



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 48 Number 1 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS July 2024



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The crowning place of Scottish kings

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One of ours

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the Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

The Battle for Scotland's history



by Sean Cairney

Scotland's history cannot be told without mentioning the brutal warfare which took place on its soil. Most of Scotland's battles related to England as an opponent but some involved the Romans, Vikings and of course some were Scots fighting Scots. Clashes took place across the country and ranged from small skirmishes to major battles with triumphant victories and devastating defeats. These brutal conflicts helped shape Scotland and are forever a part of the Scottish story.

Sacred spaces

Scots gave their lives at these historic sites and for many they are considered not only as sacred spaces but a place of pilgrimage. And whilst blood and suffering are soaked into the ground of these sites, a battle is now again brewing in the heart of Scotland. Recently Stirling Council received a development application to build a trotting track on land of the historic and internationally important Bannockburn Battlefield. The application includes a horse track, bar and toilet facilities and a car park for 200 cars.

In June 1314 the historic Battle of Bannockburn took place as Robert the Bruce defeated the imposing English army and became a defining moment of Scotland's story. Robert the Bruce is now a Scottish legend and still today evokes pride in Scots around the world, this month is in fact the 750th anniversary of his birth with several events taking place across Scotland. This development risks both damage and the integrity of this historic landscape and setting surrounding the battlefield on one of the most important places

in Scotland's history. Sadly, this is not a new situation for Scotland as Culloden Battlefield, located just outside Inverness, has also had to grapple with developers wanting to build on these hugely historic and hallowed landscapes.

One of the most pivotal moments in Scottish history

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland, who have managed the site since 1943, is now calling on the Scottish Government to intervene to stop this development from going ahead. Stuart Brooks, National Trust for Scotland Director for Conservation and Policy said: "We are extremely disappointed that Stirling Council planning department is considering the proposal for a trotting track at the Whins of Milton site on the nationally designated Battlefield of Bannockburn, and in the single remaining fragment that allows us to understand how the battle unfolded. We are calling for the Scottish Government to pull this planning application to ensure the future of this historic battlefield for the benefit of future generations.

"Bannockburn is much more than just a battlefield. It is the location of one of the most pivotal moments in Scottish history when Robert the Bruce, King of Scots defeated the English army led by King Edward II. The landscape surrounding the battlefield was instrumental in helping Robert's men beat their English rivals and ensuring the nation's future.

"The location of the proposed development at Whins of Milton is in the vicinity of where Bruce's army faced off against the vanguard of Edward's army on the first day of the battle. It is close to Foot o Green Farm, where the famous duel between Bruce and De Bohun is said to have taken place. Milton Bog formed a defensive screen for the western flank of Bruce's army on Borestone Brae that would've assisted the Scots men in securing victory against Edward and his men.

"Over previous decades much of the historic setting has been lost and we are deeply concerned about any new development that would

encroach on this and further erode and degrade this iconic landscape. We are calling for the Scottish Government to step in and save Bannockburn Battlefield from this proposal to ensure the longevity of a site steeped in Scottish history."

In this issue

This month we highlight Perthshire. Travel booking website booking.com has called Perthshire '2024's Most Welcoming Region on Earth'. We hear from two of the region's major draw cards, the historically significant and beautiful Scone Palace and the incredible new Perth Museum.

The eyes of the world will be on Paris later this month when the 2024 Summer Olympics, or the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad, will take place. There will no doubt be many history making sporting feats made. However, we have focused some of this issue on Paris 1924 when 100 years ago a legendary Scot, Eric Liddell, became known not only for his athletics but his beliefs.

Trimontium Museum in the Scottish Border town of Melrose has done some incredible work looking into Scotland's past. The museum has used modern technology to reconstruct some of Scotland's Roman history and quite literally put a face on that time with the 'Trimontium man'.

Celebrating our 48th year

I cannot also not make mention that this issue marks our 48th year. I do feel every issue we do is somewhat a cause for celebration as this is a business full of challenges, however I know I cannot shout out about it monthly. However, we have come a long way in 48 years with many triumphs, challenges, wins and losses.

But we are still here thanks to you! Our incredible readers and advertisers have allowed the Scottish Banner to remain a part of the international Scottish scene and your support is greatly appreciated. I hope you enjoy your month ahead. 🍷

Have you visited a Scottish battle site? Have you visited Perth and Perthshire? 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.



Bannockburn Battlefield. Photo: National Trust for Scotland.



Gracing our front cover: Perthshire's Scone Palace. Photo courtesy of Scone Palace.

Thousands of oysters released into Forth Estuary as part of restoration project



Image courtesy of WWF.

Marine scientists at Heriot-Watt University working hand-in-glove with an extensive team of volunteers have successfully reintroduced a further 16,000 oysters into the Firth of Forth as part of an ambitious restoration project. European flat oysters were once abundant in the estuary but were fished out of existence around 100 years ago. Now, the marine conservation project, Restoration Forth, is aiming to deposit 30,000 of the sea creatures back into the Forth to create a new oyster reef, providing a vital habitat for many other species including fish, crabs, sea snails and sponges.

Recently, 220 volunteers have participated in a series of oyster cleaning events, including at Heriot-Watt's Edinburgh campus, where dirt was carefully removed to help prevent the spread of unwanted hitchhikers, non-

native to the Forth. In addition, volunteers 'glued' many of the molluscs together using a form of harmless putty to mimic natural oyster clumps and attach these to ropes so scientists can monitor their growth and determine how well they survive in their new home. The oysters have been collected from Little Loch Broom in Ullapool. It is the second batch of young oysters to be released into waterway with the first 4,000 introduced by the project last autumn.

Research assistant Naomi Kennon from the School of Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure and Society at Heriot-Watt University, who helped coordinate the volunteers, said: "It's no exaggeration that without the volunteers giving their time to help with cleaning the oysters, as well as helping set up the monitoring experiments, this project just couldn't happen. The support received from the community has been

incredible; volunteers are so passionate, and have worked so hard to help. It has really been inspiring to see so many people from different walks of life come together to contribute to this project. It takes a lot of hours to process thousands of oysters, so that no damaging hitchhikers or diseases enter the waters unintentionally. As well as cleaning, this year we've 'glued' many of the oysters using a form of harmless putty to mimic natural oyster clumps and attached many to stings so we can monitor their growth and how well they survive in their new home."

European flat oysters are important to waters in Scotland, helping to filter water and providing complex habitats. For hundreds of years, the Firth of Forth was home to a massive oyster bed that was roughly the same size as Edinburgh is today and supported local fishing communities. Sadly, this oyster bed and most others around Europe were lost due to overfishing. At its peak in the 1800's, 30 million oysters were taken from the Firth of Forth each year for a ten-year period to be used for food and exported around Britain and northern Europe. This rate of demand wiped out their populations from our shores in a matter of decades. Projects like Restoration Forth are now working with communities to restore this important species and allow underwater ecosystems to thrive once again. Recent research has suggested that by restoring healthy oyster beds biodiversity could double over ten-years.

World first as Walker's Shortbread vending machine arrives at Edinburgh Airport



Shortbread fans flying out of Edinburgh Airport have another reason to get to the airport early. An interactive Walker's Shortbread vending machine, unlike any other vending machine you've seen before, has landed at the airport - offering up a taste of one of Scotland's favourite treats.

The machine, a world first, features a digital display where passengers can explore the world of Walker's, learn more about its 125 year history, and take a quiz to discover which shortbread product best suits their taste. Plus, users will get a complimentary shortbread finger once completing the quiz, a treat before they set off on their travels (or a crumb of comfort to console passengers heading home from Scotland). It can be found in World Duty Free and stocks a range of Walker's products, perfect for anyone looking to take a taste of Scotland home with them, grab some treats for their time away, or butter up friends and family by picking them up a special gift.

Ayrshire baker kicks off Euro 2024 with Scotland's first official Tartan Army Pie



One of the largest traditional craft bakeries in Scotland has kicked off this year's European Football Championship by launching the country's first official Tartan Army Pie. Ayrshire-based Brownings the Bakers released its latest savoury showstopper ahead of Scotland's first match against Germany in the Euros. Made with a traditional Scottish beef mince and tattie filling and a puff pastry top, Tartan Army Pies are now available in all 105 Aldi stores in Scotland, more than 100 Spar stores, selected Morrisons, and Brownings' own six retail outlets in Ayrshire and the pies will be available throughout the summer.

Brownings currently holds the title of the Best Steak Pie in Scotland for its Kilmarnock Pie from the World Scotch Pie Championships. The family firm has twice been named World Scotch Pie Champions for their Scotch Pie, as well as British and Scottish Baker of the Year.

John Gall, Managing Director of Brownings the Bakers, said: "We're really proud to be kicking off this year's Euros with the launch of Scotland's first official Tartan Army Pie. We wanted to create a showstopping pie that not only reflects the quality and heritage of our family craft bakers, but something that the nation could take to its heart as we support our national football team this summer. Our Tartan Army Pie has a traditional Scottish beef mince and tattie filling and delicious puff pastry top, which we hope will appeal to football fans and pie lovers across Scotland."

Established in 1945, Brownings already has a strong link with Scottish football due to its award-winning Kilmarnock Pie. The company also sponsored Kilmarnock Football Club for three seasons. Despite being a 'Kilmarnock' Pie, Brownings' famous pie is loved by football and pie fans across the country.

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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?

Haystacks (Tae Claude Monet)



Thon muckle stack ahint the house
 Wi mony beasties neath its roof;
 A courie tae a whene o' louse
 Tae mak' ye skart.
 A widna gie a word sae douce,
 Fae ma sair heart.

A mind na whiles in Jerry Down,
 Richt wild it wis tae mak ye frown,
 Milton Braes hae naucht but gowan;
 Green rashes grow.
 Yet hand tae plough and sickle roun'
 and seed to sew.

Wi' heuk, rake and fork sae muckle,
 Hard we warked and hard did buckle
 Sin ha'e we guid hay tae ruckle,
 Richt neat and tidy.
 Hame tae yerd and stack tae tackle -
 Lowsed on Friday.

Gin haaf the day has come and gone,
 Wi unca weary times tae moan.
 A whene of folk frae fermhoose loan,
 - Fermhoose lassies -
 Fetch'd wallie jugs wi cider, scone,
 An whiles wi kisses.

Gone are days o' yesteryear.
 Now hay is bound wi' plastic gear
 An dragged along ae tractor rear
 Like sweetie liquorice.
 Tae kiss such gadgets? Na! Nae fear!
 Just mak's me fizz.

Kennedy Smith
 Scotland

Currently ten years contributions are required to receive state pension but anyone who has worked in the UK for three years or longer may be eligible to make voluntary contributions. Normally, voluntary contributions may only be made to fill gaps in someone's contributions history for the past six years. However, currently a special concession exists where contributions can be made for a further ten years, making sixteen years in total.

The charity British Pensions in Australia (BPiA) is available to guide anyone who has worked in the UK to understand their entitlement. BPiA is urging anyone interested in making use of this concession to do so without delay as a similar surge in applications is expected prior to the 5th April 2025 deadline. For example, someone who has worked in the UK for eight years will not be entitled to a state pension but by making voluntary contributions of as little as £359 (\$690), they could be receiving an annual pension for life of £3,286 (\$6,295). As a charity, BPiA does not charge for the guidance it provides but it does offer an annual membership of \$30 for single members and \$45 for couples to help fund its activities.

Members receive a quarterly magazine *Fair Play* and members with an email address receive a monthly newsletter detailing developments in the state pension scheme.

Patrick Edwards
 British Pensions in Australia

Highland Dancing

What a wonderful cover for your May edition.

I absolutely adore Highland Dance and am always in awe of the skill and grace the dancers have.

To see so many dancers with the iconic New York skyline was something else and congratulations to the organisers of this event at Ellis Island. I attend many Scottish events throughout the year and always make sure I have time to sit down and watch the dancers. The ladies always look so well put together, but they of course are engaging in an artform of tradition and skill. For me Highland Dance is one of the reasons I attend Scottish events. I am not a dancer myself but am forever memorised by them. I have no doubt that being a Highland Dancer can lead to many opportunities and a great way to meet new people, not to mention staying fit!

Our family came from Peterhead, Aberdeenshire and we have a strong sense of connection to Scotland. I have visited many times over the years and hope to get back again in 2025.

Thank you, *Scottish Banner*, for giving such a wonderful publication to those of us Scots from far and wide.

Gail Milne
 Chicago, Illinois, USA



The Ontario Youth Pipe Band



Under the age of 25? Live in Ontario? Play Pipes or Drums? The Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario (PPBSO) is delighted to announce the creation of The Ontario Youth Pipe Band. This performance ensemble is meant to connect pipers and drummers (ages 25 years or younger) who live, perform or compete in the Province of Ontario. The Ontario Youth Pipe Band (OYPB) is a celebration of our young players, the future of the PPBSO, and our musical traditions. You don't need to travel - the band will meet virtually and will prepare via Zoom and training videos. The Ontario Youth Pipe Band is being run by two notable PPBSO members, professional players, and music educators - Tyler Bridge and Ross Davison.

Pipers and Drummers who are 25 years old or younger are invited to fill out the following interest form - <https://forms.gle/jyFNeaGSSQ8tWCCC6>

The inaugural performance of the band will be at the closing ceremonies of the Georgetown Highland Games and will include the playing of *Amazing Grace* as the designated duty band for the event. The first iteration of the OYPB is meant to be accessible to players of all levels and the entrance requirements are aimed at allowing as many pipers and drummers as possible to participate. Please note that all players will need to bring their instrument and highland dress to participate (either personally owned or on loan from their home band or organisation.) The PPBSO's Ontario Youth Pipe Band is unable to provide instruments or highland dress to players at this time.

Have questions or comments? Please email education@ppbso.org.

The Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario
 Ontario, Canada

Loch Lubnaig



Loch Lubnaig is a small freshwater loch near Callander in the Stirling council area. It lies in the former county of Perthshire. It is part of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. The loch nestles in the space between Ben Ledi and Ben Vorlich. Fed by the River Balvaig from the north and drained by the Garbh Uisge to the south, Loch Lubnaig offers fishing from the shore while canoes can be rented at the north end. Alternatively, two car parking areas on the east shore offer canoe launching points.

Jamie Taylor
 Scotland

British Pension deadline looms

The extended deadline for making voluntary contributions to the British National Insurance scheme is now only a year away. The deadline is 5th April 2025. Whilst there may seem to be plenty of time to make voluntary contributions, in practice the government department that handles voluntary contributions has been overwhelmed in the past by the volume of applications to make voluntary contributions.

As a consequence, the deadline has in the past been extended twice. It is believed a third extension will not be possible. Anyone who has worked in the UK will have contributed to the British National Insurance scheme. These contributions may entitle people to a state pension which is not means tested. Like the rules for Superannuation in Australia, the rules for state pension are constantly evolving.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Eilean Donan Castle



Mik Coia

Highland views



A different view from the Glenfinnan Viaduct.
Derek A Grist

Loch Achtriochtan



Reflection perfection at Loch Achtriochtan, Glencoe.
IG: eadietam

Heilan Coo



It's never a stretch to be happy on a Coosday!
The Kilted Photographer

The Montreal Highland Games 2024

Come for the competitions, stay for the fun

By: Marilyn Meikle, Communications Coordinator, Montreal Highland Games



The Montreal Highland Games, established in 1855, are the oldest Scottish festival in Quebec. Starting with Promenade of Cabers through the streets of Verdun on Thursday; a Wee Ceilidh at the Burgundy Lion Pub on Friday night; and culminating with the Games on Sunday, August 4 on the grounds of the Douglas Hospital in Verdun, we bring Scotland to the city.

Newly elected President of the Games, Cameron Stevens, sums it up this way, "The current version of the Games are a tribute to all those who came before us. Countless men and women who offered their time and money to preserve Scottish culture in Montreal. We remain grateful to our present-day sponsors and volunteers who continue this tradition. The Games wouldn't happen without them." Co-presenting sponsors are the St-Andrew's Society of Montreal and Pembroke Private Wealth Management. "We have more pipe

bands than ever this year. We are especially thrilled to welcome the Normandy Highlands Pipe Band, from Rouen, France and the Prince Charles Pipe Band from San Francisco, California" says Stevens.

Wide range of activities

"Come for the competitions, stay for the fun!" represents the wide range of activities occurring alongside traditional Scottish contests at the Games such as Athletics, Piping and Highland Dance. Everyone wants to see who tosses the caber the furthest and the straightest. Fans want to know which pipe band will win their category and which dancer will take home the trophy. But... there is also the Celtic Mile with the fiddlers' tent; a whisky tasting station; and numerous clans to meet and greet. There are wee cabers to be tossed, faces to be painted and castles to be bounced in at the Family Village. Medieval knights will do battle in the ring, rugby players will be on the pitch and

fans will cheer on the tug of war! Don't forget the tartans and baubles to be purchased from vendors; and food and drink to buy at the concessions.

Those who know, KNOW, it's the Ceilidh Tent where the fun never stops. This year the Games are thrilled to welcome back fan favourites Mariner's Curse along with Scotland's premier bagpipe Celt-Rockers Gleadhraich. Hop on the free shuttle bus from the Angrignon métro station and join in the celebration at the Douglas Hospital Grounds, Verdun on Sunday, August 4. Tickets can be purchased on the website.

