



# the Scottish Banner



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*A' Bhratach Albannach*

Volume 47 Number 5 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS November 2023

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The Banner Says...

# Flying high above Scotland's islands



by Sean Cairney

For many tourists a visit to Scotland's diverse range of islands involves a leisurely and picturesque ride on a ferry of Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac). However, for those that live on the nearly 800 majestic isles air services are a vital connection to mainland Scotland, and beyond. As we go to press with this issue a scheme is being launched for islanders who will be able to access the lowest fares on the Scottish Government-supported air services serving Barra and Tiree. The Residents Fare Card will cap fares for island residents and ensure they always have access to the cheapest tickets, even during peak periods. This lifeline to the mainland will allow those isolated residents to make medical appointments not available on the islands, visit family, travel for work or study and other key travel purposes.

Scotland boasts some quite unique island air services which stand out in the world of aviation today. Firstly would have to be the world's shortest flight, which takes place in Scotland's far north. The shortest scheduled passenger flight in the world is operated by Loganair between Westray and Papa Westray in Orkney. Whilst the flight is scheduled for just one and a half minutes, the 1.7-mile journey often lasts less than a minute. Loganair, Scotland's regional airline that services Scotland's Highlands and islands, flies the route which connects on to Orkney's largest centre Kirkwall.

On the Isle of Barra in the Outer Hebrides is one of the world's most unique airports located on the northern part of the island. Barra Airport is located on Traigh Mhor beach where flights land at the world's only beach with scheduled air services. Flights to Barra from Glasgow are not set to popular travel times, but rather flight schedules are always changing as they depend on the tidal flows. The runway washes away at high tide and reappears at low tide.

Lying between Shetland and Orkney lies the Fair Isle with a population of just 60 residents, making it one of Britain's most remote inhabited islands. On the island is one of the UK's smallest airports which is quite uniquely run by the National Trust for Scotland. Loganair is bringing back flights to the Fair Isle in 2024 to coincide with the reopening of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory, which sadly burned down in 2019.

Looking ahead to travel to the islands of Scotland may soon look to take a greener approach as companies are looking to Scotland to lead the way for more environmentally friendly air travel using new technologies such as electric or hydrogen net-zero aircraft.

**In this issue**

I still can recall as a child my very first trip to Glasgow Prestwick Airport. Our family would have been coming from Canada to see our Scottish family and as the plane descended over the Ayrshire countryside, I knew I was somewhere different. I vividly remember the large check in hall and the complete sense of excitement that I was travelling on a plane brought. This month we hear about the key role Prestwick has played in Scottish aviation history and connecting Scotland with the world.

Each August in Scotland there are hundreds of events taking place, but for one region all roads lead to Lonach.

The Lonach Highland Games are presented by the Lonach Highland and Friendly Society which was established in 1823. The Games had a big visitor this year and has a long history of Scottish tradition.

This year a project was launched to mark the centenary of the repopulation of the Minginish peninsula on the beautiful Isle of Skye. The area of Skye had been cleared out during the 1800s and in 1923 families were brought from across Harris, Lewis and other parts of Skye to repopulate the area. This would become the largest single repopulation undertaken in Scotland because of the 'land for heroes' initiative after the First World War.

**Fergus**

Some readers may remember when last year I included my dog Fergus in these pages. Several people wrote in after seeing Fergus and told us about their pets and how rewarding life was with them. Sadly, I lost Fergus recently and his loving face is no longer under my desk as I write these editorials. Fergus in his very own unique way helped each month with the publication of *the Scottish Banner*, he reset me on deadlines when stress increased and helped me more times than I can remember to get through a day. The office, and my home, are now a much quieter place and I will miss him terribly.

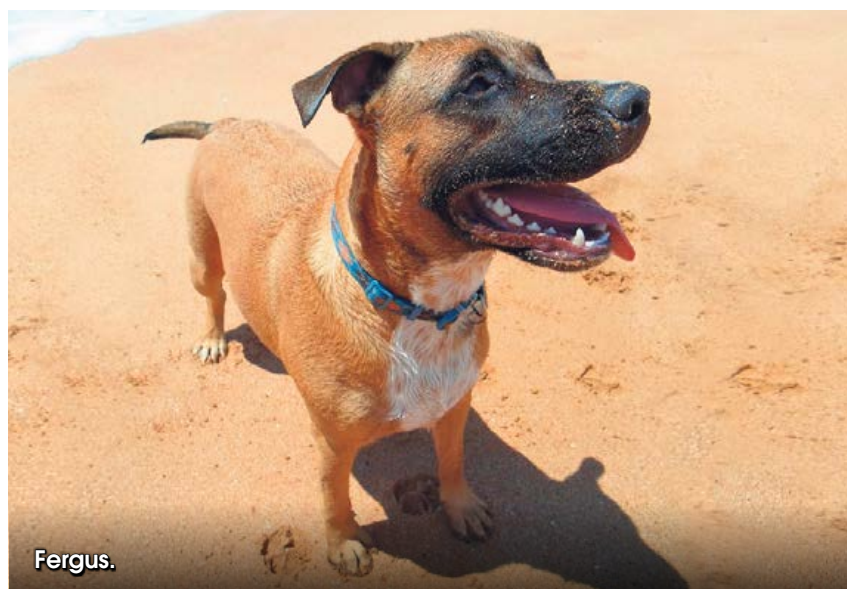
Thank you, Fergus, for giving me over 12 years of incredible love, loyalty and family, it certainly was an honour to walk beside you every day, and for leaving me with so many happy memories of a life very well lived which I will always treasure.

This month also see's Scots around the world gather for St Andrews Day on (or around) November 30<sup>th</sup>. If you are celebrating, I hope you enjoy some great food, company and of course a wee dram. 🍷

**Have you taken a flight to a Scottish island? Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or: #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner**

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**We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.**

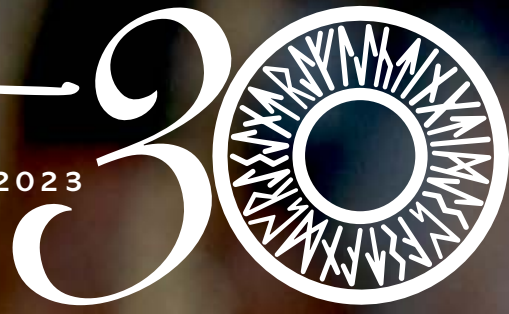


Fergus.

 Gracing our front cover: The Wallace Highlanders at the Lonach Highland Games. Image courtesy of The Lonach Highland & Friendly Society.

Sheila Fleet

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# SCOT POURRI

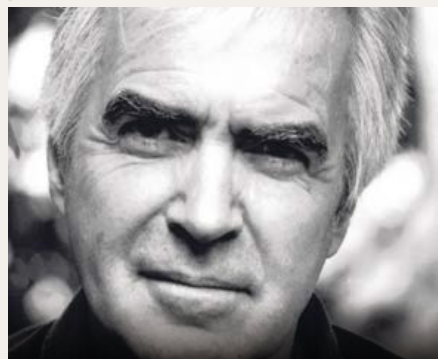
Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history?

## John Cairney

Thank you, Sean, for a lovely tribute to your Uncle John Cairney in the October edition of *the Scottish Banner*. It was so heartfelt and was lovely to read of a nephew's admiration and respect for his uncle.

I knew of John Cairney for many years, and I very likely saw you as young boy as I went to some of his Toronto area performances. Reading your column certainly brought back to me the incredible voice he had, and his stage presence was first class. John for me was part of a generation of actors who excelled in their craft and carried themselves in a way which we today see very little of the world of 'celebrity' today. I have just ordered my first book of John's and look forward to reading his words about my home city, Glasgow.



My condolences to you and his entire family and I feel privileged to have seen John in person, he brought Robert Burns to life for many.

Colleen Boyle  
St Catherines, Ontario  
Canada

**Ed note: Thank you Colleen for your kind words and my uncle certainly was one of a kind and will be missed.**

## Connecting Scotland's diaspora- Scottish Connections Fund opens for applications



Applications have opened for a new pilot fund to support initiatives that promote Scotland's international connections. The Scottish Connections Fund is open to bids from individuals and organisations in Scotland's international diaspora and a total of £15,000 has been allocated for this year's pilot, which will inform the development of an expanded fund in 2024. The fund follows a commitment in the government's Scottish Connections Framework, which seeks to expand links and networks with Scottish people living elsewhere in the world, those with Scottish heritage, alumni of Scotland's educational institutions, and people with professional, business, cultural or other links to Scotland.

External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson said: "The Scottish Government has long believed that better engaging our diaspora – family and friends of Scotland globally – can not only benefit Scotland economically and enrich our culture, but also improve Scotland's connections and reputation. We know that millions around the world cherish their connections with Scotland, and we are grateful for the work of people and organisations who do so much to strengthen these links – whether that is through the promotion of our culture and heritage or Scotland's reputation as a place to live, work, visit, study, and do business. This fund aims to support their work to create more vibrant, visible and connected global Scottish diaspora, and I encourage anyone with an interest to submit an application by 8 November, 2023."

The Scottish Connections Fund aims to help Scottish diaspora organisations and communities and their individual members further the aims of the Scottish Connections Framework. It promotes increased visibility or connectivity between Scottish diaspora communities outside Scotland, or with Scotland itself. The fund supports innovative initiatives "that bring together those with a connection to Scotland, promote Scotland's reputation and interests, and build greater connections back to Scotland itself."

These include, but are not limited to:  
Community projects  
Philanthropic projects  
Events  
Workshops  
Research  
Applications can be submitted here:  
[www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-connections-fund-how-to-apply](http://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-connections-fund-how-to-apply)

Matt Paterson  
Constitution, External Affairs and  
Culture Communications  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House, Edinburgh  
Scotland

### Family descent

I have enjoyed reading your August, 2023 edition. I am of Scot's descent on my father's side of the family. Long ago there were two brothers, one was named Lamont and the other named Lamb. I am descended from the brother called Lamb. The Lamont's and Lamb's are descended from the King of Northern Ireland, his name was Anrothan, and Anrothan was descended from the royal family of Norway. The royal family of Norway are descended from a spirit that manifested itself in Norway back in ancient times. My great grandparents, Alexander and Cough Lamb, came from Glasgow in the mid-1800's and settled in Dunedin, South Island, New Zealand. Their son, also called Alexander, was my grandfather and my father's name was Jack Allen Lamb. I am of Māori descent on my mother's side of the family.

John Allen Lamb  
Tokomaru Bay, New Zealand

## The Old Soldier



I have had a copy of this poem in my drawer for many years. I thought it would be fitting to share with your readers in the lead up to Remembrance Day (November 11<sup>th</sup>). May we all find peace in this world. We will remember them.

Medals, such meagre payments for  
priceless years willingly thrown away  
Are taken from their casual resting  
place in bureau drawers  
And proudly polished to a sheen  
brass buttons once were given,  
Then pinned to coats by hands less  
steady than when they held a gun.

The faint notes of Reveille can be  
heard, or are they just imagined  
As a final wipe is given to  
already gleaming shoes.  
The dark blue tam is tugged  
to a familiar cocky angle  
And the old soldiers, downing  
something to ward off November's  
chill, fall in once more.

The ranks are even thinner this  
year than each had feared.  
A different foe, old age, aided perhaps  
by too many glasses drained to  
numb the painful legacy of war,  
Has claimed another score  
or more of comrades  
Bringing home to those remaining  
the realisation that this might  
be their last parade.

No time for that, the pipes and  
drums have sounded.  
It's effort enough to keep in step on  
a route that lengthens every year.  
Nor is it shortened by the knowledge that  
the crowd of onlookers has also thinned  
And some have come to jeer, not  
pay respects as others did before.

Some of the scoffers, too young to  
ever have been touched by war,  
Snicker when the bugler  
falters as he plays Taps.  
They smirk at each other as the  
speaker intones: "Lest we forget"  
While a thousand eyes look up at them sadly  
And five hundred hearts whisper,  
"If you only knew."

Tom Douglas 1971

John Fisher  
Sudbury, Ontario  
Canada

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

### The Kelpies



Say cheese! Duke and Baron at The Kelpies.  
The Kilted Photographer

### Portpatrick



Lovely day at Portpatrick.  
Colfin Captures

### Ross Fountain



Stunning day at Ross Fountain  
and Edinburgh Castle.  
IG: eadietam

### Uist



Beach front living on Uist.  
Mik Coia

Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Please keep letters under 300 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters can be emailed to [info@scottishsbanner.com](mailto:info@scottishsbanner.com) or online at [www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us](http://www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us), alternatively you may post your letters to us (items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned). Please ensure you include your full contact details should you require a reply. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part!

By: Anne-Mary Paterson

The Forbes Highlanders.



# Celebrating Lonach tradition

**The Lonach Highland and Friendly Society was formed 200 years ago in 1823- the Society host one of Scotland's most popular, and friendly, Highland Games. The Lonach Highland Gathering and Games have taken place annually for 180 years each August when all roads lead to Lonach, as Anne-Mary Paterson explains.**

It was 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 and the loudspeaker was telling everyone that there was to be a very special guest arriving before the one o'clock March of the Lonach Men. This year is the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Lonach Highland and Friendly Society and the one hundred and eightieth gathering of what is probably the most unique and friendly Highland Games. Into the arena to huge cheers and applause, came a dark red Bentley car bearing His Majesty King Charles III. After circling the area, the King alighted at a special tent.

Then the sound of bagpipes started getting louder and louder. In marched the Highlanders carrying axes and with banners held high, followed by the Lonach Pipe Band, then Sir James Forbes, Patron and the swirling kilts of the Lonach Men, carrying eight-foot-long pikes followed by Wallace's and Gordons. At the tail end of this most unusual procession was the Cairt drawn by Socks, an Irish cob to carry any wear or dare I say it drunken stragglers but empty this year. The march had set off early in the morning for six miles on foot from Bellabeg, home of the gathering, up Donside to toast five houses along the way and then back to Bellabeg for a private lunch in the Lonach Hall. One of the houses they visit is Candacraig which

before its sale, was owned by Sir Billy Connolly who was very fond of the Lonach and attended most years.

## Preservation of Highland garb

By 1823 Scotland had emerged from the years of occupation by the Hanoverian Army after the Jacobite defeat at the Battle of Culloden. It was time for Scotland to resume its place in the world. That same year King George IV awarded Charles Forbes of Newe and Edinglassie (1774 – 1839) with a baronetcy. On 15<sup>th</sup> December of that same year, his son's coming-of-age was celebrated with a bonfire on Lonach Hill which inspired the people around and in Donside to set up a friendly society as had been done by its neighbour in Braemar. The first gathering was held in 1836, four years after Braemar.

Membership for the society is now drawn from the inhabitants of Strathdon, Sir Charles was one of eleven children. He left Edinburgh University when he was sixteen to take up a post in Bombay, India in John Forbes & Co owned by his uncle John Forbes. The firm had originally traded in raw cotton but over the years expanded into ship brokerage, ship building and as bankers to the Government of Bombay. Because of the success of his business, John was able to buy back the family lands of Newe and Bellabeg, which in the past had been lost due to bankruptcy.

