



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

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The Banner Says...

Celebrating Scotland's bridge milestones



by Sean Cairney

This month last year I touched upon some of Scotland's great bridges. When it comes to a Scottish bridge, we all of course must think of the iconic Forth (Rail) Bridge. However, this month there are some notable bridge celebrations taking place in Scotland I thought we should share with you.

Forth Road Bridge

This month marks 60 years of the Forth Road Bridge, a major asset of Scotland's infrastructure. The iconic crossing opened to traffic for the first time on 4th September 1964 and was, at the time, the longest suspension bridge in the world outside the USA. Opened by HRH Queen Elizabeth, the Forth Road Bridge is an incredible 2.5km (2,517 metres) long and is still today one of the world's most significant long-span suspension bridges.

The idea of the bridge, and even a tunnel was considered, was conceived in the 1920s due to the growing popularity of the motor car. Plans were delayed until 1947 owing to The Great Depression and Second World War. By the 1950s the ferry across the Queensferry Passage was the busiest in Scotland with tens of thousands of crossings a year taking people, vehicles and products across the water. Scotland saw the success of the 1937 opening of the iconic Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and eventually construction of the bridge began in 1958, and included Britain's largest three construction firms collaborating under the banner of ACD Bridge Company Ltd. The consortium included Sir William Arrol & Co. Arrol was the Scottish engineer behind the construction

of the incredible Forth Bridge 80 years earlier. A special training school had to be set up in Queensferry to teach contractors how to spin the main cables which were made not far away by Bruntons of Musselburgh.

The Govan - Partick Bridge

Celebrations are also taking place this month in Glasgow with the opening of the Govan - Partick Bridge taking place on Friday, 6 September. This is one of the longest opening pedestrian/cycle bridges in Europe, with a width of six metres and two spans - the moving span, which weighs 650 tonnes, is 99 metres long and uses the South Pier (at Water Row) as its access; and the fixed span, which weighs 45 tonnes and is 15.7 metres long.

The bridge will re-establish a historic connection between the two vibrant communities of the city. At one time locals could wade across the Clyde during a low tide, then the Clyde's mighty ship building industry widened and deepened the river which lost that easy connection.

The Renfrew Bridge

Sailing down the Clyde is also another exciting bridge project opening this autumn. The Renfrew Bridge will open soon and will be the very first opening road bridge across the River Clyde. The bridge includes a two-lane road bridge across the River Clyde for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, which also opens for passing ships. Spanning 184-metres from Renfrew to the boundary between Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire, new bridge approach roads will connect to the crossing from close to Lobnitz Dock, Renfrew on the south side, to the boundary between Yoker and Clydebank on the north side.

The bridge design draws on the area's rich shipbuilding heritage and will use a cable system like the Queensferry Crossing, a twin-leaf design with each leaf opening and closing horizontally. Many commercial ships travel on the river during high tide, which happens both once during the day and the night. When this happens, the bridge will be closed to road traffic.

In this issue

Pipe bands from around the world again converged on Glasgow for August's World Pipe Band Championships. Scotland's Inveraray & District Pipe Band took to the top honour at an event that brought together 7,000 pipers and drummers together at Glasgow Green. We are again happy to include a roundup of this incredible event.

An exciting discovery that has the archaeology community filled with excitement is the Stonehenge Altar Stone came from Orkney. For the past hundred years, the iconic six-tonne Altar Stone at the heart of the ancient site was believed to have come from Wales to Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire. The fact this massive stone travelled so far thousands of years ago, before the wheel was evented, is quite astonishing and further shines some insight into Britain's Neolithic people.

In 1963 the first Hillman Imp rolled off a Scottish factory floor in Linwood, Renfrewshire. This was to be Scotland's very own answer to the Austin Mini. Production of the car lasted into the 1970 with approximately 440,000 manufactured. The car had several production issues to contend with and production ceased. The car however is still much loved amongst motor enthusiasts with an estimated 2,000 cars in existence today.

Scottish landmarks

The bridges of Scotland's past, as well as the latest to open, not only serve as a function of connecting communities, and giving locals and visitors a time saving link, they serve as a landmark for the community to be proud of. I look forward to 'crossing that bridge when I next come to it', on my next visit to Scotland.

Do you have a favourite Scottish bridge? Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition?

Share your story with us by email, post, social media or: #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner

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We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



The soon to be opened Renfrew Bridge.



Gracing our front cover: Pippa Monahan from Northern Ireland's Tullylagan Pipe Band at the World Pipe Band Championships. Image courtesy of SNS Group and Glasgow Life.

Viking raiders in Orkney found 'plough was mightier than the sword'



The Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae, Orkney. Photo: Kenny Lam/VisitScotland.

Vikings in the far north of Scotland prospered through handing in their swords and swapping raiding for farming and fishing, a new study has found. Research by a team of University of Aberdeen archaeologists has shown that despite their reputation as brutal plunderers, Viking settlers in Orkney found that 'the plough was mightier than the sword'. The study, published in the *Journal of the North Atlantic* examined archaeological evidence for Viking cemeteries from both Viking homelands in Scandinavia and Viking colonising sites in Britain, Ireland, and Greenland in order to better understand Viking populations, their size and composition.

Norse colonies

Researchers were intrigued to find that the Viking communities that had settled in Scotland, particularly in the Orkney

islands, had relatively good rates of fertility and higher rates of natural population increase, particularly when compared to settlements in Greenland. The first known Norse colonies are believed to have been established in the Northern and Western Isles of Scotland in the 9th century as bases for raiding activities in Great Britain by Vikings from Southern Scandinavia.

Professor Marc Oxenham, from the University of Aberdeen, said: "The Norse met very different conditions when settling in the diaspora. Scandinavians who settled in Scotland and Ireland were immigrants into existing communities and had to negotiate their way into these communities, whilst colonisers of Iceland settled a previously uninhabited land and settlers in Greenland were concentrated in isolated communities with what seems little interaction with the native inhabitants of the island and in ecologically very challenging conditions."

Orcadian Islands

The study, which is part of a much larger British Academy funded project titled *Human Stress, Resilience and Adaptation in Ancient Ireland and Scotland*, examined these differences and the impact on population growth. They investigated Viking fertility rates - the average number of births per woman - and rates of population increase or decrease. Researchers found a very different demographic pattern in the Northern and Western Scottish Isles compared to other regions with a much higher proportion of children.

Professor Oxenham added: "Interestingly, we found the demographic health of Viking settlements in Greenland was relatively poor. Greenland was a challenging environment in which to seek out a living, and the Viking settlements were eventually abandoned by the 15th century AD. On the other hand, the research team was intrigued to find that the Viking communities that had settled in Scotland, particularly in the Orkney islands, had relatively good rates of fertility and higher rates of natural population increase. This suggests that a long history very effective of land management in Orkney - including the use of seaweed and manure, an increased focus on fishing, which along with evidence for good Pictish-Viking relations in the Orcadian Islands, likely contributed to a much healthier and vibrant community. Ultimately, the Vikings in Orkney found that the plough was mightier than the sword."

International Clan Cameron Gathering



Lochiel giving the opening speech at the Gathering.

Australians at the Gathering.

The International Clan Cameron Gathering was held from the 1st to the 4th of August at the seat of the Cameron chiefs, Achnacarry, in the west Highlands, near Fort William.

This was the first gathering for 15 years, and the first hosted by the new chief, Donald Andrew Cameron of Lochiel, 28th Chief of Clan Cameron. The Covid pandemic delayed the planned 2020 gathering. Hundreds of attendees came from all over the world, with major contingents from the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, France, and of course, Scotland. There were tours of the Achnacarry estate, a welcome reception, talks on various topics, a main day with all sorts of highland and agricultural displays, a ceilidh and a farewell BBQ on the final day to finish. Old clan bonds were re-established and new clan bonds formed, and it was truly a memorable time for attendees.



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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?

Our Swedish Piper



Our son Tom Mackenzie in Sweden comes a close second to the article about Angus Smith (*The Arctic Piper, the Scottish Banner*, July, 2024) in your July issue. Thomas and his family have been living near Orebro, Sweden for the past six years and have sent the sound of pipes through the forests and lakes.

Since the locals have discovered they have a piper in the village, he has recently piped in the meat for their Midsummer festivities. Tom in the past has played with the Melbourne Highland Pipe Band, Frankston RSL Pipes and Drums and The Miners in Newcastle, NSW. Tom's wife Kylie is a marine biologist, and they have both spent time in Alaska predominantly around Anchorage and Seward. Being a Mackenzie, Tom wears the Mackenzie regimental kilt given to him when the Seaforth regiment was disbanded. Tom works as an engineer in Sweden for Orica Industries and at this stage continues to be a lone piper amongst the beautiful lakes and forests.

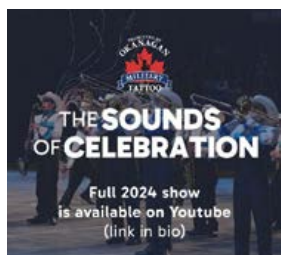
Tom's father is a proud Fort William man and together with his wife are committee members for Clan Mackenzie Australia.
**David & Trudi Mackenzie
Mornington, Victoria
Australia**

The Arctic Piper



It's lucky we are, to have gathered Angus (*Angus Smith – The Arctic Piper, the Scottish Banner*, July, 2024) into our fold those years ago. He has become a solid Alaskan, and we hold him high in our estimation. His goal is to be elected Lieutenant Governor of the State of Alaska. Perhaps one day we'll make that happen!
**Dennis Stephens, Piper
Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band
Fairbanks, Alaska
USA**

Relive the Magic of "Sounds of Celebration"



We are thrilled to share the unforgettable moments from the "Sounds of Celebration" event that took place on May 25-26! From vibrant tunes to boundless energy, dancers, musicians, military bands, and marching troops created an electrifying atmosphere that filled our hearts with joy. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended the shows, making this event a resounding success! Your presence and enthusiasm were truly the driving force behind this magical event. A special thank you to everyone involved in organizing the shows and to all the talented performers. Your passion and dedication were the essence of this celebration.

Relive the magic and joy of this year's show from the comfort of your home. Don't miss out on the spectacular performances and

unforgettable moments. Head over to our YouTube channel and enjoy the celebration: www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsxsrHOI8FU

**Nick Zrazh
Okanagan Military Tattoo
British Columbia, Canada**

Happy birthday Scottish Banner

I have just put down my July issue and take note *the Banner* has just turned 48. I have been a reader for many years and each issue brings me a connection to the land of my birth and the global Scottish community. I know many people from around the world not only read *the Scottish Banner* but also contribute to it and that is what I love so much.

I enjoy the many articles and also the letters from folks across the globe. I have learnt much from these pages that I do not remember being taught in Scotland, maybe I was not paying attention! To reach 48 years in today's world is a great achievement and I would like to send my best to all the contributors and staff of *the Scottish Banner*. This lass from Glasgow wishes you many more years ahead!

**Irene Young
Auckland, New Zealand**

Ed note: Thank you Irene for your kind wishes and we also enjoy hearing from readers across the world, our readers make the Banner!

Victorian Band successes at the European Championships



Brisbane Boys College Old Collegians at the European Pipe Band Championships. Photo: Facebook.

Wonderful news from Scotland with great success for our Victorian bands competing at the European Pipe Band Championships on 11th August in the beautiful Scottish city of Perth.

Just fantastic results and, on behalf of us all, congratulations to all pipers, drummers, band tutors, Pipe Majors and Drum Sergeants

- Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.1, 7th in Novice A (11 bands in grade)
 - Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.2, 2nd in Novice B (20 bands in grade)
 - Old Scotch Pipes and Drums, 7th in Grade 3B (15 bands in grade)
- Victoria also sends congratulations to competing interstate bands:
- Brisbane Boys College Old Collegians, 4th in Grade 3B
 - Brisbane Boys College Pipe Band, 3rd in Novice A and 9TH in Novice B
 - The Pipe Band Club, 2nd in Grade 2. (14 bands in grade)

Fabulous results all round. You're doing Australia proud.

**Kind regards,
Karen Pipe Band Victoria Chair
Victoria, Australia**

Tae A Stick O' Liquorice



This poem *Tae A Stick O' Liquorice* in a way it recalls the shortage of sweets endured by kids during World War II - I remember it well!

Lang ago in times o' yore,
When passing Nan McGlashan's store,
I there did notice on the floor
(A' couldna miss);
For there to see ahint the door
A stick o' liquorice.

Sae stately there wi' shiny coat
In solemn-black as Colin's goat,
Saliva juices caught ma' throat
Just lookin' there.
I'd gie a tanner fur the lot
- I thought it fair.

Yet, mighty me, the shoppie's shut
Like a' the ithers in a rut.
It felt like punches tae ma gut;
Nae sugeralli?
I felt like saying, "tut oh tut,"
Or something similarly.

That nicht, Ah dreamt o' liquorice laces,
Sweetie pipes went through their paces;
Coal-black straps wi' funny faces;
Filled the nicht;
Aw as bad as Kelly's races
In a fecht.

Fu fa ma' crummocks, stone the crows,
As true as anybody knows,
Ye canna keep a guid man's brose –
Alicreashless
For that has got me by the nose
Tae ma' distressless.

Tak tent, guid freends a' tell ye aw,
Dinna sook lest ye should fa'
Wi stick o' liquorice atween yer jaw
Like yon posh birkie.
Yer wallies soon will rot awa,
A toothless turkey!

**Kennedy Smith
Scotland**

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Forth Bridge



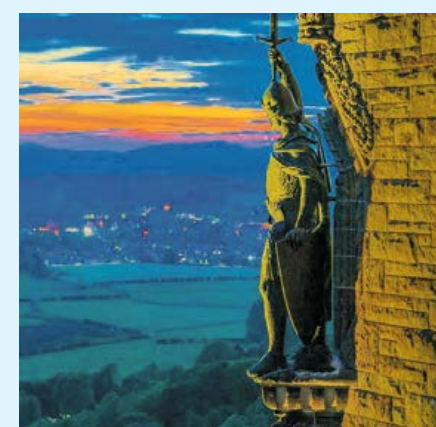
Reflections at the iconic Forth Bridge, opened in 1890. *Fly – Caledonia*

Heilan Coo



Things really are looking up!
J T Photography

Sir William Wallace



Sunset at the Wallace Statue, Stirling.
The Kilted Photographer

Glencoe



Sunset at Glencoe. IG: @eadietam

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

Isle of Barra campaign launched to replace iconic statue



L-R Michael MacKinnon, Theresa Irving and Michael MacNeil.

Islanders on the Hebridean Isle of Barra have launched an ambitious fundraising effort to replace the statue of the saint who gives the island its name which is in danger of being lost to the sea. The statue of 6th century Saint Barr, which stands on a small island in Barra's Northbay area, was erected in the mid-1970s. However, over time its condition has deteriorated badly. It is showing extensive damage and is in danger of disintegrating completely. A campaign to raise £100,000 is now underway to have it replicated and replaced, with £10,000 already donated to the campaign.

The sculpture was created by local artist Margaret Somerville, who died in 2018, using concrete moulded around a steel frame. It depicts the Irish saint holding a shepherd's crook aloft as he looks to the heavens. In Gaelic, Barra is Barraigh which

translates as Barr's Island. It takes its name from Saint Finbar of Cork who is believed to have been a follower of Saint Columba and introduced Christianity to the island. The exposed sea location and the Hebridean weather has meant that since its erection it is showing signs of extensive damage. The metal frame has become exposed and is rusting due to sections of concrete becoming brittle and falling off, mainly around the statue's hands, arms and feet.

