



# the Scottish Banner



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*A' Bhratach Albannach*

Volume 47 Number 6

NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS

December 2023

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The Banner Says...

# Christmas traditions of Scotland's isles



by Sean Cairney

The month ahead is often busy for many with Christmas and Hogmanay events, and catching up with family, friends and colleagues. Most of us eat a bit more than we should, enjoy a dram, or two, and hopefully also get some time to rest and reset for the year ahead. Children across the world also are filled with the excitement and magic that only Christmas can bring.

## Krampus

The Christmas we all know today, with excited children lining up to sit on Santa's knee and put in their order for the big day, it may come as a surprise to many that in one part of Scotland a Christmas tradition was to frighten the children. On the Hebridean island of Islay fear was put into any children, who behaved badly, that a creature would appear during the festive season to visit them. Parents would tell their kids terrifying tales of the Krampus, a goat-demon monster who took great joy in terrifying naughty youngsters.

Known on the island as the Crom Dubh na Nollaig (the dark crooked one of Christmas) this monster would howl down people's chimneys in the night and beat kids with birch branches. The Scots somehow incorporated the Krampus legend from Europe where the name derives from the German word Krampen, which means to claw. Krampus is thought to date back to Pagan times as a ritual around the winter solstice period and was popular mainly in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

How the Alpine legend made its way to Islay is not known, but I would imagine that the children of Islay were quite well-behaved.

## Whipkùl

Both Orkney and Shetland share their love of Yule bread. This tasty tradition is linked to a Celtic druid belief that the sun stood still for the mid-winter period, so the Yule bread was made in a circle, which represented the sun. The bread included caraway seeds to represent Sidhe, or the winter spirits, in Celtic folklore. It was often traditional for the baker of Yule bread to hide something in the loaf, like a trinket, and who ever finds it has good luck for the year ahead.

## I wish you and your Clan a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Shetland's answer to Eggnog has to be Whipkull/Whipkùl. With its origins in Scandinavia, Whipkull is a traditional drink made with cream, eggs, nutmegs and rum (however people have been known to substitute that for whisky or another preferred spirit). This drink, often accompanied with a nice piece of shortbread, has been known as a dessert to be consumed at the end of the Yule feast and even a breakfast drink on New Years Day-what a way to start the year!

## In this issue

If you happen to find yourself in Scotland this holiday season you may be interested in our feature on Scotland as a winter destination. I have been to Scotland countless times over winter and can confirm there is much on offer for the visitor. Crowds are down and though not everything is open, much is, and the scenery is always on display regardless of those shorter and darker days.

The Albion Motor Car Company was founded in Glasgow in December 1899 and was an iconic business for Scotland. From its inception through to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century Albion Motors was a major employer of generations of local people, producing at first cars, then commercial vehicles at its Scotstoun site for over 65 years.

Thought to be Glasgow's oldest building Provan Hall overlooks Auchinlea Park in Easterhouse. It was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century as a hunting lodge for Glasgow Bishops. This hidden historic gem recently had a £3.5million restoration and I will be sure to add it to my list when next back in Glasgow.

## Foula

For most of us once Christmas and Hogmanay are finished with, we feel we need a wee break as we roll into January after all the festivities. However, for one Scottish island the festivities are just beginning. The island of Foula lies 20 miles from the Shetland coast and has been also known as Ultima Thule, or 'the edge of the world'. Its population of approximately 35 residents follows the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian calendar, which means they celebrate Old Christmas (or as it is known Yule) on January 6 and New Year's Day on January 13. As the rest of the UK adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752 it does not appear that Foula is in any rush to catch up with their mainland cousins, and for me that is just another reason Scotland is just so amazing.

I wish you and your Clan a wonderful and safe holiday season. Merry Christmas, or to our Gaelic readers Nollaig Chridheil, and thank you to all our readers, advertisers and friends for their support during the year. ❄️

**Have you enjoyed a Scottish island holiday tradition? Do you have any favourite Scottish customs at the festive period? 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.**



Happy holidays. Photo: VisitScotland.



Gracing our front cover: Winter magic at Glenmore Forest Park, Cairngorms National Park. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.



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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?

## Remembering John Cairney



Dear Sean,  
Having just caught up with your editorial in the October edition of *the Scottish Banner*, I wanted to pass on my appreciation of your tribute to your Uncle John Cairney.

Your words flowed so readily that, suddenly, I realised I had reached the end of your reflective tribute. There is no doubt that your Uncle John would have appreciated your heartfelt thoughts and will be resting just a bit more comfortably as a result of your loving tribute.

All the best at this sad time,  
*Stewart Campbell  
Curtin, ACT  
Australia*

Dear Sean Cairney,  
I enjoyed reading your article on your uncle, John Cairney, in the last *Scottish Banner*, though saddened by the news of his passing. He was certainly one of the greats where Scottish acting and poetry are concerned, and his portrayal of Burns is to my mind unequalled. I never managed to see any of his TV shows on Burns, probably because of working overseas in the years when they were broadcast. Nor have I been able to locate any DVD or VHS recordings - such a pity. However, I have a treasured disc of his recording of *The Robert Burns Story*. This an excellent sympathetic work and I listen to it regularly. I have never met John but when I was working in Sydney, around 1980, I recall meeting his agent (who I think also accompanied John on the piano during shows) and helping him to find an agent to book him for a tour of Australia. I think he was successful in this but, sadly, I had been transferred by the time the shows were to take place.

John Cairney held a unique place in Scottish culture, and I hope that he will be long remembered.

Yours aye  
*Hamy Marcelin*

**Ed note: Thank you to all who have emailed, called or written in about my Uncle. A great Scot for sure!**

### Clan McLeod

Mum took us to the Gathering of The Clans in the 60's and 70's, Mum's side was McLeod clan looking for further information as Mum's now passed.

*Robert Mannix  
E-mail: kxoba2011@gmail.com*

### Tae a Neep Kennedy Smith

Up by the birks o' Aberlea  
There stands the Kirk, Drumbirilee,  
Aye sair tae sicht an' lathe tae gie,  
Ma hurdies weary;  
For a' ma sporrans siller free  
An' me sae bleary.

Wild Acre Field wi' tumshies drilled,  
Green leafed their taps o'er edges spilled  
An' lang a' tramped, an' sack a' filled  
Wi' neeps sae purple,  
Fu' fa' ma crummocks! fingers chilled  
An' hame did hirple.

When a gaed hame aw caked wi' glaur,  
A gully ta'en frae kitchen drawer  
Tae scalp the beastie, shaws an' aw'  
The great orange roué;  
An' chopped the rest tae bitties sma'  
Intae ma Creuset.

Biled an' creamed an' buttered tae,  
Wi' champit tatties roon arrayed,  
Tae cap it a', hot haggis played;  
Fair smacked ma lips,  
An' scoffed the lot wi' lemonade;  
An' bags o' crisps.

*Archie Smith  
Falkirk, Stirlingshire  
Scotland*

### Tartan banners-Clan Leslie

I have two Clan Leslie banners. One is of Red Leslie Tartan, 60cm wide x 94cm long. The other is of the Hunting Leslie Tartan, 58cm wide x 91 cm long. Both of these banners have the name Leslie and the crest embroidered on them and the also included are the poles for carrying in parades etc. Would anybody be interested in these banners?

*Colleen Leslie  
Queensland, Australia  
E-mail: colnmal@icr.com.au*

### On the passing of friends

Dear Sean,  
I was so sorry to hear of the passing of your close friend and companion Fergus (*the Scottish Banner*, November, 2023). May he rest in peace. We too are mourning the passing of our beloved dog Bella McDugg of McDugg. She was a stalwart of the Clan MacLaren Highland Games tent for many years (refer picture in May 2023 edition p13 article on Aberdeen Highland Games) and a close companion and confidant to me in particular. She too will be sorely missed. The loss of a friend is never easy to endure. Please accept our condolences to you and your family.

Regards,  
*Bill & Lorna Law*

**Ed note: Thank you Bill and Lorna for your kind note and I am very sorry to hear of the passing of Bella, who I was lucky enough to meet at some Scottish events.**

### The Canadian Orcadian



Thank you for another issue of your marvellous *Scottish Banner* publication. As a former airplane owner and instrument rated pilot I read with great interest your Loganair et al reports (*the Scottish Banner*, November, 2023). My family members left Orkney November 7, 1850 for Vancouver Island. When visiting the Irvine croft on Eday in 1995, I checked out every Orcadian airport I passed which of course included London (on Eday). My daughter (33yrs) flew in later from Glasgow via Speedbird to EGPA from Glasgow. I had driven a car from Glasgow a week earlier.

Nowadays, I fly the Orcadian skies in Microsoft Flight Simulator 2020 (MSFS) in a Loganair BN-2 Islander.

Upon my return to western Canada in 1995 I published my travels in a document titled: *Irvines in Scotland 1995*.

You may find something interesting therein.

Yours aye,  
*Bill Irvine (87yrs)  
The Canadian Orcadian  
British Columbia, Canada*

**Ed note: Thanks Bill for sharing with us your love of aviation.**

### Stirling Old Bridge



The Battle of Stirling Bridge on 11 Sept 1297. The present Stirling Old Bridge was built in the 1400s or 1500s, replacing a succession of timber bridges. Undoubtedly the best-known of these was one that stood nearby in the 1290s, when Sir William Wallace and Sir Andrew Moray defeated Edward I's forces at the Battle of Stirling Bridge on this day 11 September in 1297. The bridge also played a part in the Jacobite Rising of 1745, when an arch was removed to forestall Bonnie Prince Charlie's forces as they marched south. The bridge today remains one of the best medieval masonry arch bridges in Scotland.

*Tam Eadie  
Scotland*

**Ed note: Thank you, Tam, for sending us so many fantastic images. Readers can see more across our social media platforms.**

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

### Neolithic Scotland



Scotland's historic sites..  
*Mik Coia*

### Pollock House



Glasgow's Pollock House, built in 1752.  
*IG: eadietam*

### Edinburgh



Golden hour in Edinburgh...  
*Paul Watt Photography*

### Tantallon Castle



Sunrise at Tantallon Castle, East Lothian.  
*The Kilted Photographer*

# Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



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



Lady Fiona at the Norwegian Stone of Friendship.

Greetings from a rather chilly Scotland. The paths are icy, the last of the garden produce is frosted. Why, even that indestructible delicacy, the humble neep, seems to be having a tough time of it.

I am, of course, talking about the good old swede. That large purple and cream skinned creation that we eat chappit (mashed) with tatties, or use to bulk out a pan of Scotch broth. This is a root veg - hard - and hardy - and I like to think of it as fiercely Scottish. Yet I am told that the swede, or turnip, as some call it, actually originated in Sweden. Hence the name. They were grown there apparently because of their tolerance to cold climes. The temperature dropping further, I put on extra layers and resolve to try to be more resistant myself...

## Cameron of Lochiel

Whilst I make warming soup here in the Borderlands, my husband heads north. Because there in the Highlands, they are mourning the loss of one of Scotland's most noted clansmen. Donald Cameron of Lochiel, the 27<sup>th</sup> chief of Clan Cameron, has died and the MacGregor has attended his funeral in Fort William. He was just 77. As you can imagine, it is a highly Highland affair. Game keepers and ghillies clad in estate tweed with Clansfolk, before he is taken to his home at Achnacarry Castle, a great stone pile situated between Loch Long and Loch Lochy. Cameron of Lochiel. It is such a romantic name. And he was such a gentleman. As well as being a clan chief Donald was a Lord-Lieutenant. Like me, he was the monarch's personal representative in his area. Which is how I first met him. I was fortunate to see him

again last year as we visited the clan seat and took tea in a pretty drawing room overlooking a roaring river. He was interesting and interested. Kind and courteous. Then his Jacobite ancestor had been known as the Gentle Lochiel. Donald Cameron served in the Queens Own Highlanders. He was a President of the Highland Society of London, and a close friend of the royal family. Yet his heart was always in Scotland. In that community in Invernesshire. He will not be forgotten.

## Sanquhar

And neither do we. Remembrance Sunday comes and goes. Like elsewhere it is an important day in Scotland. Honouring those who gave their lives in the various conflicts. As Lord-Lieutenant I go to lay a wreath in Sanquhar on the Dumfriesshire/Ayrshire border. And there the ladies of the town have been busy: knitting hundreds of poppies to adorn the ancient Tollbooth.

Sanquhar is a former mining town, it now finds itself making fuel of a different kind as a succession of windfarms sprout from surrounding hills. Being somewhat isolated, this is a close-knit community. The place is known for its distinctive black and white knitting patterns. And it boasts the world's oldest working post office. One that has just been saved from closure. The place opened in 1712 and it has been a four-year search to find someone to take it on. Enter Barry and Mary Ford who were living in Florida when they first heard it was up for sale.

Barry worked with the RAF and with the aviation industry. I met him over a bowl of soup in the town's hotel where he told me was very proud to be just the 17<sup>th</sup> postmaster in the office's long history. It is good to know that this historic place has a future.

## Norwegian Stone of Friendship

Finally, it happened a couple of months ago – has it really been that long since I spoke to you?! – but it is worth telling. We were visited by the Norwegians. Let me explain, during the second world war, a thousand whalers and fishermen found they could not return to their homeland because it was occupied by the Nazis. So, instead, they came to Scotland – and, in particular, to Dumfries. Where they formed a regiment to fight the Germans. Then after the war ended, some men stayed and married local lassies.

And so, the link between the two countries was made. Over the ensuing years numerous parties of Norwegians have made the journey to south-west Scotland. This time some 40 arrived, many wearing national dress. And this time they brought with them a giant stone. It is a Stone of Friendship. One hewn from a Norwegian quarry, and sited amidst great celebration by the river in Dumfries. Like the links between our two countries, the hope is that it will last forever. And I hope you have a good festive season, with family and friends. For now, though, from Scotland, take care, keep warm - and do eat lots of swede. I am told it is very good for us....

## Falkirk FC launch Heritage Kit for the 2023/24 season



Falkirk Football Club are pleased to announce the launch of their new Heritage Kit for season 2023/24, which is the first in a series which will pay homage to people, events or landmarks strongly connected with Falkirk and Falkirk District, as they look ahead to their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in season 2026-27. This season the striking yellow and dark blue design features the embattled motif from Falkirk's coat of arms on its front. This is based on the original Livingston of Callendar crest, with the embattlement feature later added to signify the Antonine Wall which runs through the town.

### Sir John de Graeme

The rear commemorates the life and death of one of Falkirk District's most famous sons, Sir John de Graeme/Graham. Born in the 13<sup>th</sup> century at Dundaff Castle, John de Graeme was considered to be William Wallace's right-hand man, fighting at Stirling Bridge and losing his life at the Battle of Falkirk in 1298. 2023 marks the 725<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the battle and the back of the strip features the lion rampant, 1298 and the Graeme coat of arms which adorns Sir John's tomb in the graveyard of Falkirk Old Parish, the site of the original 'speckled church' from which Falkirk derives its name. Wallace was said to be distraught at his friend's death, and the top is signed off with a line from Blind Harry's epic 15<sup>th</sup> century poem *The Wallace* in which he describes the outpouring of grief from all of the local townsfolk who attended Sir John's funeral. Today, the name of Sir John de Graeme/Graham lives on in Falkirk in the Grahamston District, Grahamston Train Station and Graham's Road, as well as the Graeme Hotel and Graeme High School whose badge also carries the clam shell motifs from the Graham coat of arms.

As a mark of respect the third strip will remain sponsor free and a share of profits from all match-worn and replica sales will be donated to charity. Dundaff Castle lies at the head of the Carron Valley so, in memory of Sir John de Graeme, Strathcarron Hospice has been chosen as the beneficiary for this season.

The club also wishes to express its deep gratitude to The Society of John Graeme for their help and support with the launch of the kit.

For more information on Falkirk FC see: [www.falkirkfc.co.uk](http://www.falkirkfc.co.uk), or to learn more about Sir John de Graeme or The Society of John Graeme: [www.the-society-of-john-de-graeme.weebly.com](http://www.the-society-of-john-de-graeme.weebly.com) or [www.facebook.com/societyofjohndegraeme](http://www.facebook.com/societyofjohndegraeme)

A little color for the holiday season...