Follow the Montreal Highland Games on Facebook and Instagram for updates or for more details see: www.montrealhighlandgames.com



Scottish athletic events are fan favourites.



Haggis eating contest in the Ceilidh Tent. Who will win in 2024?

Things to do in Perthshire



Drummond Castle Gardens. Photo: VisitScotland.

- Black Watch Castle and Museum - Located in Perth city centre, recounting the history of the Scotland's oldest Highland Army Regiment.
- Highland Safaris, Aberfeldy - Exhilarating Land Rover safari with a kilted ranger through breathtaking Perthshire scenery, keeping an eye out for red deer, grouse, and golden eagles.
- Glenturret Distillery, Crieff - Scotland's oldest distillery, famous for its single malt, hand-crafted using methods used for over two centuries, as well as its Michelin starred restaurant The Glenturret Lalique.
- Scottish Crannog Centre, Kenmore - Ancient artifacts fashioned by Iron Age dwellers, and traditional craftsmanship through hands-on activities.
- Drummond Castle Gardens, Crieff - One of Europe's most important and impressive formal gardens dating back to the 17th century. The Gardens featured in the *Outlander* TV series.
- Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Pitlochry - Scotland's 'theatre in the hills' offering a wide variety of productions and a cafe-bar with river views.
- Dewar's Aberfeldy Distillery, Aberfeldy - Follow the story of the Dewar's family's pursuit of whisky perfection in the interactive visitor centre, and sample the product at one of their new tasting sessions.



The Queen's View. Photo: VisitScotland.

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

- 1) Inverary Castle is the seat of which Duke?
- 2) What is the longest road bridge in Scotland?
- 3) Which liner, under construction, was known as Number 534 before it was named?
- 4) Where is the Fairy Flag kept?
- 5) What is the approximate length of the Caledonian Canal? a) 56.5 miles, b) 58.5 miles, or c) 60.5 miles?
- 6) What was a Thane, as in Thane of Cawdor, etc.?
- 7) The Queen's View in Perthshire overlooks which loch?
- 8) What did Scot James Ross (1800-1862) discover?

- 9) In which year was the liner *Queen Elizabeth II* launched? a) 1964, b) 1967 or c) 1969?
- 10) Between which two islands does Benbecula lie?

Answers:

- 1) The Duke of Argyll.
- 2) The Tay Road Bridge, joining Dundee to Fife.
- 3) The *Queen Mary*, which entered service in 1937.
- 4) The flag is a MacLeod clan relic kept in Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye.
- 5) c) 60.5 miles long.
- 6) It was an ancient Scottish title, equivalent to an English earl.
- 7) Loch Tummel.
- 8) The Magnetic North Pole.
- 9) b) 1967.
- 10) North and South Uist.

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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.



Photo: Mather & Co Ltd.

“The Inverness Castle Experience promises to be a major attraction for visitors and locals alike. With what promises to be a world class destination, which will not only attract more people to Inverness with the associated benefits for the Highland economy, as it will also act as a gateway for people to explore and many other areas of Highland and enjoy the diverse.”

Chair of Highland Council’s Economy and Infrastructure Committee, Cllr Ken Gowans, said the Inverness Castle Experience will be a significant boost to the local economy. The Inverness Castle Experience will be a new visitor attraction in the centre of Inverness, celebrating the ‘spirit of the Highlands’ through its stories of past, present and future. The iconic Inverness Castle is currently undergoing a transformative renovation into a visitor attraction opening in summer 2025.

“One of Scotland’s national treasures, this extraordinary casket has been venerated as a relic of Mary, Queen of

Scots for centuries, and I’m delighted that more people will have the opportunity to see it up close when it goes on tour later this year. Beyond its connections to one of Scotland’s most famous figures, it is a rare and spectacular piece of historic silver in its own right.”

Dr Anna Groundwater, Acting Keeper of Scottish History and Archaeology at National Museums Scotland said a silver casket believed to have been owned by Mary, Queen of Scots and which was acquired by National Museums Scotland in 2022 has undergone fresh conservation work ahead of going on tour to Kirkcudbright and Stirling. It is thought that the casket was given to Mary by her first husband, François II of France, and came to Scotland with her in 1561 after his death in 1560. The iconic piece of Scotland’s national heritage, the casket will go on display at Kirkcudbright Galleries from 2 November 2024 - 27 April 2025 then at Stirling Smith Art Gallery & Museum from 30 April – 31 August 2025.

“This special volume of Ukrainian translations is a wonderful addition to The Mitchell Library. It also shows the cultural impact Burns has had in Ukraine and outside of Scotland. Generous donations like this help The Mitchell continue to grow its world-class Burns collection, which can be enjoyed by both locals and visitors.”

Susan Taylor, Special Collections Librarian at The Mitchell Library, said a special volume of Ukrainian translations of Robert

Burns has been donated to the Glasgow library. The book features nearly 200 years of Ukrainians translating Scotland’s National Bard, with each poem appearing in Scots and Ukrainian. The Mitchell Library is home to one of the largest and growing Burns collections in the world. It contains over 5,000 items and is a source for academic and popular research.



“The viaduct is an iconic landmark which attracts visitors from across the world, so we’ve worked hard to develop a solution which will help preserve the structure, respect its historic significance while minimising the visual impact of our work.”

Laura Craig, scheme project manager, Network Rail, said Network Rail will start a £3.4m investment to carry out repairs on the 123-year-old Glenfinnan viaduct. It’s part of Network Rail’s ongoing maintenance programme and will help futureproof the landmark, which sits 100ft above the River Finnan on the West Highland Line, 17 miles from Fort William. The work is scheduled to take just under a year to complete. There will be no disruption to rail services during the work and no change to the appearance of the structure – the longest concrete viaduct in Scotland (spanning 1000ft) - when complete.

“I’m proud to hold the position that celebrates Kelvin, one of the University’s most remarkable inventors and innovators, and whose example continues to inspire scientists and engineers around the world today. I think Kelvin himself would be proud of our research at the University of Glasgow today. All across the University, just like Kelvin, we’re working to turn pure science into innovative technologies that impact on the real world, making better medical

devices, next-generation communications, new net-zero technologies and more. I hope that people will join us to celebrate Kelvin by seeing our rich collection of artifacts and artwork inspired by his historic legacy.”

Professor Miles Padgett, Kelvin Chair of Natural Philosophy in the School of Physics & Astronomy, said the University of Glasgow is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of its most distinguished researchers. William Thomson, better known as Lord Kelvin, was born on 26th June 1824. During his 53-year career at the University, he became one of the 19th century’s most important scientists, making a series of significant breakthroughs in mathematics, physics and engineering which helped shape the modern world.



“All campaigns and their contexts differ but ten years is a very short time-span in the life of any rail campaign. The fact that disadvantaged Levenmouth – in decline for over five decades since mining, docks and railways closed and where social capital and civic engagement is not that strong - was able to mount an intensive community-led campaign which played such an important role in achieving its main objective, well-supported by Council and elected representatives, has been a source of both surprise and pride. Levenmouth is back on the map and regeneration prospects aided by other project in the pipeline are brighter now.”

Dr Allen Armstrong, chair of the Levenmouth Rail Campaign, said communities in Fife were celebrating as they marked the official opening of the Levenmouth Railway and the return of rail services for the first time in more than 50 years.

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SCOTWORD

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

CLUES ACROSS

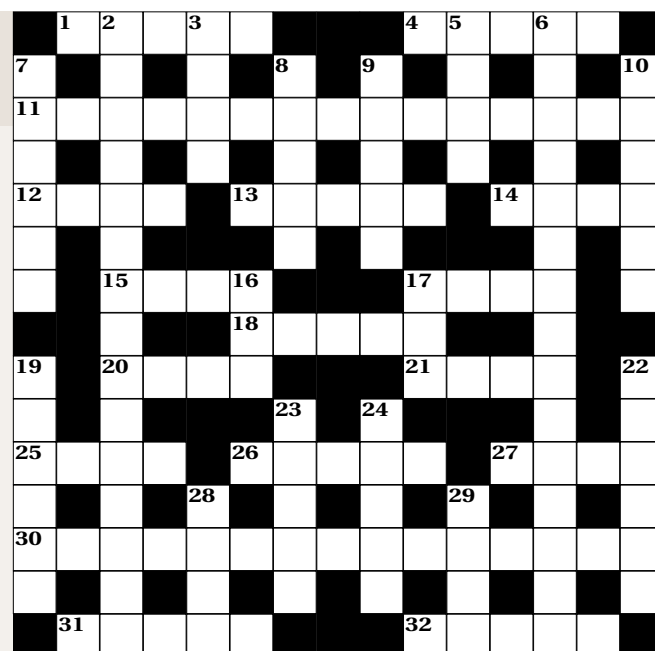
- 1) A lively, cheerful Scot (5).
- 4) A disaster for this piper! (5).
- 11) Scots hero (3, 3, 9).
- 12) A pressing club! (4).
- 13) Part of 6 Down (5).
- 14) Family group (4).
- 15) Dancers are on them (4).
- 17) Scorch the Scots stream! (4).
- 18) Endure to a Scot (5).
- 20) Scotland’s fastest flower! (4).
- 21) Great to a Scot (4).

- 25) A Scots dip! (4).
- 26) With pan their sweets! (5).
- 27) Unusual to a Scot (4).
- 30) Scots love song (7, 4, 4).
- 31) Port Ellen is its chief town (5).
- 32) Male animals (5).

CLUES DOWN

- 2) East coast delicacies (8, 7).
- 3) Scots weighing machine (4).
- 5) West coast firth (4).
- 6) A games event (8, 7).

- 7) Dull to a Scot (6).
- 8) A young salmon (5).
- 9) A crowning palace (5).
- 10) Home for Orcadians (6).
- 16) Fit for a pig (3).
- 17) Plead for (3).
- 19) A Scots refuse dump (6).
- 22) Dirty and untidy (6).
- 23) Famous Scots regiment (5).
- 24) A kilt protector! (5).
- 28) A Faroes’ gull (4).
- 29) Scots fuel (4).



The Flying Scotsman - One of Scotland's great Olympians

By: Neil Drysdale



The iconic St Andrews beach run scene in the 1981 film Chariots of Fire.

In the next few weeks, there will be much talk of “disaster” and “tragedy” in some newspapers if participants at the Olympic Games drop a relay baton or fail to reach their personal best. In truth, such words should not be employed when talking about sport and certainly not as the Games return to Paris 100 years after Scotland’s Eric Liddell took his principled stand not to compete on a Sunday due to his devout religious beliefs.

It might have cost him one or even two gold medals - but Liddell, an Edinburgh University graduate, who also represented his country on the rugby field in dynamic fashion, was adamant about his priorities as a missionary whatever the cost. And he

still stuck to them 20 years later when he sacrificed himself during the Second World War to save the life of a pregnant woman.

The Scottish all-round sporting star was one of the greatest of his generation and his story was captured in the Oscar-winning film, *Chariots of Fire*, directed by David Puttnam, which featured the magical music of Vangelis and the famous scene where athletes trained on the beach at St Andrews.

And, though it’s nearly 80 years since he died at just 43, his strong principles will be celebrated once again when the Olympic torch is lit and the world stops for a fortnight to pay attention. In the film, which took a few liberties with the truth,

Liddell was boarding a boat to the 1924 Paris Olympic Games when he discovered the qualifying heats for the 100m sprint, were scheduled for Sunday. As a Christian, he had known the schedule for months in advance and decided not to take part in the 100m, the 4x100m relay and the 4x400m relay because they all required running on a Sunday. Sections of the press were livid and even described his decision as “unpatriotic”, but Liddell devoted his training to the 200m and the 400m, races that would not require him to break the Sabbath. And, once he was in the thick of the action, he rose to the occasion, winning a bronze medal in the 200m and then, memorably, surging to the 400m title in a world-record time.

Crowning moment in sport

On the morning of the final, July 11 1924, Liddell was handed a folded square of paper by one of the team masseurs. Reading it later, he found the message: “In the old book it says: ‘He that honours me I will honour.’ Wishing you the best of success always.”

Recognising the Biblical reference, Liddell was profoundly moved that someone other than his coach believed in him and the stance he had taken. The pipe band of the 51st Highland Brigade played outside the stadium for the hour before he ran. The 400m had long been considered a middle-distance event in which runners raced round the first bend before coasting down the back straight. However, inspired by the message, and deprived of a view of the other runners because he drew the outside lane, Liddell

raced the whole of the first 200 metres to be well clear of the Americans. It was his crowning moment in sport. But there were plenty of other things in his life.

After quitting athletics, Liddell returned to China, where he had been born, to continue his family’s missionary work. He died there in 1945 in a Japanese internment camp. Under a prisoner-exchange deal, he could have left the camp, but relinquished this opportunity so the pregnant woman could go in his place. In his last letter to his wife, written on the day he died, Liddell talked about suffering a nervous breakdown. He had an undiagnosed brain tumour; and the cumulative impact of overwork and malnourishment hastened his death. One of his colleagues later wrote:

“The entire camp, especially its youth, was stunned for days, so great was the vacuum that Eric’s death had left.” That’s real heroism and his demise was a genuine tragedy. But Eric Liddell’s name will live forever in Scotland’s sporting lore.



The Flying Scotsman, Eric Liddell.

Events announced for Robert the Bruce’s 750th anniversary

Historic Scotland sites across the country will hold host to anniversary events.

This month marks the 750th anniversary of Robert the Bruce’s birth on 11th July, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) sites are hosting a range of activities that give visitors the chance to walk in the shoes of the iconic Scottish ruler and learn more about his historic legacy. Visitors can follow in the footsteps of the iconic Scot with the Outlaw King Trail, leading to historic sites connected to Robert the Bruce and the Netflix film *Outlaw King*. There will also be special talks offered at Melrose Abbey, where Robert the Bruce’s heart was buried.

To mark the special anniversary, HES has joined forces with other organisations in Dumfries and Galloway, a region of Scotland of great significance in the lives of Robert the Bruce and his family, with a programme of events including a children’s trail across Sweetheart Abbey, Whithorn Priory, Glenluce Abbey and Caerlaverock Castle, where little ones can also learn about the life of Scotland’s renowned ruler. Caerlaverock Castle will also host the exhilarating Spectacular Jousting on the 27th and 28th of July.

A true Scottish hero

Alongside themed tours and trails, Living History performances of Robert the Bruce are planned across Historic Scotland sites over the summer including Edinburgh Castle, Dunfermline Abbey and Melrose Abbey. A new range of products has also been launched on Stor, the Historic Scotland shop. Featuring bold and vibrant

designs that honour the King who won the Battle of Bannockburn, the range has been created by Scottish designer Allistair J Burt in partnership with Historic Scotland.

Stephen Duncan, Director of Marketing & Engagement at Historic Environment Scotland, said: “Robert the Bruce is a truly iconic figure from history who has

connections to a number of our sites. We’re looking forward to welcoming visitors across the country with a range of events to explore and lots to discover about a true Scottish hero.”

The full list of events, activities and the sites involved can be found on the Historic Scotland website at: www.historicenvironment.scot/bruce.



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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



The 2024 Walking of the Marches has been hailed as the 'biggest and best ever' in its 900-year history by organisers.

Stirling marches together for 900th anniversary celebrations

The Walking of the Marches is an ancient tradition of inspecting and protecting the boundaries of Stirling, which dates back to at least the 12th century, when King David I granted Stirling its prestigious status. Huge crowds gathered for the start of the annual procession on a route around the city centre. Leading the parade were 'Birlawmen', the inspectors who traditionally marked the boundaries using picks and shovels, turning sods of turf at each check point. Ceremonial picks and shovels are still carried today and this year, for the first time, the inspectors included two female Birlawmen, Janie Meikle Bland and Val Bold.

Andrew McEwan, chair of the Walking of the Marches committee, said: "The Walking of the Marches this year was a wonderful celebration of Stirling and we were absolutely thrilled by the numbers that turned up. The Walking of the Marches is something that has been done for centuries but I think we can safely say that was the biggest and best ever. My thanks to everyone involved and in particular our hard working committee."

The city is celebrating Stirling 900 and the Royal Burgh of Stirling is one of the oldest burghs in Scotland. It is thought that the original creation of the burgh by David I was given as a verbal instruction so no written record exists. The earliest charter is held by Stirling Council archives issued by David II in 1360 that confirmed an earlier charter of King Alexander II given on 18 August 1226. Burgh status elevated an existing settlement into something more distinctive. The king granted his burgesses or freemen privileges. These included: holding their land and property directly from him, having the right to elect a council, holding their own court, levying local taxes and holding markets. Officially, the celebration will take place between April 2024 and April 2025, to coincide with the coronation of King David.

Iconic Linlithgow Spire restored to gold



St Michael's Spire
Image: Images Above Ltd.

An iconic church spire in Linlithgow, West Lothian, is once again gleaming golden following the successful completion of a £400k restoration project that has saved it from potential collapse. The Crown of Thorns spire of St Michael's Parish Church – a unique and eye-catching piece of public sculpture, visible from both the M9 and the Edinburgh-Glasgow train line – has undergone a thorough refurbishment to repair extensive rot in its structural timbers and replace the external cladding. The new cladding, a bronze alloy, returns the spire's colour to the golden glow of the original structure which was erected in 1964. This time, however, the gold is here to stay, aided by modern sealing technology designed to keep the Scottish weather at bay for decades to come.