The fundraising campaign, which is expected to last several years, is led by a community group that came together due to the increasing concern over the statue's condition and the danger of it being lost completely. They have engaged experienced sculptor Stephen Tinney to use the existing sculpture as the basis for the new statue. Stephen lives on the Isle of Skye but has family connections to



Saint Barr showing deterioration.

Barra and is a regular visitor to the island. A mould of the existing statue will be taken so that it remains true to Margaret Somerville's original work and recreate it in hard wearing bronze. It is also proposed to increase the statue's size by 50% so that it is more prominent and visible from the shore.

A symbol of the island

Michael MacNeil of the Saint Barr Statue Fundraising Group said: "For almost 50 years, the statue has been a symbol of our island and its rich heritage. It would be a huge loss if Saint Barr was to crumble into the sea completely without any effort to preserve Margaret's work and her gift to the community. We know her family, who are supportive of the campaign, will not want that to happen. This project will see the statue recreated in a material that will withstand the worst of Hebridean weather and cope with its exposed seashore location."

Increasing the visibility of the statue will enable greater public engagement and understanding of the statue through greater interpretation and storytelling.

Fundraising group member, Michael MacKinnon added: "Margaret was a very popular and respected member of our community. She contributed so much to the life of Barra in so many ways from public artwork to teaching the clarsach (harp). It is important that we recognise her impact on Barra and ensure her main public artwork is visible, enjoyed and understood by future generations of islanders and visitors."

The fundraising campaign has been kickstarted with a £10,000 grant from the Crown Estates Scotland. Theresa Irving of Northbay Community Council and member of the fundraising group welcomed the donation. She said: "We are so grateful to the Crown Estates for this funding towards replacing Saint Barr. This is a very welcome boost and a positive start to our fundraising. We know this is an ambitious campaign, but we are confident that islanders at home and away and those who visit will back it so that our saint remains in place."

To help erect a new statue of Saint Barr in Northbay, Isle of Barra visit:
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/saintbarrstatuefund



Statue blessing, 1970s.



One of Scotland's top golf courses in this seaside village. 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!

This month we can tell you that every answer begins: Car, which means a turn, twist or crooked bend.

- 1) This Car is a Tayside coastal resort, famous for its golf course, south-west of Arbroath?
- 2) This Car is a district of Glasgow lying 4 miles west of the city centre, on the south side of the River Clyde?
- 3) This Car is a fishing village on the east coast of Kintyre?
- 4) This Car is a village and railway junction in Strathclyde, 4 miles east of Lanark?
- 5) This Car is a coal mining village in Fife, 4 miles north--east of Cowdenbeath?
- 6) This Car is a location in Central Region, 2 miles north of Falkirk?
- 7) This Car is a village in Badenoch & Strathclyde district near Aviemore and today hosts the World Porridge Making Championships?
- 8) This Car is a strawberry-growing fertile tract in Tayside on the north side of the Firth of Tay?
- 9) This Car is a district of Glasgow, 2 miles east of the city centre, and famous coal mining. It had the first steam engine used in the West of Scotland for draining water from coal mines?
- 10) This Car is a Border village 3 miles north of West Linton on the east side of the Pentland Hills and dates back to 1788 when it was founded to be a mining and cotton weaving settlement?

Answers

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1) Carnoustie. | 6) Carronshore. |
| 2) Cardonald. | 7) Carrbridge. |
| 3) Carradale. | 8) Carse of Gowrie. |
| 4) Carstairs. | 9) Carntyne. |
| 5) Cardenden. | 10) Carlops. |

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Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

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



Lady MacGregor and Sir Malcolm MacGregor attend the 2024 Lochearnhead Games.

Scottish west coast. Elaborately carved they were found lying in an Argyll kirkyard where the mower regularly went over them. They were in danger of being destroyed forever, so the society chairman, Professor Richard McGregor, and America's Keith MacGregor drew up a plan. They raised tens of thousand pounds to lift and clean the ancient artefacts. MacGregors came from all over the world, not least Germany, arrived to help. All in all, the project took 25 years to complete, but the stones are now cleaned, preserved, and mounted in the wee Dalmally church. It is worth a visit. There in the kirk, society members held a minute's silence as they remembered those who had fought, loved, and prayed before them. You could have heard a pin drop...

Jean Armour

Back at home, meanwhile, we have been remembering Scotland's Bard. Or rather, we have been honouring his wife. In the later part of his life, Robert Burns lived in Dumfries, and it was there, in the south of Scotland, that he wrote some of his best work. Burns was able to do that, not least because of the love and support he got at home. Jean Armour was the woman who kept the home fires burning. She bore the poet nine children and looked after his illegitimate offspring. Philosophical about his drinking and womanising - 'oor Rabbie should have had twa wives' – Jean provided a secure place for him to create.

They say that behind every great man there is a great woman. And so, Burns enthusiasts came together as we laid wreaths at Jean Armour's statue. It is sited opposite the mausoleum where she and the poet are buried. The ceremony was organised by the Burns Howff Club, and a dinner at the Globe Inn - Burn's old drinking place, or 'howff' - followed. And there I had the honour of giving the toast to this formidable lady. The fact was, there may have been other lassies in his life, but Burns adored his Jean: the country lass who remained his 'jewel'. As he famously wrote: 'Of a' the airts the wind can blaw, I dearly like the west. For there the bonnie lassie lives, the Lassie I l'oe best...' Some feel sorry for Jean Armour. What must she have had to put with?! She must have been a saint. But whilst she was forgiving, she was also resilient and after Burns' death she certainly kept his memory alive. Jean loved flowers and I like to compare her to one. 'Geranium Jean Armour' is

Greetings from Scotland where the rain still falls. Yes, it continues wet here, but what's a bit of water in the great scheme of things...

At least it stayed fairly dry for our MacGregor Gathering; a really special one this time, as it marked the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Clan Gregor Society.

This is one of the world's earliest clan societies. It was formed by my husband's great great great grandfather in 1822. The then chief, Sir John, hoped it would foster clan spirit. It would also raise money to help poor MacGregor boys get an education. Of course, Covid restrictions meant we could not celebrate the bicentenary in 2022, but it was worth waiting for. Three coaches filled with tartan-clad MacGregors. A week-long tour of the Highlands. A grand banquet – and victory in the tug-of-war at the Lochearnhead Games...

Dalmally Stones

More than a hundred and seventy of our clansmen and women arrived in Scotland for this great event. Crossing the globe and arriving from places like America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Germany. There was even a family from Uruguay. Many years back, their ancestors emigrated to South America to work on the railway.

Everyone wore tartan, the red and green, or the 'Rob Roy', the red and black. It was a tribute to Clan Gregor. Then this society has achieved much over two centuries. Not least by saving the precious Dalmally Stones. These medieval relics once covered the graves of MacGregor chiefs on the



MacGregor heavy men doing the tug of war at Lochearnhead Games.

described as attractive and hardy. It is also said to be one of the most forgiving, enduring and generous plants around...

Benbecula

Finally, some sad news. We have lost our beloved Benbecula. The naughty terrier who was named after a Scottish island. Bennie was a handful. He answered to no-one but himself, but he was dearly loved. This small dog was fearless and adventurous.

He climbed mountains with the chief. Ever hardy, this hopeful hound followed the MacGregor up several mountainous peaks. Then poor Bennie had an encounter with a car in a remote glen. He did not survive the impact. Thankfully, we still have Delilah the Chow Chow. And a new puppy is arriving at the MacGregor abode. Taran is his name - after the island of Taransay. He is a wee cocker spaniel. One who I am sure will be scaling Highland hills before too long...



Lady MacGregor with Richard McGregor, Clan Gregor Society website manager, based in Australia, and Frank McGregor, Clan Gregor Australia Lieutenant and UK Honorary Consul in Tasmania.



Sir Malcolm MacGregor at Dalmally Church.

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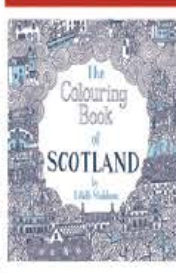
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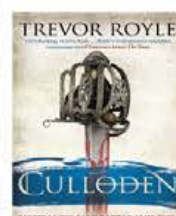
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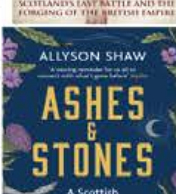
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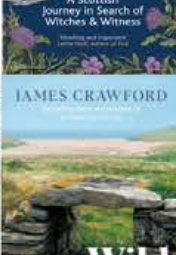
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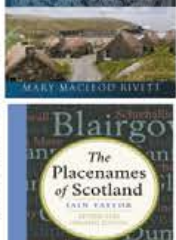
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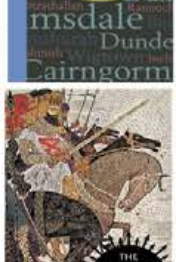
The Outer Hebrides: A Historical Guide
The Outer Hebrides lie 40 miles to the west of mainland Scotland, forming a barrier to the North Atlantic. Culturally distinct from early prehistory, the islands contain a wealth of historical and archaeological monuments. In addition to descriptions of key historic sites from prehistory onwards and gazetteers covering every place of historical interest, this book also traces the development of the modern environment and landscape of the islands, enabling the visitor to appreciate the sites within their historical and cultural context.
Price: \$24.95 Plus postage



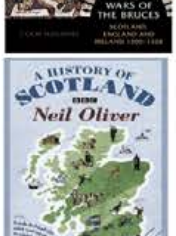
The Placenames of Scotland
Scotland is a land of many languages – including Gaelic, Pictish, Brythonic, Norse, Anglo-Saxon and Modern English among them. The result is an often bewildering series of overlapping layers of place-names, difficult at times to understand and even pronounce. This book, featuring 8,000 names ranging from districts, towns and villages to rivers, lochs and mountains, is the essential guide to Scottish placenames, illustrating the extent to which Scotland's languages were spoken over its territory.
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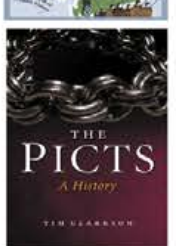
The Wars of the Bruces: Scotland, England and Ireland 1306 – 1328
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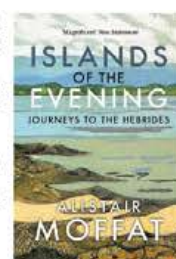
A History of Scotland
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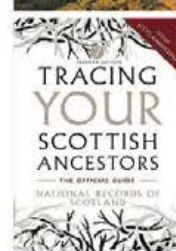
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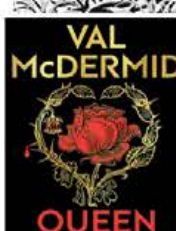
Islands of The Evening
14 centuries ago, Irish saints journeyed to the Hebrides and Scotland's Atlantic shore. They sought spiritual solitude in remote places, but their mission was also to spread the word of God to the peoples of Scotland. Columba was the most famous of these pioneers who rowed their curraghs towards danger and uncertainty in a pagan land, but the many others are now largely forgotten. Moffat sets off in search of these elusive figures. As he follows in their footsteps, he finds their traces not so much in tangible remains as in the spirit and memory of the places that lay at the very edge of their world.
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Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors
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The Faded Map: The Lost Kingdoms of Scotland
Modern communications have driven motorways and pylons through the countryside, dwarfed us with TV and telephone masts and drastically altered the way in which we move around, see and understand Scotland. Recent politics and logistics have established borders and jurisdictions which now seem permanent and impervious. The Faded Map looks beyond these to remember a land that was once quiet and green. It brings to vivid life the half-forgotten kings and kingdoms of two thousand years ago, of the time of the Romans, the Dark Ages and into the early medieval period.
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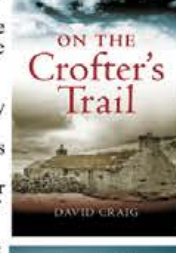
Para Handy
Para Handy has been sailing his way into the affections of generations of Scots since he first weighed anchor in 1905. The master mariner and his crew all play their part in evoking the irresistible atmosphere of a bygone age when puffers sailed between West Highland ports and the great city of Glasgow. This definitive edition contains all three collections published in the author's lifetime, as well as those that were unpublished and a new story which was discovered in 2001. Extensive notes accompany each story, providing fascinating insights into colloquialisms, place-names and historical events. This volume also includes a wealth of contemporary photographs, depicting the harbours, steamers and puffers from the age of the Vital Spark.
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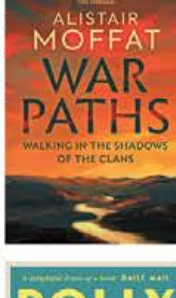
On the Crofter's Trail
In the Clearances of the 19th century, crofts, once the mainstay of Highland life in Scotland, were swept away as the land was put over to sheep grazing. Many of the people of the Highlands and islands of Scotland were forced from their homes by landowners in the Clearances. David Craig sets out to discover how many of their stories survive in the memories of their descendants. He travels through 21 islands in Scotland and Canada, many thousands of miles of moor and glen, and presents the words of men and women of both countries as they recount the suffering of their forbears.
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Poacher's Pilgrimage: A Journey into Land and Soul
The islands of Scotland's Outer Hebrides boast some of the most remote and spectacular scenery in the world. They also feature an astonishing range of mysterious structures – stone circles, beehive dwellings, holy wells and 'temples' from the Celtic & prehistoric eras. Alastair McIntosh returned to the islands of his childhood to explore the meaning of these places. This book is a record of his pilgrimage – a walk through space and time, across a physical landscape and into a spiritual one. Here he reflects on an extraordinary place and on the people he encountered along the way, and explores a vision of imaginative hope for humankind.
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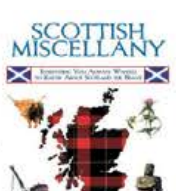
War Paths-Walking in the Shadows of the Clans
Alistair Moffat sets off in the footsteps of the Highland clans. In 12 journeys he explores places of conflict, recreating as he walks the tumult of battle. As he recounts the military prowess of the clans – surely the most feared fighting men in western Europe – he also speaks of their lives, their language and culture before it was all swept away. The disaster at Culloden in 1746 represented not just the defeat of the Jacobite dream but also the unleashing of merciless retribution from the British government which dealt the Highland clans a blow from which they would never recover. This is an exploration of many of the places and events which define a country's history.
Price: \$39.95 Plus postage



