



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

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The Banner Says...

Scotland's connection to bridges



by Sean Cairney

Looking at some of the dates in this edition's *This Month in Scottish History* page, I could not help but notice some of Scotland's premier bridges get a mention. We all know why bridges are built, to help link two places and very much serve a function.

A bridge is a key part of any nations infrastructure and assist in linking communities, improving travel times and building business. However, bridges are so much more than just being functional. A bridge can have a strong historical or cultural importance and become part of the scenic landscape of a place. Scotland has bridges of all shapes, sizes, ages and lengths found across the country.

The Forth Bridges

Perhaps Scotland's most famous and iconic bridge would have to be the incredible Forth (Rail) Bridge. The oldest of Scotland's Forth Bridges this incredible bridge opened in March 1890 and was at the time the longest single cantilever bridge span in the world. I have travelled across this marvel of Scottish engineering several times and have been fortunate to get some great aerial views on flights out of Edinburgh. The Forth Bridge took seven years to build and is made with red steel and around six million rivets. The bridge spans 8,094 feet or 2.5kms and was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 2015. This bridge, and the Sydney Harbour Bridge, must be my favourite bridges in the world that I can look at and never tire of seeing.

Today the Forth Bridge is kept in good company as it shares the Firth of Forth estuary with both the Forth Road Bridge and the Queensferry Crossing. The Forth Road Bridge

opened 59 years ago this month, in 1964, and the bridge's two main towers include a fitting St Andrew's Cross design. This bridge was born due to an influx of cars on Scottish roads to link the Edinburgh region to the north of Scotland. The Forth Road Bridge is now only used by pedestrians, cyclists, emergency services and public transport.

Six years ago, this month, The Queen opened the latest and longest transport addition to the Forth bridges, The Queensferry Crossing. This bridge was planned for today's volume of cars and replaced the Forth Road Bridge as the main road route between Edinburgh and Fife and can carry 24 million vehicles a year.

Bridges are so much more than just being functional.

One bridge I have walked and driven across numerous times is Glasgow's Clyde Arc, or as affectionately known locally as the 'Squinty Bridge', which opened this month in 2006. This bridge spans the River Clyde connecting Finnieston in Glasgow's West End with Pacific Quay and Govan on the south side of the city. The bridge looks fantastic day and night as it reflects the Clyde and compliments the many modern iconic buildings you now find in this part of Glasgow such as the Scottish Exhibitions Centre, The Hydro and the Glasgow Science Centre, whom all sit amongst one of my favourite Glasgow icons the Finnieston Crane.

In this issue

So much of the pipe band world recently descended on the streets of Glasgow for this year's World Pipe Band Championships, and PipingLive! The dedication of these performers to not only consistently practice to such a high level but also represent their country on the world stage is something to admire. For many bands this also included a hefty flight and travel costs. We are delighted to feature a highlight of the World's in this issue.

Think of wildlife in the Scottish Highlands and you may perhaps think of Highland coo's, deer, birdlife or even an illustrious monster! However, at the Highland Wildlife Park you can also get up close and personal with various native animals like the Scottish wildcat, as well as species from across the globe such as snow leopards, Amur tigers, Japanese macaques and Scotland's only polar bears (which includes one baby). All amongst the incredibly stunning scenery of Cairngorm National Park, the UK's largest National Park.

It was over 150 years ago the third Duke of Sutherland, who was a railway enthusiast, brought a railway to Brora in Sutherland. The Duke also built his very own railway station at Dunrobin Castle, near the village of Golspie. Dunrobin station remains in the ownership of the Sutherland Estate and is believed to be the only such station on the UK rail network to have been planned, paid for and opened by just one person.

Connects us all when in Scotland

Scotland of course has far too many bridges to mention in this article. From the very famous and picturesque Glenfinnan Viaduct where the Jacobite steam train runs from Glenfinnan to Fort William and Mallaig, and made famous by the Harry Potter franchise. To the controversial Skye Bridge, which links the Scottish mainland with the stunning Isle of Skye. This bridge which was once considered the most expensive road toll in Europe is now free for all to enjoy a drive 'over the sea to Skye'. Right down to the small, but so photographed, Swilcan Bridge found on the 18th hole at the Home of Golf, St Andrews. Perhaps you have a bridge that means something to you, a bridge whose engineering marvels you, or has simply helped you get around Scotland a little easier?

We would love to hear readers comments on their favourite bridges that quite literally connects us all when in Scotland. 🇪🇸

Do you have a favourite Scottish bridge? 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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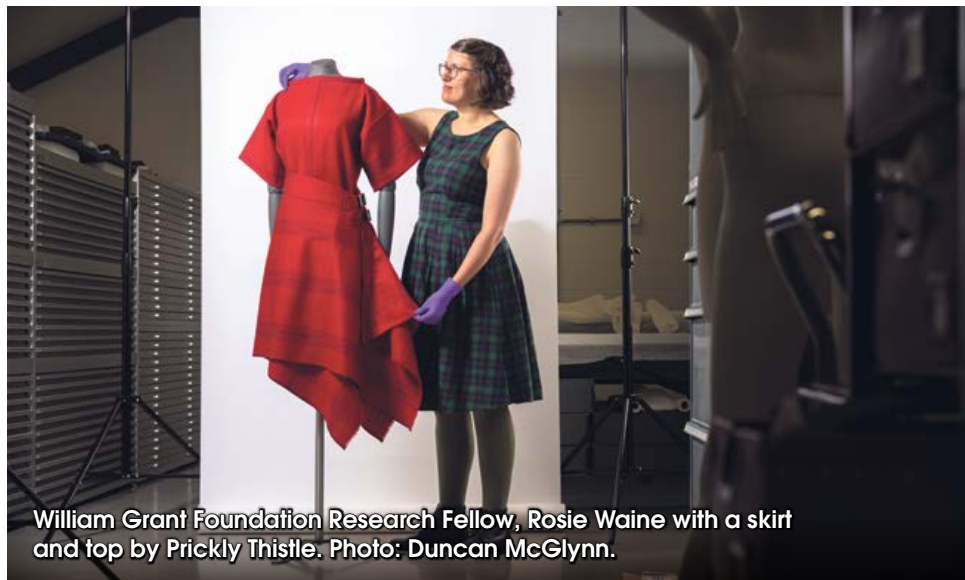


The Forth Bridge. Photo: VisitScotland.



Gracing our front cover: The 2023 World Pipe Band Championships. Image courtesy of Alan Harvey/ SNS Group and Glasgow Life.

National Museums Scotland acquires contemporary Highland dress



William Grant Foundation Research Fellow, Rosie Waine with a skirt and top by Prickly Thistle. Photo: Duncan McGlynn.



Lambswool poncho in 'Hame' tartan by Lochcarron of Scotland, 2022.

traditional techniques. Now held in the National Collection, the outfits document these highly-specialised skills as they continue to evolve and adapt.

A flourishing living tradition

William Grant Foundation Research Fellow, Rosie Waine said: "There is a perception that Highland dress never changes, but through working with contemporary makers, this project highlights a flourishing living tradition that continues to adapt and evolve. These new acquisitions showcase incredibly skilled makers and production from across the country. They join our existing collection to provide a comprehensive timeline of Highland dress from the 17th century to the modern day, highlighting its role as an icon of an ever-changing Scotland."

Once considered an emblem of clan society, the more modern tartan fashions reflect contemporary concerns. Lochcarron of Scotland's 'Hame' tartan was designed during the COVID-19 pandemic to capture feelings of homecoming and comfort. These designs highlight a 21st century approach to production with most new

tartan being created through Computer Assisted Design (CAD) programmes such as ScotWeave. Sustainability and efficiency throughout the design process is a key concern for modern mills and makers. A tartan t-shirt and kilt by Prickly Thistle Scotland offer a fresh take on Highland dress for women whilst promoting small batch production. National Museums Scotland has also acquired an antique boat shuttle (a tool used in the weaving process) from the firm, laser engraved with the B Corp Certification mark which they were awarded in 2021. A focus on zero waste design is demonstrated by a sgian dubh acquired from Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers. The traditional knife is made from offcuts of African blackwood left over from the bagpipe-making process.

National Museums Scotland holds objects spanning over five centuries of Highland dress in its collections, some of which are currently on loan to the V&A Dundee for their ground-breaking exhibition Tartan which demonstrates an enduring appetite for the iconic pattern.

Visit the online hub www.nms.ac.uk/TartanToday



A boat shuttle from Prickly Thistle, engraved with the B Corp Certification mark. Photo Duncan McGlynn.

National Museums Scotland has revealed a new collection of contemporary Highland dress, documenting a vibrant industry in Scotland today. Eight outfits have been added to National Museums Scotland's world class holdings of tartan and Highland dress, enabling it to tell the story of Scotland's iconic costume in the 21st century. These important acquisitions mark the culmination of a five-year project supported by the William Grant Foundation, which has fostered ground-breaking research into the Museum's unparalleled collection of historic tartans and Highland dress.

The latest stage of the project offers a snapshot of the variety of approaches to making and wearing Highland dress in the 21st century. From innovative new makers

like Prickly Thistle and Acme Atelier, to long established brands including Kinloch Anderson and Chisholms Highland Dress, these eight outfits celebrate some of the modern craftspeople, designers and outfitters working in Scotland. A new online hub has launched on nms.ac.uk, offering detailed images and descriptions of the new acquisitions along with three new films featuring interviews with designers and makers. In 2021, kilt-making and sporran-making were added to the Heritage Craft Association's red list of endangered crafts, and sgian dubh-making was added in 2023. The pieces collected for this project are representative of a specialist but vibrant industry which is attracting new makers, creating jobs and utilising technological advancements whilst preserving the knowledge of

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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?

Scottish family ties



MacDonald of the Isles Tartan.

In the April issue of *the Scottish Banner*, you asked readers if they had a favourite tartan and what tartan meant to them. Although a second generation Australian, my Scottish family ties are very strong.

I proudly wear both my MacDonald of the Isles Tartan, and that of my Keppoch branch. To me, it represents my heritage, my family connections, my very origins which are so precious to me. My male line is MacDonald, and my great granny, born a MacDonald, married into my paternal side. Many centuries ago, my MacDonald name came to be changed from MacDonald to Michie, my maiden name. Some time prior to the 16th century, my ancestor Michael MacDonald committed a heinous crime and on finding he lacked the expected

Clan support, fled, with some of his Clansmen in hot pursuit. Upon escaping he changed his name from MacDonald to Michie and from then on, his descendants were Michie's. Well known Scottish actor, John Michie (of *Taggart* fame) made a documentary on all things Scottish and in it he sought confirmation on what he knew of the origin of his name.

The genealogist in Glasgow supported what we knew except left one major detail out. It transpired that my ancestors had been unable to face the truth, and had cleaned up their story somewhat, by recording that Michael MacDonald had been forced to flee the Clan, due to a 'family feud', whereas John Michie knew the correct story. Michael MacDonald murdered his eldest brother in as power struggle. Despite the evil origin for changing the name, most of Michael MacDonald's descendants have made a good contribution to our world, and since I was a wee girl, I have been extremely proud to carry the Michie name.

Love *the Scottish Banner* and look forward to receiving it each month.
Mrs Margaret Michie Benny
Craigieburn, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thank you Margaret for sharing your proud family story with us.

The Cloth of a Nation

I read with interest your article in April's paper on the history of "The Cloth of a Nation". Recently I became the proud owner of such a piece of cloth. Whilst visiting family in Sydney, I decided to visit one of your long-term advertisers, the Scottish Accessories Shoppe in Croydon.

Needless to say, 14 weeks later I'm now the owner of a kilt in the Graham of Montrose tartan with accessories. Thanks Steve and Ann for fitting me out as well as *the Scottish Banner* for alerting me to your business.
Alistair Graham
Melbourne, Victoria
Australia

The Floral Clock



How wonderful to read about Edinburgh's Floral Clock (*Floral Clock blooms in honour of 100 years of Flying Scotsman, the Scottish Banner*, August, 2023). I will not be able to see it in person this year unfortunately and really enjoyed being able to view the images, as an avid gardener I always make a pit stop to see this lovely agricultural feat each summer I am in Edinburgh. It is such a unique attraction and always so beautiful and lovingly maintained. Of course, Edinburgh is always a great place to visit but the clock is something I really treasure. On top of that I am a railway enthusiast so

this year's honoring the Flying Scotsman is just so fitting and makes me wish I could have seen it in person. I hope to get back to Scotland soon, likely 2025, and will make a beeline for the Floral Clock and enjoy the incredible workmanship that goes into it each and every year. Would you happen to know the theme for the 2025 presentation?

I really enjoy your articles and thank you for sharing so much of Scotland with so many.
Ken Sheppard
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
USA

Ed note: Ken glad you enjoyed the images and hope you return in 2025 to take in the clock yourself, sorry we do not know what theme the clock will be for 2025, but it should be as beautiful as ever.

The Cairngorm Mountain Railway



How wonderful to read about the return of the Cairngorm Mountain Railway (*Back to the Top-The Cairngorm Mountain Railway, the Scottish Banner*, July, 2023). I visited the Cairngorms region some years back and enjoyed riding it then and taking in such a stunning part of Scotland. The region itself, for any who have yet to visit, is absolutely stunning. We drove around various parts around the Cairngorms

National Park, which is not only Scotland's but the UK's largest national park. It is so diverse and scenic with lovely wee towns to also visit. We visited in summer and took the railway up for a bite to eat and walk around. We were so very fortunate to also be up there on a lovely day with blue skies and warm weather. We have always talked about returning and if we do, we will most certainly ride the railway to top of Scotland again.

Enjoy *the Banner* so much.
Eileen Gray
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canada

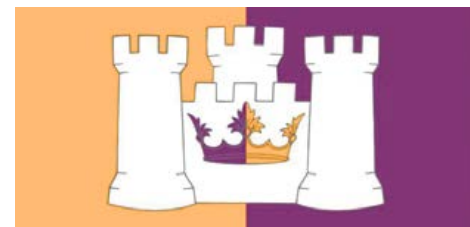
UK adventure

I have always had a dream to visit Scotland, as my grandmother came from Dumfries, and in May this year I was able to make that dream come true. I embarked on a 22-day coach tour which ventured as far north as the Orkney's. After leaving Scotland we made our way across the sea to Ireland where my great grandmother was born then back to Wales and Cornwall. Scenery and history were amazing. A magical trip and I can now relate, in a more knowledgeable way, when I read articles about different places in *the Banner*.

Wendy Gordon
Alexandra Hills, Queensland
Australia

Ed note: Glad you had a great trip Wendy and hope we can continue to inspire your next visit to Scotland.