The gathering is always on the fourth Saturday in August. Sir James Forbes of the Newe, three times great grandson of Sir Charles said in his message this year, "The Gathering and our unique March represent the public face of our year-round commitment to the 'preservation of Highland garb and the promotion of social and friendly feelings among the inhabitants of the district'. Encountering the Lonach Highlanders for the first time takes you back to pre-1745 Scotland, but this is no historical re-enactment: we represent an unbroken link with our forefathers." Highland Games may date as far back as the 11<sup>th</sup> century when King Malcolm III of Scotland needed a personal courier so he organised a hill race to the summit of Creag Choinnich, near Braemar, where the oldest Highland Games were first held in 1832, and since then always on the first Saturday in September. The Braemar Highland Society was founded in 1815, so the Lonach is not far behind its neighbour in Deeside. Like Braemar and many other games, the Lonach carries on the tradition of a hill race and even a shorter one for juniors. Hill races are now a feature of many games and we can imagine that before cars, if a horse was not available and someone was needed to take a message quickly up or down a glen, a race was an easiest way to find and have in hand the fastest of foot. Similarly tossing the caber may have resembled how a tree just felled was pushed away. Tartan and bagpipes are still very important components of the games. One of first ideas was the preservation of the district's particular dialect of Gaelic but this has not been successful, and it is now extinct.

Traditional Highland Games are now held all over the world, particularly in English speaking countries like Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America.

## The Lonach Highlanders

The Lonach Highlanders is not an army as it has never been presented with colours like the Atholl Highlanders, its neighbour across the mountain passes. It does carry the society colour and two banners ensigned "LONACH". On the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lonach, a new colour and banners were presented at the Lonach Gathering. The following week the pipe band and the Highlanders marched over the hills to Braemar to present the new colours to the late Queen Elizabeth II at the Braemar Gathering. The Highlanders set up camp at Braemar Castle re-enacting an occasion that last happened during the reign of Queen Victoria. At the time of the presentation on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 of the Honours of Scotland (the Crown, Sceptre and Sword) to King Charles in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, the Lonach Highlanders along with the Atholl Highlanders marched down the Royal Mile. Carrying on the Royal connections, King Charles, after watching the Lonach Highlanders' impressive and unique parade, spoke to a number of officials and other folk before progressing on foot across the arena to become the starter of one of the first races. After a private luncheon at Bellabeg House, the King left quietly for Balmoral Castle with the usual events – light and heavy, dancing, races and piping continuing. A special day to add to the already colourful history of this unique organisation.

For more details see: [www.lonach.org](http://www.lonach.org)



This holiday season, give the gift of music to a loved one, or to yourself, with our weekend-long Winter Workshop for Highland Pipers, Feb. 2-4. Attendees will receive online instruction via Zoom.



Our guest piping instructors— Robert Mathieson, Derek Midgley, and Andrew Carlisle— have all won major awards and have incomparable records of teaching and promoting pipe music around the world.

[www.bagpiping.org](http://www.bagpiping.org)



Lonach Pipe Band. All images courtesy of The Lonach Highland & Friendly Society.

# SCOTSPEAK

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

*"The Cross Tay Link Road is the biggest infrastructure project in the history of this council. As such, it seemed fitting that we gave children and young people the opportunity to choose the name of the new bridge and road. They have made an excellent choice that connects the new road with Scone's historic role as the crowning place of Scottish kings. And, of course, the Stone of Destiny itself will be returning to Perth next year when the new Perth Museum opens to the public."*

Perth and Kinross Council leader Councillor Grant Laing said a new bridge over the River Tay created as part of the Cross Tay Link Road project will be named Destiny Bridge. The road will be called the New Kingsway and the new crossing Destiny Bridge, the £150 million Cross Tay Link Road project involves the construction of a three-span bridge over the River Tay and a four-mile stretch of carriageway.



*"As someone who has been dependent on daily injections of insulin for the past 50 years, it has been a surreal but gratifying*

*experience to watch this long-held dream become a reality. I feel a deep sense of gratitude to JJR Macleod for giving me life, along with millions of others around the world. As the unsung medical hero that history and the world forgot, JJR Macleod is truly a man who deserves a statue."*

John Otto, the founder and chairman of the JJR Macleod Memorial Statue Society, said at the unveiling of a life-size bronze statue of John J.R. Macleod, the renowned Aberdeen physiologist who co-discovered insulin in 1922. The statue located in Aberdeen's Duthie Park is Scotland's first 'Storytelling Statue' and it was unveiled on the 100-year anniversary of Professor Macleod's Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology.

*"As a community publication having a presence in print, on counters, in newsstands, across all the student parts of Edinburgh - without that visibility we might not be able to survive as a digital publication. We are so overjoyed, I mean we have hit double our initial goal. We couldn't ask for more really, we're all really excited and really grateful. The donations have come in from all kinds of people but the most heartening to see has been people in the student community, members of our audience who just want to see us keep printing."*

Joe Sullivan, editor of the University of Edinburgh's *The Student* newspaper, said a fundraiser has successfully met its £2,000 goal as the publication was under threat of closure.

*The Student* is Europe's oldest student newspaper and was founded by iconic Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson in 1887. *The Student* has been printed continuously for 136 years, with current print editions released fortnightly.



*"Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's 50th anniversary is a testament to our enduring commitment to Gaelic language and culture. We have evolved to meet the changing needs of our community and students and this is reflected in our success. This milestone is a tribute to the dedication of our staff, students, and the unwavering support of the Gaelic community. We look forward to the next 50 years as a leader in Gaelic learning, research and cultural opportunities: working with our partners to achieve Scotland's wider ambitions for Gaelic as a living language and a thriving culture."*

Aonghas S. MacLeòid, Chairperson at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, said as the institution celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Since its inception in Skye in September 1973, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has played a pivotal role in promoting and preserving the Gaelic language and culture, with thousands attending its annual short courses, over 4,000 learners completing its flagship online Gaelic course, An Cùrsa Inntrigidh, and nearly 1,400 graduates since full-time courses began.

*"The inspiration for the game came from the festivals all closing down during the pandemic and me reflecting on how important they were during my childhood. I was already wanting to create a board game, and eventually arrived at the idea of the common riding festivals being a ritual where you retrace your steps around the border of your community. I never thought it would have widespread appeal but people love it. It's not just moving pieces around a board, it's about telling a different story every time you play."*

Game creator Jo Reid said at the launch of her new game Border Riding, based on the historic Border Ridings in the south of Scotland. Reid was inspired by the Common Riding festivals that take place every summer in the Scottish Borders. They are a tradition founded in war, where communities had to reassert their borders from land-stealing lords and encroaching armies. They've evolved over centuries into small town pageantry, central to each village's unique identity. Border Riding players map the story of their new community by creating rituals, landmarks, traditions and boundaries.

## Vale-Donald Angus Cameron, 27th Chief of Clan Cameron



*The Scottish Banner* is saddened to hear of the passing of Donald Angus Cameron, 27th Chief of Clan Cameron. He died at Achnacarry in Scotland and was 77. His son, Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron, said "He was the most courageous and loving of men, who adored his family, friends and the wider community in Lochaber. As clan chief and Lord Lieutenant of Inverness, he was at the heart of life in the West Highlands and although he lived with MS for many years, he was always positive and uncomplaining. We will miss him greatly but are comforted by the many messages of condolence we have received from people at home and abroad."

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## SCOTWORD

Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try!  
If you're stuck, answers can be found on page 25.

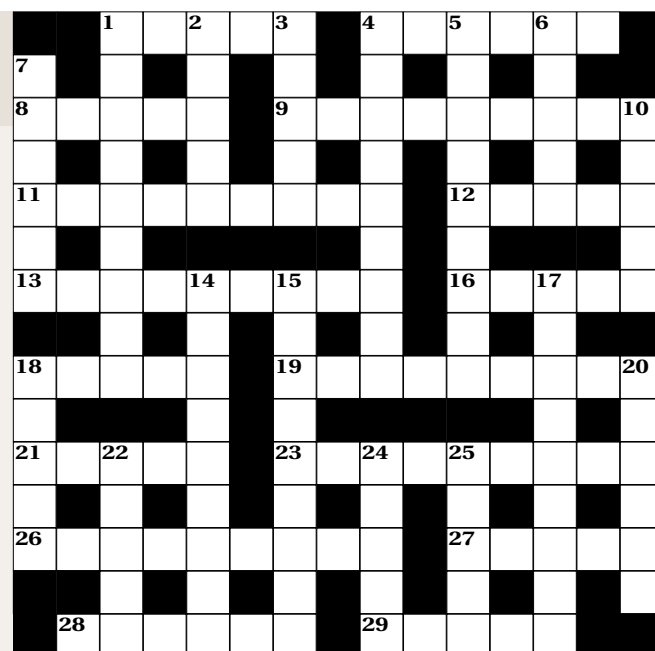
### CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Island below South Uist (5).
- 4) Strikes in Scotland (6).
- 8) With water it refreshes (5).
- 9) Threw them down for contest (9).
- 11) Scotland's gigantic valley (5,4).
- 12) Fruity colour (5).
- 13) Musician way out in front (4,5).
- 16) Joint below the exter (5).
- 18) A scar wound in Scots (5).
- 19) They're needed at St Andrews (5,4).
- 21) There are many on the West Coast (5).

- 23) A Scots double room! (3,3,3).
- 26) A reaper (9).
- 27) The deepest loch in Scotland (5).
- 28) They house 14 Down (6).
- 29) Try this composition (5).

### CLUES DOWN

- 1) Island between N and S Uist (9).
- 2) Correct in Scotland (5).
- 3) A high messenger! (5).
- 4) Disgusted with the Scots! (9).
- 5) Big guns! (9).
- 6) A measure of gas (5).
- 7) Put on a show (6).
- 10) Tendon (5).
- 14) Clergymen (9).
- 15) Followers of James II (9).
- 17) A colourful Scottish fruit (9).
- 18) One and the other to Scots (5).
- 20) Solar skill in Lochaber area! (6).
- 22) Animal's immature state (5).
- 24) Protected the Highlander (5).
- 25) Loses the power (5).



By: Sarah Burnett

# Conserving the warp and weft of heritage



The traditional handloom at Weaver's Cottage.

**W**eaver's Cottage, where Kilbarchan weavers still make textiles on a 200-year-old working handloom, is celebrating its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023.



A view of the exterior of Weaver's Cottage.

Weaver's Cottage is one of over 100 special places in the care of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), ranging from castles to gardens to National Nature Reserves such as Glencoe and Staffa. Although perhaps modest in scale compared to some of these places, Weaver's Cottage tells important and fascinating stories about textile production and its part in Scotland's economic, social and cultural history.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century weavers from this Renfrewshire cottage would be astonished to discover that their lives and work are attracting the interest of the Scottish Parliament, as well as visitors from all over the world. The cottage was recently the subject of a parliamentary motion in the Scottish Parliament, submitted by the local

MSP, that celebrates 'that this cherished piece of local history and Kilbarchan heritage is preserved, and hopes that Weaver's Cottage will continue to be visited and learned about for years to come'.

## Hand-woven textiles were the lifeblood of many communities

Ana Sanchez-de la Vega, Visitor Services Manager for Weaver's Cottage, explains: "The displays at the cottage transport our visitors back to a time when hand-woven textiles were the lifeblood of many communities. At one point in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the village of Kilbarchan was home to over 800 weavers, living and working at looms in cottages such as this." Ana continues: "At Weaver's Cottage – where weavers still make tartan today on a 200-year-old handloom – we offer a window into those times, helping people relate to the lives and stories of that community, whose tartans and textiles have stood the test of time. It's thanks to the support of our National Trust for Scotland members, donors, volunteers and visitors that we are able to conserve this special place, and share its stories and textiles for new generations today."

Weaver's Cottage was built in 1723 and remained in use as a home until 1940. It has been in the care of the National Trust for Scotland since 1957. To mark the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the cottage, NTS have added a new garden and video interpretation. This helps visitors to delve deeper into the history and significance



A stone lintel above a narrow front door.

of the cottage and the weaving industry, in alignment with the NTS wide objective to provide access to, and enjoyment of, heritage for everyone.

Also this year, NTS have loaned textiles from the cottage's collections, including tartan samples and a quilt, to the *Tartan* exhibition at V&A Dundee.

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



A 200-year-old wooden hand loom.

## Plans unveiled for new Archive House

**A**rchive House, an existing building in the Sherwood Industrial Estate in Bonnyrigg, will be converted to a world-class facility to house Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) extensive records and archives, which give a unique insight into over 5,000 years of Scotland's history. The project, which is expected to be completed by 2026, will meet recognised standards for archive buildings and be an exemplar of reuse and retrofit. Currently housed at John Sinclair House in Edinburgh and other locations across central Scotland, the HES Archive is home to the national archaeological and architectural archive. It holds over 3,500 different collections, comprising drawings, photographs, documents, prints and tomes stretching across 15km of shelving. The new archive facility will enable these collections to be protected to the highest standards.

In 2026, the existing Archive Search Room and Library, which are open to the public, will also be move out of John Sinclair House and into nearby Longmore House, HES headquarters. This will ensure that this national collection remains easily accessible for researchers and members of the public. The archive handles around 12,000 direct enquiries annually, while approximately 3 million users access the archive online each year. It is expected that with better accessibility both online and in-person, user numbers across Scotland's communities and beyond will increase. Work is already well underway to prepare the archive for its move, as archivists carry out the exhaustive task of listing, documenting, location-coding and repackaging every single one of the approximately 6 million items held within the collections.

Lesley Ferguson, Head of Archives at HES, said: "This project is the greatest opportunity our generation has had to discover, catalogue, conserve and secure the knowledge that underpins the understanding and conservation of Scotland's history. Our archives offer an unparalleled view of the nation's past, and this project will ensure they can be protected for future generations.

This new purpose-built space will help us enhance and increase our conservation and cataloguing work, while advanced environmental protections and controls will help prevent damage to our priceless collections. As well as safeguarding our archive, we are excited about the opportunity this project offers to inspire new audiences to engage with our unique collections and to make them more accessible than ever before."



Traigh Nisabost - Isle of Harris



Halaman Bay - Isle of Barra

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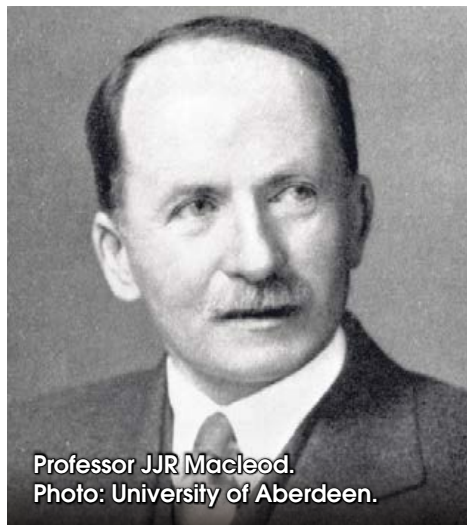


Eliogarry Beach - Isle of Barra

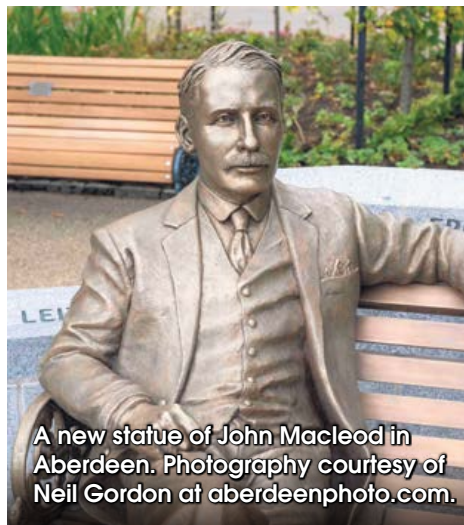
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# John Macleod was airbrushed from history, but Aberdeen's only Nobel Prize winner is finally getting his due



Professor JJR Macleod.  
Photo: University of Aberdeen.



