



the Scottish Banner



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August 2023

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The Banner Says...

The fascination of the Loch Ness Monster



by Sean Cairney

I always remember my very first visit to Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands and taking in the stunning scenery of the area and visiting the ruins of Urquhart Castle on the bonnie banks of the loch (a Gaelic word for lake). I also spent an above average amount of time skimming the loch for anything unusual in the cold and dark waters below. Of course, I was seeing if I would become world famous by being that person who spotted 'Nessie', something so many fail in year in and year out. Regardless of what you think is the true story of Nessie, our imagination and sense of 'what if' can take hold when you are looking out at the vast open water before you at Loch Ness.

Nessie

If you have yet to visit Loch Ness you may be surprised just how big it is, in fact it is the largest body of fresh water in all of the UK. With a depth of 788 feet/240 metres and a length of about 23 miles/36 km it is a vast and stunning body of water. And though Loch Lomond is larger and Loch Morar deeper than Loch Ness, this infamous loch contains more water than all the lakes of England and Wales combined!

However, the reason why Loch Ness is the most famous of Scotland's over 30,000 lochs is because of the mythical creature we all know as the Loch Ness Monster, or Nessie. Just recently the latest recording of a sighting of the monster was lodged for 2023. That now makes three claims of sightings to have taken place, in April, May and June

from Scottish, American and French visitors. In 2022 six sightings were reported and you can read about each one and see any images to back up the claims at: www.lochnesssightings.com.

These recent sightings of course are not new, and the first reported dates go all the way back to 565AD when St Columba first saw the water beast and a legend was born. In our modern history nearly 1,200 sightings have been recorded and sightings really took off from the 1930s.

The legend

Not only has the legend of the Loch Ness monster fuelled our imaginations for generations, but it has also had a hugely positive impact to the local economy with estimates being the elusive monster brings in £41 million locally, with hotel nights, cruises, tours, tea towels, magnets and more. I even admit that before writing this article I did do my 'research' and scanned the waters, or should I say webcams, which you can watch at anytime at: www.visitinvernesslochness.com/live-stream, should you have any better luck at 'Nessie hunting' from your home and spot something which could be the monster please do get in touch!

Loch Ness Monster is still searched for on Google and other search engines on the internet hundreds of thousands of times a year from people all over the world. The allure is still there and maybe it is fuelled by our imaginations and the love of the story, but I cannot think of any other country in the world who has a creature that sparks so much interest, yet most have never seen and even more likely not even believing in. To date no concrete evidence exists that Nessie is or was ever real, but that is ok as the legend is very much real.

In this issue

To locals it must feel like the world is descending on the streets of Edinburgh this month with all the Edinburgh festivals taking place. One of the premier events returning is The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, we have

some details of the cast line up and some images whet your appetite and whether you are attending in person or perhaps waiting to see it later in the year on the big screen or at home I hope you enjoy one of the world's greatest shows.

Should you happen to be in the Scottish capital over the next couple of months you may also wish to take a moment from the hustle and bustle and head to the Floral Clock. Located in West Princes Street Gardens and this year honouring the *Flying Scotsman* train it really is something to see, and smell, as you take in the world's oldest Floral Clock.

This month we have the third instalment from David C. Weinczok's favourite Scottish site series. This month David takes us far back in time to Scotland's early history focusing on sites from the Roman through Viking Ages, often a time we do not hear about in history and the fact a visitor to Scotland can still connect with it is amazing.

Truly magic

Over generations stories have circulated across the world of a mythical creature roaming the deep waters in the Scottish Highlands. Scotland is good at folklore, and this surely must be up there with one of its most famous tales. The monster is known the world over and has garnered the fascination of millions of people.

There is of course a benefit to Scotland that the idea of Nessie continues, but it is the fascination of the story that is truly magic. When I next visit the Highland beauty spot, I know I will join many alongside me having a look, just in case... it is something that we can all take part in and enjoy and that in of itself is truly special. 🍷

Have you been to Loch Ness? Have you ever caught a glimpse of Nessie? 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.



Gracing our front cover: Celebrating Stories - The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2023. Photo: The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Floral Clock blooms in honour of 100 years of *Flying Scotsman*



The 2023 Floral Clock. Photo: Steve Morgan/Science Museum Group.

The dedication of the clock coincided with a visit to the Capital from the iconic locomotive. The Lord Provost Robert Aldridge was joined by floral clock gardeners Gillian and David to welcome *Flying Scotsman* at Edinburgh Waverley. Edinburgh's Lord Provost Robert Aldridge said: "I am delighted to once again see the city's beautiful floral clock completed, and blooming in time for the special visit from *Flying Scotsman*. Each year the iconic clock marks special occasions and events in the heart of the Capital and this year it is a unique tribute coinciding with celebrations taking place around the country to celebrate 100 years of *Flying Scotsman*. My thanks and congratulations to the dedicated and creative parks team who have put together the design that I'm sure will be enjoyed by everyone who passes by it this summer."

The oldest of its kind in the world

Edinburgh born Andrew McLean, National Railway Museum Assistant Director and Head Curator, said: "I first saw the clock when I was a boy and my grandfather was involved in helping maintain it as part of his job as the Clerk of Works for the City of Edinburgh Council from the late 1940s until the early 1980s. It is an important part of Edinburgh's history and was always a source of great pride so bringing the clock and *Flying Scotsman* together is a great joy for me."

The Floral Clock was first created in 1903 by then Edinburgh Parks Superintendent, John McHattie, and is the oldest of its kind in the world. It initially operated with just an hour hand, with a minute hand added in 1904, followed by a cuckoo clock in 1952. Until 1972 the clock was operated mechanically and had to be wound daily. Since 1946 it has been designed in honour of various organisations and individuals, including the Girl Guides Association, Robert Louis Stevenson and the Queen, for her Golden Jubilee. In the clock's centenary year in 2003 it won a Gold Medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Flying Scotsman, the world's most famous steam locomotive, turned 100 in February 2023. Synonymous with the golden age of rail travel, the locomotive is renowned as a feat of design and engineering. It is a star attraction in the collection of the National Railway Museum (part of the Science Museum Group) in York, where it is a working museum exhibit.

For 2023, the hugely popular landmark will celebrate 100 years of *Flying Scotsman*, the world's most famous steam locomotive.

Work has finished to complete this year's design on the world's oldest Floral Clock in Edinburgh's West Princes Street Gardens. For 2023, the hugely popular landmark will celebrate 100 years of *Flying Scotsman*, the world's most famous steam locomotive. A team of three gardeners took just four weeks to plant over 50,000 flowers and plants used to create the clock, which will be in bloom until October.

There are 20 different plants included in this year's design such as antennaria, crassula, echevaria, sedum, saxifrage and annuals such as pyrethrum, begonias and geraniums.

New website launched to raise Midlothian's profile for visitors



To coincide with summer, a new website has been launched to raise Midlothian's profile and attract more visitors to the area. The site has been developed by Midlothian Tourism Forum with funding to help economic recovery following the Covid pandemic.

The new website for Midlothian – www.visitmidlothian.co.uk – provides ideas for visitors looking for things to see and do, places to stay and places to eat and drink. It also includes inspiration for themed days out, such as dog walks, active adventures, tours and sites where the area has appeared on film and TV, as well as information on accessibility, transport and responsible tourism.

The website has been developed by Midlothian Tourism Forum, which is the only organisation bringing together representatives from local businesses, Midlothian Council and VisitScotland to develop and promote tourism across the area.

Ian Gardner, Chair of Midlothian Tourism Forum, said: "I am delighted that we have reached this exciting stage of launching a brand new website to put Midlothian firmly on the map for visitors. The site will provide ideas and inspiration for people, whether they are planning a break or just looking for a day out from home. People are often surprised by how much Midlothian has to offer and we hope that this website will be a valuable guide, helping both visitors and local businesses, throughout the year."

Did you know?



Floral Clock

- The clock was created in 1903 and is the oldest floral clock in the world.
- It is housed in the plinth of the Allan Ramsay Monument at the north-east corner of West Princes Street Gardens.
- Planting begins in May each year.
- Up to 50,000 plants are used in the design each year (compared to 13,000 in the 1930s; 25,000 in the 1950s).
- In 1946 the clock began celebrating a different event or anniversary each year.
- In 1952 a cuckoo clock was added and still chimes every 15 minutes.
- In 1973 was when the clock began being operated electrically.
- In 2003 the clock won a Gold Medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.
- Clock circumference: 36 ft
Clock width: 11 ft 10 ins
Weight of large hand (when filled with plants): 80lbs. Weight of small hand (when filled with plants): 50lbs.
- Floral clocks are now distributed worldwide and many were made in Edinburgh, where the idea originated. They can be found in India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, United States of America, Canada and many other European countries.

Flying Scotsman

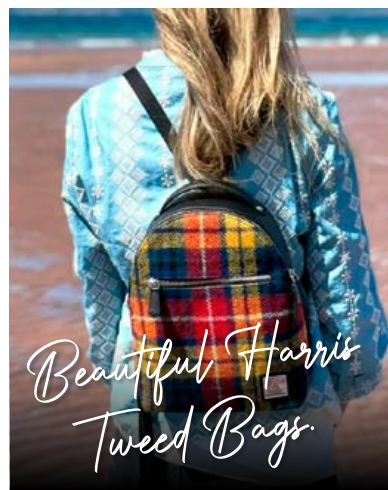


Lord Provost Robert Aldridge welcomes *Flying Scotsman* to Edinburgh Waverley.

- *Flying Scotsman* was built in Doncaster in February 1923, as an A1 class locomotive for the newly formed LNER and converted to an A3 class in 1947 costing £7,944.
- It was the first locomotive of the newly formed LNER (London and North Eastern Railway). Designed by Sir Nigel Gresley and numbered 1472, the locomotive was not named *Flying Scotsman* until the following year when it was picked to attend the British Empire Exhibition in London and renumbered 4472.
- The locomotive went on to operate in service until 1963 and later in preservation, which included tours of the USA, Canada and Australia, where it captured the hearts of millions.
- The *Flying Scotsman* is officially the first steam locomotive to reach 100mph, and the first to circumnavigate the globe.
- It holds the world record for a non-stop run in a steam locomotive, set in 1989 with a 422-mile trip.
- Today the locomotive is owned by the National Railway Museum in York and is operated and maintained by Riley & Son (E) Ltd, based in Heywood, Greater Manchester.

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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?

Scotland's zen garden



Thank you, *Scottish Banner*, for the story of the Japanese Garden at Cowden estate (*Scotland's zen garden-The place of pleasure and delight, the Scottish Banner*, May, 2023). I simply adore visiting gardens wherever I travel. Taking in the many varieties of plants on offer, getting a good walk and of course relaxing and connecting with nature. I travel to Scotland quite regularly and have for some reason never come across this garden before, so I greatly appreciate this article as I will now be adding the garden to my visit in September. The inspiration for the garden, Ella Christie, sounds like quite a remarkable

woman and I will be sure to learn more about her as I am sure at the time many would have frowned their noses at her and her dream to create an Asian paradise in Scotland. Based on the photos in the article, Scotland is very fortunate Ella had such a vision and the property has been passed along to those who have seen her vision and executed it back to life for people to enjoy.

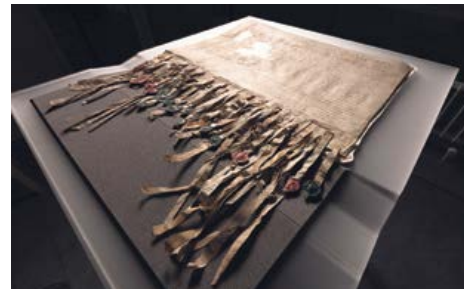
I love my *Banner* and finding articles like this confirms my enjoyment for each issue.

*Judy Crane
Burlington, Ontario
Canada*

distant relative. I have visited the castle twice and thoroughly enjoyed the tours and felt the connection. I was reading David C Weinczok's article (*Twelve years and over 400 castles later: My favourite Scottish castles*) in the May issue of *the Scottish Banner*, great reading, and it inspired me to write in my favourite castle-Fyvie.

My least favourite castle would have to be Dunvegan Castle on Skye. Sorry to anyone connected to said castle.
*C. Bruce (a reader of 30 years)
Jennings, NSW
Australia*

The Declaration of Arbroath



I absolutely love Scottish history so you can imagine my delight when I read about the Declaration of Arbroath (*New Images for Declaration of Arbroath released, the Scottish Banner*, May, 2023) being shown again in Scotland. My delight somewhat was reduced when I learned I would miss the viewing dates at the National Museum of Scotland. I will be in Edinburgh later this year, in September, and would have dearly

loved to see such a historic document and one that is so very important to Scotland still today. I am very envious of those that did get to view it but do understand the document must be protected for future generations to enjoy. All being well I will travel back when it next goes on display, though if it is another 18 years to wait for the next showing I may be a bit slower by 2041!

Congratulations to all involved with *the Scottish Banner*.
*Sharon McClusky
Boulder, Colorado
USA*

The Scottish Borders

Reading the editorial in the June issue reminded me of a holiday which included a bus tour through the Borders. I grew up in the north-west suburbs of Sydney, NSW. My suburb was Baulkham Hills, part of the Hills district. This included such fun names as Rooty Hill and Toongabbie. Baulkham Hills was named after Buckholm Hill in the Borders, near Galashiels. I was struck just how similar the Hills District and the Borders are. I now live in Cooma where many Cleared Scots settled. They would boast that their rock strewn holding was their own and no one was going to throw them off it.

Thanks for the reminder of that memory, and your fine publication.
*Ian Clark
Cooma, NSW
Australia*

Scottish Country Dancers



This was taken at the 2023 Bundanoon Highland Gathering of the Scottish country dancers. Some of them came from Gosford, Killara, Canberra and local branches.

*Robert Findley
Central Coast, NSW
Australia*

100 years of the City of Nelson Highland Pipe Band



2024 marks 100 years for the City of Nelson Highland Pipe Band. We are reaching out to all past members and supporters to get in touch if you are interested in being part of our celebrations next year. While things are still in the planning phase, we hope to get together as many of our current and past members and supporters as we can, so please spread the word, and make contact with us if you are keen to re-connect. Please email us at: cityofnelsonband@gmail.com, or send us a private message via Facebook.

*City of Nelson Highland Pipe Band
Nelson, New Zealand*

Just liked your Facebook page

I just "Liked" your page and wanted to say Thank You! I live in Argyle, Florida. I am of Scottish decent. My Clan is Hamilton. My mother was a Hamilton - direct descendant of the children of the Lord Hamilton in the 1740's. My father is a descendant of Ulster Scots who also immigrated to the Colony of Maryland. I'll be looking at your shop for Clan Hamilton and for the USAF as I am a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict.

*Jim Henthorn
Argyle, Florida
USA*

Ed note: Thanks Jim for liking our pages and hope you enjoy the content, readers are reminded you can like/follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and now Threads and each like is a great support to us.

Fyvie Castle



Fyvie Castle in Aberdeenshire has to be my favourite castle, bias I suppose, it has a family connection. My mother's parents, and perhaps forbearers, worked there before my grandparents married. I am not sure in what capacity they worked though; I also believe the present caretaker is a

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Eilean Donan Castle



Gorgeous evening at Eilean Donan Castle.
Mik Coia

Heilan Coo



Curious Stirling local.
The Kilted Photographer

Isle of Skye



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karendaly411

Islay



Peaceful day on Islay.
Derek A Grist



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SCOTSPEAK

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

“My journey will take me across the length and breadth of Scotland, across sea and lochs, from remote glens to the highest point in the United Kingdom; and across more miles of bog than I care to think about.”

Athlete and climber Jamie Aarons said as she climbed all of Scotland’s 282 Munros (mountains higher than 3,000 feet/914m) and set a new time record. Jamie completed the arduous task in 31 days 10 hours and 27 minutes, breaking the previous record by more than 12 hours.



