



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 47 Number 1 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS July 2023

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the Scottish Banner

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Expiry

The Banner Says...

Hoping for the return of one of Glasgow's most dear green places



by Sean Cairney

Regular readers of *the Scottish Banner* may have noted we often acknowledge an anniversary of a historic occasion, place or building within our pages. Earlier this year when I learned it was the 125th anniversary of the People's Palace and Winter Gardens in Glasgow I assumed we would likely cover it. However, we haven't as sadly the building has been closed since 2018, though the Palace has reopened the Winter Gardens have not due to the cost of much needed repairs. I have visited the People's Palace and Winter Gardens many times over the years and on a cold 'driech' day the glass roofed Gardens were an oasis in the midst of the city.

A palace of pleasure and imagination

The iconic building sits in the historic Glasgow Green, Scotland's oldest park, in the east end of the city. The Palace was built in the style of the Italian Renaissance, in red sandstone and the Gardens in a steel framed Victorian glasshouse structure and called 'a palace of pleasure and imagination' at its opening in 1898. The idea for the People's Palace began in the late 1800's when Glasgow leaders felt it was important for a cultural asset to be made available for the citizens in the poorer east end. In the late 1800's life was hard in Glasgow's east end, and it was quite an overcrowded place with large families living in small spaces. To have a multi storey museum with art, exhibitions and a diverse variety

of flora nestled in the hard-edged east end of Glasgow was a huge thing. At the opening in 1898 Lord Rosebery proudly declared it was 'open to the people for ever and ever'.

Since the 1940's the building has been a champion of Glasgow's social history. The museum is considered to be Glasgow's only museum in the city for and about the heritage of Glaswegians. It tells a very important part of the story of Glasgow, a story of its working-class history and what Glasgow was built on.

It is a building that represents ordinary people and champions social justice. The exhibitions in the Palace include unique insights how Glasgow was for our parents and grandparents such as how a family could live in a one-room Glasgow tenement family home of the 1930s, also photos and film from a Glasgow long gone, political history and just what it was like for the women who laboured (and socialised) at their local 'steamie' to do the laundry. Much of that (harder) life is long gone, but no doubt it has helped shape the Glasgow of today.

Dear Green Place

In recent years Glasgow has done an outstanding job in refurbishing or opening new museums across the city, such as The Burrell Collection, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and the Riverside Museum which we have featured each in this publication. The Winter Gardens sadly has fallen into disarray and though it is four times larger than the Palace itself there is no timeline to reopen it. It has been said that the glasshouse was designed in the inverted shape of Lord Nelson's ship *HMS Victory*, however victory has not yet come for the Winter Gardens to reopen. The airy structure was bathed in natural light and featured palm trees and exotic plants and really was a great place to escape to. I hope the city leaders of the 'Dear Green Place' find a way to bring back this treasured civic asset and allow Glaswegians, especially those in the

east end, and visitors alike to enjoy this green historic oasis. I will be sure we announce the Winter Gardens reopening when that transpires.

In this issue

One place that is having an anniversary as we go to press and is celebrating is the Fife town of Glenrothes. The town officially came to be in 1948 and sits in the heart of Fife. Planners were thinking coal when the town started but the town has reinvented itself with the electronics industry and has a diverse collection of art works across the region, including a fondness for hippos.

Scotland is littered with a variety of ancient sites. At times they can be right in front of us, and we do not always even know it. One person who does is David C. Weinczok, who highlights some of his favourite sites located around Scotland. Perhaps you have discovered a special site of interest, if so please share it with us.

The Cairngorm Railway is the UK's highest railway (reaching over 1,065m above sea level) and was closed in 2018 due to safety concerns. Earlier this year Scotland's only funicular railway once again welcomed passengers back on board for the roughly five-minute journey to the top of the Highlands. This will be sure to be popular with not only snowsports enthusiasts in winter, but to visitors throughout the year to take in this stunning location.

Happy Birthday tae us!

Another anniversary I cannot not mention is *the Scottish Banner's* birthday! With this issue *the Scottish Banner* proudly turns 47. I appreciate all the support of our readers, followers, friends and advertisers in helping us get here. Without it reaching this anniversary would not have been possible, so thank you and I do hope you enjoy this edition. 🍷

Have you visited the People's Palace and Winter Gardens in Glasgow? 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 People's Palace and Winter Gardens. Photo: VisitScotland.



Gracing our front cover: Glenrothes Heritage by David Harding. Photo: Fife Council.

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?

The Flying Scotsman



Flying Scotsman at Kings Cross For Centenary Launch Oct 2022
(C) Olgun Kordal, Science Museum Group.j

It was a blast from the past to read about The Flying Scotsman as I saw it on its Australian tour. I had taken my two young daughters to South Beach, near Fremantle, what a sight!

The train was being accompanied by another steam train, fortunately it was on the track nearest to us. I have a few DVDS telling the story of this great engine, I love steam trains but there are no trains in this part of the country. I've always loved steam trains and can remember

travelling on them. They had their own personalities and style. It's wonderful that The Flying Scotsman has been preserved, giving people the chance to see it. I seem to recollect that the engine was a lighter shade of green but that could be my memory playing tricks?

Thank you for *the Scottish Banner* as it's always interesting and thank you for publishing the story.

Jocelyn Layton
Wyndham, Western Australia

Looking for Lorraine Doull

Long shot, looking for a Lorraine Doull, emigrated to Australia 1990/1991.

Her married name was Duncan and was going through a divorce, an Edinburgh lass. She would be in her late 50s/early 60s.

Her father might have joined her in Australia after 1991. At the time of emigrating, her boyfriend at time was Anil. I worked with Lorraine in Edinburgh in a group home for people with learning difficulties. If anyone knows of this Lorraine could you pass my email onto her please.

Thank you,

Fione

fione69@hotmail.co.uk

Scotland

Shinty



What wonderful memories came rushing back when I saw the cover of your March edition. My father used to play shinty as a young lad and he simply loved the game, if he could he would have played his whole life but it is not a game for old bones! Also having moved to Canada he lost his ability to play it, but never his love of the sport. I remember him taking about playing around the Highlands and he made lifelong friendships through the sport, I never got to see him play as his shinty days were far gone by the time I was born.

Strangely the chap in the photo on your cover does bear a great resemblance to my father as a young man and I could nearly see him play when looking at the cover.

It brought a tear to my eye but also a great smile and brought my father back to the front of my mind.

My father may not have passed on his love for shinty to me, but he certainly did his love and pride of being Scottish. He always referred to himself as Scottish first and foremost and though he loved Canada when referring to 'home' it was always in reference to Scotland. I too feel quite Scottish and love to attend Highland Games and have been to Scotland numerous times over the years. I used to go with my father and the last time with him was 2017, where I took his ashes.

Thanks again for this article, it certainly has made me miss my father all over again.

Emily Bain
Milton, Ontario
Canada

Urquhart Castle



I really enjoyed the castle story in your May edition (*Twelve years and over 400 castles later: My favourite Scottish castles* by David C. Weinczok). It was great to read about some I have yet to visit as I cannot go to Scotland without taking a castle, or three!

I often feel transported back in time and with a bit of research am amazed at the dramatic history these properties have. I have many I thoroughly enjoy visiting (and more to visit), but it is Urquhart Castle which has to be my favorite of all. The iconic castle ruins perched on the edge of Loch Ness is my most magical Scottish experience. And though I may not have yet caught a glimpse of the monster

from the castle, walking the grounds and imagining all that has once happened in its walls is enough for me. The local Highland area is also just stunning for scenery, nature and of course good Scots folk.

I am heading back to Scotland this year and yes you guessed I will be back to take in all I love about Urquhart Castle and likely a few more castles.

I immensely enjoy *the Scottish Banner*, the articles are unique, informative and always inspires me to celebrate my Scottish ancestry.

Derek Grant

Long Beach, California
USA

Ladies in pipe bands

I was interested to read your article about ladies playing the bagpipes, and thought I should tell you my story.

I was born in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia in 1940 and became a Highland dancer. When I was at High School in about 1953 there was a move to form a Ladies Pipe Band, so I started to learn to play the pipes.

Preference was given to older ladies to get into the band initially, but at any engagement four dancers went along and put on a performance to give the band members a spell. I became Secretary of the band in 1958, and later Pipe Major. I married and had two children, but still continued playing with the band. In 1982 I moved to Wangaratta, in north-eastern

Victoria, and joined the Wangaratta Pipe Band, later holding positions of Secretary and Pipe Major. It was here that my elder son Kyle, while at High School, learned side drumming and also played with the band.

In 1990 after both sons went to Melbourne to university, I moved to Melbourne and joined St. Andrew's Ladies Pipe Band. We had many happy trips interstate for contests and special performances. We always seemed to win the Best Dressed Award. While with St. Andrew's I also started working with Pipe Bands Victoria, doing administrative work at contests and gatherings. I still do this today. In 2001 I temporarily joined the Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipe Band to travel to Scotland and perform at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

St. Andrew's Ladies Band eventually folded due to lack of numbers, and I joined Watsonia RSL Pipes & Drums (which was closest to where I was living). I was not able to play in contests, due to my job with Pipe Bands Victoria, but I have enjoyed many happy outings with this band.

I have been made a Life Member with three of my bands, but now feel that my playing days are coming to an end soon. I hope you like my history.

Bev Hayes

Briar Hill, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thank you Bev for sharing your story and for your contribution to the pipe band community.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Blackness Castle



Blackness Castle is a 15th century fortress, on the south shore of the Firth of Forth.
The Kilted Photographer

Crathes Castle, Banchory



Crathes Castle is a massive and impressive old tower house of the Burnett family, set in a pleasant spot in fabulous wooded grounds with a stunning walled garden, haunted by a Green Lady ghost and located near Banchory in Aberdeenshire.

Tam Eadie
IG: @eadietam

The National Wallace Monument



The magnificent National Wallace Monument
IG: @charles.mcguigan

Butt of Lewis



Lovely day at the Butt of Lewis, the most northerly point of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides.
Mik Coia

Virginia International Tattoo 2023 – Scotch College Pipe Band Tour



Scotch College Pipe Band from Perth, Western Australia recently crossed the globe to take part in this year's Virginia International Tattoo in Norfolk, Virginia. Some of the students shared with the Scottish Banner on the incredible experience and the thrill of performing for US audiences.

By: Oscar Peterson, Joshua Holborn and Ryan Shine

On Sunday 9th April 2023, 43 boys from the Scotch College Pipe Band assembled in Perth airport. Pipes in hand, drums in cases, the boys were ready for the trip of a lifetime, the Virginia International Tattoo. Months of preparation had led up to the tour.

Auditions, early wake ups, lunchtime practices, but to say it was worth it would be an understatement. With no current member of the band ever having been on tour due to covid, the boys were ecstatic to see what it was all about.

New York City

Our tour started in the buzzing and vibrant streets of New York City, quite a culture shock for the boys coming from relaxed, coastal Perth.

We were treated to the full New York experience crammed into a few short but memorable days. Ice hockey, the Statue of Liberty, Central Park, the Brooklyn Bridge, and Times Square to name a few.

The last day gave the boys the freedom to use the day however they wanted, in which some interesting, rather chaotic stories were produced with a recurring theme of subway confusion and accent barriers making for some great tales. But in a flash our time in NYC was over, and it was time to head down to the capital, Washington DC. Whilst traveling to Washington DC, we made a short stop over at the Kitchen Kettle Village located in the rural areas of Pennsylvania in which we played a few of our favourite tunes for the village.

Washington, DC

Our arrival in Washington saw us immersed in a broad range of popular destinations and tourist attractions, with the patriotic environment being a unique aspect of our journey. We visited the war monument in Arlington which featured the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Washington monument which included the famous Lincoln Memorial and then for one of the evenings, we attended a baseball game which further broadened our scope of American culture and tradition.

The overall experience of Washington gave the group a key piece of memorabilia that entails lots of positive, humorous, and fascinating memories. Our next stop, Norfolk Virginia, where we will take part in the annual International Tattoo.

Norfolk, Virginia

For the next week, Pipes and Drums became our life. We were involved in countless hours of rehearsals for the Tattoo, led by Pipe Major Ross McCrindle, and Drum Major Rab McCutcheon. Our band was the largest that attended the 2023 Tattoo, pressuring us to play at our highest standard with which was made possible due to the thorough preparation by the Scotch staff in Australia.

During our time in Norfolk, we performed at four schools as part of the outreach program, an Irish pub, the Pipe Bands competition day, a drumming battle against the Ukrainian Drummers on battleship Wisconsin, and several hullabaloes.

The group was kept very busy throughout the Tattoo week, with many of the boys balancing sightseeing, practicing, performing and study for the emerging exams in Australia. The Tattoo performance nights were exhilarating. The outstanding production and performers worked in harmony to produce a powerful atmosphere that is unforgettable to all of us. However, after one of the most memorable experiences of our lives, it was time to say goodbye to the friends we made from all around the world, and return to the other side of the globe.



New audio tour creates immersive experience on West Highland Line



Tourists to the West Highland Line can now benefit from a guided tour as they travel by rail through the scenic route, thanks to a partnership between ScotRail, Geotourist, and the University of Dundee. The collaboration aims to enhance the travel experience by offering an engaging and informative audible tour that highlights the history, culture, and natural beauty of the West Highlands.

With its breath-taking landscapes and iconic destinations such as Fort William, Ben Nevis, and the Glenfinnan Viaduct, the West Highland Line is one of Scotland's most beloved railway journeys, and it's easy to see why many of the stops along the way have featured in high profile movies such as *Local Hero*, *Trainspotting* and *Harry Potter*. Recognising the importance of providing tourists, both foreign and domestic, with a rich and immersive experience, ScotRail has joined more than 20 other organisations, and teamed up with Geotourist to develop a captivating audio tour that will enhance

customers' understanding and enjoyment of the route. The audible tour, which is accessible on the ScotRail website and through Geotourist's user-friendly mobile app, provides passengers with a unique narrative as they travel through the West Highland Line. The content has been carefully crafted to offer historical insights, local stories, and interesting facts about the landmarks and attractions along the way. Whether customers are history enthusiasts, nature lovers, or simply seeking to learn more about the area, the audio tour will cater to their interests and enrich their journey.

Alasdair Smart, ScotRail Tourism Manager, said: "We're delighted that customers travelling on the West Highland Line can now benefit from a more immersive experience thanks to the new audio tour. From the hustle and bustle of Glasgow to peaceful and picturesque Mallaig at the end of the line, it's a side of Scotland you can only see from the train, and a magical tour of some of the most beautiful scenery in the world."

SCOTSPEAK

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



“The Declaration of Arbroath is one of the most significant documents we have in our collections. At National Records of Scotland we are hugely proud of the role we play in conserving it to ensure it is still here for future generations to see and study. We hope people from Scotland and beyond will take this rare opportunity to see it for themselves.”

Dr Alan Borthwick, Head of Medieval and Early Modern Records, National Records of Scotland, said as the Declaration of Arbroath went on display at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh for the first time in 18 years. The iconic and fragile 700-year-old document can only be displayed occasionally in order to ensure its long-term preservation. The Declaration of Arbroath is a letter dated 6 April 1320, written by the barons and freeholders of Scotland, on behalf of the Kingdom of Scotland, to Pope John XXII asking him to recognise Scotland's independence and acknowledge Robert the Bruce as the country's lawful king.

“The greatest cycling athletes in the world will bring the biggest and best cycling event in history to Scotland. The 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships will be full of can't-miss moments across the country for everyone to experience and enjoy.”

Scottish Olympian Sir Chris Hoy, 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships Ambassador, said as the 2023 UCI Cycling

World Championships are getting ready to take place in Scotland. Riders from across the world will compete at the highest level over 13 UCI World Championships in the largest biking event ever held. The inaugural cycling mega-event takes place in Glasgow and across Scotland from 3-13 August.



“It's undeniable that much of Scotland's coastline is truly breathtaking, and it's easy to see why the pretty seaside town of North Berwick is still Scotland's most expensive seaside location for house hunters, with properties costing over £440,000 on average. St Andrews – well known for its world-famous university and golf courses – isn't far behind, with properties in the area fetching a similar price tag. However, many of Scotland's coastal towns have average house prices that are much lower. Homes in Greenock

for example cost less than £100,000 on average. While many things can influence the price of a home, socio-economic factors are perhaps playing a greater role in some coastal locations. While there are doubtless many property hot spots, a sea view isn't necessarily supporting house prices in Scottish towns most in need of investment.”

Graham Blair, Mortgages Director, Bank of Scotland, said that North Berwick most expensive place to buy a seaside home in Scotland. Homes in the East Lothian town cost £440,172 on average in 2022, with properties in St Andrews only slightly less, at £421,528. North Berwick and St Andrews were also the first and second most expensive Scottish coastal locations for property in 2021. Dunbar, also in East Lothian, makes up the top three most expensive seaside areas to buy a home in Scotland, setting buyers back £284,121 on average. The lowest average price for a home near the sea in Scotland can be found in Greenock, where homes cost an average of £97,608.



“Bank of Scotland has issued bank notes showcasing our country's incredible history for more than 320 years and we've put the contribution of exceptional Scottish people into the spotlight too. We are so proud that our £100 polymer note commemorates the remarkable work of Dr Flora Murray who, alongside being a medical pioneer, spent her adult life fighting for women's rights as a suffragette.”

A Bank of Scotland spokesperson said the banks £100 note was ranked in the top three most beautiful bank notes in the world by the International Bank Note Society. The £100 Bank of Scotland polymer note, the first to honour the

contribution of a significant Scottish person, features Scottish medical pioneer and suffragette Dr Flora Murray, who founded London's Women's Hospital for Children and the Women's Hospital Corp.

“As the warm and dry weather continues, so too does the risk of wildfire. The ongoing incident at Cannich shows just how large these fires can become. A mixture of seasonal weather conditions combined with very dry and dead vegetation means there is a heightened risk of fires, which can be started by the careless disposal of cigarettes as well as barbecues or campfires left unattended. Many of our rural and remote communities are hugely impacted by these incidents, which can cause significant environmental and economic damage. Cannich has been a challenging incident and our crews are working tirelessly to tackle the fire and stop further spread. Extinguishing a fire on this scale requires a large amount of resources, including the use of helicopters to bolster our response.”