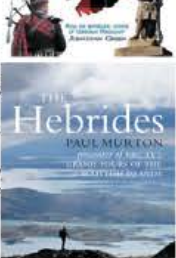
POLLY The True Story Behind 'Whisky Galore'
In 1941, the ship SS Politician ran aground in the Outer Hebrides. Among its cargo were 260,000 bottles of whisky destined for America – a godsend to the local Eriskay islanders whose home-grown supply had dried up due to rationing. The story is known through Whisky Galore. This book tells the true story of one of the most bizarre events to have happened in Scottish waters.
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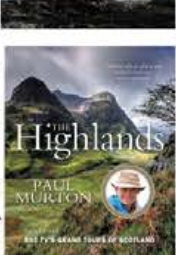
Scottish Miscellany: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Scotland the Brave
Why is the tartan so important? What is worn under a kilt? How much of the story in Braveheart is real? Revel in the fun and fascinating explanations behind Scottish traditions and folklore – from William Wallace, Rob Roy, and MacBeth to golf, kilts, and haggis.
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The Hebrides
Paul Murton has spent half a lifetime exploring some of the most beautiful islands in the world – the Hebrides. He has travelled the length and breadth of the Scotland's rugged, 6,000 mile coast line, and sailed to over 80 islands. This book visits each of the Hebridean Islands in turn, introducing their myths and legends, history, culture & natural beauty. He also meets the people who live there and learns their story. A vivid account of the Hebrides and serves as unique guide to the less well-known aspects of life among the islands.
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The Highlands
Paul Murton journeys the length and breadth of the beautiful Scottish Highlands. In addition to bringing a fresh eye to popular destinations such as Glencoe, Ben Nevis, Loch Ness and the Cairngorms, he also visits some remote and little-known locations. He meets a host of modern Highlanders, from caber tossers & gamekeepers to lairds to pipers. He uncovers some strange tales, myths and legends along the way: stories of Jacobites, clan warfare, murder and cattle rustling fill each chapter – as well as some hilarious anecdotes based on his personal experience of a place he loves to call home.
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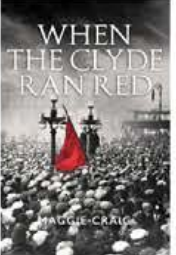
The Viking Isles: Travels in Orkney and Shetland
Paul Murton has long had a love of the Viking north – the island groups of Orkney and Shetland and the old counties of Caithness and Sutherland – which, for centuries, were part of the Nordic world. Today this fascinating Scandinavian legacy can be found everywhere – in physical remains, place-names, local traditions and folklore, and much else besides. This is full of observation, history, anecdote and encounters with those who live there, it also serves as a practical guide to the many places of interest. A real celebration of the Viking north's rich heritage.
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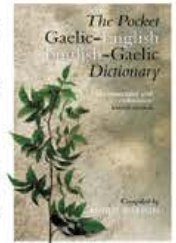
When The Clyde Ran Red
When the Clyde Ran Red paints a vivid picture of the heady days when revolution was in the air on Clydeside. Through the bitter strike at the huge Singer Sewing machine plant in Clydebank in 1911, Bloody Friday in Glasgow's George Square in 1919, the General Strike of 1926 and on through the Spanish Civil War to the Clydebank Blitz of 1941, the people fought for the right to work, the dignity of labour and a fairer society for everyone. This book Maggie Craig puts the politics into the social context of the times and tells the story with verve, warmth and humour.
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Scottish Gaelic in Twelve Weeks: With Audio Download
Written both as a self-tuition course for beginners and also for use within the classroom. You may want to learn Gaelic because of a general interest in Celtic or Scottish history and culture, or because it was the everyday language of your ancestors. Each lesson in the book contains some essential points of grammar explained and illustrated, exercises, a list of new vocabulary (with a guide to pronunciation, using the International Phonetics Alphabet), and an item of conversation. This new edition includes an audio download link to hear pronunciation.
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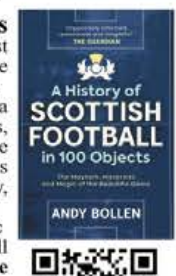
Gaelic-English/English-Gaelic Dictionary
Latest soft cover dictionary is ideal for learners of Gaelic at all levels, and its generous coverage of vocabulary from fields such as business and IT makes it a valuable tool for all those who require an up-to-date reference work. It contains a large amount of explanatory material, numerous examples of usage and idiomatic phrases and expressions. Many registers and styles are sampled, from the familiar (and occasionally the vulgar) to the formal and the literary.
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Tiel's Saga: Scottish Lore, Norse Roots
For 7 centuries, Vikings raided and settled the coast of Scotland and the Hebrides Islands. During that time, the Norsemen and Gaels formed a unique culture as they intermarried and shared belief systems, folklore, and traditions. In this groundbreaking work, the author looks at 5 pieces of Scottish folklore and illuminates the influence of Norse myths in each. Each is accompanied by end notes which describe the sources and variations uncovered in author's research. Historical commentary as well as academic support is provided in appendices.
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History of Scottish Football in 100 Objects
From Socrates to Arthur Montford, via Bovril, Buckfast and, of course, pies, this is a unique journey through the extraordinary world of Scottish football. Packed with anecdotes and observations, Andy Bollen wallows in a nostalgic haze, a time of hatchet-men with moustaches, a magic sponge that should have been granted miracle status and big-money strikers who couldn't hit a cow's posterior with a banjo. Opinionated, forthright and funny, Bollen reluctantly concedes that tattoos, hair weaves and VAR are now part of the game. This idiosyncratic ride through the wonderful absurdity of Scottish football with chime with every fan.
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Melbourne Tartan Festival 2024

By: Carol Davis



Melbourne Tartan Day Parade.

What a Tartan Month it's been! It began with the annual Kirkin' 'O The Tartan service at The Scots' Church on 30th June with the Parade of Clans piped into The Scots' Church by Presbyterian Ladies College pipers. Clans were announced and welcomed in both Scottish Gaelic and English as they laid their tartans in front of the communion table. The following Sunday, in the lead up to the Melbourne Tartan Day Parade, morning pop-up performances by Old Scotch Pipes & Drums in The Block Arcade and The City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band outside Melbourne Town Hall attracted crowds of City shoppers. There were Highland Dancing displays on the terrace of the Old Treasury Building by Victorian Scottish Highland Dance Inc. and the Glenbrae Celtic Dancers, while The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne held a poetry reading in the Treasury Gardens beside Robert Burns' statue.

The plaintive sound of the pipes called as pipers played on the balconies of the Old Treasury Building, signalling it was time for the Melbourne Tartan Day Parade. The Hon. Ted Baillieu, Chieftain of Pipe Bands Victoria (and former Premier of Victoria) led the Official Party of John Jeffreys, Chairman, Victorian Scottish Heritage Cultural Foundation, Carol Davis, CEO, Victorian Scottish Heritage Cultural Foundation & Clan MacLennan Chief's Commissioner Australasia and Frank McGregor, Clan Gregor Chief's High Commissioner Australia & Honorary Consul of the United Kingdom, Tasmania. The official party was followed by representatives of Scottish Clans and Societies, a massed pipe band led by Pipe Major Ben Casey, highland dancers, and members of the Scottish Terrier Club with their wee Scotties. After parading down Collins Street, a pipe band recital and mass Highland Fling finale was held under the portico in the forecourt of The Westin Hotel Melbourne, to the delight of hotel guests, staff and spectators. The acoustics were spine tingling!

But it didn't end with the Tartan Day Parade. During Melbourne Tartan Festival month there were two sold out Burns Suppers at Il Duca Restaurant in East Melbourne, featuring acclaimed tenor

John Carlo Bellotti, a high energy cèilidh dance, community outreach with visits to two nursing homes by the Glenbrae Celtic Dancers, Poetry in the Pub hosted by the Robert Burns Club of Melbourne, the Victorian Pipe Band Association Recital and Solo Piping Championships, Family Research in person sessions and online lecture with the GSV, Scottish Enlightenment lecture at the Menzies Institute, Melbourne University, an exhibition and exclusive behind the scenes tour of Old Treasury Building, online lectures and a CBD Scottish Connections walk with social historian and curator Kenneth Park, Scottish Gaelic language and culture immersion class hosted by the Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria and two concerts at the Kew Court House Theatre, the first featuring traditional singer of Scots' song, Fiona Ross and the second, The Scotsman, Graeme McColgan.

The Lord Lyon

Just when we thought it couldn't get any better, the premier event of the month-long festival the Melbourne Tartan Festival Gala Dinner & Concert on the 20th July was made all the more special with the presence of Guest of Honour, Dr Joseph Morrow CVO CBE KStJ KC LLD DL FRSE, the Right Honourable the Lord Lyon King of Arms.

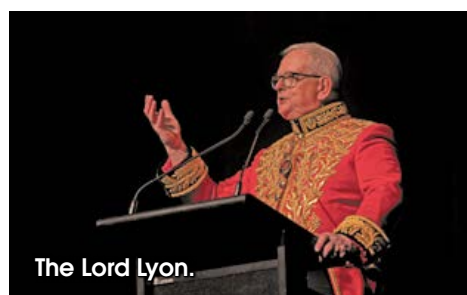
Lord Lyon had accepted an invitation extended by the Victorian Scottish Heritage Cultural Foundation to spend 10 days in Melbourne during the final week of the Festival. After ascending the red carpeted grand staircase of Melbourne Town Hall, guests enjoyed drinks and canapés in the foyer before entering the glittering Main Hall. A grand and ceremonial welcome followed, as the official party, led by Lord Lyon, was piped in. A sumptuous gourmet dinner



Glenbrae Celtic Dancers



Cèilidh dancing.



The Lord Lyon.

accompanied by fine wines and concert style entertainment followed. Alan Beck, immediate past President of the Robert Burns World Federation delivered a memorable 'Address to a Haggis' which. Later in the evening Alan gave a stellar vocal performance before an enthusiastic audience.

Lord Lyon was treated to some of Australia's best Scottish/Australia's talent, with this year's feature band, Old Scotch Pipes & Drums, Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club with guest singer Fiona Ross and a superb Highland dancing set from the Royal Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing. The City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band accompanied the Glenbrae Celtic Dancers, before Glenbrae dancers joined Celtic rock band Claymore onstage to close out the night while guests danced the night out.

During the evening Dr Joseph John Morrow CVO CBE QC LLD DL FRSE The Right Honourable the Lord Lyon, King of Arms presented the Victorian Scottish Heritage Cultural Foundation Chairman John Jeffreys and Chief Executive Officer Carol Davis with the Foundation's recently granted Coat of Arms, hand painted on velum by the Court of the Lord Lyon Heraldic Artist. It was a fitting conclusion to what had been a wonderful celebration of Scottish culture and heritage by the Scottish/Australian community during an action packed July.

During his visit, Lord Lyon met with Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, The Governor of Victoria, presented the Sugden Oration, 'A

Right Royal Year', at Melbourne University, attended a reception in his honour at the Consulate Residence honour hosted by Mr. Stephan Lysaght, Consul-General of the United Kingdom, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, A Scottish Celebration Dinner at The Melbourne Club, dropped in on the VPA Solo Piping Championships, addressed the assembly at Scotch College Melbourne, had a guided tour of The Scots' Church Melbourne and attended several welcome lunches and dinners where he met many local Scots. There were also less formal visits to an AFL game at the MCG, a Bellarine Peninsula Winery for lunch and Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary where Lord Lyon had his first up close encounter with a kangaroo. As we farewelled Lord Lyon, who was a most gracious and engaging guest, we urged him to 'haste ye back'!



All images courtesy of Melbourne Tartan Festival.

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Photo: Blanket bog at The Flows National Nature Reserve ©Lorne Gill/NatureScot.

Scotland's Flow Country secures World Heritage status

The most expansive and best example of blanket bog in the world, the Flow Country in the far north of Scotland has joined the Serengeti, the Galapagos Islands and the Great Barrier Reef in securing prestigious UNESCO World Heritage Site status for its globally important nature. This is a global first, as the Flow Country is the only World Heritage Site inscribed specifically for its peatlands. The World Heritage Committee approved the bid at its annual meeting in New Delhi awarding the designation, reserved for places of special natural, cultural, historical or scientific significance, for the Flow Country's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in ecosystem quality.

This makes it the UK mainland's first World Heritage Site inscribed for the global importance of its natural ecosystems, and the country's sixth site inscribed for natural criteria overall. The Flow Country is a vast peat bog that covers much of Caithness and Sutherland in the north of Scotland and stores approximately 400 million tonnes of carbon – more than all the UK's forests and woodlands combined. It is called blanket bog because it covers the landscape like a blanket and is a type of habitat that is globally rare, but one that is ideally suited to Scotland's climate and maritime location.

The 4,000 sq. km area is home to a hugely complex and fragile ecosystem with a vast array of plants that act as an important defence against climate change. The carbon stored by a 9,000-year accumulation of dead vegetation in the form of peat acts as a carbon sink. This sequesters (traps) and stores carbon, preventing it being released into the atmosphere, helping to prevent further emissions. It is also an internationally important place for wildlife, including upland breeding birds like red-throated diver, golden plover and greenshank. World Heritage Site status is predicted to help realise a wide range of environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits for the north of Scotland including the creation of skills and job opportunities in landscape restoration and conservation, growth in sustainable tourism and hospitality, and the potential of added value to new green finance models to attract global investment to the area. Bid lead for the Flow Country World Heritage Site project and NatureScot Head of Operations for the North of Scotland, Graham Neville, said: "World Heritage status for the Flow Country is a momentous moment for Scotland's people and their beloved landscape. This successful bid is testament to the hard work and

determination of the Flow Country World Heritage project team as well as community members, scientific experts, businesses, landowners and public bodies from across the Flow Country who have been so generous with their time, knowledge and expertise to shape the bid for the benefit of the whole area. World Heritage Site status will lead to greater understanding of the Flow Country and raise the profile of Scotland's peatlands globally for their value as biodiverse habitats and important carbon sinks. It is wonderful recognition of the expert stewardship of farmers and crofters in maintaining this incredible ecosystem as a natural legacy for future generations."

First Minister congratulates Scots Olympians



Team GB and University of Stirling swim star Duncan Scott. Photo: University of Stirling.

As the 2024 Olympic Games came to a close, First Minister John Swinney has commended the Scottish athletes who will have inspired the next generation with their efforts in Paris. Scottish competitors taking part individually or in team events secured three gold medals, four silver medals and six bronze medals, contributing to TeamGB's overall medals tally of 65 medals and highlighting, once again, the world class athletes that Scotland has across a number of disciplines. In either individual or team events, Duncan Scott, Scott Brash and Sholto Carnegie all won gold.

In either individual or team events, Duncan Scott, Jack Carlin, Josh Kerr and Neah Evans all won silver. And Beth Potter (two), Rowan McKellar, Nicole Yeargin (two) and Jack Carlin all won bronze. Several Scots achieved Scottish and British records in their events, including British Records for Josh Kerr in the men's 1500 metres, Jack Carlin's silver in the men's cycling team sprint and a new Scottish record for Keanna MacInnes in her opening heat of the women's 100 metres butterfly. Almost two thirds of the Scottish athletes selected for Team GB are female athletes, including Eilish McColgan who became the first Scottish four-time track and field Olympian. The visibility of such strong role models will inspire young women and girls across the country to participate in sport.

The First Minister said: "Competing on the world stage amongst some of the best sporting talent on the planet is a tremendous honour, and I know the whole nation is with me in congratulating our Scottish athletes who have made an enormous contribution to Team GB's success at these Games. These athletes have all been outstanding in their performances and as ambassadors for their sport, and will inspire many young people to become more active in their lives. These games have seen amazing achievements, including Duncan Scott becoming Scotland's most decorated Olympian, and will be remembered for being the final curtain on the remarkable career of Scotland's greatest ever sportsman, Andy Murray. All of our athletes have excelled themselves and done themselves and their country proud. I hope they are able to celebrate with their friends, family and the public in the coming days."