“Imagine a hot summer in Scotland and no supplies of Irn-Bru, Scotland’s other national drink, to quench raging Scottish thirsts. Well that’s exactly what’s on the horizon if the management of AG Barr don’t revise their current wage offer to Unite members.”

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said the union has rejected a deal by Irn-Bru’s parent company AG Barr. Supplies of Irn-Bru from the companies plant at Cumbernauld could be impacted after the union rejected an offer of a 5% pay increase.

“I am writing to you this morning following an update from the US Coast Guard. We are shocked and

profoundly saddened by the death of Suleman Dawood and his father in this tragic incident. The entire Strathclyde community offers our deepest condolences to the Dawood family and all those affected by this terrible accident.”

A statement from Professor Sir Jim McDonald, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathclyde read as the Glasgow based business student was a passenger on a *Titanic* exploratory expedition. The 19-year-old and his father British/Pakistani businessman Shahzada Dawood 48, were among five people who perished on the *Titan* submersible off the coast of Newfoundland.



“Increased peatland restoration is vital to combat the climate and nature emergencies. Peatlands play such an important role in supporting our economic growth, improving our health and well-being, strengthening communities and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We must continue to

build on the results we’ve achieved with our many partners to put thousands of hectares of peatlands on the route to becoming a nature-rich, biodiverse and net zero Scotland.”

NatureScot’s Deputy Director of Green Economy, Claudia Rowse said the number of peatland hectares put on the road to recovery by NatureScot’s Peatland ACTION team increased by 25% between 2022 and 2023 to 5,000 ha. Vital in the fight to tackle climate change, peat covers more than 20% of Scotland and is crucial for water quality, richly diverse landscapes, slowing floods and wildfires, sustaining rural jobs and storing carbon. Peatlands in Scotland are estimated to hold the equivalent of 185 years’ worth of the country’s total annual greenhouse gas emissions. However, 80% of the UK’s peatlands – the majority of which are in Scotland - are estimated to be damaged and in need of restoration.

“For almost 1,000 years, the language of the people of Orkney was a variant of Old Norse, known as Norn, carried to the Northern Isles by Norwegian settlers. Norn remained the language of Orkney until the 15th century. It is thought that from the late 1500s to the early 1700s, most Orcadians were probably bilingual - speaking both Norn and Scots English. But gradually, cultural change in society, coupled with the economic changes, meant that the old tongue began to die out. But although the grammar

and intricacies of Norn are now lost, a huge number of Norn words survived in the spoken dialect of Orkney. These words, generally relating to everyday life, remained in the following centuries.”

Dr Tom Rendall said ahead of talk he gave at the Orkney Museum called “Aspects of Orkney Dialect”, which delved into the Orkney Norn, linguistic features, the Viking legacy, words and expressions, dialect in poetry and cartoons and the future of the Orkney dialect. Spoken Orcadian is often regarded as having a sing-song lilt and to others many of the words and how they are used may seem like a foreign language. Most folk in Orkney will know that they are examples of Orkney dialect with words such as dilder, fleg, claa, deeskit, blide, rookel, rive and snirl.

“The fact that it was for charity work, or charitable giving, as well as the output of books was especially good because my wife and I have run a charitable foundation for quite a few years now but anonymously. Well, someone’s outed us now, I guess. Someone must have put me forward for this.”

Edinburgh author Ian Rankin said recently when he was knighted for services to literature and charity. Rankin is most known for his *Rebus* crime novels, which are mostly set in and around the Scottish capital. Sir Ian Rankin OBE FRSE was awarded a knighthood by the Princess Royal at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday 13 June 2023.

Piping Live! Big Band returns for 2023

The Piping Live! Big Band will return for its sixth showcase at this year’s festival, as pipers of all ages and abilities are invited to take part in the mass participation event. On Monday 14th August around 150 pipers will gather, ranging from young learners playing their chanters to seasoned professionals with years of piping experience. The bespoke Big Band will walk the streets of Glasgow’s West End for the first time this year, as it performs a repertoire of tunes that everyone can play. For this year, due to the usual end-point of George Square being unavailable, there will be a change from the usual city centre route, with the procession starting at Mansfield Park in Partick at midday, parading down Dumbarton Road and Argyle Street before

culminating at the concourse outside Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. The Piping Live! Big Band is open to anyone who plays a practice chanter, bagpipes, snare, bass or tenor drum, or is a drum major. All ages are welcome, with past events welcoming people aged 8-86. Players can sign up to be part of the Piping Live! Big Band at www.pipinglive.co.uk.

Musicians coming from far and wide

The Big Band is a way of bringing together pipers who are not otherwise taking part in the festival together, allowing them to be a part of the prestigious Piping Live! line-up. Leading the parade once again this year will be Piping Live! Artistic Director and the Director of Piping at the National Piping Centre, Finlay MacDonald,

as well as some of the National Piping Centre’s world-renowned teaching team. Finlay MacDonald said: “We’re so excited to bring the Piping Live! Big Band to Glasgow’s West End this year. It’s always such a treat to see so many pipers and drummers of all ages and abilities come together to perform, filling the streets with music. We have musicians coming from far and wide, and it’s just wonderful to see everyone united by their love of Scottish music. We’re raising money for a fantastic cause (Versus Arthritis) that’s close to some of our piper’s hearts so I’m very proud to be leading the band once again this year.”

Piping Live! 2023 returns to Glasgow this month. The world’s biggest piping festival annually attracts over 30,000 attendees to Glasgow and this year the Piping Live! team hopes to bring in even more visitors, as it

celebrates two decades as a cornerstone on the Scottish cultural calendar. Tickets are on sale now. Live streaming will return to Piping Live!, with an exciting programme of live and premiered events and concerts to be announced.

Piping Live! returns for 2023 with a nine-day festival, from Saturday 12th - Sunday 20th August. The annual festival will showcase a world-renowned programme of events. Full detail and tickets for Piping Live! are available at: www.pipinglive.co.uk.



SCOTWORD

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

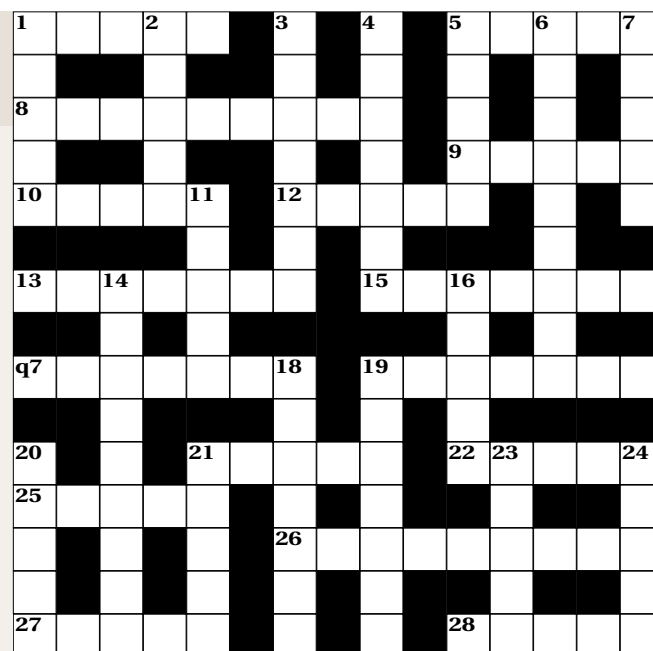
CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Front of the kilt (5).
- 5) Scots biter! (5).
- 8) Clyde resort near Ardrossan (9).
- 9) Hebrides nearest to mainland (5).
- 10) Having a cutting edge (5).
- 12) Scots valleys (5).
- 13) The young pretender (7).
- 15) Scottish sweetmeat (7).
- 17) Old government soldier (7).
- 19) Unit of heat (7).

- 21) Length of wound yarn (5).
- 22) Tartan trousers (5).
- 25) See 27 Across.
- 26) Village in valley of the River Balvagh (9).
- 27 & 25 Across) Jimmy Shand played it! (5, 5).
- 28) Abbey superior (5).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Kirk domes (5).
- 2) Freshwater mammal (5).
- 3) Village west of Blairgowrie (7).
- 4) Old shooters (7).
- 5) The song thrush (5).
- 6) Castle near Stonehaven (9).
- 7) Pitchers! (5).
- 11) Viral disease (5).
- 14) Catch the boat here for Arran (9).
- 16) Young bird of prey (5).
- 18) Country betrayal (7).
- 19) Glasgow’s main station (7).
- 20) Change for the better (5).
- 21) Perth’s palace (5).
- 23) Restore to former condition (5).
- 24) A young salmon (5).



The King and Queen keep Scotland's stories alive on tenth anniversary visit to The Great Tapestry of Scotland

All images courtesy of Phil Wilkinson.



The Great Tapestry of Scotland, where the people's story of Scotland begins, has a new royal story to tell after Their Majesties The King and Queen visited the centre in the Scottish Borders. During the royal engagement, The Queen added the final stitch to a new panel commemorating the historic occasion. Their Majesties' visit to view one of the world's largest community arts



projects in the town of Galashiels, coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Great Tapestry of Scotland's unveiling. The new panel is the first royal story to be added to the Tapestry since that time.

The King and Queen were welcomed by Mike Gray as Chair of the Tapestry Advisory Board and Centre Director Sandy Maxwell-Forbes, who introduced them to some of the thousand stitchers and wider team responsible for the creation of the Tapestry, including author Alexander McCall Smith who conceived the idea, artist Andrew Crummy (who was presented with an MBE), stitcher coordinator Dorie Wilkie, fundraiser and tour manager Jan Rutherford and historian and author Alistair Moffat, alongside representatives for architects Page/Park who designed the centre's award-winning building.

One of the world's longest tapestries

Speaking after the visit, Sandy said: "It was the greatest honour to introduce The King and Queen to individuals who were instrumental in creating this compelling account of Scotland's history, heritage and culture and one of the nation's top-rated visitor experiences right here in Galashiels in the Scottish Borders. This marks a significant moment in the Tapestry's extraordinary success story. Their Majesties appeared to be moved by the Tapestry's compelling artwork. Indeed, The Queen described it as 'Absolutely Wonderful', she said she wished she had more time to take it all in. In keeping with the Tapestry's original ethos of allowing people to tell their own story in their own way, we were also thrilled that The King and Queen signed our commemorative certificate and Her Majesty added a stitch to our new panel. We specially designed the panel to reflect the significance of this royal visit and The Queen's own appreciation of embroidery, which was so evident in her stunning Couture Coronation gown, hand embroidered by the Royal School of Needlework. In keeping with the design of the dress and indeed The Great Tapestry of Scotland, there are some beautiful intricate hidden details stitched into the new panel which reflected The King and Queen's greatest interests in life including nature, wildflowers, The King's own book, *The Old Man Lochnagar* and The Queen's Jack Russells Bess and Bluebell." Now in its permanent home in the

once thriving textile region of the Scottish Borders, The Great Tapestry of Scotland's 160 panels tell a visually compelling account of the people's story of Scotland from millions of years BC to present day. This includes key moments in royal history such as the stories of King Macbeth, St Margaret of Scotland, Mary Queen of Scots and her son James VI of Scotland and I of England, Queen Victoria and her particular love of Scotland, and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation.

The purpose-built Great Tapestry of Scotland visitor centre, with two galleries, café, workshop space and shop, opened in August 2021. One of the world's longest tapestries, hand stitched by a team of 1,000 stitchers led by Dorie Wilkie, The Great Tapestry of Scotland tells the visual story of Scotland's history, heritage and culture from its formation to present day.

For more information on The Great Tapestry of Scotland visit:
www.greattapestryofscotland.com



29th Annual

September 7-9, 2023



Thursday, Sept. 7

Planetarium Show

Friday, Sept. 8

Fiddle Workshop
Regional Qualifier Fiddle Competition
Movies Under the Stars
Special Event: Brave

Saturday, Sept. 9

U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Championships
Pro/Am Heavy Athletic Competitions
Scottish Clan Gatherings
Scottish Village Vendors
Weaving
Scottish and American Foods
Solo Bagpipe and Drum Competitions

Music Performances
Disc Golf Tournament
Plein Air – Live Paint and Art Exhibitions
Kids' Highland Games and Crafts
Clydesdales
Highland Dance Competitions
Archery
Beer Garden
Folk Harper Showcases

Opening Ceremonies and Massed Bands
Bagpipe Band Competitions
Chelsea House Orchestra
Tug O War
Harp Workshop
Student Contests and Games
Arts and Crafts
Closing Ceremony/Massed Bands
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Schedule is subject to change. Please visit the Highland Games website for the most current information.

*All events are FREE except the Ceilidh.

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Celebrating Stories at The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2023

All images courtesy of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



Embraces military tradition

2023 marks the second year of the Tattoo's bold new brand proposition, Performance in a New Light, which embraces military tradition and combines it with exciting new innovations and contemporary touches. Buster Howes, the Chief Executive of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, said: "The Tattoo is distinctive, iconic, and gleeful. It has mass, momentum and energy, and *Stories* will have all these qualities as well as being whimsical, exhilarating, and surprising. Our lives, loves, triumphs, and disasters are captivated and documented in stories. We grow up with fairy tales and folklore, with *Winnie the Pooh* and *The Gruffalo*, and progress to *Wuthering Heights* and *Moby Dick*. We are, as children, inspired by accounts of resilience, adventure and heroism; universal themes reinterpreted the world over. Edinburgh Castle is surely a perfect backdrop for all such narratives – come and see for yourselves.



This month, set against the spectacular backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will welcome local and international audiences to their new show, *Stories*. Staged between 4-26 August, the show will be a celebration of sagas, myths, and legends, transporting audiences on a journey of ideas - from the earliest campfire stories through to the world stage. Building on last year's successful return show, *Voices*, the 2023 performance will showcase performers from around the globe, telling tales that connect us through our unique and shared military and cultural heritages.

Bringing together stories through music, dance, poetry, spoken word and imagery, a cast of over 800 UK and international performers will present *Stories* through a vivid and eclectic range of expression. From the musical prowess of the Massed Pipes & Drums, the physical storytelling of dance and precision drill, and stunning imagery captured through light and projection, audiences will be transported and enthralled.

their traditional art forms, including the limbo and fire dance. Precision drill from the King's Colour Squadron will feature familiar soundscapes from the world of gaming. Exploring the legends and traditions of Switzerland, The Swiss Armed Forces Central Band will also present an exhilarating drum corps talent, which is sure to send sparks flying.

His Majesty the King's Guard Band and Drill Team of Norway will also be back to stun crowds. Their appearance this August will tell their story as a Regiment, reprising their history and heritage to present day. After their exuberant debut last year, Electro Pipes will return to the stage, where once again Tattoo performers will combine the traditional and new through EDM, electric instruments, lighting, and projection. The full line-up for 2023 includes: The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Scotland, The Central Band of the Royal Air Force, The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment, The Royal Air Force Salon Orchestra, Royal Air Force Bands, 1st Battalion The Irish Guards Drums and Pipes, The Pipes and Drums of

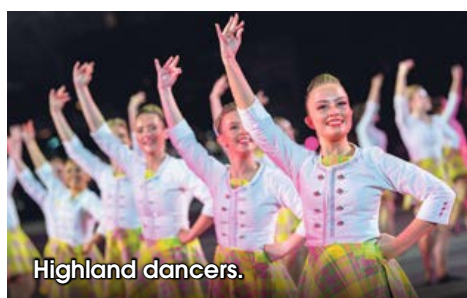
The Royal Highland Fusiliers 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Pipes and Drums of 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, Combined Scottish Universities Officers' Training Corps Pipes and Drums, Royal Air Force Pipes and Drums, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Pipes and Drums, The Scots College Sydney Pipes and Drums, The Scots College Sydney Old Boys Pipes and Drums, The Scots School Albury Pipe Band, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Dancers, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Fiddlers, King's Colour Squadron Royal Air Force, The Swiss Armed Forces Central Band, His Majesty the King's Guard Band and Drill Team of Norway, The United States Air Force Band and Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Steel Orchestra.



