



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 46 Number 12 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS June 2023

Celebrating The Year of Scotland

» Pg 26

The TS Queen Mary

*Celebrating 90 years
'doon the watter'*

» Pg 13



Outlander

Return to Fraser's Ridge

» Pg 12

The Glasgow

Scotland's farm tractor

» Pg 17



Study reveals new insights into the origins of Scotland's mysterious Picts» Pg 11

The Scots College Pipes and Drums at NYCTW» Pg 15

Aberdeenshire celebrates new County flag at Castle Fraser....» Pg 25



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The Banner Says...

Steeped in Scottish Tradition *The Common Ridings*



by Sean Cairney

This month sees the return of a very unique and historic Scottish Borders tradition, the Common Ridings, which also happens to be one of the world's oldest equestrian festivals. The Return to the Ridings is a celebration of the riding of the boundaries that has taken place for centuries with eleven towns in the Scottish Borders using horses for the traditional ride out.

Border badlands

Common Ridings can be traced back over 900 years when the 'border badlands' were in constant disruption during the long wars with England and because of the tribal custom of looting and cattle thieving, known as reiving (the ancient Scots word for theft) that was commonplace amongst the major Borders families. Reivers could well steal not only from the nearby English but from their own Scottish neighbours. Perhaps your ancestors were reivers who terrorised the border between England and Scotland? Armstrong, Elliot, Graham, Irvine, Johnstone, Kerr, Maxwell, Nixon and Scott were among the lawless families who rode, feuded, fought and pillaged over the wild tribal borders area for 350 years.

During these lawless and turbulent times, townspeople would ride their boundaries, or 'marches', to protect their common lands and prevent encroachment by neighbouring landlords. As more peaceful and settled times came, the ridings ceremony remained in the border region in honour of local legend, history and tradition.

Historic equestrian pageants

The Hawick Common Riding is the first of the Border festivals and celebrates both the capture of an English flag in 1514 in Hornshole by some young Hawick locals and the ancient custom of riding the marches or boundaries of the common land. Each of the eleven towns puts their own local tradition and spin on these historic equestrian pageants today, which take place from June to August each year. The Selkirk Common Riding, which takes place mid-June, is recognised as one of the oldest of the Border festivals which goes back in history to 1113, when David I wanted to establish an abbey at Selkirk, the first abbey ever for the Scottish Borders.

Today the colourful spectacle, considered one of the top annual events in the Scottish Borders, is witnessed by people from across the world who take in the stunning display of horsemanship, pageantry and tradition by hundreds of riders at a time. The riders are saddled up along the routes often used by their ancestors in celebration of their history, and the lawless disputed lands, we all now know as the gentle and peaceful Scottish border region.

In this issue

Earlier this year I was on a walk around Glasgow and stumbled upon the *TS Queen Mary* moored by the Glasgow Science Centre. While it was all boarded up when I was there, I was very happy to see her proudly resting on the Clyde. The iconic Clydebuilt ship is celebrating 90 years this year, the anniversary was in fact just before this issue was released. The *Queen Mary* was known as 'Britain's finest pleasure steamer' and hosted many famous people. Thankfully the vessel is being restored so future generations know what it is like to go 'doon the watter'.

If you have travelled much in Scotland, you will certainly have seen farms amongst the stunning scenery. If like me, you may have not known that

Scotland once produced its very own tractor to plough those soggy Scottish fields. The Glasgow tractor billed itself as the 'most scientifically accurate tractor on earth', it was short lived unfortunately at just five years as it could not compete on price with US imports.

The recent coronation of King Charles saw the Stone of Destiny moved from Edinburgh Castle to London's Westminster Abbey. It was quite an operation transporting the 125kg/275lb. stone, which is now back on display in Edinburgh. The historic stone will now remain there until it is moved to Perth, as part of the new City Hall Museum, opening in 2024. Our very own, and long-time contributor, Lady Fiona MacGregor was fortunate to be at the coronation and this month gives us some insights from this historic event.

Safe Oot, Safe In

The Scottish Borders are a real gem of Scotland and I always know when I reach Scotland, if travelling from England by train. Not by a sign or monument but the green and lush rolling hills and landscape that starts to draw you in as the beauty of Scotland begins to present itself.

The region is certainly diverse with some fantastic historic sites, stunning rural scenery and a rich history in textiles and agriculture. Clearly the 'Border Badlands' have been relegated to the history books and we thankfully have the picturesque and easily accessible region of Scotland ready for us to explore and discover. Should you be attending the Common Ridings this summer, or just Scotland itself, I wish you a 'Safe Oot - Safe In' (a well-known Borders saying, wishing mounted riders a safe journey). 🐾

Have you visited the Scottish Borders region? Do you have any favourite Scottish traditional events you like to attend? 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 Common Riding festival. Photo: Jeremy Sutton- Hibbert, Unsullied And Untarnished.

Gracing our front cover: Celebrating the Year of Scotland. Photo: Jim Barker, Twelve Points Photography and the Australian Celtic Festival.

Sheila Fleet.

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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?

Geelong Highland Gathering permanently cancelled



So sad, this was such an iconic event for Geelong and was pleased to have attended for the many years. I just hope in the near future, that community will feel the lose of this event and build together to make this happen. I only wish I could help but unfortunately just not old enough!

A very big thank you to all former committee members and volunteers. The Gathering has and always been a part of Geelong's life. I don't know what to do with myself on the last Sunday of March.

Tom Welsh
Victoria, Australia

Clan MacNeil Association of Australia needs help in ensuring the continuation of the Australian association

I am now writing to you concerning some urgency to find one or two persons who may be willing to help with the future of the Clan MacNeil Association of Australia. The Clan MacNeil has a well- documented history going back to 1492 in both the Outer Hebrides of Scotland and on the island of Gigha in Argyll. During the period of the Lord of the Isles and his council of clan leaders, there was a clan chief member representing the island of Barra and a clan chief representing the island of Gigha. Both communities had different Norse ancestry. As records of births, marriages and deaths were established in parishes the writing of the names were sometimes in Latin and mostly in early English. Many errors occurred as the writer did not understand the Gaelic local pronunciation and wrote what he had heard. As a result we have many variation of the early name origins. A list of names identified today is attached to this letter.

In recent years the descendants of the MacNeil and McNeill families who migrated to other parts of Scotland, Ireland, England, Canada, America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia. Local clan associations have been established in America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. In Australia our association currently has a membership represented in all Australian states and the Northern Territory, America, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands. Many of our members are now in their senior years and are no longer able to participate in some activities as they could at a younger age.

Our constitution provides that the association should have: President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer, Piper, Genealogist/ historian and Editor of the clan newsletter.

While I hold the position as president at the moment, and Alex Buchanan is the administrator of the Clan MacNeil global DNA Ancestry project, all other positions are vacant and I would appreciate hearing from any person who would like to talk with me able their interest in assisting us with the above positions.

Yours aye,
John McNeil
21 Coopers Avenue
Leabrook, SA 5068
Australia
Email malcolmjmcneil@outlook.com
Tel: 08 8333 3990

Clan Forbes



Conveners Stephanie Perez and Bart Forbes hosted the Clan Forbes tent at the Sherman (Texas) Celtic Festival and Highland Games. To find out what events the Clan will be at or if you are interested in hosting a Clan Forbes tent at your local gathering, games, or festival, please see: www.clan-forbes.org

Clan Forbes
USA

Culloden Lecture

This year's National Trust for Scotland/1745 Association Annual Culloden Lecture, delivered as part of last weekend's annual commemoration marking the 277th anniversary of the last battle fought on British soil, can now be seen on YouTube. Following a short introduction by the 1745 Association's President, the Very Rev'd Dr Emsley Nimmo, and a tribute to the Association's previous Chairman, the eminent military historian Dr Christopher Duffy who passed away in November, the current Chair Michael Nevin applies Prospect Theory developed by Nobel Prize Winner Daniel Kahneman and his colleague Amos Tversky to assess seven strategic decisions that led to Culloden, as follows:

1. July 1745: Confirmation Bias and the decision to instigate the Rising.
2. August 1745: Loss Aversion, the Sunk Cost fallacy and the decision to continue the Rising after the loss of the 'Elisabeth'.
3. October 30th 1745: Decision Framing, the Allais Paradox and the decision to advance into England.
4. December 5th 1745: Ambiguity Aversion, the Ellsberg Paradox and the decision to retreat from Derby.
5. December 19th 1745: The Endowment Effect and the decision to leave a garrison in Carlisle.
6. February 1746: The Affect Heuristic and the decision to retreat into the Highlands.
7. April 15th and 16th 1746: Optimism Bias, the Night March on Nairn and the decision to stand at Culloden.

Conclusion: Bonnie Prince Charlie Syndrome

The 33-minute presentation is now available on YouTube with sub-titles if required at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cqc-IxbREkU

N.B.: the YouTube video is of the presentation only, not the subsequent discussion and Q&A, as under the 1745 Association's conventions these are conducted under Chatham House rules.

Michael Niven

1745 Association, Scotland

National Tartan Day , Ottawa



The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band were very pleased to welcome many friends to Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Sunday, April 23 to help them celebrate their 15th annual National Tartan Day celebrations in style, and on a grey day that felt reminiscent of Scotland's famous weather. Pipers, drummers, singers, dancers and even corgis graced the Hill in a show that was fun and very well attended – and we look forward to next year's celebration.

Bethany Bisailion
Sons of Scotland Pipe Band
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
www.sospb.com

International Review of Scottish Studies



Greetings from the Scottish Studies Foundation. We are delighted to let you know that a Special Jacobite Issue of the International Review of Scottish Studies (Volume 47, 2022), is now available in pdf format and can be accessed here: www.irss.uoguelph.ca/index.php/irss/issue/view/462/89

The International Review of Scottish Studies (IRSS) is the leading interdisciplinary journal for international scholarship on Scottish history and culture, with a mission to create a space for scholars of all career levels exploring Scotland's past and present. This issue is the last to be published by the Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph which is pleased to announce an ambitious new direction for its production. Starting later in 2023, the journal will be published by Edinburgh University Press (EUP) with two issues being produced each year. It is hoped that the prestige associated with EUP and the doubling in the number of issues will attract more submissions and provide the opportunity for issues to be built around specific themes. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

Best wishes and thanks for your support.

David Hunter
President, Scottish Studies Foundation
Ontario, Canada
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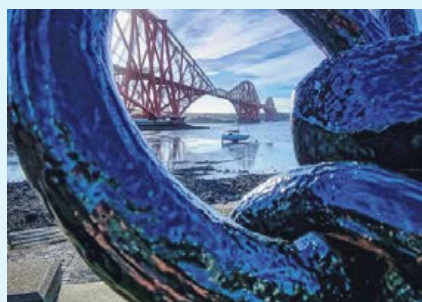
Sent to our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts-send us your photos or letters via social media (#ScottishBanner or #TheBanner):

Ratray Head Lighthouse



The images from Rattray Head Lighthouse. Decided to take a trip to here with the Mrs. We camped in the car which is surprisingly comfy and warm if kitted out right. Sunrise was pretty average, but the waves were amazing!
AJ Landscape Photographer

The Forth Bridge



The Forth Bridge through the Anchor.
Tam Eadie - IG: @eadietam

Edinburgh in spring



Cherry blossoms on Princes Street, Edinburgh.
Chasing the Long Road

Castle Campbell



Stunning shot of Castle Campbell.
The Kilted Photographer

Ceremony marks Stone of Destiny's recent Coronation departure



HES staff Carrying the Stone of Destiny at the ceremony at Edinburgh Castle's Great Hall.

The Stone of Destiny, the ancient symbol of Scotland's monarchy, left Edinburgh Castle in late April for the first time since its return to Scotland in 1996 as it embarked on its historic journey to Westminster Abbey in London for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. A ceremonial procession from the Castle's Great Hall marked the temporary departure of the Stone from Scotland, which was led by the Lord Lyon King of Arms - the monarch's representative in Scotland - and attended by the First Minister Humza Yousaf, in his capacity as the Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland, one of the Commissioners for the Safeguarding of the Regalia.

