



# the Scottish Banner



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*A' Bhratach Albannach*

Volume 48 Number 4

NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS

October 2024

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**the Scottish Banner**

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The Banner Says...

# Caring for Scotland's castles



by Sean Cairney

Think of Scotland and many will think of tartan, whisky and likely also castles. Those impending fortresses that scream of power, defence and history. The saying 'if these walls could talk' surely has no better place to be said than from inside a castle wall.

Scotland has castles dotted across the country, some are ruinous remains of the past and others are still incredible sights to be seen. Any visitor to Edinburgh cannot help but see the mighty Edinburgh Castle which sits atop an extinct volcano and dominates the city centre, it also has the title of Scotland's most-visited paid-for attraction. Whilst Castle Sween in Argyll is an imposing ruin and thought to be one of the oldest stone castles built in mainland Scotland, dating back to the 1100s.

## Every castle has a story to tell

Scotland has had thousands of castles which date back centuries. Every castle has, an often bloody, story to tell and remain an incredibly important part of Scottish history and culture. Caring for these iconic seats of power is a challenge that Scotland takes seriously. The hard-fought battles of the past have taken on a new meaning as these heritage sites future proof these iconic, but expensive, places of the past for future generations to enjoy and learn from. Keeping the incredible original construction protected whilst balancing the needs of modern visitors must be a constant, but crucial, demand for those in their care. One of the organisations that care for many of Scotland's castles is the National

Trust for Scotland (NTS). This year marks 40 years since the NTS took stewardship of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Fyvie Castle in Aberdeenshire, and has recently begun conservation works to enhance the visitor experience.

## Conservation project

The castle makes up a part of Scotland's Castle Trail in Aberdeenshire, the region known as 'Scotland's Castle Country'. Fyvie Castle is considered one of the finest examples of Scottish Baronial architecture in the country with an incredible history. The castle has served as a royal stronghold for King William 'The Lion' of Scotland, Robert the Bruce, and served as a home for the infant Charles I.

**The saying 'if these walls could talk' surely has no better place to be said than from inside a castle wall.**

Essential conservation works have also begun at the 15<sup>th</sup> century Kisimul Castle in the Outer Hebrides. Kisimul Castle was built on an island in Castlebay, on the Isle of Barra and is the seat of the MacNeils of Barra. The castle's unique location has caused logistical challenges with helicopters being used to transport some of the heavy equipment and materials to the site.

Earlier this year Craigievar Castle in Aberdeenshire reopened after a complex 18-month conservation project. One of the best-preserved examples of a tower house castle and often nicknamed 'Scotland's Cinderella Castle', Cragievar is famous for its iconic pink colour scheme, stunning 17<sup>th</sup> century plaster ceilings and original collections and is now able to again tell its fairytale history to visitors.

## In this issue

Castles make up just part of a new drive which has been launched in Argyll which celebrates Gaelic culture. You do not need to speak the language to take in some amazing

spots on the coast of the Gaels which includes nature, history and celebrates Gaelic language.

I recently had the chance to see Scottish actor, writer and singer Alan Cumming live. The BAFTA, Emmy, Tony and Olivier Award winner transported the audience through both Scotland and his career in words and song. Alan is always on the move and his latest announced project sees him taking up the role as Artistic Director of the Pitlochry Festival Theatre from January 2025.

Dr. Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains was confirmed in August 2019 by the Lord Lyon King of Arms as Clan Chief of the Clan and Family Carruthers. The Carruthers are an ancient Scottish family from Annandale in the Scottish Borders and recently gathered at their ancestral lands to inaugurate their first chief in over 200 years.

## Keeping these strongholds of the past alive today

Successful shows and films such as *Outlander* have also created a surge in people wanting to see where the past and fantasy intermingled on film. Locations of the hit TV series, which returns soon to television, include Doune Castle (Castle Leoch) and Midhope Castle (Lallybroch) and have seen a huge spike in visitor numbers due to the show. While every tourist on the road to Skye will no doubt stop at one of Scotland's most photographed castles, Eilean Donan Castle, which was in fact rebuilt in the 1930's after being in ruins for hundreds of years. This restoration has made the castle one of the top photo spots in the nation and shows what benefits keeping these strongholds of the past alive today.

I have been renovating my home for over 2 years and it forever feels like an ongoing project. I just cannot imagine what a forever project a historic castle must be, it is however the duty of Scotland to keep these sites protected for those who come after us to enjoy, celebrate and to be part of the future Scottish experience. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

**Do you have a favourite Scottish castle? 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.**



Fyvie Castle. Photo: National Trust for Scotland.



Gracing our front cover: The Pierhouse Hotel, Argyll. Photo: Phil Wilkinson.





# The all-butter Highlander

One for the ages: The Highlander. Hand-rolled, hand-finished, all-butter shortbread. Dusted in sweet Demerara sugar crystals, which gently dissolve on the tongue as your tastebuds surrender to the irresistibly delicious, crumbly all-butter centre.