Glasgow's city centre population rises by a third



The number of people living in Glasgow city centre has risen by a third in just over a decade, new figures show. The latest population figures for the city centre show that 28,341 now live in the area, up from 21,185 in 2011. Increasing the city centre population is a key long-term plan for Glasgow and the latest figures show the city coming into line with comparable European cities. The council approved its City Centre Living Strategy in 2019 with the target of increasing the area's residential population to 40,000 by 2035. Increasing the population density of city centres will contribute to making the area more sustainable and economically successful amid challenges from changes to retail habits and investor and developer demand and expectations. The city centre is already on the way to becoming an area that has a greater mix of uses, and more attractive as a place to live.

The City Centre Living Strategy objectives also include the repurposing (i.e. to residential) of vacant commercial space, offering a responsive and innovative approach to investment opportunities that will assist in the aims of the strategy, and to help create resilient and cohesive neighbourhoods.

Other trends in the city centre include a move to a younger population - with those in the 16-44 age group making up 80.9% of the population in 2022 (77.1% in 2011) with those in the 45 and over age group making up 14.8% of the population, down from 19% in 2011. Within the older group, there was a rise in the absolute number of people aged between 45-64 living in the city centre, but their share of the population fell given the substantial overall rise in the 2011-22 period. The city centre population is projected to increase to 34,604 by 2029/30. Councillor Angus Millar, Convener for City Centre Recovery at Glasgow City Council, said: "The population of Glasgow's city centre has been steadily increasing, and continuing to support

more people to live in the city centre will be essential for its future vitality. Comparable cities across the UK and beyond tend to have significantly more densely populated city centres than Glasgow, with a strong city centre population promoting sustainability and supporting local economies. With new residential development continuing to be delivered, we are continuing work to help make the city centre a more attractive place to live in. With the city centre population growing by a third over the past decade and more and more people continuing to choose city centre living, we are well on track to meet our target of 40,000 people living in the city centre by 2035."

St Andrews is Scotland's most expensive coastal location

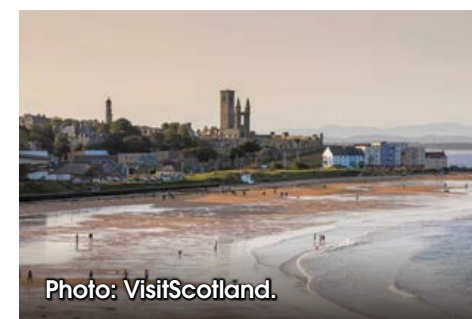


Photo: VisitScotland.

St Andrews has taken the title of the most expensive place to buy a home by the coast in Scotland, according to the latest analysis from Bank of Scotland. Homes in the area - known for its world-famous university and golf courses - cost £423,419 on average, marginally up from 2022 but pushing North Berwick into second place. The price of properties in the East Lothian town of North Berwick - which had retained the 'most expensive' title for the last six years - slipped back -4% in 2023. Homes in the desirable town now cost £421,613 on average, only slightly less than those in St Andrews. Dunbar, also in East Lothian, completes the top three most expensive coastal areas to buy a home in Scotland, setting buyers back £304,569 on average. The lowest average price for a home near the sea can be found in Rothesay on the Isle of Bute - homes here cost an average of £101,477.

Scotland offers some of the most affordable places across Britain to set up a seaside home, with all of the 10 least expensive coastal homes found in the nation. When looking over the last decade, the cost of Scottish coastal homes rose by almost a third (+31%) on average between 2013 and 2023. Graham Blair, Mortgages Director, Bank of Scotland, said: "Scotland's stunning coastline and breathtaking scenery make it a wonderful place for many to call home. For buyers looking to live by the sea, Scotland offers real value in comparison to coastal areas in other parts of Britain. In fact, for those who are keen for a peaceful and tranquil life and a more remote way of living, Rothesay on the Isle of Bute is the most affordable place to live by the sea in all of Britain. Coastal properties here are £100,000 on average. At the other end of the scale, St Andrews is now the most expensive coastal location in Scotland. Well-known for its famous golf courses and home to the nation's oldest university, average property prices in the area are now more than £423,000. Scenic North Berwick isn't far behind with properties there fetching a similar price tag."

Unknown Glasgow

By: David McVey



Wild West Glasgow

In 1891, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show came to Glasgow, setting up camp in Dennistoun in the East End. Thousands of Glaswegians enjoyed seeing sharpshooter Annie Oakley and real live Native Americans. There was a sour aftertaste, though, as many of the Native Americans were effectively prisoners of war who had been given the choice of being locked up or becoming circus acts. In any case, in 2006 a statue of Buffalo Bill was placed on the site of the show, becoming the focal point of a garden in a new housing development. Glasgow has always loved its Wild West. Roy Rogers' horse Trigger famously was photographed *inside* the Central Hotel climbing the grand stairway! In the Southside you will also find Glasgow's own Grand Ole Opry where there are weekly country gigs and other western-related activities. Howdy, y'all.



Rottenrow Gardens and the George Wyllie artwork.

four-legged horses. So, the statue erected in 1992 in Neill's honour, featuring Elfie with Lobey Dosser and sworn enemy Rank Bajin on his back, is said to be the world's only two-legged equestrian statue. Perhaps it is. You'll find it in Woodlands Road, just west of Charing Cross. To finish where we began; a regular character in Lobey Dosser strips was the GI Bride, who usually appeared carrying her child and trying to thumb a lift back to 'Pertick'. In 2011, a statue of bride and baby appeared on the concourse at Partick Station. The two Bud Neill statues probably baffle many non-natives who see them. Well, now you know.

Glasgow's visitor attractions are often world-class; think of Kelvingrove Museum, The Burrell and Glasgow Green. But there are visitor attractions that are lesser-known as well as other quirky and intriguing features that only locals are aware of - and often not many of them. Here are a few Glasgow surprises.

'Partick' Thistle?

Everyone has heard of Glasgow's alternative soccer team, the much-loved plucky underdogs Partick Thistle. Sport-inclined visitors may well want to go along and take in a game, but if you get hold of tickets the one thing to not do is head for *Partick*. The club was formed in 1876 and did occupy several home grounds, mostly in Partick, a former burgh now very much part of Glasgow that's a couple of miles west of the city centre on the banks of the Clyde. However, in 1909 the club moved to their present home, Firhill, in Maryhill, to the north-west of the city centre. Thistle are noted for their distinctive if garish red and yellow colours; yet until the 1930s they played in blue, so even their look isn't as traditional as you'd think.

Jenny Lind

Jenny Lind (1820-1887) was a soprano known as 'The Swedish Nightingale'. She debuted in her native Stockholm at 18 and eventually taught singing at the Royal College of Music in London. Apparently (it's a musical so I've never seen it) she appears as a character in the blockbusting film *The Greatest Showman*. So, what does she have to do with Glasgow? Well, remarkably, there is a small neighbourhood that is actually *called* Jenny Lind south of the river. The homes there stand on what used to be part of the Pollok Estate and it is believed that Lind stayed in a cottage there during a visit to Glasgow. Subsequently, an inn was named after her and when the houses were built, the area took on the name of the inn. I wish it were a bus terminus; I would love to see the name 'Jenny Lind' on the front of a bus! Lind was a superstar in her day and there is also a beach in Queensland and an island in Canada named after her. But a district of Glasgow is surely the ultimate accolade?

The Sculpture that Disappeared

Back in the 1970s, Buchanan Street was pedestrianised and one of the items of street furniture that appeared was a mysterious, abstract sculpture entitled *Concept of Kentigern*. It was the winning entry in a competition and was the work of artist Neil Peter Livingstone. It is an

imaginative, symbolic envisioning of one of Glasgow's patron saint's miracles; St Kentigern (or St Mungo) restored a robin to life. It was unveiled in October 1977, the very month that I started at the University of Strathclyde, so I was in Glasgow daily and saw it a lot. I rather liked it but, sadly, in a city that prides itself on being a centre for art, much of the media and public response was hostile and mocking. I remember one local was quoted in the *Evening Times* as saying 'It's got nae heid!' The sculpture was removed in 2000 and spent nearly two decades in storage. Happily, when City of Glasgow College's magnificent City Campus opened in 2016, a new home was finally found for *Concept of Kentigern* outside one of the entrances. For more art inspired by St Kentigern/Mungo and his robin, head to High Street for street artist Smug's wonderful gable-end mural.

Rottenrow Gardens

During my time at Strathclyde, there was an enormous hospital building on the hill opposite the McCance Building in Richmond Street, where I spent most of my time. This was the Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital which operated on this site from 1860 to 2001. The main entrance was on Rottenrow and this became the shorthand name for the facility; Glaswegians will say, 'Aye, I was born in Rottenrow.' When it closed most of the hospital was demolished and the site was developed as a green open space by the University, something Strathclyde lacked in my day. As such it now promotes mental health. There's a typically quirky George Wyllie artwork on site; entitled *Monument to Maternity*, it's a giant safety pin - how many safety pins did Rottenrow Hospital use in its lifetime, I wonder? The entrance to the hospital has also been retained as a grand gateway to the gardens.



Concept of Kentigern.

Bud Neill Remembered

Continuing on from the last subject, Bud Neill (1911-1970) was a much-loved Glasgow newspaper cartoonist whose best-known character was Lobey Dosser, the Sheriff of Calton Creek, a town in America's Wild West populated entirely by Glaswegians. The humour ranged from pawky, to clever wordplay, to Pythonesque surrealism, though I suspect much of it would be incomprehensible to non-Glaswegians. Lobey Dosser's horse, El Fideldo (or 'Elfie' for short) was remarkable for only having two legs; Neill claimed he could not draw



Smug's St Mungo Mural, High Street.

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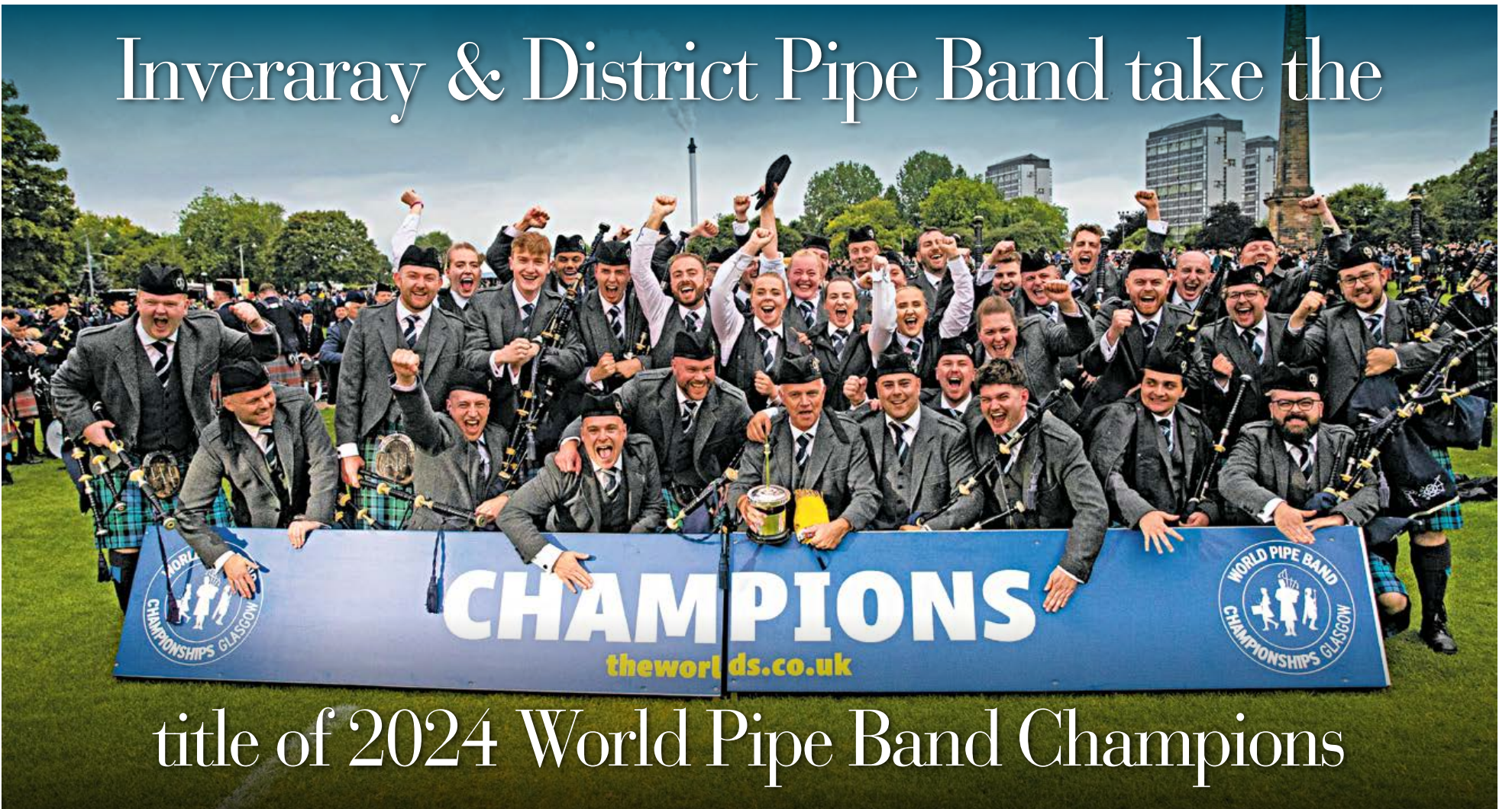
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Inveraray & District Pipe Band take the

All images courtesy of SNS Group and Glasgow Life.



title of 2024 World Pipe Band Champions



This year's World Pipe Band Champions have been crowned after a spectacular finale of the renowned international contest in Glasgow. Inveraray & District Pipe Band took the coveted title after seeing off stiff competition from runners-up Field Marshal Montgomery of Lisburn, Northern Ireland, and Simon Fraser University (Canada) who finished third. It is the third time that Inveraray & District has been crowned World Champions, having previously lifted the trophy in 2017 and 2019. This summer has proved a winning season for the Argyll and Bute band as it also took the top prize at the Scottish Pipe Band Championships, held in July in Dumbarton.

The pinnacle of the pipe band competition calendar

The prestigious international championships, which are the pinnacle of the pipe band competition calendar, were held on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 August at Glasgow Green. With 204 bands from 13 countries taking part in the 2024 'Worlds', more than 7,000 pipers and drummers took to the field to compete in the ultimate battle of the bands. The biggest contingent – 119 bands – was from Scotland, the second largest – with 25 bands – was from Northern Ireland, and the third largest national representation was from the USA, which entered 18 bands. The line-up of nations competing also included countries as far afield as Australia, Oman and Hong Kong – which took part in the championships for the first time.



A much-loved event that's hugely popular with spectators from near and far, the contest always attracts thousands of visitors to Glasgow Green to experience the stirring sights and sounds, and memorable atmosphere, of the event. Attendance at this year's premier pipes and drums showcase was around 35,000. Audiences all over the world were also able to view it thanks to live streaming by the BBC and via the www.theworlds.co.uk website. Glasgow, a UNESCO City of Music, has a long association with the World Pipe Band Championships, having first hosted them back in 1948, and staging every edition of the event since 1986. Every year, the Worlds culminates in an impressive spectacle when all of the competing bands march into the arena and past the Chieftain of the Worlds to assemble on the field and play *Scotland The Brave* together, before the presentation of well over 100 trophies across the various contest grades, and the final announcement of the new World Champions.