Aberdeenshire county flag



I was interested to read in *the Scottish Banner* about the new flag for Aberdeenshire (*Aberdeenshire celebrates new county flag at Castle Fraser, the Scottish Banner*, June, 2023). Though the flag is striking, and I love the purple, but I found the flag to look more like it represents an organisation or attraction more than a whole region. I have family in various parts of Aberdeenshire and am aware of the region being a 'hot spot' for castles. In fact, it is Scotland's Castle Trail with nearly 300 on offer so the place to go if you are after a bit of castle touring. But there is much to discover in Aberdeenshire such as a stunning coastline, Aberdeen itself has much to offer (if it is your thing, I recommend a visit to Trinity Cemetery and read the history in those stones) and of course the incredible Cairngorms and Loch Muick.

I will certainly look out for the flag on my next visit and hold final judgement until then, regardless I simply love Aberdeenshire.
Emily McIntosh
Hamilton, New Zealand

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Glenfinnan Viaduct



The Jacobite steam train on the Glenfinnan Viaduct.
Mik Coia

Perth



Perth's purple highlights along the River Tay.
IG orsayoban

Arria



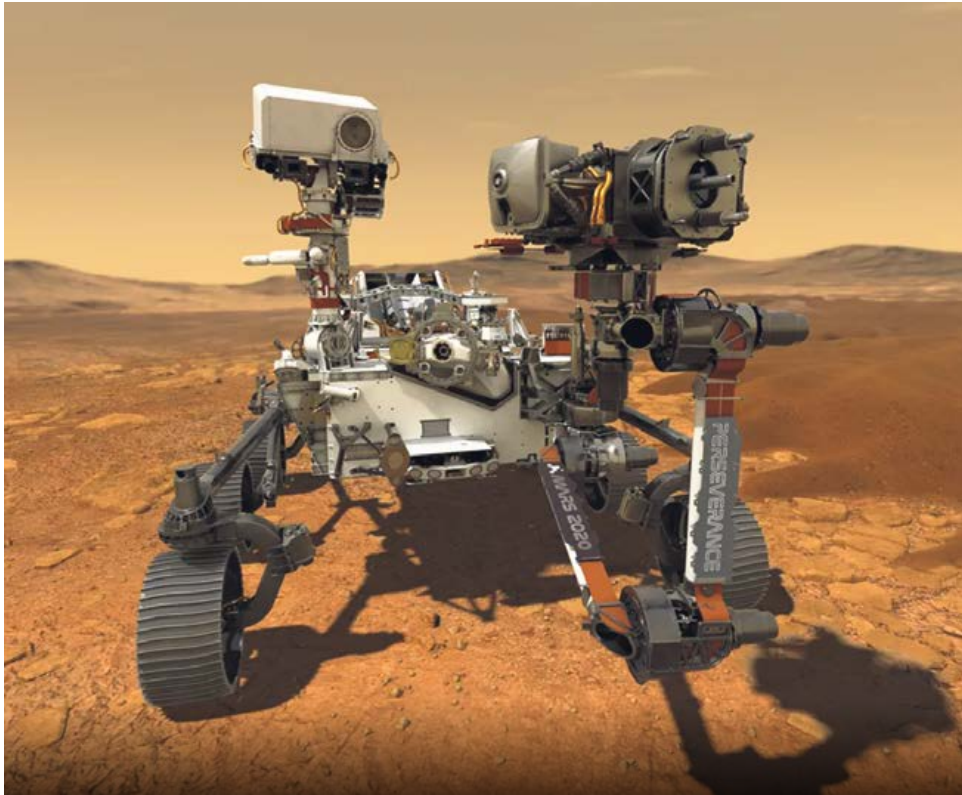
Arria holding the moon in Cumbernauld.
@eadietam

Stirling Castle



Sunset at Stirling Castle.
The Kilted Photographer

Rum rocks to play a key role in Mars space mission



Ancient rocks from the Isle of Rum are playing an important role in an international space mission to discover more about Mars. A group of scientists have been collecting samples of rock from the NatureScot National Nature Reserve (NNR) as part of the NASA and European Space Agency (ESA)'s Mars Sample Return Campaign. The campaign is assembling a defined set of rock samples from around the world that are comparable to rock samples

from the Red Planet that are scheduled to be brought to Earth in 2033. Due to its unique geology, Rum off the west coast of Scotland has been selected as the only UK site for sampling, as some of its igneous rocks have a very similar mineral and chemical content to those that have been collected by NASA's Perseverance Rover during its exploration of an ancient crater on Mars.

An intensive study of the rocks from Rum and other high-priority sample sites

will crucially help scientists understand what methods of testing and analysis will work best in readiness for when the Martian rocks are brought to Earth. As the first samples from another world, the Mars rocks are thought to present the best opportunity to reveal clues about the early evolution of the planet, including the potential for past life. The Rum sampling is being led by Dr Lydia Hallis, a geologist and planetary scientist from the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences at the University of Glasgow, and a member of the campaign's Science Group. The field team also included Dr Luke Daly from the University of Glasgow, Professor Helen Williams and Dr Simon Matthews from the University of Cambridge, Professor John Bridges from the University of Leicester, and Dr Mariek Schmidt from Brock University in Canada.

Scotland's world-class geology

Dr Hallis said: "These Rum rocks are an excellent comparison to a specific geologic unit on Mars - the igneous Séítah Formation within the Jezero crater - which is characterized by the mineral olivine, and which the NASA Perseverance Rover explored and sampled. Not only is the mineralogy and chemistry similar, but the two rocks appear to have a similar amount of weathering. This seems strange when we think how wet and warm Rum is compared to present day Mars, but billions of years ago when the Séítah

Formation crystallised on Mars the difference in environment would not have been so pronounced. At this time Mars was much wetter and warmer, with a thicker atmosphere that may even have produced rain (though not as much as we get in Scotland!). Over time the Martian atmosphere thinned leaving the surface much dryer and colder, essentially halting any further weathering within Séítah and preserving the rocks at Jezero Crater for us to investigate today. The rocks on Rum are younger geologically than those that have been collected on Mars by Perseverance, but their exposure to the Scottish elements has produced roughly the same amount of weathering as was produced in the Séítah Formation during Mars' early wet and warm climate. Because of all these similarities, analysis of the Rum rocks should give us a good head start and help the samples from the Red Planet achieve their full potential when they are returned to Earth."

Lesley Watt, NatureScot's Rum NNR reserve manager, added: "With its extinct volcanoes and dramatic mountains, Rum has always been one of the best places to discover Scotland's world-class geology, but we didn't quite realise that the rocks here were of interplanetary significance as well. It has been fascinating to learn more about the NASA/ESA mission, and really exciting for the island to play a small part in this truly historic endeavour to find out more about Mars. We hope it will add yet another element of interest for visitors to this special place."

Being a kid never gets old, as Beano celebrates 85th birthday



Scotland's longest running comic is celebrating its 85th birthday with a collectible front cover and comic strip. Created to celebrate the best bits of being a kid in 2023, the comic was edited in collaboration with thousands of kids - the most ever in *Beano's* history. Stormzy, Harry Styles and David Attenborough are the stars of *Beano's* 85th anniversary edition. The special commemorative issue also features King Charles and Queen Camilla, alongside celebrities from the world of music, cinema, TV and sport. The front cover and comic strip has been specially drawn by *Beano* artist, Nigel Parkinson. It sees the celebrities assist the Beantown kids in stopping Mayor Brown from carving his own face into Mount Beano for the birthday celebrations.

The pulse of the playground

The comic cover showcases King Charles wondering if he's the monarch in Beantown, as Queen

Camilla happily informs him that kids rule in the iconic fictional town. Each of the celebrities featured will become a proud owner of a Golden Dennis & Gnasher Fan Club badge to commemorate their role in *Beano's* birthday celebrations. The comic is still the pulse of the playground after eight decades of jokes and comic capers.

A nationwide poll of 3,000 kids aged 7-14 determined which celebrities would be included and who would make the front cover. Mike Stirling, Director of Mischief at *Beano* said, "As *Beano* proudly celebrates its 85th anniversary, it continues to champion the power and joy of childhood by doing what it's always done, showing kids being kids. Here's to the next 85 years, and we dedicate this birthday issue to every child out there, because being a kid never gets old."

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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.



"Fife's award-winning beaches are integral to the lives of both residents and visitors to Fife, who play an important part in keeping our 'Fringe of Gold' pleasant to visit. Our dedicated FCCT team take great pride in delivering the high standard that visitors and locals alike have come to expect. And it's a privilege to work with partners such as Keep Scotland Beautiful, Fife Council and the RNLI to meet those standards and achieve award-winning beaches."

Jeremy Harris, CEO at Fife Coast and Countryside Trust said, the beautiful Fife beaches that they manage have once again struck gold in the prestigious Scotland's Beach Award. Fife once again boasts the highest number of award-winning beaches including Elie Harbour Beach, Leven, Burntisland, St Andrew's East Sands, Aberdour Black Sands, Crail Roome Bay, Kingsbarns, Elie Ruby Bay, Billowness in Anstruther, Kinghorn Pettycur Bay, Kirkcaldy Seafield and Kirkcaldy Pathhead Sands. Scotland's Beach Award

is the only national benchmark for local environmental quality celebrating clean, well-managed and sustainable beaches.

"I opened the first page to see it was a first edition and thought it may be worthy of sending to the eBay team. I thought we'd get a maximum of £500 if we were lucky, so I couldn't believe it when I heard a few months later it had sold for over £10,000. To my knowledge this is one of the most valuable items donated to one of our stores."

Dundee charity shop manager Adam Carsley said a very rare first edition copy of *The Hobbit* was discovered in with donated items at the store. The cult fantasy novel was published in 1937, it is one of 1,500 copies from the original run that features black and white illustrations by author JRR Tolkien.



"This is a rare opportunity to live the dream lifestyle, in one of Scotland's most stunning rural areas. The surrounding area is renowned for its spectacular mountains, coastline and sea lochs and the creation of the North Coast 500

route has significantly boosted tourism to the area. The hostel is being sold fully equipped and thus the purchasers will be able to start welcoming guests soon after purchase. Anyone who has toyed with the idea of creating a tourism business in Scotland would be well advised to view the property and its extraordinary setting."

Agent Phiddy Robertson of the Galbraith Group said at the launch of the Stoer Hostel in Sutherland, considered one of the last great wildernesses in Europe. Stoer Hostel is located in the scattered hamlet of Stoer near Lochinver, on the North Coast 500, a popular tourist route and voted one of the world's most beautiful road trips. The hostel is in a stunning setting with views over an unspoilt landscape and towards Loch Neill Bhain. It has been advertised at offers over £275,000.

"People underestimate the importance of Kilmarnock. The reason the federation based itself here is because we recognise that had it not been for Kilmarnock, you certainly wouldn't have Burns as a name on your tongue. He had to be printed somewhere and that somewhere was Kilmarnock."

Marc Sherland, of the Robert Burns World Federation, said the East Ayrshire town of Kilmarnock is very important to the story of Robert Burns. The town recently held a festival featuring the poetry and music of Robert Burns to mark the 240th anniversary of his first

book, *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*, being published there. The *Kilmarnock Edition* is still considered today as one of his greatest works.



"The viaduct is an iconic landmark which attracts visitors from across the world, so we've worked hard to develop a solution which protects the structure while minimising the visual impact of our work. We explored a range of options to address the repair and the bracket we will install offers the best technical and visual solution that can be delivered in a way that will not disrupt passenger services on the line."

Alan Ross, director of engineering and asset management for Scotland's Railway, said as cracks have appeared on the iconic Highland landmark-the 122-year-old Glenfinnan Viaduct. The single-track viaduct at Glenfinnan spans 21 arches, each 15 metres in length and has been made recently for appearing in the *Harry Potter* film franchise.

New records reveal lives of lightkeepers



The employment records of more than one thousand lighthouse keepers are now available to see online for the first time on genealogy website ScotlandsPeople. Over 2,000 new scanned images of the records of the Northern Lighthouse Board give details

of over 1,300 lightkeepers working in 92 lighthouses between 1837 and 1921.

Lightkeepers had hard working lives: long days and nights maintaining light and fog signals, as well as cleaning and ensuring the upkeep of their isolated stations in harsh conditions. Many keepers lived in cramped spaces for long periods, often with only basic washing facilities or toilets. They could be isolated from family and friends while they did their crucial work maintaining the safety of shipping around the Scottish coast.

Shine a light on the working lives

The records cover all of Scotland, from Muckle Flugga near Shetland to the most

southerly at Drumore, Mull of Galloway. They also include Bell Rock, the world's oldest working sea-washed lighthouse, and the three keepers of the Flannan Isles who disappeared following a storm in 1900, presumed drowned. Jocelyn Grant, NRS Outreach and Learning archivist, said: "The last lighthouse was automated in 1998 and these records shine a light on the working lives of over 1,300 men in a profession that has now mostly passed into history. The Northern Lighthouse Board records are frequently requested by visitors to our buildings. If your ancestor worked in a Scottish lighthouse, there's a good chance you will find them here. This is



the latest in a series of popular record sets added to the National Records of Scotland genealogy service ScotlandsPeople as part of our wider programme making more of our archive holdings accessible to people across the country and around the world."

ScotlandsPeople is the country's official family and social history research website. Record indexes are free to search, with charges for viewing some images. For more details see: www.scotlandspeople.gov.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

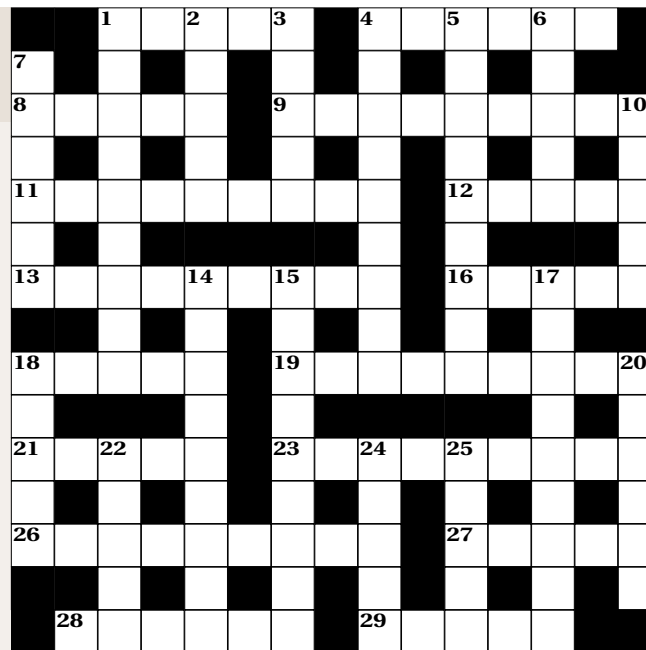
- 1) Scottish "reels!" (5).
- 4) Comet routes (6).
- 8) Lively Scottish dances (5).
- 9) Tayside town takes the biscuit! (9).
- 11) North-East fishing port (9).
- 12) Slackened off (5).
- 13) No backbone! (9).
- 16) As far as (5).
- 18) A dancer's low joint (5).
- 19) Non-voter (9).
- 21) A sickening strain (5).