The Stone then made its way to Westminster Abbey, where it was placed in the Coronation Chair for the ceremony, before returning to Scotland and display in the Crown Room at Edinburgh Castle. Historic Environment Scotland (HES), who care for the Stone of Destiny and the other Honours of Scotland on behalf of the Commissioners for the Safeguarding of the Regalia, have worked with Police Scotland and other partner agencies to ensure the Stone was transported safely and securely. A number of different teams within HES, with a range of specialist expertise, have been involved in preparing the Stone for its journey to Westminster Abbey for the

Coronation. Ahead of its move, the Stone has undergone thorough assessment by the organisation's stone conservators. The Stone was also transported in a special carrier constructed largely from Scottish oak, which has been made by HES's in-house joinery team in collaboration with the organisation's stone conservation team. Collections management principles have been used to ensure the carrier is well designed to protect the Stone in transit.

Important national symbol

Kathy Richmond, Head of Collections and Applied Conservation at HES, said ahead of the Stone's Scottish departure: "It is a tremendous privilege for HES to play its part in such a significant and historic occasion, as the Stone of Destiny leaves Edinburgh Castle for the first time in over 25 years. It is also a great responsibility to ensure the safe voyage and return of such an important national symbol, and one which has required the care, skill and expertise of a range different specialist teams across our organisation. It is fitting to have the opportunity to celebrate that work today. We are working closely with the Conservation team at Westminster Abbey on the installation of the Stone into the base of the Coronation Chair, using the latest techniques and technology."

First Minister, Humza Yousaf, added: "The Stone of Destiny has a rich and varied history and has been used for centuries in coronations. It will play an integral part in the Coronation of King

Charles III and Queen Camilla. In my role as Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland, I am one of the four Commissioners all appointed by Royal Warrant to safeguard the Regalia of Scotland, which includes the Stone of Destiny. One of the duties of the Commissioners is to ensure that the Stone is made available for use in Coronations and that it is subsequently returned to Scotland."

The Stone of Destiny has been used for centuries in the coronations of monarchs and the inauguration of Scottish kings. The earliest use of the Stone and exactly how and when it became associated with king-making remains unknown, but legends around its origin strongly link it with kingship and the emergence of Scotland as a nation. The last Scottish king to be inaugurated using a Stone at Scone was John Balliol in 1292. In 1296, following his invasion into Scotland during the Wars of Independence, England's king, Edward I, removed the Stone from Scotland along with the other royal regalia. Around 1300 he had a chair built and installed at Westminster Abbey in London, designed to hold the Stone. This chair is now known as the Coronation Chair. The Stone was used in the coronation ceremonies of the monarchs of England and, later, Great Britain. James VI was crowned James I of England in Westminster Abbey on 25 July 1603, the first ruler of 'Great Britain' to be enthroned on the Stone of Destiny. The Stone of Destiny was officially returned to Scotland in November 1996 and put on display at Edinburgh Castle on St Andrews Day of that year.

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SCOTSPEAK

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

“The 2023 coronation of Charles III in Westminster Abbey and the 2024 relocation of the medieval Stone of Scone or Stone of Destiny to Perth’s new museum is rekindling interest in the future of this national icon, what stories to tell about it and how. There is an unparalleled opportunity to explore, for the first time, the Stone’s contemporary authenticity and social value in real time while it moves between multiple contexts. The Stone is the supreme example of an object defined across time and space by how diverse communities negotiate its authenticity or inauthenticity and contest its meanings.”

Professor Sally Foster, of the University of Stirling’s Faculty of Arts and Humanities, said as she was awarded a prestigious grant to explore the contemporary meanings and values of the Stone of Destiny. The Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone, is an ancient symbol of Scotland’s monarchy, used for centuries in the inauguration of its kings. Seen as a sacred object, its earliest origins are unknown. Having been seized by King Edward I of England in 1296, in 1950 it was removed from Westminster Abbey by four Scottish students, before being officially returned to Scotland in 1996. Today it is displayed alongside the Honours of Scotland at Edinburgh Castle. The stone recently temporarily left Edinburgh Castle for the coronation of King Charles III, and in 2024, will return to its Perthshire roots, moving there as the centrepiece of the new Perth Museum.



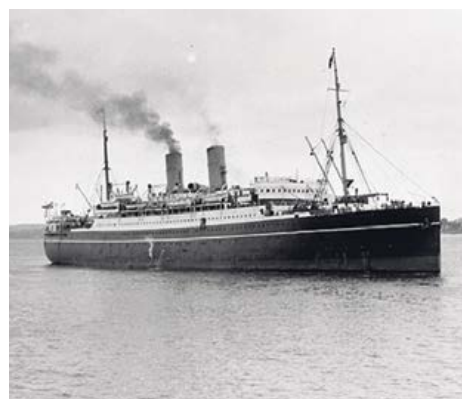
“Unite has worked extremely hard over a number of years to ensure pay levels at Glasgow Airport kept up with the cost of living. What is now on offer, across the board, is real terms pay cuts and poverty pay. We will now ballot our members, at these five companies based at Glasgow Airport, because our members deserve better. It’s important to remember that it was Unite members who kept the airport clean, safe and operation throughout the pandemic. They did all this while enduring cuts to pay and conditions. It’s time for these companies to reward this loyalty by paying up.”

Unite general secretary, Sharon Graham, said if airport-based companies don’t offer a decent wage rise then strikes are inevitable for the bust summer travel season at Glasgow International Airport. Union bosses have warned of a “summer of travel chaos” after over 400 staff at Glasgow Airport rejected a pay offer.

Unite members undertake various roles including cleaning, airport security, airport fire safety, airfield operations officers, and engineering technicians. Staff at Edinburgh Airport are also considering strike action for the summer season.

“I think it’s too bad, she’s not been very helpful to Scotland and I don’t think she’s been a great person for Scotland and it’s too bad to hear what’s happening with her. You want people that love their country, this is a very special country, it’s too bad what’s happened to her.”

Former US President Donald Trump said about former, and longest serving, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon during a recent trip to Scotland. The comments were referencing the ongoing police investigation into the SNP’s finances which has seen resignations and public scrutiny.



“The vast majority of those on the Metagama were heading for farm work, and all but 20 of them were young men, aged around 22. They were promised a lot, which wasn’t always delivered, because we found a lot of them who went into the farms quickly left and headed across the Great Lake to Detroit where they had better pay in the Ford car factories.”

Malcolm MacDonald of the Stornoway Historical Society said at the centenary events which hundreds left the Outer Hebrides looking for work and a new life. The departure of the steamers SS *Metagama* (and SS *Marloch*) is considered one of the most important chapters in the history of Gaelic Scotland as nearly 600 islanders departed the islands in a single week in April 1923, looking for a better life bound for Canada. The descendants of those passengers are now spread across North America.

“I had one glimpse of something like a torpedo going through the water. I did think this job was going to easier as I had a sighting in the first year and I thought it wouldn’t be long until a second sighting would come along. And that is where I’m stopped, at that moment, still waiting for that second glimpse of something unexplained. Because I am here full-time I speak to hundreds of people who do report something that we can’t identify.”

Steve Feltham who moved from England to the shores of Loch Ness in search of the Loch Ness Monster said. Mr Feltham moved to the picturesque Scottish Highland location in 1991 to find ‘Nessie’ and is still on the lookout. He has been included in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the longest continuous vigil hunter for the Loch Ness Monster.



“We have pressed the UK government to rethink the damaging double-digit duty rise on Scotch Whisky. It is hugely disappointing that the industry seems to be taken for granted, and that previous pledges that have been made to the industry will not be honoured.”

Chief Executive of the Scotch Whisky Association Mark Kent said they have launched a campaign to press the UK government to re-think the decision to increase duty on Scotch Whisky and other spirits by 10.1% from August. The #KeepTheCommitment campaign will ask the government to uphold the pledge made to the industry in 2019 to “ensure the tax system is supporting Scottish whisky.”

Lyon College announces Scottish Arts Summer School



The Lyon College Scottish Heritage Program will have its 2023 Scottish Arts Summer School June 11-16 on the Lyon College campus,

2300 Highland Rd., Batesville, Arkansas. Lyon College’s Scottish Arts Summer School is a five-day-long camp that immerses participants in the Scottish arts. Participants will learn to pipe from some of the world’s best bagpipe instructors, including Willie McCallum, Jack Lee and Jimmy Bell. Kenton Adler works with beginner and novice pipers on technique, steady blowing, tuning,

preparing for competition, and piping for weddings and funerals. McCallum, Lee and Bell will focus on more advanced techniques and tunes in piobaireachd and all forms of light music. For the duration of the program, participants who require housing will live on the Lyon College campus. Each participant should bring twin-sized bedding for his or her stay. Meals will be provided by Lyon College dining services.

Tuition for the Scottish Arts Summer School is \$950 for participants who require housing and \$650 for participants who do not require housing. All students under 18 may receive a \$50 discount. All groups of three or more also will receive a \$50 discount.

For more information and to register, call 870-307-PIPE or email Jimmy Bell at James.Bell@lyon.edu.

SCOTWORD

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

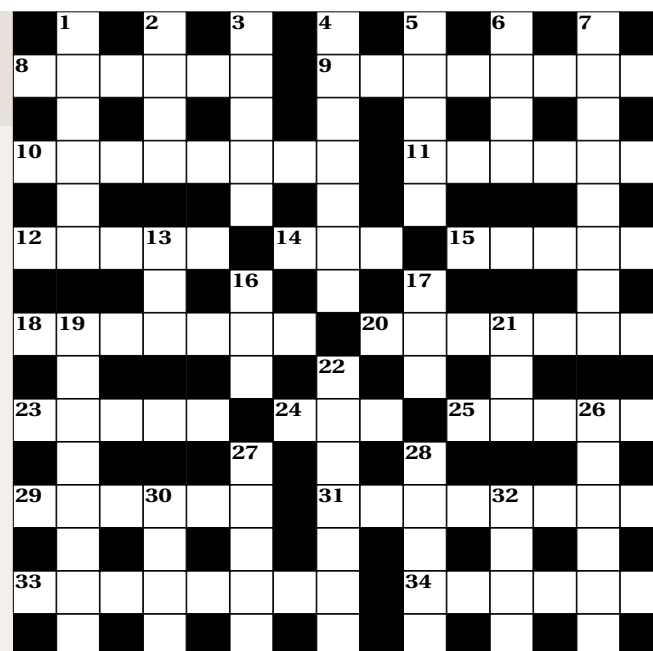
CLUES ACROSS

- 8) Search for in Scots (6).
- 9) Harbour town north-east of Dundee (8).
- 10) If so, you call him Sir (8).
- 11) Kirk officials (6).
- 12) Town south-east of Elgin (5).
- 14) Know him as a Scot (3).
- 15) Scots waterways (5).
- 18) Scots water demons (7).
- 20) Location in Strathardle (7).
- 23) Scots hillsides (5).
- 24) Opposite of to (3).

- 25) An Irish waterway (5).
- 29) Become muddled (6).
- 31) Resort east of Burntisland (8).
- 33) Town south-east of Elgin (8).
- 24) Finished work in Scotland (6).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) A Scots apron (6).
- 2) Cosy (4).
- 3) Ancient town on the River Tay (5).
- 4) Scots swimmers! (7).
- 5) Tourist attraction of 9 Across (5).
- 6) Blue dye (4).
- 7) Stiffened (8).
- 13) A ram to a Scot (3).
- 16) A high Scots hill (3).
- 17) One to a Scot (3).
- 19) Distillery east of Pitlochry (8).
- 21) Scots farm animal (3).
- 22) Bridge across the Clyde (7).
- 26) Room under the roof (6).
- 27) Foolish person (5).
- 28) Scots chimney corner (5).
- 30) A Scottish elevator! (4).
- 32) Low-lying ground to a Scot (4).



Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



Lady Fiona and Joan Armatrading outside the abbey.



Lady Fiona with Scottish community leaders and charity workers.

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



There was no encouragement needed to attend the coronation. To see history being made in such a historic place. The abbey is a royal church in the heart of London. It boasts a thousand years of history and since 1066, forty monarchs have been crowned there. It is a very English place of worship. Yet, on this occasion, Scotland played its part, too.

The Stone of Destiny

The Stone of Destiny is the ancient symbol of Scottish monarchy. It is a grey sandstone block that for centuries, was used during the crowning of Scotland's kings. But in 1296 England's Edward 1st seized the precious artefact and took it down to London. And there it stayed: this sacred relic going on to be used in the crowning of English, then British kings. But in 1996 the stone was returned to its rightful country; my husband, the MacGregor clan chief, among the soldiers who escorted it, pipes wailing, back across the border. The deal was, it would be used in any future coronation. And so, the Stone of Destiny was brought from Edinburgh and placed in the abbey. Its presence, and a fair number of kilts, ensured that we made our presence felt!

I wore my MacGregor tartan suit, complete with red hat. And I had a good view of the proceedings: sitting

in the nave, and able to spot the royals, politicians, and heads of state coming up the aisle.

An awesome experience

So how to describe this unique event? Breathtaking, splendid, majestic... All these words come to mind. Because whatever faults we have here in the UK, we do ceremony rather well. The costumes were colourful. The flags were inspiring, and the music was spine-tingling. An emotional mix of classical and choral resounding round the ancient walls. Yet the gold and the glitter apart, the grandeur and the old-fashioned rituals aside, this was also a service with a down to earth feel. Yes, there were the usual famous faces. Yes, there was no shortage of uniforms and important people. But there were a good number of local heroes present, too. Community champions and aid workers sat by Lords and Ladies. I was next to a man who runs a soup kitchen. Nearby was a woman who raises money for charity by making colourful quilts. These were ordinary folk who are doing extraordinary things. More than four hundred of them, a fifth of the audience, had been invited. They came from all over Britain – and there they were: sitting where the great and the good traditionally sat. It gave the service a warmer feel.

Which was just as well. Because outside the abbey, the air was cold, and the heavens opened.

On the way back to the hotel I bought two umbrellas. Which brings the total at home to around eighteen. Then looking on the bright side, if push comes to shove, I can always open a broly shop... Over those coronation days I appeared on Sky Australia. I also made a brief appearance on a British breakfast show - alongside the legendary singer/songwriter, Joan Armatrading. Remember the hits?! *All the Way from America* and *Love and Affection*? Being on TV with her was almost as good as seeing our newly crowned King and Queen...

Which we did, of course. The monarch and his wife walked bareheaded up the aisle. Two hours later King Charles and Queen Camilla came back down, each bearing a crown. He has great plans for the future. Importantly, he loves Scotland and spends a lot of time there. Despite a fall in support for the monarchy north of the border, I think he will do well. I do not know how many people watched in other parts of the world – in Australia and North America, for example - and I realise that a coronation is not everyone's cup of tea. Yet I found it an awesome experience. Not least, hearing those stories of community effort and pride...

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Edinburgh's Royal Mile is the heart of Scotland's historic capital. Photo: VisitScotland.

Ken your country

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 of these famous Scots does not come from Glasgow: Billy Connolly, Sean Connery or Jimmy Logan?
- 2) How long is the Royal Mile?
A) 1 mile, 106 yards, B) 1 mile, 436 yards, or C) 2 miles, 26 yards?
- 3) What stretches from Bridgeness on the River Forth to Old Kirkpatrick on the River Clyde and was completed in 139 AD?
- 4) Where will you find Bonnie Prince Charlie's tomb?
- 5) For what did Scotland's Gruinard Island gain notoriety during World War Two?
- 6) By which name is the city of Aberdeen also known?
- 7) How many Inches are there in the River Forth?

- 8) When and where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
- 9) Who helped Bonnie Prince Charles escape Skye?
- 10) To which Scottish queen did the horse Black Angus belong?

Answers

- 1) Sir Sean Connery, from Edinburgh.
- 2) A) 1 mile, 106 yards.
- 3) The Antonine Wall.
- 4) St Peter's in the Vatican.
- 5) Germ warfare experiments were carried out there using anthrax. The island became known as Anthrax Island.
- 6) The Granite City.
- 7) Four-Inchgarvie, Inchcolm, Inchmickery and Inchkeith.
- 8) 1320 at Arbroath, also known as the Declaration of Arbroath.
- 9) Flora MacDonald.
- 10) Mary, Queen of Scots.



Tartan of the Month

Monoceros Tartan

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).

The tartan was created to represent Monoceros, a faint star constellation lying to the east of Orion in the northern sky on the celestial equator, 700 light years from Earth. Derived from Latin – the name meaning ‘the Unicorn’ – the star

formation was first recorded in 1612 by Dutch astronomer and clergyman Pertrus Plancius. The tartan is intended to visibly portray the pure white and grey shades of the Unicorn; the yellow pivot, a single gold stripe, represents the horn; the white pivot, and cluster of fine grey stripes, represents the Monoceros star chart.

The Unicorn (a fabled creature being described since antiquity) appears in many cultures throughout the ages – importantly being linked to Scottish mythology for centuries. A symbol of masculinity and power, purity and innocence – the Unicorn was first used on the Scottish royal coat of arms by William I in the 12th century. This tartan (SRT reference: 13885) was designed by Mr Steven Patrick Sim, The Tartan Artisan, and registered in May, 2023.

Celebrate the summer solstice at the spectacular Crawick Multiverse



Storyteller Gordon MacLellan.

55-acre site will open at 4am for visitors to gather in a truly breath-taking setting and welcome the dawn.

A Sunrise Ceremony will be led by Open University professor of religious studies, Graham Harvey and professional storyteller, Gordon MacLellan. Gordon said: “Our Solstice Sunrise Ceremony will draw upon midsummer traditions from around the northern hemisphere, bringing together ancient British poetry with Scandinavian stories and more. Spiritual without being religious, this event will encourage visitors to pause and reflect upon their relationship with the world around them and appreciate this morning, this sunrise, one of the turning points of the year.”

The longest day

The longest day culminates with a Tilt Ceremony to mark the moment, at 3.57pm, when the sun reaches its highest point of the year in the sky. Visitors will also be able to enjoy music, performers, sensory tours, guided tours, yoga sessions and Tai Chi demonstrations and more. That evening will see the launch of Solstice Seminars;

talks from leading specialists in space science from The Open University, including professors Monica Grady CBE, Stephen Peake and Mahesh Anand, in Sanquhar Town Hall. The week will come to a close on the Saturday with a Midsummer's Day Family Picnic complete with more entertainment and a pop-up exhibition.

The solstice celebrations offer a superb chance to explore Crawick Multiverse (designed by the late Charles Jencks) with its giant conical grass mounds representing colliding galaxies, long avenue of standing stones and other spectacular features inspired by the sun, stars, and other wonders of the cosmos. Cathy Agnew, Trustee, The Crawick Multiverse Trust said:

“We're thrilled to be inviting visitors and locals to mark the Summer Solstice in such spectacular surroundings. And it's a huge pleasure to be working in partnership with The Open University in Scotland to offer a programme of events that will be fun and informative.”

Crawick Multiverse is a spectacular land art installation created by the late Charles Jencks and inspired by his thinking about space, astronomy and cosmology. Around 2,000 boulders were used to create Crawick Multiverse. The Sun Amphitheatre is at the heart of the Multiverse and can hold approximately 3,500 spectators.

For more information about Crawick Multiverse visit: www.crawickmultiverse.co.uk

The Hebridean Baker to attend the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games



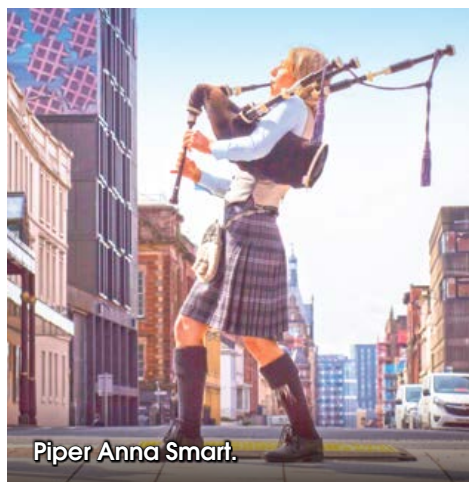
Scotland's best-selling cookbook author, Coinneach MacLeod, will be serving up the best of the Hebrides this summer at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. A seminar will

be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 6PM in the Flora MacDonald Gammon Memorial Platform (otherwise known as the whisky tasting seminar platform). Each session is \$45 and will include his new book, his singing, his story telling, tasting his special mix of cocktails, and enjoying a nibble of one of his 'bakes'. To buy these tickets go to www.gmhg.org; select 'All Tickets and Registrations Here'; scroll to the bottom left and select 'Add-Ons'.

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games takes place July 6-9, 2023. For further information: (828) 733-1333, admin@gmhg.org, or www.gmhg.org.



Piping Live! 2023 set to celebrate 20th year



Piper Anna Smart.

Piping Live! will return for its 20th edition this summer with an eclectic calendar of events from Saturday 12th - Sunday 20th August 2023. The world's biggest piping festival annually attracts over 30,000 attendees to Glasgow and this year the Piping Live! team hopes to bring in even more visitors, as it celebrates two decades as a cornerstone on the Scottish cultural calendar.

A real energy in the piping and drumming scene

Finlay MacDonald, Artistic Director for Piping Live!, said: "We are delighted to be launching the 20th edition of Piping Live! It's incredible to think back on how much the festival has grown in the last 20 years. I'm extremely proud to be involved in the

direction of what is now a major cultural and musical event for Scotland, and the global piping and traditional music scene. Piping is more popular than ever, there are more people from diverse backgrounds playing, the music is both steeped in tradition as well as forward-looking and innovative. This rise in popularity is in no small part down to the continued support from our audiences and the dedication of the teams behind Piping Live! and the World Pipe Band Championships. There's a real energy in the piping and drumming scene in anticipation of Piping Live! this year. Glasgow is certainly going to be alive with music, friendship and camaraderie. The team here at the National Piping Centre have been working tirelessly to deliver the festival this year, despite some substantial funding cuts across the cultural events industry, so we really need public support now more than ever – please purchase tickets, please donate what you can and please encourage others to come out and enjoy the world-class performances we will be showcasing this August. Never has your support been more vital in ensuring this iconic festival, and the scene it supports, continues to thrive."

The Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies Memorial Recital Challenge, Piping Live!'s flagship evening of solo piping, will be showcased at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall's Strathclyde Suite this year. The competition will pit five top solo pipers against each other as they take to

the stage to perform a 25-minute medley of their favourite tunes. Annually a sell-out success, performances this year will come from Angus MacColl, Stuart Liddell, Sarah Muir, Callum Beaumont and the 2022 champion Matt MacIsaac.

Pipe bands from across the globe

The International Quartet Competition will feature six of the top Grade I pipe band quartets in the world; Field Marshal Montgomery (Northern Ireland), Inveraray and District (Scotland), Manawatu Scottish (New Zealand), 78th Fraser Highlanders (Canada), Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia (Scotland) and People's Ford Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia (Scotland). Each of the six bands from across the world will send four of their best pipers to compete in this head-to-head challenge ahead of the World Pipe Band Championships on Saturday 19th August. Lowland and Borders Pipers' Society presents inB – a new and exciting collaboration that celebrates the rich sounds of the Uilleann pipes and Scottish smallpipes pitched in the beautiful key of B. inB celebrates the important history and musical connection between Ireland and Scotland.