Rev Dr Liam Fraser, minister of St Michael's, said: "Sixty years on from the installation of the spire in 1964, the excitement this project has generated locally is astonishing. Linlithgow's Facebook groups have been awash with images of the renewed spire as it has emerged from the scaffolding. Both a beloved symbol of the town and a representation of Christ's Crown of Thorns, it speaks to people in many different ways: of certainty, of renewal, and even of eternity. But the most common reactions on the street at present are simply 'Wow!' or 'Amazing!'"

Dr Fraser added "It's fair to say the spire was far more controversial in its early days. Driven forward by the vision of the then St Michael's minister Very Rev Dr David Steel, the design was variously dismissed as a rocket, a wigwam or even left-over scaffolding. But over time, it has come to be hailed as a masterful marriage of modern design to historic architecture. The church is here for today and tomorrow, not just yesteryear."

New Robert Burns mural is completed in Kilmarnock



A striking new mural by acclaimed artist Michael Corr paying tribute to Scotland's national bard in Kilmarnock Town Centre has been completed, this mural celebrates Robert Burns and his deep ties to the area and beyond. Nature played a huge role in Burns's work, inspiring and celebrating his surroundings. The mural reflects this with natural, organic shapes and patterns, and colours associated with nature and Kilmarnock. It also pays homage to the *Kilmarnock Edition*, which was pivotal in his life, featuring poems like *To a Mouse* and *To a Mountain Daisy* – works that were truly ahead of their time. Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader of East Ayrshire Council, emphasised the significance of this project, saying: "This mural will add vibrancy and character to our town centre, reflecting Kilmarnock's rich heritage and artistic spirit. After the tremendous success of Tom Lightbody's Countess Ann mural at St Marnock Square, the community expressed a strong desire for more public art and we are committed to supporting initiatives that contribute to the cultural growth of our community."

Michael Corr, expressed his gratitude and excitement, saying, "It's an honour to be entrusted with creating a mural that will engage and inspire the people of Kilmarnock."

Marc Sherland, Director of the Robert Burns World Federation said: "The mural is a wonderful way to express the simple fact that, if it were not for Kilmarnock printing the first edition of *Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*, Scotland and the world would not remember its ploughman poet. Michael's work will enhance the gable end of our headquarters in the town and is sure to attract visitors to the town."

Edinburgh to host Team GB Official Fanzone for Paris 2024



With just weeks to go until the biggest sporting event on the planet returns. Over 300 Team GB athletes are embarking on their final preparations, and over half a million British fans are planning to travel to France to cheer them on in person. But there will also be plenty in store for those celebrating the Games from back home - including the chance to celebrate alongside the athletes themselves, with all Fanzones set to host appearances from Team GB stars past and present

throughout the Games. Each Fanzone will open on Friday 26 July in time for the Opening Ceremony, running until the day of the Closing Ceremony on Sunday 11 August. The only Scottish location will be the St James Quarter Fanzone, located on Level 5, an outdoor rooftop space that offers stunning views out to Edinburgh's UNESCO World Heritage Site, Calton Hill. It will showcase the best of the Games on a giant screen and will also feature an alfresco bar - undoubtedly, the ultimate destination in the Capital to enjoy all of the Paris 2024 action. Other Team GB Fanzone locations will be Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, London (3 venues), Manchester and Southampton.

Programme for Glasgow's George Square project confirmed



An update on the programme for the George Square project was given to a Glasgow City Council committee with confirmation that work will begin on-site in January 2025, with the main work to begin next April. The first phase of this work will be the creation of a site compound and hoarding of George Square in January 2025, once the Christmas 2024 decorations come down. Between January - March 2025, 11 bronze statues will be removed and transported to an adequate storage facility. The statues will be conserved and restored between July 2025 - July 2027, before being returned to their new location on the completed Square from July 2027 onwards. The public realm works on George Square and surrounding Avenues will start in April 2025, with phased completion up to April 2027 (with George Square delivered by August 2026).

The works in George Square will deliver high-quality stone throughout the Square; informal 'play' areas for children in sensory gardens in the eastern areas; a water feature; a raised lawn platform; bespoke sheltered seating; and feature lighting. In terms of the new design for George Square, the design for the eastern part of the Square responds to its institutional character and the formality of the City Chambers and of the Cenotaph; and a further raised green area will be created in front of the Cenotaph. The western, non-institutional part of the Square will feature an area for cafes to spill out, as well as a generous paved area for events, including a water feature. George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability at Glasgow City Council, said: "The confirmation of the timetable of works for the George Square project is clearly a significant stage in what will be a transformational scheme for Glasgow's foremost civic space. A great deal of consultation led to the final design for the Square and reflects the ambition to build a space that respects the place the Square holds in our history and meets the future needs of the city and its visitors."

One of ours: *New research reveals the origins of 'Trimontium Man'*

By: David C Weinczok



Trimontium Fort Monument. Photo: © DCW.



Trimontium Fort cropmarks. Photo: © Trimontium Trust.



Trimontium Fort watchtower view of fort site. Photo: © DCW.

It began with a skeleton. Not long ago, that skeleton was given a face. Now, after nearly 2,000 years in the soils of a Roman fort, we finally know the place that face called home. The skeleton in question was unearthed at Trimontium Roman fort along the River Tweed near Melrose in the Scottish Borders.

Meaning 'place of the three hills' after the Eildon Hills looming over it, Trimontium was a massive auxiliary fort which at times marked the northernmost frontier of the Roman Empire in Britain. The Trimontium Trust, who run Trimontium Museum in Melrose and conduct archaeological research into the Roman invasions of Scotland, have announced the results of new dating and isotope analysis into the identity of this 'Trimontium Man'. He was no legionary conqueror, but a local born and raised in the Scottish Borders. The question that remains is: why was his body buried within a Roman fort?

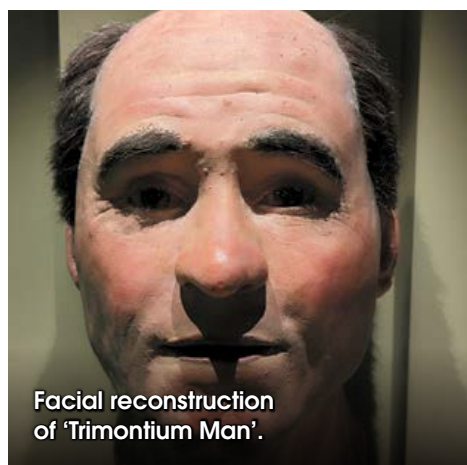
The lands that would one day become Scotland

First built by the forces of Agricola, who went on to victory at the Battle of Mons Graupius, in the late 70s AD, Trimontium was occupied on and off until 211 AD when the death of Emperor Septimius Severus caused a total Roman withdrawal from the lands that would one day become Scotland. The fort had the northernmost confirmed amphitheatre in the Roman Empire, a bathhouse, barracks blocks, a luxurious mansion, and four annexes dedicated to manufacturing, civilian housing, and training. The skeleton's identity was a mystery within a mystery. It was found in one of the 107 pits discovered at Trimontium during excavations led by Melrose solicitor James

Curlie between 1905 and 1910. These pits were no mere dips – some were more like wells, up to 36 feet deep. Their contents were astonishing, fuelling speculation about the fort's ultimate fate to this very day. The exact circumstances of their creation remains unknown.

The pits were stuffed to the brim with everything you can imagine, and some things you'd rather not. Huge volumes of masonry from the fort itself were tumbled into them. Prized possessions including iron weapons and armour, brooches, rings and leather shoes were mixed in among animal bones, shattered pottery, and several separate human remains. Seventeen horse skulls were recovered from a single pit, all of them seemingly killed by a blow to the head shortly before they were dumped into the pits.

What could possibly have driven such destruction? The contents of the pits date from at least two different periods of occupation, the 80s AD and 180s AD. In both cases, Trimontium was abandoned – or overwhelmed – as the Romans withdrew south to consolidate and focus on threats on other frontiers of the empire.



Facial reconstruction of 'Trimontium Man'.



Trimontium Fort amphitheatre site and Leaderfoot Viaduct. Photo: © DCW.

Were the contents of the pits deposited in good order, perhaps by the garrison grimly cutting their losses and preventing anything of value from falling into native hands? Or could they have been filled in the wake of a violent overthrow of the fort by the vengeful Selgovae or Votadini tribes who had previously bent under the Roman yoke?

The debate still rages, and we may never know the truth. Now, however, we know intimate details about the life of Trimontium Man. Analysis coordinated by Professor Derek Hamilton of the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) as part of the Francis Crick Institute's *1000 Ancient Genomes from Great Britain* project has confirmed that Trimontium Man's life coincided with the first period of the fort's occupation, some time before 120 AD. He was born and raised somewhere in a swathe stretching from Moffat in the southwest to the Lammermuir Hills in the north-east.

A son of the Borders

A facial reconstruction for Trimontium Man was previously made by Professor Caroline Wilkinson. His face is weathered but kindly, with small features and a bald

pate – the kind of face you'll see in most any pub or while walking along any British high street today. Strontium isotope analysis of one of his teeth identified him as between 36 to 45 years old at the time of his death. His diet consisted almost entirely of land-based plants and animals despite having the River Tweed and North Sea nearby, an unusual trend of minimal fish consumption we see across early Scotland through into the Pictish period. He had periodontal disease with several abscesses and an overbite on the right side, so he must have been no stranger to pain and discomfort.

As for how his life ended, we can only guess. He could have been a civilian trading with the soldiers of the fort who was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. Perhaps he was a warrior or dignitary executed by the Romans to send a message, or killed simply out of blind malice as the soldiers prepared to retreat to Hadrian's Wall. It was, after all, common practice for Romans to execute prisoners prior to withdrawing from a region. Intriguingly, an iron spearhead was found alongside his skeleton, but this may have shifted from elsewhere in the pit and may have no direct connection to Trimontium Man. Whatever the truth, Trimontium Museum is telling as much of the story as it can through continuing research and interpretation. Many of the finds from Trimontium's pits are on display at the museum, as well as at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. There is a special pride in Trimontium Man in Melrose – he was, after all, one of ours, a son of the Borders.



Trimontium Man facial reconstruction stages.

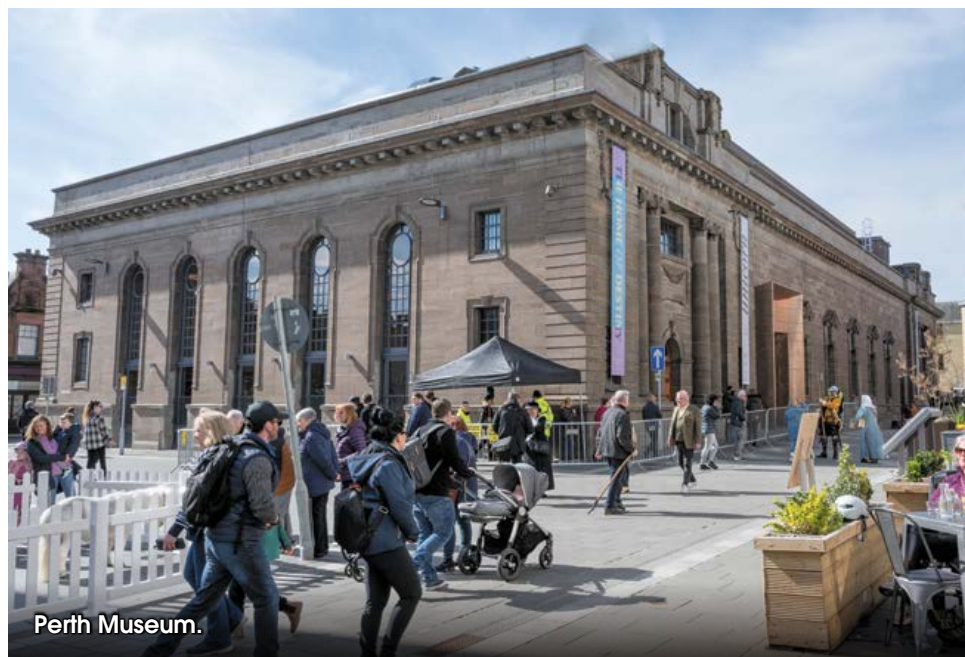


Erica Reid, Trustee of Trimontium Trust.

Perth Museum - At the centre of Scotland's story

The new Perth Museum opened its doors earlier this year after a £27 million development project. This world-class cultural and heritage attraction highlights the fascinating objects and stories that put Perth and Kinross at the centre of Scotland's story. At its heart sits the Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone, one of Scotland and the UK's most significant historical objects. The Scottish Banner spoke to João Philippe Reid, Exhibitions and Interpretation Manager, at Perth Museum on some of the many attractions found at the museum and why you should include Perth on your next visit to Scotland.

Photos courtesy of Julie Howden and Culture Perth and Kinross.



Perth Museum recently opened its doors after an exciting £27m redevelopment of the former city hall. Can you tell us the background to the new Perth Museum?

JPR: The driver for a new museum came about from a number of different needs – there was a recognition that the nature of high street economies has been changing; that a recalibration away from retail-dependency is really important to create

thriving urban spaces. There was also an understanding that Perth & Kinross' nationally significant museum collections were untapped and limited by a lack of display space (there are some astonishing objects in the collection which have been off public display for decades). Finally, there was a huge, empty building at the very heart of the city centre – a building which historically had played

a prominent role in the life of Perth but which by the time the project really got going in 2017, had been blighting its environment for over a decade.

And the site is an important part of the museum ethos – that building, and its predecessor have been the social, political and cultural heart of the city for 180 years – everything from political rallies, gigs, record sales, dance competitions, school concerts, and wrestling matches happened there and there's a very profound sense of identification with the building from local communities. Visitors regularly come in and say things like, 'my grandparents met at a dance in this building' or 'I played clarinet in a school concert on the stage here.' In this, the museum is a perfect vehicle to explore the stories of this place.

The new Museum's centrepiece is the Stone of Destiny. Can you tell us about the history of the Stone of Destiny and why this is such a coup for the Museum to house?

JPR: The Stone is a symbol of power and has been for hundreds of years. It is also an object of ongoing contention, for Scots it is a symbol of Scottish nationhood, for others it is symbolic of the integration of the crowns of England and Scotland and the Union – and it has gone backwards and forwards over the border a few times since it was first seized in 1296.

The Stone of Scone (Stone of Destiny is a later name that became very fashionable with the Victorians) refers to the inauguration Stone, a superficially innocuous block of sandstone that new monarchs were inaugurated on at Scone Abbey, an important royal centre a few miles north of Perth. The monarch-to-be, surrounded by bishops and nobles would sit on the Stone and be elevated to kingship (no queens were inaugurated on the Stone while it was in Scotland). When King Edward I of England invaded Scotland, he sacked Scone Abbey and removed the Stone in 1296, he commissioned a golden throne to house the Stone at Westminster Abbey in London. This is still known as the Coronation Chair and, with the Stone encased in it, Edward was making a clear political message: by sitting on this Stone, me and my heirs are the rulers of Scotland. The same chair (and of course the Stone) are still used in coronations of British monarchs today.

As a disputed object the Stone has attracted a lot of origin myths – some believe it is 'Jacob's Pillow', the stone on which the grandson of Abraham rested when he was shown a vision of a stairway to heaven. The English favoured this myth because it implied that their keeping of the Stone in London was the will of God. The Scots favoured a myth which traced the Stone's origins to Scota, daughter of the Pharaoh, who carried the Stone from Ancient Egypt to the Hill of Tara from where, centuries later, it was brought to Scone by the (traditional) first King of Scotland, Kenneth MacAlpin – this

myth emphasised Scotland's status of a longstanding independent realm in the face of English aggression. But there are many other myths, including ongoing arguments about authenticity – some people believe that the 'real' Stone is buried under Dunsinane Hill near Perth (of MacBeth fame) or even in a pub in Glasgow called The Arlington Bar.

Due to recent scientific analysis, we know that the Stone is red sandstone that was quarried a couple of miles outside Scone. From the patterns of wear on its surface, we also know that it would likely have been used as a step or threshold for an important ancient building, possibly retrieved from a Roman ruin.

The Stone of Destiny returned to Perthshire for the first time in over 700 years. Can you tell us what the logistics was like for this to take place and also for any future necessity to have the stone moved for ceremonial purposes?

JPR: Sadly I can't. Security and logistics around movement of the Stone is extremely sensitive owing to the fact that it has been the target of repeated attempts of theft or damage (including as recently as 2023).

Apart from the Stone of Destiny the Museum holds more than 3,000 objects, spanning 10,000 years. Can you outline some of the other 'must see' items visitors can see at the Museum?

JPR: Perth holds one of the oldest public collections in the UK having been founded in 1784. It's incredibly rich and diverse covering Natural History, Fine Art, Social History, archaeology, costume and World Cultures and numbering over half a million objects in total. Because of Scone and Perth's prominence as an early royal centre and medieval economic hub, and because of distinct preservation conditions in the ground here, material survives that can paint a very rich picture of what life was like centuries ago. From 700-year-old children's shoes and leather purses, to ivory combs and knives, the medieval collections are eye-opening. I particularly like an 13th century old egg which was found during excavations of a medieval midden in the city centre. It looks like an egg you could buy at the supermarket today but has remained perfectly intact for over 700 years.