The level of talent that's thriving in the international pipe band community

The event is delivered by culture and sport charity Glasgow Life on behalf of The Royal Pipe Band Association with support from EventScotland, part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate. Glasgow's Lord Provost Jacqueline McLaren, Chieftain of The World Pipe Band Championships, said: "Glasgow is very proud of its long association with the Worlds, and privileged to host an annual event which not only has such significance to the global pipe band community but is also an important celebration of Scotland's culture and heritage. The championships are immensely valued; they enhance the city's international reputation as an outstanding events destination, boost tourism, and contribute greatly to our local economy. We are grateful to The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association for continuing to trust us to stage its flagship contest, and Event Scotland for its support of the event. Our thanks also go to every

one of the incredibly talented musicians who have gathered on Glasgow Green to treat our audiences to an incredible display of their skills, and to everyone who joined us to support this year's thrilling championships. And our congratulations go to the 2024 World Champions, Inveraray & District Pipe Band."

Colin Mulhern, Chief Executive of The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, said: "Competition for this year's Worlds was incredibly close, and our top Grade 1 bands battling for the ultimate title of World Champions had a fiercely-fought contest. They, and all of our competitors this year, did themselves, their bands, and their countries proud. And Inveraray & District are very worthy winners; their achievement in securing the 2024 World Champions title was outstanding and they deserve huge congratulations. It was fantastic to have so many great bands, from so many countries, taking part in this year's Worlds – and of course, so many supporters and spectators coming together for this year's championships. That's a clear indication of the level of talent that's thriving in the international pipe band community, and the passion of musicians the world over. It also demonstrates the strength of global interest there is in the championships, and in the traditional music and culture of Scotland."

Next year's World Pipe Band Championships will be held on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 August 2025.



World Pipe Band Championships 2024 results

GRADE 1

- Inveraray & District (Scotland)
- Field Marshal Montgomery (Northern Ireland)
- Simon Fraser University (Canada)
- St Laurence O'Toole (Ireland)
- Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia (Scotland)
- Police Scotland Fife (Scotland)
- Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia (Scotland)
- Scottish Power (Scotland)
- Police Scotland Federation (Scotland)
- 78th Fraser Highlanders (Canada)
- St.Thomas Alumni (USA)
- Johnstone (Scotland)
- Closkelt (Northern Ireland)
- City of Dunedin (USA)

GRADE 2

- Ravara (Northern Ireland)
- North Stratton (Canada)
- Pipe Band Club (Australia)
- Glasgow Skye (Scotland)
- Uddingston (Scotland)
- Ulster Scottish (USA)
- Manorcunningham (Ireland)
- Buchan Peterson (Scotland)
- MacMillan (USA)
- Royal Burgh of Annan (Scotland)
- Portlethen & District (Scotland)
- Los Angeles Scots (USA)
- City of Edinburgh (Scotland)
- Peel Regional Police (Canada)
- Tullylagan (Northern Ireland)
- St. Joseph's (Ireland)
- Kilchoman Distillery Isle of Islay (Scotland)
- Coalburn IOR (Scotland)
- Greater Midwest (USA)

GRADE 3A

- Oban (Scotland)
- Dartmouth & District (Canada)
- Vale of Atholl (Scotland)
- Guelph (Canada)
- Denny & Dunipace (Scotland)
- Greighland Crossing (Canada)

GRADE 3B

- Uddingston Strathclyde (Scotland)
- Burntisland & District (Scotland)
- Cross Borders (Spain)
- Methel & District (Scotland)
- Cloughfin (Northern Ireland)
- Arbroath (Scotland)

GRADE 4A

- Irvine Memorial (Scotland)
- Ballyboley (Northern Ireland)
- William Kerr Memorial (Northern Ireland)
- Upper Crossgare (Northern Ireland)
- City of Dunedin (USA)
- Cullen (Ireland)

GRADE 4B

- Black Raven (Ireland)
- 2 Scots (Scotland)
- Altnaveigh (Northern Ireland)
- Moneygore (Northern Ireland)
- Govan Community (Scotland)
- Letterkenny & District (Ireland)

JUVENILE

- George Watson's College (Scotland)

NOVICE A

- George Watson's College (Scotland)
- West Lothian Schools (Scotland)
- Scots College No.1 (Australia)
- Brisbane Boys' College (Australia)
- Dollar Academy (Scotland)
- Renfrewshire Schools (Scotland)

NOVICE B

- Lochgelly High School Junior (Scotland)
- Capital District Youth (USA)
- High School of Dundee (Scotland)
- Burntisland & District (Scotland)
- Balerno District Schools (Scotland)
- Scots College No.2 (Australia)

Scottish Connections Fund applications now open

£50,000 available for projects to support Scotland's diaspora.



This year's funding follows a successful pilot last year, which supported four projects, including work by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society to help descendants of enslaved Americans document their Scottish connections.

Family and friends of Scotland globally

External Affairs Secretary Angus Robertson said: "This is a fund that I'm extremely passionate about. We've long believed that better engaging our diaspora – family and friends of Scotland globally – can benefit Scotland economically and enrich our culture. It can also improve Scotland's connections and reputation and we want our efforts to benefit our diaspora too. The Scottish Connections Framework, which was launched in 2023, laid out our commitments to support and expand this global community. These connections raise Scotland's profile and reputation and encourage individuals and companies to visit, study, live, work and do business here."

Projects must be completed by the end of March 2025 and the closing date for applications is 5pm on 4 September 2024.

For more information, and to apply, see: www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-connections-fund-how-to-apply

A fund to help strengthen Scotland's international diaspora has opened for applications. The £50,000 Scottish Connections Fund is open to bids from any individual or organisation with a Scottish connection, whether that link is through heritage, education, business, culture, or a broader affinity.

Grants ranging from £2,000 to £5,000 will be awarded to support at least 10 new innovative projects that will help bring together Scotland's diaspora and promote Scottish connections worldwide.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7-The birth of Henry Campbell Bannerman, the British Prime Minister. Born in Glasgow and educated at Glasgow and Cambridge, Bannerman became the Liberal MP for Bonnymuir in April. The Radicals, who were on strike from the weaving communities in outrage at decreased wages, had marched from Glasgow towards the Carron Iron Works in Falkirk. 1820

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

21-King James V crowned at Stirling Castle. 1513

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

30-The first child of James VI of Scotland and Anne of Denmark, was christened in the purpose-built Chapel Royal at Stirling Castle. 1594

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

31-The first Edinburgh Film Festival opened. The festival was originally known as the International Festival of Documentary and opened at the Playhouse Cinema. 1946

Bonnie Prince Charlie assassination attempt confirmed



The discovery was confirmed by Jacobite historian Murray Pittock.



L to R: Amanda Monaghan, Professor Murray Pittock, Anne Monaghan and Catherine Bradley with the bullet hole.



Bannockburn House.

In the halls of Bannockburn House, a Grade A listed historic Scottish landmark, a team of dedicated volunteers have uncovered a rare and fascinating piece of history that could have altered the story of the nation. Amidst the delicate plaster work and ancient wooden panelling, a musket ball hole has been discovered - a grim reminder of a previously undocumented assassination attempt of the legendary Bonnie Prince Charlie during the tumultuous Jacobite Rising of 1745.

The announcement comes on the 279th anniversary of Bonnie Prince Charlie's arrival on Scottish soil to try to regain the thrones of England, Scotland and Ireland on behalf of his father, James Stuart.

Bannockburn House

But in January 1746, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, much better known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, took ill and convalesced at Bannockburn House. The large bedroom where he stayed, situated on the first floor's west wing, is adorned with a delicate plaster frieze of mermaids and has multiple layers of ancient wooden panelling, some of which are hand hewn and painted. The Prince stayed at Bannockburn House at the behest of Sir Hugh Paterson, 3rd Baronet of Bannockburn, when the Jacobite army laid siege of Stirling Castle.

During his time there, the Prince also met Sir Hugh's niece, Clementina Walkinshaw, who nursed him back to health. A romance bloomed between the pair which carried on for many years after the Rising and they had a daughter, Charlotte, Duchess of Albany. It was also during this time, according to the house's oral traditions, that an assassin fired a shot through the bedroom window, missing Bonnie Prince Charlie as he slept and lodged itself in the wall at the head of the bed. For centuries, the existence of this musket ball hole remained a tantalising legend passed down through the generations, its whereabouts shrouded in mystery, until now.

In April 2024, the hole was found under a secret panel by volunteer researchers on the House's History Team. The team was aided by leading Jacobite historian Professor Murray Pittock of the University of Glasgow, and Stirling Council Archaeologist, Dr Murray Cook, who both confirmed the authenticity of the find.

The Trust volunteers had been searching for the hole but had nothing to go on. Then volunteers arranged a visit with an 89-year-old Edinburgh resident, whose aunt was housekeeper for the last owner in residence, who provided the crucial lead. He told History Team Lead, Anne Monaghan and fellow history volunteer Anna Morrison that his aunt had taken great pride in looking after the bullet hole. As soon as they arrived back in Stirling, they contacted Catherine Bradley, lead volunteer researcher for the charity, who met them the next day to investigate the room.

Forensic evidence of an assassination attempt

"Anne and I noticed what appeared to be the edge of an inset panel in the wall when cleaning out the room furniture recently for conservation. I suspected that is where it may have been. It is across from a window, now hidden by panelling later put in the room sometime in the 1880s. I just didn't have the evidence to look until now. It was an exciting moment as I opened it. I carefully lifted the panel and

saw the splintered wood and I knew we'd found something very special," Catherine said. She continued: "Anne asked me what I saw, and I remember giggling and saying, wonderful things! I knew we needed to be very careful not to damage it, so we documented it, covered it back up, and called in the cavalry."

The volunteers quickly contacted Professor Pittock and Dr Cook for help. Dr Cook said: "I have visited the bedroom many times over the years and always tried to imagine the Prince and the resulting confusion from the musket fire and sounds of smashing glass alerting everyone to the assassin. However, to see the damage and to touch the spot sent a thrill down my spine - an incredible tangible experience and worth visiting Bannockburn House for this alone."

Leading historian Professor Pittock, author of *Culloden, The Myth of the Jacobite Clans, Jacobitism* and many other works, said: "I am pleased to endorse that Bannockburn House Trust has almost certainly discovered forensic evidence of an assassination attempt on Prince Charles in 1746. This is critically important not only for our understanding of the Rising but also for the role the attack may have played in intensifying the relationship between Charles and Clementina Walkinshaw, which led to the birth of his only child."

One of the most tumultuous episodes in Scottish and British history

Stirling Council Leader, Cllr Chris Kane said: "In the year of Stirling's 900th anniversary celebrations, it's remarkable that we're still unearthing new discoveries about the area's rich past - but this one is particularly exciting.

This astonishing find at Bannockburn House sheds new light on the story of Bonnie Prince Charlie and one of the most tumultuous episodes in Scottish and British history. We are proud that Stirling is at the heart of the nation's history which is showcased at our wide range of world-class attractions and impressive built heritage like Bannockburn House. It's why people from all across the world are drawn into the area every year and we look forward to welcoming more visitors during our 900th birthday celebrations."

But this remarkable find is now under threat from severe water ingress caused by the deterioration of the building. The Bannockburn House Trust, who look after the property, is urgently seeking funding to preserve this invaluable piece of Scotland's past. The water ingress is from a deteriorating 17th century roof which features hand-hewn wooden slate pegs and carvings on the roof beams. The spectacular ornate plasterwork ceilings are also at risk. Urgent restoration is needed to prevent further damage to the important piece of Scotland's history. The Trust is launching a major fundraising campaign to proceed with the work. "Our goal is to restore the building and protect the musket ball hole and other important historical features of Bannockburn House," said Amanda Monaghan, spokesperson and operations manager for the charity. "This discovery is a tangible link to a significant event in our history, and it's crucial that we act now to preserve it for future generations."

The restoration project is estimated to cost millions of pounds, as the building needs to be carefully studied, conserved, and restored to its original condition. The charity also has daily running costs and upkeep. It is launching fundraising bids to raise the necessary aid and is appealing to history enthusiasts, residents, and supporters of heritage preservation to contribute through the donate button on their webpage. "We invite everyone to join us in this important effort," added Ms Monaghan. "By restoring the house, we can safeguard this fascinating piece of history and ensure Bannockburn House continues to inspire and educate."

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1 oz. yeast or ½ tablespoons dried yeast
1 tablespoons sugar
1 cup butter ½ cup lard
1½ cup water at blood heat
pinch of salt

Method:

Mix sifted flour and salt in basin. Cream yeast with sugar. When it bubbles, add to flour with water. Mix well, cover, set in warm place until bulk doubles; about ½ hour. Cream butter and lard together, divide into three parts. Put dough on floured board, roll out into long strip. Dot first third of fats on top third of pastry strip. Fold over like an envelope as when making flaky pastry.

Roll out, repeat with other strips until all butter mixture is used up. Roll out, cut in small oval shapes or rounds. Lay on floured baking sheet, leave 2 inches between each to allow for expansion. Cover as above, let rise ¾ hour. Bake for 20 minutes at 375°F/160°C - 400°F/205°C.

Highlander Soup

Ingredients:

2 cups dried lentils or peas
3 lbs./1.3kgs. ham or beef bone
½ cup diced celery
1 small onion, diced
1 cup cut carrots
2 tablespoons flour
2 teaspoons salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

Method:

Wash lentils or peas and soak overnight in cold water. Drain. Add the recipe water and bones. Heat to boiling. Simmer 2 hours.

Add greens (celery) and carrots and simmer until lentils or peas are tender. Skim all fat from soup.

Remove bones, cut off any meat, dice it, and return diced meat to the soup. Sauté onions, then add flour, salt and pepper. Mix well. Slowly add one cup hot soup stock to onion mixture, cook until thick and smooth and return thickened mixture to rest of hot soup.

Pork chops with apples and cider

Ingredients:

4 pork chops, good thick ones with lots of fat salt and freshly ground black pepper
a good glug fruity olive oil
1 large onion, or 2 small ones, peeled, chopped a couple of eating apples, each cut into 8 wedges, and at least 3 eating apples left whole a few fresh sage leaves
a few juniper berries, squashed using the back of a knife
a good glass of dry cider

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Season the chops well with salt and freshly ground black pepper. In a large shallow ovenproof pan, heat the olive oil and fry the rind of each chop for a good head start to getting them crisp. Then lightly fry each side for a minute or so to get the outside crusty and golden brown, and remove from the pan. Add the onion to the same pan with the pork juices, and brown a little before adding in the apple wedges and sage leaves (add only a few as sage can overpower the dish) with the juniper berries.

Add the chops back into the pan, and nestle them among the apples and onions, along with the remaining whole apples. Pour over the cider, enough to just cover the ingredients, season to taste and place in the oven for about half an hour, or until the pork and apple are cooked.