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Group Commander Niall MacLennan said as fire crews spent days trying to get an out of control wild fire under control at Cannich, near Inverness. The fire is believed to be one of the largest ever recorded in the UK and could be seen from space. The burn area covers approximately fifteen square kilometres (approx. 1,500 hectares).

“As we welcome back a piece of tram history to Leith Walk, it's fitting that we're also able to look forward to the future of Edinburgh's tram network, and the start of passenger services on the brand new line to Newhaven. While this is a moment for celebration, it is also a chance to reflect on the last few years, and I'd like to take the opportunity to thank residents and businesses for their patience during this major, complex project.”

Cammy Day, City of Edinburgh Council leader, said as Edinburgh's newest tram extension opened. The route, which has been under construction since November 2019, has been delivered on schedule and within the £207.3m budget. Services on the new route between Picardy Place in the city centre and Newhaven in Leith began taking passengers on 7 June. Passengers can now take the tram from Leith to Edinburgh Airport.

SCOTWORD

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

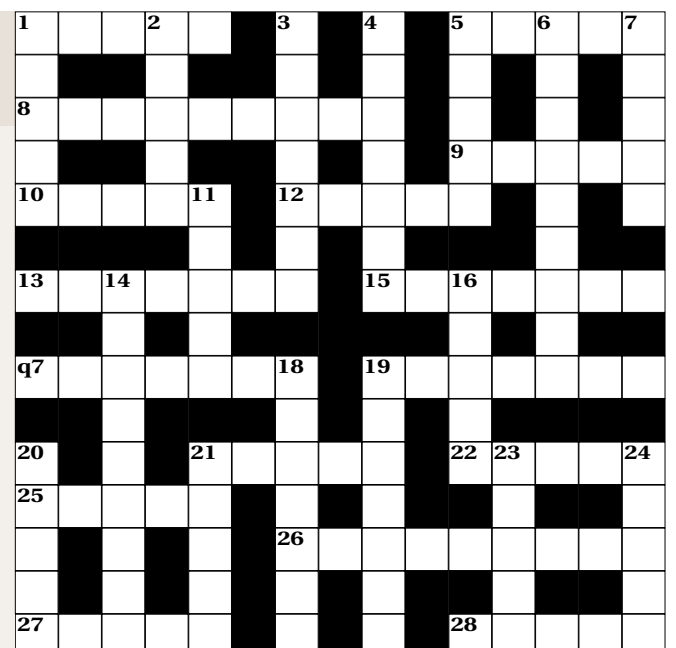
CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Scots cowsheds (5).
- 5) Tossed in sport! (5).
- 8) Round Scots cake (4, 5).
- 9) Tenth part of income (5).
- 10) A young salmon (5).
- 12) Curling teams (5).
- 13) Scots guard (7).
- 15) The auld enemy (7).
- 17) Porridge necessity (7).
- 19) Drinks makers (7).
- 21) Revolutionary transport (5).

- 22) Slide on slippery Scots surface (5).
- 25) It goes wi' tatties! (5).
- 26) Sporting activities (9).
- 27) Scots doors (5).
- 28) Fishy gathering (5).
- 7) He's against the law (5).
- 11) Put up with in Scotland (5).
- 14) He's out of this world (9).
- 16) Northern Scots (5).
- 18) Argyll waterway (4, 3).
- 19) Market town west of Montrose (7).
- 20) Don't run on it! (5).
- 21) Fife town near Cupar (5).
- 23) Sailing vessel (5).
- 24) Art supporter! (5).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Stays in Scotland (5).
- 2) Force out (5).
- 3) cots purse! (7).
- 4) Rush forward in Scots (7).
- 5) Old Scots (5).
- 6) Clansman's weapon (9).



Tercentenary tartan launched to honour pioneering Scot Adam Smith



Professor John Finch with an Adam Smith tartan scarf.

To honour the tercentenary of pioneering economist and Scot Adam Smith, a new tartan has been designed by the University of Glasgow Adam Smith Business School. Its main thread is University blue to represent the Firth of Forth, where Smith would have watched ships coming and going to the rest of the world. Subtle hints of green mark Smith's time in Glasgow, and yellow represents the Kirkcaldy High badge, where Smith attended School. A check of burgundy from the University's brand colours ties it together. Smith is one of the University of Glasgow's most famous alumni and known as the Father of Economics.

At the age of 14 he studied at the University, later returning as a Professor of Logic, then becoming Professor of Moral Philosophy. Adam Smith remembered his time at the University of Glasgow as: "By far the most useful and therefore as by far the happiest and most honourable period of my life."

While at Glasgow, Smith published the first edition of *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* in 1759, developing upon the principles and concepts explored in his lectures. Smith's final connection with the University came in 1787 when he assumed the position of Rector. Head of Adam Smith Business School Professor John Finch said: "We are incredibly proud of our connection with Adam Smith. His studies and writings introduced ideas, insights and concepts that were revolutionary in their day and shaped our understanding of economics in today's world. We've designed a Business School tartan to commemorate his life, work and the impact he is continuing to have in the world 300 years on from his birth. It's a fitting tribute to our most famous alumn."

The tartan is recognised in the Scottish Register of Tartans. It has been woven into a brushed lambswool scarf at Lochcarron in Selkirk in the Scottish Borders, and is available from the University of Glasgow gift shop.

National Library launches first ever Gaelic language exhibition

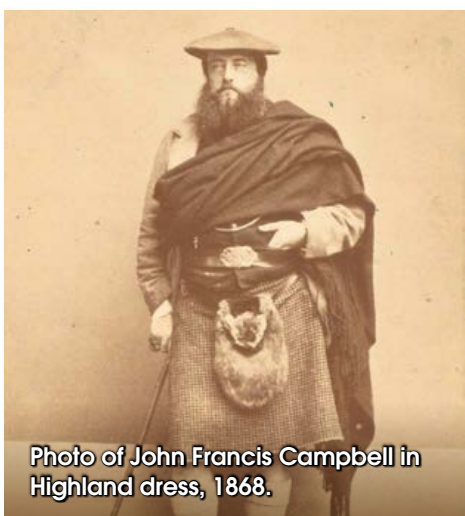


Photo of John Francis Campbell in Highland dress, 1868.

The National Library of Scotland's first ever dual-language exhibition, *Sgeul | Story: Folktales from the Scottish Highlands*. *Sgeul | Story* focuses on the work of 19th century folklorist John Francis Campbell, who worked with local storytellers to record and save Gaelic folktales – which at the time were preserved solely by a dwindling oral tradition and therefore at risk of oblivion. The exhibition invites visitors to hear and learn about folktales told for centuries in the Gaelic-speaking areas of Scotland, and discover how they have been preserved for current and future generations to enjoy. National Librarian Amina Shah said: "We've really enjoyed working with partners around the country in the development of this exhibition. It's a natural fit for us given we have the largest collection of Scottish Gaelic

manuscripts in the world – some dating as far back as the 14th century. We want to do more to promote Gaelic and do it better. It feels like this exhibition – taking a Gàidhlig-first approach – is a turning point for us. We're excited to play our part in what feels like a resurgence in Gaelic language in Scotland."

Entirely bilingual in Scottish Gaelic and English

The exhibition is almost entirely bilingual in Scottish Gaelic and English. Panel texts were translated and enriched with further text by academics from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. The audiovisual elements are the result of collaborations with Gaelic-medium schools, students, Gaelic storytellers, musicians, and colleagues from The City of Edinburgh Council and the University of Edinburgh. This exhibition is the culmination of the work the National Library is doing to promote the Gaelic language. Alongside the exhibition, there will be opportunities for people to engage in Gaelic language and culture through the Library's complementary programme – from informal opportunities for people to converse or learn the basics of Gàidhlig, to exciting traditional music events, as well as talks, screenings, and more.

Sgeul | Story is on now at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh and runs until April next year. Entry is free. To find out more about the exhibition and events surrounding it, visit www.nls.uk.

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Weave your way through history with two fascinating driving trails through the South of Scotland

The South of Scotland Destination Alliance has created bespoke themed routes following in the footsteps of Robert Burns and inspired by the Great Tapestry of Scotland. Two new driving trails have been formally launched by the South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA) and partners, designed to immerse visitors in the story-filled landscape of the south of Scotland

as they follow in the footsteps of Robert Burns and experience the parts of the region immortalised in the magnificent Great Tapestry of Scotland. Created using new digital functionality funded through VisitScotland's Destination and Sector Marketing Fund, the Great Tapestry Trail and the Burns Trail on the SSDA's Scotland Starts Here website have been painstakingly curated to guide visitors

around key landmarks in the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway, highlighting great places to stay, eat and discover along both themed journeys.

Story heritage

"The south of Scotland is absolutely jam-packed with fascinating stories and heritage just waiting to be discovered. In developing these two new driving trails, we've worked hard with our partners to showcase the stand-out highlights of our region's connections with both Burns and the Great Tapestry, while weaving in lots of useful recommendations for fantastic places to stay, eat, drink and visit along the way, said Sarah Macdonald, SSDA Project Lead – Stories Experience Collection, who co-designed both trails for Scotland Starts Here. "It's especially exciting to be unveiling these new trails in 2023, which promises to be such a momentous year for the whole of the south of Scotland – not only were we named among the 30 best places in the world to visit this year by Lonely Planet but we're champing at the bit to launch our epic new 250-mile Coast to Coast cycle route from Stranraer to Eyemouth this summer."

"The South of Scotland is steeped in history and these itineraries will help bring to life the region's fascinating past, encouraging visitors to uncover the hidden gems, attractions and diverse places to eat and drink. By encouraging visitors to stay longer, visit all year round and explore more widely, they can in turn contribute to the sustainable quality of life of the communities they encounter. Tourism is a force for good. It creates jobs, sustains communities and contributes significantly to the economy," said Annique Armstrong, VisitScotland Destination Development Director for the South of Scotland.

Burns Trail

The 187 mile-long Burns Trail takes visitors on a six-day tour from Berwickshire to Dumfries, following in the footsteps of Scotland's national bard. The journey takes inspiration from the tour of the Borders the

then 28-year-old Burns took in May 1787 with his friend Robert Ainslie, beginning in the coastal town of Eyemouth, where the pair were made Royal Arch Masons of St Ebb's Lodge – to this day, the cutlery Burns used at his repast are still treasured by the Eyemouth Lodge. The Burns Trail then progresses westwards, passing the ruined abbeys of Kelso, Jedburgh and Melrose, the Border towns of Selkirk and Galashiels and into Dumfries and Galloway, visiting Moffat and Ellisland Farm where Burns and his family lived for three years in the late 1700s and where he wrote *Auld Lang Syne* before culminating in Dumfries, the place of his death in 1796 at the young age of 37.

"Ellisland is the only home built by Burns and definitely the best preserved and most authentic and romantic. Some of Burns' most creative years were spent in Dumfriesshire and of course he was greatly inspired by the Borders, so bringing the two together in both these fantastic new trails makes perfect sense," said Joan McAlpine, Business Development Manager at Burns' former home Ellisland Museum & Farm, which features in both trails.

Great Tapestry of Scotland Trail

The Great Tapestry of Scotland is the result of a Scotland-wide community art project involving 1,000 stitchers aged four to 94 to tell the colourful history of Scotland from pre-history to the modern day, featuring battles, Romans, religion, Vikings, innovation, sport, kings and queens and much more. The 143m-long tapestry, first exhibited in 2013 at the Scottish Parliament and now housed in a new, purpose-built exhibition space in Galashiels, is made up of 160 beautifully embroidered linen panels made over 50,000 hours with 300 miles of wool thread. Visitors spending seven days travelling along the 283-mile Great Tapestry Trail start at the Tapestry Centre itself before wending their way to the Berwickshire coast and then west again to the Border towns and Abbotsford, home of great historical novelist Sir Walter Scott. The trail then weaves in Roman history with a stop at Trimontium Museum, Melrose where in AD80 the Romans established a major fort and which is one of the UK's most significant archaeological sites from that period.

Taking in the fascinatingly-named Devil's Porridge Museum just outside Gretna next, which pays tribute to the world's largest WW1 munitions factory, trail-followers will then catch up with Robert Burns in and around Dumfries before heading to Wigtown, Scotland's national book town and the location for cult film *The Wicker Man*, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2023. Stopping to see the ruins of Glenluce Abbey where Mary, Queen of Scots once dined and slept while on a pilgrimage to Whithorn, the trail ends at the dramatic clifftop lighthouse in the Mull of Galloway – Scotland's most southernmost point, at the end of the Rhins of Galloway.

"We are delighted to have been part of this fantastic project with SSDA. Many of the 160 panels in the Great Tapestry of Scotland feature the compelling and rich history of the people and landscape of the south of Scotland. The Tapestry trail vividly brings stories to life of history, heritage, battles and culture across the entire region. It is such a compelling journey travelling to locations which feature in the tapestry, everyone will find something to explore and intrigue them," said Sandy Maxwell-Forbes, Centre Director The Great Tapestry of Scotland.



The seat of the Duke of Argyll. 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 castle is the seat of the Duke of Argyll?
- 2) At Bannockburn, whose army did Robert the Bruce defeat - Edward I, Edward II or Edward III?
- 3) What is the area between Loch Achray and Loch Katrine better known?
- 4) Aberdeen, Aberfeldy, Abernethy. What does the prefix Aber mean?
- 5) To what does the Scots term "cutty sark" refer?
- 6) Bonnie Prince Charlie's monument at Glenfinnan looks out over which loch?

- 7) Which region of Scotland contains the majority of malt whisky distilleries? a) Strathclyde, b) Grampian or c) Highland?
- 8) What was the capital of Scotland before Edinburgh?
- 9) What is the most westerly point on the Scottish mainland?
- 10) In which Scottish city did the freedom fighter William Wallace gain his education?

Answers

- 1) Inveraray Castle.
- 2) Edward II.
- 3) The Trossachs.
- 4) A confluence or river mouth.
- 5) A short-tailed shirt.
- 6) Loch Shiel.
- 7) b) Grampian.
- 8) Dunfermline, in Fife.
- 9) Ardnamurchan Point.
- 10) Dundee.



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TENEMENT TALES - By: Brian Diamond

Canadian Brian Diamond has developed a collection of short humorous stories which were written to create a book that he could give to his 13 grandchildren. The stories are 100% true and accurately portray his childhood growing up in a tenement in the industrial suburb of Springburn in Glasgow in the 1940's and 50's.

Springburn's playgrounds



Sight Hill Cemetery.

As an adventurous child growing up in Springburn, the school summer holidays, 8 whole weeks with no school was the highlight of our young lives. Our parents never seemed to worry too much about us as there was always a neighbour on hand to monitor the back yard and make sure that all was well. Now after a while the back yard got boring and so we had to look elsewhere for adventure, looking back at some of the things that I did, god alone knows how I am still around to pen these stories.

I lived on Keppochhill Rd just past the big iron gates leading into Sight Hill Cemetery, and for a child, this was

positively the most magic place in the world to play games, with just a little imagination you could turn this sombre setting into anything that caught your fancy. Boys played cowboys & Indian's, hide & seek, cops & robbers, while the girls tidied up the graves, had tea parties and rearranged the flowers, all of this with respect and never a thought of vandalism on our mind. Upon crossing through the vast graveyard following the railway line, one emerged to a grass field often referred to the Rushy Park, a fascinating place to play as there was a swamp at the base of the hill. The swamp was high in reeds and bull rushes hence its name, and no matter

how many time my parents warned me not to, I always had to try and cross the swamp wearing my white summer sandals, which inevitably got horribly stained, requiring a creative story to cover up, I guess that the devil made me do it.

A must-see stopover for an adventurous kid

Beyond the swamp was a massive hill (a mountain to us kids) comprised of chemical waste from the nearby ICI Chemical plant, it was referred to as Jack's Mountain, or The Salt Waste. It was another forbidden place of wonder for a nomadic kid like me, I climbed that mountain from every angle, made caves in the mountain and fearlessly slid down it sitting on pieces of cardboard and getting the chemical waste firmly lodged in my pants and shoes. Knowing that this was a definite "NO NO" I would make my way to Pinkston Power Station for a quick clean up visit to The Steamy Canal. The water in this canal always had a mist hovering over it as it came from cooling the generators in the power plant, it was remarkably clear, luke warm, and not at all deep, a perfect place to wash my shoes and clean my pants before heading home.

To go home I had to pass yet another place of wonder, The Slaughter House, a must-see stopover for an adventurous kid. The smell from the place was overpowering, and the building was so old and dilapidated that one could quite easily see through the broken windows to where the animals were shot, our own

local version of *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*. Quite often, as the trucks rolled in the animals seemed to sense that this would be their last ride into the sunset and they became quite skittish. I often witnessed horses, bulls and cows make their last bid from freedom by shaking off their handlers and running for the salt mountain slopes with my best wishes that they would escape. On the other side of the mountain was another death-defying piece of the local scenery, The Stinky Ocean, this was a large body of water which drained off the chemical waste mountain to form a pond which reeked of sulphur, better known as a rotten egg smell. This pond was rather deep and could support a raft made from oil cans and wood all strapped together with wire and rope, and once you got over the smell, was a great place to play for wandering kids like me.

Now as I recite all of this, I start to wonder, what on earth was in that chemical dump? Why did my sandals rot away and the soles fall off so quickly? And what caused the backside of my pants to disintegrate earning me a thick ear for lying about where I had been. Was there ever such a thing as The EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency back then? What kind of chemical junk was I playing in? Perhaps I should have listened to my parents. Back in those days, apart from a few special local friends, nomadic urchins like me made friends with whomever they came across at whatever the activity of the day was.

The Montreal Highland Games 2023: Quebec's Oldest Games

By: Marilyn Meikle, Communications Coordinator, Montreal Highland Games

"Dare to be honest and fear no labour." - Robbie Burns



The caber used at the Games is painted with the flag of Montreal.



Athlete in deep concentration at the Games. Will his hard work pay off?