A new statue of John Macleod in Aberdeen. Photography courtesy of Neil Gordon at aberdeenphoto.com.

**The Aberdeen University scientist pioneered the creation of insulin in the 1920s, which has saved millions of lives of those with diabetes, as Neil Drysdale reports.**

It's a discovery which has saved and enhanced the lives of at least 350 million people during the last 100 years. Prior to its creation, countless children, diagnosed with the condition, were left facing a death sentence as their parents looked on helplessly. They could be made to feel comfortable, but medical staff could do nothing more to ease their plight. And yet, the chances are that few will be aware of the prominent role played by a Perthshire-born, Aberdeen-educated scientist in the development and production of insulin, one of the most significant achievements in the history of medical research. That's because John Macleod was effectively airbrushed out of history for half a century. He was accused of hogging the limelight, of claiming credit for work carried out by other people when he was actually the catalyst for a remarkable breakthrough. And when he left Toronto, where the insulin breakthrough was made, he is said to have been seen shuffling at the station and explained: "I'm wiping away the dirt of this city."

But thankfully, if belatedly, his reputation has been restored, and a memorial statue of the great man was recently unveiled in Aberdeen's Duthie Park. It's no more than he deserves, because Macleod, a beetle-browed,

intellectually brilliant fellow, was at the forefront of the trailblazing work which transformed the battle against diabetes after years of trials and tribulations, disappointments and disputes. Professor Brian Frier, of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and an internationally-recognised specialist in diabetes, said: "The discovery of insulin is frequently and inaccurately attributed to Frederick Banting and Charles Best and, for decades, Macleod was effectively airbrushed out of medical history.

The importance of the research of this quiet and self-effacing Scottish scientist cannot be over-estimated and he deserves to be as well-known to the public as Sir Alexander Fleming for his discovery of penicillin." Soon after his birth in 1876, his clergyman father, Robert, returned to Aberdeen and the youngster, who always adopted the approach that genius was an infinite capacity for taking pains, subsequently attended Aberdeen Grammar School and entered Marischal College at Aberdeen University to study medicine from 1893 to 1898.

## Macleod worked until the sma' hours

Much of the focus of Macleod's life has centred on his work in Canada, but he was an apprentice physiologist

in Leipzig and studied in his home city and in London, learning to teach and write textbooks and amassing the experience which were the catalyst for later partnerships with colleagues which yielded prodigious rewards in the early 1920s. There are different perspectives on Macleod's personality and how he interacted with others. It's clear that he didn't suffer fools gladly and was always the last person out of the laboratory in his early days while he was pouring himself into his work. A serious-minded figure, he continued to pursue an academic career with a dedication which made him a great scientist, but not always the easiest human being to deal with in his day-to-day business. The driven Scot was director of physiology at Toronto University, but there was no Eureka moment as he settled down to his work.

This was real life, not a Hollywood biopic, so the building blocks of the new discoveries which changed the world for the better were only created after myriad hours in laboratories. Dr Ken McHardy, a former consultant in diabetes with NHS Grampian and honorary senior lecturer at Aberdeen University, has studied his career in depth and acknowledges that Macleod's journey towards insulin was long and meticulous. It included both experience with many traditional techniques to study animal physiology and his expertise in the up-and-coming specialty of physiological chemistry.

**It's a discovery which has saved and enhanced the lives of at least 350 million people during the last 100 years.**

He told Aberdeen's *Press & Journal*: "His research into experimental diabetes, first stimulated by working on a book chapter, led to several advances over 15 years of painstaking study. This put him at the forefront of world knowledge on the subject and with all of the necessary skills and experience to lead a major breakthrough. However, hundreds of researchers had been trying, and so far uniformly failing, to produce a treatment that could save diabetic lives. Despite work suggesting the pancreas gland may be the source of an important internal secretion, even this was unproven."

Few could have predicted the spectacular results which would materialise when he joined forces with students Banting and Best. Following their collaboration, Macleod received a Nobel Prize along with Banting, although he and the latter fell out over their contrasting claims of who had contributed most to the discovery. It was an acrimonious climax to what had been an often fractious relationship between the pair and Macleod, unaccustomed to having to prove his credentials when he had demonstrated his excellence in

Britain, Europe and North America, was understandably aggrieved at the ill-feeling which festered between the group. At the end of 1920, the well-respected Macleod was approached by Banting, a young Canadian physician, who possessed a bull-headed drive and industrious – if often ill-considered – attitude to the research which later brought him fame. He was a persuasive individual and even though Banting had virtually no experience of physiology, convinced Macleod to lend him laboratory space. The Scot also provided experimental animals and the assistance of his summer student, Best.

Banting and Best isolated an internal secretion of the pancreas and reduced the blood sugar level of a dog, whose pancreas had been surgically removed. They were excited, but Macleod expressed doubts about the results, borne from his greater experience. Eventually, Banting accepted his elder's instruction that further experiments were required before they could reach any definite conclusion, and even convinced Macleod to provide better working conditions and give him and Best a salary. The next stage of their research was successful and the trio started to present their work at scientific meetings, which gradually built up momentum and publicity. Macleod was a far better orator than his associate and Banting came to believe that he wanted to take all the credit for their efforts. But this notion was nonsense, as was demonstrated when the results were published in the February 1922 issue of the *Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine*.

## Tensions ran high in the group

Indeed, the Scot actually declined co-authorship because he considered it was Banting and Best's work: hardly the attitude of a man who desired to hog the spotlight. And yet, perhaps understandably, he was growing weary of the paranoia in the laboratory when, as he told colleagues privately, the priority surely had to be creating something which would save the lives of millions of people. And there also remained the issue of how to get enough pancreas extract to continue the experiments. This convinced Macleod to extend his insulin research and recruit the biochemist James Collip to help with purifying the extract. Whereupon, significant progress was made after a trip to a local abattoir when they realised that pancreas extracts could be much more simply produced from fresh ox pancreas. It was slow, methodical work, and Banting felt sidelined the longer it advanced.

By the winter of 1922, this fragile character was certain that all Macleod's colleagues were conspiring against him and Collip, who was increasingly frustrated with the tension in the laboratory, and threatened to leave because of the strained atmosphere. Yet, amid these tensions, there was progress. In January 1922, the team performed a clinical trial on 13-year-old Leonard Thompson and it was soon followed by others. As the news spread, so did the publicity about what had been achieved in Toronto. This was no dry scientific experiment; it was a



Marischal College. Photo: VisitScotland.



life-changing discovery in the making and the sensationalist nature of the coverage reflected that sense of history being made.

Macleod's presentation at a meeting of the Association of American Physicians in Washington on May 3 1922 received a standing ovation from the audience, because it appeared to indicate a major breakthrough was imminent, but obstacles still lay ahead. At that time, demonstrations of the method's efficiency attracted huge public interest, because the effect on patients, especially children with type 1 diabetes, who until then were bound to die, seemed almost miraculous. Macleod was always proud of his part in the process. But, perhaps understandably, he had grown weary of the egos battling for supremacy behind the scenes. He returned to Scotland in 1928 to become Regius Professor of Physiology at Aberdeen University and later became Dean of the University of Aberdeen Medical Faculty, where he continued to show his prowess in collaborative science, producing original research in tandem with colleagues at the Rowett Institute and in support of the Torry Fishery Research Station, while taking an advisory role to the Government's Privy Council.

**He encouraged scores of youngsters**

Perhaps, just as importantly, he was renowned for his mentoring of a number of noted young scientists and engaged in prestigious lectureships on both sides of the Atlantic. All this, despite the debilitating impact of rheumatoid arthritis, which had first affected him in

Toronto and progressively limited his ability to travel and to work. Dr McHardy, who has been advising the Macleod Memorial Statue Society for the last two years said: "Nothing should detract from the magnificent contributions of Aberdeen's only homegrown Nobel Prize winner. We should remember and celebrate his reputation as a world-famous physiologist and educator with pride. He should, of course, always be revered for his single greatest contribution as the skilled and experienced impresario who led the Toronto team. Macleod's leadership not only gave the world its first clinically useful insulin in 1922, but led the way to survival for millions with what is now known as Type 1 diabetes, and indeed existence, itself, for their descendants."

This towering figure in his field died in 1935, aged just 58, and is buried in Aberdeen's Allenvale Cemetery, across Great Southern Road from where the new statue will offer a permanent tribute to his feats. The sculpture shows him reading the pages of the *Press & Journal* and, although he spent years in Canada, he always considered Aberdeen to be his home. Aberdeen University also dedicated the 2023 Carnegie Lecture to the impact of the former medical student on the treatment of diabetes and a blue plaque will be erected to commemorate his legacy. Celebrating 100 Years of the 'Discovery of Insulin' Nobel Prize, was held in October, and explored Macleod's remarkable achievement with international diabetes expert Professor C. Ronald Kahn. At long last, the world is paying him proper attention.

**Inspections begin on 5,000 years of Orkney history**



Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has started inspecting 5,000 years of history in Orkney as part of its High-Level Masonry Programme. Access will be maintained where possible while inspections are undertaken. The specially trained High-Level Masonry team will use a range of specialist access equipment to carry out hand's-on tactile inspections to carefully examine the culturally significant sites, some of which are thousands of years old.

Eleven historic sites across Orkney including Midhowe Broch, St Magnus Church, and Noltland Castle will be inspected between now and December. The results of the inspections will then inform any necessary repair works or future interventions. The inspection teams will also work closely with the local works teams and conservation experts to carry out minor repairs as they go, where possible. The High-Level Masonry Programme is assessing the condition of higher-level structures at historic sites following deterioration caused by climate change and a number of other factors, including the materials used in the building's construction, its age and physical location. Whilst this is not an issue unique to Scotland, HES is believed to

be amongst the first heritage managers to approach it in this way and is sharing findings with peer organisations. As a safety precaution, access is currently restricted at Pierowall Church and Westside Church, St Mary's Chapel, St Magnus Church, Eynhallow Church and Midhowe Chambered Cairn.

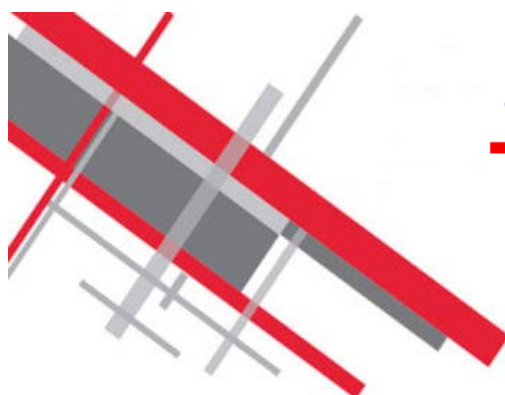
**Some of Scotland's most significant and diverse heritage sites**

The other sites being inspected are currently accessible to visitors and HES will maintain as much access as possible, where it is safe to do so, while the inspections are being carried out. The inspections follow on from pre-inspection work that was carried out in Orkney earlier this year. This included ground archaeology and ecology reports which were required prior to inspections being carried out. This work was vital to ensure the safety of the inspection staff and contractors and allowed HES to carefully consider the safest method to inspect sites and plan accordingly.

Craig Mearns, Director of Operations at HES, said: "Orkney is home to some of Scotland's most significant and diverse heritage sites, spanning 5,000 years of history, and these inspections will allow us to assess and mitigate the impact that climate change and other factors has had on them. Visitors will continue to enjoy access to the sites while the inspections are ongoing, where it is safe to do so, and I encourage anyone who is interested in this work to engage with the inspection teams while they are on-site to find out more about what the work involves and why it is an important aspect in the care of these world-renowned heritage assets."

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY

## Coin hoard gives fascinating insight into life before the Glencoe massacre



They were hidden for safekeeping underneath a stone fireplace. But they were never retrieved until now, some 330 years later. Now archaeologists have revealed that a hoard of coins buried in a small pot, just discovered in Glencoe paints a fascinating picture of life for one Highland clan chief and his household. The site in Glencoe was used as a “summerhouse” and traditionally associated with Alasdair Ruadh “Maclain” MacDonald of Glencoe, chief of the MacDonalds of Glencoe from 1646-1692. The 36 coins, which vary in date, were discovered by University of Glasgow archaeology student Lucy Ankers in the grand fireplace of the Glencoe house during an archaeological dig in August 2023. The coins were found in a pot, with a small rounded pebble for a lid and hidden beneath a hearth stone slab. However, none of the coins were minted after the 1680s which has led archaeologists to suggest that they were most likely deposited under the fireplace either just before or during the 1692 Glencoe Massacre for safekeeping. Whoever buried the coins, did not return for them which could indicate that they were among the victims of the massacre.

The MacDonalds took part in the first Jacobite rising of 1689, this resulted in the clan being targeted in the 1692 Massacre of Glencoe. In late January 1692, two companies or approximately 120 men from the Earl of Argyll’s Regiment of Foot arrived in Glencoe from Invergarry. Their commander was Robert Campbell of Glenlyon. An estimated 38 members and associates of Clan MacDonald of Glencoe were killed on 13 February 1692, including Maclain and his wife. Dr Michael Given, a Senior Lecturer in Archaeology and Co-Director of the University of Glasgow’s archaeological project in Glencoe, said: “These exciting finds give us a rare glimpse of a single, dramatic event. Here’s what seems an ordinary rural house, but it has a grand fireplace, impressive floor slabs, and exotic pottery imported from the Netherlands and Germany. And they’ve gathered up an amazing collection of coins in a little pot and buried them under the fireplace. What’s really exciting is that these coins are no later than the 1680s: so were they buried in a rush as the Massacre started first thing in the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1692? We know some of the survivors ran through the blizzard and escaped up the side glens, including this one: were these coins witnesses to this dramatic story? It’s a real privilege, as archaeologists, to hold in our hands these objects that were so much part of people’s lives in the past.”

## Scotland’s first UNESCO Biosphere to increase



Photo: GSA Biosphere.

Just over ten years since Galloway & Southern Ayrshire was designated Scotland’s first UNESCO Biosphere, a global delegation of UN officials have now announced the renewal of the site’s UNESCO status for a further ten years, in recognition of its pioneering achievements in sustainable development and supporting global climate change goals. The revalidation reflects southwest Scotland’s world class natural heritage and the leading role the Biosphere plays in building a secure and greener economic future for Scotland and the UK. Further highlighting the area’s global significance, the UNESCO delegation also revealed that the GSA Biosphere’s boundary will now be extended to incorporate Alloway (the home of Scotland’s national bard Robert Burns), the Rhins of Galloway (Scotland’s most southernly point) and 12 nautical miles of the marine environment. The site will grow from more than 5,200 km<sup>2</sup> to almost 9,800 km<sup>2</sup> and follows the rivers that flow out of the Galloway Hills: through forests and farmland, historic villages and towns, all the way to a ruggedly scenic coast.