Some of the most impressive and imposing objects in the collection are the carved Pictish Stones which are between 1,000 and 1,500 years old. Often intricately decorated with animals and mysterious symbols, these huge monoliths once stood in the landscape as markers of church and secular power. The Picts, who were the predominate political force in early medieval eastern Scotland after the retreat of the Romans, also created astonishingly intricate and opulent jewellery, many examples of which are on display at the new museum.

Another example of opulence is a slashed silk doublet from the 1620s – this is an extremely rare survival. Effectively

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a gentleman's jacket, this example, from a wealthy family in Highland Perthshire, is virtually unmatched in condition. It looks new and very few of these survive in a condition in which they can be even put on public display.

Perth Museum's first exhibition is Unicorn. This is the first major UK exhibition to explore the cultural history of Scotland's national animal from antiquity to the present day. Can you tell us how this exhibition came about and how visitors to Scotland this summer can enjoy this exhibition?

JPR: There are a few key themes in the museum's permanent galleries around monarchy and symbols of power. We're interested in how power articulates itself through symbols (like a 152kg block of sandstone or Pictish carved stones for example). Many countries have national animals and many of these first arose in the medieval period when dynasties were effectively attempting to 'brand' themselves – the kings of France opted for a Porcupine, Aragon and Castille for a Black Eagle and England for the Lion for example. In Scotland, King James I selected a Unicorn, wrapped in chains and wearing a crown collar – so the exhibition premise began with an interest in the circumstances in which a mythical creature came to be associated with Scottish monarchy.

The exhibition starts with this theme, looking at the use of the unicorn on Mercat crosses (market crosses still found across Scotland today), coins, books and in the iconography of the Union (the lion and the unicorn). But the exhibition expands to look at the history of unicorns, from the classical period through to the present day. We tell the story of this mythical creature through Italian Renaissance oil paintings, medieval illuminated manuscripts, narwhal tusks (which were traded as unicorn horns) and many other fascinating objects. But the exhibition is one of two halves, whilst the first galleries are focused on this creature's use and representation in history, the final part of the exhibition explores contemporary culture's continuing fascination with unicorns as pop cultural icons and as symbols of LGBTQ+ identity. These spaces feel very different and feature an amazing mass display sourced from local communities of pop cultural unicorns (such as 'My Little Pony Unicorns' or 'The Last Unicorn' posters) as well as a set of striking contemporary art commissions which explore the use of Unicorn iconography as a symbol of LGBTQ+ resilience and strength.



Glen Lyon Brooch.

Since opening on March 30th Perth Museum has already welcomed more than 50,000 visitors and been awarded a five-star visitor attraction status by the national tourism body, VisitScotland. How does that make the team behind the Museum feel to be acknowledged in this way by both the general public and tourism industry?

JPR: I think the team are really thrilled at the response to the new museum opening. We're obviously still getting used to how the building operates now that it's filled with people and learning about how things that we've been developing for years through blueprints and drawings, actually function in the real world. That's been interesting and we're trying to be very responsive to this phase where we're learning what works best for visitors and the objects on display.

There were a few areas of the development where we were trying something new and perhaps even, challenging (about how to tell the story of a particular object for example) and we're really thrilled at the audience response to new ideas.

Scotland has a variety of world-class museums to visit. From learning more about the story of Scotland, to being a great place to get out of the weather, a day at the museum can be so rewarding. Why do you think it is important for a visitor to Scotland to include some museums in their itinerary?

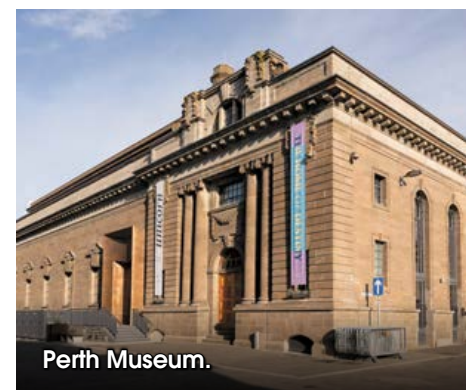
JPR: Scotland's is renowned for its stunning landscapes and vibrant cities, and these have been shaped by the people who have lived here. There is no better way of getting an understanding of place than through its museums – these are storehouses of stories and experiences – and there is no better route in to embracing the culture and life of a place than through its people – whether those are people living today or people hunting and gathering by riverbanks 10,000 years ago, or Roman soldiers standing guard over a border zone 2,000 years ago, or Victorian factory-workers, or Jacobite soldiers. Museums are places where experiences and stories over time come together.



Inside Perth Museum.

For visitors who have yet to experience Perth or the surrounding Perthshire region, can you give us any recommendations for the first-time visitor to see (apart from the new Perth Museum of course)?

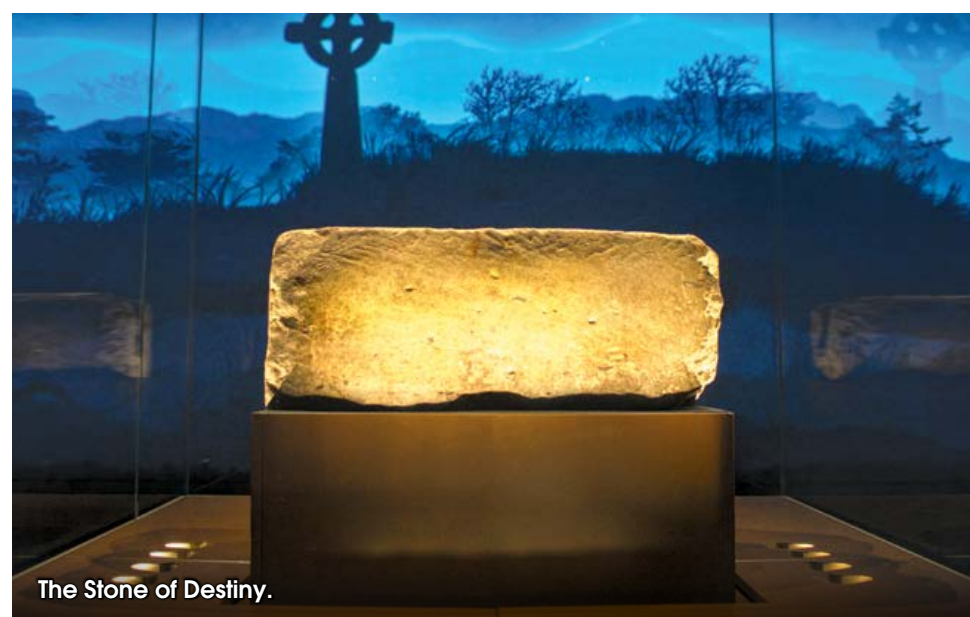
JPR: Our sister venue, Perth Art Gallery, is just a couple of minutes' walk from Perth Museum and houses an outstanding art collection including a newly completed exhibition on the important Scottish Colourist, J.D. Fergusson. Beyond that, given its close ties with the Stone of Destiny, Scone Palace (site of the now vanished Scone Abbey) is a great place to explore. Perthshire is home to some of the most iconic landscapes in Scotland, each one, resonating with history. From Mary Queen of Scots' island prison of Loch



Perth Museum.

Leven Castle to the recreation Iron Age village at the Scottish Crannog Centre by the banks of Loch Tay, from Lowland to Highland, Perth & Kinross has so much history and landscape to explore.

For more information on Perth Museum visit: www.perthmuseum.co.uk



The Stone of Destiny.



Scone Palace

The crowning place of Scottish kings

Scone Palace is the family home of the Earls of Mansfield and been in the Murray family for over 400 years. The Palace is rich in history and is today a top visitor attraction in the region. William Murray, Lord Stormont, took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner on its incredible past, some of the gems found both inside and outside the Palace and just why Perthshire is his perfect part of Scotland.

Scone Palace has a fascinating past as the ancient crowning place of Scottish kings and has hosted some huge names in Scottish history. Can you tell us briefly about some of the history of Scone Palace?

There is the history of Scone Palace and also the history of Scone as a place. Scone as a place has been of significance

in Scotland from at least 843 when the first King of Scots, Kenneth MacAlpine, came to Scone and was inaugurated as first King of Scots here. He chose Scone as his Westminster, as his seat of power, and used it for ruling and administering the emerging Scottish Kingdom.

Scone is also the first site of a recorded parliament in Scottish history, so it was a coronation site, a site of Parliament and a religious destination, because there was a monastery, and later an Abbey, which were in the grounds here.

Our family came along after the Reformation in 1600. So, we have been here for 400 years as the stewards of Scone and quite a lot has happened in that period as well. Including the rise and fall of the Jacobites, who were heavily associated with the emergence of the Hanoverian state which we managed to

transition to support fully. And I think I would say peak Scone was 1842 when Queen Victoria came to visit on her Jubilee tour on her state visit, and that is when our family was really in its pomp, and where Scone was really humming as a place.

The Palace is not only rich in history but houses some incredible objects. What can visitors to the Palace expect to see?

There are extensive and beautiful collections of various things, and it is quite broad, so that makes it so interesting. There are ceramics, ivories, there are wonderful papier mâché vases which are extremely special. Obviously, furniture of all shapes and kinds, some of which was given to us by famous people like Marie Antoinette, there is also a very nice collection of clocks and ceramics.

But beyond that, there is also some other things like the Moot Hill itself, though not part of our collection, but definitely a physical item of great significance at Scone. The Moot Hill is where the coronations of Scottish

kings took place. Macbeth, Robert the Bruce, David the 1st, all the big names of Scottish history are all crowned here, on the Moot Hill. And anyone who comes here can witness that and be part of that tradition. They can go up onto the Moot Hill with its fantastic folklore.

The name is also referred to as the Boot Hill, which relates to the soil that was essentially collected there. Soil having been brought in on the boots of all Scots who are coming to witness ceremonies at Scone, and having that soil pour into a mound, the same mound on which the King of Scots would stand to make his vows to the Scottish people. Meaning that that mound quite literally represents all of Scotland. So, I cannot speak about the collection without talking about the Moot Hill as it is such a special place.

Scone boasts 100 acres of woodlands and gardens to enjoy, can you tell us about the magical outdoor space Scone Gardens has to offer?

Most of the outdoor space was designed and laid out at the same time as the palace was refabricated, rather than built, in 1800. It was designed by JC Loudon who was a very famous landscape designer.

Perth has everything that you need for a visit to Scotland.

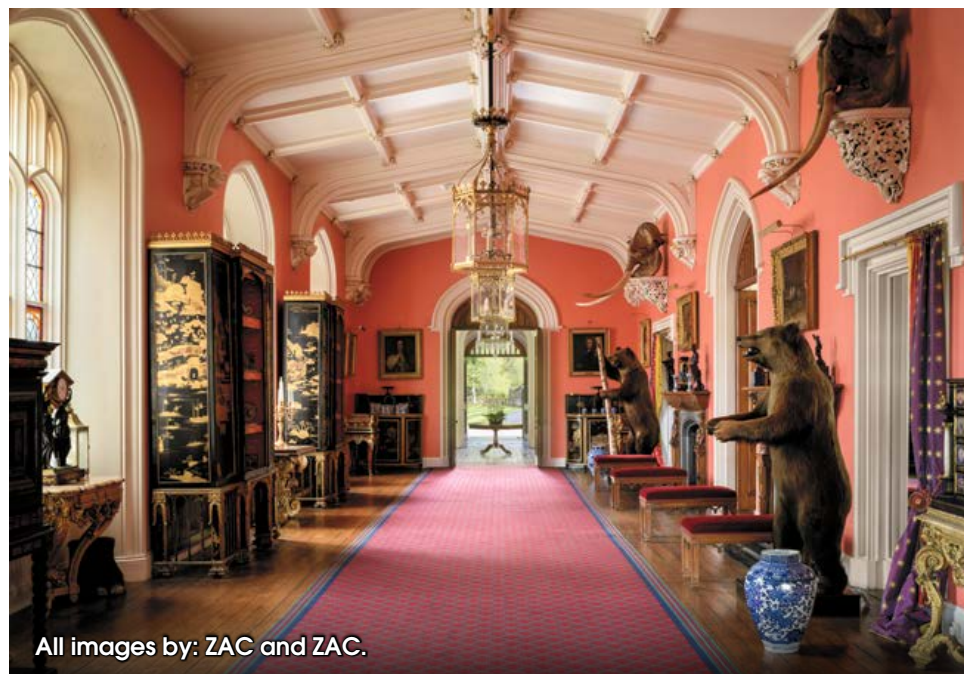
Trees are very important to us at Scone, we have some ancient old trees. We have trees in the garden that were planted by recent royalty, current royalty and some more ancient royalties. The oldest tree planted here was by James the 5th of Scotland, which makes it about 500 years old. One of the newer highlights is the newly opened walled garden, which for various reasons was in a very bad state of disrepair until recently, primarily because of the 1st and 2nd World Wars as it was turned over for making potatoes rather than beautiful flowers and plants. So essentially it had to be entirely recreated since then and our gardening team has done a fantastic job and it's still an ongoing project, which I think makes it quite fun for our visitors, especially returning visitors, because every time they come back they can see the next stage of the evolution.

My favourite thing in the gardens is the pinetum, the legacy of David Douglas son of Scone, who became a highly lauded botanist, and he was the one that put a name to a lot of plants in North America, including the famous Douglas Fir. Indeed, the first Douglas Fir to be planted successfully from a seed outside of North America is in the garden here. People quite literally come on pilgrimage just to visit that one tree, it is like we have a celebrity tree in the garden.

Interestingly guests to Scone Palace once had to be given a door handle to be able to access the rooms of the Palace, can you tell us about any of your favourite fascinating bits of history about the property people may not know about?



Queen Victoria's bedroom.



All images by: ZAC and ZAC.



Paws at the Palace.

I definitely think the door handles is up there because it's just so quaint and wonderful. I just love the idea of going to stay in the hotel where you are not given a room key, you are given a door handle, and you must wander around with that in your pocket. Another thing like that, which is quite fun, is we have a loo which is called the poodle loo. My great grandmother was obsessed with dogs and the wallpaper has poodles on it. And it was not just the wallpaper, there are teddy bears, little China models, books, cards the whole thing is poodles. It is bonkers, but I think it speaks to our family and these places have to be family homes as well as museums.

People can stay at Scone Palace, can you tell us more?

Yes, not only can you do self-guided tours, but we have also got accommodation within the Palace as well. We have five-star self-catering accommodation for those who would like to come and visit, and I can personally attest to how wonderful that accommodation is because that's where I stayed during the first lockdown with my then fiancé. During Covid we isolated ourselves in the Balvaird Wing, which is the most comfortable place to stay in the Palace. So, you can really enhance your trip and come and stay in the Palace, which is something pretty special.

Scone Palace has been in your family for over 400 years. The upkeep of this property must be quite a challenge. How do you manage to balance the property as both an important part of Scotland's heritage but also as a modern-day business enterprise?

It is very challenging and there's no shying away from that and you have to approach things now as a business, I think you could get away with not doing that 50 years ago, but now you really need to approach things as a commercial concern and it is greatly challenging.

We are trying to interact more with the local community here. That will be a big sea change that will happen in the coming years for us, because currently we are a pay to play venue. And we are going to be redeveloping our stable block to mean that you don't have to pay to play, you will be able to visit the stable block and have a nice coffee and a bite to eat, and look at the various shops there without paying to enter the grounds and to enjoy the historic side of it. So, there is a big change on the way there for us,



Scone Palace from above.

which is very exciting, although a little bit daunting. But again, this speaks to that challenge of everything is about making our business sustainable and our family being at Scone for the future. Whatever we can do to achieve that, we will.

Scone Palace not only offers visitors a chance to immerse themselves in Scottish history and stunning gardens, but the Palace also offers a fantastic array of events held on the grounds for people to enjoy. Can you tell us about some the events you host and why it is so important for a historic property to offer these diverse range of events for the public?

Yes, there is lots happening here at Scone year-round. We have events such as Paws at the Palace which is our dog specific event. Our family follows in the steps of my great grandmother and loves dogs. We had over 1,000 dogs last year, which is a lot of dogs to have on the lawn.

And there are other events, for example we just had the Garden Fair, which is like the Chelsea Flower Show of Scotland. Which is in its third year and extremely popular already and on its way to being an established gardening event. Next up for us is The GWCT Scottish Game Fair, which is a celebration of the Scottish outdoors.

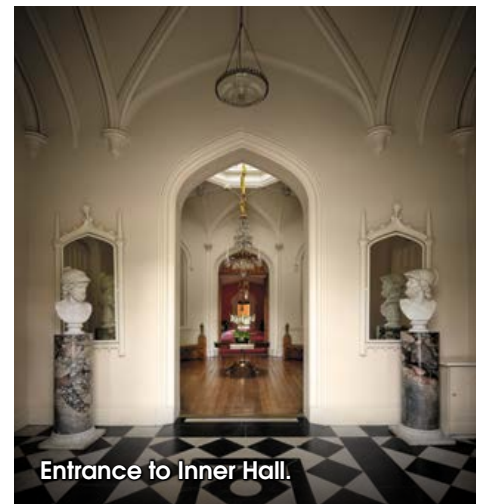
Otherwise, there is nearly always something happening, an event of some sort, or works of some sort. We have Christmas tours where we do up the palace to look particularly Christmasy and that is pretty magical. We really are quite incredibly busy and there are always things going on. We do not really have a quiet time, the only time it is a bit quieter is January, the team here roll their sleeves up as we do not really have a down month. We keep busy here making ends meet and these types of events help us to maximise profits to keep things running.