- 23) He's a Lowlander (9).
- 26) Proposes (9).
- 27) Listlessness (5).
- 28) Jolly good in Scotland (6).
- 29) Tartan patterns (5).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) West coast airport (9).
- 2) Elevator! (5).
- 3) A sudden rise of water (5).
- 4) Excessive medicines (9).
- 5) Island of many lochs (9).

- 6) Dancing costumes (5).
- 7) Vine berries (6).
- 10) A mountaineering chant! (5).
- 14) Don't forget these mammals (9).
- 15) Shoulder this badge! (9).
- 17) Flats of many storeys! (9).
- 18) Its chief town is Brodick (5).
- 20) Top Gaelic group (6).
- 22) Time for a song! (5).
- 24) Talks imperfectly (5).
- 25) Behind in Scotland (5).



Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



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



The Dalmally Stones.

the UK's first female doctors. Working at a medical centre, she set up a women and children's hospital. Then when the first world war broke out, she and her partner, Louisa Garrett Anderson, decided to do something really courageous. In 1914 they travelled to France to offer to care for wounded soldiers. It was a bold move. Defence chiefs were highly sceptical of female effort, and, up to then, men had only been treated by male doctors. Nevertheless, the pair set up two hospitals – which were so successful that the war office asked them to return to London to run another military hospital. There in the city they recruited a team of nurses and other female doctors. Over the course of the conflict some fifty thousand injured servicemen would be cared for.

Through their efforts, countless lives were saved. In 1917 the ladies were honoured by the King with CBE medals. For her part, Flora was made a lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Army Medical Corps, making her the highest-ranking woman in the British armed forces. Yet the interest doesn't end there. Throughout all this Flora was a leading light in the suffragette movement - fighting for women to have the right to vote. Moreover, today she is seen as something of a gay icon: living openly as she did in a relationship with another woman. It was a brave decision at a time when such behaviour was unthinkable

to many. After the war she and Louisa lived in a country cottage with their two little dogs. Flora was just 54 when she died. The inscription on her gravestone read, 'we have been gloriously happy.'

The Dalmally Stones

And happy, too, is the MacGregor clan here in Scotland. Because a project that was conceived more than twenty-seven years ago has finally come to fruition. Yes, it was nearly three decades ago that the Clan Gregor Society began to look at the idea of saving a series of ancient burial artefacts lying in a west Highland churchyard. The Dalmally Stones are around six hundred years old. They feature knights in armour and floral patterns and are incredible examples of the Loch Awe school of carving. Originally, they would have lain around the altar in the nearby original medieval church and would once have been used to cover the graves of the earliest MacGregor clan chiefs. At some stage, though, they were taken outside where time and the elements were doing their worst.

Clan Gregor Society decided to act. Money was raised from members. Grants were applied for from heritage groups like Historic Environment Scotland, the Pilgrim Trust and the Strathmartine Trust. Leading the project was the society's chairman, Professor Richard McGregor, and American representative, Keith

MacGregor, although it soon became a team effort: USA and German members arriving to help. Others from closer to home turning up to offer refreshment and encouragement. Eventually the stones were lifted by conservators and under the eagle eye of an expert archaeologist, they were taken to Edinburgh for cleaning and restoration work. And now they are back, this time inside the Argyll church. You can see from the picture how majestic they are. How many clan societies can boast such an ambitious project, I wonder?! Well done Clan Gregor!

Donald MacLaren of MacLaren

Finally, condolences to another clan who are mourning a great loss. A former ambassador, Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, the pipe-playing, kilt-wearing Donald MacLaren of MacLaren was a tremendous character and a great cheerleader for Scotland.

Donald was also a good friend. And so, the MacGregor and I find ourselves in Perthshire in the Balquhiddier Glen. It is a typical Highland funeral. A mix of kilts, a sea of umbrellas as the rain falls on the ancient kirkyard. There are MacLarens from America and Australia. Clansmen and women who have crossed oceans to say farewell. Not yet seventy, Donald died too young. But he left his mark. He was a gentleman and a true Highlander. We are lucky, and proud, to have known him...

Greetings from Scotland where it has been - guess what - raining! Though there is some merit in living in a damp climate. For one thing, it's good for the complexion. A lack of sun means fewer wrinkles all round... Which is helpful when you are still appearing on TV... Which I am, and about to make a film about an amazing woman: someone who features on a Scottish banknote - and who deserves the recognition she is now getting. It's one hundred years since the death of Flora Murray. Born in the south of Scotland in the mid-Victorian age, Flora was one of



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 celebrate human achievements of discovery and exploration of Mars from Galileo Galilei who first discovered Mars back in 1610 to the Mars Rover perseverance which landed on Mars in 2020 and ongoing research. The colours are intended to reflect the planetary terrain and minerals found on Mars. This tartan (reference: 13953) was designed by the Paul Mark Moffat and registered in July, 2023.

ARGYLL HOTEL

GLASGOW

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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
¼ 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.

Drover's Soup

Ingredients:

2 level tablespoonfuls medium oatmeal
½ pint milk
¼ pint cream
1 tablespoonful parsley, chopped, for garnish
Salt and pepper, to season
1 large onion
1 pint chicken stock or a dissolved stock cube
1 tablespoonful butter or margarine

Method:

Melt the butter, chop the peeled onion finely and cook it in the butter until it is soft but not browned. Add the oatmeal and seasoning and cook for a few minutes. Add the stock, stirring, but not too briskly. Bring to the boil, then cover and allow to simmer for 30 minutes. Put through a sieve or liquidise for 1 minute. Return it to the pan and re-heat with the milk and cream added. Serve with parsley as garnish. Serves 4 to 6.

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
Serve vegetables of your choice
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.

Cranachan



Ingredients:

125g/4½ oz. jumbo oats (large rolled/porridge oats)
75g/3 oz. light muscovado sugar
250g/9 oz. mascarpone cheese
3-4 tablespoonfuls malt whisky, plus extra to serve

300ml/10 fl oz. double cream, lightly whipped
250g/9 oz. raspberries
Runny heather honey, optional

Method:

Put oats and sugar on a large sheet of foil and place under a hot grill for 3-4 minutes, stirring every 30 seconds or so. They burn quickly so watch carefully. Remove and leave to cool. Put the mascarpone in a bowl, add the whisky to taste, and beat until smooth. Fold this into the whipped cream with the cooled oat mixture. Once thoroughly combined, gently fold in the raspberries, taking care not to break them up. Tip into a glass bowl and cover and serve at once-, or chill for no more than an hour. Offer an optional drizzle of whisky — and heather honey, if desired. Serves 6.

Sporran breeze

Ingredients:

1 orange wedge
50ml single-malt whisky
2 tbsp. passion fruit syrup
25ml/1fl oz. fresh apple juice
25ml/1fl oz. cranberry juice
¼ apple, to garnish

Method:

Put the orange wedge, whisky, passion fruit syrup, apple juice and cranberry juice into a cocktail shaker. Add a handful of crushed ice and shake hard.

To serve, strain the cocktail into a highball glass fill with crushed ice. Garnish with the apple.

Bonnie Prince Charlie: recreation shows face of Jacobite rising



He is one of Scotland's most famous historical figures but more than 200 years after he died, Bonnie Prince Charlie has been given a new lease of life by experts at the University of Dundee. A team at the University's Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification (CAHID) has recreated the face of the Prince as he would have looked at the time of the Jacobite rising, his unsuccessful attempt to restore his father, James Francis Edward Stuart, to the British throne. Aged just 24 at this time, this new recreation has been produced using death masks of the Prince, which have been painstakingly photographed and mapped by Dundee researchers. Subsequently, 3D models were

produced with state-of-the-art software allowing experts to "de-age" the Prince to create a representation of him from the period he is best remembered.

Jacobite rising

"I have looked at previous reconstructions of historical figures and was interested as to how these could be done differently," said Barbora Veselá, a Masters student who initiated the project and whose work featured as part of the University of Dundee's annual Masters Show, which opened to the public in August. "I wanted to create an image of what he would have looked like during the Jacobite rising. There are death masks of Bonnie Prince Charlie that are accessible, while some

are in private collections. We also know that he suffered a stroke before he died, so that made the process of age regression even more interesting to me." Born to the exiled Stuart King James III of England and Ireland and VIII of Scotland, Prince Charles Edward Stuart sought to regain the Great British throne for his father in the Jacobite rising of 1745.

Despite some initial successes on the battlefield, his army was defeated by government forces at the Battle of Culloden, near Inverness, in April 1746 and he spent the next five months as a hunted man before eventually fleeing to France. He spent the rest of his life on the continent and died in Palazzo Muti, Rome, at the age of 67. Since his death, Bonnie Prince Charlie has continued to inspire writers and historians and has come to the attention of a new generation of admirers through depictions in modern media, including television shows such as *Outlander*.

Following his death, a cast of the Prince's face was taken, as was common for notable figures at the time. The Dundee team examined copies of two these masks - located at Highlife Highland's Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, and The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, creating a composite over several months. Barbora took photographs from all around the masks and then utilised photogrammetry software to establish a 3D model. In total, she estimates that almost 500 images have been taken of both masks as part of the recreation process.

New insight into European history

"It has been a pleasure to work with these artefacts," she continued. "The access I have been given has been incredible. There are moments, when you are working with the masks, that it suddenly strikes you that this was once a living person. We don't tend to think about the age of people when we study history, but Prince Charlie was just 24 years-old when he landed in Scotland and to visualise how young he was at this pivotal moment in history is fascinating. He has some interesting features. Beauty is a very subjective thing, but Bonnie Prince Charlie does have distinctive features, such as his nose and his eyes, that encourage you to study him. Hopefully this recreation encourages people to think about him as a person, instead of just a legend. At the same time, it is important not to romanticise him or the era of history. There are many accounts of him but having a face to look at helps us to view him as a human and not just a name from history."

CAHID's Dr Tobias Houlton, who specialises in craniofacial identification and forensic imaging, said that this new image would bring new interest in the life of the famous Prince. "This has been a hugely exciting project," he said. "Through many hours of hard work, Barbora has given us an exciting new insight into European history. This recreation will undoubtedly fascinate the public and the added dynamic of using artificial age-regression to bring him back to the Jacobite era, when he was most famous, showcases the range of expertise we have here at the University of Dundee."

Dressed to Kilt coming to Toronto



musicians. The show is as much a Scottish musical concert including everything from AC/DC and the Bay City Rollers to Calvin Harris and Lewis Capaldi. The attendees at the show always seem to move and rock to the beat of the runway music.

The Royal Canadian Legion

Canadian designers will also be invited to submit their designs for inclusion in the runway show. While the show highlights a number of Scotland's premier designers, it will also invite local designers that follow the theme of the "Dress for Adventure" show or designers that showcase the quality and versatility of Scottish fabrics like Harris Tweed, tartan and cashmere. The Toronto show will also honour the late Sir Sean Connery and the late Dame Vivienne Westwood, a huge supporter of Dressed to Kilt and of tartan.

The pulsating rhythm of fashion runways usually reverberates with cutthroat competition, rapid trend evolution and insatiable hunger for novelty. Amidst this dazzling, ever-changing spectacle, Dressed to Kilt has etched a distinctive identity that goes beyond merely showcasing celebrity models in traditional kilts or stunning professional models in the latest fashion-forward attire. At the heart of this show is charity and philanthropy. The charity facet of the fashion show is well-recognized within industry corridors. Dressed to Kilt has raised millions for Veteran's causes

throughout the years, earning acclaim and extensive recognition. The DTK Board of Directors agrees to raise funds for the Royal Canadian Legion with the Toronto show. The Royal Canadian Legion is the largest Veterans charity in Canada and it was founded by Veterans for the benefit of Veterans. They advocate for all who served Canada, regardless of where and when they served. They also provide assistance to their families at no cost. The Legion helps thousands of Veterans each year and makes positive changes in their lives.

For more details see: www.dressedtokilt.com



Following a very successful sold-out 20th anniversary Dressed to Kilt (DTK) fashion show in Washington DC, DTK has been invited to hold its 2024 show in Toronto, Canada. This will be a very important show as it will be the first time that the Dressed to Kilt show has been held outside the United States. The next show is now confirmed for Saturday evening, April 6, 2024 – Tartan Day. This day is a celebration of Scottish heritage and the cultural contributions of Scottish and Scottish-diaspora figures of history. It is not well known that Tartan Day was actually created in Canada. Founded in Nova Scotia in 1986 and then passed by the Ontario Legislature in 1991. The US Congress followed in 1998.

For those of you being introduced to Dressed to Kilt for the first time, it is the most prestigious and largest Scottish fashion show in the world. It is also one of the highest profile fashion shows in the United States in terms of press and media generation. It was co-founded in 2003 by the late Sir Sean Connery and Dr. Geoffrey Scott Carroll. Though the fashion runways of New York City are the home of Dressed to Kilt, this annual celebrity show has also performed to sold-out audiences in Los Angeles, California; Houston, Texas; and most recently Washington DC.

Dress for Adventure – From Caledonia to Canada

It is a celebrity filled evening of fashion and incredible excitement where previous runway models have included Sir Sean and Lady Connery, Brian Cox, Gerard Butler,

Billy Connolly, Kiefer Sutherland, Mike Myers, Kyle McLachlan, Chris Noth (Mr. Big), Alan Cumming, Matthew Modine, Robbie Coltrane, Rod Stewart. Joan Jett, the Victoria Secret Models, numerous Canadian and American Gold Medal Winning Olympic stars, President Trump (Scottish mother) and many more.

Scotland has had an extraordinary role in the settlement and development of Canada since its inception and Scots have been involved in every aspect of Canada's development. Scots-Canadians have been at the forefront of the Canadian state, its government, its commerce and its public affairs. Many of Canada's great universities bear the names of influential Scots who shaped their founding.

The theme of the Toronto fashion show will be "Dress for Adventure – From Caledonia to Canada". This is a tribute to the fashion of the countryside and the great outdoors. The runway becomes a stage for outdoor lifestyle fashion that encompasses hunting, shooting, riding, fishing and with the Toronto show this will include skating, skiing and winter sports in general. Creativity meets innovation on the DTK platform. There is a Country Chic look that is emerging, and this movement is bringing nature back into urban environments. The influence of the countryside in urban style (tweeds, tailoring, plaid, cashmere, leather and suede) is adding warmth and softness to the city silhouettes and attitudes.