This news has been welcomed by a myriad of community groups, conservationists, business leaders, landowners, farmers, schools, and other UK biospheres, who believe Galloway and Southern Ayrshire is “all the better – economically, socially, culturally, and environmentally – for being part of a UNESCO Biosphere.” Announcing the renewed status at a reception Meriem Bouamrane, Head of Research and Policy for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, based in Paris, said: “The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere is an inspiring, internationally recognised place for living, which is reconciling conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. We are absolutely delighted to announce today that we will be renewing its designated status for a further ten years, including an expansion of its geographical boundary.”

## Pollok House to undergo major refurbishment



Glasgow’s iconic Pollok House will close on 20 November 2023 for approximately two years to facilitate the second phase of a £4 million programme of investment led by Glasgow City Council. The works will comprise roof and general building fabric repairs. Visitors and members of the National Trust for Scotland have until then

to explore the house and view the opulent upper rooms used in the past by the Stirling Maxwell family, admire the precious works of art displayed and also discover the lower-level spaces in which staff and servants worked. The popular café and shop in the old servants’ wing on the ground floor and the outdoor space will remain open until the spring of 2024. Pollok House was built in 1752, close to the site of earlier dwellings dating back to medieval times, and was extended between 1890 and 1904. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and through to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, it was the home of Sir John Stirling Maxwell, 10<sup>th</sup> Baronet, a great benefactor to Glasgow and one of the founders of the National Trust for Scotland. It is said that the conversation that led to the Trust being established took place in Pollok House’s Cedar Room at the beginning of the 1930s. A key part of the city’s heritage, Pollok House and the surrounding Pollok Country Park is owned by the people of Glasgow, after the historic mansion and the collections contained therein were gifted to the city by Sir John’s daughter, Dame Anne Maxwell Macdonald, 11<sup>th</sup> Baroness in 1966. The National Trust for Scotland has managed the house under contract to Glasgow City Council for 25 years.

## New entrants sweep the boards at 30<sup>th</sup> Golden Spurtle World Porridge Making Championship



Adam Kiani and Bobby Fisher.

First time competitor Adam Kiani representing Pakistan has been crowned World Porridge Making Champion after beating competitors from around the world at the 30<sup>th</sup> World Porridge Making Championship, which took place in the Highland village of Carrbridge. Adam was amongst 30 competitors competing for the highly-coveted title of World Porridge Making Champion and the Golden Spurtle trophy. The 2023 event had a truly international flavour attracting competitors from UK shores and as far afield as USA, Canada, Cyprus, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Pakistan, Indonesia, Netherlands, and Germany. An overjoyed Adam said “I am delighted and humbled to win this great event, especially considering the high quality of the entrants and their creations. It’s been a really great day, and I am totally over the moon to be crowned a World Champion. This will take time to sink in.” In addition to the main competition, the title of Speciality Porridge Champion is awarded to the creator of a sweet or savoury dish where oatmeal can be combined with any other ingredients.

The Speciality Dish was won by another first-time entrant Bobby Fisher from London. Bobby said “I am overjoyed with winning this award and hope my good friend Charlie who is local to Carrbridge is proud. We always joked about entering the World Porridge Championships and winning the Golden Spurtle. It’s t-oat-ally a dream come true.” The title of World

Porridge Making Champion is awarded to the contestant deemed to have made the best traditional porridge using just three ingredients – oatmeal, water and salt. Charlie Miller the 2023 Porridge Chieftain of the World Porridge Making Championship said: “It has been wonderful to have porridge fans, their supporters and so many visitors attend the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of this great event. We are delighted the competition continues to attract new and inspirational contestants. What started all these years ago as very much as a small local event has grown to be a highlight of Scotland’s food and drink calendar. It’s truly wonderful to see competitors from around the world coming to Carrbridge with such enthusiasm for both the competition but also being here in Carrbridge.”

## Next steps for national parks in Scotland

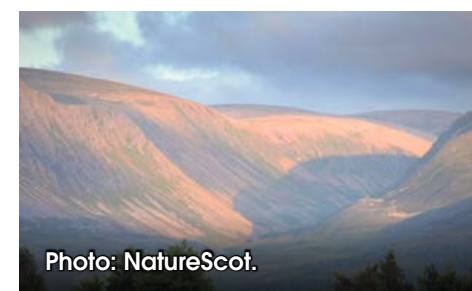


Photo: NatureScot.

Communities across Scotland are being asked to consider whether their local area could be designated as the country’s newest national park. Individuals, groups or organisations considering making a proposal can now register early interest. Nominations will officially open later this year, once the appraisal framework has been finalised. The government has committed to designating at least one new national park in Scotland by Spring 2026. Visiting Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity Lorna Slater said: “I look forward to engaging with communities and learning more about their proposals, and I encourage everyone to get involved as we move closer to naming Scotland’s next national park. Our existing national parks play an important role in tackling the biodiversity and climate crises, whilst also supporting local communities, businesses and visitors. Last year we consulted widely on the future of national parks in Scotland, and there was broad support for our commitment to create at least one new park by 2026.”

Chief Executive of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority Gordon Watson said: “National Parks have a vital role to play in securing a more sustainable future for Scotland. They are unique places where we can maximise the benefits that can be provided for nature, climate and people. Scotland has set ambitious targets to reach Net Zero and to restore biodiversity by 2045. If we are to reach those targets, urgent, bold action is required and Scotland’s existing - and any new - National Parks can make a substantial contribution. Through scaling up our efforts to lock-in carbon in the landscape, restore nature at scale and enable a greener low-emission economy, we can, together, help Scotland make significant progress towards these commitments.” Scotland currently has two national parks, the Cairngorms and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

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By: Judy Vickers

# Minginish Centenary Project

*Celebrating 100 years of resettlement on Skye*

Children in Satran in 1935.

**The Minginish peninsula on Skye was largely cleared in the Clearances of the 1800s but 100 years ago it was deliberately repopulated on land bought by the government from the MacLeod's of Dunvegan Castle, with crofts created as part of the "land for heroes" campaign after the First World War. Families from Harris, Lewis and other parts of Skye arrived between 1923 and 1924. Now the community is celebrating that anniversary, looking to put together an exhibition in June 2024 and erect a memorial as Judy Vickers explains.**



Harvest time in Satran in 1964.



Fiskavaig in 1963.

to fight in the First World War and they weren't given it on their return. There were quite a few land riots and land raids, I think the government was embarrassed into acting. The Land Settlement Act of 1919 was a fairly important law in that it allowed compulsory purchase of land from various estates, it happened not just here, Raasay (an island off Skye), and Glendale in north of Skye had similar settlements."

**The land in north Talisker had stood almost empty of people for more than 100 years after the brutal Clearances of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.**



A family in Fiskavaig in 1957.

**T**he land in north Talisker, near the famous distiller, had stood almost empty of people for more than 100 years after the brutal Clearances of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Clearances in Scotland saw tenants evicted from their homes, farms and crofts, sometimes physically and forcibly, by landowners keen to make better use and more money from their estates, more often than not by creating large areas for profitable sheep from the seized land. The Clearances, which took place in various parts of Scotland during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

centuries, left a scar on Scotland's history and its people; many ended up emigrating and plenty did not forget the land which had sometimes been worked by the same family for generations. In the wake of the First World War, emotions were running high. Returning servicemen had been promised "land for heroes" and the post-war period was marked by a series of land riots and land raids – where families set up home and began farming on land that had been ancestrally theirs. But in north Talisker in Skye the early 1920s saw a kind of reverse Clearances, and one that was actually carried out by the government.

"The land where we are in Talisker had been really badly cleared by the MacLeod family and turned over to sheep so there were very few families that were originally from the area still here, it was a pretty empty landscape," explains Nick Middleton, one of the modern-day residents in north Talisker on the Minginish peninsula. He adds: "Men had been promised land before they went

### The centenary of their creation

In fact, the Macleods of Dunvegan Castle sold 60 acres to the government in order to clear debts and between 1923 and 1924 68 families, almost all from Harris and Lewis in the Western Isles moved to Skye and created a new community. Now that community, including many who are descendants of those original families, are celebrating the centenary of their creation.

Organisers of the anniversary events have been collecting photographs and old film and recording memories from older members of the community to mark the special event. Celebrations will culminate in June next year (2024) with a week-long series of events including exhibitions and ceilidhs and ending with the unveiling of a memorial cairn, for which the community is currently fundraising. Of the 68 families who came to Skye to take up the offer of a new croft, 43 came from Harris and 20 from Lewis in the Western Isles with just five from Skye itself, all with a connection to service in the First World War. Men, women and children arrived over the course of a year to create a community of around 400 people, living in the townships of Fernilea, Fiskavaig, Portnalong and Satran.

They came willing because although leaving their home islands behind must have been hard, the offer of a secure croft was too good to refuse. Not that life on Skye was easy, the land had not been cultivated for more than a century and the families had to start from scratch. They were sold small wooden huts – 10ft by 20ft – for £70, a loan which was halved if they built their own house. They had to build their own roads and clear the land to be able to begin farming.

Elizabeth Morrison is the granddaughter of one of the original families who moved to Skye. Allan MacLeod came from Carragrich in Harris, his parents and brother came with him and settled near Portree.

“My grandfather was in the merchant navy, they were told when they came back from the First World War, the government would provide land for them but there was nothing available in Harris,” she explains. “Here they were provided with government huts, two-roomed buildings that they had to pay £70 for and they got two cows to start them off but there was nothing here. They had to clear the ground, they had to work hard to get their crofts up and running. Grandpa helped built the road to Portnalong.”

Her grandfather eventually set up a shop, his family had been shopkeepers on Harris, and allowed the wives to run up debts for essentials while their men were at sea fishing. “So, he provided for all the families, then when the men came back, they paid it off – there was a great sense of community like that, they all looked out for each other and helped each other out.” Nick adds: “There were collective activities, such as planting potatoes, 20 or 30 people would move from croft to croft so everyone shared in the labour to plant and get a crop in. They brought cattle with them. The cattle were spiked into the ground to stop them roaming and the chains cleared the bracken, then the cows trampled it into the ground. The pictures from the 1930s show them just starting to use horses to work the land.”

They lived on porridge, milk, potatoes, fish and crowdie cheese. “They were very self-sufficient; they were skilled in fishing and agriculture and they were a pretty hardy independent people. No-one had a lot of money, everyone was in the same boat, it was really egalitarian. I’m sure I wouldn’t survive very well but they were hardy devils,” says Nick.

**Close-knit friendly place**

And while it sounds a tough lifestyle to modern ears, there was definitely a sense of contentment in the community, something which amazed *Silver Darlings* author Neil Gunn, whose own ancestors had been cleared from land in Sutherland,



Schoolchildren - date unknown.

when he visited in 1937. He described the sound of looms clicking, many from Harris had brought their looms with them, from “snug and comfortable” homes and the “bright faces” of those who, while there were some grumbles, on the whole felt they “got a good and, in some respects, a generous deal”. In fact, the community was so self-sufficient it was many years before money was used regularly. Nick says: “It wasn’t until quite late, after the world war, when the Talisker Distillery took on more people and there were quite well-paid jobs that money was used and groceries vans began to come out from Portree.”

Now of course the community has changed with people leaving and incomers arriving but residents say it is still a close-knit friendly place to live – and that many descendants of the original families still call north Talisker home, including Elizabeth. She says: “I grew up here. I left when I was 18 – I worked in England and Inverness because there wasn’t an awful lot for me here. I’m now 60, I moved back 22 years ago. My children grew up here, my daughter was born here, they are the fourth generation. A lot of my school friends, people my age, have done exactly the same, gone away, then returned to the island. I think something always pulls you back.”



Collecting old photos for the centenary project in May 2023 in Minginish Hall.



Ploughing in Satran in 1935.

And she says working on the centenary project, collecting memories and photographs, has brought a new dimension to the community. She says: “I feel the whole project has brought the community together after Covid. We have brought everyone out, it’s a social thing as well as a history project, there is a camaraderie there. It’s a positive story, we are unique, very, very unique, I don’t think there is anywhere else that has this story.”

For more information, visit: [www.minginishcp.uk](http://www.minginishcp.uk)



Fiskavaig in 1955.

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# Auchindrain- the last Highland township



Bell Pol's House, Auchindrain by David Hawgood, CC BY-SA 2.0.

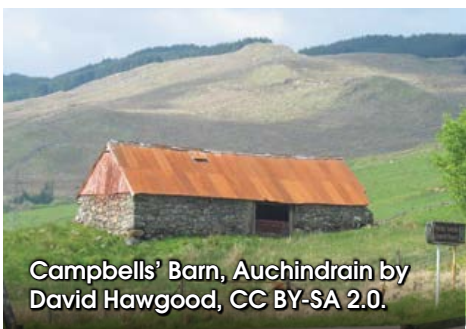
By: Eric Bryan

During the Highland Clearances in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, when tenants were evicted across the Highlands and Islands, townships (clusters of agricultural smallholdings) steadily disappeared. Much of this activity, associated with the Scottish Agricultural Revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, was based on agricultural improvement which involved the alteration of the usage of farmland to make it more profitable for the landowners. Most Scottish townships were affected by these changes between 1780 and 1860. Some were converted into crofting townships, in which tenants had to combine farming with work in local industries for survival. Other townships were transformed into owner-occupied or single-tenant farms. In 1850 a handful of Highland townships remained, and by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century most had fallen into ruin, some ultimately being nearly effaced from the landscape. But one survived these massive upheavals: Auchindrain.

## The blackthorn field

The name deriving from a Gaelic term meaning 'the blackthorn field' or 'the field of the blackthorn tree', Auchindrain is situated in Argyll and Bute, 10km south of Inveraray on the A83. Auchindrain first appeared in the historical record in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but it may have been established earlier in the late mediaeval period. Having lost the township at some point, the Dukes of Argyll reacquired Auchindrain in 1776. In 1789 surveyor George Langlands drew up a plan for the dukes for the rebuilding and reorganisation of Auchindrain into crofts. Though the latter part of the scheme never came to pass (probably for economic reasons), in the ensuing decades rebuilding took place and the township adopted methods of improved agriculture, possibly with support and encouragement from the dukes, especially Duke George.

By 1840 many of Auchindrain's turf buildings had been reconstructed of stone. During the rebuilding, there were some specifics for the arrangement of the structures according to the weather in the glen. Dwellings were resited so that they stood end-on to the prevailing winds of the



Campbells' Barn, Auchindrain by David Hawgood, CC BY-SA 2.0.

area, so providing less wind resistance and fewer disturbances to their inhabitants. Threshing barns, on the contrary, were sited broadside to prevailing winds, so that drafts would rush through one open door and out the opposite open door, and so greatly assisting in the grain winnowing process.