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# SCOTSPEAK

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

**"It is fitting that Dundee's latest piece of public art commemorates a special Broughty Ferry heroine – Winkie the pigeon. The tale of her exploits has inspired new generations over the decades, and I would like to thank the 49<sup>th</sup> Cubs for playing an important role in securing this statue. It will help to ensure that the story of Winkie will never be forgotten."**

Dundee City Councillor Steven Rome, convener of Fair Work, Economic Growth and Infrastructure, said as a Broughty Ferry war heroine was honoured with a new sculpture beside the River Tay. Winkie the Pigeon is the subject of a new bronze casting that now sits at the flood gates in Beach Crescent. The pigeon was among the first recipients of the Dickin Medal for her role in the rescue of an aircrew following a crash into the North Sea in 1942. The carrier pigeon flew over 100 miles home to Broughty Ferry to raise the alarm about the four crew members of the Beaufort bomber, which had been returning from a mission over Norway.



**"There is no doubt the Kelpies have been a game-changer for our area in terms of both the significantly increased volume of visitors to the area and the income generated in the local economy. We hope to welcome even more**

**visitors next year as we celebrate ten years of the majestic Kelpies with an awe-inspiring programme of events for all ages to enjoy. Kelpies 10 marks an important milestone for these iconic landmarks and is testament to the undeniable appeal and enduring legacy of these remarkable structures."**

Falkirk Council Leader Cecil Meiklejohn said a jam-packed programme of events is set to welcome thousands of visitors next year to mark a decade since the international launch of the iconic Kelpies, the world's largest equine sculptures. Kelpies 10, a special one-off event, will be held on Sat 27 April 2024 to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the multi-award winning visitor attraction at the Helix Park in Falkirk.

**"The work soon to begin on the latest Avenue in the city centre will help to bring an improved environment on both Cambridge Street and the bottom of Sauchiehall Street. These streets will form part of the Avenue network across the city centre that will not only make the area more attractive for everyone in it, but make it easier for people to get around as they walk, wheel and cycle."**

Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council and Chair of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, said the £5.7million Sauchiehall Precinct will connect to the Sauchiehall Avenue at Rose Street and stretch to West Nile Street, with the connecting Cambridge Street Avenue stretching to Cowcaddens Road. The Avenues are people-focused, encourage active travel and are more attractive to residents, workers, visitors and investors. The works on this project will deliver a significant improvement in the public realm on Cambridge Street and the bottom of

Sauchiehall Street. Roads, pavements and footways on the streets will be reconstructed, with new kerbing, traffic signals, 40 new street trees, rain gardens and street lighting features of the project. Work has now begun and will be completed towards the end of the summer of 2024.

**"This is a fantastic story and a great opportunity to introduce young children to cyber security. Digital technology is going to be at the heart of these children's lives and it's so important to help them learn how to stay safe online. I'm pleased that every P1 pupil in our schools will be receiving a copy of the book ahead of Book Week Scotland. I hope that teachers, parents and carers will use this engaging story and the learning activities that come with it to help their children learn about the importance of online safety."**

Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Jenny Gilruth MSP, said as the world's first illustrated children's book designed to teach school children aged 4-7 about cyber security and how to protect their information online was launched. Every Primary 1-aged child in Scotland will now receive a copy of *The Bongles and The Crafty Crows*, with Gaelic language versions sent to Gaelic taught schools.



**"We are delighted to have been recognised by the British Guild of Travel Writers and its members. Our centre only opened in April this year, so to be awarded such a significant accolade so soon is a testament to the unique visitor experience we offer here at Dundreggan and our fantastic team who deliver a first-class service. The Rewilding Centre is a world first, and a gateway for our visitors to explore this regenerating and stunning Highland landscape, which Trees for Life has been rewilding since 2008. The centre offers people opportunities to celebrate the region's rich natural and cultural heritage and connect with nature, and we hope that our visitors leave inspired to make small changes that can have a big impact for generations to come."**

Dundreggan Rewilding Centre Director, Laurelin Cummins-Fraser, said as the Centre, in Glenmoriston near Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands, has been awarded the

British Guild of Travel Writers International Tourism Award for the Best Tourism Project in the UK and Ireland. Developed in consultation with the local community, the free-to-access visitor attraction based at Trees for Life's 10,000-acre Dundreggan estate offers year-round events and activities, accessible forest trails, a café and events space, a storytelling bothy, outdoor play area and purpose-built accommodation with 20 bedrooms.

**"Last night, under the cover of darkness, we brought her in just away from any prying eyes. She has settled in absolutely brilliantly. She has been eating, drinking. We couldn't be happier with how she has settled in. The world's loneliest sheep is lonely no more."**

Dumfries farmer Ben Best of Dalscone Farm said as a sheep named Fiona was rescued in a remote part of the Scottish Highlands. Fiona had been stranded alone for two years at the Cromarty Firth and was dubbed "Britain's loneliest sheep".



**"We are fortunate to live in an area of outstanding natural beauty so it is no surprise film-makers are keen to shoot here. It is always fantastic to see locations from Perth and Kinross on screen and this report shows the significant economic impact filming has across Tayside."**

Councillor Andrew Parrott, convener of Perth and Kinross Council's Environment, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee said as FifeScreen+TayScreen has released annual figures detailing the film, television and media industry's multi-million pound contribution to the economy of the Fife and Tay region. Production highlights include the time-travel romantic drama series *Outlander* returning for Season 7. Apple TV brought filming to the region for the series on young wealthy Americans entering society in the UK, *The Debutante*. Travel show *Miriam and Alan Lost in Scotland* starring one of the region's own movie stars, Alan Cumming, and iconic actor Miriam Margolyes, attracted a significant following. Inward investment of £5.4 million was generated from well over 100 different productions made in Dundee, Fife and Perth and Kinross.

## RCS retains top position in prestigious global ranking

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is one of the world's top ten destinations to study the performing arts, according to prestigious global rankings published recently. Scotland's national conservatoire takes the number six spot in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023. It's the seventh time the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland has been

placed in the top ten since the ranking was established in 2016. The rankings, by QS Quacquarelli Symonds – a leading provider of analytics and insight to the global higher education sector – measure academic and employer reputation and research.

Founded in 1847, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland offers specialist teaching across music, drama, dance, production, film and education. As Scotland's only conservatoire, students work and learn alongside award-winning teaching staff and internationally acclaimed guest artists, where they develop their craft and collaborate across art forms in one of the finest multi-disciplinary education environments in the world.



## SCOTWORD

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

### CLUES ACROSS

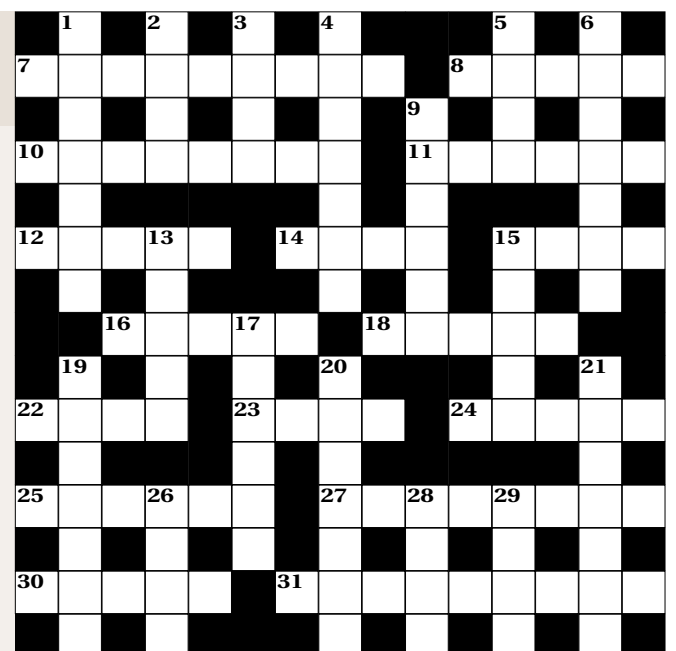
- 7) Grampian fishing port (9)
- 8) Lochaber river (5)
- 10) Port on the Clyde (8)
- 11) Search in Scots (6)
- 12) Town on the River Tay (5)
- 14) Small Scots island (4)
- 15) Grain (4)
- 16) Scotsmen (5)
- 18) A young salmon (5)
- 22) Robert Burns! (4)
- 23) The Cross of Christ (4)

- 24) Heard in kirk (5)
- 25) Inverness military fort (6)
- 27) A dance or a round of golf! (8)
- 30) Town east of Dumfries (5)
- 31) It's capital! (9)

### CLUES DOWN

- 1) They're picked at Blairgowrie (9)
- 2) Relinquish (4)
- 3) Scram! (4)
- 4) Spiced Scottish biscuits (7)
- 5) It's heard at St Andrews! (4)

- 6) Glasgow team (7)
- 9) Bonnie Dundee! (6)
- 13) Border river (5)
- 15) Aberdeen suburb (5)
- 17) Loch Lomond resort (6)
- 19) Village SW of 31 Across (7)
- 20) Disclose (7)
- 21) Adornment for fliers! (7)
- 26) Harvest the crops (4)
- 13) Jugs (4)
- 29) A tattiel! (4)



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# KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS

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



## The Big School

*Off to school, off to school,  
Pass your 'quali' that's the rule,  
You silly wee ass, you couldnae pass,  
Now you're at the bottom of the class.*

Glasgow, 1960's

Leithland Road Primary School took its pupil intake from the age of five and up until the age of twelve. At twelve it was time to sit the dreaded Qualifying Examination or the 'Qualie' as it was popularly known. This was the Scottish equivalent of the equally dreaded 'Eleven Plus' examination suffered by my cousins in England. Both exams were used to sort children into academic and technical streams at secondary school, but our teachers couldn't prepare us for this life-changing examination. It wasn't the kind of exam that you could prepare for. We were simply warned of the approaching date on which we were to sit for the test without most of us really understanding that some of our future career and life choices were being determined to a large extent on that date. I'm sure that some children might have gained access to some previous 'qualie' exam papers by dubious means to provide them with some familiarity but not my friends and me at Leithland Road Primary. We were on our own but thankfully our teachers did not make too much of the occasion so we were not overly worried about it. I remember absolutely nothing about what was in the 'Quali' test and perhaps more by luck than design was not overly tense on that fateful day. I was in fact lucky and got an S1 pass which entitled me to an academic education under Scotland's meritocratic education system.

If I had been a year or so older, I would have gone to Shawlands Academy and had at one time looked forward to the idea of going to 'the big school' on a bus and feeling suitably grown-up and important because of that. Shawlands Academy and Bellahouston Academy, where some of my relatives had attended, were the schools where the children destined for an academic education went to after sitting the 'Quali.' It was not to be for me. In 1953, a brand-new comprehensive school was built much nearer to home, Crookston Castle Secondary School. I started in 1955 and walked to school, but at least all of us living in Pollok walked to the same school. There was to be no

creaming off of the brightest children onto the buses to the academies, for Crookston Castle was to become one of the first truly comprehensive schools in Scotland and very true to the meaning of that term, unlike some of its English counterparts.

### Progressive schools

It was also soon to be recognised as one of the best equipped and most progressive schools in the country and I'm glad, with hindsight, that I became one of its earliest students. It was hardly a democratic system of education, but at least no matter what our academic abilities were, the curriculum offered to us was determined for the most part on merit and ability. No matter what talents we had or lacked, we were to be educated within the same social setting no matter what street we lived on. Preparations for attending secondary school began by visits to Paisleys, the big military and school uniform outfitters at the Broomielaw. Sky blue shirt, grey flannel trousers, navy blue blazer with the school badge of thistle and castle were purchased, together with a blue tie, a scarf and pairs of socks all with bottle green navy blue and sky-blue stripes. Of course, there was also the sports and P.E. uniform of navy-blue shorts, sky blue tee shirt and white sandshoes. With summer holidays and the end of school term coming on it was a good time to also get new brown, crepe-soled shoes and baseball boots as well. I had it all but I'm not sure how my mother managed to afford it.

Goldbergs in the Candleriggs, and the big Co-operative Store in Kingston must have come to the rescue to help out with the 'lines' and the staggered payments for some of my 'big school requirements. Many of us were wearing our new secondary school uniforms, as our best clothes, when we set off on a special excursion in the last weeks of our primary school days. The excursion was to Stirling Castle and the nearby Wallace Monument. Clackmannan was the area that my Baxter and Moir ancestors had come from and many of their final resting places I knew were nestled below the Ochil Hills in the cemeteries of the towns of Alloa, Sauchie, Menstrie, Cambus and Tullibody. Decked out in our Crookston Castle uniforms we walked the ramparts of Stirling Castle and climbed the steep path up the hill to the base of the Wallace Monument. We had a birds-eye view of the castle, the town of Stirling and the meandering River Forth below, the setting for so much of Scotland's dramatic history.

Close to the end of the day and before we made our way back home, our bus stopped somewhere near Stirling, probably as a toilet stop, and to let us get some exercise before the long drive back to Glasgow and Pollok. We were given twenty minutes or so to let off steam. We found ourselves on a piece of parkland which rose quickly on to a heather and bracken-covered hill. We immediately ran, like a swarm of bees, up onto the steep hillside and scrambled upward toward a natural rocky outcrop and a high ledge, above us. I was amongst some of the first to reach the ledge having got onto it by climbing up the gentler slopes lying along each side of the outcrop. By this time we were all well out of breath and earshot of our teachers.

### Heather

I don't remember exactly what happened next, except that I suddenly toppled off the ledge of the outcrop and fell into space, down what seemed like many feet to the broken scree below. I suppose I was showing off and had balanced carelessly and too close to the edge. I landed on my back, either having toppled backward or having made an impressive front somersault. I'm not sure. I suddenly found myself looking back up toward the concerned faces of some of my classmates, looking down from high above. "Are ye alright, Studsie?" shouted the distant voice of Jim Main. "Aye ah think so, so far, so good", I replied tentatively as I gently and slowly moved and tested my limbs and took in what had just occurred. "Ah'm telling the teacher on you. That's dangerous so it is. We were told to be careful out here", said Mary, the class clipe. "Do ye really think I tried tae break my neck, ye wee daftie? I threw back in frustration as I began to move my prostrate body, to sit up and continue to discover where I might be injured. "Up ye get", said Jim Main giving me a hand to get back up on to my feet after he had run back down the side slope. "You tell the teachers, and you've had it", warned Jim, making a threatening sign with his fist at Mary, the clipe. I was still in a state of shock and disbelief and only gradually confirming in my mind that I was still in one piece and feeling no pain whatsoever.

As I got up and looked down, I soon appreciated that I had been saved from a worse fate only by chance. There was a fairly small but deep patch of heather and bracken lying between the scree and the jagged rocks at the foot of the ledge. That was where I had landed and that was what had protected me from a more serious injury. In my favourite adventure story, *Kidnapped*, by R.L. Stevenson I had read about Alan Breck Stewart and David Balfour sleeping on their makeshift beds of heather and bracken on their adventurous flight across the Scottish Highlands. It had sounded very uncomfortable but now I thought, perhaps not so bad after all. This strong thick heather was very springy and had saved me from greater injury and damage; that was apart from a few superficial scratches and a wee hole under the arm of my new blazer. It wasn't traditional lucky white heather but purple and lucky enough on this occasion. I was perfectly okay and quickly rejoined the rest of the class swarming back down the hill toward the bus.

### Oor Wullie

Many children and youths think that they are somehow protected and immortal. I didn't. My friend James Hughes had died when he fell from a chestnut tree and my friend, George Blevings, had died simply mowing his back lawn for his father. Unknown to us George had congenital heart disease. He had played the same boisterous games as the rest of us, although I sometimes noticed that George had a very grey pallor, or was often 'peely wally' as we would have said as children. None of us knew of his life-threatening condition. The shock felt at the deaths of these two friends stayed with me for a long time after, and I was saddened to think that they were never to join me to go to 'the big school', Crookston Castle Senior Secondary School. With hindsight the passage from primary to secondary school is an important step toward becoming a youth and a teenager, rather than a child.

Although at the time the excitement of simply moving from one to other was enough. Homework was rarely given to us in primary school apart from being asked to bring in pictures from magazines or being asked to have a think about something before coming back in to school next day. I am thankful for that for it meant that I enjoyed a great deal of freedom to play after school and to learn from the experiences of going places at the weekends on what my friends and I considered were expeditions or little adventures. I was saved from that tension between child and parent over homework for of course homework is often given in primary schools to satisfy parental expectations and ambitions rather than thought of as a significant way for the child to learn, at least by many teachers in my experience.