And finally, Perthshire is full of incredible outdoor spaces and is known as "Big Tree Country". Can you tell us any parts of Perthshire that you love to visit and why?



Lord Stormont.

That is a very good question, I would say it is one of the walking routes in the area. We are blessed where we are. We are an hour from Edinburgh and all the city life, and we are also less than an hour from some very wild areas. So, we can access a lot of different things very easily. Whether it is nice hiking routes, walking routes, kayaking and things like that. That is all very easily done from here, so I cherish that element of where we live. Perth has everything that you need for a visit to Scotland. It is within striking distance of whatever you want, if it is castles we can do that, if it's whisky we can do that very well and if it's hiking, bicycling, or golf, everything is on the menu here. It is also a great base for day trips such as St Andrews or Edinburgh, so in terms of a hub and spoke visit strategy Perth is perfect.



Entrance to Inner Hall.

Scone Palace is located one mile from Perth city centre. For details see: www.scone-palace.co.uk.



State Dining Room.

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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 - John Logie Baird transmitted first colour television. 1928



3 - Members of Orkney Islands Council, a Council area of Scotland, vote 15-6 in favour of investigating alternative methods of government that includes the potential to become a crown dependency of the UK or a self-governing territory of Norway. 2023

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 - King James III born at Stirling. 1451

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

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



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

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

13 - King Alexander III crowned at Scone. 1249

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

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

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



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

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

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

16 - 13th Commonwealth Games opened in Edinburgh. 1970

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 - Charles Edward Stuart landed on Eriskay at the start of the 1745 campaign. July 24 1567 - Mary Queen of Scots abdicated and the young James VI acceded to Scottish throne. The Earl of Mar was appointed regent. 1745

23 - The 2014 Commonwealth Games opened in Glasgow. 2014

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



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

25 - King James I born. 1394

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

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

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

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



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

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

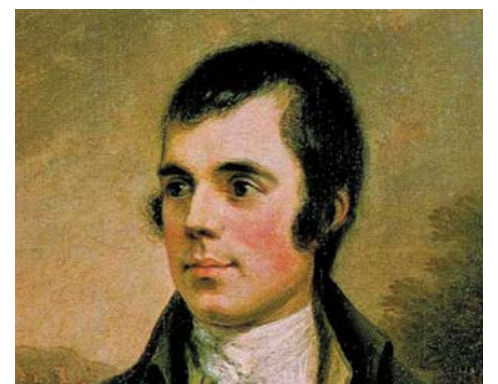
29 - Mary, Queen of Scots, married Lord Darnley, in a Catholic wedding. 1565

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

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

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

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



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

31 - Cigarette advertising banned on television in Britain. 1965

Virtual reality brings historic Edinburgh cityscape to life



Conservator Amanda Dodd makes repairs to one of the panoramas on display: Henry Aston Barker's Panorama of Constantinople.

Two hundred years ago the first virtual-reality experiences were born in Edinburgh, not from digital technologies, but from the mastery of painted perspective, the control of space and light and an understanding of the psychology of human perception. The world's first panorama, a dramatic Edinburgh cityscape dating back to 1788, is on display in a free public exhibition in Edinburgh. In a 21st century twist, viewers will get to experience the painting using a virtual reality headset, bringing the Georgian skyline to life with immersive techniques.

The Barker Panorama of Edinburgh from Calton Hill is rarely on public show and is just one of the pieces in the exhibition *Panoramas: The World in 360°*. The work spans more than three metres and offers a 360-degree vantage of the city with the Pentlands and the Forth in the distance.

The University of Edinburgh Library show includes a viewing rotunda, allowing visitors to appreciate the full scope of the innovative cylindrical paintings. Artist Robert Barker, originally from Ireland, first created his panorama with the help of his son, Henry Aston Barker, and was granted a patent for his invention of "an entire view of any country or situation as it appears...so as to make observers feel as if really on the very spot."

The Barkers went on to form a company and showed their works at a purpose-built rotunda in London London's Leicester Square which created a sensation in the early 1790s and, over a span of 70 years, showed scenes from London to New Zealand that were so realistic they reportedly made Queen Charlotte "feel sea-sick".

Exciting moment in the city's urban history

Exhibition organisers say the Barker panorama captures an exciting moment in the city's urban history as it shows the first gridded streets that would form the planned Georgian New Town, alongside its medieval Old Town. Amongst the other historic gems on show are a celebrated print of Constantinople, and the royal patent awarded to Robert Barker by King George III in 1787. The exhibition is now open at the University of Edinburgh Library on George Square. It will run until the end of September and forms part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August.

Elizabeth Quarmby Lawrence, Rare Books and Literary Collections Curator at the University of Edinburgh Library, said: "The panorama was astonishing to its original audiences, who were often overcome by the realism of the experience. We are hoping that this exhibition will capture a little of the original magic, and make it easier to imagine seeing it through their eyes."

The exhibition explores the panorama's history and gives visitors a chance to taste the experience of its very first visitors. Zita Takacs, University of Edinburgh student and uCreate Makerspace Student Technician, added: "Smartphones have made panoramas easy for us all to capture and to share but they were really cutting-edge at the time of invention. I hope that virtual reality will inject the sense of immersion into the painting that was felt by viewers in the 18th century."

Taking it slow in Perthshire

A video on 'cottagecore' in Perthshire by one of the world's top BookTok creators was among VisitScotland's top performing collaborations.

Jack Edwards, who has more than a million subscribers on YouTube and a massive global following on TikTok, collaborated with the national tourism organisation on a trip to Scotland last year. Edwards is one of most influential creators in the BookTok community. BookTok is the name given to the social media trend on TikTok where book lovers share and discuss their favourite authors and stories. On his trip, which has been viewed more than 300,000 times on video sharing platform, YouTube, Edwards is seen arriving in Edinburgh by train before staying at Guardswell Farm, a 150-acre grassland farm on a hillside between Abernethy and Kinross in Perthshire.

Cottagecore is the name of a trend that idealises rural life and slow living. It is hoped the video will inspire viewers to explore Scotland at a slower pace, as part of VisitScotland's promotion of responsible tourism, while also tapping into the agritourism trend. Caroline Warburton, Destination Development Director at VisitScotland, said: "Slow tourism is hugely important as we move towards a more sustainable tourism destination. It encourages visitors to stay longer and take time to explore a region in-depth, to the benefit of both the environment and local communities."

New initiative for Robert Burns visitors



There will be opportunities to step inside the Robert Burns mausoleum throughout the summer in a new initiative by Dumfries and Galloway Council museums. Until September, museum attendants from Burns House in Dumfries will be at the mausoleum in St Michael's kirkyard at 11.15am and 2.15pm from Mondays to Saturdays to let visitors visit the interior of this memorial.

Though Burns was a famous poet and songwriter, he was buried in a simple grave in St Michael's churchyard in 1796, which visitors struggled to find. The Bard's close friend John Syme organised a committee to build a mausoleum that they felt would be more fitting for Burns' legacy. Friends and admirers of his work gave donations to fund this grand building where Burns was reburied in 1815.

The white structure with its green copper dome now stands out clearly among the many elaborate sandstone memorials in the churchyard. Vice Chair of Communities Committee, Councillor Jackie McCamon, added: "There are lots of fascinating stories around Burns' funeral, the mausoleum and the wider churchyard. The museum team is passionate about this history and are looking forward to sharing this with more visitors throughout the summer." The outside of the mausoleum can be viewed at any time and there is an information panel telling its story. Robert Burns House where the poet spent the last years of his life and where he died is just a short walk away. The house has displays of original manuscripts and artefacts that belonged to Burns. The house and mausoleum are both free to visit.

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Salmon Fishcakes

Ingredients:

225g/8 oz. salmon fillets
 450g/1 lb. potatoes, cooked then mashed
 2 tablespoonfuls finely chopped onions or spring onions (scallions)
 2 tablespoonfuls parsley, optional
 Grated rind and juice of ½ a lemon
 1 egg, well beaten
 2 tablespoonfuls plain flour
 Salt and pepper, to taste
 25g/1 oz. butter
 2 tablespoonfuls olive oil

Method:

Steam the salmon for 10 to 12 minutes until cooked. Put in a mixing bowl, flake,

and remove any bones. Allow to cool, then add all the mashed potato, onions, parsley and lemon (use the rest for lemon wedge garnish), and mix them all in together. Stir in the beaten egg, and season to taste. Put the flour (seasoned with salt and pepper) on a plate and, as you make each cake, roll it in the flour. Heat the butter and oil in a large frying-pan. Fry the cakes on each side until golden. Serve with lemon wedges and salad. Serves up to 8.

Highland Salad

Ingredients:

1 x 300g/10½oz. sirloin or fillet steak
 salt and freshly ground black pepper
 25ml/1fl oz. rapeseed oil
 1 red chilli, finely chopped
 1 tbsp. palm sugar
 2 garlic cloves, sliced
 2 tbsp. fresh coriander, plus extra for the salad

2 tbsp. fresh mint
 1 tsp. fish sauce
 1 tbsp. soy sauce
 1 lime, juice and zest
 1 round lettuce
 50g/1¾ oz. sugar-snap peas, halved
 6 radishes, sliced

Method:

Preheat a barbecue or griddle pan to hot. Season the steak with lots of black pepper, drizzle with oil and place onto a hot barbecue or griddle pan for five minutes, turning half-way through. To make the dressing, put the chilli, palm sugar, garlic and a teaspoon of salt into a pestle and mortar. Grind for 1-2 minutes, then add the coriander and mint and grind for another minute. Mix in the fish sauce, soy sauce, lime juice and zest. Cut the lettuce into six wedges and place in a bowl. Top with the sugar-snap peas, radishes and a few coriander leaves. Pour the dressing over the salad and toss to coat. Slice the beef and lay it on top of the salad and enjoy.

Clapshot

Ingredients:

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

Method:

Put the vegetables in a pan of cold salted water, then cover and bring to the boil. Simmer for 15 to 20 minutes, depending on the size, until tender, then drain. Return them to the pan then cover and shake the pan over a very low heat to dry them off completely. Remember, turnips are rather watery, so unless you dry them off well the mixture will end up sloppy. Mash the vegetables with the butter or chipping, then add the salt and pepper to taste, and stir in the chives. Serve piping hot. Serves 4-6.

Scottish Summer Dessert

Ingredients:

500g/1lb. of fresh soft fruit (strawberries, raspberries, cherries, brambles). There are no fixed proportions, but it works best if half of the fruit consists of berries.
 30ml/1 fl. oz. water
 150g/5oz. or ¾ US cup of caster (or fine granulated) sugar
 Slices of medium or thin white bread with the all the crusts removed. Use a light, airy variety if possible.

Method:

Line the base and the sides of a 1½ pint or 900ml. pudding basin with a layer of bread. Wash and trim the fruit (removing any stones or stalks) and cut berries in half. Put the water and sugar in a pan and bring to the boil. Add the fruit with the softest (raspberries/brambles) last. Cook only briefly - the fruit should still retain its shape. Drain off the syrup and retain for later. Spoon the fruit into the bowl which has been lined with bread. Add a little of the retained syrup. Place more bread to cover the top of the bowl. Place a saucer on top and apply pressure. Keep the bowl and the juice in a refrigerator overnight. Loosen

with a palette knife and turn out onto a large bowl. Pour the rest of the syrup over it. Cut into wedges and serve with lightly whipped double cream/whipping cream.

Tablet



Ingredients:

12g/4 ½ oz. unsalted butter
 1 kg/2 ¼ lb. golden granulated sugar
 300ml/10 fl. oz. full-fat milk
 Pinch of salt
 200g/7 oz. tin of condensed milk
 1 teaspoonful pure vanilla essence

Method:

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

Hebridean Sunset

Ingredients:

1 shot Scotch whisky
 1 shot Grand Marnier
 ½ shot Cointreau
 ½ shot lemon juice
 1½ shots orange juice
 Dash of Grenadine
 Twist of orange

Method:

Fill glass with cubed ice. Prepare Orange Twist. Fill shaker with ice (metal section). Put orange juice, lemon juice, grenadine in shaker (glass section). Add Scotch whisky, Grand Marnier & Cointreau to shaker (glass section). Shake for 1 minute. Strain into glass. Squeeze orange oil from twist over drink and rub round rim of glass. Put orange twist into glass and place straw next to it and serve.



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

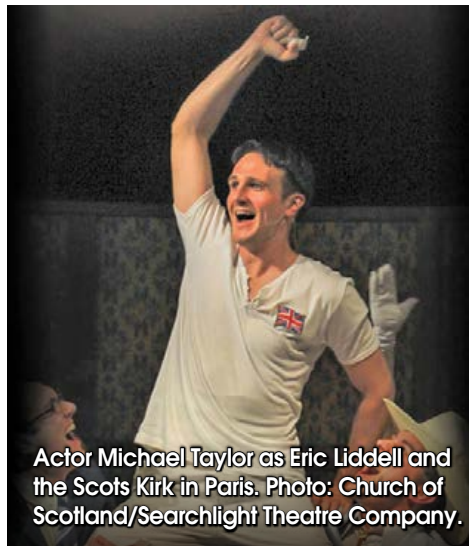
Eric Liddell. The design takes inspiration from the elements of the Dalziel tartan (connected to the Liddell name).

The numbers 100 and 24 are included in the threadcount to reference the centenary of his 1924 Paris Olympic success. Colours: yellow, representing gold, represents his gold medal; blue is for Scotland; navy blue for Scottish Rugby and Edinburgh University; red for China; green is intended to represent his family holidays at Carcant and his love of field sports and grey is intended to represent the pain of separation, internment and loss in his life.

This tartan (SRT reference: 13902) was designed by Kinloch Anderson Ltd. and registered in May, 2023.

This tartan has been created to celebrate the life, sporting and community achievements of one of Scotland's iconic figures,

Chariots of Fire story brought to life in Paris



Actor Michael Taylor as Eric Liddell and the Scots Kirk in Paris. Photo: Church of Scotland/Searchlight Theatre Company.

The inspiring story of a Scottish athlete who refused to run on Sundays is being brought to life at the Scots Kirk in Paris. Eric Liddell won a gold medal in the 400m at the 1924 Olympic Games in the French capital – the triumph depicted in the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*. He refused to run in the heats of his favourite race, the 100m, because they were held on a Sunday – a day he believed is set aside by God as special and not for work – and chose to preach in the Scots Kirk instead. To mark the centenary of his gold medal victory, the congregation recently hosted two performances of *Eric Liddell – the Chariot of Fire*.

Produced by the Searchlight Theatre Company, the synopsis of the four person play states: “Set in Paris, during the Olympic Games of 1924, we see the struggles Eric Liddell faces around him in staying true to his principles. When given the chance to become the fastest man in the world, will his convictions buckle? Should he stay true to his beliefs? And can he bring home a medal for King and country?” One reviewer described the play as an “exploration of determination, ambition and faith”.

The Flying Scotsman

Eric Liddell was born in 1902 in Tientsin (now Tianjin) in northern China. His Scottish parents were Christian missionaries with the London Mission Society and he and his elder brother, Rob, went to a boarding school in London. He saw his parents and sister when they returned to the family home in Edinburgh and in 1920 he enrolled in the University of Edinburgh to study pure science.

Known as the “Flying Scotsman”, the athlete broke the world record three times before winning the 400m final, which was held on a week day. Valerie Prieur, session clerk at the Scots Kirk, said: “The play is being performed as part of our Eric Liddell commemorations and we are very privileged to have Searchlight bring it here. It covers Mr Liddell’s Olympic Games period, his decision not to run in heats for his favourite race the 100m because they were held on a Sunday, his preaching at the Scots Kirk on the 6th and 13th of July 1924 and his subsequent gold in the 400m.”

The play was created and first performed in 2012 to coincide with the Olympic Games in London and in later

years was toured in the USA, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Actor Michael Taylor who played the role of Eric Liddell said: “The play has been on ice for some years but when we realised that the Olympics were going back to Paris, 100 years after they were last held there, we thought the chance to bring this story to life again, in a place that played a pivotal but often overlooked role in this story, is really special. The Scots Kirk is such a significant part of it because that is where he went on a Sunday morning, not knowing whether or not if he was going to be going home from the Olympics with nothing to show for it other than making a stand for God.”