Scotland's famous poet sums up the history of the Montreal Highland Games. While not the biggest games in Canada, they began with the hard work of a group of Scots when the Caledonian Games were established in Montreal in 1855.

Over the past 168 years, there have been various incarnations of the Games, hundreds of volunteers, thousands of hours of hard labour, and dedication to maintaining some iteration of Scottish competitions. Men and women daring to invest their time and money to preserve Scottish culture in Montreal. How fortunate the city is that they did. Today's Montreal Highland Games are a tribute to that hard work.

"We couldn't hold the Games without the dedication of our committee, our volunteers, and our partners. We are grateful to have CN Canada along with the St. Andrew's Society as co-presenting sponsors", Scott Mackenzie, President of the Games, says.

Canadian Scottish Athletic Federation's Men and Women's National Championships

This year, the Games are thrilled to host the Canadian Scottish Athletic Federation's Men and Women's National Championships. These competitors from across Canada clearly demonstrate they have no fear of hard labour. They are disciplined athletes who work to maintain their strength and strive to improve each caber toss or stone put. Lorne Colthart, ON and Susie Lajoie, NS will be defending their 2022 titles. Hard work and commitment are seen throughout many events and attractions at the Games; from the families who participate in the 5km Caledonian Run that kicks off the day; to the competitive Highland dancers who range from primary to premier; pipe bands who compete under the judge's trained ear; to musicians who gather in the Fiddlers Tent along the Celtic Mile, and Mariner's Curse and The Hellions who will be performing at their best in the Ceilidh Tent. Everyone involved in the day dares to be their best whether they are a volunteer in the Children's Village, or a member of the clean-up crew. Honesty and hard work are integral to making the Games a success.

The result of the energy put into the Games is a family-friendly event for all Montrealers to experience Scottish culture and enjoy a fun-filled day. There is no labour involved to attend the Games! Hop on the free shuttle bus from the Angrignon metro station and join in the celebration at the Douglas Hospital Grounds, Verdun on Sunday, August 6. Tickets can be purchased on the website.

The Montreal Highland Games takes place on Sunday August 6, for more information see: www.montrealhighlandgames.com. Or keep up to date on Facebook: @montrealhighlandgames or Instagram: @mtlhighlandgames.



Young Highland dancer concentrating on his steps.

All images courtesy of Peter Matulina.

The Glengarry Highland Games rolls out another exciting edition



Since 1948, the Glengarry Highland Games has welcomed over one million visitors to one of North America's premier Celtic festivals. Home of the North American Pipe Band Championships™ and host of a spectacular Tattoo and Concert, the Games has welcomed some of the world's finest Celtic entertainers to its stage. The moving massed pipe band performance at the end of the Games sees over 1000 pipers and drummers playing together on a field ringed with an awestruck audience.

Along with the traditional Games events of heavyweights, highland dancing and Scottish fiddling, the Games has introduced several new attractions with the Highland Regiment Tug of War, a Kilt Run, a Harp Workshop, Scotch Tasting, a Wee Bairns Area and more. Each year, over 20,000 visitors flock to Maxville, Ontario to celebrate this Celtic tradition and participate in everything Scottish.

One of the world's best Highland Games

Last year the Games made a triumphant return after a two-year covid hiatus and to its surprise had one of its record attendance years. Also, this past winter the

Games was nominated by the *Pipes and Drums* magazine as one of the world's best Highland Games and just recently was named as one of Ontario's Top 100 Festivals and Events in the same category as Ottawa's Bluesfest and the Stratford Festival.

This summer at the 2023 Glengarry Highland Games there might be as many hockey jerseys as kilts in the audience when the Games welcomes as Guest of Honour hometown boy John Wensink, an NHL hero most noted for his time as enforcer with the Boston Bruins. Wensink joins an illustrious group of Canadian celebrities who have filled the role of Guest including Prime Ministers, a Governor General, an astronaut and other noted Canadian figures.

Celtic music

The award-winning Celtic rock sensation The Derina Harvey Band (dHb) will be this year's Friday night Tattoo headliner with traditional songs as well as their own brand of original tunes. Lead singer and band leader Derina Harvey's vibrant personality takes center stage with humour, storytelling, and, of course, her world class vocals. dHb has been likened to a "rockier" version of Canada's Great Big Sea if fronted by Adele, and has earned a reputation as a high-energy show that leaves many an audience out-of-breath and hollering for more. What is it about Celtic music that when its solid rhythms, upbeat tempos and catchy melodies start up, that people are compelled to clap their hands and tap their feet and start dancing. The Celtic bands of Glengarry are well known across North America and

they all make sure they are home to play at the entertainment venues at the Games. From Gaelic singing to Scottish fiddle to favourite Scottish and Irish tunes, they will all be there with perennial favourites the Brigadoons, Hadrian's Wall, Brandy and Port, the 2 Paddys and the County Lads along with Maritime talent Anna Ludlow and East Coast Experience.

There aren't many Canadians who don't immediately recognize the distinctive red uniforms of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and at this year's Games there will be loads of opportunities to meet them up close as the Games salutes the 150th Anniversary of the RCMP. From the Tartan Ball decorated with RCMP regalia to a special performance of the RCMP Pipes, Drums and Dancers at the Friday Night Tattoo, Games visitors will be able to say thank you to one of Canada's historic policing forces.

Another colourful highlight of Friday night's Tattoo will be the performance of Canada's Band of the Ceremonial Guard with their scarlet tunics and bearskin caps, a symbol of Canada's relationship to the monarchy and one of Ottawa's most treasured icons. Daily during the summer, the Guard performs the Changing of the Guard on the lawns of Parliament Hill, one of the most recognized military traditions in Canada. As well, members of the Ceremonial Guard perform daily sentry duties at Rideau Hall, the official residence and workplace of the Governor General of Canada.

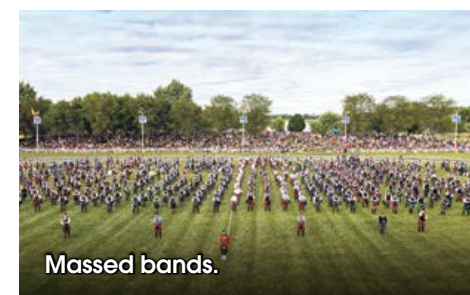
1,000 pipers and drummers

For many people, the Games is all about the pipes and anyone coming to the Games will not be disappointed.

Some of the best in North America piping descend on Maxville to compete for the prestigious Piobaireachd Society Gold Medal(Canada), the many piping and drumming awards and of course, the North American Pipe Band Championship™.

After two days of wall-to-wall competitions and entertainment, the Games wraps up with its culminating event, the famous Glengarry Highland Games massed bands where over 1,000 pipers and drummers take to the infield and perform in unison. It's a moving moment when the last strains of Amazing Grace fade away on the wind and the crowd surrounding the infield is hushed and in awe. Whether you're nine or ninety, there is something for you at the Games. The grounds are fully accessible and there are many indoor events in air-conditioned spaces while outdoors there is an abundance of shaded areas where you can gather to watch the piping, the heavyweights or cheer on the tug of war.

**More at: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com
Go to Facebook or Instagram to find out more about the Games and to plan your visit. As they say, during the long weekend on August 4 and 5, all roads lead to Maxville.**



Massed bands.

Young Family Convention

Take notice that the Young Family Convention will be held at The Melting Pot, 15 Calton Road, Edinburgh on Saturday, 2 September 2023 commencing at 2pm BST for the purpose of nominating a Commander. The person nominated will require approval and appointment by the Lord Lyon King of Arms.

Those wishing to be considered for the position or those wishing to attend should contact the Young Family Convention Secretariat by email to youngfamilyconvention@gmail.com or by post to Roberta Wallace, Nethercraigs, Shore Road, Rhubaan, Tighnabruaich, Argyll PA21 2ED, United Kingdom.

Candidates for Commander

Those interested in being a candidate for the position of Commander should self-nominate with a seconder and be sent by email or by post as above. All candidates for election as Commander need to establish that they are a Young by birth and are descended from the Scottish Youngs. Nominations should be accompanied by a statement from the candidate which can then be circulated to all Young Family members after nominations close. Each candidate will give a presentation at the Family Convention on their background, reasons for nominating as a candidate for Commander, and their vision on what they would bring to the role if selected and approved. The deadline for nominations is two months before the Family Convention by 2 July 2023. Eligibility for Voting and Attending – Register online <https://www.trybooking.com/CJAIQ>

Anyone who bears the name of Young or was born with the name Young and is associated with or identifies with the Young Family in Scotland are eligible to vote if 16 years of age or older. Those who are not of the name Young but are descended of Young are eligible to vote with additional explanation. Those who are not eligible to vote are able to attend. Registration to attend the family convention will be completed online, by email, or by post to be confirmed as eligible to vote by the Supervising Officer on behalf of Lord Lyon. Those wishing to vote must register 6 weeks prior to the Family Convention by 22 July 2023.

Supervising Officer

The Lord Lyon King of Arms has appointed Linlithgow Pursuivant Extraordinary, Professor Gillian Black, as Supervising Officer to the Young Family Convention. The Supervising Officer is appointed to chair the Family Convention to ensure that the procedure is properly followed and then to report the outcome and recommendation of the family convention to the Lord Lyon. A dinner will be organised following the family convention at a location to be determined in Dundee.

All Youngs are invited to join us at the Blairgowrie and Rattray Highland Games on Sunday, 3 September 2023.



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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon arrested

Former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has been arrested in Glasgow following an ongoing probe into finances at the Scottish National Party (SNP). The police investigation relates to how over £600,000 of funding raised by the SNP for campaigning has been spent. This follows the high-profile SNP arrest earlier this year of her husband and the party's former chief executive Peter Murrell, as well as the SNP's treasurer Colin Beattie MSP who was taken into custody for questioning. All have been released without charge pending further investigations.

Upon her release Nicola Sturgeon released the following statement: "To find myself in the situation I did today when I am certain I have committed no offence is both a shock and deeply distressing. I know that this ongoing investigation is difficult for people and I am grateful that so many continue to show faith in me and appreciated that I would never do anything to harm either the SNP or the country. Obviously, given the nature of this process, I cannot go into detail. However I do wish to say this, and do so in the strongest possible terms; innocence is not just a presumption I am entitled to in law. I know beyond doubt I am in fact innocent of any wrongdoing. To the many people who have sent messages of support over these past difficult weeks – including since today's news broke – thank you for your kindness. Thank you also to my close circle of family and friends who are giving me much-needed strength at this time. Finally, while I will take a day or two to process this latest development, I intend to be back in Parliament soon where I will continue to represent my Glasgow Southside constituents to the very best of my ability."

Nicola Sturgeon stepped down in February as Scotland's First Minister and is the longest serving leader of the Scottish government.

Wemyss Bay Station is presented with the Great Britain's Best Loved Station Award



Wemyss Bay Station was presented with the Best Loved Station award by broadcaster and historian Tim Dunn.

The station, which serves the village of Wemyss Bay in Inverclyde, emerged victorious in the highly anticipated World Cup of Stations 2023 as champion, surpassing 47 other stations to claim the title. Pictured with Tim Dunn, broadcaster and presenter, Tracy Stevenson, Community Relations for Scotrail, Ronnie Cowan, Scottish National Party MP for Inverclyde and Stuart McMillan Scottish National Party, MSP for Greenock and Inverclyde, Friends of Wemyss bay station.

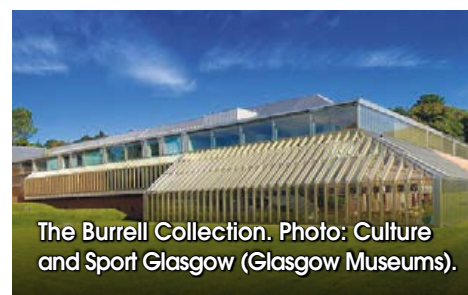
The World Cup of Stations, supported by the Rail Delivery Group and Community Rail Network, captivated station staff, volunteers, train operators, and customers across England, Scotland, and Wales through a week-long competition with over 70,000 votes cast across 11 regions and nations of Great Britain. The ScotRail managed station won the award through its remarkable achievements including: its outstanding volunteer work, the development of a vibrant and colourful community garden and the establishment of the station bookshop which resonated with voters, earning them widespread admiration and support.

As part of Community Rail Week, the competition highlighted the remarkable diversity of stations and the imaginative ways in which they are utilised, often with the invaluable assistance of Community Rail volunteers who tirelessly work towards improving local stations for residents, the environment, and the local economy. The plaque symbolises the station's exceptional standing and recognition as the epitome of railway excellence in Great Britain. The station's triumph highlights its historic significance, awe-inspiring architecture, and dedication to community engagement. The Friends of Wemyss Bay, in collaboration others have transformed the station into a vibrant community rail destination, capturing the hearts of locals and visitors alike. In receiving this award, Wemyss Bay Station joins the ranks of the country's most beloved and cherished stations, cementing its status as a beacon of excellence in the railway industry.

Two Scottish museums are finalists for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2023, the world's largest museum prize



Scapa Flow Museum. Photo: Orkney Islands Council.



The Burrell Collection. Photo: Culture and Sport Glasgow (Glasgow Museums).

Two Scottish museums are in the running to be crowned Art Museum of the Year. Both the Scapa Flow Museum in Orkney and The Burrell Collection

in Pollok Country Park, Glasgow have been shortlisted museums for Museum of the Year 2023, along with Leighton House (London); The MAC (Belfast); and Natural History Museum (London). Recently redeveloped, the Scapa Flow Museum tells the story of 'The Flow' - one of the world's biggest natural harbours - as the UK's naval nerve centre during the World Wars, and the change this brought to the surrounding small island communities of Orkney. It boasts a major collection of wartime artefacts, many of national and international significance. Convener of Orkney Islands Council, Graham Bevan, said: "We're absolutely delighted with this shortlisting. It reflects a determination by many over several years to bring a vision for a world class museum honouring our wartime heritage to reality. Huge congratulations go to everyone who has helped steer this project and played a role in ensuring these stories and artefacts are preserved for generations to come."

The Burrell Collection in Pollok Country Park, Glasgow houses the 9,000-object collection of Sir William and Constance, Lady Burrell. Managed by the charity Glasgow Life, it was officially reopened by King Charles in October 2022 following a major refurbishment and redisplay, which aimed to celebrate diversity through the museum's rich and varied Collection and create the most accessible, inclusive and sustainable fine and decorative arts museum in the world. The Collection includes one of the UK's most significant holdings of Chinese art, some of the world's finest medieval stained glass and tapestries, and paintings by artists including Rembrandt and Degas. Bailie Annette Christie, Chair of Glasgow Life, said: "We are delighted to be shortlisted for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2023, the world's largest museum prize. The opening of The Burrell Collection in 1983 was the first demonstration of Glasgow's commitment to culture-led regeneration. The benefits associated with accessing culture are tangible and the deep joy it can bring is visible every day at the reimagined Burrell Collection. We received great support to develop new accessible displays for this impressive collection, created in partnership with the local community, all housed in a sustainable and stunning listed building."

Art Fund annually shortlists five outstanding museums for the Museum of the Year. The 2023 edition celebrates 10 years of Art Fund Museum of the Year, a prize grounded in 50 years of history championing the UK's 2,500 museums, galleries and heritage sites. The shortlisted museums demonstrate transformational impact, redeveloping their offers with diverse and inspiring stories at their heart and shaping the response to vital issues of today. The winning museum will be announced at a ceremony at the British Museum in London on 12 July and will receive £120,000, specially increased for 2023 and beyond to mark 120 years of Art Fund supporting museums. £15,000 will be given to each of the four other finalists – bringing the total prize money to £180,000.

Glasgow Tower reopens

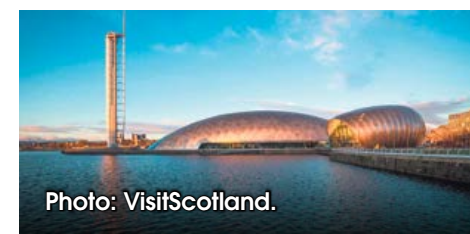


Photo: VisitScotland.

After a four year closure Scotland's tallest freestanding building has again welcomed visitors reopened to welcome visitors for the first time in almost four years. Glasgow Tower, located at the Glasgow Science Centre on the River Clyde, is the only structure on earth capable of rotating 360° into the prevailing wind and also holds the Guinness World Record for the tallest fully rotating freestanding structure in the world. The tower stands at a height of 127 metres, which equals to over 30 double-decker buses. The £10m tower has been hit with a variety of closures since opening in 2001 from engineering faults to Covid and less than 200,000 have actually visited the site in over 20 years. A Glasgow Science Centre spokesperson said: "Glasgow Tower is now open for the summer season and we look forward to welcoming locals and tourists to enjoy unrivalled panoramic views of the city and beyond and experience all that Glasgow Science Centre has to offer as a great day out."

Papa Stour connected to high-speed satellite broadband



The island of Papa Stour in the Shetland Islands, one of the most remote communities anywhere in the UK, has had its digital infrastructure transformed with the introduction of high-speed broadband, powered by satellites, as part of government plans to ensure universal access to fast, reliable broadband coverage. Clarus Networks Group installed a specialist Kymeta flat panel which links to OneWeb's constellation of low earth orbit (LEO) satellites to beam high-speed, reliable broadband connections to the island from space. The panel's installation marks its first commercial roll-out in Europe and forms part of the government's Alpha Trial programme launched in December to test the capability and viability of low orbit satellites to deliver high-speed connectivity to communities in very hard to reach areas.

Broadband connectivity will be beamed down to the Scottish island's rugged coastline via OneWeb's satellite network, delivering life-changing digital accessibility, made possible by British-born science and technology innovation, and effective collaboration between central and local government. Paul Coffey, CTO, The Clarus Networks Group, said: "At Clarus we harness the power of satellite connectivity, combined with state-of-the-art wireless technologies, to solve connection challenges. Until now, Papa Stour residents have been constrained due to unreliable and slow internet connectivity. We are excited to partner to bring lightning fast and reliable internet to the island for the first time. This installation is a landmark step in connecting remote communities, offering new possibilities for UK business and tourism."