Shetland's Hjaltilbonhoga fiddlers.

Tattoo performers

This year The Tattoo Arena will host performers from Norway, The United States, Australia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Switzerland, alongside homegrown acts from across the UK and Ireland. As ever, the military will play a prominent role in the show, with the Royal Air Force the lead Service. Audiences will also be treated to the wild skirl of the Massed Pipes and Drums supported by the Tattoo Dancers and Fiddlers. Making their Tattoo debut on the Castle Esplanade, The United States Air Force Band will wow the crowds with a freestyle musical performance depicting America's great songbook, while the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Steel Orchestra will bring a vibrant burst of colour and the excitement of



Highland dancers.



The United States Air Force Band.



7 elements that create an amazing Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is one of the most iconic events in the Edinburgh festivals calendar. Bringing together audiences from across the globe, the Tattoo celebrates the skills and talents of military bands and display teams from across the globe. There are few such moving festival moments, a fact to which any of the over 220,000 people who experience it live in any normal year can attest – not to mention the further 100 million who watch television broadcasts of the event! So, what makes it so special?

1. The unique setting-It's not often that you get a chance to sit in a specially built arena with a castle as your backdrop. But that's what makes the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo unique. Edinburgh Castle is one of the oldest fortified places in Europe, and magically sits on a hilltop overlooking Scotland's capital city. With a long rich history as a royal residence, military garrison, prison and fortress, it is alive with many exciting tales. When you walk up Castle Hill to get to your seats, you will walk in the footsteps of soldiers, kings and queens – and even the odd pirate or two. Though parts of the Castle remain in military use, the castle is now a world-famous visitor attraction and an iconic part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site..... while also being the stunning backdrop for The Tattoo.
2. The legendary tradition-Did you ever wonder where the term 'Tattoo' comes from? Well, it derives

from a 17th century Dutch phrase doe den tap toe ("close the tap"), a signal to tavern owners each night, played by regimental drummers, to turn off the taps of their ale kegs so that the soldiers would go back to their lodgings. With the establishment of modern barracks and full military bands later in the 18th century, the term "tattoo" was used to describe the last duty call of the day, as well as a ceremonial form of evening entertainment especially amongst Scottish regiments. The first public military tattoo in Edinburgh was entitled "Something About a Soldier" and took place in 1949 at the Ross Bandstand in the Princes Street Gardens and the first official Edinburgh Military Tattoo, with eight items in the programme, was held in 1950 with 6,000 spectators seated in simple bench and scaffold structures around the Castle esplanade.

3. The Massed Pipes & Drums-There are surely only a few worldwide events that can boast of such a spectacular scene as the Massed Pipes and Drums marching out through the gates of Edinburgh Castle onto the Esplanade for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. At every show, the Massed Pipes and Drums – several hundred strong – march in traditional uniform and bellow out their best tunes on the bagpipes and drums. Each member moves with impeccable discipline, precision and choreographic prowess, creating a captivating spectacle that's bound to impress and not to be missed! The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Pipes and Drum, Dancers and Fiddlers, have been developed to promote traditional Scottish art forms, ensuring that these cultural identities are shared internationally.
4. The international flavour-Although UK and Scottish acts lie at the heart of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, it would not be the same extraordinary spectacle without the international performers that form part of a cast of more than 1,200 performers from all points of the compass that grace the Castle esplanade every August. In 1952 The Tattoo

introduced the first overseas performers: The Pipes and Drums of the 1st Canadian Highland Battalion, La Fanfare à Cheval de La Garde Republicaine de Paris and The Koninklijke Militaire Kapel (Royal Netherlands Grenadiers) all performed. The 2022 programme included Banda Monumental de Mexico, the New Zealand Army Band, the United States Air Force Honor Guard Drill team and firm Tattoo favourites the Top Secret Drum Corps from Basel, Switzerland. Every year, there's an amazing array of talented musicians from across the globe.

5. The Lone Piper-The Lone Piper has a significant role during the August shows. An iconic silhouette from the top of Edinburgh Castle, they mark the close of festivities and a moment to remember those that came before us. For centuries pipers and drummers have held an important role within the military. Marking calls to action throughout the day, performing at celebrations and keeping morale up during times of conflict. In addition to their daily soldiering duties, a Lone Piper will play their pipes to signify routine commands. Each call has a different tune, that the Battalion will recognise and understand. At the Tattoo, The Lone Piper is a key part of the performance marking a poignant moment of reflection and signifying the end of the night. In addition to learning music by heart, the piper must have a stomach for heights as they stand hundreds of feet above the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade. Before the times of health and safety the role included true jeopardy with pipers standing on a small platform next to a sheer drop. Nowadays, the Lone Piper is securely harnessed to a custom-built platform ensuring their safety at all times.
6. The stunning projections-From first exploring the medium of large format projections in 2005, the recent state-of-the-art video projection systems now allow the Tattoo to reach new heights in brightness, visibility and creativity – underlining the commitment to bringing the highest production

values to the whole Tattoo experience. With the move to video and the greater intensity, the latitude for content has greatly increased. For New Zealand's Lochiel Marching Drill Team the city landmark became Mordor – complete with flowing rivers of lava, fire-breathing dragons, smouldering volcanoes and cracking buildings. For a Battle of Jutland theme, the video complement included 3D battle cruisers and the castle morphed into the engine room of a Dreadnaught battleship. In complete contrast, the US Army Band Europe played against a castle covered in animated stars and stripes and musical notes. The spectacular large-format projections that now grace Edinburgh Castle create a dramatic and dynamic backdrop for the Tattoo each year.

7. The fireworks finale-No festival extravaganza would be complete without a fireworks finale, and the Tattoo is no different. But there is actually a big difference because the Tattoo holds a display every night to mark the end of the performance, with the entire cast gathering on the esplanade. For those at the event, this is one of those picture-perfect moments with the fireworks framing the iconic Edinburgh Castle. If you're not at the Tattoo you can still enjoy the fireworks from nearly anywhere in the city, with most vantage points taken up by those locals who know the best places and the exact times (roughly 90 minutes after the start of each show).

The Tattoo is a hugely popular, near month-long theatrical extravaganza showcasing an exciting and eclectic mix of military pageantry, music, dance, technical wizardry and special effects. So, as you can see, this is one event not to be missed.

Have you attended the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, share your story with us! This year's Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo takes place from 4th to 26th August, to find out more information and buy tickets see: www.edintattoo.co.uk

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY

Orkney to consider alternative models of governance



The flag of Orkney which symbolises the islands' Scottish and Norwegian heritage.

Orkney Islands Council has voted in favour of considering other forms of governance, such as looking at the possibility of becoming a British overseas territory (such as the Falkland Islands) or even looking to its historic link to Norway or Denmark and becoming part of those Nordic nations.

Another option being considered is Crown Dependencies like that of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. The Crown Dependencies are not part of the UK but are self-governing dependencies of the Crown. Councillors feel both the UK and Scottish Government's short change Orkney in funding support, claiming Orkney receives less funding per head from Government than other island authorities such as Shetland and the Western Isles. The motion read: "Due to historical and contemporary challenges in relation to equitable capital and revenue funding, and policy support across our island communities, Orkney Islands Council should now explore options for alternative models of governance that provide greater fiscal security and economic opportunity for the islands of Orkney. Those investigations to include Nordic connections, crown dependencies and other options for greater subsidiarity and autonomy to be presented to the community for consideration." The UK Government has rejected the notion and a spokesperson for the Prime Minister said: "First and foremost there is no mechanism for the conferral of Crown Dependency or Overseas Territory status on any part of the UK. We have no plans to change the devolution settlement we are supporting Orkney with £50m to grow the economic prosperity of the Scottish islands, through the islands deal. But the government's position is that the UK is stronger united."

Orkney was under Norwegian and Danish control until 1472 when it became part of Scotland as part of Margaret of Denmark's wedding dowry to King James III of Scotland.

Edinburgh shines as King Charles III is presented with the Honours of Scotland



King Charles III was presented with the Honours of Scotland during a national service of thanksgiving at St

Giles' Cathedral on July 5th. Thousands gathered along the length of the Royal Mile where the King and Queen led a Royal Procession from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to St Giles' Cathedral. There was also a People's Procession from Edinburgh Castle to St Giles' Cathedral, involving around 100 people representing different aspects of Scottish life, accompanied by a military escort and cadet force bands. Following the service there was a 21 Gun Salute from Edinburgh Castle and a flypast by the RAF's Red Arrows.

The Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh, Robert Aldridge said: "I was delighted and honoured to welcome His Majesty King Charles III and Queen Camilla upon their arrival in Edinburgh on Monday, and to undertake the historic Ceremony of the Keys on behalf of the city. Today we saw the Honours of Scotland, the most ancient set of crown jewels in Britain, bestowed upon King Charles III. We also saw people from all walks of life coming together in a spirit of unity and celebration. The eyes of the world were upon us once again and it was wonderful to see Edinburgh looking its best with the streets of our historic Old Town lined with thousands of well-wishers. I'm proud that our great city has once again played its part exceptionally in the duties and responsibilities we hold as the capital of Scotland."

Historic sword returns to National Wallace Monument



The fabled Wallace Sword, one of Scotland's greatest treasures, is back where it belongs in Stirling. The 13th century blade, believed to have been used by William Wallace at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297, was returned to the National Wallace Monument.

It was removed from the popular tourist attraction in March after an alleged attack on the display case in which the two-handed blade, which is 1.68m long and weighs around 3kg, was housed. Thankfully, the sword was not damaged, but specialist designers from manufacturers Click Netherfield in Livingston had to construct a new showcase at a cost of £10,000. The new showcase includes anti-reflective, almost-invisible glass which provides an unrestricted view of the legendary sword and its intricate surface to visitors. Stirling Council Leader, Cllr Chris Kane, said: "The Wallace Sword is the iconic showpiece of the National Wallace Monument, celebrated by visitors from every corner of the globe.

The Monument attracts more than 100,000 visitors every year and we were extremely disappointed the sword had to be moved to safe storage as a result of actions outwith our control. For many

visitors, viewing the sword in such revered and spectacular surroundings is the highlight of their visit. Stirling is a major tourist destination, recognised internationally for its heritage, historic and vibrant city and fabulous scenery. We're delighted, as we head into the main tourist season, to once again display the sword in all its glory in its natural home."

The National Wallace Monument was completed in 1869, and it was opened to visitors for the first time on 11th September, the anniversary of Wallace's victory at The Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297. At the time of its completion, the total amount which had been spent on the construction of the Monument was £13,401. The Sword was moved to the Monument in 1888, 19 years after the Monument first opened in 1869. Charles Rodgers, a principle fundraiser for the Monument, had been trying to move the Sword to the Monument since its completion, but his request was refused by the Colonel of the Royal Artillery at Dumbarton Castle in 1875 and it wasn't until 1888 that the War Office agreed to transfer the Sword, a decision met by protests in the town of Dumbarton.

Updated designs for George Street and First New Town project



A final operational plan for Edinburgh's George Street and First New Town (GNT) project was approved by members of the Transport and Environment Committee along with updates to the proposed design. A key change is the introduction of trees on George Street, which has been agreed following discussions with Edinburgh World Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland, the Cockburn Association and other stakeholders. This recognises trees' contribution to the city's Net Zero 2030 goals as well as their capacity to enhance the street's biodiversity value, helping to combat urban heat island effects and supporting our One Million Tree City pledge.

Following the approval of proposals, the Council will continue to work closely with partners to determine the appropriate position, number and type of trees to be added. Committee members approved updates to the principles of the proposed GNT Operational Plan which include plans for the creation of a pedestrian and cycling zone where loading, servicing and licensed taxi access on George Street will only be permitted during evening and morning hours. At this stage, automated bollards will provide additional public safety measures and enforce the pedestrian cycling zone restrictions.

Amongst the 'core elements' of the design are significantly widened pavements, the creation of a European style cycling street and the removal of parking bays. The next

stage for the project will be to progress the promotion of all the necessary statutory processes for George Street, which provide the powers to enable the construction of the project, scheduled for 2025.

Stuart Hay, Director, Living Streets Scotland said: "Edinburgh is currently one of the least pedestrianised historic cities in Northern Europe, so we are delighted to see progress in the plans for a place that prioritises people, not cars. George Street has the potential to become the heart of the city, creating a much-needed public space of high quality."

Testing pilot trial now underway for Orkney cancer gene link



Professor Zosia Miedzynbrodzka.

Community testing is now underway in the Orkney outer isle of Westray for a gene variant that causes a higher risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. The variant in the gene BRCA1 was linked to a historic origin in Westray by leading geneticists from the Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh, who published their findings in the European Journal of Human Genetics in March. Now, a small pilot trial organised by NHS Grampian and funded by the Westray Development Trust is offering testing for the variant to anyone living in Westray with a Westray-born grandparent. If the pilot is successful the long-term aim is to offer the test to everyone in Scotland with a Westray-born grandparent, then to assess which more distant relatives should be offered a test. Currently in Scotland the test is only available to Westray residents, those who know of a direct family connection to the BRCA1 gene, or have a significant history of ovarian or breast cancer in their family.

Zosia Miedzynbrodzka, Professor of Medical Genetics at the University of Aberdeen and Director of the NHS North of Scotland Genetic Service, led the research that established the Westray link to the BRCA1 variant with Professor Jim Wilson from the University of Edinburgh. Welcoming the launch of the pilot trial, Professor Miedzynbrodzka said: "I am grateful to every single person that has made this pilot happen. We are setting up a system that will hopefully extend to the rest of Orkney and Scotland as soon as funding allows. The NHS Grampian genetics clinic and lab teams are delighted to offer this pioneering new service to Westray residents which will improve care and save lives. I am grateful to every single person that has made this pilot happen. We are setting up a system that will hopefully extend to the rest of Orkney and Scotland as soon as funding allows."

A series of FAQs and short video explainers which are available on NHS Grampian's website: www.nhsgrampian.org/BRCA1.

KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS

Australian Jim Stoddart was born in a Glasgow Tenement and raised in a Glasgow Housing Scheme 1943-1965. Jim will be taking readers on a trip down memory lane, of a time and place that will never be the same again and hopes even if only a few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.



The Pencil Monument, Largs. Photo: VisitScotland.

The Battle of Largs

We call our ships by many names: 'snakes of the seas', 'surf dragons' and 'fjord elkes'. The seas they sail upon we call 'the whale's road', 'eel home', fish's bath' and 'Njord's hall'. Many things may befall you upon the whale's road so take care. Make offerings to the sea lord Njord before leaving land. Carve runes of protection upon your oars and your mast. Ask Thor for fair weather. Be wary of monsters for many dwell in the murk of deep sea halls. Serpents and sea trolls sink many ships so muster the power of some mighty runes before setting sail.

Seafarer's Lore from 'How to be a Viking' by Art Berk.

In 1262 AD, the King of Scotland, Alexander III when scarcely more than a boy, launched a desperate bid to recover the Western and Northern Isles of Scotland from the King of Norway, Haakon IV. The Scots kings were no longer prepared to tolerate Norse occupation of any part of their kingdom. In 1196 Alexander's grandfather, King William the Lion, had thrown the Vikings out of northern Scotland. Alexander III was one of Scotland's better kings, said to be good and wise. He stirred up various Highland nobles such as the Earl of Ross to make war upon the island chiefs on behalf of their King. The chiefs turned to King Haakon for his military assistance to combat the Earl of Ross's incursions in to what they considered were their lands.

Haakon decided to retaliate against the Scottish king. The subsequent invasion and vicious raids by Haakon upon Loch Long and Loch Lomond were almost certainly his response to Alexander's bold initiative to take territory back from him and his Norwegian Empire. Having sailed up Loch Long Haakon was able to take the local populace of Loch Lomond by surprise by rolling his longships over the narrow strip of land between the sea loch and the land-locked Loch Lomond, at what to us is now called Tarbert. There was much slaughter there as a consequence.