The Eric Liddell 100

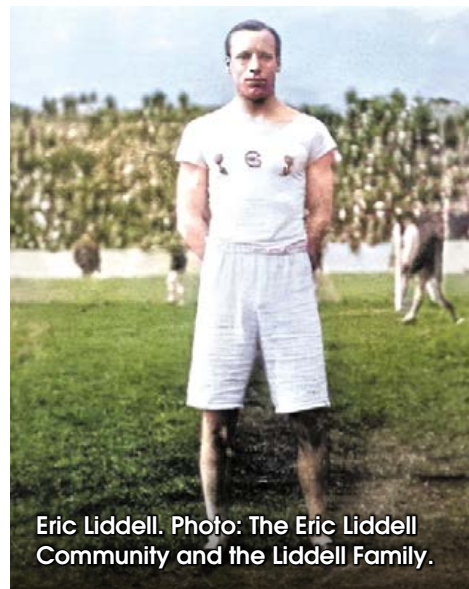
Mr Liddell graduated from the University of Edinburgh after the 1924 Paris Olympics, went on to study Theology for a year after which he returned to Tientsin to work as a missionary with the London Missionary Society. He taught science at the Anglo-Chinese college and later decided to become an evangelist in rural China, travelling by foot and bicycle.

Following the Japanese invasion of China and the outbreak of the Second World War, Mr Liddell’s pregnant wife and their two children left for the safety of Canada, her birth country, but he decided to stay. He was later classified as an enemy national and sent to the prison camp at Weishien in 1943. Mr Liddell took on a leadership role to meet prisoners’ physical and spiritual needs – preaching sermons and teaching hymns. Tragically, he developed an inoperable brain tumour and died in the camp in February 1945.

A one man play covering Mr Liddell’s life after the Olympic Games is being staged at the Scots Kirk on 6 July. The Eric Liddell 100 is a programme of educational, sporting and cultural events celebrating Liddell’s legacy and aiming to bring his achievements to life for new generations.

The Paris 2024 Games will be the biggest sporting event organised in France and will take place from 26 July to 11 August.

The Eric Liddell 100 is a programme celebrates one of Scotland’s iconic figures. Eric Liddell’s legacy is being celebrated in 2024, the centenary of Eric Liddell’s historic success at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris. For more information see: www.ericliddell.org/the-eric-liddell-100



Eric Liddell. Photo: The Eric Liddell Community and the Liddell Family.



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Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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

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

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

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

CHISHOLM

Clan Chisholm Society of Australia Inc

Membership is invited from Clan Chisholm descendants of all spellings of the name (Chisholm, Chisolm, Chism, Chisum, Chisam, etc)

Contact: Kim Polley OAM
PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301
Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com
www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/AUSmembership.php

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

Proudly affiliated with Clan Donald Australia, Victorian Scottish Union and Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group.
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CLAN DONALD VICTORIA
President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald
Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com

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CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE
Hon Chief: Mr Lindsay McDonald
Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

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

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

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts
Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com
Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/>
482236358590288

CLAN BELL

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

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



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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: Ih100@tpg.com.au

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

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
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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 the name Davidson or one of the Septs shown on the member application form available from the Clan's Facebook Group link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/360160657504253/> or by contacting the Hon. Secretary:

Dennis Hill, PO Box 519
Baulkham Hills NSW 1755
E:dhill1@bigpond.net.au, P: 0431 527 662

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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

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

CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

Est: 1822 in Edinburgh Scotland
Patron: Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor Bt
Membership enquiries for USA: usa@clangregor.com

Rest of the World:
membership@clangregor.com
Web: www.clangregor.com

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clandonald.com.au
clandonaldnsw.au@gmail.com

We are a family of many names, come & join your family!

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

Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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

PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002
Email: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com
Web: www.clangregor.com
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Celebrates those who trace their ancestry to Clan Cameron or are connected to the Clan through marriage or partnership or are from families acknowledged as Septs of Clan Cameron.

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

Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald
Ph: 0412 090990
Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.clandonaldqld.org
ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.
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Jim Dougherty - Clan President welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family.

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

American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909 Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

Gregor Grier MacAdams MacNish Magruder McGehee Gregory King Peter Fletcher Gregg Lecky Black and many others

Contact our registrar: **Jeanne P. Lehr**
11 Ballas Crt.
St. Louis, MO 63131-3038
Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org
website: www.acgsus.org

CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

HEREDITARY CHIEF AND SOCIETY PATRON
Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains
Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers

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Clan Carruthers Society - International
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www.clancarrutherssociety.org
clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

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.

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Clan Hamilton Society

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

Clan Hay

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

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

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Visit our website
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www.clanmackenzie.org.au

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling) and descendants. **Septs:** Askey, Beaton, Bethune, Caskie, Harold, Lewis, MacAndie, MacAskill, MacAulay, MacCabe, MacCaig, MacCaskey, MacClure, MacCorkill, MacCrimmon, MacGillechallum, MacHaigh, MacRaid, MacWilliam, Norie, Norman, Tolmie, Williamson

- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - Rhonda MacLeod 0411 227 330
- South Australia - Alex MacLeod 08 8327 0925
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334

Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

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

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Purposes of the Society

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

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

www.clanhendersonsociety.com

McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

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

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president@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org

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membership@clanhope.org
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commissioner4scotland@clanhope.org
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Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

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

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

Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide

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

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HEREDITARY CHIEF AND PATRON

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Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Invites anyone interested in our Clan and its ancestral heritage to contact us. Various Clan names include McPhee, MacFee, Macfie, McAfee, Fee, Phee, McDuffy, Duffy, McCathie and many more.

For more information please email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au, visit us at facebook.com/clanmacfieaustralia or our website: <https://clanmacfie.com.au>

Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President
President@clanmaclarenna.org

Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

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

21 Coopers Avenue, Leabrook, South Australia 5068
Phone: 08 833 33990
Email: mcolmjmcneil@outlook.com

Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron
Alexander H.R. Irvine of Drum,
27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name
Mary Erwin, Chairman
155 Hattaway Road, Calhoun, LA, 71225
mary.erwin@clanirwin.org
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invites membership from Sept names refer to Web Site www.clanlamontaustralia.com

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

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

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

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

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

Clan MacLellan

Kevin S Gates
Treasurer
2610 Kuykendall Dr.
Arlington, TX
76001-6726
Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail
of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac
Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson
55 Arcadia Ave
GYMEA BAY NSW 2227
www.clanmacnicol.org



Clan Macpherson Association

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

Africa. Derek Macpherson
African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +265 999 512 620

Canada. Denise Lagundzin
Canada.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +1 519 507 4465

Europe. Bodo Bernd Schmitz
Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +0152 538 19 355

Scotland & Northern Ireland. Moray G Cattanach
SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
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England & Wales. William Macpherson
EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +44 7877 363 507

New Zealand. Tony McPherson
NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +64 274 587 812

USA. Dave McPherson
UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +1 408 781 5199

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



Clan Morrison Society of North America

Clann MhicGilleMhoire: Morrison + Gilmore + Brieve.

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



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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



THE AMERICAN-SCOTTISH FOUNDATION, INC.

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

www.americanscottishfoundation.org

The American-Scottish Foundation



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: clanmacraeastnz@gmail.com

NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth
email: sue.treg1@gmail.com



Discover Your Nesbitt/Nisbet Ancestry

ibydeit.org
nesbittnisbet.org.uk



Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary

clansutherlandsocietyaustralia@gmail.com
<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus>
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
www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com



Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

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

www.macrae.org

Need more info? Contact:
Bruce McRae, President
720-793-7530
brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com



OLIPHANT CLAN & FAMILY ASSOCIATION of North America

The only home for all Clan Oliphant in the Americas.

Oliphant - Olyphant - Oliphint
Olifant - Olifent and all descended

ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com
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
Website: www.ClanSutherland.org



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Join our 90+ members in celebrating your Scottish Heritage while promoting your growth and success

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Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada



Clan Maitland Society


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

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

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

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

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



Clan Pollock

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

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



YOUNG

Youngs of Scotland in Australia

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

Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot
E: membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au
www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/
<https://clanyoungsociety.com/australia>



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in Newcastle, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas.

Members and interested people are welcome to attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night, St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.

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



Clan Muirhead Society

A NON-PROF. CORP.

Muirhead, Muirbode, Morehead, Moorhead and all Variant Names

www.clanmuirhead.com

Rev. Ref. Chev. Raymond L. Morehead, GOTT, FSA Scot,
Chief Officer Elect Clan Muirhead Society

Email: raymondktj@msn.com or raymond@clanmuirhead.com



Clan Ross in Australia

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

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



YOUNGS OF SCOTLAND

Membership inquiries:
Ms. Laura Young,
33 McKeen Street,
Jarvis, Ontario,
Canada N0A 1J0

4scottishthistles@gmail.com



The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

For information please contact
members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



CLAN MUNRO ASSOCIATION

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

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

BECOME A MEMBER, CONTACT RAY MUNRO

munro.ray@hotmail.com
0410 663 760




Clan Ross America

Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.

Michael Ross, President
Nancy Ross-Anderson, VP Membership
18865 Cooper Street, Apple Valley, CA92308
membership@clanross.org
info@clanross.org

www.clanross.org



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

Email: clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com

'Wardlaw ivermair!'
www.clanwardlaw.com
Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books



Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

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

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

Latest search for the Loch Ness Monster concludes with unexplainable noise captured on hydrophone and potential sighting



Possible Nessie sighting.



On board Deepsan.

The search took place on the 90th anniversary of the first organised surface watch of Loch Ness, Sir Edward Mountain's expedition with a team of 20 volunteers named the 'Watchers of the Monster'.

The Loch Ness Centre returned with an even bigger search of Loch Ness as it continues its goal of uncovering the loch's mysteries. The Quest, which took place on Thursday 30th May to Sunday 2nd June, saw hundreds of budding monster hunters involved in scouring the 23-mile-long loch

for unusual activity, both in person and online. Using the hydrophone to listen for mysterious sounds echoing from the depths of the loch, Alan McKenna from Loch Ness Exploration captured a unique noise to be analysed, a rhythmic pulsing that lasted about 10 seconds. Alan will now isolate the noise in attempt to identify the source of the fascinating sound that he has never heard before. Evelyn Murphy, age 11, also captured a potential sighting with an intriguing photo, showing a clear break in the water made by an unidentified object or creature.

The Quest took place on the 90th anniversary of the pioneering adventurer Sir Edward Mountain and his team of twenty becoming the first 'Watchers of the Monster'. Over the 4 days, as well as the search, a number of other celebratory events took place.

The centre hosted a live debate with Alan McKenna from Loch Ness Exploration, Roland Watson, a renowned Loch Ness writer, and eyewitness Richard White, which was held in-person and screened virtually to participants from around the world. The panel told gripping stories, discussed their ongoing research, and dissected eyewitness accounts, all while debating the existence of the elusive monster.

The mysteries beneath the loch

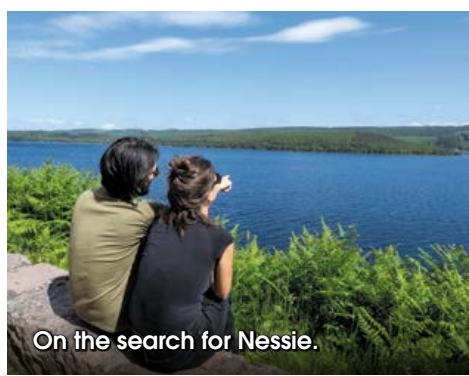
Other volunteers explored the depths of the world-famous loch with *Deepsan* Captain, Alistair Matheson, the Skipper for the Loch Ness Project. Monster hunters joined Alistair and Alan McKenna for an extended excursion, utilising a 60-foot hydrophone to listen for mysterious sounds echoing from the depths of the loch.

Ashley Range, a volunteer who travelled from Washington State to take part in The Quest, said, "I've been obsessed with Scotland and Nessie my whole life, and to be here is just a dream. To be on an actual expedition and out on *Deepsan* exploring Loch Ness is a dream come true. I definitely believe in Nessie. Although a lot of the evidence can be explained, there is a lot out there that is unexplainable. It's been an incredible trip!"

Paul Nixon, General Manager of The Loch Ness Centre, said, "The excitement this weekend has proven that intrigue surrounding Loch Ness and its monster is still very much alive. We all want the same thing, to discover the mysteries of the natural phenomena beneath the loch. We've been delighted to welcome so many people to The Loch Ness Centre for hour-long centre tours and *Deepsan* boat trips across the weekend. After another successful The Quest Weekend, we're more determined than ever to continue our search for answers."

Looking ahead, The Loch Ness Centre are pleased to announce an upcoming collaboration with a prestigious Scottish university to conduct pioneering research on Loch Ness. This ground-breaking study will be using technology that has never been used on this iconic body of water. Next year's Quest Weekend is taking place on Thursday 22nd to Sunday 25th May 2025.

For more details see:
www.lochness.com/thequest



On the search for Nessie.

Aug 31 Sept 1

Celebrating Celtic culture in the Canadian Rockies!

CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES

CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES
SAT AUG 31, 9 AM - 4 PM | SUN SEPT 1, 8 AM - 5 PM

TASTE OF THE HIGHLANDS
SATURDAY, AUG 31, 5 - 9 PM

THE CANMORE CEILIDH
SUNDAY, SEPT 1, 6 - 11 PM

See all information at: canmorehighlandgames.ca

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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

Canada

JULY 2024

Happy Canada Day

1, Nationwide

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

Embroided Highland Games

1, Embro, ON

Ontario's oldest Highland Games, a day of family fun with a Scottish flare at Embro Zorra Community Centre, 355644 35th Line. Info: www.zorradoniansociety.ca/embro-highland-games

Gathering of the Clans

1, Pugwash, NS

Celebrate Canada Day with a touch of Scotland. Info: www.pugwashvillage.com/index.php/festivals-and-events/gathering-of-the-clans

Penticton Scottish Festival

5-6, Penticton, BC

Scottish entertainment and celebration at King's Park. Info: www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca

Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games

5-7, Kincardine, ON

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

Almonte Celfest

5-7, Almonte, ON

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

Antigonish Highland Games

7-14, Antigonish, NS

A full program of Scottish events, competitions and celebrations-the longest running Highland Games in North America. Info: www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca

Kamloops Highland Games

13, Kamloops, BC

Take in all the sights and sounds of a traditional Highland games. This annual festival will be the host to many activities including Scottish heavy athletics, highland dance, music and more at Albert McGowan Park, 2025 Summit Dr. Info: www.kamloopshighlandgames.org

Cambridge Scottish Festival

19-20, Cambridge, ON, Canada

Celebrating Scottish culture and heritage at Churchill Park. Info: www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca

Orillia Scottish Festival

19-21, Orillia, ON

Celebrating Scottish culture & heritage at Couchiching Beach Park. Info: www.scottishfestival.ca

Sherwood Park Highland Gathering

20-21, Sherwood Park, AB

The event consists of piping and drumming competitions, massed band performances, Highland Dance competitions, and Scottish heavy games, held on the Salisbury High School Athletic Fields in Broadmoor Lake Park. Info: www.sphg.ca

New Brunswick Highland Games

26-28, Fredericton, NB

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

Uxbridge Scottish Festival

27, Uxbridge, ON

A celebration of Scotland at Elgin Park. Info: www.uxbridgescottishfestival.com

AUGUST 2024

75th Glengarry Highland Games

2-3, Maxville, ON

One of Canada's top Scottish events and including the North American Pipe Band Championships. Witness an outstanding display of music, dance, sports, fiddling, pageantry, and tradition. Info: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

Montreal Highland Games

4, Montréal, QC

Every year, the Games brings together Montrealer's of all backgrounds to celebrate Scottish sport, music and culture at Douglas Hospital. A great family fun day out. Info: www.montrealhighlandgames.com

Clan MacAulay International Gathering

7-10, Cape Breton, NS

We welcome Macaulay's of all spellings and friends, and friends of friends, to join us at our 2024 International Gathering in Baddeck. Meet Macaulay's and friends from around the world. Info: www.clanmacaulay.org.uk/2024-clan-gathering-announcement

Fergus Scottish Festival

9-11, Fergus, ON

An annual three-day event that celebrates local Scottish heritage and features world-renowned talent and entertainment. Featuring: Heavy Events Competitions, Pipe Band Competitions, Highland Dancers, over 50 Clans & Heritage Village, Whisky Tasting, McKiddie's Centre, Celtic musicians and international vendors featuring Scottish wares and more. Info: www.fergusscottishfestival.com

Goderich Celtic Roots Festival

9-11, Goderich, ON

An annual celebration of the music, craft, and culture of the seven Celtic nations, at Lions' Harbour Park on the shores of Lake Huron. Info: www.celticfestival.ca

Margaree Highland Games

10-11, Margaree, NS

Hosted in the beautiful Margaree River Valley - a meeting place of Scottish, Irish and Acadian cultures - the games blend traditional heavy events with bag piping & highland dancing, running races, children's games and more. Info: www.margareehighlandgames.com

National Capital Highland Games

17, Ottawa, ON

Scottish events such as pipe bands, dancing and athletics at Rideau Carleton Raceway Casino 4837 Albion Road South. Info: www.nationalcapitalhighlandgames.com

North Lanark Highland Games

24, Almonte, ON

A one-day outdoor festival in picturesque Almonte, featuring Scottish Dance, Heavyweight Athletic competitions, Pipes and Drums, vendors, FREE kid's admission and activities including Mini-Highland Games. Info: www.almontehighlandgames.com

Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival

24, Sedgewick, AB

A fun filled day of Highland festivities such as piping, drumming, Highland dancing, food, music, artisan vendors, and more. Info: www.flagstaffscottishclub.com

Canmore Highland Games

31-Sep 1, Canmore, AB

A celebration of Celtic culture and tradition in the beautiful Rockies, on Labour Day Weekend. Info: www.canmorehighlandgames.ca

USA

JULY 2024

Happy Independence Day

4, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes our US readers a very Happy Independence Day. July 4th commemorates the Declaration of Independence, which is said to have been influenced by Scotland's Declaration of Arbroath.

