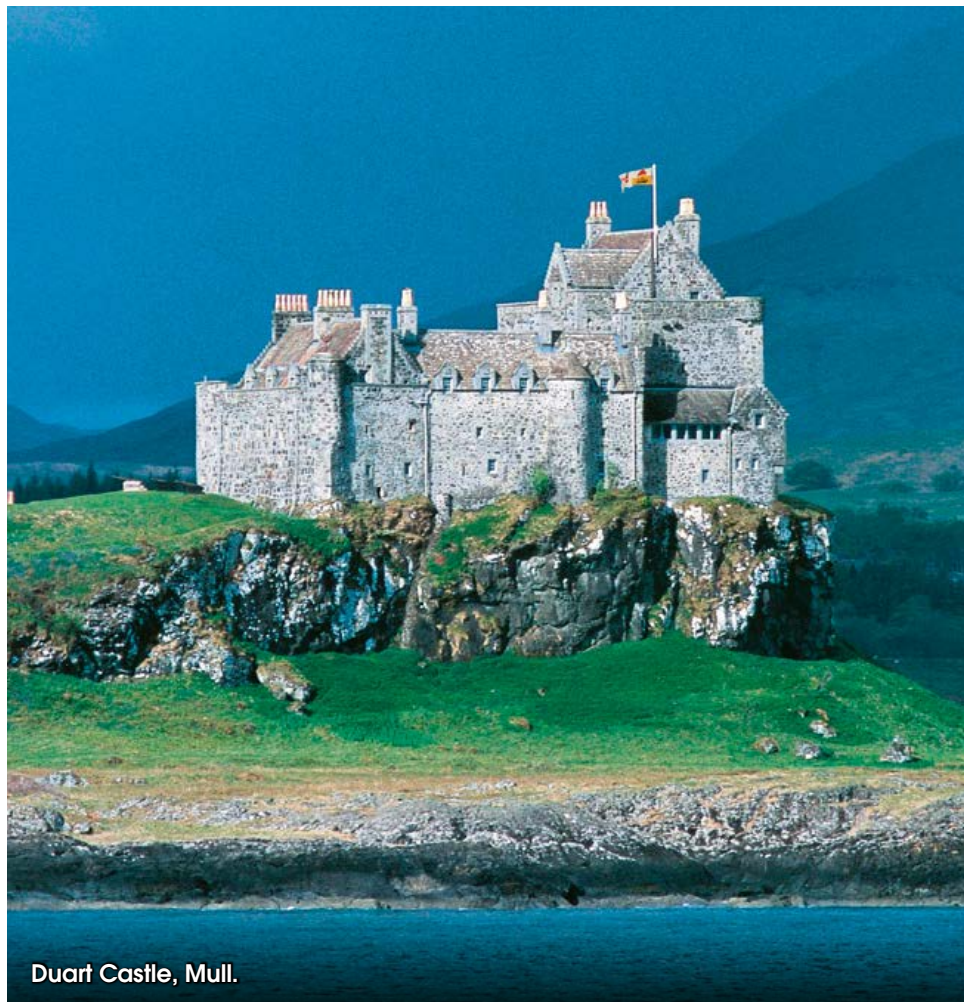
A place to celebrate Burns

Joan McAlpine, Business Development Manager of The Robert Burns Ellisland Trust said: "We are so excited to work with such a talented team of experts. The home of *Auld Lang Syne* should be recognised around the world as a place to celebrate Burns, nature and Scottish culture. We want more people, especially young people, to be inspired by Ellisland the way Burns was inspired - and also to generate economic benefit and jobs for this part of South Scotland. We will of course reach out to the wider community to develop that vision."

The appointment of Delfinity is the latest success of the trust, which includes a masterplan and conservation study and the development of new holiday accommodation. The trust grew its membership income five fold in 2021 and has 12 Burns Clubs members in its "1788 Circle".

In January this year, The Annandale Distillery and The Globe Inn became Ellisland's first corporate sponsor and in August the trust launched Explore Ellisland, which recreated the site in Minecraft, one of the world's most popular computer games.

The Mystery and the Book



Duart Castle, Mull.

By: David McVey

After the '45 Rising, estates belonging to Jacobite chieftains were forfeited to the Crown. The Crown appointed 'factors' to manage the estates and tenants were required to pay rent to the Government. Some tried also to continue making rental payments to their exiled chieftains. In 1749, Colin Campbell of Glenure was appointed factor for the Appin estates. Campbell had fought on the Government side in the '45 yet he was on relatively good terms with many of the Jacobite Stewarts of Appin. He had a difficult start to the job. From 1746 until 1749, the tenants of Appin had been forwarding rents to their clan chief. However, the Government insisted that Campbell pursue back-rents from 1746 onwards. Campbell also planted loyal Government-supporting families, including Campbells, in Appin.

On May 14, 1752, he travelled south towards Appin to serve notices of eviction on a number of Stewart families in Glenduror. Not long after he and his party crossed Loch Leven, Campbell tumbled from his horse, cried 'O! I am dead!' and expired from gunshot wounds. A man was seen escaping uphill through trees. He was never captured or identified.