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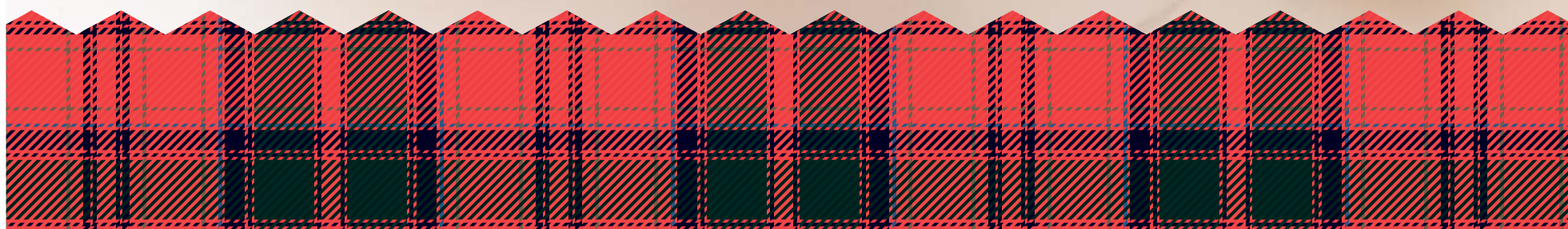


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# SCOT POURRI

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

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

## Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.2 Novice Juvenile B World Champions



Photo: Facebook.

Over 200 bands competed across 9 grades at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. This year, 4 Victorian bands ventured over to Glasgow to share their music - Old Scotch Pipes and Drums (Grade 3B), Ambulance Victoria Pipes and Drums (Grade 4B), Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.1 (Novice Juvenile A), and Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.2 (Novice Juvenile B). Well done to all bands. To have so many bands play in the World's is simply fabulous and a reflection of the vibrant pipe band community in Victoria. A huge congratulations to Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.2 band who have been crowned Novice Juvenile B World Champions! A simply brilliant result.

Due to an administrative error all the results for Novice B were withdrawn from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) website. As many will now be aware, the results announced for this grade on the day were subsequently deemed erroneous as they had been entered incorrectly. After an urgent review of all results, the RSPBA has just announced corrected results for Novice B and Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.2 were declared World Champions. And true champions they are. In their qualifying heat the band scored 1<sup>st</sup> from all four judges (1,1,1,1). In the final, they scored three 1<sup>st</sup> and a 2<sup>nd</sup> (1,1,2,1).

Of course, there will be tremendous excitement at Scotch College. I am sure there will now be huge celebrations for the boys, staff, tutors and band families. Pipe Bands Victoria certainly looks forward to acknowledging the band's World Championship success at a contest during the upcoming season.

Congratulations also to Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.1 band coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in Novice A, just pipped for 2<sup>nd</sup> place by 1 point by West Lothian Schools. The No.1 band's Drum Corps placed 1st at the European Championships (held in Perth) the week prior, coming 2nd at the World's. A fabulous result too. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row that a World Championship title has come back to Victoria, with Haileybury (Grade 3B) and Scots School Albury (Grade 4B) winning their grades last year.

Again, well done to Scotch College Pipes and Drums - both No.2 and No.1 bands. We so look forward to hearing you play across the 2024-25 Victorian Contest Season.

### My congratulations also to:

- Old Scotch Pipes and Drums placed 14<sup>th</sup> (out of 22) in Grade 3B, with a tied score for 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> preferred back to Ensemble. Well done Old Scotch!!
- Ambulance Victoria Pipes and Drums (Grade 4B) played in the qualifying heats on Saturday morning, but didn't quite make the finals. You did us proud. It's about being there.

You know we'd love to see you in the contest circle locally again!! (Hint: look at the new Grade 4B rule for "shared" players).

### I extend my final congratulations to Australian bands:

- Grade 2: Pipe Band Club - 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Grade 3B: Brisbane Boys Old Collegians Pipe Band - 8<sup>th</sup>
- Grade 4B: New South Wales Highlanders played in the qualifying heats
- Novice A: Brisbane Boys College Pipe Band - 4<sup>th</sup>

**Karen J Wallace**  
Chair, Pipe Bands Victoria  
Australia

*Ed note: Thank you for your great round up of Australian bands at the Worlds this year. Our September issue went to press before the administrative error was announced. The Scottish Banner joins you in congratulating not only Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.2 for their great result, but also all the international bands that travelled to Glasgow and represented their home nations so well.*

and imposing battlements, Caerlaverock has been the scene of numerous historical sieges and battles, echoing the tumultuous history of the Scotland-England border.

Did you know? Caerlaverock was the stronghold of the Maxwell family and even withstood a siege by the mighty King Edward I of England in 1300. Despite its formidable defences, the castle eventually succumbed but still stands majestically today, surrounded by a nature reserve that is as peaceful as the castle's past was war-torn.

**Thomas Lamont**  
The Kilted Photographer  
Falkirk, Scotland

### Caerlaverock Castle



Nestled in the southern reaches of Scotland, this unique triangular fortress has stood as a testament to medieval military architecture since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. With its moat, twin-towered gatehouse,

### Halloween



Wi' fire banked up, nice and redd;  
When aw the weans are washed and fed  
And pit aw' tae cosy bed,  
Save wee Jock.  
He's jined the spirits o' the dead  
This late o'clock.