School of Scottish Arts

5-11, Banner Elk, NC

The School of Scottish Arts is an iconic sleepaway camp for Highland Dancers to hone their skills with top instructors and leads directly up to the Grandfather Mountain Scottish Highland Games. This camp experience for young people was formerly engaged in the teaching and learning of many Scottish Arts disciplines, but currently is focused on the perpetuation of Scottish heritage through the dances of Scotland, at Lees-McRae College. Info: www.schoolofscottisharts.com

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming Summer School

7-12, Kutztown, PA

In small group classes, 1-on-1 lessons, and camp-wide seminars, students will receive instruction on the Great Highland Bagpipe and Scottish Snare Drum at Kutztown University. Info: <https://balmoralschoolofpiping.org/summer-piping-drumming-camps>

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

11-14, Linville, NC

Thousands of kilt-clad Scots make their way to MacRae Meadows for their annual gathering and games. Clans, pipe bands, entertainment, vendors and more-one of America's top Scottish events. Info: 828 733-1333 or www.gmnhg.org.

Payson Scottish Festival

12-13, Payson, UT

A celebration of Scottish culture at Memorial Park, free admission. Info: www.paysonscottishfestival.org

Saline Celtic Festival

12-13, Ann Arbor, MI

A family-oriented event with something for everyone at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds: 5055 Ann Arbor Saline Rd. Info: www.salineceltic.org

Robert Burns Commemorative Supper

13, Tulsa, OK

The Robert Burns Commemorative Supper is held by the Scottish Club of Tulsa (S.C.O.T.) in the fashion, honor and tradition of the first Burns Supper on July 21st of 1801. We endeavor to provide an experience that embraces the ceremony and the spirit of that august and auspicious event. The evening is divided into three parts with the Commemorative Supper being held as primary. The second part of the evening is a brief S.C.O.T. Ceremony of awards and distinction, followed by the Cèilidh. Info: www.scottishcluboftulsa.com

Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games

13, St. Paul, MN

A celebration of Scottish culture at Macalester College. Info: www.mnscottishfair.org

Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming Summer School

14-19, Edinboro, PA

In small group classes, 1-on-1 lessons, and camp-wide seminars, students will receive instruction on the Great Highland Bagpipe and Scottish Snare Drum at PennWest-Edinboro University. Info: <https://balmoralschoolofpiping.org/summer-piping-drumming-camps>

Maine Celtic Celebration

19-21, Belfast, ME

A family-oriented weekend celebrating the rich Celtic heritage, culture, and hospitality found along the Coast of Maine, at the Commons and at Steamboat Landing Park. Info: www.mainececticcelebration.com

Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering

27-28, Enumclaw, WA

Bringing Scotland to the Pacific Northwest for over 70 years through the skirl of the Pipes and Drums, the beauty of Highland Dancing, the brawn of Scottish athletics, and the sharing of clan history. Info: www.sshga.org

AUGUST 2024

North American Clan MacLeod Gathering 2024

1-3, Livonia, MI

The first Post Covid North American Gathering will take place at Livonia (near Detroit) . It will be centred at the Detroit Marriott and clansfolk will have a variety of activities on offer, including a Highland Games. Info: www.clanmacleodusa.org

St. Andrew's Society of Detroit Highland Games

2-3, Livonia, MI

Traditional Scottish Games at Greenmead Historical Village, 20501 Newburgh Rd. Info: www.highlandgames.com

Spokane Scottish Highland Games

3, Spokane, WA

Enjoy the traditional features of Scottish Highland Games, such as massed bands, pipe band exhibitions, individual piping, heavy athletics, and highland dancing at Spokane County Fair & Expo Center. Info: www.spokanehighlandgames.net

Mòd Chesapeake

3, Laurel, MD

At Mòd Chesapeake, attendees will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Gaelic language and song through a series of workshops tailored for both beginners and advanced learners. Led by experienced instructors, these workshops offer a unique avenue for participants to deepen their understanding of Gaelic culture and elevate their language skills, at St. Vincent Pallotti High School. Info: sgoilgaidhlig.org/mod-chesapeake.

Colorado Scottish Festival

3-4, Sedalia, CO

Pipe bands, Clans, Scottish dance, Celtic entertainment and more at Denver Polo Club, 6359 Airport Rd. Info: www.scottishgames.org

Sparta Celtic Festival

9-10, Sparta, MI

Highland Games, three stages filled with music and dancing, historical encampments, Scottish clans and more at Rogers Park, 152 N. State St. Info: www.spartacelticfest.org

Ohio Celtic Festival

9-11, Painesville Township, OH

A weekend of great music, Celtic magic and family fun at Lake County Fairgrounds. Info: www.ohiocelticfestival.com

Albany Scottish Festival & Highland Games

10, Albany, OR

Bringing Celtic culture to the Valley at Timber-Linn Park. Info: www.facebook.com/AlbanyScottishFestival

CNY Scottish Games

Syracuse, NY

Pipe band competition and Celtic activities at Long Branch Park on Onondaga Lake. Info: www.cnyscottishgames.org

Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering

17-18, Hamilton, MT

Continuous live music concerts on two stages, dancing, pipe bands and more at Daly Mansion. Info: www.bcg.org

Maggie: A New Musical @ The Goodspeed

23-October 20, East Haddam, CT

The American premiere of Maggie: A New Musical. A Scottish mother's unbreakable love for her three sons is tested in an inspirational new musical about family bonds and changing times. After suffering the unthinkable loss of her husband, Maggie must rely on her strength, sense of humor and fiercely loyal friends to protect her family from a harsh world. Featuring music by award-winning Scottish-Canadian songwriter and recording artist Johnny Reid with Matt Murray and Bob Foster. Info: www.maggiethemusical.com

Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival & Gathering of the Clans

23-24, Mayville, NY

A celebration of Celtic culture with Scottish clans, Celtic music, pipe bands and more at Mayville Lakeside Park. Info: www.96thhighlanders.com/festival/Festival.html

Wisconsin Highland Games

30-Sep 1, Waukesha, WI

Labor Day Weekend with Clans, Heavy events, Highland dance, pipe bands and more at Waukesha Expo Center. Info: www.wisconsinhighlandgames.org

Capital District Scottish Games

31, Altamont NY, United States

Pipe band and Highland dance competitions, Clans, Celtic entertainment, Scottish dogs and more at Altamont Fairgrounds, 129 Grand St. Info: www.scotgames.com

158th Scottish Highland Gathering and Games

31-Sep 1, Pleasanton, CA

A Bay Area tradition since 1866, California's largest Scottish Games celebrates the very best of Scottish competition, culture and entertainment for all the family to enjoy. Labor Day Weekend at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Info: www.thescottishgames.com

Virginia Scottish Games

31-Sep 1, The Plains, VA

A celebration of Scotland on Labour Day Weekend at 5089 Old Tavern Road. Info: www.vascottishgames.org

Scotland

JULY 2024

Clan MacLennan 2024 International Gathering

3-9, Strathpeffer

Clan MacLennan Scotland invite all MacLennan's, and MacLennan descendants, wherever you live, to start thinking about joining them for fun, family and friendship. Events will include the traditional "meet and greet", a Genealogy Day, a Clan Parliament, a formal dinner on the Saturday, a village hall ceilidh and a range of tours and other events. Info: www.clanmacleannan-worldwide.com/clan-macleannan-2024-gathering

Luss Highland Gathering

6, Luss

A range of entertainment including heavies, tug'o war and cycling and running races. Info: www.lusshighlandgames.co.uk

Forres Highland Games

Forres

A spectacular show of Scottish tradition, sport and culture with Highland Dancing, Track and Field, Heavy Events, Tug 'o' War, Solo Piping and many more disciplines on display at Grant Park. Info: www.forreshighlandgames.com

Robert the Bruce Heritage Day

11, Maybole, Ayrshire

Robert the Bruce led Scotland during the First War of Scottish Independence. He fought successfully during his reign to regain Scotland's place as an independent kingdom and is now revered in Scotland as a national hero. The 750th anniversary of his birth will be on 11 July 2024 and should be a cause of national hero. Info: www.bruce750.scot

Stonehaven Folk Festival

12-14, Stonehaven

Some of the best traditional and contemporary folk music, concerts, ceilidh, sessions, singarounds and workshops, plus the famous aqua ceilidh and world paper'n'comb championships. Info: www.stonehavenfolkfestival.co.uk/34th-stonehaven-folk-festival

City of Inverness Highland Games

13, Inverness

Traditional games with pipe bands, athletics, whisky, clans and more at Bught Park Pitches, Bught Rd. Info: www.invernesshighlandgames.com

Clan Gregor 2024 International Gathering

14-21, Scottish Highlands

Clan Gregor will be hosting a spectacular International Gathering and tour of the Scottish Highlands to celebrate the Society's 200th anniversary. You'll meet fellow MacGregors from Australia, Canada, Europe and the USA. Info: www.clanregregor.com/post/clanregorinternationalgathering

RSCDS Summer School 2024

14-August 11, St Andrews, Fife

With Scottish country dance classes for all ages and abilities including Junior Summer School and various social dancing programmes, there is something for everyone at RSCDS Summer School. Info: www.rscds.org/events

Inveraray Highland Games

16, Inveraray

Celebrate Scotland's rich culture and heritage with field and track events, piping, highland dancing competitions and heavyweight events on the grounds of Inveraray Castle. Info: www.inveraray-games.co.uk

HebCelt-Hebridean Celtic Festival

17-20, Isle of Lewis

HebCelt passionately protects and promotes its heritage, including the vibrant Gaelic and traditional music that is both part of its history and its contemporary life. It mixes the best local talent with leading Scottish, UK and world artists and brings together household names and emerging talent to provide a feast of music to appeal to all ages. Info: www.hebcelfest.com

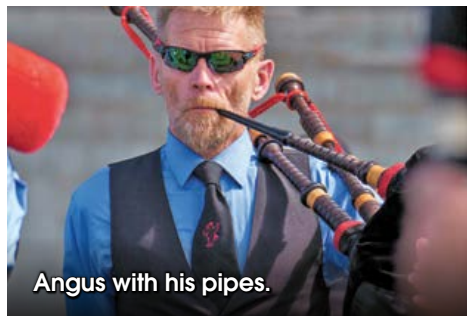
By: James Bartlett

Angus Smith – The Arctic Piper

Fairbanks, Alaska is home to the farthest north pipe band in the United States. The Red Hackle Pipe Band is celebrating 50 years as a band this year and amongst its members is a Scottish piper. Angus Smith grew up in Perthshire and played for the Black Watch, he also worked in the stunning Scottish Highlands before settling in wild Alaska and keeping his life of bagpipes alive in the arctic, as James Bartlett explains.



Angus Smith (row 1 left) with the Red Hackle Pipe Band.



Angus with his pipes.



Piper Angus with his dog Bolt at Eielson Air Force Base, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Unless there is anyone at a research station or on an expedition, it is quite possible that Angus Smith is the nearest Scottish bagpiper to the North Pole. Angus, 56, has lived in Fairbanks, Alaska, for close to 20 years, and this city of some 32,000 people is where he began what he jokingly calls his “North American Tour.” Born in the tiny village of Dale in Southern Pembrokeshire, Wales, where his father had taken a temporary job blasting oil silos, the new family returned to their native home of Crieff in Perthshire when Angus was just a few months old.

A lifelong love with the instrument

Angus seemed to be a particularly loud child, and laughs when he recalls: “It all started around the age of seven, when I was making too much noise in the house. Father took me by the ear to the backdoor, and said I could choose one of three possible words: fiddle, accordion or pipes. For me it was the latter.” This began a lifelong love with the instrument, and today, over half a decade later and following a long spell in the famous Black Watch of the Royal Highland Regiment, he continues to play regularly in his newfound home at the centre of the Alaskan Interior.



Angus with the Black Watch in 1986.



“I spent all my schooling at Morrisons Academy playing in their band and CCF, and at 16 I joined the Junior Army at IJLB (Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion) in Shorncliffe. It was lucky I could play really, as my report cards said things like “Angus – a nice wee chap, but alas will never set the Academic Heather alight!”

He took the colours of the Black Watch at Kirknewton in 1985, but after four years he was looking for a new challenge, and he became a “pony man” on an estate in the Southern Cairngorms. “The bothy I lived in was the highest inhabitable place in the UK, which, now I think of it, was good training for a future in Alaska!” He worked in deer management as a stalker at Glen Etive – a location known for its connection to Ian Fleming of James Bond fame – and then at the Tarbert Estate on the Isle of Jura, but then he ‘began looking for an escape’.

“There was a fantastic piper and drumming website, BobDunsire.com – that man should have been knighted for his services to piping – and it had a list of every band throughout the world, and in the world of deer stalking one would always hear great tales of Alaska, so I put my thoughts together.”

Red Hackle Pipe Band

Fairbanks was home to the Red Hackle Pipe Band, and, after taking some advice from Steve Small, another former Black Watch piper who was known for playing in the rain during the 1997 handover of Hong Kong and was then the Senior Instructor at Edinburgh Castle, Angus set out for the Far North, arriving in Fairbanks in 2004. Describing life in Alaska, a huge landmass that is often unfamiliar to many, Angus notes that as a deerstalker, his eye and mind were often consumed with the fine detail of the lay and fold of the land.

“In Alaska your mind is in overdrive, with a never-ending horizon. The solitude and scale of it is truly mighty. Oh, she can and will kill you in a heartbeat: there are raging rivers, predators, -40 degree cold and more, but you quietly are always prepared.”

Angus joined the American military – or what he calls “Uncle Sammy’s Infantry” – in 2009 and spent time in Afghanistan in 2012, then after leaving their service



The Red Hackle Pipe Band on display.

in 2013 he got his powerplant rating and qualified to work as a mechanic for Everts Air, a family-owned business in Fairbanks that flies DC-6 and C-46 and other aircraft, hauling fuel and cargo out to towns and villages in the remote bush.

“Our moto is ‘Legendary Aircraft Extraordinary Service’, which I’ve always thought should have included ‘and Characters!’ he laughs. He had landed safely and happily in his musical life too. “The Red Hackles were home from home to an ex-Black Watch piper like me,” he says, noting that they are currently celebrating their 50th anniversary. “We perform regularly, though there’s always more action in the summer,” he explains.

Foster Scots culture

From mid-May until mid-July, Fairbanks sees 24 hours of “midnight sun” every day, and barely any darkness until the end of August. “We gather most weeks upon an evening, and we might be one of the few bands left, certainly in America, that field dancers in band uniform. We also encourage and foster Scots culture, and educate the younger generation in the form of piping, drumming and dancing.”

Angus feels he has been especially lucky with his band, as many can be “a battlefield of egos,” and he notes that their

‘next door neighbour’ band in Anchorage (Anchorage being some 350 miles from Fairbanks, and ten times the population) are “Always bickering. Hell, if they all came together, they would field a Grade 1 band!”

Around Fairbanks, Angus is known by his unique personalized number plate 1BW (for Black Watch), and he met his wife Kimberly, who hails from Long Island, New York, and now works in behavioural health, when he was stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. Angus however has not come across many other Scottish people in Alaska, and says that he tries to return to Scotland every year to see his mother, who suffers from dementia. “I think I miss the characters that abounded in the Highlands: stalkers, shepherds, crofters and islanders – they’re a colourful bunch – but I love it here, and the band has given much nurturing care and attention to ‘Project Angus’, I can tell you!”



Red Hackle Pipe Band photos courtesy of Bleep Media Productions.

Kamloops Highland Games

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The 33rd annual Canmore Highland Games



Massed bands in the mountains.



A vibrant celebration of Scottish culture

Over the two days of the Canmore Highland Games, festival tents will showcase additional entertainment from local bands and Irish Step Dancers. An additional ticket can be purchased for a special Scotch-tasting experience. And be sure to join us for our kitchen party, the Canmore Ceilidh, on Sunday, September 1st. This year, coming all the way from Glasgow, we have the Rollin Drones, a dynamic, energetic, 6-piece bagpipe pop band, here to close out our weekend of events with the party of the summer!

The Canmore Highland Games have grown significantly since their inception, becoming a major event in Canmore's cultural calendar. Held annually on the Labour Day weekend, the games attract participants and spectators from across Canada and beyond. The event is a vibrant celebration of Scottish culture and

summer festival in the Rocky Mountains that you don't want to miss.

Come celebrate Celtic culture in Canmore, Alberta on August 31st and September 1st. Get all the details and tickets at: CanmoreHighlandGames.ca



Scottish heavy events.