Threave Landscape Restoration Project inspires change



A project to transform a disused dairy farm in southwest Scotland is attracting wildlife to the area and inspiring change across the country.

By: Sarah Burnett

Located in the heart of Dumfries & Galloway, the Threave Landscape Restoration Project has seen 81 hectares of land transformed from a disused dairy farm to a haven that features wildflower meadows, rich wetlands, and growing native woodlands that are buzzing with insect and bird life, including species rarely before seen in the area. The project has inspired other places we care for, with teams at Culloden, Burg, Iona and Ben Lawers all looking to adapt their conservation grazing approach to utilise new GPS software in use at Threave. Holistic planned grazing, such as that done by the 14 Belted Galloway cattle on site, increases biodiversity by creating vegetation at different heights, which encourages a range of wildlife and allows wildflowers to grow. The project uses pioneering GPS technology, located in the collars of the cows, to allow remote tracking of activity via smartphone to reduce the chance of over-grazing.

A cohesive, open space

Not only is the project inspiring large-scale changes at key historic sites across Scotland, it's also generating change locally. Following a visit from Gelston Primary School to Threave, pupils have worked with Engagement Ranger Mary Smith to create their own wildlife garden in the grounds of the school. Since the project – supported by HSBC UK and the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme and using funds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund – began in 2021, we have been giving nature a helping hand to encourage wildlife and biodiversity across the site. An innovative project from the beginning, it captures a new way of caring for the land which moves away from the more traditional prescriptive measures, to one which lets nature and the land itself lead the way.

Taking what was once a segregated landscape, our team at Threave has created a cohesive, open space on which natural heritage can flourish across wetland, woodland, wild meadows and grass-scapes. 210 meters of new boardwalks have been introduced to allow visitors to cross the re-created 7.3 hectare wetland area and discover species new to the site, including the shoveler duck. A different

approach to woodland management, which saw a shift from commercial forestry plantation woodlands to replanting methods and native woodland generation, has seen 2,000 native trees planted between November 2022 and March 2023 alone. By the end of the project, the land will be home to 16,000 trees. Backing our commitment to increasing accessibility at all of our places as part of our vision of nature, beauty and heritage for everyone, we also upgraded the core paths around the land in partnership with the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The wider pathways not only connect to the local town but will also allow wheelchairs and prams easier access. Currently the area receives between 800–900 visitors each week, with people of all ages keen to spot the range of wildlife now living on the land, including ospreys, wild fowl, greylag geese and sand martins.

Nature will flourish

Although the restoration at Threave is a long-term project spanning 100 years, the difference in the land approach is already reaping rewards: this month alone a pair of wheatear birds were seen using the reserve; curlew have been spotted on the wetlands; all 19 ponds and scrapes were occupied all winter with wild fowl; and



New boardwalks have improved the accessibility of the site to visitors, who come from as far afield as the USA.



Conservation grazing by Belted Galloway cattle helps to enhance biodiversity at Threave.



Operations Manager Gareth Clingan and Head Ranger David Thompson assessing progress on the Threave Landscape Restoration Project.

three shoveler ducks took up home on the 'great scrape'. Skylark have also been displaying on the site over the last month in a direct result from the change in land use, as a species which searches for long grass for nesting.

Gareth Clingan, Operations Manager for Dumfries & Galloway, said, "The Threave Landscape Restoration Project is a really different way of thinking about looking after land, one that lets nature recover and monitors the changes over a 100-year period, with a bit of a helping hand from the National Trust for Scotland. We hope our approach will inspire others to think about how they can make changes that mean nature will flourish. This is so important in this time of climate and biodiversity crises. Another great thing about our work here at Threave is how easy it is for people to see it firsthand. We're just off the A75 and only five minutes away from the heart of Castle Douglas, so everyone can come along and see the difference our conservation charity's work here has made, and enjoy

the nature, beauty and heritage of this lovely part of Scotland. Not only have we created flourishing eco-systems, teeming with flora and fauna, but we've also created local job opportunities with the recruitment of two new rangers, alongside several volunteers who are making a big contribution to the project. If this is what we can see after just two years, imagine the transformation in 2121."

Head Ranger David Thompson added, "This project has really put our charity and our conservation credentials on the map. We've been talking to folk from all over the world, and especially pupils and students, which is essential if we are to grow the next generation of conservationists. It's been really rewarding sharing our specialist skills and knowledge. As a team, we've also learned a lot and have a much deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, this special place."

Text and images are courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland. For more information on the Trust or to help them protect Scotland's heritage see: www.nts.org.uk



Wheatear are just one of the many bird species now being spotted at the reserve.

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By: David C Weinczok

My Five Favourite Ancient Sites



Dwarfie Stane.

When their branches grow so long as to graze the ground, they can foster new offshoots. This may be one of the reasons why they are so often found in churchyards, given the central belief in resurrection. More recently, the Fortingall Yew has undergone another jump across a dichotomy. In 2015 one of its branches was observed to have three berries. This is extraordinary because the Fortingall Yew is male, and yet, male yews don't have berries. It is possible for whole yews, or at least individual branches, to change sex, and that is precisely what appears to be happening. However, the Fortingall Yew's future could be cut short. On my most recent visit, I observed a New Age-type group praying at the tree only to then break branches from it to take as keepsakes. This type of vandalism is killing the yew, and if it is not stopped the tree will be dead as soon as 2050. I hope that it has not endured 3,000 years just to be undone by those who claim to revere it.

Let's now turn the clock back, way back, into the mists of prehistory.

In the May 2023 edition I reflected on five of my favourite Scottish castles following twelve years of non-stop exploration. Let's now turn the clock back, way back, into the mists of prehistory. Scotland has tens of thousands of prehistoric sites, from intangible yet significant Mesolithic settlements hinting at the first people to walk the post-glacial landscape to massive monuments like standing stones and chambered cairns.

Even if you live in central Edinburgh or Glasgow, you're never far from something dating back 5,000 years or more. Some of the prehistoric sites chosen as my favourites, such as the rock art of Kilmartin Glen and the many tales surrounding the Eildon Hills, have been covered in-depth in previous editions of *the Scottish Banner*. All the more reason to revisit the back catalogue!

The Dwarfie Stane, Orkney

Orkney could easily have monopolised this list, and the temptation to let it was strong. The Ring of Brodgar, Maeshowe,

Taversøe Tuick, Skara Brae, the Broch of Gurness – need I go on? Yet, monuments similar enough to all of the above can be found elsewhere in Scotland. There is nothing anywhere quite like the Dwarfie Stane. At the head of Trowie Glen in Hoy, Orkney, is a solitary mass of rock. When the glaciers retreated some 12,000 years ago, they dropped this monumental erratic in their wake. Five thousand years ago, people wielding nothing but bone and stone tools hollowed it out and carved a stone bed, complete with a pillow-like ledge, inside. A block, now a few feet in front of the entrance, can plug it like a cork in a bottle of wine. Naturally, a place as strange as this became an epicentre for folklore.

One story tells of its creation by feuding giants. Another, no less than Walter Scott's *The Pirate*, makes it the home of a Norse dwarf name Trolld. The Trowie Glen was home to the last of the fairy or 'peedie' (an Orkney Scots word meaning 'small') folk in Hoy, and many a local over the centuries was lured into their subterranean dwellings for what seemed like a few hours only to

emerge years or decades later. The Dwarfie Stane has long been a draw for eccentrics, hence the text carved in its side in Persian and reverse Latin by Major William Mounsey which reads, "I have sat two nights and so learnt patience". It still is, hence my own visit, and hopefully one day your visit, too.

The Fortingall Yew, Perthshire

There is one very special thing about the Fortingall Yew which separates it from all other prehistoric sites in Scotland. It's alive. At around 3,000 years old, the Fortingall Yew is one of the oldest living organisms in the world. Set within church grounds, it would have been a place of veneration for people for dozens of generations before the first whispers of Christianity were heard. Beltane fires were often lit at its base, which eventually caused the great yew to split. A report from 1769 says that it was then possible to drive a horse and carriage through the gap. Yew trees like the Fortingall specimen are revered as embodiments of the cycle of life and death.

Achnabreck, Kilmartin Glen

Given my previous coverage of the rock art of Kilmartin Glen in the July 2022 edition of *the Scottish Banner*, I'll keep this one short and sweet. Achnabreck is just one of dozens of rock art sites situated within Kilmartin Glen, an area which boasts over 800 sites of archaeological significance within just a few square miles. Other standout rock art sites include Ormaig, Kilmichael Glassary, and Cairnbaan, each with their own distinctive patterns and atmospheres. Yet it is at Achnabreck that the grandest display of rock art is on show. Carved between 6,000 to 3,500 years ago, the patterns on several sloping escarpments include rings several feet wide, deep cup marks which cradle the morning dew, and teardrop-like 'tails'.



Eildon Hills.



Achnabreck rock art.

Many are integrated into the natural features of the rock, incorporating cracks and divots into the motifs. They are best viewed at sunrise or sunset, especially in winter when the sun's angle is low and catches every groove. No one knows what they mean, but that only deepens the wonder of being here. A lifetime could be spent trying to observe and understand the carvings in Kilmartin Glen alone (indeed several have). Some things will forever elude us, and Achnabreck teaches us that there is a certain magic in not knowing.

Kingarth Standing Stones, Bute

This is one category which could easily have been cornered by an example from Orkney, but in lieu of the many possibilities from further north, my mind kept circling – pardon the pun – back to a much less-well known example from the Isle of Bute. At Kingarth in the south of the island you will find three very unusual standing stones which I like to call the Three Weird Sisters. They were once part of a much larger stone circle, but only these three remain. They are composed of conglomerate, with one of the stones – distinctly red in hue – almost looking as though it was an arts and crafts project consisting of compressed quartz and gravel. White quartz is prominent on these stones and was used in funerary and megalithic monuments throughout the shores of the Firth of Clyde due to its shimmering nature. While they may not be the most dramatic standing stones in Scotland, or even in Argyll and Bute, they provide fascinating insights into why such places were created and how their

changing environments can alter our perception of them. For instance, most of Bute's standing stones are positioned at valley terminals, almost like 'gateways'. Furthermore, a book from 1893 shows the stones being enclosed by tall trees.

This was the case when I visited them in 2016, lending them an air of secrecy and seclusion. Yet, these trees were far from ancient – they were a plantation, and when I returned in 2022 the stones stood instead in an open, stump-filled field visible from afar. This entirely changed the experience of visiting them, as it became possible to see what other sites they are intervisible with today and likely would have been when they were raised. It's little insights like this which make some places stand out despite their superficial shortcomings.

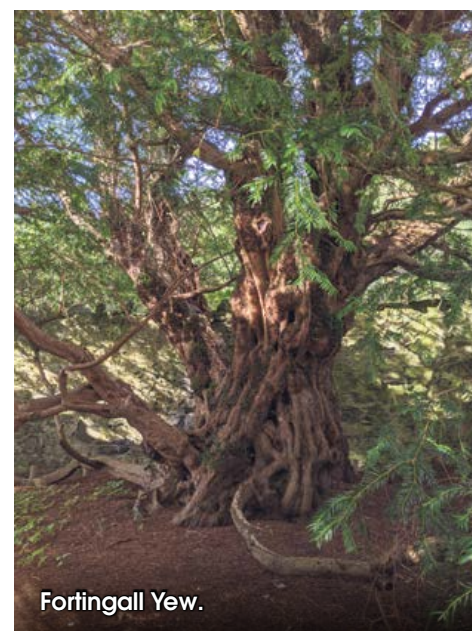
The Eildon Hills, Scottish Borders

At first, the choice of the Eildon Hills may seem a strange one. After all, there is very little upon them made by people from any era which is still tangible. The reason why the Eildons resonate is due partly to their innate beauty, and to their role as a centre of gravity for countless other historic sites and stories in their literal and metaphorical shadow. One of few exceptions to the lack of tangible remains are the outlines of earthen ramparts atop the summit of Eildon Hill North, which was once the site of the largest hillfort in Scotland. The summit was used as a gathering place since at least the Bronze Age, with room enough for up to 3,000 people to assemble – more than the modern population of Melrose.



Kingarth Standing Stones.

The relationship between this great hillfort and the huge Roman fort of Trimontium, which is swallowed by the shadow of Eildon Hill North as the sun sets, remains up for debate. Like Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh, the Eildons are said to be 'hollow hills' containing unimaginable wealth and the hidden realm of the fairy folk. Thomas the Rhymer, the renowned prophet of the Borders, gained his gift of prophecy through a seven year-long visit to this hidden kingdom. Another Borderer shrouded in mystery, Michael Scott, is said to have created them during an escapade with a demon. Of course, Walter Scott merits a second mention here as the Eildons were a beloved part of his life in and stories from the Borders. Looking out to them from the majestic lookout point of Scott's View, it is easy to understand why.



Fortingall Yew.

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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Seal granted by Edinburgh Town Council to the Incorporation of Barbers and Surgeons to practise their craft. The organisation is now known as the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. **1505**

1 - Proscription Act Repealed, thus allowing again the wearing of tartan and the carrying of weapons (banned as a result of the 1745 Uprising in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie). **1782**

1 - The reconvened Scottish Parliament was officially opened. After a devolution referendum showed resounding support for the reconvening of the Scottish parliament, plans were put into motion for the creation of such a body. The parliament would sit in the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall in Edinburgh. Elections were held on May 1, 1999 and the first sitting of the body took place on May 12 of that year. The official opening on July 1 saw The Queen transfer full constitutional powers to Edinburgh. **1999**

2 - Treaty of Perth, Norway renounces claim on the Hebrides. **1266**

2 - Scottish architect Sir John Burnet died. His most famous commissions include the Royal Institute of Fine Arts, the Alhambra, and the Athenaeum, all in Glasgow, and the North front of the British Museum, the Institute of Chemistry, and the extension to Selfridges, all in London. **1938**



2 - The Erskine Bridge opened. The spans the River Clyde in west central Scotland. It connects West Dunbartonshire with Renfrewshire and is one of Scotland's most architecturally and technically designed bridges of the post-war period and has the longest cable-stayed span of its type in the world. **1971**

2 - Royal Scots Dragoon Guards formed as the senior Scottish regiment of the British Army at Holyrood, Edinburgh, by amalgamation of the Royal Scots Greys and 3rd Carabiniers. **1971**

2 - Supporters of Stirling Albion F.C. become the first in the UK to take over ownership of their club. **2010**

3 - Robert Adam, the Scottish architect, furniture and interior designer, was born. Adam is regarded as a leading exponent of the neoclassical revival in the latter part of the 18th century. **1728**

3 - The Clyde shipyards suffered their worst accident when the *SS Daphne* capsized at her launch. The packet steamer had been built by the Linthouse yard of Alexander Stephen and Sons and immediately sank into the River Clyde, taking the lives of the 195 workmen on board. It was later discovered that the 460-ton ship had little stability when it was launched, and rolled over forty-five degrees, taking huge amounts of water through a large deck opening. **1883**

3 - John Logie Baird transmitted first colour television. **1928**

4 - Lanarkshire-born James Keir Hardie became the first socialist to win a seat in the UK Parliament. **1892**

5 - Border reiver, John Armstrong of Gilnockie, and 50 of his men were hanged for blackmail by James V. Armstrong was a well-known laird in the Borders area, and although a frequent marauder in England, he is not known to have attacked in Scotland. However, his wealth and power in a troublesome region brought the resentment of James V. Armstrong was tricked into attending a royal hunt only to be seized on his arrival. He faced the king, and volubly remonstrated with him that he had "asked grace at a graceless face". Legend has it that the trees at Carnlanrig, where Armstrong and his followers were hanged, withered, and none have grown there since. **1530**

5 - Final run of the Edinburgh to London mail coach (a route which was taken over by rail). **1847**

5 - UNESCO gives World Heritage status to the Forth Bridge, one of Scotland's best-known structures. It stretches 2.5 kilometres between the villages of South Queensferry and North Queensferry, and was opened on 4th March 1890 by Edward, Prince of Wales. **2015**

6 - John Paul Jones, hero of the US Navy, born Kirkbean, Dumfries. **1747**

6 - The Piper Alpha oil platform in the North Sea was rocked by a huge explosion. Blasts continued on the platform throughout that night, and by morning 167 men had died. **1988**

7 - John Knox became the first Protestant minister appointed in Edinburgh. **1559**

7 - The novel *Waverley*, by Sir Walter Scott, was published. *Waverley* was Scott's first novel, and written mainly as a way of proving himself a superior literary talent to Byron. Although it was published anonymously as a safety net against its failure, it was an open secret who the author was. Scott needn't have worried: the book was a runaway success and Scott became regarded as the leading author in Europe. **1814**

7 - The Antonine Wall, part of the ancient Roman limes, is designated as a World Heritage Site. Known to the Romans as Vallum Antonini, was a turf fortification on stone foundations, built by the Romans across what is now the Central Belt of Scotland, between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde. **2008**

7 - Andy Murray wins the Men's Singles at Wimbledon 2013 defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in straight sets. Murray is the first British man to win the title since Fred Perry in 1936, and the first Scotsman to win since Harold Mahony in 1896. **2013**

8 - King Alexander II died on Isle of Kerrera, Oban Bay. **1249**

9 - Queen's Park Football Club, first senior football (soccer) club in Scotland formed. **1867**

9 - Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the Chief of Clan Fraser, Scottish aristocrat and soldier was born. Fraser, a Second World War hero, played a key role in the development of the commandos and was actively involved in both the Dieppe Raid, 1942, and D-Day landings, 1944. **1911**

10 - King James III born at Stirling. **1451**

10 - Glasgow Rangers signed Maurice Johnston. One of the last bastions of Scottish Protestant sectarianism, Rangers shocked many of its supporters when the club, under manager Graeme Souness, signed Maurice Johnston from the French club, Nantes, for £1.5m. Johnston had not only played for arch-rivals Celtic, but was the first well-known Roman Catholic player to sign for Rangers in modern times. **1989**

10-14 - The 150th Open Championship (golf) took place at the home of golf, the Old Course at St Andrews. **2022**