All models will walk to Scottish music, either traditional or current and there are always live Scottish performers and

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY

Orkney commences the UK's first drone post services



Royal Mail and Skyports Drone Services have announced the launch of the Orkney I-Port operation, a drone delivery project established in partnership with Orkney Islands Council Harbour Authority and Loganair. Royal Mail and Skyports Drone Services have established a daily inter-island mail distribution service between three islands on Orkney. The project will initially operate for three months, with the intent to extend in the future. This is the first UK drone delivery project which can be conducted on a permanent basis under existing regulatory frameworks, using a multirotor drone is capable of carrying payloads of up to 6kg. This is due to the unique landscape of Orkney and the proximity of the islands to one another. This allows for flights to be conducted using extended visual line of sight (EVLOS) permissions rather than beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) permissions. Letters and parcels will be transported from Royal Mail's Kirkwall delivery office to Stromness, from where Skyports Drone Services will conduct drone deliveries to Royal Mail staff on Graemsay and Hoy. From these locations, postal workers will then carry out their usual island delivery routes. The weather and geography of Orkney can impact the ability to provide an uninterrupted delivery service.

For example, pauses in the ferry schedule – by which some mail is transported – are common during poor weather due to the challenges of docking safely. The I-Port operation significantly improves service levels and access for rural communities, significantly shortening delivery times to Graemsay and Hoy. The use of electric drones for inter-island delivery will also bring significant safety improvements, ensuring postal workers can deliver between ports and marinas throughout Orkney without risk. There will also be emission savings. Rt. Hon. Alistair Carmichael MP for Orkney and Shetland said: "I was glad to attend the drone tests and see their development for myself. Obviously these schemes are still at trial stage and so we should temper our expectations. Even so, anything that helps to maintain the universal service, especially in areas of the isles which are more difficult to reach, is something that we should give a chance to support. Royal Mail remains a critical part of keeping the isles connected – and local knowledge and care are vital to that network."

HMS Unicorn receives donation of over £1 Million to secure ship's future



The Unicorn Preservation Society, the charitable trust behind national treasure, HMS Unicorn, has received its biggest single

donation to date. Its first seven-figure sum of £1,110,930 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) will fund the necessary and urgent work required for the continued preservation of Scotland's oldest ship and much-loved Dundee Museum and visitor attraction. The generous grant from NHMF, which provides financial assistance towards the acquisition, preservation, and maintenance of some of the UK's most important objects and landscapes, has provided 95.69% of the total financial investment needed for immediate conservation repairs to HMS Unicorn.

Following consultation with engineers Fenton Holloway and shipwrights T. Neilsen and Company, the works will secure the future of the vessel in-line with National Historic Ship's advice on historic ship preservation. Fenton Holloway has extensive experience in the stabilisation and repair of large historic ships, most notably HMS Victory and SS Great Britain. Neilsen are traditional shipwrights, well-known for their work in maintaining large historic timber vessels like RRS Discovery, HMS Victory and HMS Trincomalee. The preservation work will look to restore strength and robustness to HMS Unicorn's hull and thereby improve her resilience at her current berth and ready her for her projected move to the nearby East Graving Dock. The work will range from the targeted enhancement of key parts of the structure through to replacement of rotten modern timbers in the hull of the ship. As the most original old ship in the world, the focus is to retain as much of the 1824 fabric as possible. The project looks to improve the long-term durability of the ship in a robust way, one that does not carry a complicated or expensive future maintenance burden.

This work follows recently completed repairs to the ship's unusual original roof to the value of £100,000 to help prevent rainwater causing further internal damage. Ray Macfarlane, Deputy Chair and Scotland trustee of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, said: "HMS Unicorn is a spectacular surviving relic of our maritime heritage. Holding nearly 200 years of history within its hull, it is not only the oldest ship in Scotland but one of the oldest in the world, and incredibly one of the last remaining warships from the age of sail, still afloat. The National Heritage Memorial Fund is proud to support the Unicorn Preservation Trust with a grant of over £1 million to sustain this great ship for public display." A £20,000 donation by American entrepreneur and self-made billionaire, John Paul DeJoria, in November 2022 and a £100,000 grant received from The Headley Trust in February provides the remaining funds required to carry out the immediate conservation work. HMS Unicorn will remain open to the public during this time, with minimal impact expected on visitor experience. The work will be completed in advance of the ship being moved to dry dock at East Graving Dock in Dundee for further major conservation works, as part of Project Safe Haven. First launched in 1824, HMS Unicorn is the third oldest ship in the world and has been under the care of the Unicorn Preservation Society since 1968. Scotland's only preserved warship, the Unicorn Preservation Society is working to protect and preserve HMS Unicorn for future generations to enjoy. To support the preservation of HMS Unicorn, please visit: www.hmsunicorn.org.uk/hms-unicorn/supporting-us

Exxon site transformation takes another step forward for City Deal



A major industrial and commercial development proposed for West Dunbartonshire has been approved after consideration by City Deal officials. The full business case for the £44m project was submitted to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet and outlined how the ExxonMobil site in Bowling will be transformed into a mixed-use development, with storage, distribution, industrial, business and office space. The project will also include a number of road improvements connecting to the site, including the addition of a 1.95km relief road through West Dunbartonshire. Of the 150 acre site, 47 acres is planned for development, with green network and green infrastructure enhancements including a waterfront pedestrian and cycle path being proposed. In addition, a heritage area has been identified around listed structure Dunglass Castle.

Following the final seal of approval, West Dunbartonshire Council can now progress with the project, which is expected to provide up to 980 full time jobs as well as an additional 660 jobs during the construction stage. It is expected to bring £43.8m of additional private investment, and £520.8m net additional GVA by 2037. Council Leader, Councillor Martin Rooney, said: "This approval from the City Region cabinet brings us another step closer to delivering on this hugely ambitious project, which will benefit our area for years to come. This project is expected to bring a huge amount of jobs in our area, as well as a return 26 times greater than our investment, which will be fantastic for West Dunbartonshire and the City Region as a whole. Residents will also see the benefits of a site which has been lying idle for years coming back into productive use." The Glasgow City Region City Deal is an agreement between the UK Government, the Scottish Government and eight Local Authorities across Glasgow and the Clyde Valley.

Mainland Britain's most remote pub reopens



An iconic and remote pub dating back to the 1700's has reopened in August following a refurbishment campaign. The Old Forge underwent a makeover and update thanks to some passionate locals who set up a community owned group in 2021 to save the historic pub. The pub was open last year but closed its doors in early 2023 to improve the structure and space. The Old Forge Community Benefit Society raised over £1 million through crowdfunding and grants to

undertake the purchase and improvements to the community hub, which include a new bar, roof and structural improvements. Located on Scotland's west coast, in the village of Inverie on the Knoydart Peninsula in Lochaber,

The Old Forge is only accessible by either walking 18 miles/29km. through tracks or by a 7 mile/11km. water crossing from Mallaig. Under the community ownership model, profits made at the pub will be reinvested back into business, not shareholders, and to projects that deliver wider community benefit to the local population of just over 100 people.

Spirits braced for inflation fuelling tax hike



As the largest duty increase on Scotch Whisky in 40 years comes into force, the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) has said the UK government has failed to keep the commitment it made when it promised to "ensure the tax system is supporting Scottish whisky." The double-digit tax rise takes the tax burden on the average priced bottle of Scotch Whisky from 70% to 75% and the reforms HM Treasury have implemented on the UK's duty system deepens the competitive disadvantage faced by distillers in pubs, bars and restaurants. Following the Spring Budget, the SWA launched the #KeepTheCommitment campaign to urge the Chancellor to reconsider the duty increase. Despite the campaign, and the HMRC revenue data that shows that spirits duty revenue to the Treasury has increased by 40% over the past decade following cuts and freezes to spirits duty, the UK government has chosen to continue with the duty hike. This will further fuel inflation at a time when businesses are trying to continue to invest in future growth and households are struggling with the rising cost of living. Ahead of a further budget in the autumn, the SWA has called on the Chancellor to rule out a further tax increase over the duration of this Parliament, and work with the industry to ensure the tax breaks available to beer and cider in the on-trade are open to the spirits industry.

Commenting on the tax increase, SWA Director of Strategy Graeme Littlejohn said: "The 10.1% duty increase is a hammer blow for distillers and consumers. At a time when inflation has only just started to creep downwards, this tax increase will continue to fuel inflation and make it more difficult for the Scotch Whisky industry to invest in growth and job creation in Scotland and across the UK supply chain. HM Treasury had a choice to make. Rather than choosing to back an industry which the UK government promised to support through the tax system, the government has chosen to impose the largest duty increase in almost half a century, increasing the cost of every bottle of Scotch Whisky sold in the UK by almost a pound and taking the tax burden on the average priced bottle to 75%. We urge the Chancellor to ensure that there are no further tax rises on Scotch Whisky for the remainder of this Parliament and work with the industry to repair some of the damage inflicted on Scotland's national drink."

International performers shine at The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



The United States Air Force Band, dressed in their full military uniform, relaxed after The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo with tea and scones at the 18th century baronial Scott Hotel, University of Edinburgh. Enjoying one of Britain's greatest traditions, the band took the opportunity to unwind after a busy run of performances at the Tattoo. Making their Tattoo debut this year, The United States Air Force Band took to Edinburgh Castle's Esplanade nightly to entertain Tattoo audiences with a freestyle musical performance with music from the *Great American Songbook*.

Meanwhile the cobbled streets of Edinburgh were brought to life by the colour and vibrancy of The Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Steel Orchestra. The Orchestra created a carnival atmosphere each night with their performances at The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and did the same at Victoria Street, wowing passersby

with their spectacular outfits. Set against the colour of the iconic Edinburgh street, the performers gave locals and tourists alike a glimpse of the colour of their performance at this year's Tattoo Show, *Stories*.

Wearing their striking red gala uniform, members of The Swiss Armed Forces Central Band wowed crowds at this year's The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo performance. Taking to the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade nightly to entertain Tattoo audiences, the band depicted the legendary tale of William Tell. According to Swiss folklore, William Tell was a heroic character who saved his community by standing against tyrannical rule. Famous for his marksmanship, Tell was forced to shoot an apple placed on his son's head for disobeying the authorities. The Swiss band recreated the famous scene from the story at Craigies Farm Orchard in South Queensferry, just outside Edinburgh. Each night they brought a mix of drama, pyrotechnics, and a crossbow to the world-renowned Edinburgh Castle during the August performances.

American Scottish Foundation's Annual Dinner and 2023 Wallace Awards

In the past 66 years, the American Scottish Foundation (ASF) has become a leading voice within our Scottish American community, supporting and amplifying our shared love of Scotland, its heritage and its culture. The Annual dinner allows people to get together, celebrate all things Scottish following the mission set out by their founder Lord Malcolm Douglas Hamilton that the American Scottish Foundation be a bridge between the United States and Scotland. This year the ASF will present the ASF Wallace Awards and the inaugural ASF Young Scots Wallace Awards.

Wallace Award for Philanthropy



This year's *Wallace Award for Philanthropy* to Garreth Wood, Scottish philanthropist and advocate. Garreth,

a Scottish philanthropist and businessman, founded a property company, The Speratus Group, in 2003. He then expanded into the hospitality business, eventually owning and running 11 venues across Scotland. In 2018, he and his wife Nicola sold the hospitality businesses and co-founded Kids Operating Room, a global health charity dedicated to increasing capacity for paediatric surgery in low- and middle-income countries. The charity has grown rapidly over the past 5 years and become one of Scotland's leading children's charities, installing 63 state-of-the-art operating rooms in 24 countries, and creating capacity for up to 100,000 life-saving operations on children.

Young Scot Wallace Award



This year, The American-Scottish Foundation presents its first ever *Young Scot Wallace Award* to Jamie Douglas-

Hamilton, Scottish entrepreneur and adventurer. Jamie is the founder of ACTIPH Alkaline Water, a market leader in Europe and the Middle East. He is a 15x Guinness World Record holder and was the first person in history to row across the Drake Passage from South America to Antarctica. In 2022 Jamie won the Great British Entrepreneur of the year and was included in *Sunday Times* list of top 100 most disruptive entrepreneurs. Jamie follows in the footsteps of his Grandfather and Uncles all intrepid adventurers – and ASF founder Lord Malcolm Douglas Hamilton - great Uncle to Jamie who will be approving of this award.



The American Scottish Foundation Annual Dinner and Wallace Awards will take place Friday, November 3, 2023 in New York City. For full details see: www.americanscottishfoundation.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
Ceilidh Dinner

On and near the campus of PennWest University – Edinboro. FREE ADMISSION to events*.

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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Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia

All images courtesy of Alan Harvey/SNS Group and Glasgow Life.



take the title of 2023 World Pipe Band Champions



The spectacular finale of The World Pipe Band Championships saw Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band crowned the winners of the renowned international contest. It is the long-established Scottish pipe band's first-ever World Champions title. Based in Bathgate, West Lothian, Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia fought off stiff competition from runners-up, and 2022 champions, Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band of Lisburn, Northern Ireland. Last year's runners up, Inveraray and District Pipe Band, finished in third place.

Around 35,000 spectators descended on Glasgow Green to watch 190 bands compete for the world champions title.

This year's 'ultimate battle of the bands', which took place on Glasgow Green yesterday and today, attracted around 35,000 spectators. The highly anticipated championships represent the pinnacle of the competitive pipe band calendar.

The event always attracts thousands of pipers and drummers to Scotland, reflecting the level of worldwide interest in our national instrument. Glasgow, a UNESCO City of Music, first hosted the World Pipe Band Championships 75 years ago in 1948, and has hosted the event every year since 1986.





Glasgow's Lord Provost Jacqueline McLaren, Chieftain of The World Pipe Band Championships, said: "It has been wonderful for the city to host the Worlds once again, bringing together the planet's finest and most talented pipers and drummers. It's a contest of huge importance to the global pipe band community and a firm cultural favourite here. Our thanks go to all the musicians and, of course, congratulations to Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band on bringing the World Champions title back home to Scotland."

Kevin Reilly, Chairman of The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, added: "All of the pipers and drummers who gathered in Glasgow for this year's championships did their bands and their countries proud. They treated our audiences to an incredible display of talent and skill, making the event a huge success and unforgettable experience. Huge congratulations go to our 2023 World Champions Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band – they are very deserving winners."