My parents were avid readers of the *Sunday Post*, so I became an avid reader of *Oor Wullie* and *The Broons*. It would be stretching things a bit too far to suggest that Wullie became a hero of mine but thinking back he was possibly a bit of a role model for a lot of young boys like me and my friends. That was because he and his pals often did many of the things that we did during our roamings around our streets. He spoke the same language as us. He even ate and enjoyed the same things as us 'mince, tatties and peas and fish an' chips'. We could readily identify with him and his friends, his streets, his play park and his football ground, his shops, his school and his teachers. But most importantly when Wullie did something wrong, played a trick on someone or got into trouble with his parents and the authorities we could see underneath all of that that he was a moral and honest, wee boy who could make mistakes but who we could still look up to and take on as a model of basic decency. Wullie and his pals could have fun, have adventures without stooping to vandalism, violence and bullying but he could take on a bully if and when the need arose. He was never weak or a sissy. But of course, as we grew older Wullie remained of indeterminate age in his primary school world, in a generic Scottish town. He sadly wasn't ready to move on to 'the big school' with us.





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IN SCOTLAND TODAY

## 5,000-year-old tomb discovered in Orkney



Archaeologists have discovered the ruins of an incredibly rare 5,000-year-old Neolithic tomb that was largely destroyed without record in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The three-week excavation at Holm, East Mainland, Orkney, directed by Dr Hugo Anderson-Whymark, National Museums Scotland, and Professor Vicki Cummings, Cardiff University, revealed traces of a substantial cairn over 15m in diameter that contains a stone structure accessed through a 7m long passage. The surviving drystone walls revealed a large sub-rectangular stone chamber lay at the centre of the cairn. This was surrounded by six smaller side cells that once had corbelled stone roofs. These features allow the tomb to be classed as a 'Maes Howe-type' passage grave. Only twelve tombs of this type are known in Orkney, including Maes Howe, Cuween and Quoyness. They are considered the pinnacle of Neolithic engineering in northern Britain. Most of these tombs survive as upstanding monuments in Orkney, but the Holm tomb was buried beneath a pasture field as it was largely destroyed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century to supply building stone for a nearby farmhouse. Further digging in the ruins by the farmer's son in 1896 revealed traces of walling and located a stone macehead and ball, and eight skeletons.

These discoveries were reported in *The Orcadian* by the local antiquary James Walls Cursiter, who speculated that the site was a ruined tomb. The rare and unusual nature of the 1896 discoveries prompted the current search for the precise findspot so that the character of the earlier discoveries could be clarified. The current excavation targeting anomalies revealed on a geophysical survey undertaken in 2021. Despite extensive modern disturbance, fourteen articulated skeletons of men, women and children and further disarticulated remains were located in one stone side cell.

Further human remains and artefacts, including pottery, stone tools and a bone pin, were recovered from the Victorian backfill of the tomb by students from the University of Central Lancashire and local volunteers. Dr Hugo Anderson-Whymark said: "Orkney is exceptionally rich in archaeology, but we never expected to find a tomb of this size in a such a small-scale excavation. It's incredible to think this once impressive monument was nearly lost without record, but fortunately just enough stonework has survived for us to be able understand the size, form and construction of this tomb." Prof. Vicki Cummings added: "The preservation of so

many human remains in one part of the monument is amazing, especially since the stone has been mostly robbed for building material. It is incredibly rare to find these tomb deposits, even in well-preserved chambered tombs and these remains will enable new insights into all aspects of these peoples' lives."

### Plans unveiled for new look George Square, Glasgow



An artist's impression of the proposed plans. Photo: Glasgow City Council.

A water feature, large lawn spaces, and a relocation of statues are among the new layout designs for Glasgow's George Square. In new images released ahead of a planning application being submitted, the local authority has proposed features that include high quality stone throughout the square; informal play areas for children in sensory gardens in the eastern areas; a proposed water feature; a raised lawn platform; bespoke sheltered seating; and feature lighting. The Glasgow City Council's planning team will carry out necessary checks to make sure that the proposal complies with all relevant local and national planning policies. It will also be reviewed by Historic Environment Scotland as there are aspects of the square that have major heritage and historical significance. A decision is likely to take place in spring 2024. If approved, with work would likely begin in spring 2025, with completion in 2027. Residents of Glasgow have been consulted on the plans to assist council and planners develop the proposals.

### UK & Ireland confirmed to host historic UEFA EURO 2028



The UK and Ireland has been confirmed as hosts of UEFA EURO 2028. Following a meeting of the UEFA Executive Committee at its headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland, the UK and Ireland, as a unique and pioneering five-Association partnership, was awarded the 2028 Tournament. The ExCo decision took place after a presentation by the UK and Ireland Football Association leaders and Welsh football star, Gareth Bale. The UK and Ireland bid delegation also included six football youth ambassadors who play an active role supporting the development and diversity of the game in their local communities. Gareth Bale and the youth ambassadors received the UEFA EURO 2028 pennant from UEFA President,

Aleksander Čeferin, to officially mark the awarding of the Tournament to the UK and Ireland. UEFA EURO 2028 UK & Ireland will be the largest major sporting event the nations have ever jointly staged – an exciting summer of football that will create memories to last a lifetime. Scotland's Hampden Park will be used as one of the venues at the championships alongside stadiums from England, Wales, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Scottish First Minister Humza Yousaf welcomed the announcement and said: "Football is Scotland's national game and a powerful force for good in communities right across the country. Hosting the Euros in Scotland will provide a range of opportunities, not only through the economic benefits of visiting fans but through a strong legacy programme that will help grow a more inclusive and diverse game right across the country."

### Impact of the Kelpies to the local economy



A report by Falkirk Council has highlighted how an estimated 600,000 visitors spent in the region of £84m supporting local businesses and jobs in 2021 in the local area. The went on to detail that 860,000 visitors were welcomed in 2022/23 to the Helix Park generating in the region of £1.5m from the park itself. A new strategy for the next five years is also set to enhance what the Helix provides for visitors in the future with an emphasis on an 'inspirational' visitor experience.

The strategy also has a focus on sustainability by integrating it into site management, promoting active travel, exploring EV (Electric Vehicle) charging, and encouraging travel between key locations such as The Helix, Rosebank Distillery, Falkirk Distillery, The Falkirk Wheel, Falkirk Town Centre and Callendar Park. Councillor Cecil Meiklejohn, Leader of Falkirk Council said: "Helix Park is one of our major tourism attractions that brings in visitors from across the globe and its impact on our local economy is huge. It already is recognised as a world-class attraction and is an example of responsible and sustainable tourism that can be used as a model for others. It's an amazing asset to have in our area and we look forward to continuing to develop it as a place to enjoy."

However, the Kelpies are losing £600,000 per year despite visitor numbers and the attraction being one of Scotland's most popular. Members of Falkirk Council's executive have agreed to a new strategy for visitors that hopes to welcome one million visitors a year by 2028, in the hope that many will stay longer in the district and spend more money locally. New initiatives are also being trialled such as a new festive skating rink launching this month to bring in more revenue for the iconic attraction.

### Researchers discover complete Neolithic cursus on the Isle of Arran



Excavations through the cursus bank at Drumadoon. Photo: Dr Kenny Brophy.

A leading team of researchers have discovered what is believed to be a complete Neolithic cursus set within a rich prehistoric landscape on the Isle of Arran, on Scotland's west coast. This monument type is amongst the first that was built by farmers in Neolithic Britain and is huge - measuring 1.1km long and 50 metres wide.

A cursus is a vast Neolithic monument comprised of one or more rectangular enclosures. The cursus on Arran is defined by a large stone, earth and turf bank running around the entire perimeter of the enclosure. Constructing this monument would have involved staggering amounts of labour, transforming the entire local landscape. This monument type could date to perhaps as early as 3500 BC, researchers say. It is the most complete example of this site type found in Britain and the opportunity to investigate a cursus bank is very rare and hugely exciting.

Prehistoric field boundaries, clearance cairns and round houses, at least some of which may be contemporary with the monument, have also found in the same landscape, all preserved within peatland, sealing the archaeological layers. Ancient soils representing the original Neolithic land surface, together with cultivated soils from the Bronze Age period, provide an unparalleled opportunity to understand how contemporary farming practice and settlement interacted with the cursus monument and how early farmers transformed this place. Dr Kenny Brophy, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Glasgow who co-directed excavations at the cursus said: "I have been fortunate to be involved in the excavations of several cursus monuments over the last 30 years, but this is by far the most significant. The survival of the monument means that the potential it has for shedding light on early Neolithic farming and social organisation is incredibly exciting. These sites are almost all ploughed flat so to be able to stand on near intact cursus bank is very rare." Dr Emma Jenkins, Associate Professor, Bournemouth University who co-led the landscape geoarchaeology and environmental science work added: "The Isle of Arran is well known for Machrie Moor with its Prehistoric stone and timber circles; standing stones and burial cairns but the discovery that these may be part of a much larger complex which included this enormous cursus elevates this into a region of global significance on a par with other ceremonial landscapes like Stonehenge. As an environmental archaeologist I am particularly excited by the discovery of well-preserved soils, contemporary with the creation of the cursus which means we can investigate how people used and modified this landscape from the time of the first farming communities in Britain."

# Winner of the 150<sup>th</sup> Glenfiddich Piping Championship crowned at Blair Castle

Photo: Derek Maxwell.



The Glenfiddich Piping Championship competitors.

The overall winner of the prestigious Glenfiddich Piping Championship 2023 has been named as Callum Beaumont, as the event celebrates five decades of sensational piping. The prestigious Championship, which was first held in 1974, was founded by Sandy Grant Gordon of William Grant and Sons, and Seumas MacNeill who was Principal of the College of Piping at the time. It was established to inspire the world's finest exponents of Ceòl Mòr or Piobaireachd (the great music) and Ceòl Beag or light music (the little music). Run by The National Piping Centre, the world centre for excellence in bagpipe music, and funded through the William Grant

Foundation, the event is held annually in Perthshire. Callum Beaumont went up against nine of the world's greatest solo players at the landmark 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual competition at Blair Castle last night to claim the title, his first time lifting the trophy.

Finlay Johnston was crowned runner-up and Alex Gandy was third overall. Callum Beaumont was also named the Piobaireachd winner, and the March, Strathspey and Reel (MSR) competition winner was Alex Gandy. The recipient of this year's Balvenie Medal, which is awarded annually for services to piping, was Roderick J MacLeod MBE. The five-time Glenfiddich Champion was

nominated for the award by his peers for his huge contribution to the world of piping through his solo, pipe band and professional career. The Championship played out in front of a packed live audience in Blair Castle's Victorian Ballroom, with advance tickets having sold out well ahead of the event, as well as hundreds of spectators from around the world watching the competition online.

### Legacy of great pipers

Overall winner Callum Beaumont said: "I'm honoured to be taking home the Glenfiddich trophy today. It was fantastic to be part of the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of the Championship competing against such incredible pipers – everyone gave it their all so it means a lot to be the overall winner, and to join the legacy of great pipers who have received this honour in the past five decades."

The National Piping Centre's Director of Piping, Finlay MacDonald, said: "It was fantastic to have ten of the world's best pipers competing here at Blair Castle for this special edition of the Glenfiddich Piping Championship. The Championship is the peak of all solo piping competitions, representing the very best in piping talent from around the world. It was a tough competition, with some incredible performances, so congratulations to our winners and runners up this year and a big thank you to everyone who came along to watch or tuned in online, and anyone who has supported the Championship over the past 50 years."

This year's competitors were once again chosen from the list of qualifying events, with Willie McCallum the Overall Winner of the 2022 Glenfiddich Piping Championship. Callum Beaumont won The Clasp for Senior Piobaireachd and the Former Winners MSR at the Northern Meeting, where Innes Smith was the Gold Medal Winner and Finlay Johnston took second in the Former Winners' March, Strathspey and Reel. Angus MacColl was the Senior Piobaireachd winner at the Argyllshire Gathering, with Alex Gandy winning the Former Winners' March, Strathspey and Reel, Alasdair Henderson taking the gold medal and Jack Lee taking second place in the Former Winners' March, Strathspey and Reel at the same event. At the Scottish Pipers' Society of London Competition, Fred Morrison was named the Overall Champion, while Bruce Gandy was awarded the Bratach Gorm, as well winning the Piping Live! Masters Solo Piping Competition overall prize.



Callum Beaumont.

# Central Florida Scottish Highland Games



The Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, the largest community event in Seminole County, is organized each year by the Scottish American Society of Central Florida. The event was created to promote and preserve the area's strong Scottish and Celtic heritage. Each January, the two-day gathering welcomes thousands of visitors to Central Winds Park in Winter Springs, Florida - just north of Orlando - for a celebration of tradition, community and culture. In 2024, the festivities will



begin on Thursday evening with the annual whisky tasting, where visitors are welcome to sample from an array of expertly curated spirits. Presented by, The Whisky Cabinet, a group of dedicated local whisky enthusiasts, with an emphasis on unique and rare whiskies to engage, educate and entertain whisky newbies and connoisseurs alike. Things take off on Saturday with several competitions including in traditional heavy athletics, Highland dance, bagpiping, and shortbread and scone baking.

### Something for everyone

There is also the popular Boulder Boogie event, where contestants vie for bragging rights of carrying a heaviest stone the farthest distance without dropping it.

The weekend also hosts several cultural activities, including Border Collie demonstrations, a gathering of Scottish clans, musical performances, a medieval camp, axe throwing, and much more. Our festival is a family friendly event featuring non-competitive "Kids Games" version of the traditional heavy athletics, arts & crafts and loads of other activities for the wee ones. Both kids and adults can enjoy the unique shopping opportunities.

The Central Florida Scottish Highland Games features some of the best Celtic artisans presenting jewelry, clothing, artistry, weaponry and more. Get yourself a kilt or new sporran. Add to your Celtic jewelry or purchase unique Celtic inspired gifts typically found only in Scotland and the UK. There is plenty of food and drink. Come out and have a beer, wine or whisky with your haggis, scotch-egg, or fish and chips. Finally, there is the Ceilidh, a Scottish and Celtic gathering featuring the music of Albannach, Barley Juice and others performing on the "Lochside" stage. Whether you are looking to explore your heritage and enjoy a stroll through the clan village or cheering on the displays of strength and skill on the athletic fields, or simply enjoying some food and drink with friends while listening to the music, there is something for everyone at the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games.

**The Central Florida Scottish Highland Games take place January 13-14, 2024 in Winter Springs, Florida. Tickets go on sale December 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit [www.Flascot.com/tickets](http://www.Flascot.com/tickets) for details.**



Edinburgh's Hogmanay Torchlight Procession. Photo: Ian Georgeson.

As the days get shorter and the nights extend, Scotland becomes a winter wonderland and a feast for the senses with celebrations, light shows and magic. Scotland transforms in the winter months and a winter walk is the perfect way to make the most of the short, crisp days, watching as landscapes sparkle in the ethereal light and distant hills are capped with snow. There's nothing better than wrapping up warm and getting outside, especially knowing that the reward for a day well spent embracing the elements is warming up by the fire with a hot chocolate, or a wee dram, as part of a winter break in Scotland. If this sounds like the perfect match, then Scotland is the place to be as winter begins to call. So, coorie in and find out where the magic is happening this winter!

**There ain't no party like a Scotland party**

Winter is not a time for hibernation, it's a moment for celebration! Kicking off the festivities is St Andrew's Day on 30<sup>th</sup>

November. Celebrating Scotland's patron saint is a great reason to put on a playlist of top Scottish tunes, get some haggis on the go and be inspired for future travels to Scotland.

For those in Scotland on this day, this year, Blazin' Fiddles will be setting toes tapping at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh and Mharsanta in Glasgow will be hosting an evening of traditional Scottish food and drink.

Looking ahead to all that awaits in the New Year, Scotland's cities hold festivals and events throughout December, culminating in Hogmanay. At times like this, it seems as though the whole country is celebrating together with whisky, fireworks and ceilidh dancing.