Cock-a-leekie kebab

Ingredients:

2 tbsp. fresh lime juice
4 garlic cloves
1-piece fresh ginger (2 inches)
2 green birds eye chillies, chopped
200ml/7 oz. plain Greek yoghurt
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tsp ground coriander
1 tsp ground turmeric
2 tsp ground paprika
A few drops of red food colouring
20g/0.75oz. pack fresh coriander, chopped
3 skinless chicken breasts cut into 5cm pieces (15 pieces in total)
2 large leeks
15 pitted prunes

Method:

In a blender, purée the lime juice, garlic, ginger, and chillies. Add the yoghurt, spices and colour and blend until smooth. Mix with the chicken pieces and leave over-night, if possible. If not, your chicken will need at least 4 hours in the marinade. Separate the green and white parts of the leeks. Blanch the whites of the leeks in boiling water. Wrap the prunes in the green parts of the leeks. Thread the chicken, wrapped prunes and blanched leeks onto your prepared skewers (If you use wooden skewers make sure you soak them so they do not burn). Heat the grill to a high heat

and lightly oil the grates. Place the skewers on the grill. Cover the grill and cook, turning occasionally until grill marks are visible and the chicken is cooked. If you do not have a grill, then you can use a very hot oven. Serve with tamarind sauce.

Oatcakes



Ingredients:

110g/4oz. medium oatmeal, plus more for dusting
110g/4oz. plain flour
55g/2oz. lard, dripping or poultry fat
1 level tsp salt
cold water
For the glaze
1 egg
1 tbsp. milk
1 tsp. sugar

Method:

Mix the oatmeal and flour in a bowl. Rub in the fat, add the salt and mix in just enough cold to form a soft but not tacky dough. Roll out the dough on an oatmeal-strewn board. Cut out circles with a scone cutter. Alternatively, cut out a dinner-plate round, and quarter it.

Mix together the egg, milk and sugar to form a glaze. Cook the oatcakes on an ungreased medium-hot griddle, without turning them. The moment the first batch are in place, brush them over with glaze - it will turn to a shiny coating as they cook. When fully cooked, remove. Store in an airtight box.

Glazed chestnut rice pudding

Ingredients:

250ml/8.5 fl oz. milk
320ml/11 fl oz. cream
90g/3oz. sugar
6 egg yolks
1 vanilla pod
chestnut purée
vanilla foam
sprinkle of caster sugar

Method:

Place all the ingredients, apart from the chestnut purée and egg yolks into a pan and bring to the boil. Simmer until the rice is soft. Add the egg yolks and the chestnut purée and cook until it starts to thicken, and remove from the heat.

Just before serving, sprinkle with caster sugar and place under a hot grill until the caster sugar is golden brown and caramelised.

Flora Macdonald

Ingredients:

2 Parts Dry Vermouth
1 Part Gin
1 Part Whisky/Honey Liqueur

Method:

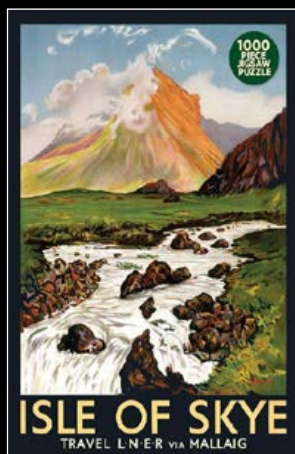
Fill a mixing glass with ice cubes. Add all ingredients. Stir and strain into a chilled cocktail glass.

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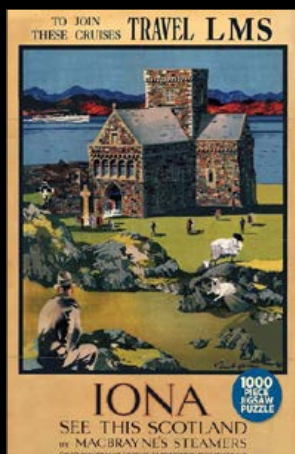
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Scotland's link to Stonehenge

By: Neil Drysdale



Photo: Blair Sugarman.

It is one of the most staggering discoveries in recent archaeological history; one which could change the whole perception of where real power existed in Britain thousands of years ago. Archaeologists have long known that some of the stones at Stonehenge came from Wales and were transported about 125 miles to the site of the Neolithic monument on Salisbury Plain. But a “jaw-dropping” study has revealed that one of Stonehenge’s central megaliths, weighing six tonnes, is 100% Scottish and must have been conveyed as far as 500-700 miles to the world heritage site which is as familiar to tourists as it is to Druids and fans of the film *This is Spinal Tap*.

The altar stone

The new analysis found that the largest “bluestone” at Stonehenge was brought to the site from the north-east corner of Scotland – and scientists have admitted that the revelation could signify that Orkney was one of the most important centres in ancient British history. The megalith, which is known as the “altar stone”, was transported by our ancestors from at least as far as Inverness, and potentially from Orkney, but nobody yet knows how this was orchestrated.

However, Rob Ixer, an honorary senior research fellow at University College London and one of the experts behind the study, which was published in *Nature*, said: “This doesn’t just alter what we think about Stonehenge, it alters what we think about the whole of the late Neolithic period. It completely rewrites the relationships between the Neolithic populations of the whole of the British Isles. The science is beautiful and it’s going to be discussed for decades. It is jaw-dropping.”



The Altar Stone.

The altar stone, which is classed as a non-local bluestone, was long thought to have been transported to the site from somewhere in Wales. That belief was reinforced because a separate group of Stonehenge’s bluestones are now known to have been quarried in Pembrokeshire. But that theory has been comprehensively demolished. The study, involving experts from Curtin University in Perth, Australia; Adelaide University; Aberystwyth University; and UCL, originally aimed to examine the stone’s chemical composition and the age of the minerals within it. But nobody was prepared for this outcome.

Completely unexpected

Nick Pearce, a professor of geography and earth sciences at Aberystwyth who is another of the report’s co-authors, said: “With that age fingerprint, you can match it to the same sort of rocks around the UK – and the match for the age fingerprint was a dead ringer for the Orcadian Basin in north-east Scotland. It was completely unexpected.” Although identifying the exact site will take further work, the scientists have narrowed the potential source area to encompass Orkney; a triangle of land around John O’Groats in Caithness; or a narrow coastal strip stretching south as far as the Moray Firth around Inverness and east to Elgin.



Professor Nick Pearce at Stonehenge.

The finding may be astonishing, but the science is not controversial, according to Mr Pearce. He added: “This is very, very well-established science. It’s not something people can look at and say: ‘That can’t be right. The odds of the stone coming from elsewhere are “fractions of a percent”’.

Nobody has yet figured out how the large rock was ferried - either over land or by sea - from the far north of Scotland to Wiltshire.

But Skara Brae on Orkney is older than the Pyramids and demonstrates that people there knew how to build fortified, weather-proof shelters. They were also masters of creating standing stones and such features permeate Orkney. Perhaps, we’ll learn in the future that their workers dragged the material down to Stonehenge - or should that be Stanehenge? - with an efficiency and precision it’s still hard to believe.

Stonehenge’s Altar Stone origins reveal advanced ancient Britain



Curtin University PhD student Anthony Clarke and Professor Kirkland at Stonehenge.

The new research led by Curtin University has revealed the findings point to the existence of unexpectedly advanced transport methods and societal organisation at the time of the stone’s arrival at its current location in southern England about 5,000 years ago.

Curtin researchers studied the age and chemistry of mineral grains within fragments of the Altar Stone, which is a 50cm thick sandstone block measuring 5 x 1 metres, that sits at the centre of Stonehenge’s iconic stone circle in Wiltshire. Lead author PhD student Anthony Clarke from the Timescales of Mineral Systems Group within Curtin’s School of Earth and Planetary Sciences said analysis of the age and chemical composition of minerals within fragments of the Altar Stone matched it with rocks from northeast Scotland, while also clearly differentiating them from Welsh bedrock.

“Our analysis found specific mineral grains in the Altar Stone are mostly between 1000 to 2000 million years old, while other minerals are around 450 million years old,” Mr Clarke said. “This provides a distinct chemical fingerprint

suggesting the stone came from rocks in the Orcadian Basin, Scotland, at least 750 kilometres away from Stonehenge. Given its Scottish origins, the findings raise fascinating questions, considering the technological constraints of the Neolithic era, as to how such a massive stone was transported over vast distances around 2600 BC. This discovery also holds personal significance for me. I grew up in the Mynydd Preseli, Wales, where some of Stonehenge’s stones came from. I first visited Stonehenge when I was one year old and now at 25, I returned from Australia to help make this scientific discovery – you could say I’ve come full circle at the stone circle.”

Study co-author Professor Chris Kirkland, also from the Timescales of Mineral Systems Group at Curtin, said the findings had significant implications for understanding ancient communities, their connections, and their transportation methods.

“Our discovery of the Altar Stone’s origins highlights a significant level of societal coordination during the Neolithic period and helps paint a fascinating picture of prehistoric Britain,” Professor Kirkland said. “Transporting such massive cargo overland from Scotland to southern England would have been extremely challenging, indicating a likely marine shipping route along the coast of Britain. This implies long-distance trade networks and a higher level of societal organisation than is widely understood to have existed during the Neolithic period in Britain.”

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PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301

Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com

www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/AUSmembership.php

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Duncan Robertson Reid

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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

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 Dumtreath

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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Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com

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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

National Clan Cameron Australia Inc.

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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
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 For more information, please contact:
 Australian Clan Hay convenor, Chris Hay McMor Fairbank
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 jeffh@bigpond.com
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Clan Macnachten Association Worldwide
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Macfie Clan Society of Australia
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 For more information please email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au, visit us at facebook.com/clanmacfieaustralia or our website: https://clanmacfie.com.au

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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: malcolmjmcneil@outlook.com

Clan Irwin Association
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CLAN LAMONT SOCIETY AUSTRALIA invites membership from Sept names refer to Web Site www.clanlamontaustralia.com
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 For all enquires about the Clan and Membership contact :-
 President Ian McLucas.
 Email ianandbevmclucas@bigpond.com
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Scott McInnis, Member Services: scott@macinnes.org or visit www.macinnes.org

Clan MacLellan
 Kevin S Gates
 Treasurer
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 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.
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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
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phone +64 274 587 812

USA. Dave McPherson
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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/>

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Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary

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The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

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www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



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: clanmacraeustnz@gmail.com

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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



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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 Balnagowan)

We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest.

Contact: Commander Des Ross at
lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia

For further details contact John: 0427 990 754
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www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com



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Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

Suite 87, 139 Cardigan St
Carlton Vic 3053

Email: resource_centre@scotssofar.org.au
Website: <https://scotssofar.org.au>
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CLAN MUNRO ASSOCIATION

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



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For further info contact
President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174
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The Improbable Imp - *The Scottish made answer to the Mini endures for sixty years*

By: Eric Bryan



Imp 1, the first Imp to roll off of the production line in 1963, at the Glasgow Transport Museum. Photo: Jordanhill School D&T Dept, CC by 2.0.

Developed in the 1950's as the Scottish rival to the legendary Austin Mini, the Hillman Imp began production in Linwood just outside Glasgow in the early 1960's. The innovative car, and modern new factory which employed thousands of Scots, sadly never was the success it was made to be as the project was plagued with poor build quality, unreliability and low sales. The icon of Scottish motoring is still however fondly remembered as Eric Bryan explains.

In 1955 the British Rootes Group inaugurated a small car project with an eye toward designing a vehicle which would compete with the bubble cars of the time. The petrol shortages created by the 1956 Suez Crisis increased the British demand for small, economical cars and further sharpened Rootes' determination to develop a viable entry into the compact car market. Engineers Mike Parkes and Tim Fry produced two different prototypes of a model called the Slug, but the Rootes board members condemned the designs for their outward similarities to bubble cars. Instead, the board pointed to the Austin A30 and Ford Poplar as representing a more fitting direction in design for the proposed Rootes car. This decision instigated Project Apex.

Innovative design

The Apex design was fitted with a rear-mounted aluminium 875cc Coventry Climax engine, and a newly-designed Adrian West transaxle. Both were considered excellent and ahead of their time. The Apex body shape, particularly the front end, took some inspiration from American cars such as the Corvair, and the now-familiar Imp lines emerged. Various factors caused Rootes to rush the Apex/Imp project in 1962, preventing the engineers from perfecting some features.

The Hillman Imp went into production at the Rootes factory in Linwood, 14 miles west of Glasgow, and burst onto the British automotive scene in 1963. Published road tests of the Imp praised its splendid gearbox, engine and handling qualities. But due to the hurrying of the project in its final stages, the Imp initially suffered mechanical difficulties and earned a reputation for unreliability. Rootes ironed out these problems, but the Imp's rear-engine arrangement was overshadowed by the BMC Mini's front-engine-front-wheel-drive design. However, this compact saloon became the least expensive British car of the period.

Though not reaching the iconic status which the Mini achieved in the mid-1960s, the Imp was an innovative design, and production as well as competition versions of the car had some famous wins in the Tulip Rally and at Monte Carlo.

Some basic specs

The original Imp four-cylinder 875cc engine had a Solex 30 PIHT-2 carburettor, a compression ratio of 10 : 1, and produced 39 hp. The engine was positioned behind the rear axle at a 45-degree angle in order to fit. The aluminium gearbox had synchromesh on all four gears and was considered perhaps the best of its time. The Hillman Imp had a wheelbase of 208cm, a length of 353cm, a kerb weight of 698kg and a turning circle of 9.3m. The car's top speed was about 122 km/h. Acceleration from 0-100 km/h was approximately 23 seconds, and the average fuel economy was 12.7 km/l. The 1966 Imp Sport variant had 50 hp and offered 0-100 km/h in 18 seconds and a top speed of 138 km/h.

One of the car's innovative features was an opening rear window-hatch, which gave access to a small luggage area that could be increased by folding down the rear seat. Though not an actual hatchback, the Imp was a predecessor to that design and the first car with this option. The De Luxe version of the Imp, also introduced in 1963, was slightly heavier but had similar performance. Extras available for the De Luxe included radio, whitewall tyres, heavy duty shock absorbers, ventilator (opening wing windows), seat belts and reverse lights. The Imp Series I Saloon was replaced by the Series II in 1965 and the Series III in 1968. Production continued until 1976.

The Imp in competition

In races and rallies from January 1964 to April 1966 Imp competitors achieved over 60 team prizes, class wins and outright wins.



Some of these Imps had an 875cc engine; others were powered by a 998cc motor. Competition Imps could be tuned to deliver from 75 to 110 bhp, depending on carburetion. By late 1965, Imps had beaten all but a handful of the highest-performing Minis, and in 1966 every high-profile club race was won in an Imp. Imps achieved outright wins in the 1965 Tulip and Tanzania rallies. In the 1965 RAC Rally, Imps took 16 first places and made seven lap records. More Imp outright wins were achieved in the 1966 International Saloon Car Race at Silverstone, and the 1966 Nairobi Rally. The 1966 Swiss Tessin Rally saw another outright win accomplished in an Imp.

Imp Monte Carlo Rally results and controversies

In January 1964, Imp team Ernie Hunt and R Mac (competition number 249) won the best performance by a British private owner and best performance from the Glasgow start at the Monte Carlo Rally. In the 1965 rally, Imp team Rosemary Smith and Margaret McKenzie (number 113) finished 22nd overall, fourth in the up to 1000cc GT class and second in the *Coupees des Dames*. David Pollard and Barry Hughes (number 95) driving an Imp achieved second in the up to 1000cc GT class and 15th overall. Rosemary Smith and Valerie Domleo drove Imp number 107 in the now-notorious 1966 Monte Carlo Rally. Though winning the ladies' class and placing sixth (in the up to 1000cc unmodified production touring car class), number 107 was disqualified due to a last-minute rule change which declared halogen headlamps illegal. The competition number 35 Imp apparently suffered a similar disqualification in this rally.