The Masters Solo Piping Competition will take place, with this prestigious competition being the qualifying event for the Glenfiddich Piping Competition. This huge day of performance will see the best soloists from across the world compete in Piobaireachd and Light Music.

Piping Live!'s final day will showcase the internationally renowned Gordon Duncan Memorial Competition. This iconic event continues to celebrate Gordon's links to Scotland, Ireland and Brittany. A plethora of free day time events, which will primarily take place at the festival's iconic Street Café on McPhater Street, will include the 'Emerging Talent' stage where daily shows will be performed by up-and-coming trad music groups, alongside performances by international artists from Brittany, Estonia and Ireland. The National Piping Centre's auditorium will also host the Pipe Idol Final, when four solo players aged 21 and under will compete after winning their heat earlier in the week.

Pipe bands from across the globe will perform on Buchanan Street from 12 noon each day of the festival, including artists from Canada, USA, Australia, Belgium and of course Scotland. The Gig in the Gallery series will return to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, which will host a daily recital featuring international styles of bagpipes. There will also be talks and book launches across the event, and a special gallery of photos from across the festival's 20 years will also be showcased. Live streaming will return to Piping Live!, with an exciting programme of live and premiered events and concerts to be announced.

Tickets and more program information on where and when each performance is happening are available at: www.pipinglive.co.uk.

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Lanarkshire butcher crowned first haggis world champion

A 40-year-old family recipe never before trialled in competition has secured the first ever Haggis World Championship for North Lanarkshire butcher Coopers of Bellshill. Owner Laura Black admitted she entered the inaugural world title-chasing bid “in hope rather than expectation” as she lifted the coveted trophy at the Scottish Craft Butchers Trade Fair in Perth. And she couldn’t have been more delighted as she dedicated the win to her hard-working team who helped tweak and perfect the family recipe into a modern winner. “It’s the highlight of my career,” she thrilled. “I’m absolutely delighted. The world title is coming to North Lanarkshire, coming to Bellshill and coming to Coopers.” Laura’s family favourite fought off stiff competition from nearly 70 other Scottish hopefuls bidding to become the first Haggis World Champion and head judge John Wilkin, senior lecturer in food science at Abertay University, Dundee, described it as “near perfection”. “If there’s better haggis out there somewhere in the world then I want to taste it,” he said. “Laura’s haggis is worthy of the World Championship title – it’s absolutely superb.” Judges praised the standard of entry in this first championship, sponsored by Hamlyn of Scotland, describing it as a delicious celebration of the country’s best haggis. But it was Laura’s family staple that proved the ultimate winner in the fiercely contested showdown.

George Jarron, President of Scottish Craft Butchers (SCB) which hosted the new competition, said the event had proved a showcase for the best in the business. “We have been running a Scottish Haggis Championship for the past 30 years, but this is the first ever world championship,” he said. “We decided that haggis was such an iconic dish the world over that it was deserving of a global championship title to let the world know we had recognised and rewarded the very best. And it was only fitting that the first world title for a product so quintessentially Scottish should be staged in Scotland. There are few producers of our national dish that wouldn’t want to have a World Championship to their name, and we congratulate Laura and the team at Coopers of Bellshill for securing the first place on the international roll of honour.”

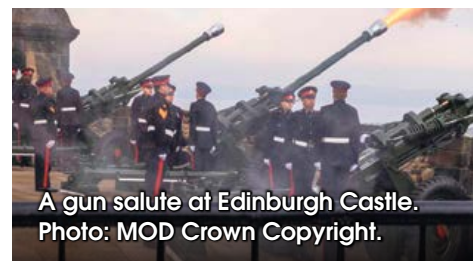
New attraction for Aberdeen lights up



Creating cool social media content will be easy as A-B-Z for visitors and locals alike, after Aberdeen’s new landmark giant letters popped up recently at the city’s Castlegate.

The letters, which spell out ABERDEEN, stand around 2m tall and are illuminated by 98,000 light bulbs, 750m of cables and 69,850 microchips. Manufactured in Aberdeen, the letters have in-built interactive technology to allow them to feature animated digital displays and change colour to celebrate holidays and events. The idea was drawn up by city business leaders to help encourage visitors to the city centre, as well as positively promoting the city on social media platforms such as Instagram. Aberdeen joins other cities around the globe which have a similar focal point, including Edinburgh, Brisbane, Toronto and the iconic Amsterdam letters. The letters will be located at the Castlegate with Union Street as its backdrop, but have been designed to be detachable and able to be moved to different locations around the city. Chris Foy, CEO of VisitAberdeenshire added: “The giant letters literally spell out the city’s bold approach to creating memorable experiences for its visitors and locals to enjoy. Photo-friendly installations have already proven to be a hit with visitors in cities around the world and I look forward to seeing the positive impact of the letters in the city centre.”

Scotland marks Coronation day



A gun salute at Edinburgh Castle. Photo: MOD Crown Copyright.

Events took place across Scotland to mark the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. There were gun salutes at Edinburgh and Stirling Castles as well as ceilidhs, street parties and charity events. Big screens will also show the ceremony at locations including Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh and Glasgow Cathedral.

The First Minister, the Lord Advocate and the Permanent Secretary attended the event at Westminster Abbey. The King will be presented with the Honours of Scotland at a separate Scottish Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving, which will take place at St Giles’ Cathedral in Edinburgh later this year. First Minister Humza Yousaf said ahead of the Coronation: “I will attend the Coronation ceremony as First Minister, on behalf of the Scottish people - and many people across the country will also take part in the celebrations by watching the ceremony on big screens,

hosting street parties or taking part in charity or volunteering. I look forward to participating in the ceremony when His Majesty is presented with the Honours of Scotland at a Service at St Giles’ Cathedral later this year. The King’s longstanding connection to Scotland is well known - through his patronage of many Scottish charities and institutions, including the Prince’s Foundation. Queen Camilla has also built strong ties with communities over many years, including through her role as Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen. I know many people in Scotland will want to send their best wishes to King Charles III and Queen Camilla on this historic occasion.” The Royal Standard flew over St Andrew’s House in Edinburgh for the Coronation weekend. Further details of the service at St Giles’ Cathedral in Edinburgh which will likely take place in early July, including viewing opportunities for the public, will be issued in the coming weeks.

Construction begins at Sutherland, the UK mainland’s first vertical launch spaceport



Orbex has announced that construction has begun at Sutherland Spaceport (formerly known as Space Hub Sutherland) in Scotland, making this the first vertical launch spaceport to be built on the UK mainland. Located on the North coast of Scotland, the spaceport will be the ‘home’ spaceport of Forres-based rocket and launch services company, Orbex, which will use the site to launch up to 12 orbital rockets per year for the deployment of satellites into Earth’s orbit. Sutherland Spaceport is intended to become the first carbon-neutral spaceport in the world, both in its construction and its operation. One illustration of this is how peat lifted during the construction will be re-used to repair large areas of peatland that have degraded over centuries.

The establishment of a commercial spaceport in Sutherland is expected to support around 250 new employment opportunities in the Highlands and Islands over the coming years, including 40 jobs in Sutherland and Caithness. Economic impact assessments commissioned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) conclude that the presence of the spaceport has the potential to generate almost £1 billion in gross value added (GVA) for the Highlands and Islands economy over the next 30 years. Uniquely, Orbex Prime is powered by a renewable bio-fuel, Futuria Liquid Gas, supplied by Calor UK. This fuel allows the rocket to reduce carbon emissions significantly compared to other similarly sized rockets being developed elsewhere around the world. A study by the University of Exeter showed that a single launch of the Orbex Prime rocket will produce 96 per cent lower carbon emissions than comparable space launch systems using fossil fuels. Prime is also a re-usable rocket which has been

engineered to leave zero debris on Earth and in orbit. In preparation for the first launch, Orbex is performing a wide variety of integration tests, as well as testing launch procedures including rollout, strongback deployment and fuelling procedures. Kristian von Bengtson, Chief Development Officer and Interim CEO, Orbex: “Sutherland represents a new breed of spaceport, for a new breed of rocket. This is 21st century, agile spaceflight with sustainability at its core. With the construction of Sutherland Spaceport underway, this is an important piece of the puzzle that will make the UK a modern space nation. Just as importantly, we’re hopefully also setting the tone for how business can be a force for good, creating jobs and opportunities while minimising the impact upon the environment.”

Isle of Rum looking to become Europe’s first Dark Sky Island



The Isle of Rum. Photo: VisitScotland.

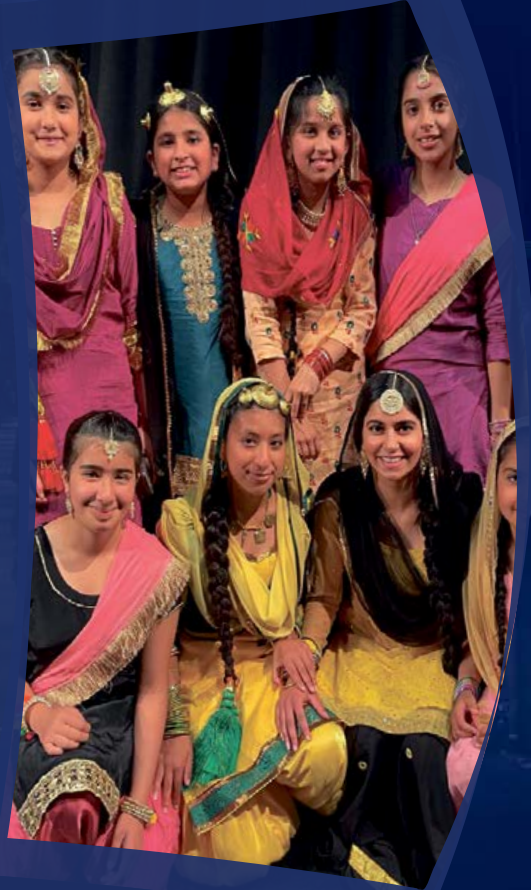
The Isle of Rum, located in Scotland’s Inner Hebrides has a wealth of wildlife and incredible untouched landscapes. However the local community is now also looking to the sky in a bid to be declared Europe’s and very first ‘dark sky island’. A £10,000 fundraiser has been launched on behalf of the Isle of Rum Community Trust to buy sky-gazing equipment such as cameras, telescopes and weather stations as part of the bid application to the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), which they plan to submit by December 2023. The fundraiser states, “We have the chance to protect our island’s dark skies and the wildlife that lives within, especially beneficial to our 120,000 Manx Shearwaters and countless sea birds that nest here during the Spring and Summer. With our application to the IDA, we will see long-term benefits to the community via more year-round opportunities, chances to create more employment and promote astro-tourism and bring extra visitors to the island through the ‘off season’.”

The hopes are tourism will be increased during the slower winter months as people come to marvel the dark skies, stars and the incredible aurora borealis. The outcome of the bid is hoped to be known by mid-2024. Scotland is no stranger to great night skies with stargazers currently able to take in the dark night skies in Galloway Forest Park, the UK’s largest forest park, in Dumfries & Galloway and the Glenlivet and Tomintoul area of the Cairngorms National Park, both designated as ‘dark sky parks’. Also the tiny island of Coll on the west coast of Scotland has been designated a ‘dark sky community’ and the town Moffat in southern Scotland was named Europe’s first ‘dark sky town’.

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All images courtesy of STARZ.



Return to Fraser's Ridge with the highly anticipated seventh season of Outlander



Christina Davis, President of Original Programming for Starz, said in a statement. "The hit series *Outlander* embodies everything about our initiative including a powerful female lead character and an amazing team of storytellers. We look forward to following the adventures of Claire and Jamie in America during the Revolution as well as more time travel during this next season."

Matthew B. Roberts, Ronald D. Moore, Maril Davis, Toni Graphia, Luke Schelhaas, Andy Harries, Jim Kohlberg, Caitriona Balfe and Sam Heughan executive produce the new season, based on the book, *An Echo in The Bone* and will focus on the struggles of Claire and Jamie amid the American Revolution. Filming for *Outlander* took place mainly in Scotland, which doubles for North Carolina.