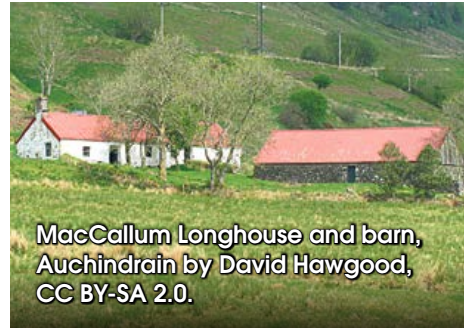
## Preservation of Auchindrain

Auchindrain made the transition from cattle to a sheep farm, and added a sheepfold on high ground west of the township. Though while keeping some cattle, the settlement was running as a full-fledged sheep farm by the 1870s. In accordance with the agricultural improvements, Auchindrain abandoned the awkward runrig method of planting and apportioned the arable land into small fields, two each being allocated to each individual tenant. While Queen Victoria was staying at Inveraray Castle in 1875, she visited Auchindrain and Achnagoul (about 5km northeast of Auchindrain), and described them as "primitive villages". Auchindrain continued to operate far into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, becoming the final working Highland township until the last tenant Edward MacCallum retired in 1963. Preservation of Auchindrain began in 1964, and it opened as a museum in 1968. Today the site remains open to the public as the Auchindrain Township Open Air Museum, administered by the Auchindrain Trust. The grounds extend across 22 acres and feature more than 20 historic structures. Auchindrain is a working farm, with cattle, hens, sheep and horses all resident on the grounds. The entire site is Category A listed, is designated a Conservation Area, and its buildings are a Recognised Collection.

The Auchindrain Trust has overseen and operated the museum since 1964. The Scottish Government provides funding to the Trust via Historic Environment Scotland. Those interested in preserving Auchindrain can support the work of the Trust by becoming a Friend of Auchindrain. Donators who contribute £25 or more (£10 for seniors) per year are usually granted membership. Friends of Auchindrain become members of the Trust, can vote for trustees, and receive Auchindrain newsletters. The museum closed temporarily after several of its historic buildings were damaged in a Mid Argyll earthquake on 16 November 2021. Backed with funding from Museums Galleries Scotland, structural engineers and building conservation specialists worked on repairing the structures. The museum reopened on 1 June 2022 during the ongoing repair work, restricting visitors to guided tours to keep

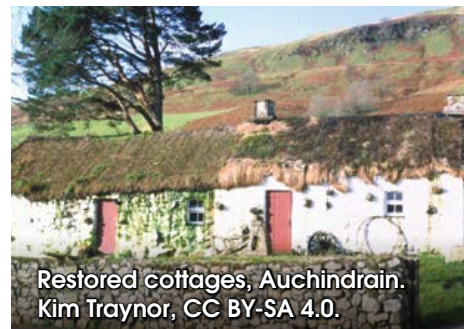
## Duke George

The 8<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll, Duke George was born in 1823 and lived at Inveraray Castle. In his teens he began to assist in managing the Argyll Estate, and became duke when his father died in 1847. Duke George contributed to the survival of Auchindrain by urging the tenants to adopt some of the methods of improved agriculture, and by allowing the settlement to continue as a joint-tenancy township. The Duke was a prolific writer, producing work on economy, geology, theology, politics, science and ornithology.



MacCallum Longhouse and barn, Auchindrain by David Hawgood, CC BY-SA 2.0.

them out of harm's way. Visitors can obtain a guide-tablet or a guidebook at the Visitor Centre to assist in making one's way round the site. A full circuit of the grounds takes 60-90 minutes. It's recommended to dress for unpredictable weather changes, and to wear boots or heavy walking shoes to traverse the rough and sometimes muddy paths of the museum. Those with limited mobility will likely need assistance to reach some parts of the museum. Non-aggressive dogs on leads are welcome. The Visitor Centre, which houses a coffee shop and gift shop, is closed from November to March. During these months the museum offers a reduced entrance fee. Hours are daily, 10:30 to 4:30.



Restored cottages, Auchindrain. Kim Traynor, CC BY-SA 4.0.

## Oldest and youngest play their part in Scotland



Pipers Doug McRae and Saxon Coffey.

Piper Doug McRae, was the oldest member of The Scots School Albury Pipe Band at 66 years old and Saxon Coffey was the youngest of three 12-year-olds from the school band, making him the youngest member of the 29-strong playing group in Scotland. Doug originally played with Scots Pipe Band coordinator Scott Nicolson nearly 30 years ago when the pair was both working in New Zealand. Doug returned to Albury around the same time Nicolson started at The Scots School Albury in 2013 so it was a natural progression that Doug would reunite with his old buddy to bolster the student group.

Doug learned the pipes as a student of Knox Grammar School in Sydney and found it a satisfying way to make social connections whenever he moved to a new city. As a CEO of Private Hospitals, Doug moved around a bit, but has settled in Albury and is now retired. In fact, he retired in 2017, just in time to accompany the Scots band to its inaugural appearance at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. "I love playing in the band with the students," Doug said. "The kids are a great bunch, and we see an awful lot of each other as we prepare for the Tattoo. It was a

## Inveraray Castle

Actually a country house, Inveraray Castle sits beside Loch Fyne in Argyll. There was a castle on the site in the 1400s, but the current building dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is an early example of Gothic Revival architecture and has been the seat of the Dukes of Argyll since that time. Archibald Campbell, Earl of Ilay, later the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Argyll, instigated improvements on the site of the original castle in 1743. Architects William Adam and Roger Morris based the idea for the new castle on a sketch done by Vanbrugh, the architect of Castle Howard and Blenheim Palace. In 1746 the foundation stone for the new building was laid. Adam and Morris died during the long construction of the castle, and Adam's sons James and Robert completed the project 43 years after the laying of the foundation stone. The result was a then-modern, baroque, Gothic and Palladian style castle.

The castle suffered an upper storey fire in 1877, which led to major restoration and additions to the structure. These, overseen by Anthony Salvin who was hired by the 8th Duke, include a third floor with dormers and a pitched roof, and conical roofs capping the four corner round towers. Circa 1890, Inveraray was the first home in Scotland to be fitted with electricity.

real experience to perform at the Tattoo in 2017. It was very busy because we played in a number of other events while we were there, so we had to learn a lot of tunes. We had the contest tunes and the Tattoo tunes to learn, as we did this time around. It's very rewarding to help these youngsters on the big stage of the Tattoo."

Saxon is a Year 7 student who has been playing the pipes for three years and is a natural musician, having mastered the trumpet and piano as well. Saxon found the pipes fairly easy to learn initially but admits there is a lot of practise required as the number of tunes they needed to learn for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the band's other commitments at the Scottish Pipe Band Championships, the World Pipe Band Championships and Piping Live in Glasgow mounted up. "I do a lot of practise at home as well as at school," Saxon confided. "The neighbours so far haven't come knocking on my door to ask me to stop so I must be going ok." Saxon, whose favourite tune is *Sweet Maid*, said the nurturing nature of the band is one of the best things about the group. "The older students are very supportive, and I've learnt a lot from them. It's fun to be part of the group."



At the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Photo: Graham Gaw.

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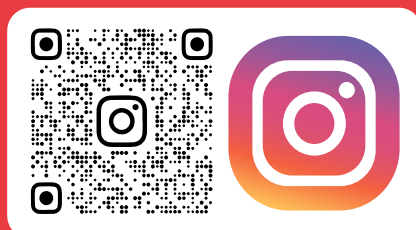
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# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

*Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past*

1 - Bank of Scotland founded by an Act of the Scottish Parliament. **1695**

1 - Scotland made a serious bid to enter the lucrative English sea-trading market. The Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies issued a subscription list to stockholders in London. Later known as The Darien Company, £300,000 sterling was quickly raised, but London merchants saw it as a threat to their own East India Company. They put pressure on the King, and the English subscriptions were withdrawn at the behest of their government. **1695**

Nov 1-12 - The city of Glasgow hosts the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26), a major United Nations climate summit and put the city on the world stage for 12 days. **2021**

2 - Jack Alexander MBE of The Alexander Brothers died. The Scottish folk singer began his career in the 1950s with his brother Jack and was born in Cambusnethan, Lanarkshire in 1935. **2013**

3 - The Scottish expedition to Darien landed at 'New Caledonia'. The expedition left Leith on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1698, heading for the isthmus of Panama. The enterprise began in 1695 when the Scottish Parliament passed an Act for the establishment of the 'Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies'. **1698**

3 - Queen Elizabeth officially opened an underwater pipeline to bring the first North Sea oil ashore. **1975**

4 - Birth of King William III. **1650**



5 - Opening of the original Mitchell Library, Glasgow, now the largest public reference library in Europe and is home to one of the world's finest collections of Robert Burns materials. **1877**

5 - The Commercial Bar in Fraserburgh receives a direct hit from a German bomb, killing over 30. **1941**

6 - Celtic Football Club formally constituted in Calton, Glasgow, to alleviate poverty in Glasgow's East End parishes. The first Celtic Park was established on a vacant lot next to St Mary's Church. **1887**

7 - Writer and World War Two garrison commander Eric Linklater died in Orkney. **1974**

8 - Scholar and philosopher John Duns Scotus died. His dry subtleties led to the word "Duns" or "dunce" meaning dull and incapable of learning. Beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1993. **1308**

9 - In Edinburgh, Sir James Young Simpson delivered Wilhelmina Carstairs while chloroform was administered to the mother, the first child to be born with the aid of anaesthesia. **1847**

9 - *The Royal Yacht Britannia* left the Clydebank shipyards to begin her speed trials. Built by John Brown's shipbuilders, she was famously luxurious and entertained countless dignitaries in opulent style. The *Britannia* carried the royal family on more than 1000 visits to over 600 countries. Today she is moored at Ocean Point, Edinburgh. **1953**

9 - Dorothy Dunnett, the cult Scottish novelist, died. The writer of intricate and meticulously researched historical novels, she attracted a devoted following with her multi-volume sagas. **2001**

10 - Journalist Henry M Stanley found the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone with the classic "Dr Livingstone, I presume". **1871**

11 - Today is Martinmas, Scottish Quarter Day. The feast of St Martin of Tours was traditionally the day for slaughtering livestock and salting it for preservation through the winter.



11 - Armistice Day, marking the end of hostilities in World War I. The guns were finally silenced on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. Though Scots made up only 10% of the UK population at the time, a total of 147,609 Scots were killed during the war, a fifth of Britain's total dead. **1918**

12 - St Machar Day, patron saint of Aberdeen.

12 - Edinburgh University first admitted women to the study of medicine. Sophia Jex-Blake and her friend Edith Pechy were the first to attend the prestigious medical school. Though Jex-Blake passed her exams, she was not allowed to graduate as regulations prevented women from actually serving on the wards. **1869**

13 - King Malcolm III (Canmore), last of the Celtic kings was killed at the Battle of Alnwick. Succeeded by Donald III. **1093**

13 - The birth of Robert Louis Stevenson, author and poet, in Edinburgh's New Town. His books included *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. He died in Samoa, aged 44. **1850**

14 - Speed limit for horseless carriages was raised from 4mph (2mph in towns) to 14mph. **1896**



15 - Statue to Greyfriar's Bobby, who stayed by his master's grave for 14 years was unveiled in Edinburgh. **1873**

15 - The Stone of Destiny was finally returned to Scotland. Legend has it that the stone is a relic from the Holy Land and once belonged to the biblical Jacob. From an early date the kings of Scotland were inaugurated sitting on a royal chair with the stone in its base. In 1296 Edward I removed the stone and installed it at Westminster Abbey. It remained there until it was kidnapped by Scottish nationalist students in 1951. They managed to hide the stone in Scotland for four months until it was found and returned to Westminster. It was moved from there to Edinburgh Castle in 1996 amid much celebration. **1996**

16 - Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show opened in the East End Exhibition Buildings, Duke Street, Glasgow. **1891**

16 - James Macpherson, the famous fiddling freebooter, was hanged at Banff. The town clock was said to have been advanced to forestall a messenger carrying a reprieve for his hanging. Legend has it that before the notorious outlaw musician was hanged for sheep and cattle stealing he treated the crowd to one of his own compositions, *Macpherson's Rant*, and then broke the fiddle over his knee. When Burns heard of the tale he wrote the song *Macpherson's Farewell*. **1700**



17 - Tam the Gun - the soldier who famously fired Edinburgh Castle's One o'Clock Gun for more than 25 years died. Staff Sergeant Thomas McKay, 60, lost a year-long battle against bowel cancer. **2005**

17 - David Livingstone reached Victoria Falls in Africa. Livingstone was born at Blantyre, south of Glasgow and went on a mission to reach new peoples in the interior of Africa and introduce them to Christianity. **1855**

18 - Sir David Wilkie who later became a well-known painter of historical and religious works as well as portraits, was born near Pitlessie, Fife. **1785**

18 - Robin Hall, the Scottish folk singer and musician, died. Hall achieved national fame in the sixties along with fellow Scot, Jimmie Macgregor, on the BBC TV show, *Tonight*. Hits included *The Mingulay Boat Song* and schoolboy favourite, *Ye Cannae Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus*. **1998**

19 - King Charles I born. **1600**

20 - James Bruce, 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Elgin, the Scottish Liberal statesman and diplomat, died. During his career he served as Governor-General of Canada, 1847-54, and India, 1862-63 and was special envoy to China and Japan. During a visit to China he burnt down the emperor's famous Summer Palace in Beijing, destroying thousands of priceless works of art, in order to intimidate the emperor and force him to sign an unratified treaty. **1863**

20 - Nicola Sturgeon is officially sworn in as First Minister of Scotland at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, in front of senior judges. Scotland's longest-serving and first ever female First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon resigned from office after more than eight years in the role in February 2023. **2014**

21 - King James VII married Mary of Modena. **1673**

22 - Birth of Mary of Guise, the French Queen Consort of James V. She was regent of Scotland during the minority reign of her daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. **1515**

22 - Jack McConnell elected First Minister of Scotland, succeeding Henry McLeish who had resigned. **2001**



23 - Historical novelist Nigel Tranter born in Glasgow. He was the most prolific Scottish writer of all time, writing mainly factual and fictional books related to Scottish history and was also a columnist for many years for *the Scottish Banner*. **1909**

23 - The Supreme Court rules that the Scottish Government cannot hold a second Scottish independence referendum without the UK government's consent. **2022**

24 - David II (aged 7) crowned at Scone. **1331**

24 - The Scots army defeated at the Rout of Solway Moss. King James V had sent a huge force of 10,000 men into England which was defeated by an English force under the command of Sir Thomas Wharton. James died shortly afterward, and was succeeded to the throne by his baby daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. **1542**

24 - The high court in Glasgow imposes a minimum sentence of 27 years for Al Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi, the Libyan national convicted of bombing Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, which resulted in 270 deaths. He was released on compassionate grounds by the Scottish Government on 20 August 2009 and died on 20 May 2012 in Libya. **2003**

25 - General Tam Dalyell raises a regiment to suppress Covenanters which later became the Royal Scots Greys. **1681**

25 - Steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie born in Dunfermline. Carnegie became a powerful businessman and a leading force in the American steel industry. Carnegie believed that the wealthy

had an obligation to give back to society, so he donated much of his fortune to causes like education and peace. **1835**

25 - Helen Duncan the last person to be jailed in the UK under the British Witchcraft Act of 1735 was born. **1897**

25 - Scotland becomes the first country in the world to make it a legal duty for period products to be available to anyone for free after the Period Products (Scotland) Bill is approved. **2020**

26 - Death of John McAdam, inventor of "macadamisation" road surface with a smooth hard surface with a camber to ensure rainwater rapidly drained away. **1836**

26 - Elsie Inglis, the Scottish nursing pioneer and suffragette, died. Inglis is perhaps best remembered for her role in the First World War, where, convinced that women could play an active role in the conflict, she led volunteer medical units of women who served in France and in Serbia, where Inglis herself was taken prisoner. Winston Churchill wrote that Inglis and her nurses "would shine in history". **1917**

27 - The greatest storm on record hit Britain with the loss of 8,000 people in 24 hours. **1703**

27 - The first deaths from an E.coli outbreak in Lanarkshire were reported. The outbreak was subsequently traced back to a butcher's shop in the town of Wishaw, and by early 1997 twenty people, mostly senior citizens, had died, making this the world's worst outbreak of E.coli poisoning. **1996**

28 - Battle of Rullion Green on the Pentland Hills, south-west of Edinburgh, in which the King's army led by Sir Tam Dalyell defeated the Covenanters. **1666**

28 - W.Oliver Brown, the candidate for the fledgling National Party of Scotland (NPS), polled 4,818 votes in the Renfrew East By-Election. In doing this he became the first NPS candidate to save his election deposit.