Largs

At Largs my extended family often took their evening walks along the esplanade toward the Googie Burn and the Pencil Monument, called that simply because of its shape and built to commemorate the Battle of Largs, fought near there in 1263. My father talked of a great battle having taken place. He spoke of King Alexander III, high on the Renfrewshire hills behind Largs, watching Haakon's fleet of 120 or so longships beating a passage from the Mull of Kintyre and Lorne, toward the Isle of Bute to finally anchor off the coast of Arran.

Eventually the fleet lay off the Cumbraes readying to land at Largs. He continued with the conventional story that Alexander and his army strategically lay in wait with his hidden forces at a place that came to be called Camphill lying in those hills.

And went on to say that when Haakon launched his dragon ships upon the coast his Viking crews were met head on and repulsed by Alexander's cavalry and foot soldiers in a bloody and victorious battle.

The Battle of Largs was a very significant turning point in Scotland's history.

That was my father's version of events; however some historians describe it very differently. They talk of an aging and tired King Haakon bringing his large fleet of longships in an attempt to halt what he saw as Scottish imperialism against his Western Isles Kingdom and his loyal island chiefs. He had bargained on the support of Angus, the chief of the powerful Clan Donald.

But Haakon was outsmarted because Alexander held Angus's son hostage and so Angus was unable to help. Unfortunately for Haakon, he had already delayed too long in making his way through the Western Isles towards Largs. Alexander now wasted another month of Haakon's time in 'negotiation' while Haakon's unruly men became bored, and discipline became slack. They took to raiding the Ayrshire coast for something to do to fill in their time. Some historians even suggest that Alexander, rather sneakily, delayed Haakon's progress by sending friars to pretend to negotiate a treaty but in reality meaning to prolong him further toward the season of autumn gales. How they got aboard his ships without getting a battleaxe through their heads is not mentioned. Nevertheless, these gales are said to have played havoc with Haakon's fleet as it lay in the Firth of Clyde and the autumn storms

are said to have wrecked many of his ships before they ever got on to the coast at Largs. Haakon had dithered too long and on the fateful night of the 1st of October 1262 a great storm came in from the west and pushed his longboats toward the coast whether they liked it or not. Haakon was forced to order a difficult landing. With much of his invasion fleet already scattered some longboats got smashed on the shore and many of his men were drowned.

Significant effect upon Scottish history

Some historians would have us further believe that Haakon and his bedraggled Viking warriors, those who had survived this disaster, stumbled ashore at Largs, completely exhausted, to have to face King Alexander and his army including 1,500 armoured cavalry, charging toward them along the shoreline. In the course of a rather confused engagement Haakon's men were defeated on both the land and the sea to have to withdraw in disorder. The Scot's army, then supposedly, politely withdrew to allow the weary Norwegian Vikings, short of food and supplies, never mind fighting spirit, to fall back, retreat and sail away, back by the way they had come. What is known for sure is that Haakon, no matter whether defeated soundly in battle or not, or simply a poor wee king in distress, no longer had the heart and stomach for a future confrontation.

Completely disheartened by this turn of events he apparently sailed back to Norway with what remained of his fleet, stopping off

on the way in Kirkwall, in the Orkneys, only to take ill, succumb to fever and die there.

No matter what the truth is about the Battle of Largs. It had a long-term and very significant effect upon Scottish history. Within three years by the Treaty of Perth, made with Magnus, Haakon's successor the Western Isles and the Isle of Man passed back by sale to the Scots, whilst the Northern Isles, the Orkney and Shetland Islands remained in Norwegian hands as part of the Viking empire. In 1283 King Eric of Norway, was married to King Alexander's daughter, Margaret to put a seal on the peace treaty of twenty years before.

Then tragically within a short time the popular King Alexander died at Kinghorn in Fife when riding up a cliff path in fog to join his young wife. He was found dead at the foot of a precipice. His wife, his daughter and his other children were all dead, one after another within a short time. His surviving three-year-old grand-daughter, Margaret, the Maid of Norway, became heir to the Scottish throne as her infant queen. In turn this child's untimely death in Orkney led to a dynastic crisis which de-stabilised Scotland, destroyed the relative peace between England and Scotland and began Scotland's exploitation by England's Edward I and ultimately to the Wars of Independence. The Battle of Largs was therefore a very significant turning point in Scotland's history whether it followed the battle script of my father, spoken to me on those delightful evening walks to the Pencil Monument or that based upon the research of more qualified historians regarding that fatal day in 1253.

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By: David C Weinczok



My 5 Favourite Early Historic Sites



The Scottish Crannog Centre.

Previously, I shared five of my favourite Scottish medieval castles and five of my favourite ancient sites. Now, it's time to pick five from the somewhat awkward middle child, the Early Historic period. You may be more familiar with the term 'Dark Ages', though that's now parlance of the past as more and more is being illuminated by archaeologists and historians.

The parameters of this period are somewhat subjective, with no firm start or end date to anchor it to. In broad strokes, I think of it as encompassing the Roman invasions of Scotland in the first century AD through to the height of the Viking Age in the tenth century. In that time, some things changed drastically when compared with earlier periods, while many of the fundamental rhythms of daily life remained very similar to those in the Iron Age. It may be one of the more 'obscure' and less well-understood periods of our history, but it gave

Scotland its essential shape – both literally and figuratively – and there are plenty of remnants of it to explore.

Rough Castle, Falkirk

Don't let the name deceive you – Rough 'Castle' is more than twice as old as any actual castle in Scotland. It is the name of the Roman fort constructed along the Antonine Wall to the west of what is now Falkirk. The Antonine Wall ran for 40 miles from Carriden in the east to Old Kilpatrick in the west, cutting Scotland horizontally in two along the Forth-Clyde line. Its defences were made of earth and timber upon a stone foundation, hence why it has not survived as well as sections of Hadrian's Wall. The lands between the two Roman walls was populated by Brittonic tribes who responded to the arrival of Rome with varying degrees of hostility and diplomacy. While the legions marched and built forts much further

north than this – possibly as far as the Moray Firth – it is thrilling to stand on the steep-sloped embankments of Rough Castle knowing that this is where, as far as Rome was concerned, civilisation ended and the unfathomable wilds began.

The scale of the wall's ditch at Rough Castle is vivid thanks to the open ground around it. In one section, a staggered set of oval-shaped pits are still perfectly visible. These lilia were fitted with wooden spikes to slow down any attack on the wall itself. Rough Castle also boasted stone buildings including a bath house, granary, and officer's quarters. All that effort was for nought, however – the Antonine Wall was occupied for a mere 20 years, between 140 – 160 AD, before it was abandoned for a surer, more southerly frontier.

Midhowe Broch, Rousay

As with my choices for my favourite prehistoric sites, Orkney could have monopolised this list. Even choosing just one Orcadian broch is a challenge – the Broch of Gurness is the best-known and obvious pick, or maybe the Broch of Borwick spectacularly sited on the high cliffs of Yesnaby. Yet there's just something about Midhowe Broch, along the Wesness shore in Rousay, that can't be beat. Perhaps it's the sheer gauntlet of history around it that

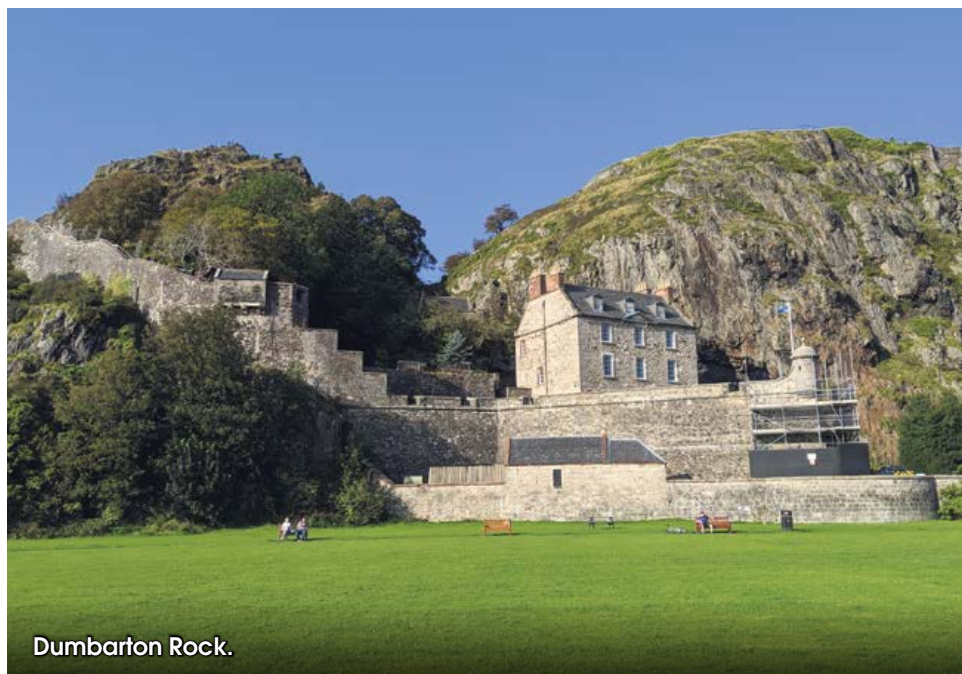
adds to the appeal. Within a ten-minute walk of Midhowe is a Viking-age cemetery, a medieval church, the multi-period site of Swandro, and the gigantic, Neolithic chambered cairn which shares the name of Midhowe, as well as natural stone arches and breathtaking views across the Eynhallow Sound. Or maybe it's the broch's construction itself. One of at least eleven brochs which once lined the shores of the Sound, Midhowe Broch is built between two geos, narrow clefts in the coastal rocks. Razor-like upright stones line its exterior, and a sea wall built with a distinctive technique called cassying makes the whole site appear incredibly powerful in the face of the lashing sea. A community thrived here for several centuries on either side of the BC/AD divide. Though the exact nature of their lives will likely never be known, whenever I visit Midhowe I always take time to sit at the edge of the central hearth, stare through the tall, narrow passageway framing the sea, and feel a moment of unity with them.

How lucky we are to have such places to instil wonder in the past, and inspire us into the future.

The Scottish Crannog Centre, Loch Tay

Crannogs, or at least crannog sites, are instantly recognisable on countless lochs and brackish shores around Scotland. If you see a small, circular islet in a loch, usually with a few trees growing on it, and no other islands immediately around it, there's a good chance it once hosted a crannog. The Scottish Crannog Centre is on the northeast shore of Loch Tay, which had one of the densest concentrations of crannogs known anywhere. The debate continues to rage about what crannogs were meant for. They emerge in the Early Bronze Age, and some were inhabited well into the Middle Ages. The timber stilts on which their foundations rested imply a measure of defence, yet crannogs were not otherwise fortified. Theories range from population pressures on the land to crannogs functioning as community strengthening exercises, given that it took hundreds of huge timbers and tens of thousands of hours of labour to build one.

The result is a little like the overwater bungalows you see in glossy travel ads set in Polynesia – not the first thing you expect to see on a Highland loch! The Scottish Crannog Centre has a museum dedicated to the material culture of crannogs, as well as a miniature crafts village where visitors can work a lathe, taste a 2,000 year-old recipe for garlic bread, and experience many other hands-on approaches to learning history. Tragically, the replica crannog itself was destroyed in an accidental fire in June 2021. However, with renewed purpose the Crannog Centre has



Dumbarton Rock.



Midhowe Broch.

already begun constructing not one, but three replica crannogs on the opposite side of the loch. Once complete, Loch Tay will have a veritable Early Historic makeover.

Dunino Den, East Fife

Some places have a certain air about them – a pinch of mystery, a bit of playfulness, a hint of foreboding. Few places exude it quite as potently as Dunino Den, a few miles south of St Andrews. A ritual centre for well over 2,000 years, it can be dead still on a gusty day and brooding dark on a sunny one. And, just when you think you've settled in, you see the stone face watching you. Tucked in a gully alongside Dunino Parish Church, Dunino Den is now used as a cloutie well where people tie strips of cloth to tree branches and leave personal mementos, often in memory to those who departed this world too soon, in its soils. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, I even found a face mask strung to a small stump – truly, a symbolic merger of modernity and antiquity if ever there was one. Atop a pulpit-like stone projection which overlooks the gully is a deep, water-logged hole, the bottom of which I've never been able to reach even with a very long branch. A narrow stone stair carved into the pulpit descends into the Den itself, with numerous Early Christian crosses carved into the smooth stone wall beside you. More often than not, Christianity did not so much erase the old pagan gods as they co-opted them – a healing well previously dedicated to a pagan deity would just be swapped for a similar saint, for instance. The most striking carving in the den is a small but

incredibly stern and ominous face, its heavy-set eyes and long beard guarding the Den like an elemental sentinel.

Fans of *Game of Thrones* will instantly relate it to the faces carved in the sacred Weirwood trees in northern strongholds like Winterfell. And yet, this is no ancient visage but a strikingly modern one. Locals insist that the carving only appeared in the last thirty or forty years, which goes to show that not all at Dunino Den is what it first seems.

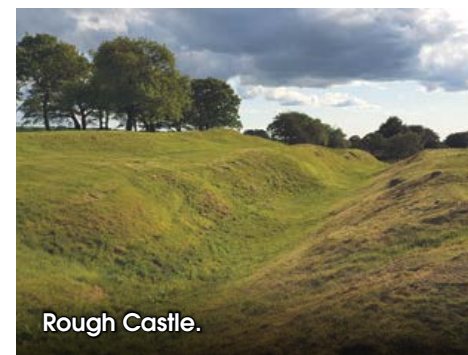
Dumbarton Rock, West Dunbartonshire

Along the otherwise placid banks of the River Clyde, the twin crags of Dumbarton Rock stick out of the landscape like a double-exclamation. Quite possibly the oldest continually fortified site anywhere in Britain, this was once the capital of the Strathclyde Britons, the children of the Rock. A history of Dumbarton Rock reads like an abridged history of Scotland. Its inhabitants watched with trepidation as the Romans built the westernmost outpost of the Antonine Wall just a few miles upstream. In the last few decades of the fourth century, they would have participated in overrunning that grand symbol of empire in what Roman historians called the 'Barbarian Conspiracy'. In 870 a vast Viking fleet led by Ivar the Boneless besieged Dumbarton Rock – then called Dùn Breatann – for months until its water supplies ran dry.

The Britons were enslaved and sold in Dublin markets, though some fled and made their way to their kindred in Wales. Another indignity seized

Dumbarton when its governor, Sir John de Menteith, captured William Wallace and held him within the castle before sending him to London to be tried and executed. It was also from Dumbarton that a six year-old Mary, Queen of Scots, set sail for France to marry the dauphin. Much nearer our own time, gun emplacements were set atop the rock to shoot down Nazi bombers aiming for the industrial and shipbuilding heartland of the Clyde. All of this makes a deep well of imagination and contemplation to draw from while resting at its top. My favourite place to sit is on the smoothed stones on The Beak, the taller of the two crags. I imagine Ivar the Boneless triumphantly placing one foot upon the highest stone; Wallace

shouting traitor! to his captor; a young Mary determined not to cry as her feet left Scottish soil. And here you can be, in the footsteps of them all. How lucky we are to have such places to instil wonder in the past, and inspire us into the future.