Incredible display of talent and skill

The 2023 championships saw 15 countries represented. With 190 bands taking part in this year's Worlds, just under 9,000 pipers and drummers took to the field to play over the two days. The nations featuring in this year's line-up of contenders included Australia, Canada, USA, England, Northern Ireland, Israel, Malaysia, and Zimbabwe. The largest contingent of bands – a total of 116 – came from Scotland.



The planet's flagship pipe band contest

As the planet's flagship pipe band contest, the annual event brings together thousands of pipers and drummers from all over the world for the ultimate 'battle of the bands'. It attracts thousands of supporters and spectators to experience the contest live.

Around 35,000 spectators descended on Glasgow Green to watch 190 bands compete for the world champions title in August. The event – which is filmed by BBC Scotland and streamed over the internet – also attracts huge virtual international audiences, reflecting the level of global interest in Scotland's national music. Competition for the 2023 Worlds were more fiercely contested than last year as the number of bands and nations taking part increased.



2023 World Pipe Band Championships facts:

- 190 bands, representing 15 countries, taking part. The A to Z line-up of nations competing, from Australia to Zimbabwe, features: Australia (5 bands), Belgium (2 bands), Canada (12 bands), Eire (8 bands), England (6 bands), France (2 bands), Israel (1 band), Malaysia (1 band), Netherlands (1 band), New Zealand (4 bands), Northern Ireland (21 bands), Oman (2 bands), Scotland (116 bands), USA (8 bands) Zimbabwe (1 band).
- Around 8,850 pipers and drummers amassing on Glasgow Green (based on average number of band members) – all resplendent in their band uniforms of kilts in a variety of vibrant tartans, worn with sporrans and Glengarry bonnets.
- Just under 40,000 metres/40 km/25 miles of tartan kilt fabric. (Based on premium, traditional length. The length of material used in a kilt can vary from between 5 metres to around 7.5 metres).
- Competitors ranging from juveniles and novice juveniles to experienced seniors. Around 40% of the competitors are under 21; the youngest are in their early teens and the oldest are in their 70s.
- Bands playing a wealth of traditional Scottish musical pieces. Playing requirements differ according to the band's grade, from march time signatures at lower levels to MSR (a set of tunes consisting of a march, a strathspey and a reel; three different simple time metres) or musical medleys of varying durations, at higher levels. Grade 1 bands play MSR and a medley.
- 103 trophies awarded across the 9 contest grades – plus the ultimate World Champions title.

2023 World Pipe Band Championships results

Grade 1

- 1st Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia (Scotland)
 - 2nd Field Marshal Montgomery (Northern Ireland)
 - 3rd Inveraray & District (Scotland)
 - 4th Simon Fraser University (Canada)
 - 5th Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia (Scotland)
 - 6th St. Laurence O'Toole (Republic of Ireland)
 - 7th Police Scotland Fife (Scotland)
 - 8th ScottishPower (Scotland)
 - 9th Manawatu (New Zealand)
 - 10th Canterbury Caledonian Society (New Zealand)
 - 11th Johnstone (Scotland)
 - 12th Police Scotland & Federation (Scotland)
 - 13th 78th Fraser Highlanders (Canada)
 - 14th St. Thomas Alumni (USA)
 - 15th Auckland & District (New Zealand)
 - 16th Cloiskelt (Northern Ireland)
- Drumming: Simon Fraser University (Canada)

Grade 2

- 1st Royal Burgh of Annan (Scotland)
- 2nd Buchan Peterson (Scotland)
- 3rd Manorcunningham (Republic of Ireland)
- 4th Portlethen & District (Scotland)
- 5th Ravara (Northern Ireland)
- 6th Uddingston (Scotland)
- 7th North Stratton (Canada)
- 8th City of Edinburgh (Scotland)
- 9th Peel Regional Police (Canada)
- 10th Ulster Scottish (USA)
- 11th Glasgow Skye Association (Scotland)
- 12th St. Joseph's (Republic of Ireland)
- 13th Brieg (Brittany)
- 14th MacMillan (USA)
- 15th Los Angeles Scots (USA)
- 16th Kilchoman Distillery Isle of Islay (Scotland)
- 17th Highland Granite (Scotland)
- 18th Oban (Scotland)
- 19th Worcester Kiltie (USA)
- 20th City of Discovery (Scotland)

Grade 3A

- 1st Tullylagan (Northern Ireland)
- 2nd Robert Malcolm Memorial (Canada)
- 3rd Vale of Atholl (Scotland)
- 4th Coalburn IOR (Scotland)
- 5th McNeillstown (Northern Ireland)
- 6th Clogher & District (Northern Ireland)
- 7th Major Sinclair Memorial (Northern Ireland)
- 8th Deeside Caledonia (Scotland)
- 9th Killoag (Northern Ireland)
- 10th City of Newcastle (England)
- 11th College of Piping (Canada)
- 12th City of London (England)

Grade 3B

- 1st Haileybury (Australia)
- 2nd Cullybackey (Northern Ireland)
- 3rd Macanta (England)
- 4th Ross & Cromarty (Scotland)
- 5th Methil & District (Scotland)
- 6th Lower Clyde (Scotland)
- 7th Aven & District (France)
- 8th Ayr Society (Scotland)
- 9th Mid-Argyll (Scotland)
- 10th Arbroath (Scotland)
- 11th Niagara Regional Police (Canada)
- 12th Belgian Blend (Belgium)
- 13th Tweedvale (Scotland)
- 14th Scottish Borders (Scotland)

Grade 4A

- 1st Burntisland & District (Scotland)
- 2nd Syerla & District (Northern Ireland)
- 3rd Cape Breton Island (Canada)
- 4th Cloughfin (Northern Ireland)
- 5th Gransha (Northern Ireland)
- 6th Rothesay & District (Scotland)
- 7th Raphoe Ulster Scots (Republic of Ireland)
- 8th Kintyre Schools (Scotland)
- 9th Sri Dasmesh (Malaysia)
- 10th Ballyboley (Northern Ireland)
- 11th Kilbarchan (Scotland)
- 12th Uddingston Strathclyde (Scotland)

Grade 4B

- 1st Scots School Albury (Australia)
- 2nd Royal Army of Oman (Oman)
- 3rd Letterkenny & District (Ireland)
- 4th Govan Community (Scotland)
- 5th City of Aberdeen (Scotland)
- 6th City of Discovery (Scotland)
- 7th Altnaveigh Memorial (Northern Ireland)
- 8th Irvine Memorial (Scotland)
- 9th Bready Ulster Scots (Northern Ireland)
- 10th Barrhead & District (Scotland)
- 11th Dunoon Argyll (Scotland)
- 12th Fraserburgh Royal British Legion (Scotland)

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Death of St Giles, patron saint of Edinburgh (and Elgin). **714**

1 - The sole remaining gas streetlamp in Glasgow was lit for the last time. **1971**



1 - Cairngorms National Park created and the UK's largest National Park, it was Scotland's second national park after Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, created in 2002. **2003**

2 - Death of engineer, road, bridge and canal builder Thomas Telford. He was buried in Westminster Abbey. **1834**

2 - Bill Shankly, arguably the greatest football manager ever, was born in Glenbuck, Ayrshire. His early career saw him winning seven caps for Scotland as a professional footballer. At the age of 33, Shankly was approaching the end of his playing days, so when the 1946 - 47 season brought professional football back post-war, Shankly embarked on a new career as a manager, he was appointed chairman of Liverpool in 1959. At this time Liverpool was languishing in the Second Division. Shankly turned this situation around and elevated Liverpool to the top of the league, the envy of all other clubs. Shankly died of a heart attack in 1981. **1913**

3 - Prince Charles Edward Stuart proclaimed his father as King James VIII of Scotland at Perth. **1745**

3 - Rioting on the streets of Glasgow, as weavers expressed their anger at wage cuts. Workers burned their looms in the streets, and bricks were thrown at magistrates and soldiers, in protest at the city manufacturers' proposal to reduce the scale of wages. The disorder resulted in soldiers opening fire on the insurgents and six people were killed. **1797**



4 - The last of the famous green and yellow tramcars ran in Glasgow. The final scheduled tram ran from Dalmuir to Auchenshuggle in the city's East End, and marked the demise of a transportation system dating from August 1872. More than 200,000 Glaswegians turned out to bid a poignant farewell to the trams. **1962**

4 - The Forth Road Bridge was opened to the public. Construction had begun in 1958, and at 6,156 feet long, with a centre span of 3300 feet, the suspension bridge spanning the River Forth at South Queensferry outside Edinburgh was the longest in Europe at that time. **1964**

4 - Queen Elizabeth officially opened the Queensferry Crossing. She was accompanied by Prince Philip as she cut the ribbon on the £1.35bn road bridge - exactly 53 years after she opened the Forth Road Bridge. The 1.7 miles (2.7km) structure is the longest three - tower, cable - stayed bridge in the world. **2017**

4 - 5 - Margaret Thatcher becomes the first serving Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to visit Shetland. **1980**

5 - John Home, the Scottish playwright, historian and minister, died. Home outraged the Church when his verse tragedy, *Douglas*, enjoyed a successful run in Edinburgh after its first performance in 1757. **1808**

6 - The Earl of Mar unfurled the standard of the "Old Pretender" in Braemar at the start of the first Jacobite Uprising. **1715**

6 - Rail transport returns to the Scottish Borders after 46 years with the reopening of the Waverley Route between Edinburgh and Tweedbank, under the name of the Borders Railway. **2015**

7 - Sir Simon Fraser, the "Scottish Patriot", who fought alongside Wallace and Robert the Bruce, was executed by the English and his head displayed in London alongside that of Wallace. **1306**

7 - The birth of Henry Campbell Bannerman, the British Prime Minister. Born in Glasgow and educated at Glasgow and Cambridge, Bannerman became the Liberal MP for Stirling in 1868, a position he held until his death. He climbed the parliamentary ranks, before becoming leader of the Liberal Party in 1899. Bannerman became Prime Minister in 1905 following Balfour's resignation, and led his party to a landslide victory in the 1906 general election. **1836**

8 - The hanging and beheading of John Baird and Andrew Hardie in Stirling, following the Battle of Bonnymuir in April. The Radicals, who were on strike from the weaving communities in outrage at decreased wages, had marched from Glasgow towards the Carron Iron Works in Falkirk. **1820**

8 - Queen Elizabeth dies at Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire. Her reign of over 70 years is the longest of any British monarch and the longest reign of any female head of state in history. **2022**

9 - James IV and the flower of Scotland's nobility were killed in battle at Flodden Field, near Branxton, in the English county of Northumberland. **1513**

9 - Mary Queen of Scots was crowned in the security of Stirling Castle. Although only six days old at the time, Mary's coronation took place in the castle chapel following the death of her father, James V. **1543**

9 - *MS Norseia* launched at Govan, the largest passenger ship built on the Clyde and last large passenger ship built in the UK. **1986**

10 - The Scots were defeated by the English at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh, or Falside, near Edinburgh. The battle was sparked by the "Rough Wooing"; the English demands that the ten - year - old Edward VI should marry Mary Queen of Scots, aged five. The military campaign by Henry VIII on the Borders followed the reneged agreement by the Scots Parliament that the two crowns would be united by marriage. The battle was fought at Pinkie Cleugh (cleugh meaning narrow glen in Gaelic) outside Musselburgh and can be regarded as the first "modern" battle on British soil. **1547**



10 - HRH Duke of York opened the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow. **1897**

11 - Battle of Stirling Bridge, Wallace (as famously portrayed by Mel Gibson in *Braveheart*) and Andrew de Moray led Scotland to victory against the forces of England's King Edward I. **1297**

11 - The Referendum on Devolution in Scotland which approved the creation of a new Scottish Parliament. In the 1990s, the Labour Party had revived the idea of devolution and, on their return to power in 1997, the first moves were made. The referendum received an overwhelming "Yes" vote in favour of establishing a Scottish assembly with tax - raising powers, with 74.3 per cent voting for a Scottish parliament and 63.5 per cent in favour of it having tax - raising powers. The Scottish Parliament was formally opened by the Queen on 1 July 1999, with Labour politician Donald Dewar invested as the first minister, at the helm of a Labour - Liberal Democrat coalition government. **1997**

12 - Jacobites defeated government forces at Battle of Sheriffmuir. **1715**

12 - The death of William McNab, the curator of the Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden. McNab was one of the greatest of 19th century Scottish gardeners, responsible for reviving the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh, elevating it from a state of neglect into one of the world's great plant collections. **1848**

13 - Battle of Aberdeen, in which the Marquis of Montrose captured the city. **1644**

14 - Bonnie Prince Charlie, Charles Edward Stuart, occupied Edinburgh. **1745**

15 - The *Hector* from Loch Broom, near Ullapool, arrives at Pictou, Nova Scotia, carrying emigrants escaping from the Clearances. It is estimated that today there are more than 140,000 descendants of these emigrants living in Canada and the United States. **1773**

15 - V&A Dundee, designed by Kengo Kuma, opens as a museum of design transforming Dundee's waterfront precinct. The V&A Dundee is the first design museum in Scotland and the first Victoria and Albert museum outside London. **2018**

16 - Jacobite forces routed Hanoverian dragoons on the outskirts of Edinburgh in what was known as the Canter of Colbrig. At the beginning of September Charles had entered Perth. He had then crossed the Forth unopposed at the Fords of Frew and, after passing through Stirling and Linlithgow, he arrived within a few miles of Edinburgh. **1745**

16 - Scottish explorer David Livingstone discovered Lake Nyasa, Africa. **1859**

17 - David Dunbar Buick was born in Arbroath. Buick emigrated to the USA with his parents at the age of two and founded the Buick Manufacturing Company which later became General Motors. **1854**

18 - Theatre Royal, Glasgow, became the first theatre in Britain to be lit by gas. The Queen Street Theatre's consent to be "illuminated with sparkling gas" in the presence of a large and fashionable audience was a significant advance. **1818**



18 - The Clyde Arc, a pedestrian/ cycle bridge over the River Clyde at Finnieston, is officially opened. **2006**

18 - Scotland holds a Referendum on independence. More than 3.6m people turned out to answer the referendum question: 'Should Scotland be an independent country?' 55.3% voted no and 44.7% voted yes. **2014**

19 - The Great North of Scotland Railway opened, running from Aberdeen to Huntly. **1854**

20 - Liner *Queen Elizabeth II* launched at John Brown's shipyard at Clydebank. The ship was not named after the Queen, but rather was the second ship to bear that name. This is why the Arabic '2' is used in the name rather than the Roman numerals used by the Queen. The ship made its maiden voyage in 1969. **1967**

21 - King James V crowned at Stirling Castle. **1513**

21 - Prince Charles Edward Stuart emerged victorious at the Battle of Prestonpans. The Jacobite army of just over 3,000 under Bonnie Prince Charlie heavily defeated the English Royal forces led by Sir John Cope. **1745**