As clouds across the moon did wander  
Hoolets screamed their mournful render,  
Spirits of the after-world did enter  
Wee Jocky's life.  
Spirits of all kinds and gender,  
This Halloween strife.

Warlocks by their hunert came  
An ghosties tae, jined in the game  
Wi others yet of equal fame.  
"Wa's like us!"  
An' uninvited spirits came  
By spectral bus.

Blackened ghouls wi' brownies came  
And other yins o' equal fame  
Joined wizards, bodachs wantin name.  
A richt strawmash!  
A vulgar mix in hellish vein,  
Aw jined the bash.

"Fu fa ma crummocks," Jocky said.  
"This hellum, bellum blows ma head.  
A think a'll tak me back tae bed.  
What think ye?"  
Synne Jock he finished wi' the dead  
In time fur tea.

**Kennedy Smith**  
Scotland

### Thank you

As past president of the Federation for Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia I wish to thank you for the wonderful job you do with *the Scottish Banner*. As *ceann tìghe* (chieftain) and *emeritus* representative for Clan Lamont's Chief, Peter Noel Lamont of that Ilk, on the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, I would also like to thank you.

**Dr George Burden**  
Nova Scotia, Canada

*Ed note: Thank you Dr Burden for your kind note of thanks, much appreciated from leaders of the international Scottish community.*

### The World Pipe Band Championships



Thank you *Scottish Banner* for the round up of the 2024 World Pipe Band Championships. It is always great to read about the day and see the results. Your September cover is also a brilliant choice and it is so

heartening to see our next generation keeping the culture and traditions alive. I feel it is so important to let our kids, and grandkids, know about the past of their bloodline. As we Scots moved around the globe we have given much to the world, including some of our customs. But regardless of how far back you go with it, if Scotland is in you it's in you!

I enjoy reading about all the news and events you offer and thank you again for this issue which celebrated the best in pipes and drums.

**Yours aye,**  
**George Buchanan**  
Melbourne, Florida  
USA

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

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

### Crail



The historic fishing village of Crail in the East Neuk of Fife.  
Fly - Caledonia

### Isle of Lewis



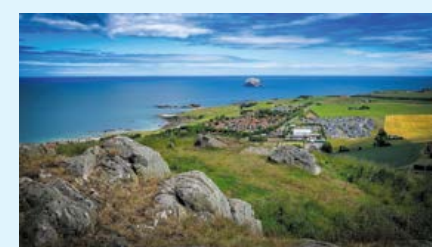
Stunning day at Tiumpan Head, Isle of Lewis.  
Mik Coia

### Carrbridge Packhorse Bridge



Carrbridge Packhorse Bridge, also known as Coffin Bridge, is a bridge in the village of Carrbridge. The bridge was built in 1717 to allow funeral processions to reach Duthil Church by crossing the River Dulnain.  
Eadietam

### East Lothian



Lovely day at Bass Rock, from Berwick Law, in East Lothian.  
Derek A Grist



# Stonehenge origins search heats up as Orkney ruled out



The Altar Stone, seen here underneath two bigger Sarsen stones. Photo: Professor Nick Pearce, Aberystwyth University.

Scientists' search for the source of Stonehenge's iconic Altar Stone has intensified, with a new paper ruling out Orkney as where it came from. The new findings follow last month's news (*Scotland's link to Stonehenge, the Scottish Banner*, September, 2024) that the largest "bluestone" at the heart of Stonehenge came from the Orcadian Basin of north-eastern Scotland, and not from Wales as previously thought. Construction at Stonehenge began 5,000 years ago, with changes and additions to the ancient site happening over the next two millennia.

Although it is unclear when the Altar Stone arrived at Stonehenge, it may have been placed within the world-renowned central horseshoe of stones during the

second construction phase at around 2620 – 2480 BC. With many Neolithic monuments, and having the right geological features, Orkney seemed a likely candidate for the source of the Altar Stone.

## North-east of Scotland

Published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, the new research examined both the five exposed Neolithic-age stones at the Stones of Stenness and seven others at the Ring of Brodgar on mainland Orkney, similar in size and rock type to the Altar Stone. The research concludes that the six-tonne Altar Stone at the heart of the ancient site was not sourced from Mainland Orkney but elsewhere within north-eastern Scotland.

Professor Richard Bevins from Aberystwyth University, the lead author of the new study, has been investigating Stonehenge for the last 15 years. He said: "The mystery of where the stone came from is becoming clearer and clearer as we begin to rule out specific areas in north-east Scotland. This research is radically changing our thinking about the origins of the Altar Stone. It's thrilling to know that our chemical analysis and dating work is slowly unlocking this great mystery. The Altar Stone is anomalous in many ways to both the bluestones and the sarsens at Stonehenge. Whilst, at six tonnes, it is nowhere near the size of the sarsens, it is substantially larger than the bluestones, with which it has previously been classed. It lies in an unusual position at the monument, occupying a near central location and not within either the Bluestone Circle or the Bluestone Horseshoe. It is also grey-green sandstone, unlike all the other bluestone rock types. As an academic, I have been fascinated by Stonehenge for decades. I and my other colleagues in the team will continue to work to pin down where exactly in the north-east of Scotland the Altar Stone came from."