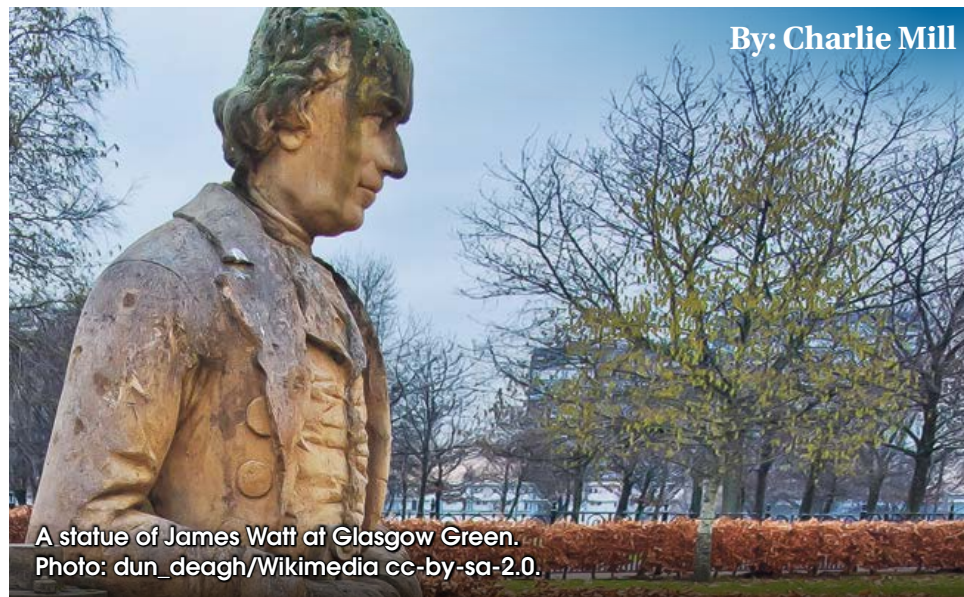
Rough Castle.



Dunino Den.

Letting off Steam

By: Charlie Mill



A statue of James Watt at Glasgow Green. Photo: dun_deagh/Wikimedia cc-by-sa-2.0.

The vast majority of the world's population are aware that it was the brainchild of Scots engineer and inventor James Watt (1736-1819), while watching the action of steam from a boiling kettle of water, that eventually led to the steam engine which would, in turn, spark the Industrial Revolution. But to his aunt, the young James Watt appeared like similar idle teenagers wasting his time as he silently stared at her kettle and toyed with the condensed water drops. Although, as she continually reprimanded him for what to her was a wasteful habit, little did she realise her nephew was paving the way for his invention of the steam engine.

And just to verify the foundation of his genius a first-hand account of the kettle incident of 1751 came to light in a letter from the inventor's cousin Marion Campbell, who had witnessed her mother, Jane Muirhead, lecturing the fifteen-year-old Watt.

In her historical report Mrs Campbell relates how she and her mother sat at the tea table in their home in Greenock observing a young Watt seemingly wasting his time gazing at the actions of a boiling kettle. She relates how her mother remarked, "Jamie Watt, I never saw such an idle boy, take a book or employ yourself usefully. For the last hour you haven't spoken one word, but taken the lid off that kettle and put it on again, holding now a

cup, and now a silver spoon over the steam watching how it rises from the spout and catching and counting the drops of hot water it falls into." She added, "It appears that when thus blamed for idleness, his mind was employed in investigating the properties of steam." The letters eventually went to auction in 2002 following the passing of Watt's great-great-grandson Lord Gibson-Watt.

James Watt was not only the most prolific innovator imaginable, but he also possessed one of the greatest minds of his time.

Scots mastermind

James Watt was born in Greenock, Renfrewshire, in 1736, the son of a ship's chandler and town councillor. In 1754 he moved to Glasgow to learn the skills of a mathematical-instrument maker and after moving to London he set up business. What many people don't realise is that he was employed on surveys for the Forth and Clyde Canal as well as the Caledonian and other prominent canals. He was also accountable in the upgrading of many harbours and in the deepening of the Forth, the Clyde and several other rivers. But his main fascination was always his desire to put steam to use as a motive force and, in 1763/4 a working model of the Newcomen engine was sent to him for hopeful inspection and repair.

He restored it to perfection and, utilising the imperfections of the machine, he hit upon the probabilities of the separate condenser. Soon to follow were revolutionary advancements to the air pump, the cylinder and the double-acting engine. After settling in Birmingham in 1774 he soon superseded Newcomen's machine and went on to create the expansion principle, the double engine, the parallel motion, the smokeless furnace and the governor.

The watt, a unit of power, was named after him, while the term horsepower, another unit, was first used by him. Watt was key in also developing the rotary engine which mechanised weaving, spinning and transport. James Watt passed away in Birmingham in 1819 at aged 83 and during 1899 his belongings, including his library and papers, were moved to Doldowlod House in Radnorshire, the Welsh estate of his descendant Lord Gibson-Watt.

When the Scots mastermind's papers went on sale a spokesperson for the London auction house maintained that people associate Newton with the apple, Bruce with the spider, and Watt with the kettle. He nominated Watt's discovery as the most illustrious and, but for him, and his visions, the Industrial Revolution might never have taken place. James Watt was not only the most prolific innovator imaginable, but he also possessed one of the greatest minds of his time.

As a matter of interest, Watt's marine-engineer son, also named James (1769-1848), fitted the engine to the first English steamer to leave port in 1817 — its name was the *Caledonia*.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Death of Queen Anne; George I, Elector of Hanover becomes king. **1714**

1 - Proscription Act introduced, banning tartan and the carrying of weapons. The penalty for a first offence was six months in jail and a second offence resulted in transportation for seven years. **1747**

1 - University of Dundee which was incorporated into the University of St Andrews (as Queen's College) in 1890, constituted as a separate university. **1967**

2 - Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, died in Nova Scotia. Although he is best known for this invention Bell was also well known for his work on deafness. **1922**

3 - William Wallace is captured near Glasgow. Wallace is tried in London on 23 August, then executed. **1305**

3 - King James II killed by an exploding cannon at the siege of Roxburgh Castle. **1460**

3 - Sir William Kirkcaldy of Grange executed, after defending Edinburgh Castle on behalf of Mary Queen of Scots from May 1568 to May 1573. **1573**

3 - The 2014 Commonwealth Games (officially the XX Commonwealth Games) closing ceremony took place in Glasgow, Scotland. **2014**

4 - Birth of the entertainer Sir Harry Lauder, his hits included *Roamin in the Gloamin'* and *Keep Right on to the End of the Road*. Lauder died in 1950 at the age of 79. **1870**

5 - James, Earl Douglas, died out of sight of his army, in a bush, at Battle of Otterburn in which Scots defeat Henry Percy, (Hotspur) but with the loss of the Earl of Douglas. **1388**

5 - The Scottish Parliament established a General Post Office. **1695**

6 - First Glasgow/Edinburgh coach service began from White Horse Inn, Edinburgh. **1678**

6 - Donald Alexander Smith - later Lord Strathcona - born in Forres. A pioneer of the Hudson Bay Company in the North-West, he later championed the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway across Canada and drove the last spike at Craigellachie, British Columbia. **1820**

6 - Birth of Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin. **1881**



7 - The first train arrives in Fort William on the newly opened West Highland Line. **1894**

7 - Lord Kitchener, the war minister, began a mass recruiting campaign, three days after Britain declared war on Germany. By the war's end a total of 147,609 Scots had been killed, a fifth of Britain's dead from a country that made up only 10% of its population. **1914**

7 - Air services begin from Barra Airport, the only beach airport anywhere in the world to be used for scheduled airline services. **1936**

8 - King Edward I removed to England the Stone of Destiny on which generations of Scottish kings had been crowned. **1296**

8 - King James IV married Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII of England. The marriage was known as the Union of the Thistle and the Rose. **1503**

8 - Former World flyweight boxing champion Benny Lynch died. **1946**

9 - Civil engineer Thomas Telford born in Dumfries. Telford became known as 'the godfather of civil engineering'. **1757**

9 - Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire opened after David McIntyre set up Scottish Aviation Ltd. Aircraft had been flying from the area since 1913. **1935**

10 - King James III crowned at Kelso Abbey. **1460**

10 - Education (Scotland) Act passed, providing elementary education for all children. **1872**

10 - Perth Museum and Art Gallery opened by the Duke and Duchess of York. **1935**

11 - Andrew Carnegie, the Dunfermline-born steel industrialist and philanthropist, died. Throughout his later life Carnegie established a number of foundations for education and research such as the Carnegie Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. **1919**

12 - Roy Williamson, the Scottish folk musician and songwriter, died. Williamson was one of the famous duo, The Corries, along with Ronnie Browne. **1990**

12 - A passenger train derailed after striking a landslip near Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire, causing 3 deaths. **2020**

13 - Explorer Alexander Gordon Laing became the first Christian to reach Timbuctu, Africa. **1826**

13 - Birth of John Logie Baird, developer of television. **1888**

13 - Scotland's first nuclear power station at Dounreay went "critical" ushering in the generation of power from atomic reactions. **1957**

14 - King Duncan I killed in battle at Pitgavney by Macbeth. **1040**

14 - King Robert III born at Scone. **1337**

14 - King Robert III crowned at the Augustinian abbey of Scone. **1390**

14 - University of Strathclyde was constituted in Glasgow, based on the Royal College of Science and Technology. **1964**

15 - Macbeth killed in battle by Malcolm at Lumphanan. **1057**

15 - Novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott born. Synonymous with the Scottish Borders Scott wrote classics such as *Waverley* and *The Bride of Lamermoor*. **1771**



15 - Foundation stone for the Monument to Sir Walter Scott laid in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. The monument for the author is the second largest in the world for a writer and has been dubbed "The Gothic Rocket". **1840**

15 - Scotland becomes the first country in the world to make free sanitary products available to women after legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament comes into force. **2022**

16 - Birth of Carolina Oliphant (Lady Nairne), poet and author of many Jacobite songs, including *Charlie is my Darling*. Her songs are second only in popularity to Burns. **1766**

17 - Visit of George IV to Edinburgh began, orchestrated by Sir Walter Scott. **1822**

17 - First Edinburgh International Festival opened. **1947**



17 - Death of Bill Millin, British Army soldier and piper during WWII (born 1922). Widely known as Piper Bill, he was personal piper to Simon Fraser, 15th Lord Lovat, commander of 1 Special Service Brigade at D-Day. **2010**

18 - Arthur Elphinstone, Lord Balmerino, the Jacobite noble, was executed. Balmerino was captured along with Lord Kilmarnock after the Battle of Culloden and the pair were tried for treason in London and beheaded in the Tower of London. **1746**

18 - The Tay Road Bridge opened, linking Dundee city centre with Fife. The Tay Road Bridge carries the A92 road across the Firth of Tay from Newport-on-Tay in Fife to Dundee. **1966**

18 - 45 years after forming in 1973, folk rock band Runrig performs their last show against the backdrop of Stirling Castle. **2018**

19 - Mary Queen of Scots lands at Leith on her return from France, after the death of her husband, King Francis II. **1561**

19 - Charles Edward Stuart, raises his standard at Glenfinnan, at the start of the '45 uprising. **1745**

19 - Scottish aviator Jim Mollinson landed after the first East/West solo flight of the Atlantic from Portmarnock, Ireland to Pennfield, New Brunswick. **1932**

20 - Ronald Ross, the first Scot to win a Nobel prize (in 1902) dissected a mosquito and established the link with malaria. **1897**

21 - Battle of Dunkeld when the newly formed Cameronians defended the town against 3,000 Highlanders. **1689**

21 - Birth of William Murdoch who pioneered the use of coal-gas lighting in 1792 in partnership with James Watt and Mathew Boulton. **1754**

21 - Birth of Donald Dewar, former Secretary of State for Scotland and First Minister in the new Scottish Parliament. **1937**

22 - Battle of the Standard at Northallerton in which King David I was defeated by the English. **1138**

22 - Devorgilla, Countess of Galloway founded Balliol College, Oxford. She was mother of John Balliol (who acceded to the Scottish throne in 1292). **1282**

22 - King Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham, initiating a Civil War in England between the Royalists (also known as Cavaliers) and Parliament (Roundheads). **1642**

23 - Sir William Wallace was executed in London. Wallace was captured after being betrayed by Sir John de Menteith and was transported to London. King Edward I had devised a new method of execution for one of his arch-enemies, and Wallace became the first person to endure the agonies of being hanged, drawn and quartered. **1305**



23 - Work begins on the rebuilding of Eilean Donan Castle. It took until 1932 to complete. The castle is today one of the most photographed in Scotland. **1913**

24 - Berwick on Tweed finally ceded to England (Edward IV) after changing hands 12 times. **1482**

24 - The first Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama opened. The festival was inspired by the arts festivals organised in Salzburg before the Second World War but has grown to become the largest event of its kind in the world. It has also spawned a book festival, film festival and the festival fringe. The festival was also responsible for the creation of Scottish Opera and forced a greater amount of funding from the Arts Council to be given to Scotland. **1947**

25 - James Watt, developer of steam power, died. Watt was known as the 'father of the industrial revolution'. **1819**

25 - Actor Sir Sean Connery born. Connery famously went from an Edinburgh milk man to global movie superstar, best known for playing James Bond 007. Sean Connery died at age 90 in the Bahamas in October, 2020. **1930**

25 - Glasgow Zoo, or Calderpark Zoo, closed. The was a 99-acre (40 ha) zoological park in Baillieston, Glasgow was established in 1947 by the Zoological Society of Glasgow and West of Scotland. The zoo was located on the lands of the former Calderpark Estate and closed due financial losses and reports of animal cruelty. **2003**

26 - Mary Queen of Scots leads an army out of Edinburgh to suppress a rebellion led by her half-brother James Stewart, 1st Earl of Moray, who is opposed to her marriage. She puts the rebellion to flight in what becomes known as the Chaseabout Raid. **1565**

26 - The Donibristle Mining Disaster occurred in the Fife coalfield. The disaster occurred when part of Mossmorran peat bog near Cowdenbeath collapsed on sixteen miners 360 feet underground. Four miners were lost, as was a four-strong rescue party. All the bodies were eventually recovered but some remained underground until the December of that year. **1901**

27 - James Thomson, the Scottish poet, died. Thomson's most famous works include the anthem, *Rule Britannia*. **1748**

27 - First balloon ascent in Britain by James Tytler, Edinburgh. **1784**

27 - The trial began in Edinburgh for Deacon William Brodie, a cabinetmaker and member of the town council, who also was a notorious criminal. On 1 October 1788 he was hanged for theft in the Lawnmarket in front of a crowd that was the largest seen in living memory. **1788**

28 - Edward I of England held a parliament at Berwick to which he summoned all Scottish landholders to sign the Ragman Roll. **1296**

28 - The Battle of Newburn on Tyne. The battle was fought between Leslie's veteran Scottish army and a hastily assembled English force. The Scots had invaded northern England in response to the attempts of Charles I to impose an Anglican prayer book upon Scotland. **1640**



Photo: National Trust for Scotland.

29 - The population of St Kilda were evacuated from the island. The island was evacuated on economic grounds at the islander's own request as the population had dwindled from 73 in 1920 to only 37 in 1928. The island had been populated since Bronze Age times, but from the latter part of the 19th century, the islanders had begun to lose their means of self-sufficiency and the fate of the resident population was sealed. The island was sold to the Marquess of Bute, a keen ornithologist, who bequeathed it to the National Trust for Scotland in 1957. **1930**

30 - Birth of golf course designer Dr Alister Mackenzie; he was responsible for Augusta National and Cypress Point, among others. **1870**

30 - *The Royal Research Ship Discovery* reaches the Falkland Islands on a mission to rescue polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, to find he has already been rescued. **1915**

30 - Liz McColgan won the World Athletics Championship 10,000 metres in Tokyo by a margin of 20 seconds. **1991**

30 - The Queensferry Crossing opens to traffic. The 1.7 miles (2.7km) crossing was the biggest infrastructure project in Scotland in a generation and carries about 24 million vehicle journeys a year. **2017**

31 - The first Edinburgh Film Festival opened. The festival was officially opened on this date by the Lord Provost at the Playhouse Cinema. The festival was originally known as the International Festival of Documentary but has now grown to become recognised as one of the great worldwide film festivals. **1946**

See Scotland's 'Crown jewels' in 3D

New digital models of the Honours of Scotland released to coincide with last month's presentation to King Charles III at St Giles' Cathedral.