The highly anticipated seventh season of *Outlander* is set to premiere on Friday, June 16 at midnight ET on the STARZ app, all STARZ streaming and on-demand platforms and internationally on the LIONSGATE+ premium streaming platform in the U.K. On linear, it will debut on STARZ on Friday, June 16 at 8:00 PM ET/PT in the U.S. and Canada. New episodes will be available to stream weekly on Fridays at midnight on the STARZ app, all STARZ streaming and on-demand platforms and will air weekly on the STARZ linear platform. See: www.starz.com/us/en/series/outlander/21796

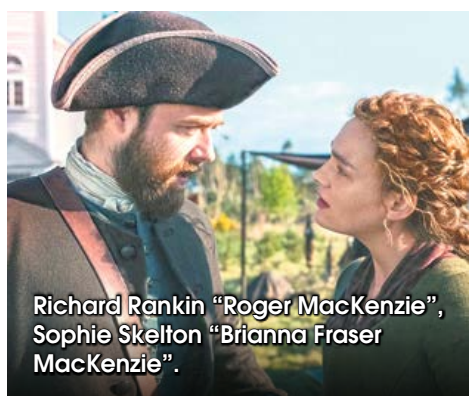


Caitriona Balfe "Claire Fraser".

navigate the perils of the Revolutionary War. They learn that sometimes to defend what you love, you have to leave it behind. As the conflict draws them out of North Carolina and into the heart of this fight for independence, Jamie, Claire, Brianna, and Roger are faced with impossible decisions that have the potential to tear their family apart.

One epic tale

The *Outlander* television series is inspired by Diana Gabaldon's international best-selling books, which have sold an estimated 50 million copies worldwide, with all nine of the books gracing the *New York Times* best-seller list. The *Outlander* television series has become a worldwide success with audiences, spanning the genres of history, science fiction, romance and adventure in one amazing tale. *Outlander* spans the genres of romance, science-fiction, history and adventure in one epic tale. It follows the story of Claire Randall, a married combat nurse from 1945, who is mysteriously swept back in time to 1743 Scotland. When forced to marry Jamie Fraser, a chivalrous young Scottish warrior, Claire's heart is torn between two vastly different men in two irreconcilable lives.



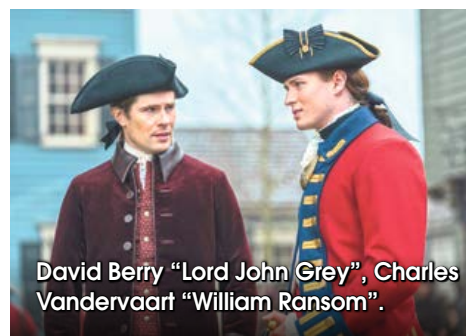
Richard Rankin "Roger MacKenzie", Sophie Skelton "Brianna Fraser MacKenzie".

Season seven will again feature *Outlander's* iconic theme song the *Skye Boat Song*, which will be performed by Irish singer Sinead O'Connor.

In Season 7, Jamie, Claire, and their family are caught in the violent birth pains of an emerging nation as armies march to war and British institutions crumble in the face of armed rebellion. The land the Frasers call home is changing – and they must change with it. In order to protect what they've built, the Frasers have to

This month see the worldwide release of *Outlander* season seven. STARZ announced the June 16 return of its fan-favourite time-traveling drama series *Outlander*, confirming the upcoming seventh season will be split into two parts of eight episodes each, with the back half airing in 2024. It was previously announced that the seventh season would be an extended 16 episodes. Additionally, STARZ released several first look images of the new season to quench the 'Droughtlander' thirst. The series has already been renewed for an eighth and final ten episode season and a prequel series, *Outlander: Blood of My Blood* centring on Jamie Fraser's parents has been greenlighted for a first season.

STARZ previously announced several new additions to the *Outlander* family, including Charles Vandervaart (*Lost in*



David Berry "Lord John Grey", Charles Vandervaart "William Ransom".



John Bell "Young Ian".



Sam Heughan "Jamie Fraser".

Did you know?

- *Outlander* features the story of Claire Randall, a Second World War combat nurse, who finds herself thrown back in time to the Jacobite Rising in 1743.
- The *Outlander* TV show is based on a series of nine novels by Diana Gabaldon which have sold more than 50 million copies worldwide.
- The *Outlander* novels have been published in 27 countries and 24 languages, so far.
- Diana Gabaldon was inspired to create *Outlander* by an episode of *Dr Who*.
- Author Diana Gabaldon had never visited Scotland before writing *Outlander*.
- *Outlander* was recently named the world's 'most binge-worthy' TV show at a LA awards show.
- It has been reported that the Scottish actors do not wear anything underneath their kilts, in true Scottish fashion.
- The show has sparked a Scots tourism boom with visits to historical sites topping over five million visitors.
- *Outlander* is filmed in Scotland, primarily at the Wardpark Studios at Cumbernauld near Glasgow.
- Author Diana Gabaldon was given in 2020 the "International Contribution to Scottish Tourism" award at the Scottish Thistle Awards, for the 'Outlander Effect' on Scotland's tourism industry.

The TS Queen Mary -Celebrating 90 years 'doon the watter'



The TS Queen Mary. Photo: David Millar.



The Queen Mary in the 1950s. Photo: Richard Orr.

By: Judy Vickers

She is the last of her kind in the world. In her heyday she carried British royalty and a US First Lady and in her hour of need she has attracted support from a princess, celebrities and a mysterious millionaire benefactor. This year the iconic Clyde steamer *TS Queen Mary* celebrates her 90th birthday, having been constructed in 1933 by shipbuilders William Denny in Dumbarton. And like any 90-year-old, she has seen ups and downs in her life, from the highs of carrying 13,000 passengers each week as “Britain’s finest pleasure steamer” to the lows of lying rusting in the English port of Tilbury and threatened with scrapping. Her next decade looks set to be bright though as a multi-million pound restoration aims to have her cruising again, for the first time since 1977, in 2025.



Princess Anne visits TS Queen Mary in 2022. Photo: Martin Shields.



Late Scottish actor Robbie Coltrane. Photo: Friends of TS Queen Mary.

Her anniversary year has started well with a £1 million donation from a mystery benefactor in April, taking campaign funds to almost half their £10m target.

The Glasgow boat

The charity which rescued the ship from Tilbury in 2015, Friends of TS Queen Mary, said at the time the “astonishing gift” would “turbo-charge” their efforts to ensure the much-loved vessel will sail again, added to a revival of a once-popular tradition – that of sailing “doon the watter”.

From the early 19th century, steamers carried thousands of city folk out and away from the factories and the industrial urban landscape of their Glasgow home for day trips to the scenic parts of Ayrshire, particularly during Glasgow Fair Week in July. Sailing “doon the watter” – the “watter” in question being the Clyde - was a familiar part of holiday life for many until the latter part of the 20th century when cheap airfares and package holidays abroad killed the trade. *TS Queen Mary* was the tenth (and final) turbine pleasure steamer built for Clyde service. She was the largest and most luxurious in the fleet and is now the last in existence. She was known as “the Glasgow boat” and sailed “doon the watter” from Glasgow to destinations such as Dunoon, Rothesay, Millport and Arran.

From the beginning her history was full of quirks - in the spring of 1935, at the request of Cunard White Star Line, *TS Queen Mary* was renamed *Queen Mary II*, so as to release the name *Queen Mary* for the liner then under construction at John Brown’s shipyard in Clydebank. She regained her original name in 1976 as the liner *Queen Mary* had retired from sailing. She hadn’t been in cruising service for long before war interrupted – she was called into service providing a lifeline mail and passenger service to the Scottish islands. Her wartime passengers included King George VI, Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother), the future Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Margaret and former US First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. She returned to cruising duty after the war but the 1960s and 70s saw a decline in Clyde

steaming’s popularity and her final sailing was in September 1977 before she was moored up in Greenock.

Then comes her most traumatic years. She was sold to Glasgow District Council in 1978 with the idea of converting her into a museum but funds weren’t available and she was sold on again several times before she was towed to London in 1981. In 1987 she underwent a £2.5m refurbishment and was moored at Victoria Embankment in London as a floating restaurant. In 2009, she had been sold yet again and was taken to Tilbury in Essex near London, from where she was due to be taken to begin a new life in France as a floating restaurant and fitness centre. Lack of funds scuppered those plans and she was left to rot - by 2015 she had prohibition notices slapped on her, barring her from leaving the port until hundreds of thousands of pounds in essential repairs were carried out. Scrapping loomed – but help was at hand.

An iconic part of Scottish history

Friends of TS Queen Mary had been formed in 2012 by a group of enthusiasts alarmed by developments and keen to save such an iconic part of Scottish history. When the Port of Tilbury put the vessel up for sale, the Friends’ bid, funded by businessman Jim McColl, one of Scotland’s richest men, was accepted.

And this wasn’t the only time the Queen Mary was able to rely on friends in high places. Once in the hands of the charity, a campaign to have her repaired was launched in December 2015, headed by *Harry Potter* actor Robbie Coltrane.

The Rutherglen-born star was a huge supporter of the *TS Queen Mary* until his death last year. “Robbie used to sail on the ship as a boy,” explains a spokesman for the Friends. “He had a very deep affection for the vessel. What many people don’t know is that Robbie was a massive fan of Clyde steamers, as well as classic ocean liners - not just the vintage cars, which most people associate him with. Robbie came on board as patron before the ship was brought back to Glasgow. He was very good friends with Sam Neill (a fellow actor who was born in Northern Ireland before moving to New Zealand as a boy). Sam also has an interest in ships and was delighted to become our Commonwealth patron, when Robbie approached him.”

Funds flooded in and the *Queen Mary* was towed back home to the Clyde in an epic voyage along the west coast of the UK. Repairs began in 2016 with the idea of turning her into a static heritage centre at Pacific Quay. But in April last year, Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, who has been royal patron of the ship for four years, revealed plans to allow the ship to sail once again. The £1m anonymous donation will be used to construct new steel decks to ensure the ship complies with modern maritime safety requirements - one of the biggest structural undertakings of the ongoing work. Iain Sim, chairman of Friends of TS Queen Mary, said: “Our work continues to restore an iconic British ship whose proud history serving the Clyde rekindles many memories for tens of thousands of Scots and others across the world.”

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The Scots College Pipes and Drums at NYCTW



As the Bryant Park concerts came to an end The Scots College and St Columba's Pipe Band (Scotland) performed together and marched through the park. This was a great opportunity for both bands to combine and have a few tunes together.

Marched with great pride

While taking a stroll through the city after performing our second Bryant Park concert the band thought it would be a great idea to do a flashmob performance in Grand Central Station. The College Pipe Major struck up his pipes in the main terminal and instantly the public stopped to watch him. As more and more pipers joined in, we could see more and more passengers gather around the band. Once the drummers joined in and filled the main terminal with *Waltzing Matilda* the flashmob band had hundreds of commuters gathered around to listen to the band. This was a very memorable experience for all involved and was aired on Australian and American television shows. The band had the opportunity to visit some of the city's famous landmarks and attractions, such as the Statue of

Liberty, the Empire State Building, Times Square and many more. The boys also attend a number of sporting events in Maddison Square Gardens and Yankee Stadium. In 1999, two pipe bands and a small but enthusiastic group of Scottish Americans, led by Grand Marshal and Academy Award-winning actor Cliff Robertson, marched from the British Consulate to the UN in the first New York City Tartan Day Parade. Since then, the annual NYC Tartan Day Parade has brought together thousands of people from across the globe providing meaningful connections through the celebration of Scottish heritage and culture.