22 - Alex Salmond defeated Margaret Ewing by 486 votes to 186 to become National Convenor of the Scottish National Party (SNP). Salmond is credited with improving the credibility of the SNP by projecting a moderate image and presenting the party as a realistic alternative to the Labour Party. He would go on to become First Minister of Scotland. **1990**



23 - The Earl of Mar was commissioned to raise a regiment nicknamed "Earl of Mar's Gray Breeks" which later became the Royal Scots Fusiliers. **1678**

24 - Edward Balliol, son of John Balliol, crowned at Scone. He was deposed by supporters of David II in December 1332, restored in 1333, deposed again in 1334, restored in 1335 and finally deposed in 1341. **1332**

25 - The first telephone cable connecting the UK and North America "went live". 2,240 miles long, the cable ran from Gallanach Bay, near Oban in Argyll and Bute, to Clarenville, Canada. **1956**

25 - The last steam locomotive built in Scotland, by Andrew Barclay Sons & Co. of Kilmarnock, is despatched to its customer in Sumatra. **1962**

26 - Queen Margaret, Maid of Norway ("Eiriksdotter") died, enroute from Norway to Scotland. **1290**

27 - Scotland's first passenger railway, between Glasgow and Garnkirk, opened. The formation of the Glasgow to Garnkirk line stemmed from that need for transporting industrial goods. However, the success of the line was due to its having been specially constructed to also carry passenger traffic. **1831**



27 - The 80,000 - ton liner *Queen Elizabeth*, then the largest passenger ship ever built, launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank. **1938**

27 - The first episode of the sitcom *Rab C. Nesbitt* starring Gregor Fisher in the title role, is broadcast on BBC Two. The programme would run until 1999. **1990**

28 - "Battle of the Clans" between clans Chattan and Kay on the North Inch, Perth, in front of King Robert III. Clan Chattan was declared victorious. **1396**

28 - Ayrshire born Sir Alexander Fleming invented penicillin, today it is the most widely used antibiotic in the world. Sir Alexander Fleming won The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1945 and died in 1955. His ashes are interred at St Paul's Cathedral in London. **1928**

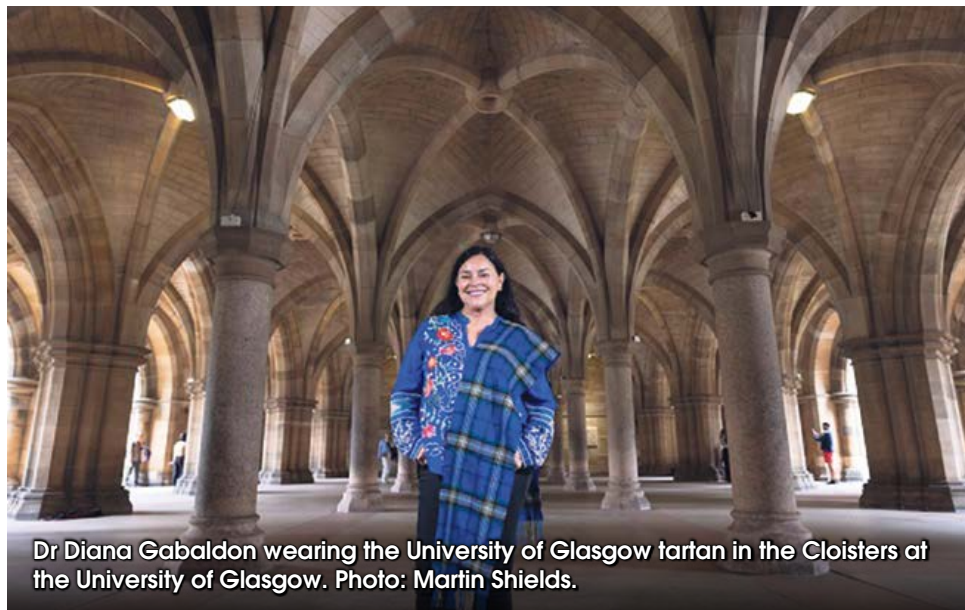
29 - Charter granted to Sir William Alexander of Menstrie to colonise the "Baronetcy of Nova Scotia". **1621**

29 - John Cobb made an attempt at the world water - speed record on Loch Ness which ended in tragedy as the boat crashed and Cobb was killed. Cobb was a racing driver who had broken the land speed record in 1938, 1939, and 1947, when he became the first man ever to attain a speed of 400 miles per hour on land. In 1952 he made an attempt on the water speed record. On his first run, he became the first person to break the 200 miles per hour barrier, but his boat crashed shortly afterwards and he was killed. **1952**

30 - John Rae, explorer and surveyor of Canada's northern coastline was born in Orkney. Several Orkney born explorers worked in the Canadian Arctic in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, but Rae was the most outstanding. Rae was recently granted a posthumous Freedom of Orkney from the local officials. **1813**

30 - Announcement of the discovery of penicillin by Ayrshire - born Sir Alexander Fleming. **1928**

Outlander author gives fascinating insight into her creative writing process



Dr Diana Gabaldon wearing the University of Glasgow tartan in the Cloisters at the University of Glasgow. Photo: Martin Shields.

The author revealed in her talk at the University of Glasgow's Outlander conference that her career as a published author nearly finished before it began.

Outlander author Diana Gabaldon opened the 1st international Outlander conference at the University of Glasgow recently and gave a fascinating insight into her creative writing process. Expert scholars and Outlander fans joined Dr Gabaldon to tackle themes such as Jacobite history, screen production, Scottish tourism, Gaelic and Scots, costume design, fandom, Claire Fraser's medicine, and witchcraft.

The Outlander literary series is made up of nine thrilling instalments and tells the tale of a post-Second World War nurse who accidentally time travels to Jacobite Scotland.

Outlander has now become one of the bestselling book series of all time and spawned the hugely popular TV series, currently in its seventh season.

The nature of Scottish history

Dr Gabaldon's talk was entitled, "Why Scotland? Why Not Mexico?" Genes, Borders, Culture and Fiction: Why They Matter and When They Don't. The author, who was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Glasgow last year, revealed that her career as a published author nearly finished before it began.

She said her first book almost got cancelled due to the difficulty in how to categorise it, adding: "It took the publishers 18 months to figure out what to do with it.

I learned later that they came very close to cancelling the contract and giving me back the book because they couldn't decide how to sell it. This was before Amazon where a book can be classified as several things at once and people can pick off the web what they want, and they still get the same book. Whereas back in the day it was only bookstores, you had to put a book on a certain shelf, the shelf had to have a label and the book also had to have that label.

"My agent finally called me up and said they had decided to publish it but sell it as a romance. I said, 'What?' that isn't what I wrote. He pointed out that a best seller in fantasy fiction was 50,000 copies in paperback while in romance it is 500,000 copies. So, we sold it as romance. My first editor said to me early on these have to be word of mouths books because they are too weird to describe, which is totally true and that is also true about the word of mouth. So that being the case it made total sense to expose the book to 500,000 people in the romance category who will go out and tell their friends and the word will spread. So, we did that and that is exactly what happened."

She also explained why she picked Scotland as the location of Outlander. Dr Gabaldon said: "Why Scotland? What I learned from my research and contact with Scots is that Scots are and historically were very literate. They wrote down things. They also have a very strong oral culture; they told their stories. They also have a

lot of history available. Then there is the nature of Scottish history, it has a lot of heroes and heroines as well as conflict which is what you need for a good story."

Vivid and visceral

Professor Willy Maley, Professor of Renaissance Studies (English Literature), at the University of Glasgow's School of Critical Studies, said: "We are delighted to welcome Diana Gabaldon back to the University of Glasgow. Diana Gabaldon's Outlander series has had a transformative impact on Scottish culture, generating global interest in the history, languages and landscapes of Scotland. Richly researched, the books open up question about eighteenth-century Scotland and pivotal events like Culloden to a world readership, at a time when new scholarship suggests that some of this history has still to be written or is in need of revision. A notable feature of Outlander is its frank treatment of female sexuality and sexual relations on the whole, including sexual violence. Vivid and visceral, Outlander is an otherworldly but never unworldly phenomenon that takes a time-travelling nurse-turned-doctor and propels her from 1946 to 1743, two worlds of war that collide in an elaborate and painstaking reconstruction that make the series much more than historical fiction and more an innovative and pioneering rethinking of how we excavate and examine the narratives of the past. Shot entirely in Scotland Outlander has also been a brilliant boost for the Scottish film industry."



St Magnus Cathedral. Photo: VisitScotland.

Lord Reay inaugurated as 29th Chief of Clan Mackay at ceremony in Sutherland

The inauguration of the Chief of the Clan Mackay took at Strathnaver Museum in Sutherland, on Saturday 19th August. The recently refurbished museum is located in the heart of traditional Mackay territory and is home to the Clan Mackay Centre. During the inauguration, Aeneas Simon Mackay, 15th Lord Reay was officially appointed as the 29th Chief of Clan Mackay. He inherits the title and related responsibilities of Chief of Mackay following the death of his father, Sir Hugh William Mackay (14th Lord Reay) in 2013. Organised by the Clan Mackay Society, the inauguration ceremony was conducted in accordance with ancient Highland customs and traditions dating back to pre-Christian Scotland.

The ceremonial gathering was centred on and incorporate the Farr Stone, which is an ancient standing stone carved with Celtic symbols. It has been a monument in Farr since at least the 9th century. Following a procession of pipers and banner bearers the Chief was officially inaugurated by the clan in a ceremony with centuries-old roots. In assuming the leadership responsibilities of Chief of Mackay, Lord Reay will ensure that the traditions and customs of Clan Mackay which have been passed down for generations are respected and preserved for future generations.

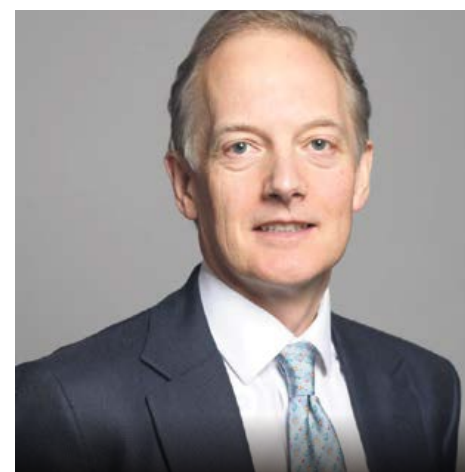
The importance of ancestral history

As Lord Reay (Chief of the Clan Mackay) commented: "The role of the Clan Chief in modern times, although largely ceremonial, consists of representing the clan and its

heritage to the wider world. The Chief, as I see it, is responsible for ensuring that the next generation understands the importance of their ancestral history. As such, the role is somewhat ambassadorial in nature, representing the clan in a positive light whilst preserving and promoting its cultural heritage".

The Chief and his family were joined at the ceremony by hundreds of Clan Mackay members from across the globe, representatives of the local community, invited dignitaries and Clan Chiefs. A weekend of celebrations in the local area to commemorate the event included a meet and greet reception at Bettyhill Village Hall; traditional ceilidh and music at Strathy Hall; a service in Melness Church; and visits to Clan Mackay sites of historical significance.

For more information on the Clan Mackay Society see: www.clanmackaysociety.co.uk



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) Name the stretch of water that separates the Orkney Islands from mainland Scotland?
- 2) Who wrote *The 39 Steps*?
- 3) When was the Forth and Clyde Canal opened from sea to sea - a) 1920, b) 1840 or c) 1790?
- 4) According to legend how many times may the Clan MacLeod call on the help of their Fairy Flag - once, twice or three times?
- 5) Where is St Magnus Cathedral?
- 6) Scotland's longest river runs for 120 miles - is it the Clyde, the Tay or the Spey?
- 7) The *New York Herald* was founded in 1840 by which Scotsman?
- 8) In old Scots what would the term "Iowan drouth" mean?
- 9) Name the Scot who discovered the sources of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers in 1784?
- 10) A runrig, the name adopted by the Scots rock group, was common in Highland villages - what was it?

Answers

- 1) The Pentland Firth.
- 2) John Buchan.
- 3) C) 1790.
- 4) Three times.
- 5) Kirkwall, Orkney.
- 6) The River Tay.
- 7) James Gordon Bennett.
- 8) A burning thirst.
- 9) Botanist James McKay.
- 10) A strip of agricultural land.

Duke of Sutherland's Coal Mine



Dunrobin Castle Station.



3rd Duke of Sutherland.

In 1871, he arranged for a fifty-acre field at Uppat, near Dunrobin to be ploughed using a special plough from Fowlers of Leeds, presumably transported there by rail. Very satisfied with the results, by 1878 some 28,000 acres had been developed in Sutherland involving work for five hundred men. One large area was by Loch Shin, near Lairg. The duke built a lunch box there so that he could show off his ideas for improving the land.

The industrial town of the Highlands

In 1874, the duke invited a group of mining and mechanical engineers including David Jones, Highland Railway Locomotive Superintendent, to see some of his enterprises including the work at Loch Shin. They travelled north as far as Georgemas, near Thurso on the line from Helmsdale and viewed a machine for converting peat into charcoal. They descended into the coal mine where a four-foot seam was being worked and finally saw a display of dynamite. Finding workers for the mine and brickworks may have been a problem. In the main street of Brora there is a row of very English looking brick terrace houses that the duke built for his staff. As the coal was not very good quality, it was mixed with better coal from the south which was transported by rail to Brora. The mixture was then sent south by rail to be sold to the public in Inverness and elsewhere. During this period Brora became the industrial town of the Highlands.

The 3rd Duke died in 1892 aged sixty-three and was succeeded by his son, Cromartie who carried on some of his Father's enterprises including the replacement of the old station building and driving the railway engine. The coal mine and brickworks continued under different father ownership until 1974. In the 21st century, a heritage centre explains further about these interesting developments.

By: Anne-Mary Paterson

The arrival of the railway at Brora, Sutherland in June 1871 was a special day especially for the 3rd Duke of Sutherland who had great plans for Brora. He was interested in engineering, particularly steam engines, and had spent some time at the London & North Western Railway works in England at Wolverton, north of Milton Keynes so that he could learn about railways.

Another project was the coal mine at Brora. How is there a mine so many miles from the Carboniferous coalfields in Fife and Central Scotland? Dorset and Devon are world famous for their Jurassic Coast, but there is another around Brora on the north east coast of Scotland. The Beatrice Oilfield off the coast of Caithness, the only production platform visible from mainland Britain, is part of this geology. What we know about Brora Jurassic coal is that it is not very good quality and contains sulphur so is smelly when burnt. On a still winter day in the 19th and 20th century, Brora might have had an unpleasant odour of bad eggs emitting from its chimneys!