This year, Edinburgh's four-day Hogmanay celebrations will kick off with the return of the Torchlight Procession which will blaze a trail through the capital's Old Town for the first time since 2019. On Saturday 31 December, the tranquil Candlelit Concert at St Giles' Cathedral provides a festive celebration featuring stunning music for brass, choir and organ. New for 2023 Edinburgh's Hogmanay introduces First Footin', an afternoon of

free live music and performance taking place across the Old and New Towns in some of Edinburgh's landmark attractions, incredible venues and independent pubs including Cold Town House, Greyfriars Hall at Virgin Hotels Edinburgh, Rose Theatre and The Auld Hundred in Rose Street, the Grassmarket's Black Bull and The Huxley in the West End. First Footin' audiences can explore the city enjoying Hogmanay traditions of friendship, food and drink along with live music.

Beyond the cities, the party atmosphere spreads far and wide. Those venturing to Aberdeenshire can discover one of the oldest New Year celebrations in the world... The Stonehaven Fireballs. It doesn't all end there; the festive spirit continues throughout the season with the Up Helly Aa Fire Festivals across Shetland (Jan-Mar), and on Burns Night, visitors can enjoy birthday celebrations for Robert Burns. Also in January, Celtic Connections, the city's annual folk, roots and world music festival, comes to Glasgow – Scotland's UNESCO City of Music.

**Bright Lights**

The winter nights come to life across Scotland thanks to a variety of light trails and installations; the dark skies become dazzling spectacles transforming some of the country's most beloved attractions in unexpected ways.

Castle of Light: Magic and Mystery, Edinburgh Castle-Returning to transform the city's skyline for a fourth fantastic year, Castle of Light promises to bring even more unmissable moments to Edinburgh Castle as the iconic landmark is illuminated with extraordinary light and sounds displays through much of December and into January. An enchanting experience for all ages, guests can uncover the secrets of Scotland's past in the unique after-dark walking trail as a tapestry of all-new

storytelling projections dance across the castle walls telling tales of magic, mystery and spectacular sorcery.

Monteviot Winter Light Trail, Jedburgh-Monteviot House and Gardens, near Jedburgh, will host its inaugural winter light trail, Monteviot Lights, until 10<sup>th</sup> December. The trail will shine a light on the beauty of the Scottish Borders as visitors embark on a captivating outdoor illuminated journey in Monteviot House's spectacular gardens.

**Winter is not a time for hibernation, it's a moment for celebration.**

**Winter Essentials**

It wouldn't be the festive season without a few seasonal essentials... Think meeting Santa, Christmas Markets and seeing a reindeer or two! Roaming freely since 1952, The Cairngorm Reindeer Herd is Britain's only free-ranging herd of reindeer with daily hill trips to see the reindeers up close.

Glasgow's Christmas festivities -George Square will see the city's festivities throughout December, as well as the Christmas Lights Switch On in late-November. As the event which kicks off the countdown to Christmas in Glasgow, a series of traditional festivities will follow. Among the family favourites are the Blessing of the Crib in George Square, the Style Mile Christmas Carnival and Baby's First Christmas. St Enoch Square will be hosting The Christmas Fair where little ones can enjoy rides including The Blizzard and Santa's runaway train.



The Wallace Monument in Stirling. Photo: TravMedia.

George Square will also be taking part in all the festive fun with its own Christmas Fair which will feature various attractions including an ice rink. The much-loved Glasgow Santa Dash takes place on Sunday 10 December, giving participants a chance to raise funds for the Beatson Cancer Charity and the Lord Provost's Charity Fund.

'Tis the season of giving! Drop by one of Scotland's eight cities for a spot of festive shopping. Think artisanal gifts from Perth, the UK's first City of Craft. Pick up a tartan gift celebrating V&A Dundee's landmark exhibition *Tartan* which runs to January 2024. Get historical in Dunfermline, Scotland's former capital and go local in Stirling, exploring the Victorian shopping mall filled with independent retailers. Across Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Aberdeen there's a great mix of brands and local businesses to discover where shoppers can pick up the perfect gift of Scotland.

Head to a magical winter wonderland at Dundee's WinterFest @ Slessor Gardens. Have fun at the vintage funfair, enjoy views over the city's skyline on the Big Wheel and finish off with the Bavarian bar for some festive drinks or opt to dawn some ice skates and make the most of the open-air WinterFest ice-rink. Braemar's Festival de Noël, featuring family events, 40 market stalls, Christmas concert and workshops. The Deeside village will be transformed into a winter wonderland with a Santa train, horse and carriage rides, wreath making and a host of workshops, including photography and chocolate and beer tasting with local producers. Sunday is market day, with over 40 food, drink and

craft stalls spread over three venues — with free carriage rides to take shoppers from A to B as they are serenaded by carol singers, pipers piping and a brass band. Festival de Noël will take place from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**Get cosy and coorie in**

Ross Bay Retreats, Dumfries & Galloway- Situated in the UNESCO Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere – a world class environment for people and nature and fifteen minutes away from the lively fishing port Kirkcudbright – 'The Artists' Town', get set to be greeted with a homemade welcome cake upon arrival at one of these cosy coastal cottages overlooking Ross Bay. Featuring stunning scenery and sea views, guests can roam across the working farm (with the option to meet some of the animals) or opt to explore the acres of forest and coastline. Four legged friends are welcome, with pooches receiving a welcome pack of their very own.

Loch Katrine Eco Lodges, Stirling- Choose from 10 lochside lodges in one of the most beautiful parts of The Trossachs overlooking Loch Katrine and Ben Venue. Located seven miles from Callander and five miles from Aberfoyle, this eco camp is the perfect base to get away from it all but still be within a short drive to bustling tourist hubs. Walk, cycle and explore the beauty of this exceptional place, part of one of Britain's largest National Nature Reserves. Set sail onto Loch Katrine and make the most of the festive celebrations on board including Santa sailings (over 11 days in December) on Lady of the Lake and in the Steamship Café, or opt



Glasgow's Christmas festivities. Photo: Glasgow Life.

for a New Year sail on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> January on the restored Steamship Sir Walter Scott (providing an hour long sail with a traditional Scottish band playing on board, a New Year welcome drink and shortbread).

Highland Coast Hotels, North Coast 500- Highland Coast Hotels brings together a collection of unique hotels on the North Coast 500. This winter, guests can embark on an adventure like no other, exploring three stunning coasts thanks to the East Meets West itinerary package. It's the perfect way to be immersed in the local culture, explore hidden gems and tuck into seasonal produce at different properties along the route with a luxury winter lunch picnic.

Gleneagles Hotel, Auchterarder- Scotland's own Glorious Playground comes alive at Christmas, with decorations designed to evoke the wintry scenery of the surrounding Perthshire countryside. The hotel will be transformed into a magical wonderland and a whole range of family friendly activities. From brisk trail walks, and outdoor adventures by day, to roaring log fires and decadent dining by night, there is something for everyone at Gleneagles.



Castle of Light: Magic and Mystery.

Glenapp Castle, Ayrshire- Glenapp Castle, set on the stunning Ayrshire coast, is the perfect retreat to enjoy long scenic walks on a crisp winter day, whether that be throughout the estate or along the stunning Ayrshire Coastal Path. Choose to unwind with a relaxing in-suite massage, or warm up at the private members coastal spa nearby. Those looking for something more active can choose from Glenapp's unique Glenapp activity programme, which offers over 70 different amazing activities and experiences both on and off-site, including axe-throwing, archery, hiking, mountain biking, cookery lessons, and more. After a day of exploring, tuck into a wonderful dining experience with a three-course gourmet dinner, offering mouth-watering canapes and handmade petit fours at the award-winning, three AA rosette dining room.



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

This tartan was created to commemorate and celebrate the life of Heather MacNeil Adams, beloved wife, mother,

sister, daughter and friend. Heather had a wish; a tartan of her own with bright and vibrant colours to symbolise hearth and home and to celebrate Christmas, her favourite time of year. In honour of her Christmas wish Heather's friends and family designed this tartan in her memory. The colours are intended to represent what was important to Heather: Red is for love; green was her favourite colour; blue represents her husband and sons; pink is for her daughters and purple represents pancreatic cancer. Yellow represents the rose planted by Heather which blooms every year, even in the snow. This tartan (reference: 13370) was designed by Deana A Lloy and registered in December, 2021.



God's Island. Photo: VisitScotland.

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

- 1) What is the other name for Culloden field, the scene of the battle in 1746?
- 2) Who was the king who united Scots and Pictish tribes to form one nation?
- 3) Which Scottish city is often known as the "auld grey town"?
- 4) Where in Scotland is Calgary Bay, which gave birth to the name of the Canadian city?
- 5) What is the largest native wild mammal found in Scotland?
- 6) In which Scottish Firth would you find the Isle of May?
- 7) Where did Bonnie Prince Charlie raise his Standard in 1745?

- 8) Where does the West Highland Way begin?
- 9) What is known locally as God's Island?
- 10) Where did King Robert the Bruce die?

**Answers**

- 1) Drumossie Moor.
- 2) Kenneth McAlpin, 1,200 years ago.
- 3) Dunfermline, in the Kingdom of Fife.
- 4) On the west coast of the Isle of Mull. Many evicted Highland families sailed from there to new homes across the Atlantic.
- 5) The red deer.
- 6) In the Firth of Forth.
- 7) Glenfinnan.
- 8) Milngavie (pronounced Mil-guy), just north of Glasgow.
- 9) The island of Gigha, off the coast of Kintyre.
- 10) Cardross, Dunbartonshire.

# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

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

**December 1** - The first volume of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was published in Edinburgh, edited by William Smellie. 1768

**December 1** - First lighthouse in Scotland opened (at Kinnaird Head, Fraserburgh). It was built by Thomas Smith and Robert Stevenson. 1787

**December 1** - English writer Jo (JK) Rowling moves to Edinburgh where she works on her first *Harry Potter* novel. 1993

**December 1** - Report of discovery of fossilised dinosaur footprints on the Isle of Skye. 2015

**December 2** - Mary Slessor, West African missionary, born in Aberdeen. Slessor was adopted by an African tribe, who called her "ma". 1848

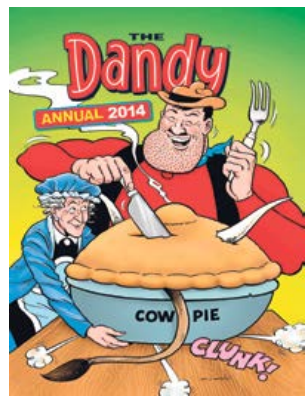
**December 3** - Robert Louis Stevenson died in Samoa. The Edinburgh born author penned classics such as *Treasure Island* (1883), *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886) and *Kidnapped* (1886). 1894

**December 3** - His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen opened and soon became the city's leading centre of entertainment. 1906

**December 4** - King William I (Lion) died at Stirling and was succeeded by his son Alexander II. 1214

**December 4** - Treaty of London, releasing James I from his 18 years captivity in England. 1423

**December 4** - Essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle, best known for his *History of the French Revolution* born in Ecclefechan. 1795



**December 4** - Cartoon character Desperate Dan first appeared in the *Dandy* comic. 1937

**December 5** - King Francis II of France, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, died. 1560

**December 5** - Death of Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the Brechin-born inventor of radar. 1973

**December 6** - King Alexander II crowned at Scone. Alexander died, aged 50, on 6 July 1249 and was buried at Melrose Abbey in the Scottish Borders. 1214

**December 6** - The Battle of Dryfe Sands took place near Lockerbie, Scottish Borders, resulting in many casualties, it was a battle between the clans of Clan Maxwell and Clan Johnstone. Many were wounded by downward sword strokes known as "Lockerbie Licks". 1593

**December 6** - Charles Edward Stewart's entry into Derby. A reluctant Charles and his Jacobite army was forced to withdraw from Derby only two days later. 1745

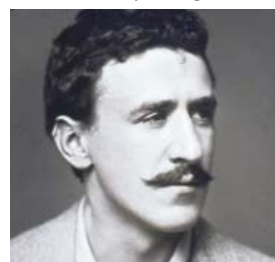
**December 6** - The last 12 permanent residents leave the Island of Stroma. 1962

**December 7** - The birth of Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, the Anglo-Scottish aristocrat and second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary married Henry, her first cousin, on the 29 July 1565, to be the uncrowned "King Henry". Darnley was the second husband of Mary and father of King James VI of Scotland and James I of England. He was assassinated in February 1567 by person unknown, although Mary's third husband James, Lord Bothwell, was seriously implicated in the murder. 1545

**December 8** - Mary, Queen of Scots, born Linlithgow Palace. The only surviving child of James V and Mary of Guise, Mary ascended to the Scottish throne following her father's death when she was only six days old. Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England for her complicity in a plot to murder Queen Elizabeth I at the age of 44 years. 1542

**December 9** - King Malcolm IV, King of Scotland, died at Jedburgh Castle. 1165

**December 10** - The death of Duncan Forbes of Culloden, the Lord President of the Court of Session. As a prominent Whig, like many Scots Forbes supported the Hanoverian cause and used his influence to dissuade a number of clans from joining the Jacobites. 1747



**December 10** - 1928 - Designer and architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. Known for his 'Glasgow style' with works such as the House for an Art Lover, the Scotland Street School, and the Glasgow School of Art. 1928

**December 10** - King Edward VIII abdicated and King George VI acceded to the throne. 1936

**December 11** - David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope born. 1781

**December 11** - Architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. 1928

**December 12** - Anne of Denmark, wife of King James VI, born. 1574

**December 13** - William Drummond, poet, born. Drummond was one of the first notable Scots poets to write exclusively in English after the Union of the Crowns in 1603. 1585

**December 13** - The death of Thomas Glover, an industrial pioneer in Japan. Born in Fraserburgh, he is considered a national hero in Japan. Fraser brought the first steam train to Japan, and created the shipyard in Nagasaki which would eventually form the Mitsubishi Corporation. 1911

**December 13** - New Lanark is designated as a World Heritage Site. The New Lanark cotton mills opened in 1786 and are one of six UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Scotland. 2001

**December 14** - James V died at Falkland Palace. Mary Queen of Scots succeeded him. 1542



**December 14** - Glasgow District Underground opened, powered by electricity. 1896

**December 14** - Will Fyfe, comedian, died. 1947

**December 14** - University of Stirling instituted by Royal charter. 1967

**December 15** - The Zoological Society of Glasgow was founded on this day. 1936

**December 16** - Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland. Cromwell was the only invader of Scotland to conquer the whole country. 1653

**December 16** - Thomas Blake Glover, founding father of Japan's industrialisation (including Mitsubishi) and Japanese Navy, born Fraserburgh. 1838

**December 16** - Scotland's largest airline, Flyglobespan, goes into administration. The airline flew routes from Scotland to Europe and North America. 2009

**December 17** - Marriage contract between James IV and Margaret Tudor signed by King James. 1502

**December 17** - Lord Kelvin, scientist and inventor, died. 1907

**December 17** - Petrol rationing was imposed following the Suez crisis and the closure of the canal. 1956

**December 18** - Many Scottish historical records were lost when the ship *Elizabeth of Burntisland* sank off the English coast. The records had been taken to London by Oliver Cromwell and were being returned to Edinburgh. 1661

**December 18** - Society of Antiquaries founded and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1783, the Society's purpose is "to investigate both antiquities and natural and civil history in general, with the intention that the talents of humanity should be cultivated and that the study of natural and useful sciences should be promoted". 1780

**December 18** - Death penalty for murder was formally abolished in Britain. 1969



**December 18** - Inverness was awarded city status. It was one of three regions in the UK to become a city marking the new millennium and the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Prior to Inverness Dundee was the last Scottish town to receive the distinction in 1889. 2000

**December 19** - *The Scotsman* newspaper moves to new offices at North Bridge in Edinburgh, remaining there until 1999. 1904

**December 20** - First General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. 1560

**December 20** - Entertainer Andy Stewart was born in Glasgow. Stewart is perhaps best known for his STV show, *The White Heather Club*, which began in 1960, and his songs *Ye Canna Shuv Yer Granny Off A Bus* and *Donald Where's Yer Troosers*. He died in 1993. 1933

**December 20** - Aberdeen beat European Cup Winners Hamburg 2-0 to become the first Scottish club to win the UEFA Super Cup. 1983

**December 21** - Robert Liston, who was born in Linlithgow in 1794, performed the first operation in a British hospital using anaesthetic (ether). 1846

**December 21** - A Pan Am 747 blew up and crashed at Lockerbie, Dumfries, killing 243 passengers, 16 crew and 11 Lockerbie residents. The Pan American jumbo jet bound for New York was blown out of the sky by a terrorist bomb and crashes onto the Scottish town of Lockerbie killing all 259 passengers and 11 people on the ground. 1988