The Scots College, Sydney Pipes and Drums finished the New York tour by parading down 6th Avenue as part of the NYC Tartan Day Parade. The parade was filled with great sounds and tartan uniforms. With thousands of supporters cheering on, our boys stood tall and marched with great pride. The Pipes and Drums tour to New York provided our students with so many unforgettable memories and a deep appreciation for the city's rich culture and history.



range of traditional and contemporary pieces and our two youngest boys on tour performed a great duet of *Flower of Scotland*. The 300-strong audience who had just been passing and relaxing in the park stayed for the full concert and cheered the band as they finished the concert by marching back through Central Park.

Grateful audiences

Next for the band was a performance at the Buckley School. The boys performed a concert for the 400 Buckley students and staff. It was incredibly well received and both schools had a fantastic time together. The highlight for the Buckley School was certainly the drummer's salute and the Drum Majors flourish. The Buckley students were fascinated with the band and we even managed to give the boys and staff the opportunity to try some instruments.

While in New York the band was honoured to be invited to perform for the Tartan Day organisers and performed two concerts in Bryant Park. With the most incredible backdrop of New York City the band performed for extremely grateful audiences. The band had a great opportunity to hear other pipe bands, folk bands and choirs which was greatly appreciated.

By: Paul Hughes

The Scots College Pipes and Drums tour to New York was a unique and exciting experience for the 25 band boys involved. New York City has a rich history of Scottish and Irish heritage, and the sounds of the bagpipes and drums certainly add to the atmosphere of the city. The tour included performances at various venues throughout the city, such as parades, concerts, and cultural events and the band even took the opportunity to do a flashmob performance in Grand Central Station.

The boys performed a 1-hour pipes and drums concert in Central Park. The band marched through Central Park gathering a huge crowd. Having the opportunity to see the boys perform in Central Park's Naumburg Bandshell was amazing. Central Park's Naumburg Bandshell is an original feature of the Park and has come a long way from its beginnings as a mere classical music arena. The site of both a speech delivered by Martin Luther King Jr. and a eulogy read for John Lennon, it has become a place of historical importance within the park. The band performed a



IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Partan Bree (crab soup)

Ingredients:

1 large cooked crab
2 oz./50g or ¼ cup rice
1 pint/600ml or 2½ cups milk
1 pint/600ml or 2½ cups liquor from boiling the crab
¼ pint/125ml or ⅓ cup single cream
Salt and pepper
Finely chopped chives

Method:

Remove all the meat from the crab, keeping the claw meat separate. Cook the rice in a pan with the milk and water until tender. Liquidise this with the brown body meat from the crab.

Add the white meat and cream and reheat. Add salt and pepper to taste. If the partan bree is too thick, you can add some more milk if required. Serve garnished with fresh, green, finely chopped chives.

Oven chips



Ingredients:

2 large, sweet potatoes, scrubbed
1-2 large potatoes, scrubbed
4 sprigs thyme, leaves only

1 tsp. ground cumin
1 pinch chilli flakes
1 tbsp. olive oil
2 tsp. hot smoked paprika
sea salt flakes

Method:

Preheat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Cut the sweet potatoes into thick wedges and put into a large mixing bowl. Cut the white potatoes into slightly thinner wedges (they take longer to cook so need to be slightly smaller for an equal cooking time) and add to the bowl. Add the remaining ingredients and toss until the wedges are evenly coated. Season with sea salt then spread over a non-stick baking tray in an even layer. (Put the sweet potatoes in the centre and the white potatoes round the edge of the tray where it will be hotter.) Cook for 20-25 minutes, checking after 10 minutes, shaking and turning occasionally, until cooked through. If the sweet potatoes are cooked before the others are ready then remove them from the oven and leave the rest to cook for longer.

Poached herby Scottish trout with fennel

Ingredients:

2 fennel bulbs
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 onion, peeled and finely chopped
garlic-cloves; peeled and crushed
1½ 400g cans of chopped tomatoes
175 ml./6 fl. oz. dry white wine
4 fresh Rainbow Trout fillets (you can substitute with tuna, white seabass, flounder, tilapia, and tilefish)
1 tbsp. fresh dill, chopped
2 tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped
2 tbsp. fresh thyme, chopped

Method:

Trim the base and feathery tops off each fennel bulb and discard. Slice each bulb finely from top to bottom, then cut each slice in half. Heat the oil in a large deep frying pan, and fry the onion and garlic for 3 to 4 minutes until softened. Add the chopped tomatoes and stir thoroughly into the onions and garlic. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes until slightly reduced. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the fennel slices until well mixed in. Pour in the wine, season with salt and freshly ground black pepper, and stir thoroughly. Lay the trout fillets on top of the sauce and sprinkle over the chopped herbs. Bring to the boil and simmer for 15 minutes, until the trout is cooked, and the sauce has reduced. Serve with new potatoes. Serves four.

Auld Reekie Pudding

Ingredients:

50g./2oz. butter
2 eggs
50 g/2 oz. flour
50g/2 oz. castor sugar
Vanilla or lemon, for flavouring

Method:

Place the butter in a bowl and lightly warm it over a gentle heat. When half melted, beat it to a cream. Whisk the two eggs and add them gradually while beating the butter. Slowly add the flour and the castor sugar, and flavour the mixture with vanilla or lemon. Pour into a buttered mould and bake in a moderate oven for approximately 30 minutes.

Drambuie truffles

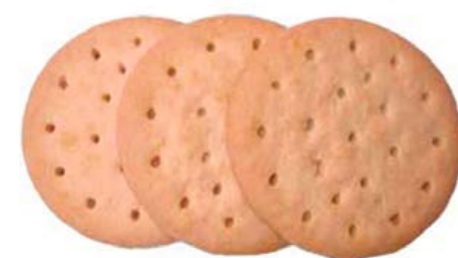
Ingredients:

100g/4 oz. plain chocolate
3 tbsp. Drambuie
40g/1½ oz. butter
50g/2 oz. icing sugar
50g/2 oz. ground almonds
25g/1oz. raisins
Chocolate vermicelli
Glace cherries, for decoration

Method:

Melt the chocolate, Drambuie and butter in a basin over hot water. Beat in the icing sugar, ground almonds and raisins. Chill, then roll into 20 small balls. Coat them with the chocolate vermicelli. Place the truffles into sweet cases and decorate with a piece of glace cherry on each.

Abernethy Biscuits



Ingredients:

225g/8 oz. flour
75g/ 3oz. margarine
2 tbsp. sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoonful baking powder
Milk

Method:

Rub the margarine into the flour and the baking powder. Add the sugar and mix to a stiff paste with the beaten egg and the milk. Roll out to a large biscuit and prick the surface with the prongs of a fork. Bake in the oven at 375F/190 C/Gas Mark 5, for approximately 10 minutes.

Perkins

Ingredients:

250g/9oz. flour
250g/9oz. oatmeal
125g/4.5oz. butter
180g/6.5oz. caster sugar
180g/6.5oz. golden syrup
1½ tsp baking soda
1 egg
30g/1oz. halved blanched almonds
1 tsp. mixed spice
1 tsp. ginger
1 tsp. cinnamon

Method:

Set oven to 160C/320F/Gas Mark 3. Sieve dry ingredients then rub in the butter. Add the egg and syrup and mix to a stiff dough. Roll into pieces the size of a large marble and place half an almond on each. Bake for approx. 10-15 minutes, until evenly brown. Cool on a wire tray and store in an air-tight tin.

Bannockburn cocktail

Ingredients:

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

Method:

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

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The Glasgow-Scotland's farm tractor

The Glasgow tractor changed Scottish farming life in the early 20th century and was the only tractor designed and built in Scotland. Production of this special tractor lasted just five years but still to this date remains Scotland's only indigenous tractor, built for Scottish conditions, as Eric Bryan explains.



Glasgow Tractor on display at the National Museum of Rural Life, East Kilbride. Photo: Magnus Hagdorn, CC BY-SA 2.0.

By: Eric Bryan

In the early 20th century, imported mass-produced American-made farm tractors dominated the market in Britain. But these tractors were designed mainly to work the vast flatlands of the American Midwest, and weren't ideally suited to operating on hilly and muddy Scottish farmlands. With an eye toward creating a tractor fitted for working in such British conditions, W Guthrie, in conjunction with John Wallace & Sons Farm Implements and the DL Motor Manufacturing Co of Motherwell, designed the Glasgow Tractor. Drawn up specifically to be compatible with Scotland's challenging terrain, the Glasgow was not only an all-wheel drive tractor, but was in a three-wheeled configuration – not as you'd expect with two wheels in the back and one in front as with a crop-row tractor, but with two in the front and one in the back. This layout, combined with its weight distribution and low centre of gravity

made the tractor resistant to overturning. The three-wheeled AWD system offered more stability than did a four-wheeled configuration, as it was less likely that one of the wheels would lift clear of the ground on steep or awkward landscapes. As a Glasgow advertisement stated, 'The secret of the "Glasgow's" splendid work on steep gradients is its three-wheel drive.'

Improved traction

Each of the Glasgow's wheels could be fitted with spuds for improved traction, while the machine's even weight distribution reduced bogging. The tractor's AWD, with all wheels powered and turning cooperatively, meant that if one wheel slipped in a rut or got stuck against an obstacle, the other wheels kept turning and helped to free the slipping or trapped wheel. More Glasgow advertising somewhat sensationally claimed, 'The "Glasgow" will climb and pull a plough anywhere. It cannot turn over. It will not dig in, tip up, slip or skid – points of superiority, due to all its three wheels being driven.' The Glasgow's steering system, rather than turning the rear or front wheels, slowed one of the front wheels while the other wheels kept rotating at a consistent speed, causing the vehicle to pivot on the slowed wheel and so turn the tractor. The driver's iron basket seat was positioned all the way at the back of the machine, behind the rear wheel. From this perch, the operator had a full view of the front wheels as well as of the hitching and lift mechanisms which were positioned below the seat.

The Scottish tractor

Debuting at the 1919 Lincoln Tractor Trials, the Glasgow made a strong and favourable impression. At this gathering, W Guthrie drove the tractor up a 1 in 7 grade and pulling four 12 x 10 inch ploughs which usually required four horses to drag, ploughed one acre per hour. The *Commercial Motor* reported that the Glasgow attracted much interest at the trials, and pulled impressively. 'It was noted that in the case of the "Glasgow" Tractor that owing to its three-wheel drive no slip whatever occurred. This will tend to show that, especially in the case of small and light tractors, the all-wheel drive has certain advantages if properly

designed, so that the effect of the skidding of one wheel will not take all the power from the others.' The Scottish tractor had an American Waukesha four-cylinder 27 horsepower engine, two forward and one reverse gear powered via nickel steel reduction gears, a Zephyr carburettor, and weighed 1636kg unladen. Its dimensions were 3.4m long, 1.7m wide and 1.9m high. Despite its promising start, the Glasgow Tractor was to face some daunting challenges. While the 1922 price tag for the Glasgow stood at £375 (and would swell to £450), the Fordson Tractor then available cost only £120. The Glasgow was also overwhelmingly noisy for the operator, and its motor proved to be a high maintenance unit. This combination of factors led to the demise of the Glasgow, then Scotland's sole home-grown tractor, in 1924.



Glasgow advert from a 1919 edition of *The Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture*, reporting on the tractor's performance at the Lincoln Tractor Trials. Public Domain.



Glasgow advert from a 1919 edition of *The Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture* citing a letter written by a satisfied owner. Public Domain.

The National Museum of Rural Life

A surviving example of the Glasgow Tractor is on display at the National Museum of Rural Life, near East Kilbride in South Lanarkshire. Operated by National Museums Scotland, the Museum of Rural Life is sited at Wester Kitchochside Farm and opened in 2001. The museum carries on and expands upon the collections and work done by the former Scottish Agricultural Museum, which was established in 1949 and based at Ingleston. The museum comprises the main building and visitor centre, Georgian farm buildings, and surrounding agricultural fields and hedgerows. Scotland's largest collection of combine harvesters, tractors and other agricultural machinery are housed at the museum. Indoor and outdoor exhibits present tractors from most decades of the 20th century.