11 - Robert the Bruce born at Turnberry Castle, Ayrshire. After the death of William Wallace, Bruce led the campaign to regain Scottish independence, culminating in his stunning victory at the Battle of Bannockburn in June 1314. **1274**

12 - Darien expedition left Leith for Panama. Of the 3000 settlers who set sail in 1688 and 1699, only a handful returned, the rest having succumbed to disease. **1698**

13 - King Alexander III crowned at Scone. **1249**

14 - Cavalry units from the Scottish Engager army clashed with Lambert's Parliamentarian cavalry at Penrith. The Engager forces were commanded by the Duke of Hamilton, who made several mistakes in planning and executing his advance south, and quickly made themselves unpopular with the local population for their plundering and excesses. **1648**

14 - Scottish National War Memorial opened. The National War Memorial for Scotland was established by Royal Charter to commemorate the sacrifice of Scots in the Great War, Second World War and subsequent conflicts. The Memorial within Edinburgh Castle houses and displays the Rolls of Honour of Scots servicemen and women from all the Armed Services, the Dominions, Merchant Navy, Women's Services, Nursing Services and civilian casualties of all wars from 1914 to date. **1927**



14 - Eriskay is linked to South Uist by causeway. **2001**

15 - National Portrait Gallery for Scotland opened in Edinburgh. **1889**

16 - David II, son of Robert I (the Bruce) married Joan, sister of Edward III (he was 4, she was 7). **1328**

16 - A Shetland fishing tragedy occurred leaving 105 fishermen dead as their boats got lost at sea. 31 Shetland sixern boats perished leaving devastation to the island community. **1832**

16 - 13th Commonwealth Games opened in Edinburgh. **1970**

17 - Bank of Scotland, first bank to be established by an Act of the Scottish Parliament, opened. **1695**

18 - John Paul Jones, naval hero of the American Revolution, died; he was born in Kircudbrightshire in 1747. **1792**

18 - Birth of Jim Watt, Scottish boxer. After a successful amateur career, Watt turned professional in 1968 and quickly rose to the top of the lightweight division before adding British and European titles to his collection during the 1970s. **1948**

19 - Battle of Halidon Hill in which Sir Archibald Douglas (guardian of David II) routed by Edward Balliol and Edward III. Scots losses were nearly 600, English losses 14. **1333**

19 - A.J Cronin, the Scottish novelist, was born. Cronin is most fondly remembered as the creator of the hugely popular character, Dr Finlay. **1896**

20 - Battle of Inverkeithing. Royalist force supporting Charles II failed to halt advance of army of Oliver Cromwell heading for Perth. **1651**



21 - Robert Burns dies in Dumfries, aged 37. The cause of death appears to have been heart failure, probably brought on by the hard physical work done in his youth. His widow, Jean Armour, gave birth to a son on the day of her husband's funeral. However, Maxwell, named after Burns's doctor, died in infancy. **1796**

22 - The army of the English King Edward I, using longbows for the first time, defeated the Scots led by Sir William Wallace at Battle of Falkirk. **1298**

22 - Oliver Cromwell invades Scotland and proceeds to the eastern edge of Edinburgh. The Scots form a defensive line within the city. **1650**

23 - Charles Edward Stuart landed on Eriskay at the start of the 1745 campaign. **1745**

24 - Mary Queen of Scots abdicated and the young James VI acceded to Scottish throne. The Earl of Mar was appointed regent. **1567**

23 - The 2014 Commonwealth Games opened in Glasgow. **2014**

24 - The Battle of Harlaw took place at Inverurie. Nearly 2000 Highland and Crown soldiers fought over an area of land called the Earldom of Ross. **1411**



24 - The Princess Royal formally opened the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Scotland's first national park. **2002**

25 - King James I born. **1394**

25 - Charles Macintosh, inventor of the plastic mac, died. Macintosh discovered the first rainproof cloth in 1818, by joining two sheets of fabric together with dissolved indiarubber. Although Macintosh is best known for his eponymously titled coats, he made significant advances in many fields of chemistry. As well as inventing a revolutionary bleaching powder with Charles Tennant, he also discovered a fast method of using carbon gases to convert iron to steel, and devised a hot-blast process which produced high quality cast iron. **1843**

25 - Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991, which gives full legal capacity to those aged over sixteen, receives the Royal Assent. **1991**

26 - James IV responded to pleas for assistance from France and declared war on England. Aside from assisting the French, who had been invaded by an English army, James was also aggrieved at England's seizing of two Scottish ships and the non-payment of part of the dowry for his wife, Margaret Tudor. **1513**

27 - Battle of Killiecrankie in which Graham of Claverhouse (Bonnie Dundee) leading an army of Highlanders in support of the Jacobite cause, defeated King William's army under General Hugh Mackay. **1689**



27 - The Forth and Clyde Canal was opened from the Firth of Forth to the Firth of Clyde, with the first boat navigating its channel in August of that year. The length of the Canal from eastern sea lock to the western sea lock was 35 miles. **1790**

28 - The Royalist Marquess of Montrose beat General Baillie in a skirmish which was part of the English Civil War at Dunkeld, Perthshire. For a war of positions the Highlanders had neither aptitude nor inclination, and at Dunkeld the greater part of them went home. **1645**

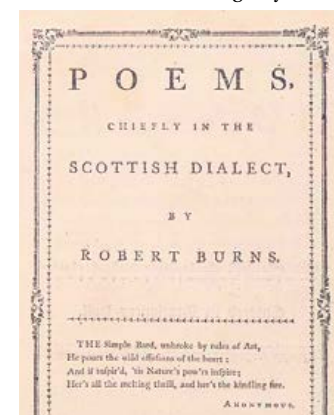
29 - Mary, Queen of Scots, married Lord Darnley, in a Catholic wedding. **1565**

29 - King James VI (aged 13 months) crowned at the Church of the Holy Rude, beside Stirling Castle, following the abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots, five days earlier. **1567**

30 - First edition of the long-running *Beano* comic was published. **1938**

30 - The beginning of the work-in at John Brown's Clydebank Shipbuilding Yard, organised by stalwart Socialist, Jimmy Reid. This was in response to the Ted Heath Tory government's plans to liquidate the yard - Reid exposed these as unethical. **1971**

31 - French naval forces in support of the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots bombard St Andrews Castle and capture the Protestant rebels. These include Protestant John Knox, who is sent to become a galley-slave. **1547**

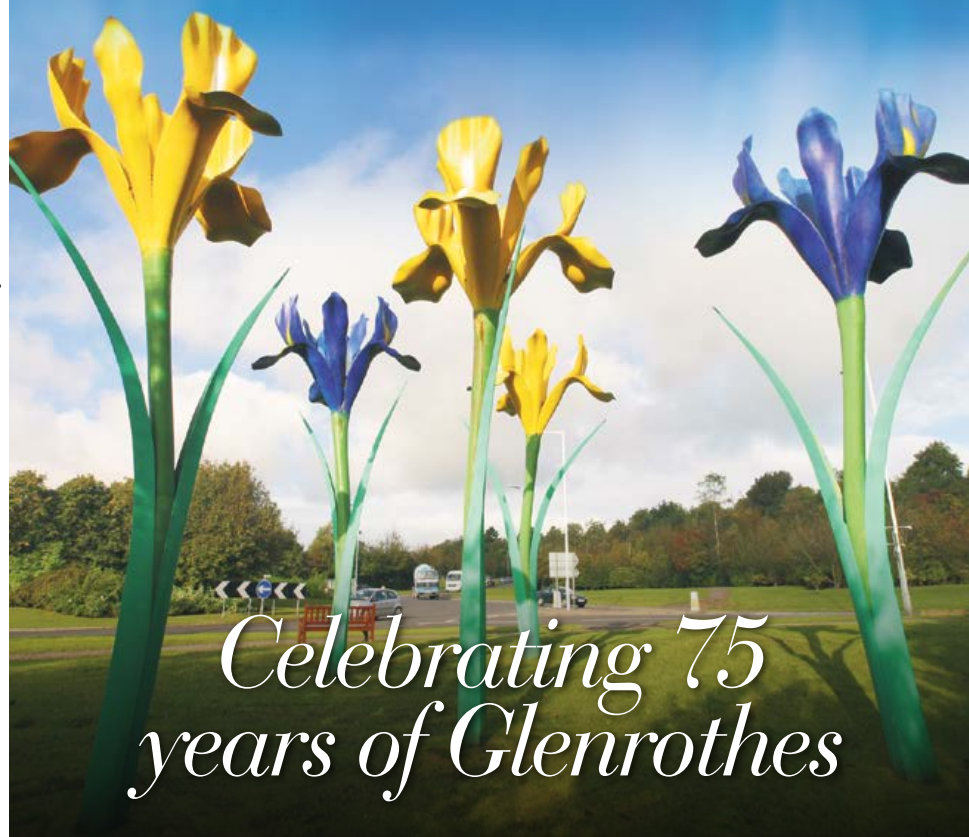


31 - The first edition of Robert Burns' poems, *The Kilmarnock Edition*, was published by John Wilson of Kilmarnock, under the title of *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*. It cost three shillings and the entire print run of 612 copies sold out within a month. **1780**

31 - Cigarette advertising banned on television in Britain. **1965**

Giant Irises at the Leslie roundabout in Glenrothes by Malcolm Robertson. Photo: Fife Council.

The art of building a new town



Celebrating 75 years of Glenrothes

The Fife town of Glenrothes was 'born' on 30th June 1948. It was Scotland's second new town and became the first in Scotland to appoint its own artist to specially create public art. Today the town houses tens of thousands of people, has a strong connection to the electronics industry, as well as a much loved African animal, as Judy Vickers explains.

By: Judy Vickers

In 1950, the population stood at just 1,000 people, living in a couple of hamlets and farm steadings scattered across the area. By 1960, the population of the new town of Glenrothes had shot up to 12,500 and was growing rapidly – latest figures show there are almost 40,000 people living there today. This year the Fife town celebrates its 75th anniversary and to mark the occasion, an exhibition charting its history is being held at the Kingdom Centre in the town and a new sculpture – of a hippo, which has become the unlikely symbol of the town – is being unveiled.

Coal mining

The town was founded in June 1948 as the second of Scotland's new towns under the New Towns Act of 1946 – the first was East Kilbride. Unlike East Kilbride and several other new towns which were created during this period, Glenrothes was not designed to home the overspill population from Glasgow, Scotland's largest city. Instead the idea was to construct homes for the workers at the new nearby Rothies Colliery, planned to be one of the country's new "superpits", producing 5,000 tons of coal a day and lasting for 100 years. Coal mining in the area dates back to the 13th century but it was only in the post-Second World War era, with the drive for security of energy, that mass production was planned.

Shafts had already been sunk by the time Glenrothes was founded but the mine suffered flooding and geological problems.

Plans for the town specified that one in eight of its inhabitants should be miners and although the colliery was opened with great fanfare by the late Queen Elizabeth II in 1958, a year after it finally began producing coal, it only lasted another four years, before closing in 1962 as one of the National Coal Board's most spectacular failures. The town that was built for it, however, proved far more long-lasting and successful. Located between the villages of Leslie, Thornton and Markinch, it was named after the Earl of Rothes who owned most of the land which the town was built on – Glen was added to avoid confusion with Rothes, a town on the banks of the river Spey in Moray near Elgin. The town was almost called Westwood, after Joe Westwood, the then Secretary of State for Scotland, who proposed the location.

Silicon Glen

The area has long been occupied by mankind – the earliest known civilization in Glenrothes is the early Neolithic settlement of Balfarg. Ancient pottery and other artefacts dating back 4000 years BC were found here. The 3000-year-old Balfarg Henge and stone circle at Balbirnie show that the new town has some fairly ancient foundations. While the loss of mining meant the original purpose for the town was lost, it did not spell its end though, as a new industry had sprung up even before the closure of the pit. In 1958 US based Beckman Instruments choose Glenrothes over English locations for its UK plant – Glenrothes having been promoted as being perfect for electronics due to its clean air. Others followed including



Fraser Bowl in the 1970s. Photo: Courtesy of Fife Archive.

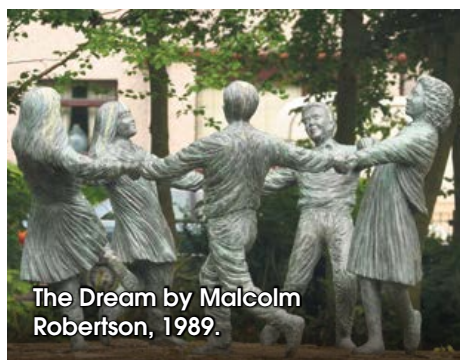


The disappearing hippo, due to be unveiled in Glenrothes as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations.

Hughes Microelectronics (now Raytheon), Canon, Brand-Rex (now Leviton) and Apricot Computers, making Glenrothes a key player in Scotland's "Silicon Glen". Many electronics firms have since relocated to places such as China but some have stayed and are still key employers in the area.

Hippos

New towns were often seen as rather soulless places with no cultural history. To combat that, Glenrothes became one of the first to appoint a town artist. It was an inspired move; not only has it made Glenrothes a centre for public art – there are more than 140 pieces in the town today produced by the official town artists and visiting creatives – but it also gave the town its curious link with hippos. The first artist was David Harding in 1968. He was employed as part of the planning department and he moved to the town with his family to better immerse himself in the place and created pieces such as Henge (1970) drawing on the town's prehistoric links. But it was his assistant Stan Bonnar – father of TV actor Mark Bonnar – who created the first hippo sculpture, made out of concrete. It was such a hit that Harding and Bonnar made several more, positioning them around Glenrothes. The next town artist was Malcolm Robertson who added landmark pieces such as The Birds (1980) and Giant Irises, the town's contribution to the 1988 Glasgow Garden Festival.



The Dream by Malcolm Robertson, 1989.



Glenrothes Bus Station in 1976. Photo: Colin Smith - Glenrothes Bus Station.



The Queen visits Glenrothes 1958. Photo: OnFife Archives, courtesy of Fife Council.

But it was the hippos which captured the town's imagination which is why the African animal is the subject of a new sculpture for the town. The sculpture has again been created by Stan Bonnar who was persuaded out of retirement by Leviton, formerly Brand-Rex, which was marking 50 years in the town. The Disappearing Hippo follows the theme of the older hippos but highlights the plight of the creatures in the wild due to global warming and the reduction of their habitat. The frame is formed by 685 triangles cut and shaped by Stan from old tin cans.

The recycled materials and the "disappearing" theme obviously reflect 21st century concerns – instead of the original environmentally unfriendly concrete Stan has used a greener, modern alternative geopolymer concrete – with hippo dung as the binding agent. And along with the history of the town, the exhibition features the work of The Turgwe Trust, the hippo conservation charity which sent Stan the dung.

Ian Wilkie, the managing director of Leviton Network Solutions who is part of the event's steering committee, said: "As a piece of art to commemorate the 75th birthday of Glenrothes, there could be no more fitting tribute. The fact that it has been created by the original Mr Hippo – Stan Bonnar in the year when he too turns 75 makes this even more special. But as you gaze at this hippo's beauty here in Glenrothes, spare a thought for the plight of real hippos in the wild."

The Glenrothes 75 Years exhibition will run at the Kingdom Centre throughout July, August and September.



Woodside Walk showing houses which existed before Glenrothes was founded. Photo: Courtesy of Fife Archive.



One of Glenrothes' hippos. Photo: Fife Council.

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Butterscotch and Apple Pancakes

Ingredients:

For the batter:

100g/4 oz. plain flour
A large pinch of salt
1 large egg
300ml/½ pint milk
2 to 3 teaspoonfuls vegetable oil

For the sauce:

50g/2 oz. butter
2 tablespoonfuls golden syrup
75g/3 oz. light muscovado sugar
2 tablespoonfuls golden syrup
3 apples, cored and thinly sliced
1 tablespoonful lemon juice

Method:

Sift the flour and salt into a large bowl. Add the egg and milk all at once and beat with a wire whisk to make a smooth batter.

Heat a few drops of oil in a heavy-based flying-pan. Pour in a thin stream of batter, tilting the pan so that the batter flows thinly across the surface. Cook over a medium heat until set, then flip over to cook the other side. Keep warm. Make the sauce by gently heating the butter with the syrup and 50 g (2 oz.) of the sugar until melted and smooth, but do not boil. Meanwhile, simmer the apples in a little water with the lemon juice and remaining sugar until tender, but not mushy. Fill the pancakes with the apples and serve with the butterscotch sauce. Serves 6.

Scotch Eggs



Ingredients:

250g/9 oz. sausage meat
1 small onion, grated
2 tablespoonfuls plus ½ a cupful of dried breadcrumbs
1 egg, separated
1 tablespoonful fresh parsley, chopped
Salt and freshly-ground black pepper, to taste
4 hard-boiled eggs, shelled
Oil, to fry

Method:

Place the sausage meat, onion, 2 tablespoonfuls of dried breadcrumbs, yolk, parsley and seasoning into a bowl.

Stir thoroughly to combine and divide the mixture into four equal portions. Put one portion of sausage meat on to a sheet of clingfilm, and cover with another sheet of clingfilm. Beat with the palm of the hand to flatten. Remove the top layer of clingfilm and place an egg in the middle of the sausage meat, and surround the egg with the sausage meat. Remove the clingfilm and repeat this process with the remaining mixture and the eggs. Coat the Scotch Eggs in lightly-beaten egg white and dip in the breadcrumbs. Repeat the coating process if a crisper finish is required. Heat the oil in a heavy-based saucepan. Lower the Scotch Eggs carefully into the pan and fry over a medium heat for 6 to 8 minutes until golden in colour. Remove from the oil and drain on kitchen paper. Makes 4.

Avocado caprese salad

Ingredients:

2 cups rocket
1½ tomatoes, thickly sliced
½ avocado, cut into thin sliced
¼ reduced fat mozzarella or bocconcini ball (roughly 100g/4oz.), thinly sliced
4 tablespoons basil leaves, roughly chopped
1 tablespoon olive oil
½ teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper

Method:

Spread rocket over the bottom of a serving platter. Overlap the tomato, avocado and mozzarella on top of the rocket. Scatter over basil leaves, then drizzle with olive oil and a sprinkle of pepper.