James of the Glen

A local Stewart, Seumas a'Ghlinne (James of the Glen) was arrested and charged with the crime. No one thought he had pulled the trigger, but it was argued he was the brains behind the plot. He was duly tried and found guilty in the Inveraray heartland of the Campbell Dukes of Argyll, and executed. The story remains a bitter one in Appin. Even in recent years, there have been calls for Scotland's Justice Minister to award a posthumous pardon to James

Stewart. Some have suggested that a number of minor local Stewart lairds had conspired to murder Campbell and that the fatal shot was fired by one Donald Stewart of Ballachulish. This accords with the statement of a local woman, a descendent of James Stewart, who claimed that Donald's name had been passed down in her family as the perpetrator.

Everyone loves a real-life mystery with multiple suspects, especially if combined with a miscarriage of justice. Of course, in this case, many have had their interest sparked not by official documents, but by the murder's fictional rendering in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped* (1886).

Stevenson really came to public notice with the pirate tale *Treasure Island* in 1883. Three years after this, he published *Kidnapped*, ostensibly another children's adventure but one that reflects a deep understanding of Scottish geography, politics and history, structured around a fictional rendering of the murder of Colin Campbell.

In 1751, David Balfour is an 18-year-old orphan from a quiet parish in the Borders. On reaching adulthood he is sent to his only living relative, his Uncle Ebenezer



Loch Don, Mull.

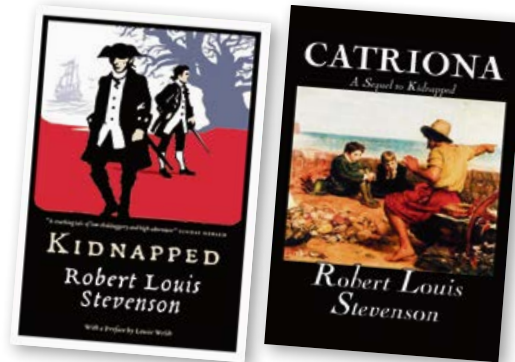
at the House of Shaws near Edinburgh. Ebenezer is a selfish miser who knows (David doesn't) that his nephew is now the rightful laird of Shaws and should inherit a fortune. He arranges for David to be kidnapped and taken by ship to slavery in the Carolinas. However, the ship founders off Mull and David, a serious-minded Calvinist Whig, is thrown into the company of Alan Breck Stewart, a fugitive Jacobite who has returned to Scotland to collect the rents of his people and deliver them to their chieftain in France.

Two alternative Scotland's

Back on the mainland, David witnesses the killing of Colin Campbell. Both he and Alan had become suspects and had to flee. As they head for the Lowlands, they have many suspenseful adventures as they elude redcoat patrols. Eventually, they arrive safely in Edinburgh, David to take possession of his inheritance, Alan to lie low while he seeks a ship for France. The ending is a little subdued, as if waiting for a sequel. Six years later, in *Catriona*, it appeared.

Kidnapped is a hugely enjoyable adventure, but it also goes much deeper. We see the growing relationship between the stolid David Balfour and the flamboyant Alan Breck, two very different personalities, supporters of two opposing ideologies, representatives of two alternative Scotland's. It's the classic buddy movie. David is a fictional character, but Alan Breck isn't. There *was* an Allan Breck Stewart (note the two letters 'l' in 'Allan' - Stevenson perhaps made the change to indicate that his Alan Breck was not a historical portrait). The real Allan had been an orphan and was subsequently brought up by the same James of the Glen who was indicted for the murder of Colin Campbell. Allan *was* in Appin at the time of the murder and *was* subsequently a suspect.

Allan Breck had actually been a redcoat. He joined the British army in his youth but deserted at the Battle of Prestonpans in 1745, switched to the Jacobite cause, and fought for them at Culloden. 'Breck' comes from the Gaelic *breac* meaning speckled or



dappled and the wanted notice put out for him after the murder explains why: Allan is 'a tall pocked pitted lad with very black hair'. The pocks and pits were probably the result of smallpox. Stevenson also changes him from a tall man to a stocky one who is sensitive about his height.

Memorialised

Stevenson changed a good deal else. James of the Glen became James of the Glens. As they approach Appin to carry out the evictions, Campbell and his party are accompanied by a fictional platoon of soldiers. Campbell's real-life party was unarmed. Campbell is referred to in the novel as 'the Red Fox'. There is no evidence this was ever his nickname. Finally, to match some other events in the story, Stevenson rewound the murder from 1752 to 1751.

The plot of *Catriona* revolves around David Balfour's attempts to attend the trial of James of the Glens at Inveraray in the Argyll Campbell heartland and to give evidence that will secure his acquittal. He's prevented from doing so. James was found guilty in real life by what the fictional Alan calls 'a jury of Campbells'. Memorials still stand at the place of Colin Campbell's murder and James of the Glens' hanging today. Stevenson is memorialised in many ways and many places, especially around his native Edinburgh. In Corstorphine, to the west of the city, a 2004 sculpture by Sandy Stoddart shows Alan and David standing together (David noticeably taller), near where they enter Edinburgh in *Kidnapped*.

In *Kidnapped* and *Catriona*, Stevenson succeeded in telling a tale that encircles weighty and tragic events without ever trivialising or misrepresenting them. Interest in the Appin Murder would probably have lingered even if he hadn't written a word. But *Kidnapped* has given it a taste of immortality.



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