**December 22** - James Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, son of James II, the deposed Catholic King of England, arrived at Peterhead in north-east Scotland to lead a Jacobite rebellion. 1715

**December 22** - Pop star Madonna married movie-producer Guy Ritchie at Skibo Castle, putting Dornoch into the media spotlight. The couple has since divorced but helped create a Scottish wedding boom. 2000

**December 23** - Major outbreak of cholera in Scotland. 1831

**December 23** - Fife born accordionist Jimmy Shand died. Shand's recordings are famous throughout the world due to his distinctive playing style on the button accordion, and later on the BBC with *The White Heather Club*. 2000

**December 24** - King William I (Lion) crowned at Scone. 1165

**December 24** - Edinburgh Castle surrendered to Oliver Cromwell. 1650

**December 24** - General George Wade was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British army in Scotland after he had reported on the need for military roads in the country. 1724

**December 25** - Stone of Destiny removed from Westminster Abbey. Used as the coronation stone of the Scottish kings from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the stone was removed by four Scottish university students whose story became a book and movie. The ringleader Ian Hamilton is a former contributor to *the Scottish Banner*. 1950



**December 25** - Christmas Day becomes a public holiday in Scotland. It was abolished in 1640. 1958

**December 25** - The Jacobite army reached Glasgow. The military campaign to return a Catholic Stewart king to the throne in place of the Hanoverian Protestant King William III. 1745

**December 26** - Alexander III, the King of Scots, was married to Margaret, the daughter of Henry III, King of England, in York. 1251

**December 27** - King Charles I, imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle, reached an agreement with the Scots who offered military aid in exchange for a promise to establish Presbyterianism in England (but only for three years). 1647

**December 27** - Premiere of J M Barrie's play *Peter Pan* at the Duke of York Theatre, London. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir in 1860. 1904

**December 28** - James IV who liked to gamble played 'bylis' (similar to billiards) with a man described in records as "John Anderson that wantis the feit and handies". There's also a note mentioning that the king gave Anderson 14 shilling. 1501

**December 28** - Scotland's famous outlaw, Rob "Roy" MacGregor, died. He was immortalised in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Rob Roy*. 1734

**December 28** - The Tay Bridge disaster occurred. 75 passengers were killed when the structure collapsed under a train during a storm. 1879

**December 29** - Charles Macintosh, who patented waterproof fabric, born in Glasgow. 1766

**December 29** - William Ewart Gladstone, UK Prime Minister on four occasions, born 1809. 1809

**December 30** - Rangers' first match at their new Ibrox Stadium, with capacity of 75,000. It was a 3-1 victory over Hearts in the Inter-City League. 1899



**December 30** - The Albiion Motor Company was established. At first the firm made motor cars and commercial vehicles, but from 1913 concentrated on the latter. 1899

**December 31** - Prince Charles Edward Stewart, The Young Pretender, was born in Rome. Known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie", after the Gaelic pronunciation of his name, he led the 1745 Jacobite attempt to overthrow the Hanoverian monarchy. Bonnie Prince Charlie or the Young Pretender, was the son of James, the Old Pretender. 1720

**December 31** - 72 killed at Glen Cinema Fire, Paisley. 1929

**December 31** - The farthing coin (a quarter of an old penny) ceased to be legal tender. 1960

By: David McVey

# Glasgow's Medieval Marvel



Images courtesy of David McVey.



## RMS Titanic

A succession of caretakers and custodians looked after Provan Hall, beginning with Mary Holmes herself. In the 1950s, Harold Bride took over. You may have heard the name, especially if you are interested in the tragic *RMS Titanic*. Bride had been the wireless operator on the ship. It's been suggested that without the new invention of wireless radio, and Bride operating the system, there might have been no survivors of the *Titanic*. He served in the Royal Navy during the First World War and then moved to Scotland to work as a pharmaceutical representative and spent the rest of his life here. Sadly, his tenure as live-in caretaker didn't last long as he died in April 1956. What a thrill it must have been to have been shown round Provan Hall by one of the heroes of the *Titanic* tragedy!

By the 1950s and 1960s, Provan Hall was set in an urban green space, Auchinlea Park, and was being surrounded by development as the housing estate of Easterhouse took shape. The main building has been much altered over the years but still forms one side of a courtyard entered by the impressive gateway. The building opposite probably dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The fourth side of the courtyard opens onto the gardens. Glasgow City Council recently refurbished the buildings and gardens, and they now look tremendous. Day-to-day running is in the hands of the Provan Hall Community Management Trust who have a team of volunteers to look after visitors while the building is open to the public (usually Thursday to Sunday). There are displays in the original building; the kitchens are especially impressive, and I especially like how they have devoted the ground-floor space in the tower as a place for quiet reflection. The other building houses a shop and visitor centre, which also informs the public about the nearby Seven Lochs Wetland Park.

Provan Hall is close to another, very different, kind of attraction, The Fort Retail Park. While this sprawling facility is much less lovely than Provan Hall, it does at least mean that there are frequent buses from the city centre, and plenty of food and coffee venues once you have visited the house. Provan Hall is quite possibly Glasgow's undiscovered gem. Hop on a bus to The Fort and find out for yourself.

## Provan Hall is quite possibly Glasgow's undiscovered gem.

Other sources suggest that the building may date from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. After the Reformation the building went into secular ownership, first with the Baillie family and then the Hamiltons. In its early days, James IV is said to have spent a night there. So is his granddaughter, Mary Queen of Scots. Of course, there are few buildings of the right age, and some that aren't, where she isn't said to have slept. Baillie was an advisor to Mary, so perhaps the story isn't too far-fetched.

The City of Glasgow purchased Provan Hall in 1677 from Sir Robert Hamilton (whose family crest is still visible above the gateway that leads into the courtyard) but sold it again in 1788 to Dr John Buchanan, something of a mystery figure, who may have made his fortune on the Jamaican plantations. As such, today we'd regard his money as somewhat tainted. The house passed through a succession of owners, including in the 1840s one Reston Mathers who is remembered as a celebrated breeder of Scotland's national horse, the Clydesdale. The last of the Mathers family left the building to their housekeeper Mary Holmes. She, along with Dreda Boyd, a local author and historian, raised funds to preserve the building when it was threatened by subsidence from coal mining and quarrying. Mary lived in the house until the 1950s, after having passed it to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) in 1938. The NTS worked in partnership with the city authorities in Glasgow to present the building to the public. So, in a way, the city got back the building it had owned for a century many years earlier.

Cathedrals in medieval times were more than just places of worship; they were seats of power and their bishops and clerics were major players in society. They generally held great riches, not least in the form of land. Glasgow Cathedral owned a large swathe of countryside to the north-east of the city. Its senior clerics had a residence called Lochwood, on the shores of the Bishop Loch. They would ride out there for a few days rest and perhaps some fishing or hunting. Or it might be used for meetings on cathedral business. Cathedral lands were used to generate income. Employees managed the lands, farmed them, extracted minerals or did whatever they needed to ensure an income that would keep the cathedral functioning.

### Secular ownership

Remarkably, in Provan Hall, a building from that era survives in Glasgow. There was probably a structure there as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century; a roof-beam in the current building has been dated to then. However, it dates from rather later, and the veteran roof-beam is an early example of salvage and reuse. Provan Hall and its lands were in the possession of the Prebendary of Barlanark, which held a seat on the chapter of Glasgow Cathedral.

William Turnbull, who later became Bishop of Glasgow, was Prebend from 1440 and it's thought possible that he started the building of the current Provan Hall, which would have been the base of farming operations.

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**WHOLESALE AVAILABLE**

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



## Cock-a-leekie soup

### Ingredients:

#### For the stock:

1 medium chicken  
1 carrot, peeled and diced  
1 onion, peeled and diced  
2 sticks of celery, diced  
1 leek, washed and diced  
1 bouquet garni  
For clarifying:  
150g/6oz chicken, minced  
2 egg whites

#### For finishing:

1 large leek, cut into 10-12.5cm/4-5in lengths about 1cm/½in wide  
15 prunes, julienned  
salt and pepper

### Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Sit the chicken on a rack set over a roasting tray and roast for 15-20 minutes until golden brown. Transfer the chicken to a large heavy based pan, reserving the fat caught in the roasting tray. Scatter the diced vegetables over and pour in enough cold water to just cover. Add the bouquet garni in and season. Bring to the boil and simmer for 40-45 minutes until tender. Remove the chicken from the stock and leave to rest and cool slightly. Remove all the meat from the carcass and shred the chicken into small pieces.

Meanwhile, strain the stock through a fine sieve, discarding the vegetables. Return the passed stock to a clean pan. Mix the minced chicken and egg whites together to combine and whisk the mixture quickly into the stock. Very slowly bring the stock to a simmer. Avoid stirring, but whisk once as the stock is coming up to temperature. The chicken and egg white mixture will solidify and rise to the top of the stock. As the stock simmers any impurities will rise to the top and thus clarify the stock. Pass the stock through a fine sieve once again. Bring a pan of salted water to the boil and blanch the leek strips for 1-2 minutes until softened. Drain and refresh in ice cold water. Drain again. To serve, arrange some chicken shreds in the centre of each serving bowl. Sit the leeks and prunes on top. Ladle the warm stock over (which will warm the other ingredients through). Drizzle some of the reserved chicken fat over and serve at once.

## Christmas turkey crown with orange

### Ingredients:

#### For the turkey:

2.2kg/4lb 14oz turkey crown  
2 tsp chopped thyme leaves  
50g/1¾oz butter, softened  
2 small oranges, one thinly sliced, one cut in half  
1-2 tbsp vegetable oil

#### For the gravy:

3 tbsp plain flour  
6 tbsp port  
450ml/¾ pint hot turkey or chicken stock  
splash Worcestershire sauce  
2 tbsp soy sauce  
salt and freshly ground black pepper

### Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6. Loosen the skin on the turkey crown by pushing your fingers (or rubber spatula) between the skin and the meat, moving it around to get to the tricky places and taking care not to tear the skin. Mix the thyme leaves with the softened butter until well combined, then smear the mixture underneath the skin of the bird. Arrange the orange slices in two neat rows under the skin, on top of the herb butter. Place one of the orange halves under the skin at the neck end of the bird, and any orange trimmings in the neck cavity. Transfer the turkey crown to a small roasting tray. Rub all over with the oil and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Roast in the oven for about 1½-2 hours, or until the juices run clear when the turkey is pierced in the thickest part with a skewer and no traces of pink remain. During cooking, check the turkey every 30 minutes, baste occasionally and cover with aluminium foil if it is browning too quickly. About 15 minutes before the end of cooking, squeeze the juice from the remaining half-orange over the turkey. Return the turkey to the oven, uncovered, to allow the skin to crisp up.

Transfer the turkey crown to a serving platter and set aside to rest, covered in foil, for 30 minutes. Reserve the meat juices left in the roasting tray. For the gravy, pour the juices from the roasting tray into a jug and allow to settle. Skim all but 4 tablespoons of the fat from the top, then tip the remaining gravy into a saucepan and heat over a medium heat until the gravy is just simmering. Whisk in the flour until the mixture is smooth and well combined, then pour in the port and stock and whisk again until smooth. Continue to simmer the gravy until it starts to thicken, then add a few drops of Worcestershire sauce and the soy sauce. Bring the gravy to the boil, adding any remaining turkey juices released while the meat was resting. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper, then decant into a warmed serving jug and serve with the turkey.

## Cloutie Dumpling with Crème Freshe

### Ingredients:

2 free-range egg yolks  
55g/2oz caster sugar  
1 vanilla pod, split open  
150ml/¼ pint double cream  
1 ready-made cloutie dumpling

### Method:

Heat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Beat the egg yolks and sugar in a bowl until pale and thick. Meanwhile, heat the cream and vanilla pod in a pan until almost boiling. Remove from the heat and pour it over the egg mixture, whisking to combine. Return the mixture to the pan and stir until thickened. Slice the cloutie dumpling and arrange in a gratin dish. Pour the custard over and then bake in the oven for 10-12 minutes until golden and set. Remove from the oven and serve.

## Christmas pudding



### Ingredients:

#### The dry ingredients:

275g/10oz soft brown or white breadcrumbs  
100g/4oz dried apricots, chopped (to about the same size as the raisins)  
100g/4oz dried figs, chopped (to about the same size as the raisins)  
225g/8oz currants  
225g/8oz seedless raisins  
225g/8oz sultanas  
75g/3oz high quality candied peel, finely chopped  
50g/2oz almonds, finely chopped  
225g/8oz light or dark muscovado sugar  
225g/8oz shredded suet  
½ tsp salt  
1 tsp ground mixed spice  
1 tsp ground cinnamon  
½ tsp freshly grated nutmeg

#### The wet ingredients:

1 orange, zest and juice  
1 lemon, zest and juice  
1 eating apple, cored and grated  
3 free-range eggs, lightly beaten  
150ml/5fl oz stout or similar dark beer  
150ml/5fl oz milk  
4 tbsp brandy  
butter, for greasing pudding bowls

### Method:

Place all the dry ingredients into a large bowl and mix together thoroughly. Add the wet ingredients and mix together well with your hands (a spoon doesn't do the job half as well). Divide the mixture between two greased 1½ litre/2½ pint heatproof pudding bowls, filling almost to the rim, then smooth down the surface. Cover each bowl with a large square of greaseproof paper, then cover that with a large square of aluminium foil. Tie the two sheets tightly into place under the rim with string, leaving long ends of excess string to make a handle. Loop one of the excess string lengths over the pudding basin and slide underneath the taut string holding the sheets in place on the other side. Bring up the string and firmly knot with the other piece of excess string, to form a secure handle to lift the pudding in and out of the water. Leave the puddings somewhere



*This month gather friends and family around and eat perhaps a bit more than you should, and celebrate Christmas and Hogmanay with a great range of food and drink. From our table to yours - Happy Holidays!*

cool overnight before cooking. To cook, stand both puddings on a trivet in a large, deep, heavy-based pan (or each pudding in a separate pan). Pour boiling water into the pan(s), enough to come about halfway up the sides of the bowls. Cover the pan(s) with a lid or a dome of foil and boil for seven hours. Check the water level regularly, topping it up with more boiling water as necessary to keep the bowls half submerged.

After seven hours, remove the bowls from the pan and leave to cool. Untie and remove the foil and greaseproof sheets and replace with clean, dry sheets of both greaseproof paper and foil. Store in a cool, dry place (or freeze if you prefer, though they will keep perfectly well for a year or more unfrozen). To reheat at Christmas-time, return to a pan containing a few inches of boiling water, cover and steam for two hours, checking the water levels now and then, until completely heated through.

## Mulled wine



### Ingredients:

1 large orange  
3 lemons  
12 cloves  
2 satsumas or clementines  
2 x 750ml bottles red wine  
2 cinnamon sticks  
150g/5½oz. caster sugar (optional)  
brandy, to taste (optional)

### Method:

Carefully peel the zest very thinly from the orange and lemons using a vegetable peeler. Squeeze out the juice and reserve. Stick the cloves into the satsumas.

Pour the wine, 1.2 litres/2 pints of cold water, and the citrus peel and juices into a large, heavy-based saucepan. Add the clove-studded satsumas and cinnamon sticks. Bring the mixture just to the boil, then reduce the heat until the mixture is simmering, cover the pan with the lid, and continue to simmer for about 1 hour. Stir in the sugar gradually during cooking, until the mulled wine is sweetened to your liking (you may not need all of the sugar). Strain the mulled wine and serve hot in cups.