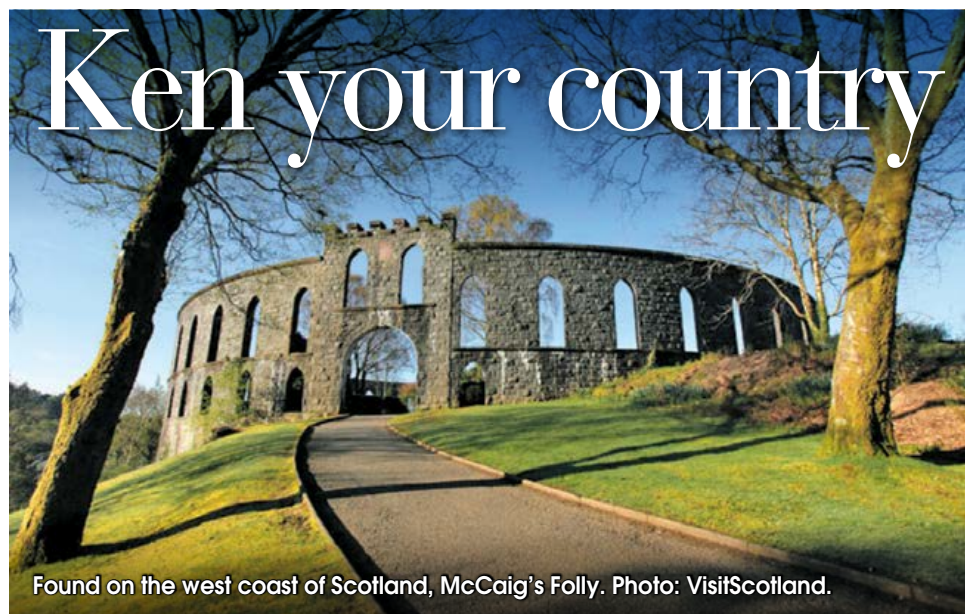
The new research adds to findings by Aberystwyth University and other UK and Australian scientists published last month in *Nature* that concluded that the Altar Stone came from north-eastern Scotland. In turn, this built on previous Aberystwyth University research that ruled out its Welsh origins and suggested that it should no longer be classified as a bluestone.

## Number of Scottish households continue to increase



In 2023, there were an estimated 2.54 million households, 14% more than 20 years ago, according to figures published by National Records of Scotland (NRS). The 0.8% increase in the number of households between 2022 and 2023 represented the highest annual growth rate since 2008. Over the last twenty years the number of households increased in every council area. The largest percentage increases were in East Lothian (28%), Midlothian (27%) and Orkney Islands (26%). Census data for 2022 shows more than a third (37%) of households comprised one person living alone.

Sandy Taylor, Head of Household Statistics said: "These statistics show a continuation of the trends of rising numbers of households and more single person households. A total of 930,000 or one sixth of the population live alone. Scotland has the highest percentage of single person households in the UK. The ageing population is driving this growth as older people are more likely to live alone." Of the 2.72 million dwellings in Scotland in 2023, 92,500 (3%) were vacant and 24,000 (1%) were second homes.



Found on the west coast of Scotland, McCaig's Folly. Photo: VisitScotland.

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

- 1) What type of clothing was banned in Scotland in 1746?
- 2) Who created the famous detective Sherlock Holmes?
- 3) What is a clarsach?
- 4) In Scotland it's often known as a dunnock, what is it?
- 5) What was *The Kilmarnock Edition*?
- 6) Holyrood Palace is at one end of the Royal Mile. What building is at the opposite end?

- 7) In which west-coast town would you find McCaig's Folly?
- 8) What are the Five Sisters of entail?
- 9) In what year did the Edinburgh Festival start? a) 1947, b) 1949 or c) 1951?
- 10) Who wrote *The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie*?

### Answers:

- 1) The kilt.
- 2) Edinburgh born Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
- 3) A type of harp.
- 4) A hedge sparrow.
- 5) A collection of poems by Robert Burns.
- 6) Edinburgh Castle.
- 7) Oban.
- 8) Mountains in Glen Shiel.
- 9) a) 1947.
- 10) Muriel Spark.

# WILLIAMSTOWN HIGHLAND CELTIC GATHERING SEAWORKS

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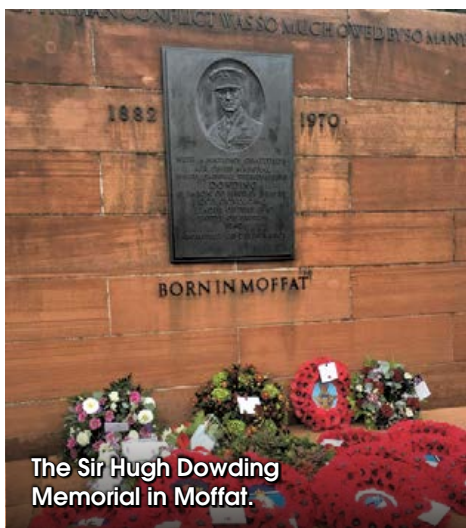


# Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



Gathering of the Local Clans & Families in Annan.