Smoked Salmon Delight

Ingredients:

Smoked salmon
2 eggs
5ml/1 tbsp milk
Salt and freshly-ground black pepper
Knob of butter
2 slices of bread

Method:

Break the eggs into a bowl, and add the milk and seasoning, then whisk until the yolk and white are thoroughly mixed. Melt the knob of butter in a frying-pan, then reduce the heat and pour in the egg mixture. Cook for several minutes, stirring all the time with a wooden spoon or spatula. Meanwhile make toast with the bread. When the eggs are thoroughly cooked, butter the toast (this is optional) and lay the slices of Scottish smoked salmon on top. Pile on the scrambled egg and serve immediately. Serves 1.

Smoked Haddock Broth

Ingredients:

1 x 500g can vegetable broth
300ml/½ pint vegetable stock
1 x 390g can artichoke hearts, drained and rinsed in cold water
1 x 300g can cannellini beans, drained
175g/6 oz. smoked haddock (you can substitute with smoked cod or mackerel) fillet, skinned and cubed
Freshly-ground black pepper, to taste
150 ml/¼ pint double cream
2 tablespoonfuls fresh parsley, chopped

Method:

Pour the vegetable broth into a large saucepan along with the vegetable stock. Bring to the boil and simmer gently.

Add the artichoke hearts and cannellini beans and simmer for a further 3 minutes. Add the smoked haddock and continue to simmer the broth for 5 minutes. Season with the black pepper. Add the cream and parsley and heat through. Serve immediately. Serves 4.

Barley Broth

Ingredients:

1 neck of mutton
250g/8 oz. barley
½ cupful dried peas
3 pints water
Salt and freshly-ground black pepper, to taste
1 cupful carrots, diced
1 cupful turnips, diced
2 leeks, chopped
2 stalks celery, chopped
Parsley

Method:

Soak the peas overnight. Wash the neck of mutton and the barley, then place them in a saucepan and cover with water. Add the salt and pepper and bring to the boil and simmer, covered, for 1½ hours. Add all the vegetables and cook for another hour, adding more water if needed. Approximately 10 minutes before the broth is ready, add the chopped parsley. Serves 6.

Treacle Toffee



Ingredients:

450g/1 lb. granulated sugar (not demerara)
150 ml/¼ pint water
¼ teaspoonful cream of tartar
75g/3 oz. butter
100g/4 oz. black treacle
100g/4 oz.) golden syrup

Method:

Put the sugar and water in a large heavy-based saucepan and heat gently until the sugar has dissolved. Add the remaining ingredients and bring to the boil. Brush the inside of the pan with water just above the level of the sugar syrup. Boil to 149C/270F. Pour into a lightly oiled 18cm/7 inch shallow square tin, then cool for 5 minutes. Mark into squares with an oiled knife and leave to set.

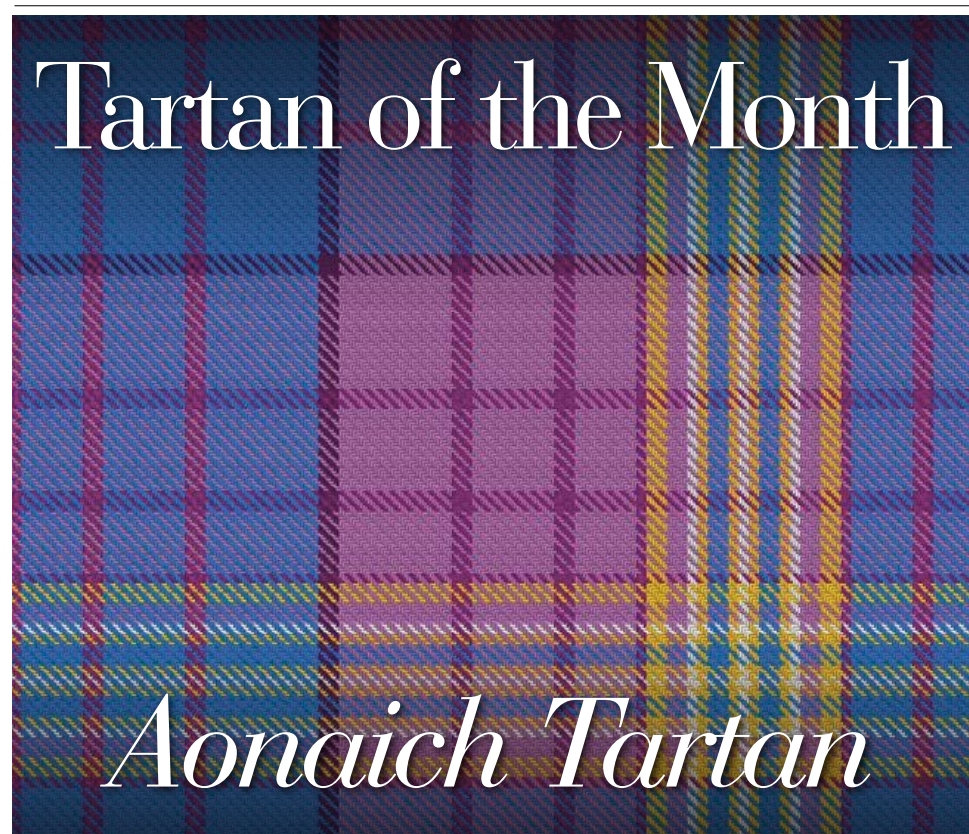
Glasgow punch

Ingredients:

1 large wedge fresh lime
50ml/2fl oz. aged rum
1 lemon, juiced and zested, mixed with 2 tsp caster sugar
4 small chunks fresh pineapple
1 pinch fresh nutmeg

Method:

Place all the ingredients in a cocktail shaker with a handful of ice and shake hard. Strain the cocktail into a small wine cup and garnish with a pinch of nutmeg and serve.



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 Aonaich tartan, Scottish Gaelic meaning Unite, uses colours reflecting Scotland's backdrop from the Lowlands to the Highlands. The design is intended to represent the rich diversity of the culture; the arts, the Gaelic language and the range of cultures and creeds. The unity through the colours symbolises the unity of these elements throughout Scotland.

This tartan (reference: 13483) was designed by Tartan Caledonia and registered in April, 2022.

Glass Tiger to Headline the Fergus Scottish Festival



The Snake Charmer, Elora Festival Singers, The Rogersons, Gillebride MacMillan, David Leask, Bob Maclean, and Chambless & Muse.

Richard Rankin

The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games is also thrilled to announce the Featured Guest for 2023 will be Richard Rankin. Known as Roger MacKenzie on the hit TV series *Outlander* based on the best-selling books by Diana Gabaldon. Rankin is the third *Outlander* star the Festival has welcomed and will be on the grounds Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 11

- 13, 2023. The Festival team has curated an awesome combination of unique VIP experiences, including brunch, autograph/photo opportunities, whisky tastings, and free panel discussions. There will be multiple opportunities to meet Rankin up close, and in addition to scheduled featured events, he will also be participating in activities through the Festival grounds.

Stay on top of Festival announcements and updates via social media channels. For more detailed information about the musical entertainment and all Festival activities and to purchase tickets, visit: www.fergusscottishfestival.com.



The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games is ecstatic to announce that Glass Tiger will be the music headliner at the Tattoo'd in Tradition ceremony this year! They will be performing on the Friday night, August 11th following the Tattoo and are included as part of the purchase of a Friday night ticket or weekend pass. "We are truly thrilled to have Glass Tiger at the Festival this year" noted Festival Executive Director Elizabeth Bender. "It is especially meaningful, as Glass Tiger was going to be part of our 2020 Festival and 75th Anniversary celebrations which were unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic.

It is fabulous that we are able to welcome them this year." "It will be great to finally have Glass Tiger up on stage" added Festival President Matthew Bennett-Monty. "The Festival team has put together an amazing lineup of entertainment this year that compliments all our other programming including the World Heavy Event competition and *Outlander* stars. This is a Festival year not to be missed," Bennett-Monty stated. In addition to Glass Tiger, the Festival will also welcome a lineup that is a wonderful combination of fan favourites and new music and entertainment including Albannach, Waking Finnegan, Glengarry Bhoys,

New strategy to boost Scotland's marine tourism to over £500m



An ambitious new strategy for Scotland's marine tourism sector aims to take 'giant strides' towards supporting communities, the environment and economic growth around Scotland's coasts, lochs and waterways. The five-year plan 'Giant Strides' aims to boost Scotland's reputation as a world-class sustainable marine tourism destination by meeting changing consumer, workforce, community and environmental needs and grow the industry's economic contribution to over £500 million by 2025.

Marine tourism

The strategy, which was developed by British Marine with support from Scottish Canals, Royal Yachting Association Scotland and Sail Scotland, builds on the success of the 2015-20 strategy 'Awakening the giant', which set out to grow visitor expenditure from £101m to £145m and increase the sector's overall economic

value from £360m to over £450m by 2020. It will see a Partnership Plan delivered through the Cross Party Group for Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism.

Stuart McMillan, Convenor of the Cross Party Group, said: "I'm delighted to be supporting the launch of Giant Strides, the marine tourism strategy for Scotland in the Year of Coasts and Waters.

This is a different kind of strategy as it takes a much broader and fuller view of marine tourism and its unique role in rural, coastal and island communities. It marks a pronounced shift away from the classic narrow focus on financial growth to become a strategy that drives multiple benefits across communities, the environment and the economy. It will lead to a Partnership Plan that will be developed through the Cross Party Group for Recreational Boating and I hope organisations across all sectors will embrace the opportunity to get involved in shaping the vision for years to come."

The longest coastline in Europe

The launch of Giant Strides, which values all of Scotland's waters and focuses on delivering great experiences, involves all businesses and benefits people and communities through partnership working across all sectors.

Lesley Robinson, CEO of British Marine, said: "The Giant Strides partnership approach is a commitment to people, places and the environment and is testament to the team's ambition to see marine tourism play a major role in building Scottish tourism into a leading force, both in national and international markets. Building new partnerships will be key to the new strategy's success.

Our challenge now is to push our sector to refresh and evolve in order to meet customer, workforce, community and environmental needs. In so doing the sector can unlock long term, sustainable and inclusive growth and drive an economic contribution that exceeds £500 million a year."

Boasting the longest coastline in Europe, varied wildlife, rich heritage, breathtaking scenery and some of the world's most beautiful and varied waters, Scotland's marine tourism sector already attracts visitors from all over the world, with visitor expenditure reaching £131m in 2016, and the overall contribution of the sector reaching £411m in 2017/18.



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

Clans and Scottish organisations

To have your Clan or Scottish organisation listed in these pages please contact us at:
info@scottishbanner.com
 or www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



CHISHOLM

Clan Chisholm
Society of Australia Inc

Membership is invited from Clan Chisholm descendants of all spellings of the name (Chisholm, Chisolm, Chism, Chisum, Chisam, etc)
 Contact: Kim Polley OAM
 PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301

Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com

www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/AUSmembership.php



Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid

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

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

Clan Fraser Society of Australia



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

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"
 Membership enquiries to Don Chitts
 Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com
 Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/>
 482236358590288

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

Clan Baird Commander
 Richard Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood
 Rickarton House, Stonehaven, Scotland.
 Hereditary President of Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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



Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

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

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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

Visit our website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, our History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you.
<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>
 Facebook: [The Clan Donnachaidh Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheClanDonnachaidhSociety/)
 Email: ivc@donnachaidh.com



Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

www.clangalbraith.org



CLAN BELL

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

Website: www.ClanBell.org
 Online membership: <https://clanbell.org/membership.html>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell>
 Email: President@clanbell.org
 Clan Bell North America
 49 Greystone Lane NW
 Cartersville, GA, 30121

Clan Donald Australia

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

High Commissioner Mr A. Neil Macdonald
 State Commissioners
 NSW Mr John Currie
 QLD Mr A. Neil Macdonald
 SA Mr Michael Murphy
 Vic Mr Norman A Macdonald
 WA Ms Pamela McDonald

secretary.clandonaldustralia@gmail.com
There is no joy without Clan Donald



Edmonstone Clan Society

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

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

Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland
 Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
 7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balghidder,
 24th Chief of Clan Gregor
 Great Lakes, New England, Pacific North West, Western U.S. and Southeast Chapters
www.clangregor.org
 For membership contact Keith MacGregor
 PO Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876
kmac1@optonline.net
 Peter Lawrie, Secretary
 6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL, Scotland



Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:
 Donald E. Bruce Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary
 President 5561 Earl Young Road
 1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Bloomington, IN 47408
 Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 www.familyofbruceinternational.org



Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald
 Ph: 0412 090990
 Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au
 Web: www.clandonaldqld.org
 ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.
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Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

Jim Dougherty - Clan President welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family.

Direct inquires to: Marianne Elliott, Membership Chair
 Email: marianne@mmelliott.com
 Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com



Clan Gregor Society Australasia

All MacGregors and Septs of our clan are invited to join the Clan Gregor Society Est 1822
 If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative:
 Frank McGregor
 PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002
 Email: clangregorastralia@gmail.com
 Web: www.clangregor.com
"Royal is our Race"



National Clan Cameron Australia Inc.

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

President: Alistair Cameron
 Secretary: Terry Cameron
secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com
www.clan-cameron.org.au



Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

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



Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

The Secretary: Clan Farquharson Association Australia
 PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777
 or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com
www.clanfarquharsonaus.weebly.com



American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909 Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs
 Gregor Grier MacAdams MacNish Magruder McGehee Gregory King Peter Fletcher Gregg Lecky Black and many others
 Contact our registrar: **Jeanne P. Lehr**
 11 Ballias Crt.
 St. Louis, MO 63131-3038
 Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org
 website: www.acgsus.org



CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

HEREDITARY CHIEF AND SOCIETY PATRON
Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains
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Clan Carruthers Society - International officially representing Carruthers worldwide
www.clancarrutherssociety.org
clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA
 President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald
 Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com
 Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE
 Hon Chief: Mr Lindsay McDonald
 Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com
 A hereditary clan society formed by the children of Norman Hume Macdonald and Johan McKenzie Macdonald (nee Munro) who departed Scotland in 1854.



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Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society.

Inquiries to be sent to:
 Sheri Lambert, Treasurer
 P.O. Box 5399
 Vernon Hills, IL 60061
 visit our website:
www.clanhamilton.org

Clan Hay Australia

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



CLAN LAMONT SOCIETY AUSTRALIA invites membership from Sept names refer to Web Site www.clanlamontaustralia.com

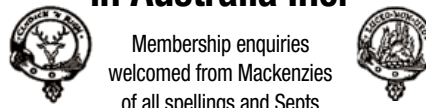
Clan Chief Peter Lamont of that Ilk resides in Sydney Australia.

For all enquires about the Clan and Membership contact :-

President Ian McLucas.
 Email ianandbevmclucas@bigpond.com

mobile 0448 778 799

Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.



Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

Contact: N Dennis, 61 Alma Street, East Malvern 3145 Ph 03 9569 5716

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The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Hays(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Arml; Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Hays; Delgatie; Delgaty; D' Ay(e); Della'h'a'y; Errol(l); Garrad; Garrow; Gifford; Hawson; Haygood; Hayter; Hayward; Haywood; Haynie; Hayden; Hayfield; Hayne(s); Leask(e); Leith; Lester; MacGaradh; Peebles; Peoples; Peoples; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester
www.clanhay.com



Clan Little Society, Inc.

Welcoming Little/Lyttle/Lytile and the like.

- Promoting our Scottish heritage
- Hosting tents at Scottish games
- Connecting our families
- Maintaining our genealogy and DNA

www.clanlittlesociety.org

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MacLaren

Clan Labhran

Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

Information about the Clan and application for CMSA membership is available on the website or via the email address below.

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

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

Clan Macnachten Association Worldwide

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

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Purposes of the Society

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



Contact Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
 0439 330 012

An tEirean Ceann Cinnidh

www.clanhendersonsociety.com

McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

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 Website: <https://macalpein.com/>



Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President
 President@clanmaclarenna.org



Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

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

21 Coopers Avenue

Leabrook, South Australia 5068

Phone: 08 833 33990 Email: kisimul@chariot.net.au

Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope
INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA
 President & Commissioner: Stephen J. Hope
president@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope
highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org
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membership@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org
CANADA
 Commissioner: Scott Hale
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www.clanhope.ca
SCOTLAND
 Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope
commissionerscotland@clanhope.org
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Clan Irwin Association
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 Alexander H.R. Irvine of Drum,
 27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name
 Mary Erwin, Chairman
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mary.erwin@clanirwin.org
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John B. McClellan, Jr.
 Treasurer
 383 Ash Brook Lane
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 75182-3250

Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net
 Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of surname spelling to join in preserving our heritage. Various family names are MacLellan(d), McClellan(d), McLellan(d) and Gilliland.
 Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan MacNicol
 Chief: John MacNeacail
 of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac
 Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson
 PO Box 243
 GYMEA NSW 2227
www.clanmacnicol.org

Clan Lachlan Association

based in Castle Lachlan, Strathlachlan, Argyll, Scotland along with its branches worldwide welcomes interested persons from MacLachlans of all spellings & septs

Canada - Ken Godfrey ken.godfrey1@gmail.com
 Australia - Douglas McLaughlin banddmcl@tpg.com.au
 Britain, Ireland & Scotland - Tony MacEwen macewen45@sky.com
 New Zealand - Helen Chegwinn kiwihe@xtra.co.nz
 USA - Kevin McLachlan kevinmclachlan@gmail.com

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

Worldwide, we welcome descendants of all spelling variations, including (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis, (Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.