Newly released 3D digital models of the Crown of Scotland, the Sceptre and the Sword of State will allow users to explore and examine the intricate detail of the Honours like never before. As well as offering a unique perspective on the Honours, the models will also be used to aid future conservation work. The Honours were digitally captured through a process of photogrammetry, where hundreds of overlapping high-resolution photographs are taken around the objects and then analysed by software to work out their relative position. These aligned photographs are then used to create accurate photorealistic models of the objects.

On 5 July, the Honours were formally presented to King Charles III at the National Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication which took place at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh. The blade of the Sword of State is in a very fragile condition, having been broken and repaired in the past, likely around the time the Honours were hidden from Cromwell. In order to protect this historic object, it has been retired from use some years ago with consent of the monarch. The Lord Lyon has commissioned a new sword, The Elizabeth Sword to be made for ceremonial purposes and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) have agreed to care for this new commission.

Immense significance

The Honours of Scotland are objects of immense significance and have been present at many of the major royal ceremonial events over the past five centuries. Their centrepiece is the Crown of Scotland, crafted of gold and silver and laden with 94 pearls and 43 gemstones including diamonds, garnets and amethysts. James V had the Crown made in 1540, likely in part from the earlier Scottish Crown which had been damaged, and first wore it at the coronation of Mary of Guise that same year.

The Sceptre is thought to have been a gift to James IV from Pope Alexander VI in 1494. This ceremonial staff is an example of High Renaissance Italian craftsmanship, with the finial formed from a globe of polished rock crystal and held up by stylised dolphins and three figures depicting St Andrew, St James and the Virgin Mary. On top of the crystal globe sits a gold orb, capped with a single large pearl.

The Sword of State was gifted to James IV by Pope Julius II in 1507 and represents an exceptionally high quality of decoration. The arms of Pope Julius were used as the theme for the Sword handle design, with oak trees and acorns symbolising the risen Christ and dolphins signifying Christ's Church.

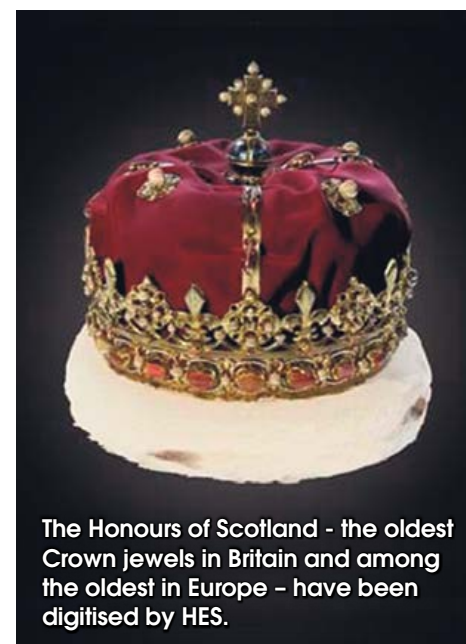
The blade of the Sword is in a very fragile condition and was retired from use some years ago with consent of the monarch.

Kathy Richmond, Head of Collections and Applied Conservation at HES, said: "Using digital technology in this way can help enhance how we enjoy, understand and protect the precious objects of our past."

Turbulent history

The Honours of Scotland have had a turbulent history. Edward I had removed the former Honours of Scotland along with the Stone of Destiny in 1296, with only the Stone surviving. The Honours seen today were pursued by Cromwellian forces, who destroyed the English Crown Jewels. In 1650 they were removed for safekeeping ahead of Oliver Cromwell's siege of Edinburgh Castle. Unable to be returned to Edinburgh Castle following the Scottish coronation of King Charles II in 1651, the Honours were taken to Dunnottar Castle before being smuggled out during a siege and hidden at Kinneff Kirk. Only with the restoration of King Charles II to the throne could they return to Edinburgh Castle and be used for ceremonial openings of Parliament until 1707.

With the Parliamentary Union of 1707, the Honours were locked away in the Crown Room [at the Castle, as they were no longer needed

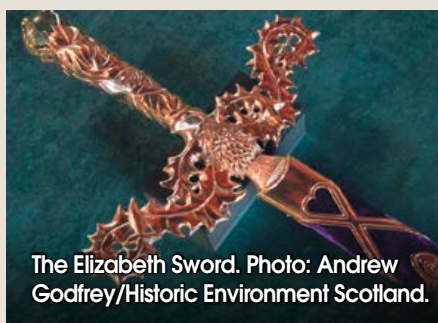


The Honours of Scotland - the oldest Crown jewels in Britain and among the oldest in Europe - have been digitised by HES.

for ceremonial events. They remained there until 1818 when Walter Scott and others, with a royal warrant from the Prince Regent (who would become George IV), broke into the Crown Room, opened the Crown Chest and there rediscovered the Honours.

The digital models of the Honours of Scotland are available to view on Sketchfab: <https://sketchfab.com/HistoricEnvironmentScotland/collections/honours-of-scotland>

The Elizabeth Sword



The Elizabeth Sword. Photo: Andrew Godfrey/Historic Environment Scotland.

- Is a new sword of state to be used in Coronation service.
- Named after the late Queen Elizabeth II, the ceremonial sword was presented to the King along with the Crown and Sceptre which are part of the Honours of Scotland - Scotland's Crown Jewels - during the National Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication at St Giles Cathedral on Wednesday 5 July.
- Following the service, the sword and Honours were returned to the care of Historic Environment Scotland.
- Designed by former Ormond Pursuivant of Arms Mark Dennis and worked on by a number of expert Scottish craftspeople, the sword features a pommel of Lewisian gneiss, and a scabbard wrought from Perthshire oak.
- The sword will be used on ceremonial occasions in place of the current sword, gifted to James IV by Pope Julius in 1507, which can no longer be used due to its fragile condition.

The Honours of Scotland

- The Honours of Scotland, comprising the Crown of Scotland, the Sceptre, and the Sword of State, are the oldest Crown jewels in Britain.
- The Honours of Scotland are owned by the Crown, i.e. King Charles III, and are on loan from the Commissioners for the Safeguarding of the Regalia, who are appointed by Royal Warrant. HES acts on their behalf to care for the Honours of Scotland and the Stone of Destiny.
- The Honours were formally presented to Queen Elizabeth at the last National Service of Thanksgiving which took place in 1953 at the High Kirk of St Giles' in Edinburgh, before being returned to their custodians. The National Service of Thanksgiving Dedication on 5 July 2023 repeated this tradition.
- The Honours of Scotland were escorted from Edinburgh Castle to St Giles' Cathedral by The King's Body Guard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers and a Guard of Honour formed by contingents of the Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. The Stone of Destiny was placed in St Giles' in advance of the Service in a non-public move.

Following the service, the Honours returned to display alongside the Stone of Destiny in the Crown Room at Edinburgh Castle.

ARGYLL HOTEL GLASGOW



Planning to visit Glasgow?

The Argyll Hotel Glasgow is a 3 star hotel providing accommodation in Glasgow city centre. This Glasgow hotel is a family-run, traditional Georgian built hotel, recently refurbished to a very high standard. All our ensuite rooms offer their own charm and individuality, and whether it's business or pleasure that brings you to Glasgow, you will find a warm friendly atmosphere at our hotel. We are located on Sauchiehall Street within easy reach of both Glasgow city centre, close to Glasgow University and Glasgow's famous West End, within walking distance of Kelvingrove Art Gallery, SECC Glasgow, The Hydro Arena, Buchanan Galleries, West End Theatres, Glasgow Science Centre.

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Phone: + 44 (0) 141 337 3313
Web: www.argyllhotelglasgow.co.uk

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Oatcakes

Ingredients:

175g/6 oz. medium oatmeal
 50g/2 oz. fine or pinhead oatmeal
 ½ teaspoonful of salt
 ½ teaspoonful of baking powder
 25g/1 oz. butter, melted
 50-75ml/2-3 fl. oz. boiling water

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 325F, 170C, Gas Mark 3. Place all the dry ingredients in a bowl and stir. Pour in the melted butter and enough boiling water to form a fairly stiff dough. Sprinkle some fine or medium oatmeal over a board and gently roll out the mixture into a thin circle, about 23 to 25 cm (9 to 10 in.) in diameter. Cut into 8 wedges and carefully transfer to a buttered baking tray. Bake in the oven for about 20 minutes, until just firm. Carefully transfer to a wire rack to cool.

Honeyed Shetland Lamb

Ingredients:

1 leg lamb
 4 to 6 sprigs fresh thyme
 2 tablespoonfuls clear honey
 15g/ ½ oz. butter
 1 glassful red wine
 Salt and freshly-ground black pepper, to taste
 Knobs of butter
 To Serve: vegetables of your choice
 To Garnish : sprigs of fresh thyme, optional

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 400F/200C, Gas Mark 6. Smear the lamb with butter and place in a roasting tin. Spoon over the honey and add the herbs and wine. Season to taste. Place in the oven and roast for 1 hour 10 minutes, then remove from the oven. Pour the juices into a shallow, heavy-based saucepan and reduce by half. Stir in a little butter and bubble until glossy. Carve the meat and serve with the juices poured over it. Accompany with vegetables of your choice, and garnish, if liked, with thyme. Serves 4.

Fish in oats with potato salad

Ingredients:

For the potato salad:
 200g/7oz. small new potatoes
 50g/2oz. kale, very coarsely chopped
 ¼ cucumber, cut in half lengthways, seeds scooped out with a spoon, thickly sliced
 1-2 spring onions, trimmed and sliced

For the dressing:

1 tbsp. white balsamic vinegar
 2 tbsp. cold-pressed rapeseed oil
 squeeze lemon juice
 salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the fish:

2 handfuls 'medium' oatmeal
 salt and freshly ground black pepper
 6 fish fillets, scales and central line of bones removed
 dollop mustard
 30g/1¼ oz. butter
 splash rapeseed oil
 lemon wedges, to serve

Method:

For the potato salad, boil the new potatoes in a large saucepan of salted water until tender (about 12 minutes). Add the kale and cucumber to the pan three minutes before the potatoes are ready and boil until all of the ingredients are tender. Drain well and set aside. For the dressing, whisk together the vinegar, rapeseed oil and lemon juice in a jug until well combined. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Set aside. For the herring, sprinkle the oatmeal onto a plate and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Brush both sides of each herring fillet with a little of the mustard, then roll in the seasoned oatmeal until completely covered. Heat the butter and the oil in a large, heavy-based frying pan over a medium heat. Add the coated herring fillets to the pan, skin-side up (do this in batches if necessary). Gently press down on each of the herring fillets using a fish slice so that they stay flat. Fry for 1-2 minutes, or until the oats are golden-brown, then turn over and continue to fry on the other side for a further 1-2 minutes, or until the herrings are cooked through and the oats are golden-brown. Remove the herring fillets from the pan using a slotted spoon and set aside to drain on kitchen paper. Place the boiled potatoes, kale and cucumber into a serving bowl, stir in the spring onions, and drizzle over the dressing. Mix well and season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. To serve, divide the herring equally between two serving plates. Spoon the potato salad alongside and serve with a wedge of lemon.

over a very low heat to dry them off completely. Remember, turnips are rather watery, so unless you dry them off well the mixture will end up sloppy. Mash the vegetables with the butter or dripping, then add the salt and pepper to taste, and stir in the chives. Serve piping hot. Serves 4-6.

Tablet



Ingredients:

125g/4 1/2 oz. unsalted butter
 1kg/2 ¼ lb. golden granulated sugar
 300ml/10 fl. oz. full-fat milk
 Pinch of salt
 200g/7 oz. tin of condensed milk
 1 teaspoonful pure vanilla essence

Method:

Place the butter in a large heavy-based saucepan (only a reliable pan should be used, otherwise the tablet mixture will stick) and melt it over a low heat. Add the sugar, milk and salt and heat gently until the sugar has dissolved, stirring occasionally. Bring to the boil and simmer over a fairly high heat for 9 to 10 minutes, stirring often (and making sure you get into all the corners with your wooden spoon). Add the condensed milk and stir well, then simmer for 8 to 10 minutes, stirring constantly. The mixture should bubble but not too fiercely. After 8 minutes test if it is ready. It should have reached the "soft ball" stage, which means that when you drop a little of the mixture into a cup of very cold water, it will form a soft ball that you can pick up between your fingers. On a sugar thermometer it should reach 115C/240F Remove from the heat at once and add the vanilla (or other flavourings). Using an electric hand-held beater, beat at a medium speed for 4 to 5 minutes, just until you feel the mixture begin to stiffen a little and become ever so slightly grainy. You can of course do this by hand, but it will take at least 10 minutes and it is hard work! Pour immediately into a buttered 23 by 33 cm (9 by 13 in.) Swiss roll tin and leave to cool. Mark into squares or oblongs when it is almost cold. When completely cold, remove and store in an airtight tin or wrap the pieces individually in waxed paper. Makes 16 to 20 bars.

Flambéed raspberries

Ingredients:

85g/3oz. raspberries
 40ml/1½fl oz. whisky
 30g/1oz flaked almonds, toasted
 icing sugar, to dust

Method:

Place the raspberries into a frying pan and cook over a gentle heat on a gas hob for 2-3 minutes. Add the whisky and very carefully tip the pan slightly to catch the flame and ignite the whisky. Flambé the raspberries for one minute. To serve, pour the raspberries into a serving bowl, sprinkle over the flaked almonds and dust with icing sugar.

Clapshot



Ingredients:

500g/1lb.2 oz. potatoes, peeled and cut up
 500g/1 lb.2 oz. turnip, peeled and cut up
 50g/2oz. butter or dripping
 1-2 tablespoonfuls chives, chopped
 Salt and freshly-ground black pepper, to taste

Method:

Put the vegetables in a pan of cold salted water, then cover and bring to the boil. Simmer for 15 to 20 minutes, depending on the size, until tender, then drain. Return them to the pan then cover and shake the pan

Ken your country



The Queen's View. Photo: VisitScotland.

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

- 1) What was the capital of Scotland before Edinburgh?
- 2) Where in Scotland would you be if you were in Dun-Eideann?
- 3) What organisation, whose motto is "Sure & Stedfast," was founded by a Scot?
- 4) What is the longest road bridge in Scotland?
- 5) The Queen's View in Perthshire overlooks which loch?
- 6) What was a dominie?
- 7) What breed of dog was Greyfriars Bobby?

- 8) What does the Old Scots word updorrock mean?
- 9) Is Scotland's Great Glen approximately a) 20, b) 40, or c) 60 miles long?
- 10) Which Scottish novelist was appointed Governor-General of Canada in 1935?

Answers

- 1) Dunfermline.
- 2) It's the Gaelic name for Edinburgh.
- 3) The Boys' Brigade.
- 4) The Tay Road Bridge, linking Dundee with Fife.
- 5) Loch Tummel.
- 6) An Old Scots name for a schoolmaster.
- 7) A Skye terrier.
- 8) Worn out or bankrupt.
- 9) c) 60 miles long.
- 10) John Buchan, Lord Tweedsmuir of Elsfield, author of *The Thirty-Nine Steps*.

Head to Scotland for an adventure this summer

Scotland benefits from beautiful scenery, many hills and mountains to explore, as well as stunning wildlife and spectacular walking routes and trails. With the arrival of summer, and plenty of sunshine in Scotland, visitors need not look far for their next adventure.

Discovering lost worlds.....



Fingal's Cave. Photo: VisitScotland.

Burn o'Vat, Aberdeenshire – Visitors can climb through the rock (approach with care) and witness this remarkable natural feature in the landscape. As the area warmed around it 14,000 years ago, the ice sheet began to melt, resulting in a torrent of meltwater that carried with it debris previously caught up in the glacial ice. It is thought that a rock became lodged in a small hollow on the river bed, causing the meltwater to flow around it in a spiralling motion. This caused the bed underneath the rock to erode over a long period of time. Quite the spectacle! (Free to visit).