Amongst other Imp teams competing in the 1966 rally, Tiny Lewis and Timothy Bosence (number 146) won the up to 1000cc modified production touring

cars class, while Philippe Simonetta and Bernard Dirren (number 162) took second in the same category. Patrick Lier and Henri Vuarraz, number 136, took first in the up to 1000cc unmodified production touring cars class. Andrew Cowan and Brian Coyle drove Imp competition number 77 in the 1967 Monte Carlo Rally. In this car, Cowan and Coyle took first place in the production cars up to 1000cc class and 22nd overall, while Patrick Lier and Silvio Vaglio took first in the up to 1300cc GT cars class in an Imp. Peter Harper and Robin Turvey drove another Imp in this rally which, while running second in its class and 46th overall, fell out of the race on the rally's last night with a carburettor failure. Imp team Smith and Domleo were likewise in this race, but crashed and were out, also on the last night.

More Imps gave strong showings in the 1968 Monte Carlo Rally. Cowan and Coyle (number 45) took first in the 851-1150cc production touring cars class and 22nd overall, while Smith and Lowrey (number 169) took second in the *Coupe des Dames*.

Variants and more

The Imp was the basis of several other designs, such as the Imp Commer Van which appeared in late 1965. There was a boom for small vans in Britain created by a tax loophole, and this Rootes entry was designed to compete in that market. The cargo bed's interior dimension was high enough to accommodate milk churns, had a 350kg capacity, and was required to be able to climb curbs while fully-laden. Rootes almost landed a Commer Van deal with the Royal Mail, but joy-riding postmen spoiled negotiations – the van was considered too fast! Rootes brought out the Sunbeam Imp Sport in 1966. This model's 875cc engine, fitted with dual Zenith-Stromberg carburettors, produced 55 bhp and powered the car to a top speed of 145 km/h. The Hillman Imp Californian was a fastback coupé version of the car, which went on the market in early 1967.

Also in 1967, Rootes introduced an estate version of the Imp, the Hillman Husky, often referred to as the Imp Estate. The Sunbeam Stiletto, which married the coupé design with the Imp Sport power-plant, began production in October 1967. There were quite a number of other Imp variants, and many vehicles of other marques which used the Imp motor. These included the Probe 15, the TVR Tina, the Bond 875 Mk I and II, and various striking Costin-Nathan and Nathan creations. There were also the Blimp, the KVV Imposter and the Zagato Zimp. The famed Coventry Climax engine was further used in speedboats, hydroplanes (including in a world record holder), motorcycles, street-sweepers, and even in a go-kart and a hovercraft!



A peek into an Imp's engine compartment. Photo: Brian Snelson, CC by 2.0.



A competition Hillman Imp Super at the 2011 Blenheim Palace Classic Car Show. Photo: Simon Q, CC by 2.0.

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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

Australia

SEPTEMBER 2024

Claymore Live at Bird's Basement 6, Melbourne, VIC

Hailing from the vibrant music scenes of Scotland and Australia, Claymore stands tall as one of the finest Celtic Rock bands in the world. Infusing the rich tapestry of Celtic musical tradition with the raw power of rock, Claymore creates an electrifying sonic experience that transcends borders and captivates audiences globally. Live at Bird's Basement, 11 Singers Lane. Info: www.claymore.org

Tascal Winter Ball Weekend 2024 6-8, Hobart, TAS

Dance Scottish! Dance Global! Together. A Scottish country dance weekend, including a city cruise and a gala event in the beautiful historic Hobart Town Hall ballroom, musicians Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt. Info: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1182745

Mini Band, Quintet and Solo Drumming Contests 7, Horsham, VIC

Hosted by Horsham City Pipe Band with mini band, solo and massed bands. Food and refreshments will be available to purchase in the Botanical Gardens during the day. Info: www.facebook.com/p/Horsham-City-Pipe-Band-100063453884619/

Irish & Celtic Music Festival 2024 13-15, Yass, NSW

Yass Valley will come alive in a celebration of Irish and Celtic Music. Includes many genres from Australian thru to Celtic traditions, Folk & Blues. The opportunity is provided for youth to access free lessons in the Celtic Arts, especially music & dance, known as the Junior Fleadh. Lessons provided to all levels of skill by experienced tutors. Various workshops are available in dance, poetry and spoken word. Info: www.irishcelticmusicfestival.com

The Scots School Albury Pipe Band Competition 14, Albury, NSW

Pipe band competition at Scots School Albury, 393 Perry St. Info: 02 6022 0000.

Royal Caledonian Society of South Australia Chief's Dinner/Ceilidh 14, Adelaide, SA

The oldest Pipe Band in Southern Hemisphere Royal Caledonian Society Pipes & Drums band is celebrating 130 years. Evening includes displays from RCS Pipes & Drums, Garrick Stewart Highland Dancers & Scottish Country Dancers at Fogolar Furlan, 69 Briar Rd, Felixstow. Info: chief.rcssa@gmail.com

Clans on the Coast Highland Celtic Festival 21, Raymond Terrace, NSW

Pipe bands, Celtic band, variety and Celtic stalls, Caber Toss, Tug-Of-War, Celtic dancers and more at Lakeside Sports Complex, 13 Leisure Way. Info: Adam Nicholas 0432 187 010 or www.clansonthecoast.com.au

Chaotic Ceilidh 28, Sydney, NSW

Featuring music by ARIA Award winning Chris Duncan & Catherine Strutt, it will be a night of energetic and popular dances at Abraham Mott Hall, Argyle Street, The Rocks. Info: www.sotr.org.au/chaos

Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh 28, Inglewood, WA

Music by the Heel n Toe Ceilidh Band. Come and enjoy a really fun night out at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beaufort St. All ages welcome. Info: John: 0427 990 754 or www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

The Queensland Piobaireachd Group Monthly Gathering 29, Ipswich, QLD

A monthly gathering of pipers and piobaireachd enthusiasts who play, listen to, and enjoy the ceòl mòr. Free event at City of Ipswich Pipe Band Hall, Selwyn Edwards Dr. Info: www.pipebandsqld.com

OCTOBER 2024

Highland Harmony 5, Bundaberg, QLD

An unforgettable night of bagpipe melodies with the Bundaberg Caledonian Pipe Band, enchanting vocals by Suellen Cusack-Greensill, captivating performances by Rum City Highland Dancers, and more at the Moncrieff Theatre. Info: www.facebook.com/BundabergCaledonianPipeBand

Armada Highland Gathering and the Perth Kilt Run 6, Champion Lakes, WA

Celebrate all things Scottish at the largest Highland Gathering event held in Western Australia. Pipe bands, Scottish dancers, Clan Village and the Perth Kilt Run – the only charity fun run in Australia that's done in a kilt! Due to the Byford Rail Extension works, the 2024 event will not take place in its normal location and has been relocated to the Champion Lakes Regatta Centre in Champion Lakes. Info: www.perthkilt.run.com.au

Canberra Highland Gathering 12, Canberra, ACT

Pipe bands will mass in Canberra to compete in the ACT pipe band championship as well as the community pipe band elements. Highland dancers will compete in the Canberra City Championship. There will also be other music types throughout the day, massed pipe band performances and other historic re-enactments and displays. A free community event at Kett St, Kambah. Info: www.canberragathering.com.au

Brisbane Celtic Festival 13, Brisbane, QLD

New Celtic event to be held at the Celtic Standing Stones Monument in Moorlands Park. This will be a celebration of the culture, music, clothing, traditions, language, food and drink of the Celtic nations of Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, Galicia and Asturias. Info: www.ccaq.org.au

The City of Newcastle RSL Pipe Band Centennial Ball 19, Newcastle, NSW

Three course Dinner and dancing with musical entertainment from Newcastle icons Love that Hat and The City of Newcastle RSL Pipe Band, at The Concert Hall, Newcastle City Hall, King St. Tickets: www.trybooking.com/CSWHE

Scottish Luncheon 20, Bathurst, NSW

Wear a touch of tartan or your full Scottish Regalia for a 4 course Scottish meal. Explore Abercrombie House and grounds on our self-guided tour (included). Info: www.abercrombiehouse.com.au

Williamstown Highland Celtic Gathering 26, Williamstown, VIC

A celebration of Celtic culture at Seaworks, Williamstown. Celtic music dance, stalls, dancing and more. Info: www.melbournehighlandgames.org.au

Caledonian Society of WA Halloween Ceilidh 26, Inglewood, WA

Music by the Heel n Toe Ceilidh Band. Come and enjoy a really fun night out at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beaufort St. All ages welcome. Info: John: 0427 990 754 or www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

Society of St Andrew of Scotland Darling Downs Branch Gala Dinner 26, Toowoomba, QLD

Evening includes display of Highland dancing & bagpipes, traditional Haggis Ceremony, Clan Ferguson Award ceremony and more at Downs Club Toowoomba. Info: 0438 281 028 or standrewddb@gmail.com

The Queensland Piobaireachd Group Monthly Gathering 27, Ipswich, QLD

A monthly gathering of pipers and piobaireachd enthusiasts who play, listen to, and enjoy the ceòl mòr. Free event at City of Ipswich Pipe Band Hall, Selwyn Edwards Dr. Info: www.pipebandsqld.com

New Zealand

SEPTEMBER 2024

Under A Celtic Moon 1, Christchurch

Featuring Scottish born folk blues jazz singer songwriter and producer Isabella Miller Bell also known by stage names Ma Bell & Madame Tragedie. Expect a nostalgic memorable afternoon of absolute world class acoustic sounds from classic blues n Jazz through to original compositions and haunting soul stirring Celtic airs and ballads delivered with a whole lot of heart-warming Celtic soul and theatrical flair at The Great Hall, Arts Centre Christchurch, 2 Worcester Blvd. Info: www.millerbellmusic.com

Scottish Country Dancing Whanau Class 3-24, Whangarei

Scottish Country Dancing beginners class for children and their parents or carers. Have fun, get some exercise and improve your memory and coordination. All welcome. Please wear comfortable clothing and light shoes. Every Tuesday at The Griffin Hall, 7 Grant St, Kamo. Info: www.dancescottish.org.nz

Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh 14, Wellington

A ceilidh is held in the City of Wellington Pipe Band Hall, corner Stoke and Hanson Street Newtown, from 8.00pm - 12.00am. We are a very family-oriented organisation and we encourage participation by all ages and encourage the opportunity for you to wear some tartan. Info: <http://wellington-gaelic-club-communn-gaidhealach-wellington.weebly.com>

Manawatu Tattoo 2024 15, Feilding

Celebrates 150 years of Feilding and District and features the New Zealand Army Band. Guest artists will be joined by Pipe and Brass bands, Scottish Dancers, Hato Paroa College and Bulls School, Broadway United Marching, Military vehicles and more at Manfeild Park Stadium, 59 South St. Info: www.eventfinda.co.nz/2024/manawatu-tattoo-2024/feilding

Auckland Biannual Ceilidh 20-21, Auckland

Biannual ceilidhs (social dances) with a live band and experienced caller. The inaugural ceilidh extravaganza includes a Friday and Saturday session at Te Atatu Peninsula Community Centre. Info: abccceilidhs@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/aucklandceilidhs

VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group-Ayr schoolmaster John Bonar's Commonplace book (1649-72) 28, Wellington

John and his son amassed an amazing collection of miscellaneous material – from literary quotes to lists of house chattels, all copied into this book (over 1,600 pages) – probably started as a schoolmaster's compendium (recently digitized). We shall view it and other Scottish treasures held in the Alexander Turnbull Library. Info: <https://wellyscots.wordpress.com>

OCTOBER 2024

Thistles: Scottish Genealogy Special Interest Group 8, Whangaparaoa, Auckland

Calling all Scots: the HBC Genealogy Branch of NZ Society of Genealogists introduces: Thistles. This Scottish, special interest, genealogy group will meet at Whangaparaoa Library, 9 Main St, Whangaparaoa to listen to speakers and discuss Scottish history topics. Come along and give it laldy! Info: Garry Phillips 021-902-715 or garryphillips2010@gmail.com

Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh 12, Wellington

A ceilidh is held in the City of Wellington Pipe Band Hall, corner Stoke and Hanson Street Newtown, from 8.00pm - 12.00am. We are a very family-oriented organisation and we encourage participation by all ages and encourage the opportunity for you to wear some tartan. Info: <http://wellington-gaelic-club-communn-gaidhealach-wellington.weebly.com>

VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group-Ship's Boy from Rothesay to well-known Wellington Master Mariner 28, Wellington

Member Lindsay Campbell's great grandfather James Campbell (born 1825 – family from Kilfinan, Argyll) served his apprenticeship in British waters; came to New Zealand in 1855 – had had time in India (cholera) and the Australian gold fields. Few internal roads in the country so coastal shipping was vital; James and two brothers very involved. This being the last meeting of the year, we shall have a brief review of 2024 and look forward to 2025, at 197 Willis St, between Dixon & Ghuznee Streets. Info: <https://wellyscots.wordpress.com>

Scotland

SEPTEMBER 2024

The Braemar Gathering 7, Braemar

Held at The Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park each September in the beautiful Cairngorms village of Braemar, it is the proud continuation of an ancient tradition of Gatherings here — one that can be traced back to the time of King Malcolm Canmore, over 900 years ago. Traditionally the Gathering has been regularly attended by the reigning Monarch and members of the British Royal Family. Info: www.braemargathering.org

Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games 8, Blairgowrie

A day of Scottish tradition in beautiful Perthshire, at Bogles Field, Essendy Rd. Info: www.blairgowriehighlandgames.co.uk

Pitlochry Highland Games 14, Pitlochry

Traditional Highland Games with pipe bands, solos, Highland dance, athletics and more. Info: www.pitlochryhighlandgames.co.uk

Bowhill Highland Games 15, Bowhill

Traditional Games at Wallsgreen Park. Info: lindawerskin@yahoo.co.uk

Lochaber Live 20-22, Fort William

A whole host of Scottish talent, all with a close connection to the region, play trad music to thousands at a tented venue set out on An Aird shinty field. Info: www.anairdevents.com

Clan Ewing Family Convention 21, Dumbarton

The Ewing Family Association is organising a new Family Convention and invites all clansfolk when, unless a hereditary claimant can be securely established, a new chief will be appointed by the clan at Strathleven House, West Dunbartonshire. Info: www.clanewing.uk

The Stewart Society Gathering 27-29, Stirling

Join the Stewart Society in historic Stirling for a weekend celebrating the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Stewart Society, as well as Stewart and Scottish heritage culture. Visit Bannockburn battlefield, tragic Sauchieburn and dance the night away with us at the celebration ceilidh. Join us for a very special weekend filled with unique experiences in the heart of Scotland. Make new friends and meet your family. Info: www.stewart-society.org

Wigtown Book Festival 27-October 6, Wigtown

The 10-day annual literary celebration, which takes place in Scotland's National Book Town, will feature more than 250 events for all ages, with a host of well-known faces. Info: www.wigtownbookfestival.com

Mòd Ionadail Obar Dheathain/ Aberdeen Local Mòd 28, Aberdeen

Offering locals and visitors alike the opportunity to gather to enjoy Gaelic culture and music. Marking a significant milestone in the preservation and celebration of Gaelic in the North-East, this revived local Mòd provides a platform for both junior and senior competitors to showcase their talents in various disciplines such as song, poetry, and music. Info: aberdeenlocalmod@gmail.com

Shetland Wool Week 29-October 5, Shetland

Week-long festival incorporating an extensive range of exhibitions, classes and events, covering many different subjects such as weaving, spinning, dyeing, Fair Isle and lace knitting. Events take place from the most southern tip of the Shetland, right up to the most northerly island of Unst. Info: www.shetlandwoolweek.com

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
7-Bonnie	1-Dominie
8-Hillock	2-Ends
10-Ailsa Craig	3-Deacon
11-Nets	4-Singlets
12-Diagonal	5-Glen Eagles
14-Enamel	6-Scythes
15-Kames Castle	9-Ballochmyle
19-Career	13- Grace Notes
20-Minister	16-Earldoms
22-Trio	17-Garrets
23-Dalbeattie	18-Venison
25-Streams	21-Nieces
26-Serfdom	24-Toff

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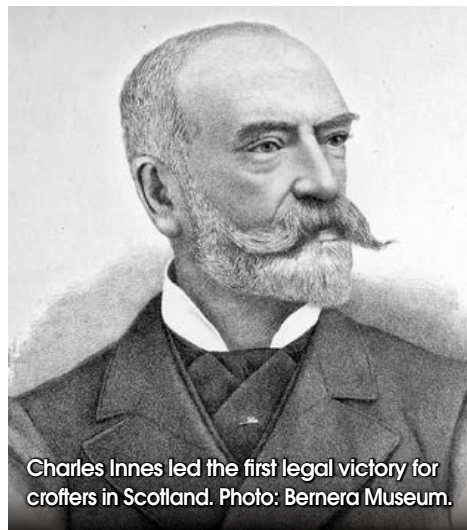
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Highland law firm uncovers link to historic crofting case that inspired land reform in Scotland



Amy Macleod on Bernera.