Passion of railways

The 3rd Duke with his passion of railways, was chairman of the Sutherland Railway which was authorised to go as far as Brora but ran out of money and only reached Golspie. He was so anxious for the railway to go further north that he financed it himself to go to Helmsdale and including a private station for Dunrobin Castle. By November 1870 the line was complete from Dunrobin to Helmsdale, but difficult engineering work meant that there was a gap between Golspie and Dunrobin. Until the line was fully open in June 1871, a twice day service which could be used by the public, ran between Dunrobin and Helmsdale.

In September 1870 the Duke had an inauguration ceremony for his station when Princess Helena, Queen Victoria's daughter and her husband, Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein travelled with the Duke's locomotive bedecked in flowers, to Helmsdale and back. Once complete the railway from Golspie to Helmsdale opened on 19th June 1871 and Dunrobin Station became private. Not content with that the Duke had got together funding for the railway to go the far North Coast at Thurso and Wick which opened in 1874. The building on the platform at Dunrobin Station had a somewhat Wild West appearance and the signal box was across the signal line. There was a shed to keep the duke's railway carriage and a siding to park it when it was going to be used. His engine lived at Golpe where there was a workshop. The building at the station today was built by the duke's son, the 4th Duke in 1901.

Steam plough

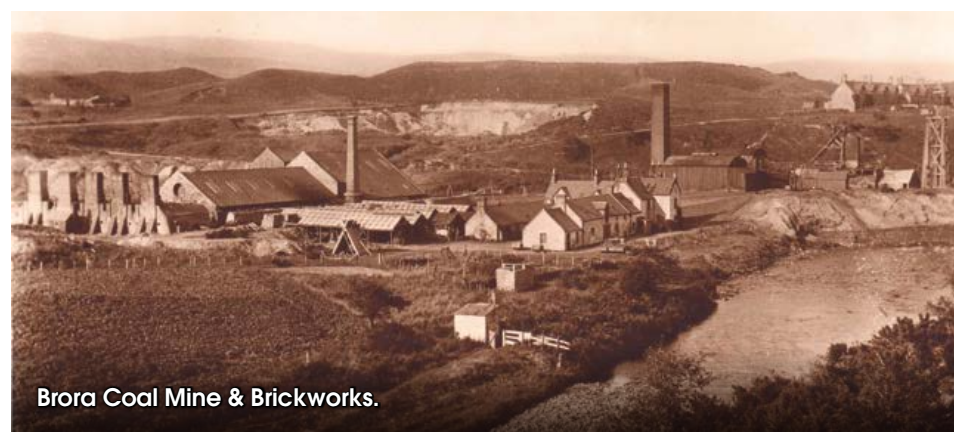
The rather English looking building incorporated the signal box in the lower north facing extension. With the arrival of the railway the 3rd Duke decided that the time had come to reopen the mine and brickworks which had been set up by the 1st Duke as their output could be transported to Inverness and the South. Perhaps they would be more profitable than in the past,



The first Dunrobin Station.

He reconstructed the old tramway together with a new branch that went to the station. However, the railway on the approaches to Brora from the south runs along a raised beach so the goods yard and the station were higher than the existing tramway. The branch line had to climb at a gradient of one in ten and then continue on the level to the station. A further short branch went to the duke's engineering works which was capable of manufacturing anything from a nut to a steam engine. Horses and sometimes a small 0-4-0 saddle tank steam locomotive called *Florence*, chugged back and forth drawing the hutches loaded with coal on the journey to the station.

Edward James, the colliery manager from Staffordshire commenced production of coal from early 1874 producing between twenty-five and thirty tons per day. This development cost the duke just over £9,600, quite a sum for those days. Another project was a steam plough. The duke was concerned that a lot of the land on his estate was so poor, the farms did not produce enough to support the human and animal population. He was impressed when in Egypt by the steam ploughs which had brought into production previously unusable land.



Brora Coal Mine & Brickworks.

Spectacular sights and sounds at the Scottish Pipe Band Championships



Thousands of spectators flocked to Levensgrove Park to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Scottish Pipe Band Championships in July.

More than 100 bands from all over Scotland and the UK gathered to compete, joined by bands who had travelled even further afield including from Sydney, Australia. There were celebrations on the day for Field Marshal Montgomery, from Northern Ireland, who took the Grade 1 winners' title. The band was presented with their award by Councillor

Lawrence O'Neill, who was acting Chieftain of the event, before they led all the bands in parade. Councillor O'Neill said: "A wonderful day was had by all at Levensgrove Park. Yet again, crowds turned out to enjoy the spectacular show of traditional Scottish culture performed by world class musicians. Over the years, the Scottish Pipe Band Championships has become one of the highlights of our events calendar because it combines competition, colour, culture and history with great fun for competitors,

their families and all visitors and officials. We're always proud to show off our beautiful Levensgrove Park too. Sitting in the shadow of Dumbarton Rock and Castle, it's such a special setting for this event."

Scottish culture at its finest



The Scots School Albury.

Colin Mulhern, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, added: "We are immensely proud of the show all the bands have put on today, and their hard work and dedication to compete in this important tradition is evident. I want to congratulate each and every band on their performance and thank all of our visitors and guests for turning out to celebrate Scottish culture at its finest."

Competitors and spectators came from far and wide to enjoy the world class music. They included members of the Scots School Albury Pipe Band from New South Wales, Australia, who competed in the Grade 4B final, performing songs including

The Barren Rocks of Aden. The event was the first stop on a five week Scottish tour for the 27-strong band and was a successful start after coming first in their grade for their efforts. Scott Nicolson, the band's coordinator said: "We love Scotland, and this is our first time back at the Scottish Pipe Band Championships since 2017. It's a great experience to be among so many different bands. Being part of the Pipe Band is really popular among our students, we even have little ones aged five being taught the pipes, so it's an important part of our school life."

A full list of winners from the event is available here: <https://rspba.org/results/bands/contests/2023-scottish-championships-dumbarton/>



New podcast shares Scotland with the world



Eamon O'Flynn.

It's a case of mistaken identity. For 35 years, Eamon O'Flynn thought he was as Irish as they come. Inspired by his enthusiastic grandfather, he spent his life studying Irish history, reading Irish stories and, just generally, embracing his Irish heritage. The whole family celebrated it almost exclusively. And then he took a DNA test and it came back 63% Scottish. "It came as a surprise. I knew I had some Scottish heritage, of course, but I could never have guessed it'd be that much," says Eamon. "I can't walk around acting like the second coming of Liam Neeson."

After getting over the initial shock and surprise of his new-found heritage, he began to wonder what he could do to understand and celebrate his Scottish side. He checked out books about Scotland, listened to podcasts and began to develop an interest in whisky. It was a start, but he wanted more. "You can find out what Scotland is like, but it's harder to find out what it's like to be Scottish. I realized that I needed to talk to real, live Scottish people," he says.

What it means to be Scottish

Podcasts – free online radio programs, essentially – provide the opportunity to discuss topics at length and can be created by anyone with a little technical know-how. An experienced podcaster with an existing show about music, Eamon was familiar with the medium and its potential for informing and entertaining.

Not only could it provide him with a unique window into what it means to be Scottish, but he'd be able to share this experience with others, too. "I have a podcast and I work in communications, so I'm comfortable with this sort of thing. I also have degrees in history and political science that give me some confidence in terms of discussing things like Culloden or Independence," says Eamon. "But I also have a level of ignorance – having not studied Scotland – that positions me well to ask questions that most non-Scots might like to have answered."

The new podcast, called "63 Percent Scottish," launched on August 22. The earliest episodes tackled subjects like William Wallace, the Isle of Lewis and whisky. Future episodes will discuss Scottish football, independence, women in Scottish history and more. The interviewees include award-winning journalists like *The Scotsman's* Rosalind Erskine, best-selling authors like Coinneach MacLeod and prominent podcasters like Owen Innes. "I can't believe the calibre of guest we've attracted to the show – and they're all absolutely lovely people" says Eamon. "We also have incredible partners in

sharing it with the world. *The Scottish Banner* has been very supportive, of course. St. Andrew's Societies and Scottish Societies all around the world – Toronto, Ottawa, New York, Los Angeles and Singapore – are sharing episodes with their memberships. The sense of community just from creating this show is simply overwhelming."

63 Percent Scottish is free on *the Scottish Banner* website scottishbanner.com and at 63percentscottish.com. It's also available on all major platforms – Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and Amazon Music. New episodes are available each week.

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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. P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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



Visit our website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, our History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you.

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

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Cartersville, GA, 30121

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Ms Pamela McDonald

secretary.clandonaldustralia@gmail.com

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Edmonstone Clan Society

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

Contact: Mal Edmiston

3 Laguna Ave

Kirwan, Qld, 4817

61 (0)7 4755 4370

m.edmiston@bigpond.com



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-

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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

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Hon Chief: Mr Lindsay McDonald

Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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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.

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

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Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

Information about the Clan and application for CMSA membership is available on the website or via the email address below.
Membership is open to MacLarens (all spellings), Septs, individuals and families with an association to the Clan.

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



Clan Macnachten Association Worldwide

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

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- Assist in genealogical research
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- Promote the history of Scotland
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- Gather the Clan, as directed by our Chief, Alistair of Fordell

Contact: Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
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McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

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Clan MacLaren

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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



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Clan Irwin Association

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27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name
Mary Erwin, Chairman
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mary.erwin@clanirwin.org
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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)

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



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

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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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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
rthomnvprdcn@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
Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.



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

www.clanross.org



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

Còisir Ghàidhlig Bhictòria
Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria

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

Rehearsal times:
 Tuesday 7-9pm during school terms,
 Term 1 2023 beginning 31st January
 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
 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.

BECOME A MEMBER, CONTACT RAY MUNRO
munro.ray@hotmail.com
 0410 663 760



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
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

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER



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

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association
 The Secretary, P.O. Box 352, Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122
www.standrewsociety.com

NESBITT - NISBET SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



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

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
ENESBET@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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ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com
www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org



YOUNG
 Youngs of Scotland in Australia

Invites membership from all those with the name of Young or ancestral ties to the name.

Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot
 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


Umbrella group representing the interest of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria.

Affiliated Clans & Societies

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|------------------------------|--|
| Brunswick Scottish Society | Glenbrae Celtic Dancers |
| Clan Donald Victoria | Maryborough Highland Society |
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| Clan Hay | Robert Burns Scottish Festival Camperdown |
| Clan Macdonald of Yarraville | The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne |
| Clan Sinclair | Warrambool & District Caledonian Society |
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Chief: Mr Grant McKinna
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 Secretary Jan Macdonald

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



Clan Pollock

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

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



Clan Wardlaw Association
 Founded 2004

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

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Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457
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Welcomes membership of anyone interested in the exchange of people and ideas between Scotland and the United States.

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

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



Capacity crowds at the 2023 Glengarry Highland Games



Celebrating the RCMP's 150th anniversary.

a record number of entries so much so that the competitions had to be broken into two groups to facilitate judging. The 78th Fraser Highlanders won the North American Pipe Band Championship™ over former Games champions, the 78 Highlanders (Citadel) from Halifax who came second and the City of Dunedin from Florida who took third place. It was the last Games for the Fraser Highlanders before leaving to compete at the World Championships in Glasgow. It was their fourteenth win of the title since the band was formed in 1981. The Peel Regional Police completed a perfect Ontario season undefeated in Grade 2 before also making the journey to Scotland to compete at the World's. Fresh from his win of the Piobaireachd Society Gold Medal (Canada) the day before, Daniel Carr of Collingwood, Ontario, was the Professional Piper of the Day, and Hamilton, Ontario's Cameron McKail was the Professional Snare Drummer of the Day. A special moment took place at the massed bands when the Grade 1 and 2 drum corps played the famous *Max Rayne* salute by the great Alex Duthart, led by his son, Drew, which brought the capacity crowd to its feet.

The Games came to a close as twelve hundred pipers and drummers played the stirring tune, *Amazing Grace*, and silence fell over the gathered thousands ringing the field followed by a huge cheer as everyone celebrated a memorable closing and another fabulous edition of the Glengarry Highland Games. Reflecting on the Games, President Eric Metcalfe was overwhelmed and stated, "Even as Games President, I was amazed and thrilled at the response for this year's Games. Unbelievable! Thanks to everyone who had any part in this year's fantastic Games."

The 2023 Glengarry Highland Games are in the history books now, but work is already underway for next year's Games when the 75th edition of the Games will take place on August 2-3, 2024.

standing room only. Blessed by perfect weather, the Friday night Tattoo was a spectacular show of music, pageantry and tradition showcasing the RCMP's 150th anniversary. The fireworks display at the closing of the Tattoo was the perfect end to a magical evening and day.

North American Pipe Band Championship

Of course, the main event at the Games is the piping and the North American Pipe Band Championship™. This year's solo piping and drumming events brought in



Pictured (left to right): Guest of Honour John Wensink, Games President Eric Metcalfe, and RCMP Deputy Commissioner Bryan Larkin.