Burn o'Vat, Aberdeenshire.

Alternatively, experience Fort William with Vertical Descents. As the Outdoor Capital of the UK, Fort William offers some of the best outdoor experiences possible. Its towering mountains, deep glens and fast flowing waterfalls make it the perfect place to try canyoning (prices vary).

Finally, visit Staffa by boat and see Fingal's Cave. This little island (½ mile long and ¼ mile wide) off the west coast of Scotland looks like it may be from a different planet. Its hexagonal columns were formed millions of years ago by volcanic eruptions and a vast blanket of lava that spread into the Atlantic Ocean. Years of waves crashing against these columns created the magnificent Fingal's Cave. (Staffa Tours depart Iona and Fionnphort on the Isle of Mull; Priced at £70 per person for a 6 hour trip).

Taking to the ropes....

Hike to the Steall Waterfall via a wire rope bridge. The fabulous Steall waterfalls are featured in the movie *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (2005) and can be reached via a half hour or so hike from the Nevis Gorge car park. The hike includes rocky areas and negotiating carefully the single foot wire rope bridge when crossing the river. There is a clear, well-walked path

throughout, but it is very rough and rocky with steep drops and good footwear and care is needed, (free to visit).

Have fun at Go Ape; With courses designed to be accessible for mixed abilities and age groups, Go Ape offers a fun and challenging day out. Go Ape Aberfoyle is home to Scotland's longest dual zip wires, whilst Go Ape, Glentress Forest, Peebles also boasts massive solo zips over a lake, all whilst soaring 50m above the valley below. Go Ape Dalkeith, Edinburgh is the company's newest location and the only one in Scotland to feature activities for children under 10. (Prices vary).

"Get your motor running..."

The Experience Tour – which gives people the chance to ride a new model Harley-Davidson motorbike – is happening across the summer throughout the UK at some of the most popular biker locations across the country including this one in Criarlach in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Those who are new to the world of Harley-Davidson and would like to experience this pioneering two-wheel transportation brand can book their place via the dedicated webpage (price on request; once booked, a full, valid motorcycle licence, helmet and riding gear are required in order to take part).

For anyone who has ever imagined exploring Scotland by motorbike, but unsure how to go about it, Bikerbnb Adventures can help. Their dedicated team of experts can plan a road trip including a guided motorcycle experience that covers roughly 1,000 miles across the north of Scotland over five days. The Highland Scramble, a curated events series, features not only the best riding that Scotland has to offer, but also the best food, drink and motorcycle-friendly accommodation.

Where to see reptiles in Scotland

'Meet' the reptiles at Edinburgh Zoo; these include the corn snakes. Corn snakes are slender, orange or brown-yellow snakes with a pattern of large red blotches outlined in black down their backs. They are native to the eastern United States but are most abundant in Florida. Also see the milk snake; brightly coloured and strikingly patterned, milk snakes are nonvenomous snakes found throughout North and South America and Canada. They are often confused with dangerous copperheads or coral snakes, but milk snakes pose no threat to humans.

Check out Amazonia at M&Ds, Motherwell, Lanarkshire with a chance to get up close and personal with some animals including snakes, lizards, tortoises, creepy crawlies and more...



Doune Castle. Photo: VisitScotland.

Handling sessions are only £1.25 per person (under 3's are free), with sessions

lasting approximately 20-30 minutes. Tickets are only available to purchase on the day of your visit at Amazonia's reception, on a first come, first serve basis per session, due to a limited capacity in the room (20 visitors per session), so please enquire and book on arrival.

Discovering history

Rosslyn Chapel in Midlothian has been linked to everything from the Knights Templar to the lost ark of the covenant and the Holy Grail.

Doune Castle, near Stirling, is famously where *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (1975) was filmed and is a favourite with movie fans and history buffs alike.

Visit Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, Glasgow. Explore 22 galleries and discover everything from art to animals, Ancient Egypt to Charles Rennie Mackintosh and so much more (free to visit).

Explore Scotland's ancient capital and newest city, Dunfermline. The city is strongly associated with King Malcolm III "Canmore" and his queen Saint Margaret, and during their reign, the town developed as a centre of political power, becoming an important place of residence for Scottish Royalty.

Scotland is home to many historic landmarks from the Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement in Shetland to Abbotsford in the Scottish Borders. Scotland is also home to 13 UNESCO World Heritage designations and has the world's first UNESCO Trail. Visitors planning

a trip can check out Scotland's accessible castles and battlefields at Euan's Guide, explore the many wonderful sites of Historical Environment Scotland, as well as planning an historical trip with the Natural Trust for Scotland.

Braving the rapids

Check out River Wild Adventures in Newtonmore for white-knuckle adventures (along with the safety instruction and proper gear). In addition, Nae Limits in Perthshire has a range of white water rafting options for beginners and extreme thrill seekers alike and ACE Adventures offers white water rafting trips in various locations, including on the rivers Findhorn, Tay and Tummel.

Join a dig

Scotland is a great place to get lost in archaeological facts and findings. Visitors can even give up some of their holiday time to join a dig. Dig It! in Scotland has many events for all abilities. For example, in Orkney, one of the UHI Archaeology Institute's flagship excavations began at South Ronaldsay in 2006, revealing a large Iron Age broch (c100BC-AD200) and structures dating from the Iron Age through to the Norse period.

During the excavation period, the site will be open to the public on weekdays from 10am until 4pm. For more information, and for details of other digs, go to www.digitScotland.com/archaeological-digs-in-scotland-2023-edition

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Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

Clan Baird Commander

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

Hereditary President of Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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



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; Dhai; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny; MacDhai; McKeddie. 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.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"

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Mr A. Neil Macdonald

Mr Michael Murphy

Mr Norman A Macdonald

Ms Pamela McDonald

secretary.clandonaldustralia@gmail.com

There is no joy without Clan Donald



Edmonstone Clan Society

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

Contact: Mal Edmiston

3 Laguna Ave

Kirwan, Qld, 4817

61 (0)7 4755 4370

m.edmiston@bigpond.com



Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce

President

1051 Eagle Ridge Trail

Stillwater, Minnesota 55082

Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary

5561 Earl Young Road

Bloomington, IN 47408

www.familyofbruceinternational.org



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: clangregoraustralia@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 Ballas 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
Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers

Cordially invites all Carruthers and their descendants to join **us** in preserving our Clan and Family heritage.

Clan Carruthers Society - International
officially representing Carruthers worldwide

www.clancarrutherssociety.org

clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com



CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald

Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mr Lindsay McDonald

Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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



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CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG



Clan 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



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/>

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Clan Hay Australia

A' Hay A' Hay

A callout to all Hay's and our name variants, descendants, and supporters. Clan Hay looking for new members to join our illustrious Clan. All descendants and supporter's welcome.

Alderston; Ayer; Bagra; Beagrie; Conn (Aberdeenshire only); Constable; Delahaye; Delgaty; Du Plessis; Dupplin; Errol; Garrow; Geary; Gifford; Hayden; Haye; Hayes; Hayle; Haynes; Hays; Hayton; Hayward; Hey; Hye; Kinnou; Laxfirth; Leask; Leith; Locherworth; Logie; Macara; MacGaradh; McKester; Peebles; Phillips (Aberdeenshire only); Slains; Turiff; Tweeddale; Yester; Zester

For more information, please contact:

Australian Clan Hay convenor, Chris Hay McMor Fairbank

PO Box 70, Darrinallum, Victoria, 3325, Australia

E: clanhayaustralia@outlook.com

[clanhayaustralia@Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/clanhayaustralia)



Clan Hay

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

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

www.clanhay.com



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- 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

New Second Edition!

A History of the Clan Macnachten
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The MacEanruigs, proud sons of Henry, invite you to join!

Clan Henderson Society

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

www.clanhendersonsociety.com

McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

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Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President
President@clanmaclarenna.org



Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: John McNeil
21 Coopers Avenue
Leabrook, South Australia 5068
Phone: 08 833 33990 Email: kisimul@chariot.net.au



Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA
President & Commissioner: Stephen J. Hope
president@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope
highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org
Membership Chair: Cynthia Hope Henderson
membership@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org

CANADA
Commissioner: Scott Hale
commissioner@clanhope.ca
www.clanhope.ca

SCOTLAND
Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope
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invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, to join us in celebrating our heritage!

website: ClanMacNeilUSA.us
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram @ClanMacNeilUSA



Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron
Alexander H.R. Irvine of Drum,
27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name
Mary Erwin, Chairman
155 Hattaway Road, Calhoun, LA, 71225
mary.erwin@clanirwin.org
www.clanirwin.org
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John B. McClellan, Jr.
Treasurer
383 Ash Brook Lane
Sunnyvale, TX
75182-3250
Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of sumame 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 kiwihc@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 McInnes, Member Services: scott@macinnes.org or visit www.macinnes.org



Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling), and descendants. **Recognised Septs:**

Askey MacAndie MacClure
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/>



CLAN LAMONT SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

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

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

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



Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.

Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

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

Visit our website
Check out your Tartan and Sept
www.clanmackenzie.org.au



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WEST VALLEY CITY, UT
84120-6880



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

Scottish Associations and Societies



Clan MacRae Society of North America
Granted Arms in 2008

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

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



Clan Ross 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



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

www.clanross.org



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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Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria

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 at Kathleen Syme Community Centre,
 251 Faraday St, Carlton and on Zoom.

Contact Michael McNab
 Ph: 0439 869 061
mmcnab@scottishgaelicvictoria.org.au



CLAN MUNRO ASSOCIATION
 OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

We would be pleased to welcome as a member, anyone interested in their Clan heritage with the names: Munro, Monro, Monroe and the septs, Foulis, MacCulloch, Dingwall, MacLulich and Vass.

TO BECOME A MEMBER, CONTACT RAY MUNRO
munro.ray@hotmail.com
 0410663760



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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


www.clansinclairaustralia.com



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

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

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



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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
ENESBITT@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
 Website: <https://scotsofaus.org.au>
 Facebook: [Facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria](https://www.facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria)



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 E: membership@clanyoungaustalia.com.au
www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/
<https://clanyoungsociety.com/australia>

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



Victorian Scottish Union Inc
 Established 1905


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Clan Donald Victoria	Maryborough Highland Society
Clan Grant	Scottish Country Dance Society of Victoria
Clan Hay	Robert Burns Scottish Festival Camperdown
Clan Macdonald of Yarraville	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Clan Sinclair	Warrambool & District Caledonian Society
Geelong Scottish Dance	Warrambool Highland Dance

Chief: Mr Grant McKinna
 President Norman Macdonald
 Secretary Jan Macdonald


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



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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

Beaches Across Scotland Shore to Impress

From hidden coves to surfers' paradises, taking in both city beaches and remote shores which seem to stretch for miles, a break on Scotland's coasts offers something for everyone. Here you will find a roundup of top beach locations for those looking to have a picturesque picnic, a family day out, enjoy a spot of wildlife watching or sit back and enjoy an epic sunset.

Top beaches for a family day out



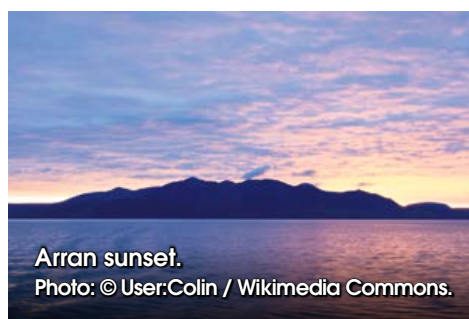
Portobello Beach.
Photo: VisitScotland.

Urban beach – Edinburgh, Portobello Beach: With its waters granted designated bathing water status from SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency), and its low tide, Portobello Beach is the perfect place for beginners to enjoy the wonders of wild swimming. Families can enjoy sandy shores, a promenade with cafes and ice cream shops.

Millarochy bay, Loch Lomond: This stunning stretch of water has a sandy bay providing great access to the water. Surrounded by Munros and walking trails, and located close to the town of Balmaha, a refreshing swim is the perfect way to cool off after a day of exploring. Families can enjoy the Loch Lomond Faerie Trail at Luss on Loch Lomondside, before visiting the new Faerie Tale Farm to meet alpacas, donkeys, sheep, highland cows and goats.

Nairn Beach, The Highlands: This superb sandy beach in the middle of Nairn is a fantastic attraction and popular with families. Its coastline is home to a resident school of dolphins and there is also a great range of coastal walks in either direction with a stunning nature reserve at Kingsteps in the east and a viewpoint to the west. For those looking to experience adventure, the Bowhunter Team offer the opportunity to learn Woodland Archery, as well as Axe Throwing, Bushcraft, and the exhilarating game of Combat Archery. For more information on visiting Nairn, please visit: www.nairnscotland.co.uk

Top beaches to watch the sunset



Arran sunset.
Photo: © User:Colin / Wikimedia Commons.

Gruinard Bay, Ross-Shire: Nestled on the west coast of Scotland, Gruinard Bay is a hidden gem renowned for its mesmerizing sunsets. The expansive sandy beach offers unobstructed views of the horizon, allowing sunset-spotters to witness the gradual fading of daylight and the emergence of a celestial masterpiece.

Ninian's Isle, Shetland: St. Ninian's Isle is connected to the mainland by a narrow strip of sand, creating a unique setting for sunset enthusiasts. As the sun sets over the North Sea, the surrounding landscapes and the ancient chapel on the isle are bathed in a warm golden light.

Tentsmuir Sands, Fife: Exploring the winding pathways that meander through the dunes is rewarded with panoramic views of the sunset over the North Sea and the surrounding coastal woodland. Tentsmuir Sands is a haven for wildlife, so keep an eye out for rare bird species and other fascinating creatures that call this dune-filled landscape home.

Top spots for wildlife enthusiasts

Isle of Coll, Inner Hebrides: With its pristine beaches and crystal-clear waters, this island offers an unparalleled opportunity to explore its underwater wonders. Discover thriving kelp forests, encounter curious seals, and witness the vibrant array of fish that call these waters home. The Isle of Coll's untouched beauty and diverse marine ecosystem make it a must-visit snorkelling destination. These coastal waters also offer a unique opportunity to witness one of nature's gentle giants—the basking shark. With its enormous size and placid nature. Join Basking Shark Scotland and embark on an extraordinary adventure to experience the awe-inspiring presence of basking sharks in the waters of Scotland.

Isle of Arran, West Coast of Scotland: Arran's captivating beaches offer a gateway to the past, inviting fossil hunting enthusiasts and shell collectors to embark on an extraordinary journey through time. Absorb island life and book in to Lochranza Youth Hostel, from £14 per person per night and be sure to stop by The COAST Discovery Centre - Scotland's first Marine Protected Area (MPA) visitor centre, and the UK's first community-led MPA visitor centre. Learn about the island's marine biodiversity and the conservation efforts - located right on the sea front in Lamlash Bay, it is fully accessible and open seven days a week, rain or shine.

Lunan Bay, Angus: A hidden gem known for its pristine sandy beach and breath-taking coastal scenery. Take time to visit Montrose Basin Visitor Centre, Scottish Wildlife Trust. Montrose Basin is the enclosed estuary of the South Esk River. The reserve includes a 4-star visitor centre along with four remote bird hides. Covering 750 hectares, Montrose Basin is home to over 80,000 migratory birds including pink-footed geese, common terns, knot and kingfisher.

Top beaches for a picturesque picnic



Balephuill Bay. Photo: Irvine Smith, CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons.

Prince's Beach, Eriskay, Outer Hebrides: One of Scotland's most historic beaches, it's said to be where Bonnie Prince Charlie first set foot on Scottish soil. Marvel at this beautiful beach and embark on a leisurely coastal walk, tracing the rugged cliffs and taking in the dramatic coastal views that stretch as far as the eye can see.