The National Party of Scotland amalgamated with the Scottish Party in April 1934 to form the modern Scottish National Party/SNP. **1930**

29 - Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII of England was born. She later married King James IV of Scotland in the "Union of the Thistle and the Rose". It was due to her bloodline that King James VI of Scotland was able to inherit the crown of England in 1603, after the death of his cousin, Queen Elizabeth I. **1489**

29 - Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons granted its charter by King James VI. **1599**

29 - Thomas Edison demonstrated the phonograph publicly for the first time. **1877**

30 - St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais') - celebrate the patron saint of Scotland. St Andrew, according to Christianity's teachings, was one of Jesus Christ's apostles, the twelve followers chosen by him.

30 - World's first international football (soccer) match, Scotland V England at West of Scotland Cricket Ground. Result was 0-0. **1872**

30 - *HMS Vanguard*, Britain's biggest and last battleship, was launched at Clydebank. **1944**



30 - Stone of Destiny, stolen from Scone by King Edward I of England in 1296, returned to Scotland and installed in Edinburgh Castle. The stone had previously been taken from Westminster Abbey in London by university students in 1951. **1996**

30 - Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh officially opened. **1999**



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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN - ST ANDREW'S DAY MENU



## Cullen Skink

**Ingredients:**

**For the stock:**

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

**For the soup:**

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

**Method:**

For the stock, heat the butter and vegetable oil in a large pan and gently fry the leeks, onions and fennel for 3-4 minutes, or until softened.

Add the white wine to the pan and bring to the boil. Add the smoked haddock, pour in the water and bring back to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes, skimming off any scum that rises to the surface, until the haddock is cooked through.

Strain the haddock, reserving the cooking stock. Chop the haddock into bite-sized pieces.

For the soup, heat the butter with the vegetable oil and fry the leeks, shallots and garlic for 3-4 minutes, or until softened. Add the potatoes and the chopped smoked haddock to the pan.

Add the reserved cooking stock and bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 10-15 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender. Stir in the cream and briefly blend the soup with a stick blender.

Serve the soup with crusty bread and sprinkle with the chopped fresh parsley and a sprinkling of freshly grated nutmeg.

## Rosemary Roasted Scotch Lamb



**Ingredients:**

- Leg of lamb weighing 1.8kg/4lbs.
- A couple of stems fresh rosemary
- 6 baking potatoes about 1.4kg/3lbs., peeled

- 1 onion, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, sliced
- 1tbsp olive oil
- ¾pt/350ml. lamb stock

**Method:**

Preheat the oven to 240°C/475°F/Gas 9. Season the lamb with freshly ground pepper and roast in a medium roasting tray in the preheated oven for 15 minutes. Lower the heat to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4.

Remove the lamb from the tray and pour off the excess fat. While the lamb is roasting, heat the oil in a pan, add the onions and cover and cook for 5 minutes till soft. Remove the cover from the pan, add the garlic and rosemary and cook for a further 5 minutes. Remove the onions from the pan. Lay a layer of potatoes into the roasting tray and lightly season with black pepper. Lay 1/3 of the cooked onions onto the potatoes, repeat this process until you have three or four layers of potatoes and onions. Bring the lamb stock to the boil and pour over the potatoes, press down with a spoon till the potatoes are all submerged. Place the lamb on top and return to the preheated oven and continue to cook for 3 hours. The lamb should be meltingly tender and the potatoes and onions should have absorbed the stock and lamb juices.

## Crispy neeps 'n' tatties cake

**Ingredients:**

- 1 large swede, peeled and cut into chunks
- 4 baking potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- 50g./1.75oz. butter
- sunflower oil, for greasing
- 8 thin slices pancetta

**Method:**

Boil the swede and potatoes in salted water for about 20 mins until completely tender, then drain well. Return to the pan under a very low heat for a few mins to dry out. Off the heat, bash the veg into a chunky mash with half the butter, a touch of salt and lots of pepper.

Heat oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Grease an ovenproof frying pan with a splash of oil and line the pan with the pancetta so it meets in the middle (like the stripes on the Union Flag). Press the veg into the dish (you can get up to this stage up to a day ahead and keep in the fridge). Dot with the remaining butter, then bake for about 40 mins until crisp and golden. Remove from the oven, turn out onto a board and cut into wedges.

## Tipsy Laird (Scottish Trifle)

**Ingredients:**

- 8 sponge fingers
- 3 tbsp. of raspberry jam
- 6 digestive or ratafia biscuits
- 1 dram of sweet sherry
- 1 dram of whisky or Drambuie
- A handful of fresh raspberries
- 1 cup of double cream
- 1 tbsp. of caster sugar
- Flaked almonds toasted to decorate

**For the custard:**

- 2 egg yolks
- 40g/1.5 oz. of caster sugar
- 4 drops of vanilla essence
- 1 cup of milk
- 2/3 cup of double cream



Celebrate this St Andrew's Day with a traditional dinner using some of the finest recipes from Scotland's natural larder. Sample some great Scottish food and drink on November 30<sup>th</sup> with your friends and family and enjoy a St Andrew's Night!

**Method:**

Start by making the custard. Beat together the egg yolks and sugar until pale. Mix the cream, milk, and vanilla in a pan and warm to just below boiling point. Pour into the beaten egg mixture, blending well. Return to the pan over a low heat and stir continuously until thickened. Transfer to a bowl and cool.

Spread the sponge fingers with the raspberry jam and place in the bottom of a large glass bowl or small trifle dishes. Roughly crush the biscuits and scatter over the jammed sponge. Mix the sherry and whisky (or Drambuie) and pour over the biscuit and sponge. Leave it to soak in.

Whisk the double cream and caster sugar to thick peaks and fold in more whisky if preferred. Pour the cooled custard over the sponge and top with a layer of raspberries. Spoon over the thickened cream and decorate with a scattering of toasted flaked almonds.

## Cranachan



**Ingredients:**

- 570ml/1 pint double cream
- 85g/3oz. porridge oats
- 7 tbsp. whisky
- 3 tbsp. honey
- 450g/1lb. raspberries
- fresh mint, to garnish

**Method:**

Toast the oats in a frying pan, being careful not to burn them. Lightly whip the cream until it reaches the soft peak stage, then fold in the whisky, honey, oatmeal and raspberries. Serve in dessert glasses garnished with a few raspberries and mint.

## 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.



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

The 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month marks the moment the guns fell silent on the Western Front after the bloodshed of World War I.

The red poppy is a symbol of remembrance of those who died or suffered in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. Approved and supported by The Royal British Legion, in celebration of the poppy, a symbol of remembrance and hope worn by millions of people as part of modern British life, culture and heritage.

A percentage of the sales of "Remember Me" tartan products is donated to The Royal British Legion to help and support those who are proud to wear the poppy, and to help those in need. Colours: red, green and black represent the poppy and remembrance and white represents hope and the future of the living. This tartan (reference: 11742) was designed by Margi Lawson and registered in March, 2017.

# Frank Mosley - *an artist inspired by Scotland*



By: Frank Mosley

Scotland, my homeland and the country which I love to paint. There, inspiration greets me at every turn. Highlands, islands, lowlands – every corner of ‘Caledonia’ provides subject matter for my canvases – but I am drawn, time and time again, to the Outer Hebrides. This bejewelled string of islands stretches 130 miles from the Butt of Lewis, south to the uninhabited wildlife haven of Mingulay. Lewis and Harris (of the eponymous tweed!), Benbecula, the Uists, Eriskay (where Bonnie Prince Charlie landed to lead the ill-fated Jacobite Rebellion) and Barra with its causeway to Vatersay. An archipelago which forms the last point of civilization between the Scottish mainland and the Americas. Betimes cosseted by the Gulf Stream or relentlessly battered by Atlantic gales, these islands of contrast boast some of the world’s most beautiful beaches – sands of myriad shades and crystalline waters in vivid green and turquoise hues.

This year I was honoured to be asked to stage an exhibition of my paintings on the island of Barra. In June 2023 the island’s

Heritage Centre hosted the Centenary Homecoming to mark 100 years since many families on Barra and neighbouring Vatersay left their homes for the promise of a better life in Canada. Post-war, the islands’ herring industry had all but disappeared, work was impossible to find and poverty was rife. Tempted by the lure of rich farmland or well-paid jobs on the Canadian Pacific Railroad, entire households shipped away to the Prairies. Whilst some forged successful new lives others found nothing but disappointment and continuing hardship. The descendants of these brave emigrants made their pilgrimage to the Homecoming to learn of the life and times of their forebears and where possible to visit the ruins of their ancestors’ humble dwellings. For many, the trip was their first visit to Scotland. For some, it was the very first time they had journeyed from their homes in Canada. For everyone that I met it was an emotional connection with their pasts. Stories tumbled out, family histories were shared – and more than a few tears were shed. The Heritage Centre in Barra’s Castlebay holds a wealth of information about these exiled islanders and an excellent collection of photographs and memorabilia – well worth a visit!

## A little part of Scotland in every painting

As I travel, in search of inspiration for my art, I try to collect a tiny pinch of sand and some drops of water from the scene I hope to capture. These elements are incorporated in each canvas, to put a little part of Scotland in every painting. My notebook will record a

few paragraphs which, when I return to my studio in France, will bring images back to me in even sharper focus than my camera. Sometimes I will develop these notes into a piece of descriptive prose which accompanies the painting and hopefully enhances the pleasure of ownership for the buyer:

*‘Perhaps a little bay, framed by a tumble of rocks dumped by time’s glacial bulldozer – grey, black, brown and shot through with specks of glittering quartz. Or a sweeping ‘Traigh’ – a perfect crescent of pristine sand. There, a scatter of white painted houses gazing towards the sea which, in its giving and taking down the millennia, has shaped these islands and their peoples.*

*Maybe today, nature’s scene shifters will challenge my canvas by changing the vista a dozen times or more. Once a blue and listless sky, then suddenly a scurry of wispy clouds will enter from stage left in a merry dance. Lowering storm heads might roll in, with*

*only a follow-spot of sunlight to illuminate a squadron of oystercatchers – wings fluttering urgently as they head for shelter.*

*Then, when evening comes, the sun – its day’s work done – will sweep majestically from the scene, scattering tints of rose and peach, purple and orange and a cadmium red so vivid that the horizon seems to smoulder.*

*Darkness falls, a contented stillness settles and the rippling applause of waves on shore closes another world class performance’.*

So, here in France, as winter approaches, the log fire will be lit and my memory will be aglow with recollections of this year’s travels – island visits, exhibitions staged, acquaintances made and old friends revisited. This artist, inspired by Scotland, will pick up his brushes and his pen – and hope to do justice to his beautiful homeland.

**For more information and to view Frank’s work see: [www.frankmosleyart.com](http://www.frankmosleyart.com)**



Kisimul Castle.

# The Scottish North America Community Conference *‘How our history and community, empowers our future’*



The Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk.

The Scottish North America Community Conference (SNACC) will take place in person and online, over the weekend of December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Alexandria, VA. Celebrating its 21<sup>st</sup> year of this annual conference of leading members of the Scottish American Diaspora, this year the conference will discuss ‘How our history and community, empowers our future’.

Through a series of discussions, we hope to help us all address this important issue. Charles, Lord Bruce, will open the conference

speaking of The Scottish Clans Heirs Project, the initiative is led by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and headed up Lord Bruce. Ethan MacDonald, Regional Commissioner, Council of Scottish Clans & Associations (COSCA); Member of Council, Clan Donald Society, USA - and founder, Scottish-American Scouting Association, Kalamazoo, MI (via Zoom) and Cameron Steer, American Scottish Foundation (ASF) Youth Ambassadors and Youth Sports Empowerment coach will be joined by others in opening up this discussion.

As we look to bring on our young leaders of tomorrow, we have to recognize their challenges and COSCA and CASSOC leaders, John Bellassai and William Petrie joining the discussion. Rory Hedderly, Head of Business Development (USA) - Entrepreneurial Scotland and Saltire Foundation will join Gus Noble and Stuart Adam, Scottish Connections Fund, to discuss the importance of experience programs helping in developing our Young Ambassadors and through the Scottish university alumni network strengthen the message of Scots in America. The Friday session will conclude with a whisky tasting and reception.

Following the Alexandria Christmas Walk on the Saturday SNACC invites attendees to join for a light buffet, the afternoon session will begin with greetings from Chris Thomson - Scottish Gov’t Counselor for the USA & Head Scottish Gov’t Office, UK Embassy, Washington, DC Congressman Myer, representing Alexandria, VA (a Scottish-American and member of House Scottish Caucus) Campbell Lord Provost of Dundee Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston, 30<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan Hunter.

It is one year since the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II and a central figure throughout those days and the subsequent Coronation of King Charles III was Dr John Morrow, Lord Lyon, King of Arms. Lyon will share a unique insight into the past year.

Stepping back to Scotland and America in the later part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. James P. Ambuske, PhD, Professor of History, James Mason University, Fairfax, VA (specializes in Scotland & America, 18<sup>th</sup> century) will speak of the Scottish experience on the eve of the American Revolution and the loyalist immigration to Canada. We then return to today, to importance of collaboration and a great example of collaboration at work in the Washington Metro Area with:

Gregory Haymon, President, St. Andrew’s Society of Washington, DC.

Heather McKenzie Haddock, Co-Chair, Scottish American Women’s Society (SAWS).

Alexandra Duncan, Vice President, Virginia Scottish Games & Festivals Ass’n (VSGA).

James Morrison, Secretary & Past President, National Capital Tartan Day Committee, Inc. (NCTDC).

Camilla Hellman, ASF President will report on upcoming highlights in Scotland 2024 from Dunfermline to Glasgow, to festival highlights and museum plans. The Conference concludes with a mix and mingle reception with light refreshments and cash bar.

***Ticket reservations can now be made at: [www.scottishleadershipconference.com](http://www.scottishleadershipconference.com). For further information email: [snaccvent@gmail.com](mailto:snaccvent@gmail.com) or telephone: 212 729 0127.***



The MacEanruigs, proud sons of Henry, invite you to join!