The Sir Hugh Dowding Memorial in Moffat.

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.



a reputation for long life, with at least four venerable ladies all over the age of 100 being based there. It must be the water.

Because Moffat is a former spa town, one of just a handful in Scotland. In Victorian times they came from far and wide in search of the elixir of youth. To imbibe from sulphurous and saline springs that were thought to have healing properties. They found a quiet, quaint place. Moffat residents were described as 'particularly clean and decent,' whilst their language was 'among the best samples of English to be found in any Scottish village.'

### Hero war pilots

And so, I find myself in this model town, mixing with the great and the good, at a ceremony to remember a famous son. Hugh Dowding was born in Moffat in 1882. He joined the royal air force and rose through the ranks in World War One.

By the time of the next war, he was Commander-in-Chief of 'Fighter Command', a team of squadrons formed to take on the Luftwaffe. These young pilots came into their own during the Battle of Britain when, day after day, they took to the skies to repel Nazi planes. It was a turning point in the conflict. These terrible months of combat in 1940 effectively ended the threat of German invasion. Sir Hugh Dowding, then Lord Dowding,

had earned his name as 'the architect of deliverance'. As Prime Minister Winston Churchill famously said of Battle of Britain pilots: 'never before has so much been owed by so many to so few'. So, there we were, in Moffat, laying wreaths at a specially designed memorial to the great man. As Lord-Lieutenant, I put mine down on behalf of The King. It was a moving ceremony.

Meanwhile, another hero pilot was being recognised here in the south of Scotland as I helped welcome a delegation from the Czech Republic who were visiting the Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum. The group which included the Czech Minister of Defence, were there to see a Spitfire which crashed into a Scottish loch during WW2. The little plane was on a training mission and was being flown by Frantisek Hekl who was serving with 312 (Czechoslovak) Squadron, based at RAF Ayr. Some decades later volunteers from the museum pulled the wreckage from Loch Doon and restored the Spitfire. Hekl's body was never found, but there the Czech government has plans to put a memorial to him by the water.

### Gathering of the Clans

Finally, Highland Games are generally more associated with just that – the Highlands. Yet congratulations must go

to the town of Annan which staged a very successful Borderland tartan day. This 'Gathering of the Clans' featured several clan chiefs and chieftains, among them south of Scotland families the Carruthers, Irvings and Hannays - and the Armstrongs, of course. Which is my maiden name, although I wore the MacGregor tartan for the day. There were pipe bands, there was re-enactment, and the Chieftain for the day was a local lad. Professor David Thomson was born in the south of Scotland. He went on to set up a worldwide research business. Yet he still finds time to help his home country. For a start, he has restored the Annan's reputation for making whisky.

The Annandale Distillery opened back in 1936 and was closed in 1918. David and his wife, Teresa, have bought and renovated the place which is now making award-winning spirits. They have restored The Globe Inn, Robert Burns' favourite 'howff' in Dumfries. David is a Burns' aficionado, an ambassador of the Robert Burns World Federation. The philanthropy continues. The couple have plans to develop a 'Burns' Quarter' in Dumfries. They have saved and restored the world's first savings bank museum and are busy restoring Comlongen Castle, a former Murray stronghold. A formidable couple – so watch this space!

Greetings from Scotland - a reasonably dry place at the moment, but as you will know if you are lucky enough to have been here, our weather can change in a flash... And least the lack of sun keeps us wrinkle-free, and it might also add to longevity. This month I hear of a number of centenarians living in a nearby small town. Moffat is ten miles to the north.

Tucked up in the hills, it is known for toffee, tourism and a tartan mill. It also has its fair share of rain – and now it is getting



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# Get into the Spirit in Scotland

Scotch whisky is one of the world's favourite spirits, with a global reach to every continent. No trip to Scotland is complete without a distillery visit to learn how your favourite 'drams' are produced. As of May 2024, there were 151 operating Scotch whisky distilleries across Scotland, with more in the pipeline. *The Scottish Banner* has teamed up with VisitScotland, Scotland's national tourism organisation, to offer just a taste of what's in store for whisky lovers at some of the many distilleries old and new across the country's five whisky producing regions.

## Highlands

Mainland Scotland's most northerly distillery, 8 Doors Distillery located in John O'Groats opened in September 2022. The team here create whiskies from the very edge of Scotland that reflect the location and the local climate, and the distillery and visitor centre have been carefully designed to make the most of the amazing coastal views-[www.8doorsdistillery.com](http://www.8doorsdistillery.com). If you like stunning views with your whisky, then don't miss Scapa Distillery's amazing new Scapa Noust tasting room in the Orkney islands. Noust is Scots for a boat-shaped hollow, and the tasting room ceiling is shaped like an upturned boat. The cliff top location provides spectacular views over the vast natural harbour of Scapa Flow and the landscapes beyond-[www.scapawhisky.com](http://www.scapawhisky.com).