Balephuill Bay, Tiree: Known as the 'Hawaii of the North', Tiree provides a tranquil paradise for holidaymakers to relax and unwind. With white-shell beaches and turquoise waters, Balephuill Bay is the perfect place for a swim and a firm favourite for surfers, thanks to the warm waters brought in by the Gulf Stream.

Loch Goilhead, Argyll: Situated amidst the stunning scenery of mountains and forests, the highlight of this destination is undoubtedly its pristine beach. Visitors flock to Loch Goilhead to soak up the sun, bask in the serenity, and indulge in a plethora of exciting activities.

Scotland has a wealth of beaches and glacial activity has created an incredibly intricate Scottish coastline, which includes around 800 islands mostly off the west and north coasts. At about 18,000km long, Scotland's coastline would stretch from Scotland to Australia were all of its curves and turns straightened out. Have you got a favourite Scottish beach? Share your story with us by email, post, social media.



Ganavan Bay, Oban.
Photo: TravMedia.

Tartan of the Month

Canadian Para Rescue Honor Tartan

The Scottish Banner is pleased to be offering the Tartan of the Month series highlighting a variety of different, unique and colourful tartans from around the world which are registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans in Edinburgh. The Scottish Register of Tartans was established by an act of the Scottish Parliament in November 2008 and promotes and preserves information about historic and contemporary tartans from Scotland and throughout the world. Text and image use are courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans (SRT).

This tartan was created to honour and remember those who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces Para Rescue, which been

in operation since 1944. The Canadian Para Rescue is made up of specialist operators who originate from all of Canada's military environments Army, Navy & Airforce and all ranks and career fields. They are responsible to respond to all civilian air and marine emergencies and disasters throughout Canada's many austere environments and associated weather/climate conditions. This tartan is intended to celebrate the occupation's distinctness, rich history, strong traditions and the many risks associated and to honour the injured and those that paid the ultimate sacrifice, in the service of others. This tartan (reference: 13935) was designed by the Para Rescue Association of Canada and registered in June, 2023.

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

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.collegeofpiping.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 Cèilidh (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

SEPTEMBER 2023

Calgary Highland Games

2, Calgary, AB

Scottish fun for everyone at Calgary Rugby Union. Info: www.calgaryhighlandgames.com

Canmore Highland Games

2-3, Canmore, AB

Thrill to the sounds of the pipes in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, a great weekend of Scottish celebration featuring pipe bands, entertainment, Clans, dancing and more. Info: 403-678-9454 or www.canmorehighlandgames.ca

Festival Celtique de Québec

8-10, Québec, QC

A celebration of Celtic culture awaits at Société du domaine Maizerets as large-scale performances and sporting competitions are on the schedule. Info: www.festival-celtique.com

Maggie The Musical

29-October 8, Glace Bay, NS

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

USA

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

Quechee Scottish Games

26, Hartford VT

A fun-filled day of competitions, clans, vendors, food and entertainment. Info: www.quecheegames.org

SEPTEMBER 2023

Capital District Scottish Games

2, Altamont, NY

Pipe bands, Clans, dancing and more at Altamont Fairgrounds, 129 Grand St. Info: www.scotgames.com

Virginia Scottish Games

2-3, The Plains, VA

Celebrating Scotland on Labor Day weekend at Great Meadow, 5089 Old Tavern Rd. Info: www.vascottishgames.org

Edinboro Highland Games and Scottish Festival

7-0, Edinboro, PA

Revel in the rich traditions of Scotland on PennWest Edinboro's picturesque campus. Attend events like the fiddle, dance, bagpiping, and heavy athletic competitions. Visit the Harp Showcase and try your hand at playing! Visit food, merchandise, and art vendors, and more! All events are free other than Ceilidh and Whisky Tasting event. Info: www.edinboro.edu/events/highland-games/index.php

Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival

8-10, Estes Park, CO

The event includes Scottish athletics, the best in Celtic rock and folk music, and live field performances, including the Estes Park International Tattoo. Info: 970 586 6308 or www.scotfest.com

Kalamazoo Scottish Festival

9, Parchment MI

The festival is free and family friendly; and includes Highland Games, Clan and Society tents, cultural exhibitors, pipe bands and more at Kindleberger Park. Info: www.kalamazooscottishfest.org

Union County Celtic Festival

9, Clark, NJ

the festival will include live music, food and craft vendors, cultural activities, a piping and drumming contest, dancing, and a beer garden at Oak Ridge Park. Info: www.uccelticfestival.com

Middle Tennessee Highland Games & Celtic Festival

9-10, Hendersonville, TN

Where families come together every year to learn, appreciate, preserve and celebrate Scottish and Celtic traditions for charitable, educational, social, and athletic purposes at Sanders Ferry Park. Info: www.midtenngames.com

Autumn Garden Gathering

14, New York, NY

Presented by The American-Scottish Foundation, The Colonial Dames of America & The American Friends of the Georgian Group at Mount Vernon Hotel Museum Garden (enter at 417 East 61st St). Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

The New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival

15-17, Concord, NH

A celebration of Scottish heritage at Loon Mountain Resort in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Info: www.nhscot.org

Scotfest 2023

15-17, Broken Arrow, OK

An authentic celebration of Scottish and Celtic culture at Broken Arrow Events Park, 21101 E. 101st St. Info: 855 411-0090 or www.okscotfest.com

Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games

16-17, Lockport, NY

Celtic fun and entertainment at Niagara County Fairgrounds. Info: www.niagaraceltic.com

Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival

22-24, Bethlehem, PA

The largest free Celtic festival in North America. Held in historic downtown, Bethlehem PA, 5 stages of world-renowned Celtic music, U.S. National Highland Games Championship, Gr 3 & Gr 4 pipe band competitions, fiddle competition, border collies, 50+ Celtic retail merchants, 35+ food vendors, Showing of the Tartan Parade on Saturday featuring one of the only high school bands in the U.S. with pipers. Info: www.celticfest.org

Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival

30, Dandridge, TN

A celebration of Scotland and Ireland in Dandridge. Info: www.scotsirishfestival.com

Scotland

AUGUST 2023

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

4-26, Edinburgh

A unique and memorable celebration of music, dance and military pageantry at Edinburgh Castle. One of Scotland's premier summer events. Info: www.edintattoo.co.uk

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe

4-28, Edinburgh

One of the greatest celebrations of arts and culture in the world at venues across Edinburgh. Info: www.edfringe.com

The Edinburgh International Festival

4-27, Edinburgh

An unparalleled celebration of music, theatre, opera and dance performed at venues across Edinburgh. Info: www.eif.co.uk

Bridge of Allan Highland Games

6, Stirling

Traditional games, also known as the Strathallan Meeting, at Strathallan Games Park, Airthrey Ave, Bridge of Allan. Info: www.bofagames.com

Isle of Skye Highland Games

9, Portree, Isle of Skye

A day of tradition at the Lump. Info: www.skye-highland-games.co.uk

Ballater Highland Games

10, Ballater

There have been Games held in Ballater in Aberdeenshire since 1864 and, apart from the war and pandemic years, the Games have continued uninterrupted until the present day. Info: www.ballaterhighlandgames.com

Edinburgh International Book Festival

12-28, Edinburgh

A distinctive international showcase celebrating the written word, literature and ideas. Info: www.edbookfest.co.uk

Piping Live!

12-20, Glasgow

Piping Live! returns in full force to the streets of Glasgow in the run up to the World's once again as Glasgow hosts the world's biggest week of piping! This year is the 20th edition of the festival which attracts performers and audiences from across the world for piping performances, workshops, concerts and more. Info: www.pipinglive.co.uk

Simon Fraser University Pipe Band - Generations

16, Glasgow

Pre-Worlds Concert 2023, Canada's Simon Fraser University Pipe Band are delighted to announce that they will be headlining this highly anticipated concert in conjunction with the Glasgow Skye Association Pipe Band at the SEC Armadillo. Info: www.sec.co.uk/events/detail/simon-fraser-university-pipe-band-generations

The World Pipe Band Championships

18-19, Glasgow

Pipers and drummers from across Scotland, the UK and globe compete at the annual competition held at Glasgow Green. Info: www.theworlds.co.uk

Stirling Highland Games

19, Stirling

the Games showcases traditional Highland games competitions like tossing the caber and Highland dancing, it also offers visitors an affordable 'festival style' day out with lots to see and do at Stirling Sports Village. Info: www.stirlinghighlandgames.com

Inauguration of Chief of Mackay

19, Bettyhill, Sutherland

the Clan Mackay Society (one of the oldest clan societies in Scotland) will be bringing together clan members from across the world to celebrate the inauguration of the 15th Lord Reay as Chief of the Clan Mackay. This clan gathering will take place in traditional Clan Mackay territory in the north of the Scottish Highlands at Strathnaver Museum. Info: www.clanmackaysociety.co.uk

Crieff Highland Gathering

20, Crieff

One of Scotland's premier games at Market Park. Info: www.crieffhighlandgathering.com

Argyllshire Gathering Oban Games

24, Oban

A day of Highland dancing, athletics, heavy field events and solo piping competitions. Info: www.obangames.com

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
1 Apron	1 Apses
5 Midge	2 Otter
8 Saltcoats	3 Craigie
9 Inner	4 Muskets
10 Sharp	5 Mavis
12 Glens	6 Dunnottar
13 Charlie	7 Ewers
15 Shortie	11 Polio
17 Redcoat	14 Ardrossan
19 Calorie	16 Owlet
21 Skein	18 Treason
22 Trews	19 Central
25 Music	20 Amend
26 Strathyre	21 Scone
27 Dance	23 Rehab
28 Abbot	24 Smelt

YOUNG FAMILY MEETING
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 invited to join us for a meeting. This will be an international meeting of Youngs held both in person and virtually to plan for the future.

Our previously advertised Family Convention to appoint a Commander has been postponed. Register your attendance or interest to be informed about the rescheduled convention.

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

Greyfriars Bobby star remembered



Edinburgh honoured the life of its second most famous canine with a special event. Greyfriars Bobby, the loyal terrier known for guarding his master's grave for 14 years after his death, is an iconic story in the Scottish capital and the Disney adaptation of his story in 1961 made a star of the acting pooch who portrayed the local hero – also called Bobby.

The remains of the Skye Terrier who starred in the film have been donated to The City of Edinburgh Council and now form part of its archaeology collections. They have been loaned to Greyfriars Kirk for a special exhibition commemorating the legacy near the real-life grave of Scotland's most loyal companion. At a ceremony in Greyfriars Kirkyard, Depute Lord Provost Lezley Marion Cameron

was joined by David Hunter who led the campaign to commemorate the occasion as well as members of the church and friends of the graveyard.

'Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all'

Depute Lord Provost Lezley Marion Cameron, said: "Greyfriars Bobby's memorial reads 'Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all'. Countless visitors continue to see Bobby's grave, his statue, and the many mementos of his life displayed in our Museum of Edinburgh. I'm delighted this further part of the iconic and timeless story of a little dog who would

not leave his master's grave, is going to be on display for visitors to discover. Bobby's is a story held in enormous respect and affection by people around the world, as is the famous film it inspired. Bobby truly is a world-famous pet, holding a special place in people's hearts and it's lovely to be part of this special commemoration."

Rev Richard Frazer, minister of Greyfriars Kirk, said: "The story of Greyfriars Bobby goes on touching people's hearts. We are glad to remember this 'Bobby' who starred in Walt Disney's film. The search for his remains is a story in itself, but David's tenacity and persistence has paid off and now we have an additional item in our museum for people to visit, with a casket made in our Grassmarket Community Project workshop holding the ashes of the wee dog."

Greyfriars Kirk

The film pooch, a Skye Terrier and also called Bobby, was gifted to former Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police, William Merrilees, by Mr Walt Disney after the film was released. Following the film's release, Mr Walt Disney gave Bobby to his friend Chief Constable William Merrilees OBE. Mr Merrilees felt that it would be better if Bobby lived with a family, so he gave him to one of his senior officers - Chief Inspector John Turner. Bobby lived happily for the rest of his days with the Turner family in Morningside, Edinburgh. David Hunter, a relative of the Turner family, led a

community campaign to find out what happened to Bobby and have his ashes interred at Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh.

Over the years the site of his grave had been lost. However, after hearing the site was to be developed for housing, with the permission of the developer, Mr Hunter and a team of volunteers undertook an 18-month search for his remains. As in all good stories his remains were finally found in the final days, in January 2023. A specially commissioned casket has been crafted from the wood of an old cherry tree that once stood in the Kirkyard. Designed and made by craftsmen from The Grassmarket Community Project. The casket and ashes were donated to the City of Edinburgh Council in 2023 and now form part of its archaeology collections and have been loaned to Greyfriars Kirk for display.

John Lawson, City of Edinburgh Council Archaeologist, said: "It's not often as an archaeologist that you work on such a unique project to preserve the remains of 1960's film star. It has been fantastic to work with David, the Kirk and Grassmarket Community and my colleagues in Bereavement Services on this project and to see the enthusiasm and care that everyone has shown in finding a fitting home for his remains."

The casket will be on display inside the Church together with information about the film and Bobby's charity work in the city and his life after the film.

Americans support acquisition of Scottish islands by National Trust for Scotland



View from Lunga toward Bac Mòr (or Dutchman's Cap).

American friends of Scotland's largest conservation charity have enabled the acquisition of the Treshnish Isles, an archipelago of eight uninhabited islands located in the Inner Hebrides, securing the future of this distinctive seascape. The Treshnish Isles are internationally significant as a nesting site for many seabird species, including puffins, guillemots, and kittiwakes. Twenty percent of the entire British population of storm petrels nest on the islands. The waters surrounding the isles are home to Atlantic seals, basking sharks, and minke whales.

Now uninhabited, the Treshnish Isles have a long human history that dates from the Iron Age. They were in the possession of King Haakon of Norway until 1249. The islands feature the ruins of two medieval castles and have strong historical links with the Scottish clans MacDougal, MacDonald, and Maclean. The National Trust for Scotland assumed care of the Treshnish Isles in July. The Trust is responsible for the protection of some of Scotland's most special places, including the Hebridean islands of Staffa, Iona, and Canna, as well as Fair Isle and the dual world heritage site of St Kilda. In America, The National Trust

for Scotland Foundation USA (NTSUSA) raises visibility and financial support for the Trust's conservation priorities. There has been a strong tradition of American support for conservation in the Hebrides. The islands of Staffa, Pabbay, Berneray, and Mingulay were all gifted to the Trust through bequests from the US, and NTSUSA recently has made significant contributions to preservation initiatives on Canna and Iona.

Protect Scotland's heritage and natural beauty

Kirstin Bridier, executive director of NTSUSA, noted, "We are delighted to fund the acquisition of the Treshnish Isles. With more than 20 million Americans claiming Scottish ancestry, NTSUSA is committed to garnering international support to protect Scotland's heritage and natural beauty now and for future generations." The acquisition of the Treshnish Isles comes as the National Trust for Scotland is investing significantly in the region. With more than 50,000 visitors per year expected on the Treshnish Isles, the Trust will work with local boat operators to ensure that rats and mice cannot reach the island and feed upon vulnerable seabird chicks.

The Trust also will have a ranger on-site to help monitor and educate visitors about the islands' wildlife. An archaeological

survey will ensure all data from historical ruins is captured and will inform development of a preservation plan. The acquisition caps a year in which NTSUSA granted more than \$530,000 in funding for projects at nearly twenty National Trust for Scotland properties. This included \$208,000 to support the digitization of 18th century manuscripts in poet Robert Burns's hand held in the collection of the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway, Ayrshire. The result will be a website accessible to Burns scholars and fans across the globe.

The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA (NTSUSA) is an independent non-profit organization that exists to support the work of the National Trust for Scotland's most urgent conservation priorities. Donations to NTSUSA, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization, are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. To learn more about NTSUSA or to become a member, please visit: www.ntsusa.org



Visitors on Lunga, the largest of the Treshnish Isles.

Sheila Fleet.

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