## Clan Henderson Society

**Purposes of the Society**

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

Contact: Jeff Henderson  
jeffh@bigpond.com  
0439 330 012

An Cìrean Cèann Cinnidh

[www.clanhendersonsociety.com](http://www.clanhendersonsociety.com)


# McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

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## Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President  
President@clanmaclarena.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: kismul@chariot.net.au



## Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

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

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope  
highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org

Membership Chair: Cynthia Hope Henderson  
membership@clanhope.org  
www.clanhope.org

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

**SCOTLAND**  
Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope  
commissionerscotland@clanhope.org  
www.clanhope.org

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClanHopeofCraighall>

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## CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, to join us in celebrating our heritage!

website: [ClanMacNeilUSA.us](http://ClanMacNeilUSA.us)  
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram  
@ClanMacNeilUSA

## Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron  
Alexander H.R. Irvine of Drum,  
27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name  
Mary Erwin, Chairwoman  
155 Hattaway Road, Calhoun, LA, 71225  
mary.erwin@clanirwin.org  
[www.clanirwin.org](http://www.clanirwin.org)  
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## Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.  
Treasurer  
383 Ash Brook Lane  
Sunnyvale, TX  
75182-3250  
Email: [treasurer@clanmaclellan.net](mailto:treasurer@clanmaclellan.net)

Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of surname spelling to join in preserving our heritage. Various family names are MacLellan(d), McClellan(d), McLellan(d) and Gilliland.

Visit our website: [www.clanmaclellan.net](http://www.clanmaclellan.net)



## Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail  
of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson  
PO Box 243  
GYMEA NSW 2227  
[www.clanmacnicol.org](http://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](mailto:ken.godfrey1@gmail.com)  
Australia ~ Douglas McLaughlin [banddmclatpg.com.au](mailto:banddmclatpg.com.au)  
Britain, Ireland & Scotland ~ Tony MacEwen [macewen45@sky.com](mailto:macewen45@sky.com)  
New Zealand ~ Helen Chegwin [kiwhic@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kiwhic@xtra.co.nz)  
USA ~ Kevin McLachlan [kevinbmlachlan@gmail.com](mailto:kevinbmlachlan@gmail.com)



## Clan MacInnes

Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

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

Scott McInnis, Member Services: [scott@macinnes.org](mailto:scott@macinnes.org) or visit [www.macinnes.org](http://www.macinnes.org)

## Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

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

Askey MacAndie MacClure  
Beaton MacAskill MacCorkill MacWilliam  
Bethune MacAulay MacCrimmon Norrie  
Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallum Norman  
Harold MacCaig MacHaigh Tolmie  
Lewis MacCaskey MacRaid Williamson

- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter MacLeod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
- South Australia - Alex McLeod 08 8327 0925
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334

• Email: [peter.macleod@exemail.com.au](mailto: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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 [ianandbevmlucas@bigpond.com](mailto:ianandbevmlucas@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  
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WEST VALLEY CITY, UT  
84120-6880



## The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

**Australian Contact:**  
Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: [learn@vsr.com.au](mailto:learn@vsr.com.au)  
NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: [sue.treg1@gmail.com](mailto:sue.treg1@gmail.com)



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## MacLaren

Clan Labhran

Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

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

<https://clanmaclarenau.org/>  
[clanmaclarenau@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://clanmacnaughton.net) or contact Mary Nivison Burton, Membership Secretary at: [membersec@clanmacnaughton.net](mailto:membersec@clanmacnaughton.net)

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## Clan MacRae Society of North America

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[www.macrae.org](http://www.macrae.org)  
Need more info? Contact:  
Bruce McRae, President  
303-670-9611  
[brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com](mailto:brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com)

## Clan Maitland Society

Chief: Ian Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale!  
We are all related! Contact your local society  
**North America:** Rosemary Maitland Thom  
rthomnvrpcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org  
**Australia:** Amanda Maitland  
clanmaitlandaustralia@gmail.com  
12 Settlers Way, Westleigh, NSW, 2120  
**New Zealand:** Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz  
33 Disley Street, Highbury, Wellington 6012. NZ  
We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen  
and similar name spelling. See the entire list and  
your family history at: [www.clanmaitland.org.uk](http://www.clanmaitland.org.uk)

## 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

## YOUNGS OF SCOTLAND

Membership inquiries:  
Ms. Laura Young,  
33 McKeen Street,  
Jarvis, Ontario,  
Canada N0A 1J0  
[4scottishthistles@gmail.com](mailto:4scottishthistles@gmail.com)

## The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcome  
from all of Scottish descent.  
For information please contact  
members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au  
Find us on Facebook  
[www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au)

## CLAN MUNRO ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



We would be pleased to  
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names; Munro, Monro,  
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Foulis, MacCulloch,  
Dingwall, MacLulich and  
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BECOME A MEMBER, CONTACT RAY MUNRO  
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0410 663 760

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[www.clanross.org](http://www.clanross.org)

## Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004  
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Email: [clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com](mailto:clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com)  
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email: [shusa457@gmail.com](mailto:shusa457@gmail.com)  
(910) 295-4448

### Scottish Associations and Societies



Membership cordially invited from  
those who are connected with this  
great Clan, i.e., Morrison, Morison,  
Gilmour, Gilmer, Gilmore, Murrison or  
descendants of eligible name.  
[www.clanmorrison.net](http://www.clanmorrison.net)



**Clan Sinclair Australia**  
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Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants.*  
For further info contact  
President: Wayne Sinclair 0417 146 174  
Secretary: Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263  
E: [clansincliraustralia@hotmail.com](mailto:clansincliraustralia@hotmail.com)  
[www.clansincliraustralia.com](http://www.clansincliraustralia.com)

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TENEMENT TALES - By: Brian Diamond

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



# The Teflon Kid

I had two friends that I played with on a periodic basis, the first was John Keenan from Gourlay St and the other was James Kilo from Keppochhill Rd. John was rather like me in that he played well, and while playing inevitably got dirty and returned home each evening reflecting a good day of fun. James on the other hand was a mother's dream child, Mrs Kilo turned James out every day like he was going for an interview and no matter what games we played, James returned home every night as immaculate as when he left in the morning, it was a miracle, earning him the dubious title of Mr. Clean from the other rascals.

All the other kid's mothers would say to their kids, "why can't you be like James Kilo?, look how clean he is!" enough to drive a growing lad crazy, how does he play all our games and still manage to stay so clean? Well as the years passed, we all left school, got jobs and went our separate ways and one day when I was about 23 years old, I met my old friend John Keenan in Glasgow. We of course started to bring each other up to date on our present positions in life with regards to work, marriage, kids etc, I was in sales and John had just recently become a police constable. I asked John if he knew where James Kilo was and he related this bizarre story to me, now remember, this took place over 60 years ago and the world was a very large and very different place at that time.

## South America

Apparently, John had served his time to become a ships engineer and one day he saw an advertisement in the paper calling for a ships engineer, with interviews being held at the Central Hotel in Glasgow. John applied for the position and was quite surprised to hear that the job was on a ship in South America, he was even more surprised later to hear later that he had been selected for the position. He was flown to Montevideo in Uruguay and then transported for many days inland to a location that he had never heard of and placed upon a boat smaller than he had thought it would be. The captain of the boat relieved him of his passport and locked it up in the ships safe, clearly to prevent him from ever leaving the ship until the job was done.

So, John had a quick look at the engine room, determined that all was well, and the ship cast off, John went to bed exhausted after such a long journey. His sleep was rudely interrupted by the sound of a large bang, so he jumped out of bed and made his way to the engine room fearing that the sound had come from the ship's engine. It was clear to him that the engine was fine, so he made his way on deck only to find that the sound that he had heard was small cannon gunfire, coming from the opposite bank of this very large wide river that they were sailing on. This in itself was a disturbing discovery, even more disturbing was the fact that the shell shots were being fired at his boat, so he made a hasty retreat from the deck.

The shelling was sporadic and after a discussion with the captain, who was quite blasé about the gunfire, apparently this was normal, John was determined to get off this ship at the first port of call. Language was a problem, so he never really did understand the gunfire, rebels and a government coup of some sort was the best that he could make out. He asked to have his passport returned and the captain refused to hand it back until the job was done, so John had to wait his time. When the ship reached its first port John jumped ship with very little money, no passport, and only a vague idea of where he was.

## Smuggled safely on board

Eventually he made his way back to the dockside in Montevideo, he was a wreck, completely broke, dressed like a bum in tattered clothes, filthy dirty from two weeks of living rough and trying to figure out how to make his way to the British Consulate for assistance. He was sitting on a capstan at the dock planning his next move when he happened to look up, and there in front of him was a vision, no it can't be, he thought, that has to be an illusion, I must be hallucinating from lack of food. Walking towards him, dressed in an immaculate gold braided white chief petty officer's summer uniform was none other than his old childhood pal from Springburn, the Teflon Kid himself, James Kilo and several other guys all similarly dressed.

How cool was this? John dressed like a street bum, and this vision, his friend Mr Clean, dressed just as impeccable as ever. John stands up and says "Jim, am I ever glad to see you here, you are a life saver!" Jim looks at John, and on first appraisal fails to recognise his childhood friend due to his scruffiness and atrocious condition. Eventually Jim does see his friend, hears his story, and gets him cleaned up. Over drinks and a meal, Jim hatches a plan to smuggle John aboard

his merchant ship with instructions that he must stay hidden until the ship is clear of international waters. So, they get John smuggled safely on board, find a secure place for him to hide, and Jim provides John with daily food and drink to sustain him. Jim tells John when they have cleared the international line and advises John to give himself up to the captain, by declaring himself illegal, and offering to work his passage in the engine room until their next port of call which was South Africa.

This is exactly what happened, and when the ship docked in South Africa, John was put ashore and made his way to the British Consulate for asylum and repatriation. Some weeks later, Jim, The Teflon Kid is home in Scotland on shore leave and he runs into Mrs Keenan in Springburn, after exchanging pleasantries she says that her son John is somewhere in South America and that she is waiting to hear from him. Jim says to Mrs Keenan, "No, your John's in South Africa", to which Mrs Keenan smiles knowingly, "Naw, it's South America son, it's so easy to get these places mixed up", she says. Discretion being the better part of valour, and not wishing to worry her with the long story, Jim nods and says, "Aye perhaps your right, I'm sure that you will hear from him soon." As I recall this incredible coincidence, I marvel at the gods of fate that make these things happen, where would we all be without friends to support us in times of need.

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# Prestwick Airport - a place in the heart of many Scots



Trans-Canada Air Lines, DC-8.



Prestwick as an Air Force base today.

By: Allan Mackintosh

**Many ex-pat Scots will have flown from Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire to start new lives in the United States and Canada and for many the airport holds a special place in their heart. The same will apply to the thousands of US and Canadian servicemen who transited through Prestwick during both World War 2 and the Cold War era as well as those who were actually based at the airfield. In this short article, local enthusiast, Allan Mackintosh outlines the history of the airfield from the first recorded early aviation activity in 1913 through to the present day.**

The first recorded aviation activity at Prestwick was recorded in July 1913 when three Royal Flying Corps BE.2a biplanes who were supporting Territorial Army manoeuvres at Gailles just up the coast, used the Monkton 'Meadows' as a landing ground in between sorties. After this event there is no official recorded activity through the 1920s with most aviation activity being centred at the airstrip at Ayr Racecourse. However, with the increase in aviation activity in the early 1930s and in particular with pleasure flights from Renfrew to the beaches of Prestwick and Ayr there was the odd occasion that a plane set off from Renfrew only to find the beach at Prestwick had the tide in and as it couldn't land, used the fields of the Monkton Meadows as a relief landing ground. It was also during this period that Midland & Scottish Air Ferries started to use Monkton as a diversionary landing ground for Renfrew, when fog and low cloud regularly closed the Glasgow airfield. This was the start of the realisation that Monkton (soon to be renamed Prestwick) offered a safe haven for passenger and mail aircraft on a regular basis given the excellent weather record of the area. This resulted in the airfield becoming a fully licensed aerodrome in 1934.

The year before in 1933, two young pilots, David McIntyre, and Douglas Douglas-Hamilton members of No.602 City of Glasgow Auxiliary Air Force Squadron, were one of a pair of aircraft to be the first to successfully fly over Mount Everest.

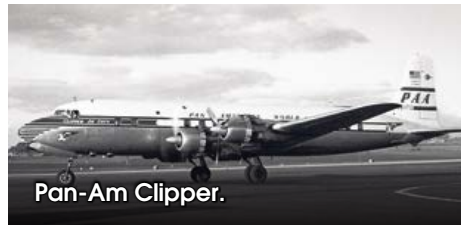
Both men had experience of flying into the Monkton Meadows and David McIntyre, in particular, had a real passion for the airfield to be developed further. After evaluating several local sites, McIntyre, and Douglas-Hamilton, in conjunction with the De Havilland company, set up Scottish Aviation Ltd, based initially around an 'Elementary Flying School' training pilots and navigators for the Royal Air Force. The 'new' airfield was built just beside the Monkton Meadows close to Orangefield House, which was later to become Prestwick's first true passenger terminal. (The first 'terminal' was actually a Midland & Scottish Transport bus which kept diverted passengers dry and warm whilst awaiting their limousine transport back to Renfrew!)

## International airfield

With the advent of World War 2 in 1939, Prestwick grew from being a small training airfield to a fully functioning international airfield, becoming the preferred landing ground for many aircraft entering the war arena from the US and Canada. Between 1941 and 1945, 37,000 aircraft movements were recorded. Initially RAF Aldergrove (now Belfast International) was the preferred landing ground for the 'Atlantic Ferry Organisation' but with Prestwick having a better weather record, the Ayrshire airfield was finally chosen as the preferred airfield.

With the increase in aircraft activity, there was also an increase in aircraft related maintenance, repair, and conversion work so Scottish Aviation's work grew to the extent that new hangers and buildings had to be erected quickly to cater for the increase in work. The main hanger (which is still in place today, along with most of the wartime hangers) was affectionally known as 'The Palace' (and still is) and this is the Palace of Engineering which took pride of place at the Glasgow Empire Exhibition in Glasgow's Bellahouston Park in 1938. The building was moved to Prestwick 'brick by brick' over a four-month period between April and September 1940 and still stands proudly overseeing today's international airport. Post war airline passenger travel through the airport started once again from 1946.

In the post war years, Prestwick was afforded 'transatlantic' status and initially was one of only two UK airports (the other being the new London-Heathrow) to be allowed this status. From Prestwick there were regular flights to and from the US and Canada and the airport proved to be a great staging post for flights from France, Belgium, Holland, and Scandinavia. Prestwick's Orangefield terminal offered a service second to none and was the first UK Airport to offer duty-free. At this time London Heathrow was an unsightly mass of temporary huts!



Pan-Am Clipper.

In 1955, the military returned to the airfield in the form of the United States Air Force with a major base at Prestwick and Elvis Presley visited in 1960 for a brief stopover and this made the airport the only place where he set foot in the UK (there are claims that Elvis was also secretly in London but it was obviously so secret that there is no physical evidence of this!) Scottish Aviation remained a world-leader in aircraft maintenance and aircraft design and manufacturing commences with the Prestwick Pioneer. This leads to the manufacture of the Twin Pioneer in the late 1950s and in later years (60s through to the early 90s) the company produces the successful Jetstream family of commuter airliners, and the equally successful Bulldog, a military basic trainer.