46<sup>th</sup> CENTRAL FLORIDA

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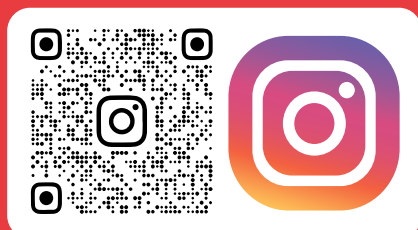
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# Calling the Clans

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

## Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

Clan Baird Commander

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

Hereditary President of Clan Baird Society Worldwide

Debra J. Baird, Ph.D. FSA Scot, CBSW Convenor  
Email: [djbaird4@gmail.com](mailto:djbaird4@gmail.com)  
Website: [clanbairdsocietyworldwide.co.uk](http://clanbairdsocietyworldwide.co.uk)



## Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

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

## CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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



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

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



## Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

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



## CLAN BELL

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

Website: [www.ClanBell.org](http://www.ClanBell.org)

Online membership: <https://clanbell.org/membership.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell>

Email: [President@clanbell.org](mailto:President@clanbell.org)

Clan Bell North America

49 Greystone Lane NW

Cartersville, GA, 30121

## Clan Donald Australia



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

**High Commissioner** Mr A. Neil Macdonald

**State Commissioners**

NSW

Qld

SA

Vic

WA

Mr John Currie

Mr A. Neil Macdonald

Mr Michael Murphy

Mr Norman A Macdonald

Ms Pamela McDonald

[secretary.clandonaldustralia@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.clandonaldustralia@gmail.com)

**There is no joy without Clan Donald**



## Edmonstone Clan Society

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

Contact: Mal Edmiston

3 Laguna Ave

Kirwan, Qld, 4817

61 (0)7 4755 4370

[m.edmiston@bigpond.com](mailto:m.edmiston@bigpond.com)



## Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce

President

1051 Eagle Ridge Trail

Stillwater, Minnesota 55082

Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary

5561 Earl Young Road

Bloomington, IN 47408

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



## Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald

Ph: 0412 090990

Email: [clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au](mailto:clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au)

Web: [www.clandonaldqld.org](http://www.clandonaldqld.org)

ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald

MacDonald McDonald McDonell, Donald,

OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald,

OR with a connection through family lineage.

**There is no joy without Clan Donald**



## Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

Direct inquires to: Marianne Elliott,

Membership Chair

Email: [marianne@mmelliott.com](mailto:marianne@mmelliott.com)

Website: [www.elliotclan-usa.com](http://www.elliotclan-usa.com)



## Clan Gregor Society Australasia

All MacGregors and Septs of our clan are invited to join the Clan Gregor Society Est 1822. If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative:

Frank McGregor

PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002

Email: [clangregoraustalia@gmail.com](mailto:clangregoraustalia@gmail.com)

Web: [www.clangregor.com](http://www.clangregor.com)

**"Royal is our Race"**



## National Clan Cameron Australia Inc.

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

President: Alistair Cameron

Secretary: Terry Cameron

[secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com](mailto:secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com)

[www.clan-cameron.org.au](http://www.clan-cameron.org.au)



## Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

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

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



## Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

The Secretary: Clan Farquharson Association Australia

PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777

or by Email to: [finlaysb@bigpond.com](mailto:finlaysb@bigpond.com)

[www.clanfarquharsonaus.weebly.com](http://www.clanfarquharsonaus.weebly.com)



## Clan Hamilton Society

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

Inquiries to be sent to:

Sheri Lambert, Treasurer

P.O. Box 5399

Vernon Hills, IL 60061

visit our website:

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



## CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

HEREDITARY CHIEF AND SOCIETY PATRON

Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains

Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers

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

Clan Carruthers Society - International  
officially representing Carruthers worldwide

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

[clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com](mailto:clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com)



## CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald

Contact: [secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com)

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mr Lindsay McDonald

Contact: [secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com](mailto:secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com)

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



## FORBES

WEB [WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG](http://WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG)

@CLANFORBESSOCIETY

@CLANFORBESSOCIETY

@CLANFORBES1

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#GRACEMEGUIDE #LONACH

CONTACT: [MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG)

## Clan Hay Australia

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

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

For more information, please contact:

Australian Clan Hay convenor, Chris Hay McMor Fairbank

PO Box 70, Darrinallum, Victoria, 3325, Australia

E: [clanhayaustralia@outlook.com](mailto:clanhayaustralia@outlook.com)

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



## CHISHOLM Clan Chisholm Society of Australia Inc

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

Email: [kim.polley13@gmail.com](mailto:kim.polley13@gmail.com)

[www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/AUSmembership.php](http://www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/AUSmembership.php)



## Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid

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

For information and membership application, contact Richard Harvey, Secretary  
Email: [c2100575@uon.edu.au](mailto:c2100575@uon.edu.au)



## Clan Fraser Society of Australia

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

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts

Ph: (03) 9754 5120 [donchitts@hotmail.com](mailto:donchitts@hotmail.com)

Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/>

482236358590288



## Clan Hay

April Rich

28 Oxbow Drive

Willimantic, CT 06226

[clanhaymembership@hotmail.com](mailto:clanhaymembership@hotmail.com)

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

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

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 Ceann Cinnidh

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


# McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

**DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!**

Contact: membership.macalpein@gmail.com  
Website: <https://macalpein.com/>



## Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President  
President@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: kisimul@chariot.net.au



## Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

**INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA**  
President & Commissioner: Stephen J. Hope  
president@clanhope.org  
[www.clanhope.org](http://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](http://www.clanhope.org)

**CANADA**  
Commissioner: Scott Hale  
commissioner@clanhope.ca  
[www.clanhope.ca](http://www.clanhope.ca)

**SCOTLAND**  
Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope  
commissionerscotland@clanhope.org  
[www.clanhope.org](http://www.clanhope.org)

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

## Clan MacDougall Society of North America

Clan MacDougall

### MacDougalls, MacDowalls, & ALL Associated Families

YOU are invited to join CMSNA!  
We would love to share Scottish heritage and traditions with YOU!

Learn MORE at [www.MacDougall.org](http://www.MacDougall.org)



## Clan MacLennan worldwide


- Newsletters
- Gatherings
- Highland Games
- DNA Project
- Extensive Clan Genealogy & books collection
- Videod talks - linked from Genealogy page
- Research assistance

[www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com](http://www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com)

## 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)  
IRWIN • IRVINE • IRVIN • IRVING • ERWIN  
And the many other spellings of the Name

INTERNATIONAL Est. 1911

## CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY

DISCOVER YOUR MACFARLANE ROOTS!

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[MACFARLANE.ORG](http://MACFARLANE.ORG)

## Clan MacLellan

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

Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of 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  
Australia ~ Douglas McLaughlin banddmclatpg.com.au  
Britain, Ireland & Scotland ~ Tony MacEwen macewen45@sky.com  
New Zealand ~ Helen Chegwin kiwhc@xtra.co.nz  
USA ~ Kevin McLachlan 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 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



## 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  
Check out your Tartan and Sept  
[www.clanmackenzie.org.au](http://www.clanmackenzie.org.au)



## THE MACLEODS

RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS

FOR INFORMATION:  
[WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG](http://WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG)

A.L. MACLEOD  
3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B  
WEST VALLEY CITY, UT  
84120-6880



## The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

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



## Clan Little Society, Inc.

Welcoming Little/Lyttle/Lytile and the like.

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

[www.clanlittlesociety.org](http://www.clanlittlesociety.org)  
Registered in the State of Georgia, USA  
Proud Member of COSCA



## 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)

New Second Edition!  
**A History of the Clan Macnachten**  
Paperback available through Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk, Amazon.ca



## Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

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

[www.macrae.org](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  
welcome as a member,  
anyone interested in their  
Clan heritage with the  
names; Munro, Monro,  
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Foulis, MacCulloch,  
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Vass.

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[munro.ray@hotmail.com](mailto:munro.ray@hotmail.com)  
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## Clan Ross America

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



## Clan Wardlaw Association

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*Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books*

## Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

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Welcomes membership of anyone interested  
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(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

Membership and inquiries from all Sinclairs,  
Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants.  
For further info contact  
President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174  
Secretary: Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263  
E: [clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com](mailto:clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com)  
[www.clansinclairaustralia.com](http://www.clansinclairaustralia.com)



THE AMERICAN-SCOTTISH  
FOUNDATION, INC.

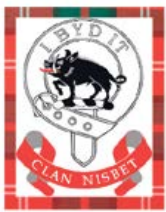
Through our platform of projects and events ASF  
helps share and strengthen the heritage and cultural  
message of Scotland's past and future. A bridge  
between the United States and Scotland.  
[www.americanscottishfoundation.org](http://www.americanscottishfoundation.org)



## Còisir Ghàidhlig Bhictòria Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria

Do you live in Melbourne? Are you interested in Gaelic and its  
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Term 1 2023 beginning 31<sup>st</sup> January  
at Kathleen Syme Community Centre,  
251 Faraday St, Carlton and on Zoom.  
Contact Michael McNab  
Ph: 0439 869 061  
[mmcnab@scottishgaelicvictoria.org.au](mailto:mmcnab@scottishgaelicvictoria.org.au)

## NESBITT - NISBET SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



Clan Nisbet, a Borders family,  
welcomes new members  
worldwide. Whether you're a  
Nesbit, Nisbet, or one of the  
many other spelling variations,  
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Head to our official website  
to learn about our proud  
heritage. Our must-read  
section, "Notable Nisbets"  
chronicles Alexander Nisbet,  
Scotland's famous author of  
heraldry and other renowned  
ancestors.



## Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary  
[clansutherlandsocietyaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:clansutherlandsocietyaustralia@gmail.com)  
<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaustralia>  
Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



## Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions  
in Perth, Western Australia  
For further details contact John: 0427 990 754  
Email: [caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com](mailto:caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com)  
[www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com](http://www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com)



The Society of St. Andrew  
of Scotland  
(Queensland) Limited  
ABN 30 093 578 860  
Invites membership of all people of  
Scottish descent or association  
The Secretary, P.O. Box 352, Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122  
[www.standrewsociety.com](http://www.standrewsociety.com)

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



## Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

The Society cordially invites membership of all Sutherlands  
(however the name is spelled) and historically associated  
families: Cheyne, Duffus, Gray, Frederith and Mowat.  
Email: [Secretary@ClanSutherland.org](mailto:Secretary@ClanSutherland.org)  
Website: [www.ClanSutherland.org](http://www.ClanSutherland.org)



## Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in  
Newcastle, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas.  
Members and interested people are welcome to  
attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night,  
St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.  
Web: [hvscots.org](http://hvscots.org) Email: [hunterscots@gmail.com](mailto:hunterscots@gmail.com)  
P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289



Email: [resource\\_centre@scotsofaus.org.au](mailto:resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au)  
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## Clan Pollock

Among the most ancient families of Scotland. If you are a  
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Poulk, Poolke, Pogue - you are cordially invited to contact:  
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Greenville, KY 42345  
e-mail: [apollockis@comcast.net](mailto:apollockis@comcast.net)



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<https://clanyoungsociety.com/australia>

## The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

> Promotes interest in the works, life and  
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> Celebrates Scottish Culture  
> Conducts Annual Burn Supper, Poetry  
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For Membership Information contact:  
Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973  
Email: [noelwright@netspace.net.au](mailto:noelwright@netspace.net.au)

## Victorian Scottish Union Inc

Established 1905  
Umbrella group representing the interest  
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Mobile 0438 584 930  
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[www.victorianscottishunion.com](http://www.victorianscottishunion.com)

# Albion Motors - A Glasgow great

By: Eric Bryan



A 1963 Albion Reiver RE29. Photo: Pimlico Badger, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic licence.



The 1911 Albion 24/30. Photo: Stephen Velden, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic licence.



This 1916 Albion A10 three-ton truck. Photo: svlambo, Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic licence.



1927 Albion flatbed. Photo: Ed Dingley, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

The dawning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was an auspicious time for Scottish automakers. Argyll, Arrol-Johnston and Halleys all got their starts at this time. On 30<sup>th</sup> December 1899, Norman Osborne Fulton and Thomas Blackwood Murray, both formerly of Arrol-Johnston, established perhaps the most famous Scottish automotive firm, the Albion Motor Car Company Ltd. Murray's father John Murray provided financial backing and suggested the Albion name. With its first factory situated at 169 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, Albion started out with seven employees. The company began automobile production in 1900 with its first car, an 8-horsepower dogcart constructed of varnished wood and fitted with solid tyres. Albion became a private concern in 1902, and by 1904 had moved to a large plant in South Street at Scotstoun, Glasgow. Albion Motors manufactured both cars and trucks; as early as 1902 the company produced a half-ton van.

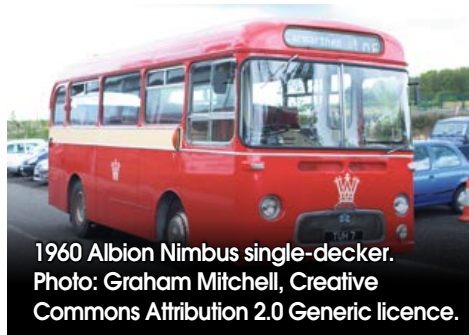
## Sure as the Sunrise

Investor J. F. Henderson came on board in 1907 as joint managing director. Leading up to the First World War, Albion produced several car models: the 8, 12, 16, 24/30, and 15. Some of Albion's early cars had a price tag of £280, and were advertised as 'suitable for the country house'. Variations of Albion cars included taxis and ambulances. The firm moved further into commercial vehicle production, and from 1909 began concentrating on trucks and buses. The early buses were built on Albion A10 lorry chassis. Albion became a public company in 1914, and in 1915 ceased passenger car manufacture. During the First World War Albion focused on the production of military vehicles. The firm produced a large number of three-ton trucks for the War Office, to be deployed in France. Many of these were converted to charabancs after the war. The Viking 28, announced in 1927, was the first Albion forward-control bus, the driver being positioned beside the engine. Albion's first double-decker bus, the Venturer 51-seater, was introduced in 1932.

In 1930-31 the company's name was changed to Albion Motors, and the firm began to use diesel engines in its buses in 1933. In 1935 Albion procured Halleys Industrial Motors, based at Yoker, Glasgow. Halleys, which was regarded as one of the Big 10 motor vehicle makers, had produced commercial vehicles since 1906. These included a fire tender, flatbed, tipper and a coach. Halleys also made engines and pumps. During World War Two, Albion assisted the war effort by using its facilities to produce the Enfield No 2 Mk I revolver. From 1944 the company manufactured its own 4- and 6-cylinder diesel engines, and following the war Albion commenced production of modernised buses with under-floor engines. Albion lorries, which became renowned for their toughness and reliability, proved to be stiff competition



A 1950 Albion FT37L Chieftain flatbed lorry. Photo: Ultra7, Public Domain.



1960 Albion Nimbus single-decker. Photo: Graham Mitchell, Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic licence.



A preserved Highland AL41. Photo: Arriva436, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

for Foden trucks all the way from World War One to the 1950s. Albion reliability was expressed through its slogan, 'Sure as the Sunrise', the latter depicted pictorially in its logo by the image of a rising sun.

## Tough as the Scots who make them

Albion merged with Leyland Motors in 1951, with Leyland reducing the size of the Albion range. The final double-decker bus made by Albion was the 1961 Lowlander (marketed under the Leyland name in England). With the founding of the British Leyland Motor Corporation in 1968, production of the Albion Viking buses and the Chieftain, Clydesdale and Reiver trucks continued. Albion took over the Coventry Ordnance Works in 1969, and produced complete trucks and buses in its Scotstoun factory until 1972. Partial construction or assembly of trucks and buses by Albion continued until 1980, when Leyland finally scrapped the Albion name. Albion vehicles were a once familiar (and a now fondly remembered) sight on Scottish, English and Welsh roads. Albion exported its lorries and buses to South Africa, East Africa, Australia, India and elsewhere in Asia. The vehicles were exemplars of Scottish craftsmanship and engineering at points around the globe. As a 1960s Albion advert read, 'Albion . . . tough as the Scots who make them.'

Besides the Viking, Albion buses included the Valiant, Victor, Valkyrie and many others. Beyond those aforementioned, amongst Albion trucks were the Clansman, Claymore, CX22S Heavy Artillery Tractor, the WD66 6x6 truck, and the WD.CX24 Tank Transporter. Albion lorry variants included fire tenders, tankers, refuse trucks, wreckers and cement mixers. A 1993 buyout brought Albion back into Scottish hands for several years. Headquartered in Scotstoun, Albion Automotive is now a subsidiary of American Axle & Manufacturing, which took over the firm in 1998. Albion produces and supplies automotive component systems such as crankshafts, axles and chassis systems.