Amazing! Awesome! Fantastic! Magical! All these words were heard describing this year's Glengarry Highland Games. The weather in a season where warnings have become common, was absolutely perfect with warm temperatures and sunny skies. The crowds kept on coming and coming with a forty-five minute wait at noon hour on Main Street to enter the parking areas. The sporting events like the heavyweights, the tug of war, the kilt run and the rugby tournament all brought out crowds of fans to cheer them on. The Wee Bairns Area was overwhelmed with three thousand children enjoying themselves with bouncy castles, facepainting, magic shows and more. The Scottish fiddle area was wall-to-wall for their events both

days and the Clan Buildings saw a steady flow of Scots finding more about their history while also filling the showcase area to listen to fascinating presentations of Celtic songs and dancing the Glengarry two-step. The Harp workshop brought in a record number of harpists from experts to beginners and scores of people just enjoying the music while the Scotch Tasting sessions had to turn people away. The entertainment areas were jammed as favourite Celtic bands filled the floor with dancers of all ages - fathers and toddlers, grandparents, and everyone in between. Those who weren't on the dance floor were swaying to the beat in their seats. When the Derina Harvey Band, the Friday night headliner, played their set on Saturday in the Metcalfe Centre, there was



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

SEPTEMBER 2023

Maggie The Musical

1-2, Charlottetown, PEI

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

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

Dance Through The Decades

30, Toronto, ON

Keith Bark and Deirdre MacCuish Bark will lead Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Toronto's participation in this Society Centenary special event. The Society selected one dance to represent each decade since the Society's founding in 1923. In Toronto, we'll dance Festival Interceltique to start the evening — and wrap up with our traditional end-of-the-evening dance: Dashing White Sergeant at Cooksville United Church, 2500 Mimosa Row, Mississauga. Info: barkd@rogers.com

OCTOBER 2023

Celtic Colours International Festival

6-14, Cape Breton, NS

A Celtic music festival held annually in communities on Cape Breton Island. Info: 1 888 355-7744 or www.celtic-colours.com

Northeastern New Brunswick Highland

Dance Competition and Workshop

21, Miramichi, NB

Highland dance events and competitions at Miramichi Kinsman Center. Info: www.scotdancenb.com/events

ReJigged Festival

19-22, Dartmouth, NS

A celebration of Celtic music and dance. Info: www.rejiggedfestival.com

St. Andrew's Society of Toronto Fall Mixer

21, Toronto, ON

Come raise a glass with us at the annual Fall Mixer. Don't miss an amazing night of Celtic music and fun at Noonan's Pub, 141 Danforth Ave. Info: https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/fall-mixer/

Tayside 40th Anniversary Tea Dance

21, Toronto, ON

Join the Tayside Groups as they celebrate 40 years of Scottish Country Dancing in East York. This special Tea Dance will be held from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Westview Presbyterian Church, 233 Westview Blvd. Info: Patricia Gerrie at 416-651-8933 or pbgerrie@gmail.com

USA

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

7-9, 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.scotirishfestival.com

OCTOBER 2023

Youth Weekend Away

6-8, Philadelphia PA

Welcoming dancers under the age of 36 to the very first Weekend Away outside Europe. The Weekend Away is an exciting flurry of Scottish country dancing featuring a welcome party, workshop classes, an evening ball, and finally a tour of Old City, Philadelphia. Info: <https://rscds-youth.org/weekend-away/youth-weekend-away-philadelphia-2023-registration>

McMinnville Scottish Festival

7-8, McMinnville OR

Celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds. Info: www.celticheritage.org/mac-scottish-festival

Rocket City Scottish Festival & Highland Games

8, New Market, AL

The official Highland Games and Scottish Festival of North Alabama. There will be games, clan tents, and vendors at Sharon Johnston Park. Info: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093256761629

The Tannahill Weavers Live in Concert

13, Pittsburgh, PA

The Tannahill Weavers have made an international name for their special brand of Celtic music, blending the beauty of traditional melodies with the power of modern rhythms at Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Temple, 3579 Masonic Way, 8:00pm. Info: www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org/classic-concert

CelticFest Mississippi

13-14, Brandon, MS

A celebration of Celtic culture at Lakeshore Park on the Barnett Reservoir, 1112 North Shore Parkway. Info: www.celticfestms.org

Houston Highland Games

14, Humble, TX

Athletics, piping, clans, Celtic vendors and more at Humble Civic Center & Arena Complex, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy. Info: www.houstonhighlandgames.com

Radford Highlanders Festival

14, Radford, VA

Celebrate your Scottish culture, heritage and family history with live entertainment, heavy games and more at Radford University. Info: www.radford.edu/content/festival/home.html

Seaside Highland Games

14-15, Ventura, CA

Southern California's premier Scottish festival on the Pacific Coast at Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Info: www.seasidehighlandgames.org

Moab Celtic Festival

20-22, Moab, UT

Celtic music, celebration and friendship at Center Street Ballpark. Info: www.scotsontherocksmoab.org

Tyler Scot Fest

21, Tyler, TX

Witness true tests of strength and skill in the Highland Games. Cheer for your favorite Scottish performers, discover the rich traditions of Clan history and explore the beautiful South Spring Baptist Church campus as you enjoy this unique celebration of Scottish Heritage. Info: www.tylerscotfest.org

RSCDS San Francisco's Asilomar Weekend

27-29, Pacific Grove, CA

Asilomar is a "bucket List" destination for Scottish country dancers. Asilomar is on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula, south of San Francisco. An unforgettable weekend dancing in beautiful Merrill Hall, classes with world-class teachers and outstanding musicians at Asilomar Conference Center. Info: <https://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend>

Scotland

SEPTEMBER 2023

The Hebridean Whisky Festival

1-9, Hebrides

A week-long festival celebrating the whisky distilleries along the Hebridean Whisky Trail. Info: www.hebrideanwhisky.com

Scotties by the Sea

1-November 10, St Andrews, Fife

Decorated by local artists and communities, more than 30 giant Scottie sculptures will appear across St Andrews & The Northeast Fife Coast, forming a free 10-week art trail of discovery for locals and visitors of all ages to explore and enjoy. Info: www.scottiesbythesea.com

The Braemar Gathering

2, Braemar

One of Scotland's most famous Games, often frequented by members of The Royal Family, at The Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park. Info: www.braemargathering.org

Young Family Meeting

2, Edinburgh

Those of the name Young or descended from the Young family in Scotland are invited to join us for a meeting at The Melting Pot, 15 Calton Road, Edinburgh or online. Info: www.trybooking.com/CJAIQ

Blaigowrie & Rattray Highland Games

3, Blairgowrie

A blend of spectacle and fun in beautiful Perthshire at Bogles Field. Info: www.blaigowriehighlandgames.co.uk

Pitlochry Highland Games

9, Pitlochry

Piping, dancing, heavy events and more. Info: www.pitlochryhighlandgames.co.uk

Bowhill Highland Games

10, Bowhill

Traditional games at Wallsgreen Park. Info: lindawerskine@yahoo.co.uk

Ceòl Cholasa

14-17, Isle of Colonsay

A four-day feast of top-quality traditional music on the beautiful Inner Hebridean island of Colonsay. Info: www.ceolcholasa.co.uk

Bloody Scotland

15-17, Stirling

Scotland's International Crime Writing Festival, covering a range of criminal subjects from fictional forensics, psychological thrillers, tartan noir, cosy crime and many more. Info: www.bloodyscotland.com

Scots Language Awards

16, Johnstone

The Scots Language Awards recognise the amazing efforts and work of the people and organisations who all use and speak Scots' unique culture, music and words at Johnstone Town Hall. Info: www.scotlanguageawards.com

25th Wigtown Book Festival

22-October 1, Wigtown

Brings together leading authors, poets, journalists, scientists, politicians, singers and a multitude of others for hundreds of events in and around Scotland's National Book Town-Wigtown, Dumfries and Galloway, south-west Scotland. Info: www.wigtownbookfestival.com

Moffat Eagle Festival

22-24, Moffat

Now in its third year, this year's festival programme includes a family fun day, an Eagle Hill Fell Run, a motorbike event, a chainsaw demonstration by Moffat-based award-winning carver Peter Bowsler, live music, wildlife and author talks, and more in the UK's first official Eagle Town. Info: www.goldeneaglesouthofscotland.co.uk

Clan Macfie Gathering 2023

27-29, Glasgow

Clan Macfie is commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the death of their Chief - Malcolm MacPhee who was shot in 1623 on the island of Colonsay by Cool Keitach MacDonald. There is a Meet and greet reception on the 27 of September 2023 A Clan business meet on the 28th, and a formal Clan Dinner the evening of the 28th at Golden Jubilee Hotel and Convention Center, Beardmore St. On the 29th several members of the Clan are travelling to the Island of Colonsay. Info: www.facebook.com/Glen.Evan.Cathey

Glasgow Cathedral Festival

28-October 1, Glasgow

A week-long programme of music, tours, exhibitions, dance and film, bringing the city's oldest building to life and finding fresh perspectives on Glasgow's cultural heritage. Info: www.gcfestival.com

Scotword answers from page 6

| Across: | Down: |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1 Pims | 1 Prestwick |
| 4 Orbits | 2 Riser |
| 8 Reels | 3 Spate |
| 9 Abernethy | 4 Overdoses |
| 11 Peterhead | 5 Benbecula |
| 12 Eased | 6 Tutus |
| 13 Spineless | 7 Grapes |
| 16 Until | 10 Yodel |
| 18 Ankle | 14 Elephants |
| 19 Abstainer | 15 Epaulette |
| 21 Retch | 17 Tenements |
| 23 Lallanman | 18 Arran |
| 26 Nominates | 20 Runrig |
| 27 Ennui | 22 Tempo |
| 28 Sonsie | 24 Lisps |
| 29 Setts | 25 Ahent |

Wild Highlands - *The Highland Wildlife Park*



A wolf in pursuit. Photo: Charlie Marshall (CC BY-SA 2.0).

By: Eric Bryan

On a 260-acre expanse of land near Kingussie, Highland in the Cairngorms National Park, you'll find a menagerie of animals ranging from small Japanese snow monkeys to colossal polar bears. Welcome to the Highland Wildlife Park, operated by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) since 1986. Established in 1972, this safari park originally featured native Highland species. But in 2007 the RZSS expanded its scope to include animals from mountainous and tundra regions around the globe. The intent was to not only attract more visitors, but also provide refuge for endangered species which would be protected in the Highlands. In the 1980s the park gained fame by becoming home to Felicity, a puma reportedly captured locally by a farmer, and several of the mysterious Scottish Kellas cats.

Endangered species from places around the world

Visitors can drive through the Safari Park (Main Reserve) to see bison, elk, Bactrian camels and yaks. Then in the walk-round enclosures they'll find Scottish wildcats, wolves, red pandas (temporarily resident at the Edinburgh Zoo), wolverines, forest reindeer and others. Originally featuring native Highland animals, in 2007 the RZSS began to shift the emphasis of the park's theme to endangered species from places around the world similar in landscape and climate to the Highlands. This move proved controversial as some locals and regular visitors to the park regarded it as a place to see native animals in their natural habitat. Some native species removed during these alterations were red foxes, Highland cattle, Soay sheep, European polecats and badgers. The park is divided into sectors which include Woodland Walk, Entrance Reserve, Wolf Wood and Drive-Through Reserve. Scottish wildcats lurk in Woodland Walk, while Bactrian camels and yak roam the Entrance Reserve.

A European wolf pack and herd of European reindeer inhabit Wolf Wood, and in the Drive-Through Reserve European bison and elk wander and have the right of way over vehicles. As the most northerly inhabiting primate (excepting humans),

the Japanese macaque or snow monkey is ideally suited to the Highland climate.

A large troop of macaques is resident at the park. This has been a successful breeding population, with five individuals born in 2020 and another in 2022. Macaques figure prominently in Buddhist folklore, including in the story *The Three Wise Monkeys*. The European red squirrel is the only squirrel native to Britain.

But this animal is very rare now in Britain, with the vast majority of the remaining population inhabiting woodland pockets in Scotland. The red squirrel is critically endangered due to the presence of the imported grey squirrel, which takes over the territory of and spreads disease to red squirrels. Free range red squirrels roam the park's Wolf Wood and Forest Habitat, and regularly visit the feeding station in the latter location.

Showcase tales of Scottish wildlife

Other species resident at the Highland Wildlife Park includes the Amur tiger, arctic fox, Eurasian elk, Himalayan tahr, northern lynx, red deer, snow leopard, Bukhara deer and Przewalski's wild horse. Amongst the park's birds are Himalayan monal, great grey owl, Eurasian eagle owl and Eurasian crane. Under construction at the park at the time of writing is Scotland's Wildlife Discovery Centre. Scheduled to open in spring 2024, the centre will



Bactrian camels at Highland Wildlife Park. Photo: Aaron Sneddon (CC BY-SA 3.0).

comprise three hubs situated around the park. The primary discovery hub will use digital technology to showcase tales of Scottish wildlife from the past (such as legends about 'Highland tigers') to the present. The centre's learning hub will promote conservation via STEM, outdoor education and science as practised by private citizens. Planned to focus on Scottish wildcat conservation, the hilltop hub will offer views of the park's Saving Wildcats breeding centre. The work will also encompass the remodelling of the park's existing visitor centre. Situated seven miles south of Aviemore, visitors can reach the park via a combination of rail and bus. Travellers can catch regular trains from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth or London, detrain at Aviemore, then take Stagecoach bus 39/M39 to the bottom of the park's entrance road, between Kincaig and Kingussie. There remains a half a mile walk to the park's ticket kiosks. There are also railway stations in the area at Dalwhinnie, Carrbridge, Kingussie and Newtonmore. Kingussie is four miles away from the park.

More information and live animal cams are accessible on the park's website: www.highlandwildlifepark.org.uk.



A young Japanese macaque (Macaca fuscata or snow monkey). Photo: "Louise.Helen" (CC BY-SA 2.0).



Mercedes the polar bear at the Highland Wildlife Park. Photo: Aaron Sneddon (CC BY-SA 3.0).

The Kellas Cat



Display at Aberdeen university. Photo: Sagaciousphil (CC BY-SA 4.0).

Formerly regarded as a myth or hoax until one was caught in a snare in 1984, the Kellas cat is a hybrid of the domestic cat and Scottish wildcat. Discovered in the village of Kellas, Moray, the animal is mostly black, 61-110cm long and weighs up to 7kg. It has long rear legs ideal for swift running, and the coat is commonly flecked with white on the flanks and has a white patch on the chest or under the throat. The appearance of the Kellas cat is similar to the description of the *cat-sith*, the fairy cat of Scottish folklore. Unlike Scottish wildcats, Kellas cats have been observed hunting in pairs. Some of the sightings of reported Kellas cats are possibly of black melanistic Scottish wildcats, though the existence of the latter is disputed by some scientists and researchers.

The crew of the BBC's *Tomorrow's World* TV programme succeeded in the first known live capture of a Kellas cat in spring, 1986 near Kellas. This female individual, confirmed by chromosomal analysis to be a hybrid of a wildcat and domestic cat, became an inhabitant of the Highland Wildlife Park. Mounted specimens are in the Zoology Museum of the University of Aberdeen, Elgin Museum, and Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh.

Scottish wildcats

A group of 22 Scottish wildcats born in 2022 at the Saving Wildcats breeding centre at Highland Wildlife Park were released into the Cairngorms Connect territory of the Cairngorms National Park in early June 2023. Each wildcat wears a GPS-radio collar for tracking and monitoring the animals. This programme, intended to replenish the population of this critically endangered species in Scotland, will see some 60 wildcats released over the next few years.

Five more kittens were born in April 2023. Colloquially referred to as the 'Highland tiger', the number of Scottish wildcats living in the wild had fallen to just a handful due to persecution, road accidents and breeding with domestic and hybrid cats. The 22 individuals freed in June 2023 were first introduced into large enclosures where they could develop naturally and practise their survival skills, to prepare them for living in the wild. The release of this first batch of wildcats is considered a trial run. Close monitoring of these 22 individuals will provide data which will assist in subsequent releases of Scottish wildcats. If successful, the Saving Wildcats programme will result in the repopulation of Scotland's only remaining native feline species.



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