A visit to a Scottish island is always a magical experience, and if you follow the

Hebridean Whisky Trail, you'll discover seven varied island distilleries including the newest addition: North Uist Distillery-[www.hebrideanwhisky.com](http://www.hebrideanwhisky.com). Back on the mainland, Nc'Nean Distillery, named after the ancient Gaelic goddess Neachneohain, is located on the beautiful Morvern Peninsula. The distillery has a strong sustainability ethos – it's powered by 100% renewable energy, and only organic Scottish barley is used in the production of their smooth and elegant whiskies-[www.ncnean.com](http://www.ncnean.com).

## Speyside



Speyside Cooperage. Photo: North East 250/Damian Shields.

The famous Malt Whisky Trail takes in Speyside's wealth of well-known distilleries and includes Speyside Cooperage where visitors can experience the precision and expertise required to produce Scotland's iconic casks-[www.maltwhiskytrail.com](http://www.maltwhiskytrail.com), [www.speysidecooperage.co.uk](http://www.speysidecooperage.co.uk).

Although opened just a year ago, the team at Dunphail Distillery near Forres is committed to crafting their

full-bodied whiskies using traditional distilling methods. Located in a former farm steading in stunning Moray countryside, Dunphail offers visitors the chance to learn how the methods of the past are shaping the whiskies of the future, and to sample fine whiskies that have been specially selected for their Dunphail Distillery connections-[www.dunphaildistillery.com](http://www.dunphaildistillery.com).

Lying at the heart of the Cairngorms National Park, Cairn Distillery opened in October 2022. Although their first whiskies won't be ready until the 2030s, they offer a range of CRN57° blended malts to give visitors a taste of what's coming. Distillery experiences are available, there's The Gathering for tasty food and refreshments, browse their shop, or just take a walk along the River Spey on their outdoor trails-[www.thecairndistillery.com](http://www.thecairndistillery.com).

## Islay



Ardnahoe Distillery. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

Islay's oldest licensed distillery is Bowmore Distillery, taking its name from the island's main town. Bowmore is a pioneering distillery, where the traditions, skills and expertise crafted in 1779 during the earliest days of Scotch whisky continue to be handed down. In one of the world's oldest Scotch maturation warehouses, Bowmore single malts have been meticulously matured and transformed for over 240 years-[www.bowmore.com](http://www.bowmore.com). In contrast, one of the newest distilleries on Islay is Ardnahoe Distillery – a family run business borne from decades of experience in the blending and bottling industry.

The distillery takes its name from the Scots Gaelic for 'heights of the hollow', perfectly describing its setting, with views across to the Isle of Jura-[www.ardnaoedistillery.com](http://www.ardnaoedistillery.com). Fèis Ìle - The Islay Festival - is an annual gathering of whisky and Islay fans from across the globe. The event celebrates Islay, her culture and her spirit. The 2025 event will take place from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May-[www.feisile.co.uk](http://www.feisile.co.uk)

## Lowland



Rosebank Distillery. Photo: Visit Falkirk.

The town of Falkirk is enjoying a whisky renaissance with the reopening of Rosebank Distillery, originally opened in 1840, and which recently restarted whisky production

after a 30-year hiatus. This cherished distillery is well regarded by whisky connoisseurs and should be on the itinerary for any whisky lover coming to Scotland-[www.rosebank.com](http://www.rosebank.com). Leith was once an important whisky trading port, and the opening of the Port of Leith Distillery in 2023 saw the return of the spirit to this historic part of Edinburgh. The UK's first vertical distillery, it sits adjacent to The Royal Yacht Britannia. Whisky will be created using a vertical production process, and visitors will enjoy bird's eye views from the chic top floor bar-[www.leithdistillery.com](http://www.leithdistillery.com).



Glengoyne Distillery. Photo: VisitScotland/Paul Tomkins.

Lying in a hidden glen at the foot of the Campsie Hills between Glasgow and Loch Lomond, Glengoyne Distillery has often been described as the most beautiful distillery in Scotland. Fully powered by renewable energy, Glengoyne offers visitors the unique opportunity to create your very own single malt in the Sample Room-[www.glengoyne.com](http://www.glengoyne.com).

## Campbeltown



Springbank Distillery, Campbeltown. Photo: VisitScotland/Paul Tomkins.

Established in 1828, Springbank is the oldest independent and family-owned distillery in Scotland and is the only distillery to carry out the entire whisky production process on its premises-[www.springbank.scot](http://www.springbank.scot). Springbank's sister distillery is Glengyle, reimagined in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, and today producing Kilkerran single malt-[www.kilkerran.scot](http://www.kilkerran.scot). Glen Scotia Distillery has been producing distinctive single malts since 1832.

The distillery maintains much of its original design, including the fermenters, stillhouse and warehouse. A dram of Glen Scotia offers a window through time to a traditional Campbeltown signature whisky-[www.glenscotia.com](http://www.glenscotia.com). The Kintyre Peninsula is also home to Beinn an Tuirc Distillers, named after the nearby highest point in Kintyre, translating from Scots Gaelic as 'hill of the wild boar'. The distillery produces gin, vodka, rum and brandy, and you can even enjoy a stay at the distillery owners' home - Torrisdale Castle Estate-[www.kintyregin.com](http://www.kintyregin.com).