Though Albion trucks and buses might not be seen regularly on Scottish highways, quite a number of the vehicles have been restored, maintained and preserved in both private hands and in museums. The Biggar Albion Foundation, a Scottish charity in Lanarkshire, runs the Albion Club, the Albion Archive, and the Biggar Rally. The foundation also operates the Albion Museum in North Back Road, which has a collection of historic

## Arrol-Johnston

The Arrol-Johnston company's origins go back to Glasgow locomotive engineer George Johnston, who, after studying various continental European cars, decided that he could best their designs with his own. For the project, Johnston teamed up with his cousin Norman Fulton, and Thomas Murray (both of whom would soon move on to form Albion Motors in 1899). In 1895 Johnston and Sir William Arrol, one of the engineers of the Forth Bridge, formed the Mo-Car Syndicate Ltd. Johnston worked as managing director, while Arrol, who provided financial backing, was company chairman.

The firm built the first British production car, the Dogcart, introduced in 1898. The Dogcart was made in a factory in Yates Street, Camlachie, Glasgow. Financial restructuring in 1903 resulted in the departure of Johnston, who went on to establish the ill-fated Johnston Car Company (later called the All British Car Company), in Bridgeton. Arrol-Johnston grew to become Britain's fifth largest automobile producer. Aster merged with Arrol-Johnston in 1927, which resulted in the Arrol-Aster marque. The company restored the Blue Bird, Sir Malcolm Campbell's famous land speed record car, in 1928. However, Arrol-Aster went into receivership, and ceased production in 1931.

## Galloway cars

Established in 1920, Galloway Motors Ltd was a subsidiary of Arrol-Johnston. First based at Tongland near Kirkcudbright, the company moved to Heathhall, Dumfries in 1923. Galloway was staffed and run chiefly by women. In fact, one of its advertising slogans was 'a car made by ladies for others of their sex'. Dorothee Pullinger, daughter of Arrol-Johnston manager T. C. Pullinger, was director and manager of Galloway.

Part of Dorothee's plan with Galloway was to provide employment for local women. She also raced cars, and took the cup in the 1924 Scottish Six Day Car Trials. Galloway made one model (rather than a whole range) at a time, and the cars were known for their simplicity and durability. The Tongland factory produced a few hundred Galloway autos before the move to Dumfries. By the time the firm had ceased operations in 1928, it had manufactured about 4,000 Galloway cars in total.

Albion vehicles. Members of the Albion Club receive the quarterly publication, *The Albion Magazine*, which has incorporated the Albion Vehicle Preservation Trust Newsletter. The Albion Museum is normally open on weekends 10 to 2, from April to October. The Albion Vehicle Preservation Trust, a Scottish charity established in 1967, was formed to acquire and preserve a 1950 Albion Valiant coach. The trust also brought a 1967 Viking coach into the fold in 1991. In cooperation with the Albion Club, the trust maintains the Register of Preserved Albions, with the number of vehicles recorded so far across the globe at over 1,000.

# WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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

## Canada

### DECEMBER 2023

#### South Simcoe's Christmas Dance 1, Alliston, ON

Celebrate Christmas, and South Simcoe tradition, with an evening of dancing fun with the South Simcoe Scottish Country Dancers. Laird Brown & Don Wood will give us wonderful live music. Info: [SSSCDAlliston@gmail.com](mailto:SSSCDAlliston@gmail.com).

#### VHGA 2023 Christmas Fling 10, View Royal, BC

The first Highland dance competition at the new Victoria Scottish Community Centre, 1803 Admirals Rd. Info: [dance@victoriahighlandgames.com](mailto:dance@victoriahighlandgames.com).

#### College of Piping Christmas Recital 10, Summerside, PE

The College of Piping are excited to have you join for the 2023 Christmas Recital, to showcase their students and all of their talent. Info: <https://collegeofpiping.com/celtic-performing-arts-centre/upcoming-events/>

#### 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!

#### Hogman-eh! '23

31, Ottawa, ON  
Celebrate Hogmanay with The Scottish Society of Ottawa. A fun night of Celtic music and friendship at Aberdeen Pavillion. Info: [www.ottscot.ca](http://www.ottscot.ca)

### JANUARY 2024

#### A Celebration of Robbie Burns with Blackthorn 13, Coquitlam, BC

Celebrate Scotland's National Bard, Robbie Burns! Fiddler, Rosie Carver, with Celtic band Blackthorn and a special guest piper feature the musical traditions of Scotland with a special focus on Burns' songs and poems. Heart-wrenching airs and ballads, humorous songs with rousing choruses and lively jigs and reels are brought to life with Blackthorn's luscious harmonies and complex instrumentation. Info: [www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-celebration-of-robbie-burns-with-blackthorn-tickets-690314117107](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-celebration-of-robbie-burns-with-blackthorn-tickets-690314117107)

#### St. Andrew's Society of Toronto Burns Supper 19, Toronto, ON

The St. Andrew's Society looks forward to holding their traditional Burns Supper, the event follows the time-honoured format with the Address to a Haggis, The Immortal Memory and Toasts to the Lassies and Laddies, at the University Club of Toronto. Info: [www.standrewstoronto.ca](http://www.standrewstoronto.ca)

#### Rabbie Burns Supper 19, Oakville, ON

Celebrating the life and poetry of Robert Burns at St Johns United Church, 262 Randall St. Info: [www.eventbrite.ca/e/rabbie-burns-supper-celebrating-the-life-poetry-of-robert-burns-tickets-747429189827](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/rabbie-burns-supper-celebrating-the-life-poetry-of-robert-burns-tickets-747429189827)

#### Robbie Burns Dinner & Dance 20, Flagstaff County, AB

A Burns dinner is a celebration of the life and poetry of the poet Robert Burns, the author of many Scottish poems. Join the The Flagstaff Scottish Club to celebrate the Bard. Info: [www.flagstaffscottishclub.com/robbieburns](http://www.flagstaffscottishclub.com/robbieburns)

#### Happy Burns Night 25, Nationwide

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

#### The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal Burns Supper 25, Montréal, QC

Share a wee dram with friends, enjoy a traditional Scottish meal and raise your glass in a toast to the lads and lassies at L'Espace Canal at L'Ambroisie, 4020 Saint Ambroise St. Info: [www.standrews.qc.ca/burns-supper.html](http://www.standrews.qc.ca/burns-supper.html)

#### Burns Statue Celebration 25, Toronto, ON

12pm at the Robert Burns Statue (Allan Gardens -Sherbourne and Carlton). Everyone is welcome to celebrate of the birthday of Scotland's national bard. There will be piping, haggis, neeps, tatties, singing, and good cheer. Info: [www.standrewstoronto.ca](http://www.standrewstoronto.ca)

#### Vancouver Ceilidh 26, Vancouver, BC

Ceilidh dance at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St, with live music by Calanais from 8 - 10:30. All dances taught, walked and called. No partner or experience necessary. Wear loose clothing (dancing is warm work) and flat, soft soled shoes. Lots of fun and refreshments. Info: [www.vancouverceilidh.org](http://www.vancouverceilidh.org)

#### White Heather Pipes and Drums Robbie Burns Night 27, Aurora, ON

The evening is a celebration of the life and poetry of Robert Burns, and an evening full of entertainment, food and fun at Royal Canadian Legion 105 Industrial Pkwy N. Info: [www.whiteheatherpipesanddrums.com/robbie-burns-dinner](http://www.whiteheatherpipesanddrums.com/robbie-burns-dinner)

#### Burns Supper - RSCDS Vancouver Branch 27, Vancouver, BC

Traditional Scottish meal, entertainment and dancing to the Scottish music of Kilbirnie Station Band at the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St. Info: [www.rscdsvancouver.org](http://www.rscdsvancouver.org)

## USA

### 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)

#### Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend 1-2, Alexandria, VA

Events include A Taste of Scotland and Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade, celebrating Alexandria's Scottish heritage. Info: [www.campagnacenter.org/alexandria-scottish-christmas-walk-parade](http://www.campagnacenter.org/alexandria-scottish-christmas-walk-parade).

#### The Annual 178<sup>th</sup> Saint Andrew's Day Gala "The Feast of the Haggis" 2, Chicago, IL

The Chicago Scots invite everyone who is Scottish by birth, by heritage or simply by inclination to come and enjoy an evening of history, community & culture at Wintrust Grand Banking Hall. Info: [www.chicagoscotts.org/178th](http://www.chicagoscotts.org/178th)

#### 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).

#### Celtic Christmas 10, Bradenton FL

Celebrate the Christmas season with Sarasota - New World Celts and Suncoast Scots at 3 Keys Brewing & Gastro Pub. Info: [bradentonnwc@gmail.com](mailto:bradentonnwc@gmail.com)

#### 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!

### JANUARY 2024

#### Florida Keys Celtic Festival 6-7, Marathon, FL

A weekend of Celtic celebration with music, Clans, athletics, food and more at Marathon Community Park, MM49 US Hwy 1 Ocean Side. Info: [www.floridakeysceleticfestival.com](http://www.floridakeysceleticfestival.com)

#### Winter Storm

#### 11-14, Kansas City, MO

The pipes and drums event with world-class concerts, competitions, and master classes. Info: [www.mhaf.org](http://www.mhaf.org).

#### Central Florida Scottish Highland Games 13-14, Winter Springs, FL

Experience traditional highland athletics, dance, art, music, culture and food at Central Winds Park. Info: [www.flascot.com](http://www.flascot.com)

#### Burns Night Celebration 19, New York, NY

The American Scottish Foundation annual Burns Night Celebration, held in association with, and at the University Club. Info: [www.americanscottishfoundation.com/events/2024-burns-night.html](http://www.americanscottishfoundation.com/events/2024-burns-night.html)

#### Sharpe House's Robert Burns Night 2024 20, Statesville NC

Join for a night full of Scottish pride and celebration as we honor the legendary poet Robert Burns at the Statesville Civic Center. Info: [www.historicsharpehouse.com](http://www.historicsharpehouse.com)

#### Happy Burns Night 25, Nationwide

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

#### 2024 ASCI Robert Burns Night Supper 25, Asheville, NC

Asheville Sister Cities with sister cities of Dunkeld and Birnam, Scotland invite you to a charity benefit celebration of the 265th Birthday of Robert Burns, the Bard of Scotland at the Biltmore Double Tree Hotel. Guest enjoy a Three Course Dinner, full Robert Burns Night ceremony with Scottish music, poems & songs. An optional Guided Scotch Whisky Tasting and Robert Burns Poetry and Song Seminar will also be available. Info: [www.ashevillesistercities.org/event/2024-robert-burns-night-supper](http://www.ashevillesistercities.org/event/2024-robert-burns-night-supper)

#### Robert Burns Dinner Celebration 27, Reno NV

Nevada Society of Scottish Clans presents its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Robert Burns Celebration and Whisky Tasting, at Grand Sierra Resort & Casino. Info: [www.nvssc.org](http://www.nvssc.org)

#### Rabbie Burns Supper 27, Cincinnati, OH

Celebrate Robert Burns with The Caledonian Society of Cincinnati, with an evening of Scottish entertainment, including pipes & drums, highland dancing, Scottish country dancing, and more. Info: [www.caledoniansociety.org](http://www.caledoniansociety.org)

#### Burns Night Dinner 27, Huntersville, NC

A celebration of Scottish heritage and culture at Historic Rural Hill for the annual Burns Night celebrations. Info: [www.ruralhill.net](http://www.ruralhill.net).

#### Robert Burns Supper 27, Los Angeles, CA

Celebrating the life and works of Robert Burns with the St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles at the Four Season, Beverly Hills. Info: [www.saintandrewsla.org](http://www.saintandrewsla.org)

#### Alma Highland Festival & Games Burns Supper 27, Alma, MI

Celebrate the great Scottish poet, Robert Burns at Alma College Chapel. Info: [highland@almahighlandfestival.com](http://highland@almahighlandfestival.com)

## Scotland

### DECEMBER 2023

#### Edinburgh's Christmas

#### 1- 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)

#### Loch Lomond Shores Christmas Festival 2, Loch Lomond

Loch Lomond Shores rounds off its year of lively food and entertainment festivals with a host of food & drink, entertainment, rides and more for all the family. Info: [www.lochlomondfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk](http://www.lochlomondfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk)

#### Hoolie in The Hydro 9, Glasgow

The biggest night of Scottish traditional music to ever take place. Hoolie in the Hydro is a momentous moment for Scotland's trad scene as it takes to the country's biggest indoor arena- The OVO Hydro. Info: [www.ovohydro.com/events/detail/hoolie-in-the-hydro-2023](http://www.ovohydro.com/events/detail/hoolie-in-the-hydro-2023)

#### Phil Cunningham's Christmas Songbook 19, Glasgow

Phil Cunningham and his Christmas Songbook colleagues have been delighting audiences for the last 17 years. Phil will be joined by some of the finest musicians on the Scottish folk scene at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Info: [www.glasgowconcerthalls.com](http://www.glasgowconcerthalls.com)

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

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

#### Edinburgh's Hogmanay 30-January 1, Edinburgh

Edinburgh's world-famous New Year's celebrations, comprising three days of events, five stages of bands and DJs and over 60,000 revellers on Princes Street for the big night. As well as the stunning fireworks display above Edinburgh Castle and the perennially sell-out Concert in the Gardens – this year featuring Eddie Reader, Dougie MacLean and Basement Jaxx. Info: [www.edinburghshogmanay.com](http://www.edinburghshogmanay.com)

#### Scottish Fiddle Orchestra - Hogmanay Celebration 30, Edinburgh

For over 40 years the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra have been bringing the beauty and heritage of Scotland's traditional music to audiences across the globe. Music lovers of all ages can expect to enjoy toe-tapping reels and jigs, lively strathspeys and marches, and poignant slow airs performed by the skilled members of one of Scotland's foremost traditional music organisations and starting the Hogmanay celebrations in style at the Usher Hall. Info: [www.usherhall.co.uk/whats-on/scottish-fiddle-orchestra-hogmanay-celebration-1](http://www.usherhall.co.uk/whats-on/scottish-fiddle-orchestra-hogmanay-celebration-1)

#### 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!

#### The Hogmanay Ceilidh 31, Glasgow

There is no better way to end the year than with a traditional ceilidh in the heart of Glasgow, and why not do it in style by coming along to The Ferry on the banks of the River Clyde on the eve of the New Year. Info: [www.the-ferry.co.uk](http://www.the-ferry.co.uk)

#### Biggar Hogmanay Bonfire 31, Biggar, Lanarkshire

South Lanarkshire town's own New Year celebration with the welcoming of a New Year by the townsfolk in a warm, fiery glow. Info: [www.biggarbonfire.org.uk](http://www.biggarbonfire.org.uk)

#### The Stonehaven Fireballs Ceremony 31, Stonehaven

One of Scotland's most unique Hogmanay events. As the old Town House bell chimes midnight, the Fireballs are lit and swingers emerge from the street leading to the harbour. Info: [www.stonehavenfireballs.com](http://www.stonehavenfireballs.com)

### Scotword answers from page 6

#### ACROSS:

- 7) Peterhead
- 8) Morar
- 10) Greenock
- 11) Reenge
- 12) Perth
- 14) Inch
- 15) Corn
- 16) Celts
- 18) Smelt
- 22) Bard
- 23) Rood
- 24) Psalm
- 25) George
- 27) Foursome
- 30) Annan
- 31) Edinburgh

#### DOWN:

- 1) Berries
- 2) Cede
- 3) Shoo
- 4) Parkins
- 5) Fore
- 6) Rangers
- 9) Graham
- 13) Tweed
- 15) Cults
- 17) Tarbet
- 19) Balerno
- 20) Confide
- 21) Plumage
- 26) Reap
- 28) Urns
- 29) Spud

# John MacLean - *The most dangerous man in Britain*

*This year marks 100 years since the death of John Maclean, "the most dangerous man in Britain" and "Lenin's man in Scotland". A Glaswegian born of Highland parents, he was the leading light in the Red Clydeside era. He died at just aged 44 from pneumonia after he'd given his only overcoat to a destitute man. His funeral was one of the largest ever in Glasgow and he was considered both a political pariah and champion of the Scottish working class, as Judy Vickers explains.*



John MacLean in 1918. Photo: Hulton Archive, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



Crowds gather as John MacLean's coffin is removed from his Pollokshaws home. Photo: Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



On a chilly December day in Glasgow 100 years ago, thousands of people joined a four-mile funeral procession from Eglington Toll to Eastwood Cemetery. Thousands more lined the streets to watch the mourners pass in what is still believed to be the biggest turnout for a funeral ever in the city. The crowds were there to say farewell to John MacLean, dubbed by British Military Intelligence as "the most dangerous man in Britain" but a much-loved hero to the ordinary folk of the city and beyond for his tireless work campaigning for workers' rights during the famous Red Clydeside era of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Zeal for reform and revolution

MacLean had been a Communist and a fierce believer in education. Hundreds passed through his evening classes, which at one point he was holding every night of the week on top of his day job, learning about industrial history and economics with Marx as the main textbook. He was opposed to the First World War and the British Empire, views which led him to be imprisoned numerous times, spells which sapped his health, speeding his early death at the age of just 44. He was said to be an electrifying speaker, his 75-minute speech at his trial in 1918 is legendary, and his summer holidays were spent touring Scotland, from Lewis to Hawick, giving impassioned speeches on street corners and outside factories.