Rich Celtic custom

Reflecting rich Celtic custom, the weekend will be filled with music and dance. Highland dancers of all ages, from near and far, will take the stage in dance competitions exhibiting strength, agility, and grace. The air will be filled with the sounds of the hundreds of pipers and drummers who come to win honours at the Piping and Drumming competitions. And the thrill of the closing ceremony, where all bands will join the Massed Pipes & Drums of the Canmore Highland Games, will move you. Central to the Canmore Highland Games, and a crowd favourite on the festival fields, are the heavy Highland sports. Cheer for the athletes as they throw the hammer, try the stone put, and attempt to toss the caber end over end. These traditional athletic competitions showcase the strength, skill, and endurance of the players.

The Canmore Highland Games also serve as a gathering point for Scottish clans. Clan tents will be set up to share about the history and heritage of various Scottish clans. Perhaps you'll find your people? Wander through the Celtic Market to find a kilt or a new tam. Peruse the British Car show. Watch the Sheepdogs at work herding. Enter in the Tug of War! There's something for everyone. We give cheers to our opening day with the Taste of the Highlands Saturday night, August 31st. Enjoy an evening in a Celtic lounge atmosphere sipping wines and whisky's, meads and ales from some of the world's most celebrated producers. Appetizers will be served up by some of Canmore's finest restaurants.

Two full days of Celtic culture- August 31st and September 1st.

A vein of Scottish culture runs strong through Canmore's community and is celebrated annually through the Canmore Highland Games. Founded in 1884 as a coal mining town, driven by the expansion of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). Scottish immigrants and their families settled in Canmore, bringing with them their customs and traditions. Immerse yourself this Labour Day weekend in majestic mountains and the sounds of pipes and drums that bring together the traditions, athleticism, and spirit of Scotland. Canmore may not be the Scottish Highlands, but on August 31st and September 1st, it will feel like it is.



A celebration of Celtic culture.



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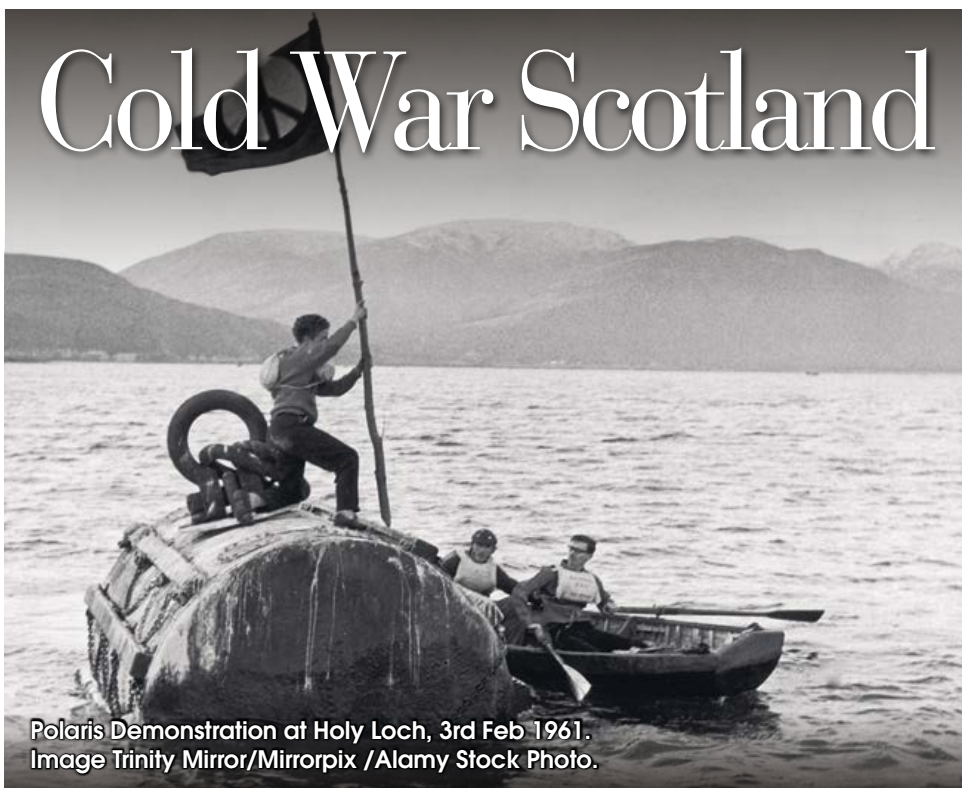
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Cold War Scotland



Polaris Demonstration at Holy Loch, 3rd Feb 1961. Image Trinity Mirror/Mirrorpix /Alamy Stock Photo.

A new exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland will explore Scotland's critical position on the frontline of the Cold War. Over 190 objects, many on display for the first time, will be brought together in Cold War Scotland (13 Jul 2024 – 26 Jan 2025) to tell the stories of the Scots at the centre of this global conflict. Scotland's unique geography and topography provided a useful base for Allied military preparations and research during the Cold War, a 40-year nuclear stand-off between the USA and the Soviet Union following the end of the Second World War. Atomic power brought jobs and investment to some of the country's most remote areas, but as global tensions mounted the threat of attack or nuclear disaster became part of everyday life. Opening on 13 July 2024, Cold War Scotland will explore both the visible and invisible legacies of the war in Scotland.

The impact of the war still lingers in Scottish politics, culture and memory. Scots played an active role in the global conflict as soldiers, for example, within intelligence services and as part of voluntary civil defences. The exhibition will also draw on Scotland's rich history of Cold War-era protest and activism. Firsthand accounts include a young mother who decorated her daughter's pram with Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) badges. A rattle made from an old laundry detergent bottle emblazoned with the CND logo was given to her baby during the Peace Marches of the early 1980s and will go on display in the exhibition.

The exhibition will also reveal the physical remains of the Cold War; the ruined bases, forgotten bunkers and decommissioned nuclear power stations still evident across the Scottish landscape. This infrastructure became part of the fabric of local communities, none more so than the US-controlled radar base at Edzell in Angus, now commemorated with its own bespoke tartan.

Cold War heritage

Dr Meredith Greiling, Principal Curator of Technology at National Museums Scotland, said: "From nuclear submarines to lively peace protests and observation stations perpetually monitoring for devastating attack, the Cold War

permeated every aspect of life in Scotland for decades. This conflict is so often remembered on a global scale, but this thought-provoking exhibition will offer a Scottish perspective of the period, allowing Scots from all walks of life to tell their remarkable stories for the first time."

Further highlights of the exhibition include artwork from Glasgow's 1951 Exhibition of Industrial Power and a toy nuclear power station, operated by steam and hot to the touch when played with. Both these examples highlight the spirit of optimism, progress and modernity associated with atomic energy in postwar Britain. In contrast, a Geiger counter used by farmers in East Ayrshire to test for radiation in sheep following the Chernobyl Disaster illustrates the enduring but unseen impact of the Cold War on Scotland's landscape.

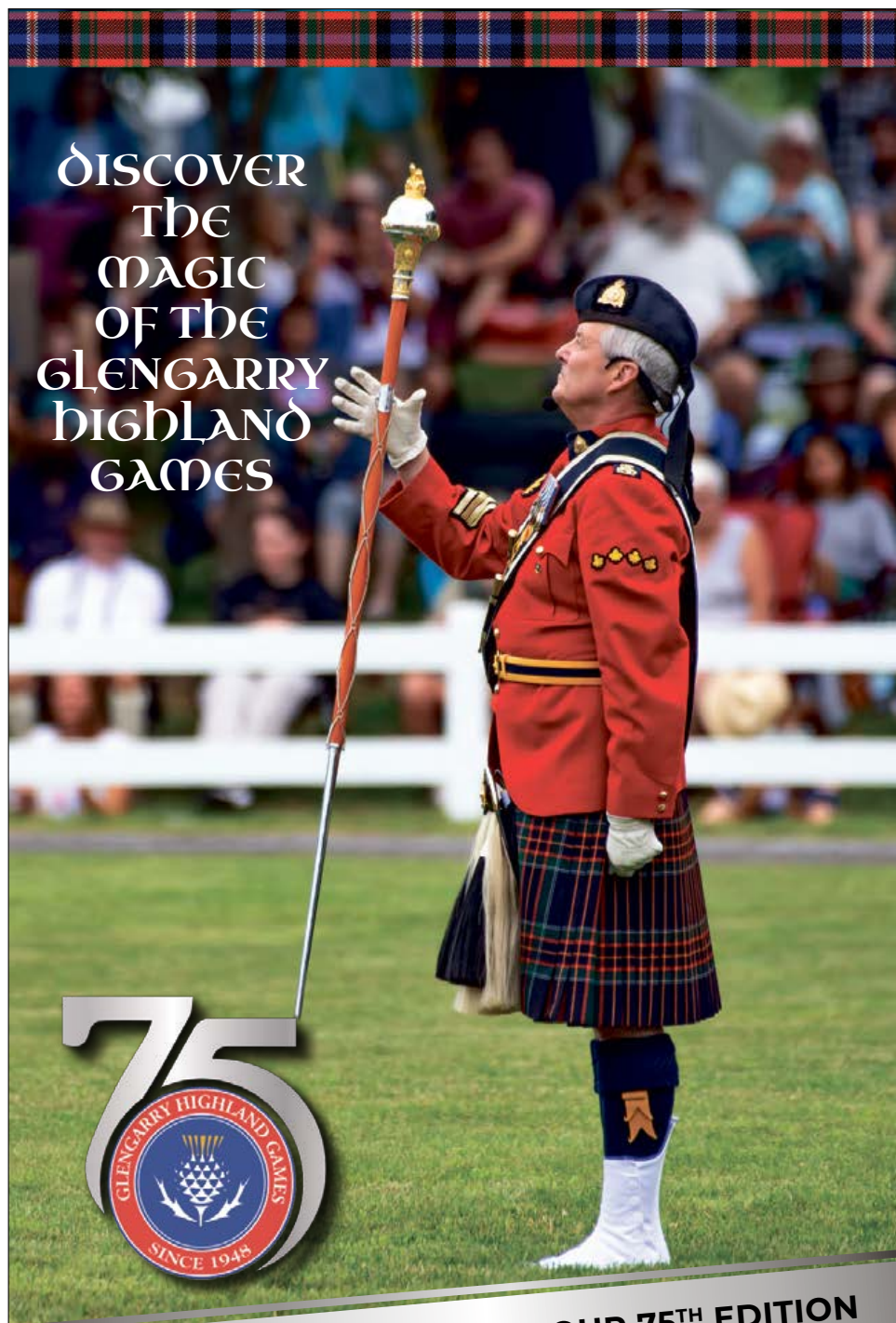
Cold War Scotland is an output of Materialising the Cold War, a collaborative research project between National Museums Scotland and the University of Stirling. The project explores how the Cold War heritage is represented and how museums can adapt to tell this story in future. Materialising the Cold War is funded by a major grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Cold War Scotland will take place 13 July 2024 to 26 January 2025 at the National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, admission is free. For more information: www.nms.ac.uk/ColdWarScotland.



Britain's Women Learn Atom Defence, 1952. Image SuperStock / Alamy Stock Photo.

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Paisley Mòd Gold Medallists head stateside for Mòd Chesapeake



Iain Cormack and Emma MacLeod.

The Gold Medal winners from last year's Royal National Mòd in Paisley, Emma MacLeod and Iain Cormack, will attend Mòd Chesapeake in Maryland this August to celebrate the thriving Gaelic connection between Scotland and the USA. As part of their prize for winning the coveted Gold Medals for Gaelic song, the pair will act as ambassadors at the regional festival, taking place on Saturday 3rd August 2024, and will perform and teach two workshops, as well as attending a celebratory dinner and cèilidh in the evening. Mòd Chesapeake, hosted by Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taigh Mhòir, marks a significant milestone in the international outreach of the Royal National Mòd, emphasising its global footprint and fostering strong connections with diaspora communities.

Unite Gaelic communities worldwide

Founded in 2023, the link between An Comunn Gàidhealach and the Chesapeake Mòd represents a revival of the longstanding tradition of cultural exchange between Scottish and American Gaelic enthusiasts, rekindling the spirit of camaraderie and shared heritage, with Iain and Emma's journey across the pond serving as a testament to the enduring bonds that unite Gaelic communities worldwide. Mòd Chesapeake was established by two local Gaelic groups -

Sgoil Gàidhlig Bhaile an Taigh Mhòir in Baltimore and Gàidhlig Photomac who are based in both Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia. Regional Mòds continue to grow in the United States, with Mòd New York and Mòd Kentucky also starting in 2023, and the North Carolina Mòd and U.S. National Mòd already established.

Celebrate the thriving Gaelic connection between Scotland and the USA.

At Mòd Chesapeake, attendees will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Gaelic language and song through a series of workshops tailored for both beginners and advanced learners. Led by experienced instructors, these workshops offer a unique avenue for participants to deepen their understanding of Gaelic culture and elevate their language skills.

Mòd Gold Medallist Emma MacLeod, who is originally from Scalpay, was already a Traditional Gold Medallist when she won at last year's Mòd, completing a Gold double following her outstanding performance. Iain Cormack, who hails

from Skye and now resides in Glasgow, comes from a long line of Mòd Gold Medallists, and sang the song his father sang 40 years ago when he won the Gold Medal himself. Liam Ó Caiside, co-founder and adjudicator of Mòd Chesapeake, co-organiser of Gàidhlig Photomac and President of An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach, said: "We are really delighted that Iain and Emma will be here in the States for Mòd Chesapeake this year. This will be our second regional Mòd in this region - between Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia. Scottish Gaelic learners in the region will get great encouragement from this visit - it's a big honour."

Gaelic ambassadors

"We at Mòd Chesapeake are very excited to be working with An Comunn Gàidhealach in Scotland this year. ACG is raising our event to a higher level. We're receiving support from An Comunn Gàidhealach America too. It's important for learners or students here to meet with singers and speakers of Scottish Gaelic, and Iain and Emma will be fantastic Gaelic ambassadors. We will learn so much from them and I hope they will see how strong the interest is in Scottish Gaelic in this area. Some people will come just to meet them! They will have a great welcome." Emma MacLeod said: "I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to go overseas to Mòd Chesapeake as a Gaelic Ambassador, alongside Iain. It's a great honour to travel so far afield to share my love and passion for the Gaelic language, culture and song."

I look forward to engaging with attendees, inspiring them to explore and embrace Gaelic traditions, and fostering a deeper appreciation for Scotland's heritage. Being able to represent Gaelic internationally is not just a privilege but also a testament to the enduring significance of our cultural identity. What better way to learn a language than through song? I live for the Mòd and now I get to go to two within a couple of months - delighted!"

Iain Cormack said: "It is an honour to be invited to take part in Mòd Chesapeake and I am very proud that I, along with Emma, are to be there as ambassadors for An Comunn Gàidhealach and the Gaelic community as a whole. The Mòd has always played a very important part in my life, having competed from childhood into adulthood, and I am very much looking forward to bringing a small taste of Gaelic language and music to an international stage! It is very important to maintain the connection of Gaelic culture with American people of Gaelic descent, and I am sure there will be several attendees at the Mòd that come into that category. Personally, I am especially looking forward to meeting those with good Skye ancestry! Here's to Mòd Chesapeake!"

The second annual Mòd Chesapeake will take place at St. Vincent Pallotti High School, Laurel, Maryland, USA on Saturday 3rd August 2024. For more information and updates, please visit sgoigaidhlig.org/mod-chesapeake/. This year's Royal National Mòd will take place in Oban, Scotland between 11 - 19 October 2024. Find out more at www.ancomunn.co.uk.

Fergus Scottish Festival to welcome Outlander stars



The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games is thrilled to announce that their Featured Guests for 2024 will be Duncan Lacroix, also known as Murtagh Fitzgibbons Fraser, alongside Maria Doyle Kennedy, known as Jocasta Cameron, on the hit TV series *Outlander* based on the best-selling books by Diana Gabaldon. Canadian actor Charles Vandervaart, who plays William Ransom, was scheduled to appear this year however a filming conflict in Scotland has meant he had to cancel his appearance.

"The Festival team has curated an amazing combination of rare and exclusive VIP experiences. Visitors will have the opportunity to attend autograph/photo sessions and free, engaging panel discussions. Our incredibly popular whisky tasting is back, along with some exciting new experiences this year," stated Executive Director Elizabeth Bender. "One rare event we are particularly excited to be presenting is a concert at the Fergus Grand Theatre featuring Maria Doyle Kennedy, who is an accomplished musician. Of course, we are sad that Charles will not be able to attend but Duncan is a wonderful replacement." Bender added.

Outlander fans will know that on the show the characters played by Maria and Duncan, Aunt Jocasta Cameron and Murtagh Fitzgibbons Fraser, are in an endearing relationship. "In 2022, Duncan Lacroix was our Featured Guest and was a huge hit with our guests. We are incredibly happy to have him back and know that with all the amazing events we have planned, it is going to be a great year." Bender said.

There will be multiple opportunities to meet both guests up close at the scheduled featured events, and they will also be participating in activities throughout the Festival grounds all weekend. The full schedule is available online at fergusscottishfestival.com, and tickets for the scheduled Featured Guest events with Maria Doyle Kennedy and Duncan Lacroix are on sale. Stay on top of announcements and updates by signing up for their newsletter and following Fergus Scottish Festival's social media channels.

For more information about the Featured Guest's and to get your Festival admission tickets, which are on sale now, visit: www.fergusscottishfestival.com.



Massed choir at the 2023 Royal National Mòd in Paisley.