For more information to help plan your visit to Scotland go to [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

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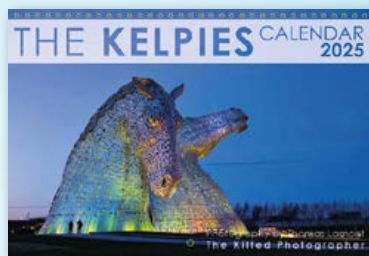
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### Highland coos



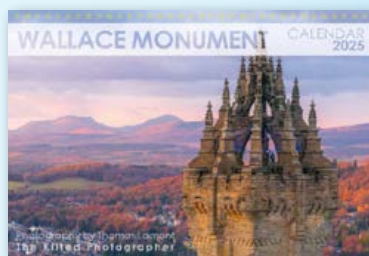
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# KINGS CASTLES AND “DURTY” WEE RASCALS

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



## A Mysterious Medieval Keep

*Gloomy Winter's Now awa,  
Saft the westlan breezes blaw  
Mang the birks o Stanely Shaw'  
The Mavis sings fu cheerie, O'  
Gloomy winter's now awa,  
Robert Tannahill, 1807.*



Stanley Castle.  
Photo: Victor Nelson/ CC BY-SA 2.0.

Other than Crookston Castle, there were other medieval relics close to where I lived in Pollok. One of these medieval keeps or manor houses was fenced off from us children to prohibit access. It was obviously dangerous. Many years later with more knowledge of local history I thought it might have been the keep of Blackall about half a mile from Paisley. Nevertheless, I always believed the place we had discovered as twelve-year-olds lay out far west of the Hurllet. Blackall is thought to have been built by Walter Fitzalan who had accompanied the pious King David I to Scotland in 1141; he and his descendants were later destined to become the hereditary High Stewards and finally the Stewart or Stuart, Kings of Scotland. It was said to have been built not far from the south bank of the White Cart and near to Paisley and afterwards served the Stewarts as a hunting lodge. T.C.F. Brotchie, writing about Blackall in his rambles around Glasgow in the 1930's, mentions that its ruins were being used ignominiously as a byre by the farm of Blackall. My memory does not include any kind of farm buildings when we may have seen it in the late 1940's or early 1950's. But his fine little sketch made for an illustration in *The Borderlands of Glasgow*, in the 1920's or 1930's certainly looks very familiar.

I also thought about another possibility, that it might have been the fortalice of Rais Tower not Blackall Keep, but that is even more unlikely because it is said to have been almost totally destroyed and its stone re-cycled by enterprising masons from Barrhead long before my childhood. It once lay only about a mile from where I lived. It is first mentioned in the records

in 1250 and the Stewarts of Darnley were still in possession of it at the close of the fifteenth century. It later belonged to the Logans of Rais in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and eventually a family called Halrig. Brotchie says that as late as 1782 a great part of the tower was still standing with its battlements and cornices. Again, a little sketch of what Brotchie saw and used in his book shows us something much less than what my friends and I saw that summer day in childhood. Unless of course we were given a magical vision of what this fortalice had once been by the many spirits who undoubtedly once inhabited it.

### Medieval Pollok

We of course climbed through and over the fence to view this ancient structure more closely no matter what or where it was. It had no roof, but the four walls were still standing, mainly whole. It was impressive and I made what I thought at the time was an exciting discovery.

Amongst the nettles and other weeds on the floor I found a large ruby. It looked like a cut gemstone. I immediately thought with childish enthusiasm that I had found a jewel that had fallen out of a queen's crown or perhaps a medieval treasure chest. I pocketed it and when I took it home to show my parents I thought that they would have got just as excited as me about such a find. They didn't. My father instead gave it a cursory test against the glass of the window and declared that it was coloured glass, a piece of costume jewellery. Maybe it was the gold colour on the back that gave the show away. I kept it nonetheless for a few years. It then got forgotten, was finally lost or thrown away or maybe ended up in the dust bag of my mother's Goblin vacuum cleaner. It has remained a mystery to me, how such an object, whatever its value, had ended up on the floor of a fenced-off medieval keep. I would still have liked to re-test it today to put my mind at rest.

Even so, some time ago, whilst back on holiday in Scotland, medieval Pollok came suddenly back into focus. I came across an old, tattered book of poems by Robert Tannahill, the weaver poet of Paisley, lying carelessly amongst the bric a brac and other books on a stall at 'The Barras' in Glasgow. I had become interested in Tannahill because he had written poems about some of the places I knew as a child, including Crookston Castle. But it was the small fading gold-leaf picture on the cover that first caught my eye for it looked like very much like Crookston Castle. It wasn't but nevertheless it seemed very familiar. I picked the book up and on closer inspection it turned out to be, Stanely Castle, a name that I was unfamiliar with. I opened the book to find that it not only contained Tannahill's poems and songs but some of his correspondence and a lot of biographical information as well. It was written by David Semple, F.S.A. in 1875 whose lithographic picture of himself and his words seemed to reach out to me immediately as an ex-patriot Scot back on holiday. *To the sons and daughters of Paisley, born and adopted, at home and*

*abroad, this edition of Tannahill's poems and songs with notes and life of the author is respectfully dedicated by the editor, David Semple.* I can neither claim to be a son of Paisley nor to have lived there in order to claim full adoption, but I was raised so close to the town and walked there so often with my friends as a child, that I can claim some affiliation, never mind some tenuous adoption. I lived on the extreme western edge of the Pollok housing scheme and much closer to the centre of Paisley than I did to central Glasgow.