His zeal for reform and revolution sprang from his early life, which was a perfect illustration of so many woes of the day.

Both his parents had been victims of the 19<sup>th</sup> Clearances in Scotland, where landlords in rural areas had removed tenants – sometimes forcibly – from their homes and the land they had worked, often for generations, to fill them with more profitable and less labour-intensive sheep. His mother, Anne, came from the village of Corpach in the Highlands, his father Daniel from the Isle of Mull. A potter, Daniel briefly worked in Bo'ness before taking up work at a pottery in Pollockshaws, then on the outskirts of Glasgow, where the family settled.

## Tales of injustice

Tales of injustice were part of his childhood, but his upbringing was typical of many at that time – three of his siblings died in infancy and his father died when he was just nine from silicosis ("potter's lung") from his working conditions. His brother contracted TB and eventually emigrated to South Africa, joining the many swaths who left Scotland to seek better lives during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Daniel and Anne were far from the only ones to descend on Glasgow during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; the city expanded rapidly as casualties of the Clearances and Irish immigration swelled numbers. Housing became difficult to come by and was often poor and unsanitary when it could be found, with landlords dividing tenements into ever-more squalid homes.

After his father's death, John worked several part-time jobs in order to continue his education and qualified as a teacher, gaining an MA from the University of Glasgow. He taught in schools in south Glasgow, but his real passions were revealed after the school gates closed – teaching in evening classes to workers, joining and helping to organise left-wing and Marxist groups, writing pamphlets and supporting workers to form trade unions, and fight for better wages and conditions. This was a time of unrest in Scotland. The landmark Singer sewing machine factory strike in 1911 was broken by the authorities but this only intensified workers' efforts rather than quash them.

But it was MacLean's opposition to the First World War, which broke out in 1914, which led to his more serious clashes with the authorities, including several periods in prison and the loss of his teaching job.

A 1915 strike at munitions factory Weirs of Cathcart – an unofficial strike as the Defence of the Realm Act had made such industrial action illegal and which was led by shop stewards who were former pupils of MacLean's – failed but helped to hike tensions. When rents were increased, MacLean helped organise a rent strike by the women of Govan and enlisted the support of the men in the shipyards and factories. As the agitation spread across the city, MacLean was arrested and charged with making statements likely to prejudice recruiting to the wartime military. His penalty was a short imprisonment, but it also cost him his job at Lorne Street Primary School. In the November of that year, as he worked his notice on his job, 18 men were called to court for refusing to pay their increased rents. MacLean was carried shoulder-high by the crowd to the court where he addressed 10,000 people and called for a general strike if the rent rises went ahead. The alarmed authorities pressed through a Rent Restriction Act.

## Famous pioneer of working-class education

In 1916 he was arrested again and sentenced to three years in prison with hard labour after being found guilty of sedition although he was released after 15 months following mass demonstrations, including a protest by thousands when Prime Minister Lloyd George visited Glasgow. In 1918, following the Russian Revolution of the

previous year, MacLean was named the Bolshevik Consul for Scotland by Lenin. Such an appointment was never likely to endear him to the British authorities, which were increasingly alarmed at the prospect of revolt and MacLean was arrested again. At his trial in May of that year, he gave a 75-minute impassioned speech in defence of his views, coining the term "underclass" and declaring: "I consider capitalism the most infamous, bloody and evil system that mankind has ever witnessed. I wish no harm to any human being, but I, as one man, am going to exercise my freedom of speech. No human being on the face of the earth, no government is going to take from me my right to speak, my right to protest against wrong, my right to do everything that is for the benefit of mankind. I am not here, then, as the accused; I am here as the accuser of capitalism dripping with blood from head to foot," he told the court. He was sentenced to five years and incarcerated in Peterhead Prison in Aberdeenshire, where he was force fed by tube through hunger strikes, severely affected his health. More mass protests saw him released in December 1918, following the November Armistice, and thousands turned out to welcome him home to Glasgow.

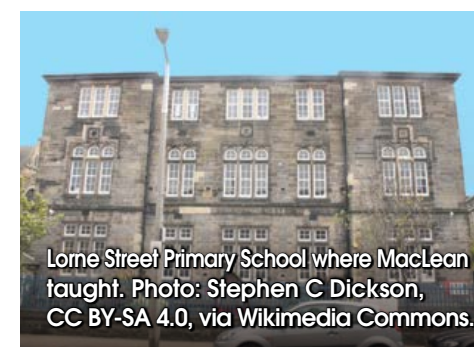
He continued to campaign, but his health deteriorated, and he collapsed while giving a speech in Glasgow in November 1923 – he had given his overcoat away to a destitute Jamaican man. He had to be carried off the open-air platform and died on November 30<sup>th</sup> from double pneumonia. The colourful era of the Red Clydesiders became an iconic part of Scotland's political history but MacLean, one of its leading lights, is less remembered. He was, however, commemorated with a stamp issued by the Soviet Union in 1979 and with a 6ft cairn of granite near his birthplace, which was unveiled in 1973, 50 years after his death. The inscription on it describes him as a "famous pioneer of working-class education" and at the unveiling ceremony poet Hugh MacDiarmid described him as "next to Burns, the greatest ever Scot".



The Glasgow rent strike in 1915. Photo: Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



Maclean's trial in 1918. Photo: Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



Lorne Street Primary School where MacLean taught. Photo: Stephen C Dickson, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

# The 2024 Tallahassee Highland Games

By: Ryan May

Tallahassee Highland Games Organizer  
President: May & Fain Cultural & Sports



of Caithness, all the way from Scotland as they host their Annual General Meeting at our Games. Clan Sinclair is our 2024 Honored Clan, and we hope this launches into a tradition for these Games. Their presence underscores the significance of Clan Sinclair within the Scottish diaspora and promises to make our event even more memorable.

Entertainment will feature three stages, including traditional and modern Scottish music, pipe bands, dancing, a beard competition, historical talks, and more. Additional activities include on-site whisky tasting, heritage demonstrations including falconry, blacksmithing, archery, and historical martial arts, and an on-site Saturday evening Cèilidh and Sunday morning Kirkin'.

### Where do the proceeds go?

May & Fain Cultural & Sports is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of strength sports and the cultures surrounding them. In addition to the Tallahassee Highland Games, May & Fain promotes, hosts, and donates to a plethora of other events and activities. In 2023, we provided over \$2,500 in donations and support for Scottish & Irish Dance Schools, and we assisted one school in hosting a cèilidh fundraising event. An additional \$1,000+ was donated to local Music Groups. We have assisted with the revitalization of several local music groups, and promoted our local St. Andrew's

Society with notable success. In coming years, we hope to see an increase in these numbers as we build our organization.

For Heavy Athletics, May & Fain successfully launched what is affectionately dubbed "Team Tallahassee" - a volunteer group offering weekly training in Highland athletics at no cost! This includes the efforts of several professional-grade Highland athletes generously donating their time and expertise to increase access to Scottish strength heritage, and a plethora of equipment provided by our nonprofit. May & Fain actively works with the Special Olympics powerlifting team to provide support and hopefully assist with hosting a local meet. Last year, we featured Broken Caber at our event - an organization assisting Adaptive Athletes (those missing limbs, suffering neurological disorders, etc.) in training and participation in Highland Games globally. We have an active relationship with other nonprofits as well, including the St. Andrew's Society of Tallahassee, North Florida Facial Hair Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, and more. Our long-term goals are to host diverse and accessible events highlighting Strength and Heritage, such as the Highland Games. While we are building our Highland Games and Strongman events (including the America's Strongest State Championship), we hope to expand into other athletic and heritage areas as well. Slàinte Mhath, and we hope to see you there!

**To learn more about the 2024 Tallahassee Highland Games, purchase tickets, or donate, please visit: [www.tallyhighlandgames.com](http://www.tallyhighlandgames.com). If you would like to participate as a clan representative, athlete, vendor, or volunteer, reach out at: [info@tallyhighlandgames.com](mailto:info@tallyhighlandgames.com).**



hosting the International Highland Games Federation United States Caber Toss Championships as part of our Heavy Athletics Competition. Stones of Strength will be featured, including events honoring Tallahassee's Bicentennial Celebration. Lastly, we are hosting multiple World Record Breaker attempts!

Clans are receiving special care and support in 2024, where our 18,000+ attendees will provide ample opportunity to reconnect with friends and recruit new members. All clans and nonprofit heritage organizations are granted FREE entrance to our event. To support accessibility, volunteer assistance is available to help with the setup of clan tents and displays. Additionally, clans will be placed near the Athletics Field with a clear view of the action. We are also offering time on-stage to present Historical and/or Heritage Talks, including Clan History.

To help "bridge the gap" between generations, we are seeking new ways to engage younger guests with Clans. To this end, we are hosting several optional Clan Competitions this year: Best Whisky, Best Clan Presence, and Best Kids' Activity. What is "Clan Presence"? It's not the number of representatives - it's the richness of tent displays and hospitality.

### The Earl and Countess of Caithness

The 2024 Tallahassee Highland Games welcomes the Chief of Clan Sinclair and his wife, the Rt. Hon. The Earl and Countess



Over 12 years ago, Tallahassee saw what was expected to be its last Highland Games. But in 2023, a new organization, May & Fain Cultural & Sports, took up the mantle and revived the Games under their nonprofit. The event was massively successful, boasting a guest turnout of 7,000 guests in spite of torrential rains, 45 athletes, Heavy Athletics, Stones of Strength, 2 stages hosting music and dance, and an abundance of vendors and food!

This coming year, The Tallahassee Highland Games will be held February 3-4, 2024, in Tallahassee, Florida. May & Fain Cultural & Sports is absolutely thrilled to invite all Scots from around the globe to attend and/or participate in this event!

### Active support for revival of Scottish heritage

After an enormously successful first year, 2024 projections are exponential, with an expected 18,000+ attendees for the event. The Games will be held at Apalachee Regional Park, boasting 90 cleared acres of space and providing ample room for growth. May & Fain is taking great care to provide the best support possible for Scottish heritage and strength activities - both in 2024 and future years. For Athletics, a \$4,000 Prize & Scholarship pot is available for our events. We are proudly





# Leading branches of Clan Campbell ‘are not related’



descents from Archibald Campbell, 1<sup>st</sup> of Glenlyon (c1490 - 1552), who was the younger brother of Sir Colin Campbell, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Glenorchy (d 1523).

## Two major families named Campbell are not genealogically related

Alasdair Macdonald said: “Dating of marker R-Y33315 suggests that the common ancestor of those who carry the marker was born around 1500. Another, smaller branch, defined by the marker R-Y130955, and also carrying the name Campbell, probably branched off a little earlier, with these two branches having a common ancestor defined by the marker R-BY23069 around 1150. The Campbells of Glenorchy and the Campbells of Argyll share a marker called R-L1065, but the common ancestor lived around the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. To all intents and purposes, these two major families named Campbell are not genealogically related but it is not yet certain why the Campbells of Glenorchy carry a different genetic marker, and so have a different male-line ancestry, from the Campbells of Argyll. An ancestor of the Campbells of Glenorchy may have adopted the name Campbell out of loyalty in the thirteenth century, but how did one or perhaps more members of this family come to be accepted as sons of Duncan Campbell, the first Lord Campbell?”

Graham Holton said: “It could be that this acceptance happened due to illegitimacy but this might be too simplistic, as the Campbell branch which carries the R-Y 130955 marker shared the same progenitor as the Glenorchys.

This line traces back to Kenmore on Loch Fyne but may have moved there earlier from Perthshire. The common ancestor between this branch and the Glenorchys was a man who lived around 1150.

This date may be firmed up by further testing of documented descendants, but it is clear that there was a major family named Campbell, genetically different to the Campbells of Argyll, in existence from the earliest days of fixed surnames. The maternal grandmother of the first Lord Campbell was Mariota, the heiress of John of Glenorchy. It’s also possible that he was a Glenorchy Campbell and that a male relative of John of Glenorchy was fostered. Many questions currently remain unanswered but further targeted testing of well-documented male line descendants may provide some answers.”

Anyone who may be able to assist the research project by having a documented descent, or by commenting on the current findings, is invited to contact Graham Holton or Alasdair Macdonald at SIGS. Funding of test kits was provided by the University of Strathclyde, the Clan Campbell DNA Project hosted at FamilyTreeDNA.com and private individuals. An article detailing the initial findings is to be published shortly in West Highland Notes & Queries.

***If you have a long documented descent from one of these lines, please contact Graham S Holton and/or Alasdair F Macdonald at the following addresses: g.s.holton@strath.ac.uk or alasdair.f.macdonald@strath.ac.uk.***

Two leading branches of the Clan Campbell have been found to be unrelated to each other in research carried out by Alasdair Macdonald and Graham Holton at the University of Strathclyde. The genealogists at the Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies (SIGS) have identified the genetic profile of the Campbells of Glenorchy, a family descended from Sir Duncan Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord of Glenorchy, who died at the Battle of Flodden in 1513.

The research used DNA evidence to conclude that the family dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and is a separate line to the Campbells of Argyll, whose descent is from the first Lord Campbell, also Sir Duncan Campbell, who died in 1453. The Campbells have one of the largest number of cadet

families, descended from the sons of clan chiefs, of any clan in Scotland.

The study is ongoing, and is likely to take some time to develop solid conclusions on the earlier history of the Glenorchy lineage, but the researchers have proposed several possibilities. The study used the Y chromosome, which can only be passed directly down the male line from father to son. Over the last 18 months, testing of several people with four distinct lineages, all descended from the second Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy, has revealed that they are defined by a genetic marker called R-Y33315. This included two lineages that share Sir Duncan Campbell, 1st Baronet (c.1550 - 1631) as their common earliest ancestor and a further two with documented

# The 2024 Bellingham Scottish Gathering

It is with immense pride and enthusiasm that the Scottish Dance Society announce important news about the June 1, 2024 Bellingham Scottish Gathering. The full-scale Highland Games moves to beautiful Blaine, Washington nestled adjacent to the Peace Arch and the international border crossing into Canada. Marine Park is festival center, offering waterside and panoramic views of the Salish Sea, Semiahmoo Resort, Mount Baker and White Rock, British Columbia.

## A celebration of Scotland's culture

First and foremost; the Bellingham Scottish Gathering is a celebration of Scotland's culture. Blaine's 'By the Sea' theme is the focus of special events planned for the festival. The working harbors of Scotland are mirrored in the city's active fishing and boating communities. The committee is delighted to provide exciting news to

the Highland dancing community. For the first time, the Bellingham Open Highland Dancing Championship is a feature at the 2024 Highland Games. Newly sanctioned by the Royal Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing; we look forward to welcoming competitors to the prestigious competition in a location sure to attract international

visitors. Save the date and check back for updates on events, hotel partners, recreation opportunities and more.

***The Bellingham Scottish Gathering will take place on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. For further details or keep up to date with event updates see: [www.ScottishDanceSociety.org](http://www.ScottishDanceSociety.org) or [www.facebook.com/Scottishdance.org](http://www.facebook.com/Scottishdance.org)***



## THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PRODUCTION

WEBCAST  
**December 22-31**  
ON DEMAND

Enjoy this much-beloved concert from your home anywhere in the world with our global concert highlight webcast!

Join us in a celebrating the sacred message of the holiday season in a reverent, joyful style that found its genesis among our Celtic ancestors. From the bold sounds of the bagpipes and the harmonious blending of brass, strings and percussion, to the poetic and lyrical words that complement them, the Pipes of Christmas concert is a festival for the soul.

Full details at  
[pipesofchristmas.com](http://pipesofchristmas.com)

This annual concert is a special fundraising event that supports our cultural outreach and scholarship programs.

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