With the introduction of the jet-age in the late 1950s, Prestwick had to expand to keep pace and the main runway was extended to 9800ft and a new secondary runway was built to the south-west of the airfield. A new terminal building, freight building, control tower and loop road around the airport was built, with sadly, the old Orangefield terminal being demolished to make way for a new parallel taxiway. The runway extension was actually implemented to serve the US Air Force and it conforms to the standard US military specification of the day. This is one of very few runways in the UK to do so and still to this day one it is of the longest. This enables Prestwick to be able to handle the world's largest freighters with full loads and was one of the factors leading to the frequent Concorde training flights in the 70s.

## The World O'er

During the late 80s and early 90s, with the expansion of the airports at Glasgow and Edinburgh, Prestwick's monopoly became under threat and ultimately 'Open Skies' was introduced to allow airports to compete.

With Glasgow's and Edinburgh's airports now able to accommodate the large passenger jets (as well as being on the outskirts of the cities), in time, all transatlantic passenger airlines moved to the city airports. This left Prestwick in a perilous position and with the owner, the British Airports Authority (BAA), also owning Glasgow and Edinburgh, the airport looked doomed, with property developers lining up to offer to buy the site and redevelop it for housing and industrial units. However, a dynamic group of investors, led by a Canadian lawyer, Mathew Hudson, supported by the boss of British Aerospace, Alan Macdonald, saved the day by 'persuading' BAA to sell them the airport. Whilst BAA were reluctant to sell to a 'competitor', there was a clause in the 99-year lease given to Scottish Aviation that

stipulated that the airport runways could not be sold unless Scottish Aviation (now British Aerospace) allowed it. As British Aerospace needed the runways for their flying college and for the demonstration and testing of their Jetstreams, they were not for giving the runways up!

The airport was now under new dynamic ownership and from 2004 went from strength to strength as a result of new investment (including the airport's own rail station) and also due to the low-cost airline revolution. The airport hit 2.5 million passengers per annum in 2006 although, once again, Glasgow and Edinburgh increased their competition practices, with the result that Prestwick's main airline, Ryanair moved some services to both Glasgow and Edinburgh. Today Prestwick handles close to 800,000 passengers per annum although passenger incomes are now only a fraction of the airport's main income with property rentals, maintenance, technical stops, cargo, training, and refuelling bring in most revenue. The airport at present has returned to its military roots with the Royal Canadian Air Force maintaining a base there and the Air Forces of the US, Oman, Abu Dhabi, UAE, Kuwait, and Israel using the airport for fuel and overnight stops. Cargo volumes remain strong, with regular cargo schedules maintained by Cargolux and Air France.

Today, the airport is owned by the Scottish Government, who see the facility as an important infrastructure asset that helps to support in excess of 4,000 jobs in the West of Scotland. It's the heart of Scotland's aerospace industry, with over 50% of the country's aerospace workforce employed at Prestwick, offering a diverse range of aviation services, and providing vital connections to the rest of the world. Next step - space! The motto of Scottish Aviation 'The World O'er' remains as strong today as it did in 1935.

**Allan Mackintosh has started Prestwick Aviation Tours to bring the amazing and fascinating story of Prestwick to life. At present, there are short walking tours of a portion of the perimeter of the airfield, where Allan guides the tourists through the story of the airfield from 1913 to the present day. There are plans for a virtual tour to be up and running in 2024 so that the many ex-pats and service personnel who flew to and from Prestwick can experience the airfield's story. Allan can be contacted on +44 (0) 776 416 8989 or via email [info@prestwickaviationtours.com](mailto:info@prestwickaviationtours.com). The website is: <https://prestwickaviationtours.com>.**



Elvis at Prestwick in 1960.



Orangefield House.



Prestwick spectators terrace.



# WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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## Canada

### NOVEMBER 2023

#### St. Andrew's Charity Ball 17, Montréal, QC

A gala evening of dining, dancing and Scottish pageantry in support of the Douglas Hospital Foundation at the Marriott Château Champlain with the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal. Info: [www.standrews.qc.ca](http://www.standrews.qc.ca)

#### St. Andrew's Charity Ball 18, Toronto, ON

The St. Andrew's Charity Ball is a celebration of Scottish-Canadian culture. Attendees have been enjoying this elegant evening of music, dance and cuisine for more than a century. The 2023 Ball will again take place at the Royal York Hotel. Info: [https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast\\_event/charity-ball/](https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/charity-ball/)

#### 152<sup>nd</sup> Celebration of St. Andrew's Day 25, Winnipeg, MB

Join the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg for an evening filled with delightful Scottish entertainment, delectable dining, and memorable toasts. Entertainment includes The Chippewa Band and the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band at the Caboto Centre. Info: [www.standrewssocietywinnipeg.com](http://www.standrewssocietywinnipeg.com)

#### Shiftin' Bobbins' St Andrew's Celebration Dance 25, Toronto, ON

Come celebrate our 10th annual St. Andrew's Night event to the live music of Laird Brown & Donny Wood. A programme of local favourites is designed for every dancing level, briefed, and walked through. Info: <https://sbsg-toronto.my.canva.site/home>

#### Auld Alliance: Music and Ceilidh Dancing 29, Toronto, ON

Come along for a fabulously fun evening of dancing and music with the Auld Alliance. Auld Alliance performs an entertaining blend of upbeat traditional folk songs and beautiful heartfelt ballads from Scotland, Ireland, France, and Australia at 102 Abbeywood Trail. Info: <https://allevents.in/toronto/auld-alliance-music-and-ceilidh-dancing/>

#### Happy St Andrew's Day 30, Nationwide

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

### DECEMBER 2023

#### Happy Christmas/A Blithe Yule/Nollaig Chridheil 25, Nationwide

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very happy, safe and peaceful Christmas!

#### Happy Hogmanay 31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024!

## USA

### NOVEMBER 2023

#### American Scottish Foundation Annual Dinner and Wallace Awards

3, New York, NY  
Celebrating the Wallace Awards for Heritage, Arts, and Culture, honoring Garreth Wood who founded and is Chair of KidsOR. This year introduces the Young Scot Wallace Award which will be presented to Jamie Douglas Hamilton for his Great Rows of the Antarctic, 15 Guinness Book of Records and his achievement as multi award winner as a Young Entrepreneur for ACTIPH. Info: [www.americanscottishfoundation.com](http://www.americanscottishfoundation.com)

#### Tucson Celtic Festival and Scottish Highland Games 3-5, Tucson, AZ

Live music, traditional food, family fun, vendors, dancers and more at Rillito Raceway Park, 4502 N. First Ave. Info: [www.tucsoncelticfestival.org](http://www.tucsoncelticfestival.org)

#### Tartan Ball 2023 4 Washington, DC

Join the St. Andrew's Society of Washington DC at the famous National Press Club for the 73rd Annual Tartan Ball, a formal celebration of Scottish-American heritage and traditions. Info: [www.saintandrewsociety.org](http://www.saintandrewsociety.org)

#### NY Scottish Ball 4, New York, NY

The NY Scottish Ball brings together all who welcome an evening of music, dance, good food and fine whisky for an unforgettable night of reeling fun. Join us at the Down Town Association in Manhattan. Black tie or Highland dress. Info: [www.nyscottishball.com](http://www.nyscottishball.com) or [info@nyscottishball.com](mailto:info@nyscottishball.com).

#### Richmond Highland Games 4, Henrico VA

This tradition will feature all things Celtic including bagpipe bands, Highland and Irish Dance competitions, Harp and Fiddle Competitions, Heavy Athletic Competitions, Caber tossing, hammer throws, tasty traditional foods and more. New location at Dorey Park and Recreation Center, 2999 Darbytown Rd. Info: [www.richmondhighlandgames.com](http://www.richmondhighlandgames.com)

#### Charleston Scottish Games 4, Charleston, SC

The second oldest event of its kind in the southeast, immersing visitors in Scottish heritage and history at Riverfront Park, 1061 Everglades Ave. Info: [www.charlestonscottishgames.com](http://www.charlestonscottishgames.com)

#### Austin Celtic Festival 4-5, Austin, TX

The largest gathering of Celts in Central Texas. Multi-stages of all things Celtic out at the beautiful Pioneer Farms in North Austin. Info: [www.AustinCelticFestival.com](http://www.AustinCelticFestival.com)

#### Salado Scottish Gathering and Highland Games 10-12, Salado, TX

62nd Scottish gathering and Highland Games- A 3-day event filled with the skirl of the bagpipes and the wearing of the tartan at Salado Museum and College Park. Info: [www.saladomuseum.org/scottish-gathering-and-highland-games](http://www.saladomuseum.org/scottish-gathering-and-highland-games)

#### The Balmoral Classic 11, Pittsburgh, PA

The Balmoral Classic championship is the only solo bagpiping and Scottish snare drumming competition in the US exclusively for those age 21 and under. Info: [www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org](http://www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org)

#### Mississippi Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Music Festival

11-12, Gulfport, MS  
Annual Celtic music festival and Scottish Highland Games on the Mississippi Gulf Coast at Harrison County Fairgrounds. Info: [www.mshighlandsandislands.com](http://www.mshighlandsandislands.com)

#### Dunedin Celtic Music Festival 18, Dunedin, FL

An annual event outdoor festival featuring multiple Celtic musical acts all day. Info: [www.dunedinscottisharts.com](http://www.dunedinscottisharts.com)

#### Celtic Thanksgiving 25, Las Vegas, NV

Las Vegas Pipe Band's annual Celtic Thanksgiving concert showcases the best of Southern Nevada's diverse Celtic performing arts community on one stage: Scottish and Irish dancers, Celtic singers, bagpiping and Scottish drumming, and even a guest World Champion Bagpiper, at Eagles Aerie Hall, 1601 E Washington Ave. Info: [www.lasvegaspipeband.org](http://www.lasvegaspipeband.org)

#### 196<sup>th</sup> St. Andrew's Scottish Ball 25, Cincinnati, OH

Celebrate St Andrews Day with The Caledonian Society of Cincinnati at the Hilton Cincinnati Nethland Plaza. Info: [www.caledoniansociety.org](http://www.caledoniansociety.org)

#### Happy St Andrew's Day 30, Nationwide

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

### DECEMBER 2023

#### Scottish North American Community Conference 1-2, Alexandria, VA

The Conference is an opportunity for those in the Scottish North American community to share views, values, experiences and best practices. Presented by a selection of key American and Canadian Scottish community groups. Info: [www.scottishleadershipconference.com](http://www.scottishleadershipconference.com)

#### Whisky Tasting - Scotland's St. Andrews Day with Bill Mullen

2, Dunedin, FL  
Join for a whisky tasting with fun. Scottish singer/songwriter Bill Mullen, Highland dancing, and bagpipes at the Scottish Cultural Center, 917 Loudon Ave. Info: [www.sas-dunedin.org](http://www.sas-dunedin.org).

#### The Pipes of Christmas 16-17, New York, NY

This beloved Celtic Christmas celebration returns for its 25th year in NYC and NJ. Pipes and Drums, Harp and Fiddle, Organ and Brass and much more. Proceeds support scholarships, museum exhibitions and public outreach programs. Info: [www.pipesofchristmas.com](http://www.pipesofchristmas.com)

#### Happy Christmas/A Blithe Yule/Nollaig Chridheil 25, Nationwide

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very happy, safe and peaceful Christmas!

#### Happy Hogmanay 31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024!

## Scotland

### NOVEMBER 2023

#### Perthshire Amber 2-5, Dunkeld

Featuring Dougie MacLean and special musical friends with concerts and events in the beautiful autumn in Perthshire. Info: [www.perthshireamber.com](http://www.perthshireamber.com)

#### The Autumn Gathering 3-5, Glasgow

The Autumn Gathering brings Scottish country dancers from across the world to gather over a weekend full of activities in autumn, at the beautiful, historic Kelvin Hall.

Info: <https://rscds.org/events/autumn-gathering-2023>

#### Samhain Firewalk 2023 4, Tir na nOg, Balfunning

The Firewalk ceremony is a symbolic rite of passage into a new way of being. The firewalk allows people to 'release energetic and emotional burdens to the fire and make way for new beginnings at Tir na nOg Holistic Centre. Info: [www.tirnanog.co.uk](http://www.tirnanog.co.uk)

#### 30<sup>th</sup> Alloa Real Ale and Cider Festival 10-11, Alloa

Over 40 beers from across Scotland including local beers, plus live music, hot food and soft drinks. Info: [www.forthvalley.camra.org.uk](http://www.forthvalley.camra.org.uk)

#### Christmas at the Botanic 16-30, Edinburgh

See Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden burst into festive colours as the enchanting illuminated trail returns to brighten up the winter nights. Info: [www.rbge.org.uk/whats-on/christmas-at-the-botanics-2023](http://www.rbge.org.uk/whats-on/christmas-at-the-botanics-2023)

#### Oban Winter Fest 17-26, Oban

A 10-day celebration of Oban's unique culture. Info: [www.obanwinterfestival.com](http://www.obanwinterfestival.com)

#### Happy St Andrew's Day 30, Nationwide

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

#### Edinburgh's Christmas 30-January 20, Edinburgh

Practise your moves at the popular ice rink on George Street or take-in breathtaking festive views of the city from the spectacular heights of the Big Wheel – an unmistakable landmark during Christmas in Edinburgh, it's a fantastic way to experience the panoramas of the city's UNESCO Heritage Old and New Towns and admire Edinburgh in all its sparkling glory. Info: [www.edinburgh.org/festivals/edinburghs-christmas-hogmanay](http://www.edinburgh.org/festivals/edinburghs-christmas-hogmanay)

### Scotword answers from page 6

ACROSS:	DOWN:
1 Barra	1 Benbecula
4 Scarts	2 Richt
8 Tonic	3 Angel
9 Gauntlets	4 Scunnered
11 Greatglen	5 Artillery
12 Lemon	6 Therm
13 Drummajor	7 Staged
16 Elbow	10 Sinew
18 Blain	14 Ministers
19 Caddycars	15 Jacobites
21 Isles	17 Blaeberry
23 Butandben	18 Baith
26 Harvester	20 Sunart
27 Morar	22 Larva
28 Manses	24 Targe
29 Essay	25 Numbs



One of Scotland's most famous castles on Loch Duich. Photo: VisitScotland.

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

- On what date in August does the grouse-shooting season begin?
- Which world-famous Scottish castle can be found on the shoreline of Loch Duich?
- The city of Dundee is famous for its three J's - Jute, Jam and - what?

- Which item of clothing was banned by law to Scots in 1746?
- Prestwick, Ayr or Troon - which is farthest north?
- What is a gaberlunzie?
- Lochgelly is in a) Fife, b) Ayrshire or c) East Lothian?
- Which Scottish loch is famous for its kippers?
- How many drones are on a set of bagpipes? Two, three, or four?
- Which Scottish soccer club was the first British club to win the European Cup?

### Answers

- The kilt.
- Troon.
- It's the old Scots word for a licensed beggar.
- a) Fife.
- Loch Fyne.
- Bagpipes have three drones.
- Glasgow Celtic Football Club.
- The Glorious Twelfth.
- Eilean Donan Castle.
- Journalism.

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