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

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling), and descendants. **Recognised Septs:**
 Askie MacAndie MacClure
 Beaton MacAskill MacCorkill MacWilliam
 Bethune MacAulay MacCrimmon Norie
 Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallum Norman
 Harold MacCaig MacHaigh Tolmie
 Lewis MacCaskey MacRaid Williamson
 • NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
 • Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
 • South Australia - Alex McLeod 08 8327 0925
 • Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334
 • Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

Clan Macpherson Association

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

Africa: Derek Macpherson African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +265 999 512 620
Canada: Denise Lagundzin Canada.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 519 507 4465
Europe: Will Tulling Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +31 655 774 425
Scotland & Northern Ireland: Annie Le Roy-Lewis SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7793 317 387
Australia: John L Macpherson Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +61 409 122 141
England & Wales: William Macpherson EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7877 363 507
New Zealand: Tony McPherson NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +64 274 587 813
USA: Robert T McPherson UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 360 701 8133

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

Scottish Associations and Societies



The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

Australian Contact:
Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: learn@vsr.com.au
NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: sue.treg1@gmail.com



Clan Ross in Australia

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

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

Contact: Commander Des Ross at
lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853
Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0409 322 374



The American Scottish Foundation, Inc.

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

www.americanscottishfoundation.org

The American-Scottish Foundation



Scottish Gaelic Language Classes:

Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm during school terms at Faraday Street, Carlton and on Zoom.

Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277
Email: scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria
Founded in 1905
<https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com>



Clan MacRae Society of North America
Granted Arms in 2008

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


www.macrae.org
Need more info? Contact:
Bruce MacRae, President
303-670-9611
brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com



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Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia

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

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



Clan Maitland Society

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

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

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

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

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



Clan Sinclair Australia

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


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



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

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

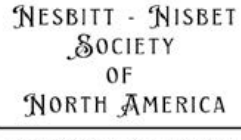
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NESBITT - NISBET SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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

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


www.ibydeit.org
enisbet@ibydeit.org



Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

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



The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

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

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



Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group
Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

Suite 87, 139 Cardigan St
Carlton Vic 3053

Email: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au
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The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

For information please contact
members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

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Clan Sinclair	Warrambool & District Caledonian Society
Geelong Scottish Dance	Warrambool Highland Dance

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Contact details:
Email: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
Mobile 0438 584 930
Address: PO Box 116, Cobden, Victoria 3266
www.victorianscottishunion.com



Clan Pollock

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

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



Clan Wardlaw Association
Founded 2004

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www.scottishheritageusa.org
email: shusa457@gmail.com
(910) 295-4448



Youngs of Scotland Society

will be hosting a Family Convention in Edinburgh Sept 2nd to elect a commander

For more info contact:
ryoung18@virginmedia.com

Bonnie & Wild's famous White Heather Club weaves in new tartan partnership for popular ceilidh nights



One of Scotland's best-loved ceilidh nights is promising to bring Scottish country dancing to an even greater audience after teaming up with a global tartan-wear brand and announcing a raft of prizes for the best dancers. The tartan tie-up will see Bonnie & Wild's famous White Heather Club ceilidh nights offering prizes for participants and encouraging Edinburgh residents, tourists, and Scotland fans all over the world to take part in Scottish country dancing. Organisers Bonnie & Wild said the collaboration with global kilt-maker ScotlandShop will see its staff decked out in a Bonnie & Wild tartan as they showcase ceilidh culture through the popular White Heather Club dances.

The White Heather Club was an iconic TV show in the 1960s and 1970s that beamed ceilidh dancing into people's homes across the UK, and was largely credited with the revival in popularity of Scottish country dancing. Last year, Bonnie & Wild, the Scottish Food Hall in Edinburgh's St James Quarter where the monthly dances are held, reprised the ceilidh night, attracting hundreds of dancers every month to the free ceilidhs. Ryan Barrie, Managing Director of Bonnie & Wild, said: "Our ceilidh nights have been a phenomenal success since we revived them last year, with thousands of residents, tourists and curious passers-by coming along to Bonnie & Wild and enjoying these evenings of music, dance and good cheer. The White Heather Club is already one of Edinburgh's biggest and best nights out, and we know there's potential for more. Teaming up with ScotlandShop, we'll be showcasing ceilidhs to a wider audience, while also offering new rounds of prizes to participants, and honouring some of the bonnie dancers who come to our White Heather Club. And there'll also be a few surprises on the way."

Celebrating Scottish culture

Bonnie & Wild's White Heather Club has already proved to be a hugely popular night in Edinburgh's events calendar, with thousands of Scots and city visitors having taken part in the regular ceilidhs,



which are held on the last Thursday of every month and are free. Mr Barrie added: "With ScotlandShop's partnership, we'll see a lot more tartan on the night, made in Scotland of course. The White Heather Club is a celebration of Scottish culture, something that all of us at Bonnie & Wild are passionate about, whether it's the food and drink we offer, the chefs and business we work with, and our love of the land through our sponsorship of the Scottish Landscape Photographer Awards."

Anna White, Founder of ScotlandShop, said: "Like Bonnie & Wild, we are passionate about celebrating Scottish culture, including of course the many tailored tartan garments and fabulous fabrics woven here in Scotland. But we also embrace Scotland's wider culture, its food, drink, music and of course our country dancing. We know these are very important to our customers who I'm sure will be excited by the White Heather Club and our involvement in it." Taking the floor on the night, the White Heather Club is led by the Charlie Kirkpatrick Band, one of Scotland's best ceilidh bands and a regular at ceilidhs across the country as well as on radio.

The White Heather Club takes place on the last Thursday of every month at Bonnie & Wild, St James Quarter, Edinburgh. Starting at 8pm, tickets are free and can be reserved online: www.bonnieandwildmarket.com




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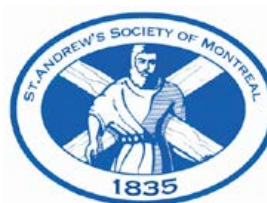
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WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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

Canada

JULY 2023

Happy Canada Day 1, Nationwide

Wishing all our Canadian readers and friends a very Happy Canada Day!

Sons of Scotland Pipe Band Canada Day Celebrations 1, Ottawa, ON

Celebrate Canada Day with Sons of Scotland Pipe Band at MacKenzie King Estate, 3 shows at 1, 2 and 3 pm. Info: www.sospb.com

Embroid Highland Games 1, Embro, ON

Celebrate Scotland and Canada at the oldest Scottish games in Ontario. Info: www.embroidhighlandgames.com

Penticton Scottish Festival 1, Penticton, BC

A celebration of Scotland at King's Park. Info: www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca

Maggie The Musical 1-September 2, Charlottetown, PEI

Maggie tells the inspirational tale of a fiery school cleaner living in the mining town of Lanarkshire Scotland at the Charlottetown Festival. Info: www.maggiethemusical.com

Antigonish Highland Games 2-9, Antigonish, NS

The longest running Highland Games outside of Scotland at Columbus Field. Info: www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca

Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games 7-9, Kincardine, ON

Enjoy three days and nights of lively music, exciting competitions, cultural workshops, and friendly small-town hospitality. Info: www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca

Almonte Celtfest 8-9, Almonte, ON

Celtfest is a fun weekend of Ottawa Valley and Celtic entertainment, performed in the natural amphitheatre of Gemmill Park in the heart of Almonte. Info: www.almonteceltfest.com

Highland Storm 13-27, Summerside, PE

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. Highland Storm runs July 13, 20, 21 & 27. Info: www.collegeofpipings.com

Cambridge Scottish Festival 14-15, Cambridge, ON

The Games will once again showcase talented pipe bands, dancers, and athletes from throughout Ontario and beyond. Learn more about Scottish heritage in the 'Avenue of the Clans' and the Heritage Tent at Churchill Park. Info: www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca

Orillia Scottish Festival 14-16, Orillia, ON

A celebration of Scotland at Tudhope Park. Info: www.scottishfestival.ca

Uxbridge Scottish Festival 22, Uxbridge, ON

A full Scottish festival, including pipe bands, highland dancers, Scottish clans, dog show, vendors and much more. Info: www.uxbridgescottishfestival.com

Sherwood Highland Gathering 22-23, Sherwood Park, AB

The event consists of piping and drumming competitions, massed band performances, highland dance competitions, and Scottish heavy games at Broadmoor Lake Park. Info: www.sphg.ca

New Brunswick Highland Games 28-30, Fredericton, NB

Workshops, entertainment, competitions and provide visitors an opportunity to learn more about Scottish heritage, on the beautiful grounds of historic Government House. Info: www.highlandgames.ca

AUGUST 2023

Highland Storm 3-5, Summerside, PE

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. Highland Storm runs July 13, 20, 21 & 27. Info: www.collegeofpipings.com

Glengarry Highland Games 4-5, Maxville, ON

Since the first Games were held in 1948, thousands of people find themselves drawn each year to Maxville to witness an outstanding display of music, dance, sports, fiddling, pageantry, and tradition. Info: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

Montreal Highland Games 6, Montreal, QC

Bringing together Montrealers of all backgrounds to celebrate Scottish sport, music and culture at Douglas Hospital grounds, Verdun. Info: www.montrealhighlandgames.com

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games 11-13, Fergus, ON

Pipe bands, Clan village, Scottish dance, entertainment and more at one of Canada's largest Scottish events. Info: www.fergusscottishfestival.com

Goderich Celtic Roots Festival 11-13, Goderich, ON

On the beautiful shores of Lake Huron, there is something for every Celtic music fan. Info: www.celticfestival.ca

Miramichi Scottish Festival 18-20, Miramichi, NB

A weekend of Scottish events at on the grounds of the gorgeous historical MacDonald Farm. Info: www.highlandsociety.com/scottish-festival

Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival 19, Sedgewick, AB

It's a day full of highland activities, such as Heavy Events, highland dancing, festival entertainers, a petting zoo, artisan and food vendors, and more. The day concludes a Ceilidh (dance) (pronounced kay-ley) performed by the River Jack's. Info: www.flagstaffscottishclub.com/gotchf-event

National Capital Highland Games 19-20, Ottawa, ON

2023 is on hold due to construction on site, returning August 2024. Info: www.nationalcapitalhighlandgames.com

North Lanark Highland Games 26, Almonte, ON

Celebrate the Scottish culture and heritage of the Ottawa Valley at N.L.A.S. Fairgrounds. Info: www.almontehighlandgames.com

USA

JULY 2023

Happy 4th of July 4, Nationwide

Wishing all our US readers a happy, safe and fun Independence Day.

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games 6-9, Linville, NC

Scottish music, dancing, foods, costumes, field games, clans and much more at MacRae Meadows. Info: 828 733-1333 or www.gmhg.org

Payson Scottish Festival 7-8, Payson, UT

The excitement begins Friday night with food and entertainment at Payson Memorial Park. Saturday with Highland Dance, Highland Athletics and bagpipe competitions. Listen to Celtic music and enjoy entertaining Scottish dances ranging from a sword dance to an Irish jig. Info: www.paysonscottishfestival.site

The 2023 Balmoral School 9-14, East Stroudsburg, PA

Returns to the East Stroudsburg University camp, with a Piping & Drumming camp for all ages and ability levels. Info: www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org/balmoral-school/for-summer

The 2023 Balmoral School 16-21, Edinboro, PA

Held on the beautiful campus at PennWest Edinboro, with a Piping & Drumming camp for all ages and ability levels. Info: www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org/balmoral-school/for-summer

Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra Southern States Tour 20-19, Various venues

Performing traditional Scottish music to excite, engage and enlighten all ages. Tour locations: Newnan GA, Memphis TN, Covington, LA and Houston, TX. Info: www.fiddleorchestra.com

The Maine Celtic Celebration 21-23, Belfast ME

A family-oriented weekend celebrating the rich Celtic heritage, culture, and hospitality found along the coast of Maine. Info: www.mainecelebration.com

Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering 22-23, Enumclaw, WA

The 6th oldest Scottish festival in the US featuring the North American Scottish Athletics Championship, US West Coast Drum Corps Championship, NW Regional Harp Finals, colorful pipe bands, and Highland dancers competing before judges of worldwide renown at Enumclaw Expo Center, 45224 - 284th Avenue SE. Info: www.sshga.org

Dayton Celtic Festival 28-30, Dayton, OH

Saturate your senses in the sights, sounds, and tastes of our Celtic heritage at Riverscape MetroPark. Info: www.daytoncelticfestival.com

AUGUST 2023

The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit Annual Highland Games 4-5, Livonia, MI

Scottish entertainment, Clans, heavy events and more at Greenmead Historical Village, 20501 Newburgh Rd. Info: www.highlandgames.com

Spokane Scottish Highland Games 5, Spokane, WA

Celebrating the traditions of Scotland at Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, 404 N. Havana St. Info: www.spokanehighlandgames.net

The American-Scottish Foundation Sunset Tea 8, New York, NY

Join the ASF for Sunset Tea at the Arsenal Central Park NYC, with talk on the NTSUSA Gardens by Kirsten Bridier. Followed by Pimms and wind on roof top garden of the Arsenal. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

CNY Scottish Games & Celtic Festival 12, Syracuse, NY

Central New York hosts a Highland Games, Pipe Band competition and Celtic ethnic activities at the incredible venue of Long Branch Park on Onondaga Lake. Info: www.cnyscottishgames.org

Berea Celtic Festival and Gathering 17-20, Berea KY

A celebration of Celtic culture in Berea. Info: www.berea-celtic.com

14th Annual Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering 19-20, Hamilton, MT

A celebration of Celtic heritage at Daly Mansion. Info: www.bcg.org

Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival & Gathering of the Clans 25-26, Mayville, NY

A celebration of Celtic nations with pipe bands, Celtic dancers, Clans & Societies and The Mudmen from Canada, along with Tuatha Dea returning to the stage in the Beer Garden at Mayville Lakeside Park. Info: www.96thhighlanders.com

Long Island Scottish Festival and Highland Games 26, Old Westbury, NY

Come one come all and enjoy a Scottish day with bagpipe bands, Scottish food, entertainment, children's games and entertainment, highland dancers and much more. Bring your families, friends, groups and enjoy the Scottish day, 8am-5pm at Old Westbury Gardens. Info: www.liscots.org

Scotland

JULY 2023

165th Famous Alva Games 8, Alva

Alva Games are the last surviving sports and games to be run in Clackmannanshire, at Johnstone Park. Info: www.alva.ukctest.co.uk

HebCelt 12-15, Isle of Lewis

Award-winning music festival with exceptional music, breathtaking scenery and Celtic and Gaelic culture on offer. Info: www.hebceltfest.com

Inverness Highland Games 15, Inverness

A twirl of tartan, competitors tearing down the track, the clang of a caber, and the peppering of pipes filling the air in the Capital of the Highlands. Info: www.invernesshighlandgames.com

Lochcarron Highland Games 15, Wester Ross

"The Friendly Games" held in the beautiful North West Highlands. Info: www.lochcarrongames.org.uk/2023

RSCDS Summer School 15-August 13, St Andrews, Fife

Summer School, an action-packed four weeks of dancing in the historic town of St Andrews. Come and join with dancers from around the world and be led by some of the best of Scottish Country Dance teachers and musicians. Info: www.rscds.org/events/summer-school-2023

Inveraray Highland Games 18, Inveraray

The Games celebrate our rich culture and heritage with field and track events, piping, highland dancing competitions and heavyweight events including the world championships for tossing the caber at Inveraray Castle. Info: www.inveraray-games.co.uk

Speyfest 21-23, Fochabers

Moray's much-loved folk festival is set to display the very best Scottish talent and traditional music over a weekend of top-tier Scottish music and culture. Info: www.speyfest.com

Balquhider, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Highland Games and Gathering 22, Lochearnhead

At the traditional seat to Clans MacLaren, MacGregor, Stewarts of Ardvorlich and Macnab. Info: www.lochearnheadhighlandgames.co.uk

725th Anniversary of the Battle of Falkirk 1298 22, Falkirk

725 years ago on the 22nd of July 1298 the Patriots of Scotland under the command of Sir William Wallace stood their ground at the Battle of Falkirk against overwhelming numbers against the might of King Edward I of England's army. This event will bring history to life with our tradition commemoration we highly encourage the public to take part in as well as bringing the story of the battle of Falkirk 1298 to life through storytelling, music and theatrics with historical demonstrations and more. Info: www.thesocietyofwilliamwallace.com

Outlander Conference 2023 22, Glasgow

Through a range of events that will be open to academic researchers and the public, the aim of the Outlander Conference Glasgow 2023 is to further the exchange of information and knowledge surrounding Outlander, both books and TV series, ensuring its far-reaching and long-lasting impact as a remarkable socio-cultural phenomenon at the University of Glasgow. Info: www.outlanderconferenceglasgow.com

Shetland Tall Ships Races 26-29, Lerwick, Shetland

The Tall Ships Races is an annual race series that has been arranged by Sail Training International since 1956 and in summer 2023 the town of Lerwick will welcome the fleet for four days of celebrations, sharing culture and international friendships. Info: www.tallshipslerwick.com

Bute Fest 2023 28-30, Isle of Bute

A non-stop weekend of live music, family, friends and fun at Ettrick Bay on the magical Isle of Bute. Info: www.butefest.co.uk

Halkirk Highland Games 29, Halkirk, Caithness

A traditional and spectacular Scottish sporting event held in Caithness in the far North of Scotland, near to Thurso, the North Coast 500 route and the famous end of the road landmark of John O'Groats. Info: www.halkirkgames.co.uk

Clan Macnab Global Clan Gathering 31-August 3, Killin

In the heart of Macnab country and to coincide with the annual Killin Highland Games. In addition to the Games, there will be an evening dinner and music, opportunities to commune with the dead on Innis Bhuidhe (the Macnabburial island), and of course the presence of our warm and wonderful Chief, Jamie Macnab of Macnab. Info: www.clanmacnabsociety.com

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
1 Byres	1 Bides
5 Caber	2 Expel
8 Drop Scone	3 Sporan
9 Tithe	4 Breenge
10 Smelt	5 Celts
12 Rinks	6 Battleaxe
13 Dragoon	7 Rebel
15 England	11 Thole
17 Oatmeal	14 Astronaut
19 Brewers	16 Gaels
21 Cycle	18 Loch Awe
22 Skite	19 Breechin
25 Mince	20 Empty
26 Athletics	21 Ceres
27 Yetts	23 Ketch
28 Shoal	24 Easel



YOUNG FAMILY CONVENTION

To be held on Saturday, 2 September 2023 at The Melting Pot, 15 Calton Road, Edinburgh

Anyone who bears the name of Young or was born with the name Young and is associated with or identifies with the Young family in Scotland are eligible to vote. Voter registration to be completed prior to 22 July 2023.