Charles Innes led the first legal victory for crofters in Scotland. Photo: Bernera Museum.

The Bernera Riot trial took place 150 years ago on July 17, 1874 – the same year Scottish law firm Innes & Mackay was founded.

A Highland law firm has uncovered ties to a historic court case that prompted major changes in Scots law. Charles Innes, founding partner of Innes & Mackay, secured a verdict of not guilty in the first documented legal victory for Highland crofters – representing three men for their participation in the Bernera Riot of 1874.

The victory is known in legal circles as the beginning of crofters’ ‘fight back’ after the Highland clearances, leading to the Napier Commission and land reform in Scotland. But Innes & Mackay’s involvement in the case, which took place the same year the firm of solicitors and estate agents was

founded, has only just come to light, thanks to trainee solicitor Amy Macleod.

Bernera

“My family has lived on Bernera for several generations, and Charles Innes’ name is legendary on the island,” said Amy. “There’s even a housing scheme named after him. But it was only recently, when researching the 150th anniversary of the riot, that I discovered that the Charles Innes I grew up hearing tales of was the same man that founded the law firm where I now work!” Great Bernera, known simply as Bernera, is a small island off the coast of the Isle of Lewis, home to fewer than 300 residents.

The landmark legal case stemmed from an eviction notice served to 57 crofters on the island by Sir James Matheson, then owner of Lewis, via the Chamberlain of Lewis, Donald Munro. Amy explained: “Donald Munro was already an unpopular character on Bernera. So, when his men served the eviction notices, the community was understandably outraged at losing their livelihoods. Some crofters approached the men serving the notices as they returned to their boat on March 24, 1874, and during the encounter one of the officer’s oilskins was ripped.”

On April 8, crofter Angus Macdonald was arrested while visiting Stornoway for his part in the incident. With Macdonald resisting arrest and subsequently taken to prison, the Riot Act was read as a large crowd gathered. “When word of Angus Macdonald’s arrest reached Bernera,” continued Amy, “a group of crofters marched 27 miles to Stornoway to demand an audience with Sir James Matheson to voice their protest. Angus Macdonald, Norman Macaulay and Iain Macleod then received summonses to appear in court to be charged with the assault of Colin MacLennan, the Sheriff Officer who had served the eviction notices. Charles Innes represented the three men on July 17 and 18 – holding his own against the prosecution until 10pm, when the judge delivered a verdict of not guilty.”

Key moment in Scottish history

To mark the 150th anniversary of the Bernera Riot, Bernera Community Association and Bernera Museum will

hold a 27-mile commemorative walk on September 7, 2024 – supported by Innes & Mackay. Following the walk, participants will enjoy a party in the Bernera Community Hall. Laura Cormack, director of property law and conveyancing at Innes & Mackay, said: “When Amy came to us and told us about the incredible connection between our firm and the Bernera Riot, both celebrating their 150th anniversaries this year, we were amazed. It seemed like such a coincidence that someone so involved in the community on the island would end up working at the same firm that represented her fellow islanders all those years ago. At Innes & Mackay, we have always held the community in the highest regard – so this story about one of our founding partners standing up for those facing injustice leaves us feeling incredibly proud of our heritage as we look to the future.”

Norma Macleod, chairperson of Bernera Community Association, added: “The Bernera Riot is an important event not just in our community, but in Scottish history. It was the first chance crofters really had to stand up to the establishment following the Highland clearances, proving that there is strength in standing together against injustice. We are looking forward to marking this historic event in September with a walk along the route taken by the crofters to Lewis, and are grateful to Innes & Mackay for their support in organising the event and helping to shine a light on this key moment in Scottish history.”

Tartan of the Month

Keepers, Stalkers and Ghillies Tartan

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

This tartan was designed for those familiar with the terrain, weather, equipment and quarry, and for all those that simply enjoy blending in to better observe their surroundings. The Keepers, Stalkers and Ghillies tartan is intended to compliment the tweeds of the highlands which are dyed and blended to coordinate with their surroundings. This tartan (SRT reference: 14007) was designed by Ms Caryl J Bohn and registered in August, 2023.

The Highland Gathering and Perth Kilt Run is back for 2024



Join the City of Armadale to celebrate all things Scottish at the largest Highland Gathering event held in Western Australia that has people saying things like... “It’s different, the vibe is amazing, dogs are super cute, people are amazing and friendly to chat with, it’s a very unique event that really highlights a true highland gathering.” Also: “This event made a great day out for the family. I got to experience home away from home for a day! Such a connected and community vibe felt through the whole event. 10/10 would recommend and I will be back joining in again next year!” And finally, “Come along for a fantastic day of fun with family and friends. The Armadale Highland Gathering is one of Perth’s best kept secrets for a wonderful immersion in all things Scottish.”

Variety of Scottish delights

The morning of Sunday 6 October begins with the fun and quirky Perth Kilt Run, the biggest and only fun run in Australia

that’s done in a kilt! Run, walk or wheel the 2.5km Classic or 5km Warrior course, and for the first time... dogs are officially invited to participate in the Perth Kilt Run for 2024 (2.5km Classic course only.) BYO kilt or purchase one with registration - it’s a charity fun run with a difference and you’re guaranteed to have a good time.

As you’d expect... the excitement doesn’t stop there. Following the Perth Kilt Run, we roll straight into the Highland Gathering where you’ll have the rest of the day to experience Highland dancing, pipe bands and heavy event competitions, meet and greet Scottish dogs, explore Clan histories, watch friendly battles between the medieval groups in the arena, revel in live music, test your taste buds with the variety of Scottish delights, and lots more! This is a family friendly and smoke/vape free event hosted by the City of Armadale at Champion Lakes Regatta Centre.

Further details are available at: www.perthkiltrun.com.au.



Cowal simply wonderful for TV explorer



Intrepid Scottish TV adventurer Paul Murton is encouraging people across Argyll to put their best foot forward and explore the peninsula during this year's Cowalfest walking festival. A list of 24 walks and events have now been finalised by the Cowalfest organising committee to be held over a five-day period from the 12th to 16th September. Paul, who grew up in Ardentinny and is well known for his longstanding *Grand Tours of Scotland* TV series, commented: "The vast panoramic seascapes of Loch Long, Holy Loch and the Firth of Clyde complemented by the wonderful Cowal hills were my inspirations as a child. This is the place that nurtured a desire for adventure that has never left me and that's what I attempt to reflect in my TV programmes. I always wanted to know what was over the next hill and what amazing views that could be experienced."

It's fantastic to know that events like Cowalfest provide a great opportunity for folks to experience that sense of wander through a wide variety of guided walks aimed at all abilities. This is where the Highlands start, both geologically and aesthetically, and it should be as widely accessible as possible. There are so many stories, so much history and awe-inspiring nature to be experienced across Cowal. There's the magnificent Benmore Botanic Garden, a perfect starting and point for a trek along the banks of Loch Eck which offers some inspiring views as well as lots of myths and legends, and the history which you can find in spades at places like Historic Kilmun. Both of those places have been featured in my *Grand Tours* programmes and played a part in my childhood."

Highlight the nature and history of the Cowal area

Paul who attended Dunoon Grammar School, Aberdeen University and the National Film and Television School before embarking on a life of adventure that took in a myriad mountains across the globe added, "There's also a popular five-mile hike from Ardentinny to Carrick Castle near Lochgoilhead that will feature in the Cowalfest programme. It follows the shorelines of Loch Long and Loch Goil. Walking festivals provide participants with the ability to engage in the vistas and learn all about what helped to shape them as well as providing a boost for our physical health and mental wellbeing which has become such an important issue in recent times."

Andy Armstrong, chair of Cowalfest, commented: "Paul embodies the adventurous spirit that has been a part of Cowalfest since its inception 20 years ago. After last year's false start due to the weather and a couple of years when the pandemic took its toll, I'm delighted to say that we have put together an ambitious programme of walks and events that seeks to highlight the nature and history of the Cowal area. There will be a geology walk through Innellan, a historic trek around Kilmun and a foraging nature walk as well as various walks and talks around the peninsula aimed at all levels of experience and fitness. There really is something for everyone. We have also been boosted recently with grants from Western Ferries and the National Lottery Community Fund that will go a long way to helping us get Cowalfest back on the map."

15 funniest jokes of the Fringe 2024



UKTV's channel *U&Dave* has announced the 15 funniest gags of this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2024. The jokes were chosen by a panel of UK comedy critics and were voted on by 2,000 members of the public. The Fringe is recognised as one of the greatest celebrations of arts and culture in the world, which had performers from 58 countries appearing in Edinburgh this August.

- I was going to sail around the globe in the world's smallest ship but I bottled it. – Mark Simmons
- I've been taking salsa lessons for months, but I just don't feel like I'm progressing. It's just one step forward... two steps back. – Alec Snook
- Ate horse at a restaurant once – wasn't great. Starter was all right but the mane was dreadful. – Alex Kitson
- I sailed through my driving test. That's why I failed it. – Arthur Smith
- I love the Olympics. My friend and I invented a new type of relay baton: well, he came up with the idea, I ran with it. – Mark Simmons
- My dad used to say to me "Pints, gallons, litres" – which, I think, speaks volumes. – Olaf Falafel
- British etiquette is confusing. Why is it highbrow to look at boobs in an art gallery but lowbrow when I get them out in Spoons? – Chelsea Birkby
- I wanted to know which came first the chicken or the egg so I bought a chicken and then I bought an egg and I think I've cracked it. – Masai Graham
- My partner told me that she'd never seen the film *Gaslight*. I told her that she definitely had. – Zoë Coombs Marr
- The conspiracy theory about the moon being made of cheese was started by the hallouminati. – Olaf Falafel
- I'm an extremely emotionally needy non-binary person: my pronouns are 'there there'. – Sarah Keyworth
- I've got a girlfriend who never stops whining. I wish I'd never bought her that vineyard. – Roger Swift
- Gay people are very bad at maths. We don't naturally multiply. – Lou Wall
- Keir Starmer looks like an AI-generated image of a substitute teacher. – Sophie Duker
- Growing up rich is a hereditary condition. It affects 1% of people. – Olga Koch

Science and art recreate face of Robert the Bruce

A 3D model of Robert the Bruce's face goes on display at Dunfermline Abbey.



An image of the 3D model of Robert the Bruce.



Dr Martin MacGregor with the 3D model of Robert the Bruce.

To mark the 750th anniversary of Robert the Bruce's birth, a new 3D model, produced from a cast of his skull, displayed to the public for the first time at Dunfermline Abbey. The 3D reconstruction is the most realistic likeness of Robert the Bruce to be produced to date, and was created as part of a collaboration between the University of Glasgow and Liverpool John Moores University Face Lab, which released the digital model a few years ago. Dr Martin MacGregor, Senior Lecturer in History at University of Glasgow, first conceived of the model after the discovery of King Richard III of England's skeleton in Leicester in 2012.

The model was produced using a combination of historical research and scientific analysis with advances in facial reconstruction techniques. The team used a 3D laser scanner to scan the cast of Robert the Bruce's skull held at the University of Glasgow's Hunterian Museum, which allowed the team to

accurately establish the muscle formation from the positions of the skull bones. Using CGI technology, realistically textured skin was then layered over the muscle structure. The nose is the least accurate feature of this facial depiction due to the bone deterioration. Historians have long debated whether Robert the Bruce suffered from leprosy. The team created two versions of the digital reconstruction, one without leprosy and one with a mild representation of leprosy. For the 3D physical model, only the version showing no visible signs of leprosy was portrayed.

Scotland's greatest monarch

Dr Martin MacGregor, Senior Lecturer in History at University of Glasgow, said: "In a lifetime of only 55 years, Robert Bruce achieved the impossible and restored peace and freedom to a war-torn and colonised kingdom. Contemporary sources tell us much about his remarkable life, but virtually nothing about his appearance.

This is what persuaded a team of historians, museum curators, geneticists, forensic scientists and medical artists to combine to create a new 3D depiction of the head of the hero-king, based upon the skull-cast taken from a skeleton in a tomb discovered within the ruins of Dunfermline Abbey in 1818. The head is dressed in a helmet surmounted by a crown, as worn by Bruce at his most famous victory, the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. 750 years after his birth in 1274, it is fitting that Dunfermline Abbey, where Robert Bruce was buried in 1329, should host an exhibition which brings us face-to-face with Scotland's greatest monarch."

Alasdair Campbell, Interpretation Officer at Historic Environment Scotland (HES), said: "We are delighted to host the most accurate model of Robert the Bruce's face to date. Robert the Bruce's story is an important part of Dunfermline Abbey, and we are excited for visitors to be able to visualise this story in a new way, particularly as we celebrate his 750th birthday."

The model will be on show to the public for the first time at Dunfermline Abbey until Saturday 7 December. To learn more and book your tickets, please visit the [Historic Environment Scotland website](https://www.historicenvironment.scot). Other events are also taking place across Historic Environment Scotland to celebrate Robert the Bruce's 750th anniversary. A full list can be found at [historicenvironment.scot/bruce](https://www.historicenvironment.scot/bruce). To find out more about the history of Bruce's likeness and the leprosy debate, visit [hes.scot/bruce-faces](https://www.hes.scot/bruce-faces).