Besides the Glasgow, other tractors in the collection are Fordsons, a Ferguson Brown, Ford Ferguson, David Brown, Field Marshall, and a Ferguson 'Little Grey Fergie'. A modern Deutz tractor pulls the Farm Explorer which carries visitors to the farm. Wester Kitchochside Farm is a working farm, and resident animals include Clydesdale horses; Tamworth pigs; Aberdeen Angus, Ayrshire and Highland cattle; sheep, hens and farm cats. Farm buildings visitors can explore are the Georgian farmhouse, bothy, small byre, stables, gig shed, threshing barn, dairy, milking byre, hay shed, Dutch barn, hen house, sheep pens, pig sty, and pig run.

Calderwood Castle

Beside the Rotten Calder Water in East Kilbride once stood Calderwood Castle. Believed to have been built by the Maxwell family in the 15th century, the castle was a tower house comprising two connected towers with a tremendously thick centre wall. After several days of severe storms, the tower house collapsed in January 1773. An 18th century mansion was built in place of the tower house, and an ornate Gothic Revival extension possibly designed by Scottish architect David Rhind was added in the 1840s.

The Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society took over the Calderwood estate in 1904 for agricultural use, and made the glen available as a pleasure ground. The estate housed Belgian refugees during WWI, and troops billeted there during WWII. In 1947 the East Kilbride Development Corporation acquired the estate, and dynamited the remaining buildings in 1951. Other than the intact walled driveway terrace, all that is to be seen today of the castle is rubble and partially buried ruins. The castle remains are situated in what is now Calderglen Country Park.

Picnic time is nearly here

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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

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The Clan Macpherson Museum is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1st April to 31st October.
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for information contact Commander Des Ross
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Clan Maitland Society

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

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

Australia: Amanda Maitland clanmaitlandaustralia@gmail.com
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Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group

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Carlton Vic 3053

Email: resource_centre@scotsfoaus.org.au
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For more info contact:
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A Roman fortlet thought lost to time is rediscovered



A digital reconstruction.
Photo: Historic Environment Scotland.

Important Roman monument

This newly discovered fortlet would have been part of several fortlets along the Antonine Wall. It would have been occupied by 10 to 12 Roman soldiers who were stationed at a larger fort nearby, likely to be Duntocher, and manned the fort for a week at a time before being replaced by another detachment. The fortlet would have been made up of two small wooden buildings to house the soldiers staying there and will have been used for the 20 years (142 CE – 162 CE) that the Antonine Wall was defended as the northernmost frontier of the Roman Empire.

Commenting on the discovery, Riona McMorrow, Deputy Head of World Heritage at HES, said: “It is great to see how

our knowledge of history is growing as new methods give us fresh insights in the past. Archaeology is often partly detective work, and the discovery at Carleith is a nice example of how an observation made 300 years ago and new technology can come together to add to our understanding.”

This discovery has led to HES reviewing the site’s designation to ensure the fortlet is recognised and protected as part of the Antonine Wall. The geophysical survey will help to better understand and protect the Antonine Wall. While up to 41 fortlets may have lined the Wall when it was built, only nine have previously been found. This discovery marks the tenth known fortlet and shows that there is still more to be discovered about this important Roman monument and its functions even after centuries of enquiry.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has discovered the buried remains of a Roman fortlet that once stood next to the Antonine Wall in West Dunbartonshire. The fortlet was built next to the Antonine Wall, the frontier that the Romans constructed across central Scotland, and was thought lost in the mists of time. However, geophysical survey in an unassuming field near Carleith Primary School in West Dunbartonshire revealed details lost for hundreds of years. The announcement of the discovery comes on World Heritage Day (18 April), the international celebration of cultural heritage. The Antonine Wall is one of Scotland’s six UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Previous excavations to find the fortlet were unsuccessful, but new technology has allowed HES’s archaeological survey team to find the buried remains. The fortlet was referenced in 1707 by antiquarian Robert Sibbald, who wrote that he had seen a fortlet in the area around Carleith Farm. Excavation teams looked for it in the 1970s and 1980s, but the exact location remained unknown.

The survey team have now employed gradiometry, a geophysical surveying technique, to look under the soil without the need for excavation. Gradiometry measures small changes in the earth’s magnetic field to detect archaeological features otherwise invisible from the ground surface. This technique was able to identify the stone base of the fortlet, which remains buried underground. On top of this base, turf would have been laid to build a rampart about 2 metres high.



Historic Environment Scotland carrying out the geophysical survey.

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Study reveals origin insights into Scotland's mysterious Picts



A Pictish standing stone.



An artist's impression of a Pictish fort.

Scotland's Picts have long been viewed as a mysterious people with their enigmatic symbols and inscriptions, accentuated by representations of them as wild barbarians with exotic origins. But a newly published study by an international team led by researchers at the University of Aberdeen and Liverpool John Moores University is helping to shed new light on the origins of the Picts. The Picts were first mentioned in the late 3rd century CE as resisting the Romans and went on to form a powerful kingdom that ruled over a large part of northern Britain, in present-day north-east Scotland.

Pictish genomes

In the medieval period, the Picts were considered immigrants from Thrace (north of the Aegean Sea), Scythia (eastern Europe), or isles north of Britain but as they left few written sources of their own little is known of their origins or relations with other cultural groups living in Britain. Archaeologists have conducted the first extensive analysis of Pictish genomes and their results have been published in the open access journal *PLOS Genetics*. The results reveal a long-standing genetic continuity in some regions of the British Isles, helping to build a picture of where the Picts came from and providing new understanding of how present-day genetic diversity formed. The findings also confirm descriptions by the great English historian Bede of the far-flung eastern origins of the Picts as one of myth and fantasy.

The researchers used Identity-By-Descent (IBD) methods to compare two high-quality Pictish genomes sequenced from individuals excavated from Pictish-era cemeteries at Lundin Links in Fife (Southern Pictland) and Balintore in Easter Ross (Northern Pictland) to those of previously published ancient genomes as well as the modern population.

Dr Linus Girdland Flink of the University of Aberdeen, senior corresponding author of the study, said: "Among the peoples present during the first millennium CE in Britain, the Picts are one of the most enigmatic. Their unique cultural features such as Pictish symbols and the scarcity of contemporary literary and archaeological sources resulted in many diverse hypotheses about their origin, lifestyle and culture, part of the so-called

'Pictish problem'. Using DNA analysis, we have been able to fill a gap in an understudied area of Scotland's past. We aimed to determine the genetic relationships between the Picts and neighbouring modern-day and ancient populations. Our results show that individuals from western Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Northumbria display a higher degree of Identity-By-Descent (IBD) sharing with the Pictish genomes, meaning they are genetically most similar among modern populations."

Anglo-Saxon heritage

This genetic make-up was distinct from areas of southern England where there is a greater relative degree of Anglo-Saxon heritage. Dr Adeline Morez from Liverpool John Moores University, lead corresponding author of the study, adds: "Our findings also support the idea of regional continuity between the Late Iron Age and early medieval periods and indicates that the Picts were local to the British Isles in their origin, as their gene pool is drawn from the older Iron Age, and not from large-scale migration, from exotic locations far to the east. However, by comparing the samples between southern and northern Pictland we can also see that they were not one homogenous group and that there are some distinct differences, which point to patterns of migration and lifetime mobility that require further study."

The analysis of mitochondrial genomes from Lundin Links has also provided an insight into another Pictish myth – that they practised a form of matriliney, with succession and perhaps inheritance going to the sister's son rather than directly through the male line.

Dr Morez continued: "In a matrilineal system we would expect to find females staying in their birthplace after their marriage and throughout their life. At Lundin Links, diversity in the maternally inherited mitochondrial DNA suggests this was not the case. This finding challenges the older hypotheses that Pictish succession was passed along the mother's side and raise further questions about our understanding of Pictish society and its organisation."

The present genetic findings not only provide new insight into Pictish population history, but serve to test directly various longstanding assumptions, and even myths, about Pictish origins and social structure



Pict warrior.



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What's on at the 2023 Edinburgh Festivals

Everyone uses the same word to describe Edinburgh: dramatic. From the majestic Castle towering over the city centre, through the ancient backstreets of the medieval Old Town, to the historic heart of the New Town, the city takes the breath away at every corner - and this rich history has been the inspiration for all of its festivals.

Every year during the Edinburgh Festivals the capital of Scotland becomes the world's cultural melting pot, with citizens of the city and the country joined by artists and audiences from every corner of the globe in celebration of culture and creativity. Some people wonder whether these Festivals could just as easily take place in any city, not realising that the Festivals are authentically rooted in Edinburgh and have become part of the intangible heritage of Scotland.

An unparalleled celebration of the arts



As we go to press the Edinburgh International Children's Festival is taking place (May 27 to 4 June), the UK's leading festival of theatre and dance for young people, which features 14 international productions exploring a variety of genres including sound-driven physical theatre, dance with spoken word and innovative multi-media shows, as well as a Spotlight on Flanders, the Dutch-speaking Northern part of Belgium, one of the world's leaders in producing innovative theatre and dance for young audiences. And of course the Festival begins with Family Encounters day, a day of free pop-up performances and artists interventions for families in the beautiful setting of the National Museum of Scotland.

Moving in to July, we find the Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival (14 to 23 July), the UK's largest independent Jazz & Blues Festival. Originally, the festival featured traditional jazz performances played in Edinburgh's pubs, and it slowly evolved to feature a more diverse range of styles. For fans of Jazz music there are a lot of options - Contemporary jazz, Trad jazz, Swing jazz, Vintage jazz, New Orleans jazz... and all that jazz! The Festival also boasts a particularly strong Blues showing, with Blues rock, Memphis blues, Mississippi blues, San Francisco blues, Chicago, acoustic and electric blues, and much more of that deep soulful sound. And recent years have seen a further expansion of the programme to take in funk and hip hop, creating a real eclectic musical mix. You're bound to see some big names alongside the emerging stars of tomorrow.

During August, Scotland's capital becomes an unparalleled celebration of the arts and an annual meeting point for people of all nations. The Edinburgh International Festival (4 to 27 August), presents a programme featuring the finest performers and ensembles from the worlds of dance, opera, music and theatre. Since 1947, the Festival has attracted the biggest stars of stage and concert halls, with luminaries ranging from Maria Callas to Sir Ian McKellen, Yehudi Menuhin to Margot Fonteyn, Plácido Domingo to Rudolf Nureyev, Richard Burton to Marlene Dietrich, Alan Cumming to Juliette Binoche. And this year will see its first festival under the direction of the acclaimed violinist Nicola Benedetti, who has spoken of her ambition to bring "the weight, depth and profundity of the art that the festival presents, to the maximum number of people and the broadest possible audience".

Thousands of shows and international showcases



Running alongside will be the Edinburgh Festival Fringe (4 to 28 August) which, being totally open-access, is proud to include in its programme anyone with a story to tell and a venue willing to host them. Every year the Fringe, as it's affectionately known, hosts literally thousands of shows and international showcases from the likes of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Canada South Korea and Japan. Amongst the hundreds of events already on sale, ahead of the full programme launch on 8th June, are the legendary comedian Frank Skinner, the multi award-winning, cabaret spectacular La Clique featuring the best of circus and cabaret, and from the brains of comedy genius duo Harry Hill and Steve Brown, comes *TONY!* (*The Tony Blair Rock Opera*) - and that's not to forget the street arts programme that animates places and spaces across the city.

The Edinburgh skyline in August will see the return of Scotland's iconic Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (4 to 26 August) with the show theme *Stories* set to be a bestseller that will take you on a musical journey - at the unique setting of Edinburgh Castle where audiences will enjoy the legendary sound of the Massed Pipes and Drums alongside a host of international acts. Audiences get into the spirit and stamp and cheer to the sounds of the pipes and drums, clap to the Highland Dancers and watch in awe at some of the daredevil feats of accomplished motorcyclists or intricate marching formations. There are few such moving festival moments,

a fact to which any of the over 220,000 people who experience it live in any normal year can attest - not to mention the further 100 million who watch television broadcasts of the event!