Candidates for Commander must establish that they are a Young by birth and are descended from Scottish Youngs, and are to nominate by email to [Roberta Wallace at youngfamilyconvention@gmail.com](mailto:youngfamilyconvention@gmail.com) prior to 2 July 2023.

Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/CJAIQ>

Back to the Top - *The Cairngorm Mountain Railway*



Cairngorm Mountain Railway carriage. Photo: Peter S (CC BY-SA 2.0).



Cairngorm Mountain Railway carriage on the move. Photo: Peter S (CC BY-SA 2.0).

The Cairngorm funicular railway in the Cairngorms National Park has the double distinction of being the only funicular railway in Scotland, and the highest railway in the United Kingdom. Positioned on the north side of Cairn Gorm, the railway serves the Cairngorm Mountain alpine ski area

Cairngorms National Park

With an area of 4528 square kilometres, Cairngorms National Park is the largest national park in the UK. The park encompasses the Cairngorms mountain range and surrounding hills. Established by the Scottish Parliament in 2003, the park is visited by millions of tourists annually.

Within the park is the largest stretch of Caledonian forest left in Scotland, and a number of castles are on park grounds. These include Loch an Eilein, Braemar, Ruthven Barracks, Corgarff, Glenbuchat, Blairfindy, Drumin, Blair, and Castle Roy. There are several nature reserves inside the park where visitors may see red squirrels, ospreys, crossbills, crested tit, lapwings, curlews, redshanks, greylag geese and whopper swans (the latter two during wintertime). In the Cairngorms are snow bunting, red grouse, golden eagle, ptarmigan and ring ouzel.

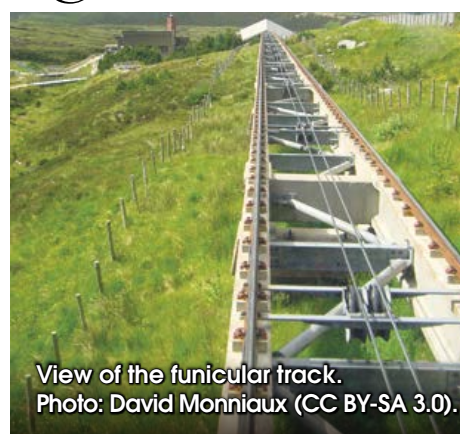
Mountain hare, red deer, and the only semi-domesticated herd of reindeer in the British Isles – introduced from Sweden in 1952 – roam the slopes and plateaus. Wildlife can be seen from the more than 100 walking paths and trails in the park.

that was developed in 1960. The railway replaced the White Lady Chairlift, which opened in December 1961. The chairlift eventually proved to be too susceptible to the sometimes enormously strong mountain winds, while a funicular railway was deemed to be much more resistant to such weather hazards. Construction began on the railway in 1999, laying a 2000mm broad gauge track from the base station in the Coire Cas area 2km up the mountainside to Ptarmigan, more than 1097m above sea level. The steepest gradient the rails traverse is 23 degrees, or a 40 per cent inclination.

Sheiling

The railway has a middle station at Sheiling, situated at about 765m above sea level, and a passing loop above this where the single rail line splits into two, so that the two carriages can pass each other – one going up, the other on its way down. During the skiing season the carriages run at up to 36km/h, and in the off season the top speed is 18km/h. Not counting middle station stops, the trip to the top can take about 4-5 minutes in winter and 9 minutes in summer, or generally 5-8 minutes depending on season, weather and middle station stops. During summer the train does not make stops at the middle station.

Depending on various weather factors, the trains can operate safely in winds of 100-120km/h. In the approach



View of the funicular track. Photo: David Monniaux (CC BY-SA 3.0).

to the top station the carriage enters a 230m long tunnel, and then arrives at the top platform which is concealed in the mountainside. Each carriage has a capacity of 120 standing passengers, and is wheelchair accessible. The stations at the base and at Ptarmigan are equipped with lift access to each level. Two 500kW motors mounted in series power the railway by pulling up one carriage as the other descends. Typically, the railway is operated from a control room at the Ptarmigan Station, but there are also operational controls at the base station and inside each carriage. Control, communication and safety systems plus backup systems are part of the railway network. The latter include standby generators and manually operated emergency systems for moving the carriages in case of power failure.

Reinstatement of the railway

At the Top Station are the Ptarmigan Restaurant, Shop at the Top gift shop, Cairngorm Gin Bar, Cairngorm Learning Zone, and of course panoramic viewing which can be accessed from the restaurant through floor to ceiling windows and via the viewing terrace. Due to mountain conservation efforts in cooperation with Scottish National Heritage, climbers and hillwalkers are forbidden to use the railway for uphill travel during the ski season. Further, during the summer, rail passengers are not allowed to explore the mountain from Ptarmigan Station, but hillwalkers who reach the upper station on their own may buy a downhill ticket to return to the lower terminus. The base station houses a Disability Sport UK office, hire shop, restaurant, ranger's post and ticket office. Near the middle station is a Scottish Ski Club building.



View of Cairn Gorm. Photo: Mike Pennington (CC BY-SA 2.0).

In October 2018 the railway closed due to concerns over structural weaknesses, and engineers undertook investigations of the system. The economic viability of continuing to operate the railway was also in question. But in October 2020 the Scottish Government announced a £20m funding package for work on the Cairngorm ski resort, £16m of which was slated for the repair, upgrade and reinstatement of the railway.

The engineering works project, which included reinforcement of the viaduct and the installation of a new control system, started in November 2020 and finished in late 2022. The railway reopened on 26 January 2023. Trains depart regularly from the lower terminus from 10am to 3:30pm. The last train leaves the upper terminus at 4:30pm, though this schedule is weather dependant. Return railway tickets for adults are £22 standard, or £17 off peak. Juniors ride for £12.50 standard or £9.50 off peak. There are discounts for seniors and families, while children under five ride for free. Off peak prices apply to the 10am, 10:30am and 3:30pm trains, Monday thru Friday. Friends of Cairngorm Mountain season passes for 2023 are £45 for adults and £25 for juniors.

For more information see: www.cairngormmountain.co.uk



Ptarmigan Station, the upper terminus of the railway. Photo: wfmillar (CC BY-SA 2.0).

Cairn Gorm

Classed as a Munro, Cairn Gorm at 1244.8m high is the sixth tallest mountain in the British Isles. Cairn Gorm's summit overlooks Strathspey, and the obscure Loch Avon is visible from the mount's southern slopes. Despite its being named after the Cairngorm range, Ben Macdui is the tallest and most prominent mountain in the Cairngorms. Automated weather stations on the summit of Cairn Gorm provide wind speed, temperature and frost data.

The mountain's average of 194.4 frost days per year make these the UK's coldest weather stations. Daytime temperatures which stay below 0 degrees Celsius have been recorded on Cairn Gorm during every month of the year. The coldest known temperature here is -26.9 degrees C, and the warmest is 25.5 degrees C. Cairn Gorm is the site of the highest recorded UK wind speed on land, with a 278km/h gust occurring in March 1986. An unofficial 312km/h gust was reported in December 2008, but was unconfirmed by the Met office.

Piecing together Scotland's religious past with shards of glass



Elgin Cathedral.

Two Scottish researchers are trying to piece together part of Scotland's religious past by combining hi-tech science with historical knowledge. A combination of scientific and historical research is shedding light on the physical and chemical properties of medieval stained glass, as well as its wider religious meaning. The researchers, Dr Craig Kennedy from Heriot-Watt University's Institute for Sustainable Building Design, and Dr Michael Penman, a historian from the University of Stirling, hope they can bring the past to life with the project, and fill in the knowledge gaps created by the Reformation.

They've been supported by two research associates. Helen Spencer, Heriot-Watt, carried out the analysis of glass from Elgin Cathedral, while Tom Turpie, Stirling, contributed research on cults and popular religion in the pre-Reformation era.

Reformation's destruction wiped out church windows

During the Protestant Reformation of 1560, most of Scotland's Catholic churches faced widespread destruction. Items considered idolatrous were targeted and destroyed. Significantly, stained glass windows were smashed and buried on-site, or otherwise left to decay, and were replaced by austere, plain glass. In England and across Europe, church windows survived and still bathe visitors in their colourful light. In Scotland, visitors and historians have had to use their imaginations. That's what Dr Kennedy and Dr Penman want to change with their research.

Dr Michael Penman said: "If you visit the great medieval churches at Canterbury, Westminster or York, the stained glass windows are the main attraction for visitors, alongside the paintings on the walls. In medieval times, most of the congregation would have been illiterate, so stained glass and paintings would have been the best way to address them. Nowhere else would they have seen anything so colourful and lavish. They were positioned and designed based on when the light would move round the church and shine through to best effect. You can step inside these cathedrals and get a real sense of what congregants would have experienced, sitting

for worship several times a day, basked in colour. In Scotland, the Reformation was much more destructive, and absolutely nothing remains in place. We want to try and recreate this experience and learn more about medieval daily life by combining historical research with scientific findings."

A combination of scientific and historical research is shedding light on the physical and chemical properties of medieval stained glass.

Recreating church windows from just 16 shards

The team has focused on two churches: Elgin Cathedral and Dunfermline Abbey. Dr Craig Kennedy previously worked on a project that tested 30 shards of glass from Elgin Cathedral. They were tested using the university's state-of-the-art electron microscopy facility and x-ray fluorescence to identify the elements present, which in turn revealed the colour of the glass, and where it came from. Dr Kennedy said: "Over the last few decades, we've been able to recover shards of medieval church glass during excavations. We can narrow down the age of the glass to part of a century, and from there we can use scientific techniques to determine where it was produced. We can work out when it was produced from some decorative patterns. We know the colours but so much more. The presence of certain glass tells us where Scotland had trade routes, and who sponsored or supported churches here."

Combining scientific information and historical studies has led to an educated guess on how the chapel windows may have looked at Elgin Cathedral. "The glass recovered from Elgin was red, brown, blue, green and clear, and many of the clear sections were decorated in the French grisaille style. Elgin Cathedral's windows may have had grisaille borders and abstract top lights highlighting saintly figures. As to who those figures were, we

have a number of candidates. The Virgin, Thomas Becket, St Columba of Iona and a few others are known to have regional dedications in the northeast of Scotland."

Trying to accurately imagine the stained glass windows of Dunfermline Abbey is proving difficult: only 16 shards of glass have been found. Dr Kennedy continued: "It is fascinating that a site of such national importance as Dunfermline Abbey has yielded so few glass shards to date. This site, Scotland's national mausoleum, yielded red, white and blue glass samples. This site had a highly spiritual connection with St Margaret and we can assume that high-quality narrative glass was at some time installed in the Abbey."

Next steps: A modern day medieval church window

Kennedy and Penman hope that they will win funding to support two researchers, one historical and one scientific, so that they can try to answer a simple question: what did the glass look like? Using scientific techniques to trace the origins of the physical glass and historical studies to understand the religious stories that were conveyed, an attempt to recreate these lost windows can be made. Further, through engaging with local communities near these sites, they aim to shed a light on a

previously unknown part of Scotland's religious history. They'd like to commission an expert glass artist to create medieval glass to tour Scotland and give people a window to the past. Penman said: "All the stained glass currently in Scottish churches of a medieval origin is modern, from the 19th and 20th century and often for Protestant congregations. If our research can identify a distinctive Scottish palette and styles for stained and painted medieval church glass, either figurative or decorative, then an artist might be able to recreate the imagery and thus the spiritual and huge emotional effect of such windows on Scottish worshippers before the Reformation."



Dunfermline Abbey. Photo: Fife Council/Damian Shields.

Scotland marks Coronation of The King and Queen



Palace of Holyroodhouse. Photo: VisitScotland.

Scotland will mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla during Royal Week in Edinburgh on Wednesday 5 July. The King will be presented with the Honours of Scotland at a National Service of Thanksgiving at St Giles' Cathedral following processions on the Royal Mile. Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay will also attend events.

The Honours will be collected from Edinburgh Castle by a People's Procession, involving around 100 people representing aspects of Scottish life. It will be escorted by The Royal Regiment of Scotland, Shetland pony mascot Corporal Cruachan IV and supported by cadet musicians from the Combined Cadet Force Pipes and Drums, 51 Brigade Cadet Military Band. The Royal Procession will travel from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to the Cathedral. There will be opportunities for the public

to view the People's Procession and the Royal Procession along the Royal Mile. A 21-Gun Salute will fire from Edinburgh Castle at the end of the St Giles' Service, before the Royal Procession travels back to the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

First Minister Humza Yousaf said: "Scotland will welcome the new King and Queen in July with a series of events to mark the Coronation. A People's Procession, a Royal Procession, a National Service of Thanksgiving and a Gun Salute will take place in Edinburgh. Representatives from many different communities and organisations in Scotland will take part in these historic events. People who wish to mark this historic occasion can get involved by watching broadcast coverage or viewing events in person."

The Stone of Destiny will be in St Giles' Cathedral for the service. There will also be a fly past by the Red Arrows following the event.

Lynx reintroduction discussed in Scottish Parliament for first time



A female European lynx. Photo: SCOTLAND: The Big Picture.

The case for reintroducing lynx to Scotland is being discussed in the Scottish Parliament for the first time, with a recent reception organised by rewilding charities and sponsored by Ariane Burgess MSP. The Lynx to Scotland parliamentary event held at Holyrood reflects growing public support for the return of the Eurasian lynx – a native species missing from Scotland since being made extinct through hunting and habitat loss more than 500 years ago. MSPs, senior advisors and rural groups attended the event, hosted by Lynx to Scotland project partners SCOTLAND: The Big Picture, Trees for Life and The Lifescape Project. “It’s good news that

politicians and policy makers are now seriously discussing the return of lynx, which would have strong public support. Scotland is one of the poorest places on Earth for nature, and if we are serious about tackling the nature and climate emergencies, these conversations really matter,” said Peter Cairns, Executive Director of SCOTLAND: The Big Picture.

The potential for reintroducing lynx was also debated in the Scottish Parliament on 20 April, after a parliamentary motion by the SNP’s Kenneth Gibson MSP received cross-party support. The motion noted calls on the Scottish Government to rectify lynx extinction in Scotland by a managed

reintroduction, following appropriate assessments. It highlighted the moral and ecological case for the species’ return, and how lynx reintroduction could make Scotland’s natural world richer and stronger. Research suggests the Highlands has sufficient habitat to support around 400 wild lynx. Reintroducing the species could help reduce the impacts of deer browsing on woodland, boost biodiversity and restore natural processes, while also providing fresh economic opportunities for local communities, says the Lynx to Scotland project.

Elusive woodland hunters

The rewilding charities emphasise that any lynx reintroduction should properly consider all relevant stakeholder interests and legitimate concerns, including through full consultations. Scotland has more woodland deer than any other European country. By preying on roe deer – their preferred prey – lynx could reduce browsing pressure on regenerating woodlands, helping to expand and enrich the country’s forests. Lynx could also act as high-profile ambassadors for nature recovery, attracting valuable tourism revenue for rural communities. Lynx are shy and elusive woodland hunters, which pose no danger to people, leading lynx expert Dr David Hetherington will tell attendees at the Holyrood event. He will highlight how lynx have successfully returned to European countries such as Germany, France and Switzerland.

Predators play a vital ecological role in maintaining healthy living systems. Lynx are known as a keystone species because

they can have a profound influence on the behaviour, abundance and distribution of so many other species, with biodiversity negatively affected by their absence. “Scotland could become the world’s first rewilding nation, but is still one of Europe’s only countries lacking large predators. The support or acceptance of the land management community for a well-considered, carefully managed lynx reintroduction would help deliver on commitments to restore 30% of nature by 2030,” said Steve Micklewright, Chief Executive of Trees for Life. Adam Eagle, Chief Executive Officer of The Lifescape Project, added: “Scotland has suitable habitat for lynx to prosper here. The return of this magnificent creature is about choices, and our willingness to live alongside other species.”

Last year, the Lynx to Scotland project completed the first detailed research into the social feasibility of lynx reintroduction, consulting farmers, gamekeepers, foresters, conservationists, landowners, tourism operators and rural communities in the Cairngorms National Park and Argyll. The one-year study found sufficient appetite from a diverse range of rural stakeholders to examine whether potential barriers to lynx reintroduction can be overcome. Conversations have since begun between cross-sector groups, to build cooperation and openly explore the pros and cons of any future reintroduction.

For more details see:
www.scotlandbigpicture.com/lynx-to-scotland.

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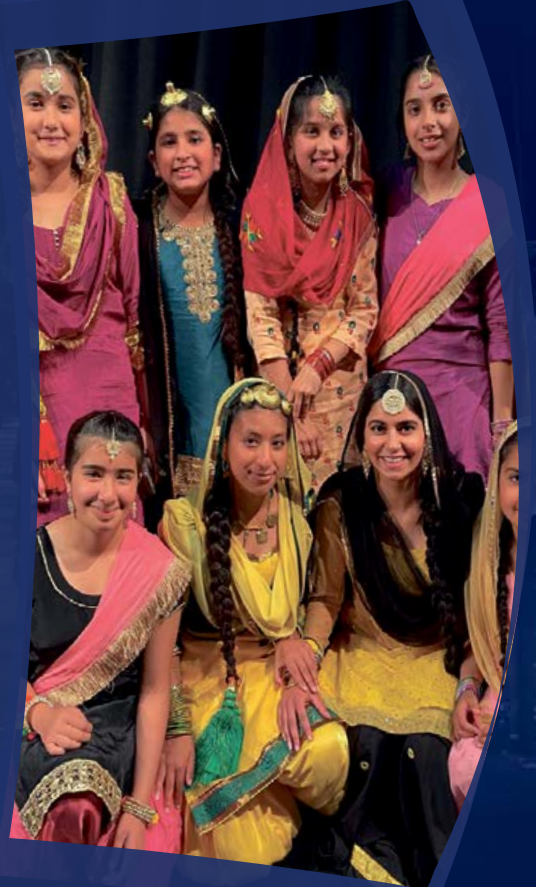
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