Later in August we have the Edinburgh Art Festival (11 to 27 August), the UK's largest annual visual arts festival, which this year will feature leading international and UK artists alongside the best emerging talent, major survey exhibitions of historic figures, and a special programme of newly commissioned artworks that respond to public sites in the city. Under the new direction of Kim McAleese, in her first curated programme, explore exhibitions, events and performances across Scotland's capital, with partner galleries presenting a range of work, the majority of which will be open to the public for free for the festival - and one of the highlights will no doubt be the opening of the new gallery spaces for the Scottish National Gallery on The Mound in central Edinburgh.

One of the greatest outdoor celebrations



Next up in August we have the Edinburgh International Book Festival (12 to 28 August) the world's most prestigious literary festival, celebrating its 40th anniversary - when it will bring leading and emerging authors and thinkers together to inspire each other and audiences in an extensive programme of public events. This year will see the last festival under the leadership of Nick Barley, whose programmes have seen everyone from Nobel Prize winners Maria Ressa, Amartya Sen, Joseph Stiglitz and Malala Yousafzai, to literary phenomena such as George RR Martin, Haruki Murakami, Elif Shafak, Hilary Mantel, Ocean Vuong and Colson Whitehead - writers who have captured the imagination worldwide, and 2023 promises to be no less exciting.

And then in an unexpected twist, worthy of any cinematic masterpiece, this year will see the return of the Edinburgh International Film Festival (18 to 23 August). Following the sad news last October that the festival's parent company had ceased trading, a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes to bring it back. With the support of the Edinburgh International

Festival, a compact selection of films will be presented under the EIFF banner this August, complementing the International Festival's programme of world-class performing arts. The hand-picked programme will celebrate the work of exceptional local and global filmmakers and ensure the flame of EIFF burns bright for future generations of passionate cinema fans.



After a short post summer break, we're back on the festival trail with the Scottish International Storytelling Festival (17 to 29 October). From storytelling performances to panel discussions, and a lively family strand of storytelling activities around Halloween, there's something here for all Festival-goers to get involved with - centred around the Scottish Storytelling Centre, the only purpose built home for storytelling in the UK.

And as the year comes to a close we join the festival legend that is Edinburgh's Hogmanay (30 December to 01 January) which has evolved to become one of the greatest outdoor celebrations of New Year's Eve in the world, taking place across three days and seeing a host of live music and street arts. As the bells strike midnight, join hands with friends from across the globe in the world's biggest rendition of *Auld Lang Syne!* Then get ready for the next year of the Edinburgh Festivals.

Get all the latest news about the festivals at: www.edinburghfestivalcity.com

YOUNG

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Candidates for Commander to nominate by email to Robert Young on ryoung18@virginmedia.com prior to 2 July 2023.

Voter registration to be completed prior to 22 July 2023.

More info at <https://youngsofscotland.com/>

Aberdeenshire celebrates new county flag at Castle Fraser



Pipe Band played the famous march, *Back o' Bennachie* and the assembled crowd gave a resounding 'Three Cheers'. Mr Sandy Manson, The Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, said: "It is wonderful to see this splendid County flag now unveiled for all to see. For the children from two different local schools to produce such similar designs that were then brought together in the flag you see today, was remarkable. It's clear to see why their design triumphed over hundreds of others from all ages and corners of the world: a bold flag that heralds our past and signals a confident future. Judging over 800 global entries by the panel was certainly not easy. The five designs chosen for the shortlist went to a public vote, encompassing the many traditions and characteristics we associate with our beautiful and historic county. My congratulations to all the pupils involved in so creatively designing the winning flag. I hope all of Aberdeenshire will be very proud as our new flag flies over the county, playing an important part in our local identity."

Manson, discovered through dialogue with the Lord Lyon's office that while Aberdeenshire had a long-standing coat of arms, it did not have a county flag as was the case with most counties in Scotland.

Two Deputy Lieutenants, Mrs Jean Haslam and the late Mrs Miranda McHardy took this historic project forward, running an open competition to design a flag for Aberdeenshire. Workshops were run by Philip Tibbetts (Lyon Court Vexillologist for Scotland) during the first week in September 2022 in schools across the county. With the help of the Lord Lyon and Mr Tibbetts, a judging panel examined over 820 entries submitted in October, the largest ever response to a flag competition in Scotland. A short-list of five designs was selected that went to a public vote, with 4,208 votes cast.



with invited guests and a large crowd gathered to witness the historic occasion. The chosen flag was based on the original designs of pupils from Newtonhill School, Stonehaven, and Elrick School, Westhill.

An important part in local identity

Accompanied by the Drums & Pipes of The Gordon Highlanders Association and an honour guard of Lonach Highlanders, the children presented the flag to The Lord-Lieutenant, Sandy Manson, at the castle doors. Following a dedication, the new Aberdeenshire flag was taken to the top of the castle tower and raised by the Lord-Lieutenant. Lone Piper, David Fraser, from The Gordon Highlanders Association

Scotland's castle country

The pupils described their winning design, "Aberdeenshire is Scotland's 'castle country' but also the strong royal association referenced by the crown. A quarter of Scotland's arable land is in Aberdeenshire, with the gold representing the barley and the whisky that it makes, and the purple symbolises the heather of our mountains." The project was initiated in March 2022, when the Lord-Lieutenant, Mr Sandy



The new Aberdeenshire County flag was revealed at a special dedication ceremony held at The National Trust for Scotland's Castle Fraser, Sauchen, Aberdeenshire,

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Celebrating The Year of Scotland-The Australian Celtic Festival

All images courtesy of Jim Barker, Twelve Points Photography and the Australian Celtic Festival.



The Australian Celtic Festival hit a record number of visitors in May with over 6,000 purchasing tickets and up to 7,500 adults and



Scottish fiddler Paul Anderson.



children attending various events held throughout Glen Innes, in the NSW New England region. The Year of Scotland has traditionally been one of the most popular highlighted nations bringing in the crowds but this year has gone beyond Glen Innes Severn Council's expectations. With all accommodation vacancies filled well before the event, many regional locals took advantage of heading out for the day, catching as much entertainment and atmosphere as they could. Glen Innes could not have had a better backdrop to the festivities than the National Celtic monument which became the focal point, full of sound, colour and excitement.

A standout event

Many of the visitors came to see the Street Parade, Jousts, Highland Games and an array of local, interstate and overseas artists including the Festival's Honoured Guest international traditional fiddle player Paul Anderson, Scotland's Kilted Yogi Finlay Wilson and from New Zealand, crowd pullers Clan Celtica who stirred the



audiences with their processional pipes and drums. The Pipe Band competition was also very popular as well as the atmosphere of the clans. This festival is very important for the visitor economy, bringing in over 1.8 million dollars into businesses in the lead up, during and after the festivities.

Next year is celebrating the Year of Ireland and the Isle of Man and it is already gearing up to be another record breaker. Council would like to thank all the businesses who sponsored or supported



Finlay Wilson.

the event as well as Council staff and volunteers for their contribution in making this year's Australian Celtic festival a standout event in the region.

2-5 May 2024 are the dates for the next Australian Celtic Festival in Glen Innes Highlands, celebrating the Year of Ireland & The Isle of Man. For details: 02 6730 2400 or www.australiancelticfestival.com.

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Canmore Highland Games-How to savour your inner Scot



September 2-3, 2023 brings back the full experience of Celtic culture at Centennial Park in Canmore, Alberta – so you'll want to witness the colours of the tartans and the thrill of the pipes at the 32nd annual Canmore Highland Games. Here's how you can awaken your inner Scot with some big fun – the Taste of the Highlands, the Canmore Highland Games and the Canmore Ceilidh, beneath the scenic peaks of the Rockies on Labour Day weekend.

Sip the spirits, mead and ale at the Taste of the Highlands. Bring the whole family for the Highland Games - visit the clans, see the heavy sports, shop the

Celtic market, watch the sheepdogs at work, observe the intense competitions of highland dancing and piping and drumming, enliven your palate with a Scotch tasting, sample the foods available, quench your thirst while enjoying live Celtic music in the beer garden, and discover the British automobiles on show.

Let loose and expose your inner Scot at the Canmore Ceilidh – be ready to hit the dance floor! Headliners this year are Celtica Nova. Always entertaining and definitely unique, Celtica Nova are a blast of Celtic energy and won the "International Celtic Artist of the Year" award at the 2019 Australian Celtic Music Awards!

"The Highland Games has become a signature summer event in our small mountain town. Every year we entertain the visitors to the Games while show-casing affordable Celtic culture in our communities. This creates economic support for all the local businesses who benefit," says Three Sisters Scottish Festival Society president, Sandy Bunch.

Always an affordable event, there are advance tickets and bundles to choose from. Tickets and event information can be found at: www.canmorehighlandgames.ca. Email: info@canmorehighlandgames.ca.

New York celebrates Tartan Week



Highland dancers.



Angus Robertson MSP with Camilla Hellman, President, the American Scottish Foundation.

Events took place across the city including the Tartan Day Observance at Bryant Park and the parade with thousands of participants celebrating Scotland and marching down 6th Avenue. This year's Grand Marshal was Scottish television personality Gail Porter. The 25th edition of Tartan Week also included the first ever NYC Tartan Week Mod, which was won by Cynthian Knight from Virginia.

The ASF is proud to be a founding member of the National Tartan Day New York Parade Committee, helping to organize the Parade alongside the St Andrews Society of New York, New York Caledonian Club and Clan Campbell. The 2024 NYC Tartan Day Parade will be held on National Tartan Day, Saturday April 6, 2024.

For more information on the American Scottish Foundation see: www.americanscottishfoundation.com.

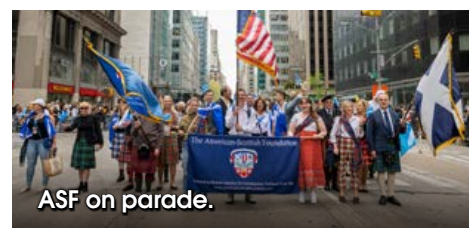


Pipers at Bryant Park.

The American Scottish Foundation (ASF) recently played a key role in celebrating the 25th annual Tartan Day Parade in New York City.



The sound of Scotland.



ASF on parade.

The Scott MacAulay Performing Arts Centre announces summer signature show

A distinct island show about the arrival of the Scots on Prince Edward Island to take centre stage at the Scott MacAulay Performing Arts Centre this summer.

The Scott MacAulay Performing Arts Centre at the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada is excited to announce its signature summer show that promotes island culture, history, stories and songs. *Highland Storm* is an exhilarating evening of Celtic music and dance that will captivate the audience and transport them back to a pivotal time in PEI over 250 years ago, when three ships, the *Annabella*, the *Edinburgh* and the *Falmouth*, arrived having carried families from their homeland in Scotland to a new land with little more than the clothes on their backs. *Highland Storm* is the story of the Scots arriving on PEI and is a reimagining of their first year on the island. The story is performed by The College of Piping's

instructors and students and featuring fiddler Gilbert Arsenault, vocalist Christine Gallant and is directed by Peter Gallant. Prepare to sit tight and hold on... there is a Storm coming! *Highland Storm* runs July 13, 20, 21, 27 and August 3, 4 5.

The Scott MacAulay Performing Arts Centre is one of Canada's best acoustic venues. It has a strong sense of community at its core when it comes to its stage promoting island schools, arts and culture. The Scott MacAulay Performing Arts Centre is very proud of its signature production, *Highland Storm*.

For more details on College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada and *Highland Storm* performances see: www.collegeofpiping.com.



All images courtesy of the American Scottish Foundation.



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