The lands between Pollok and Paisley and towards the Glennifer Braes were our stomping grounds as children and it was only because Glasgow Corporation public transport all went east and north rather than west to Paisley that the town didn't figure more largely in our lives for entertainment such as cinemas and dance halls. Public transport didn't matter, of course, to young lads out walking and looking for adventure. We could and did travel west.

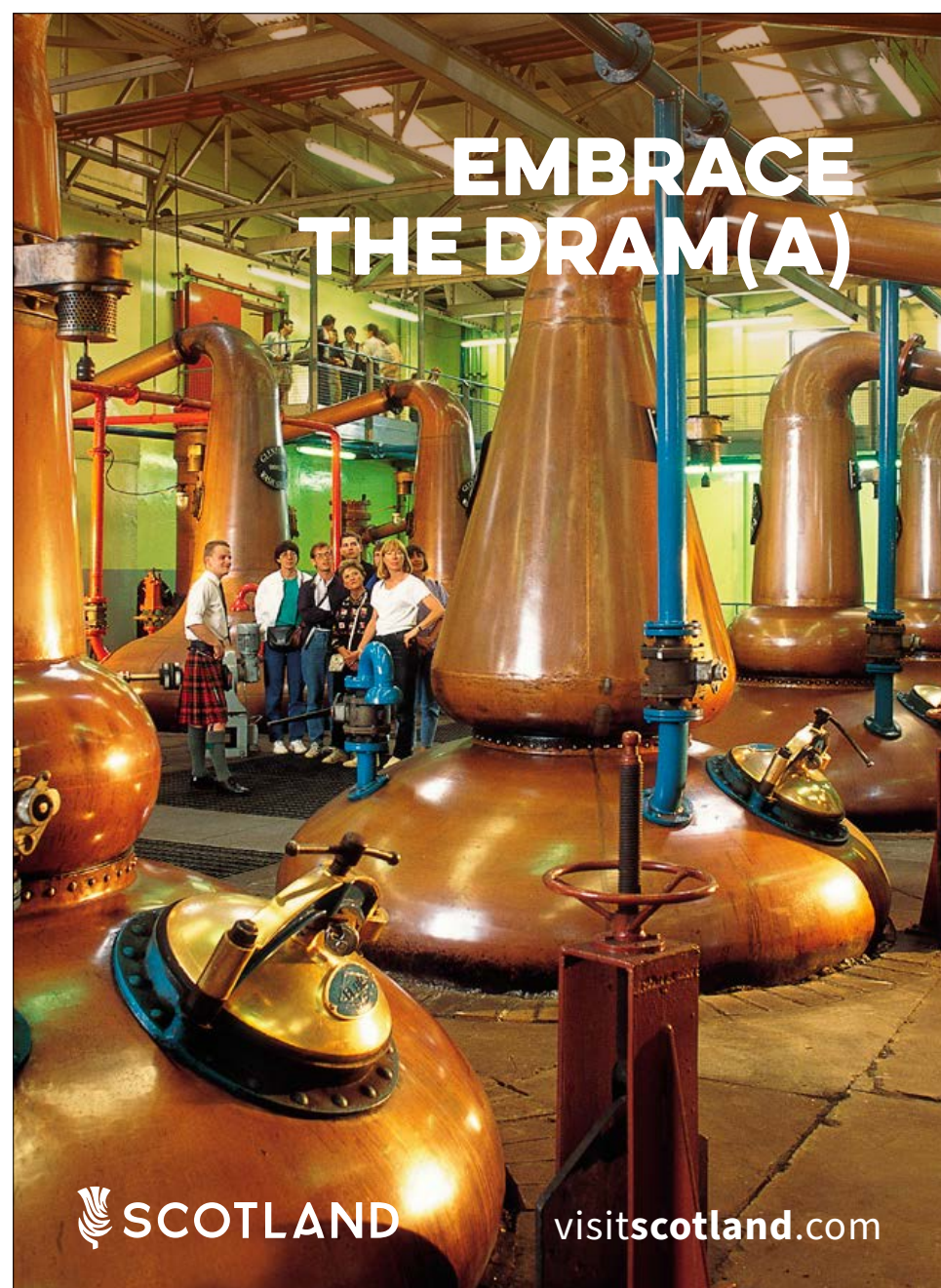
### Stanely Castle

That said the old book just about fell open at a page that had a map entitled *Map of the Land of Tannahill, 1810*. No Pollok Housing Scheme existed then, of course, but there was Crookston Castle, Cardonald, Nitshill, the Hurllet, the River Cart, the Lavern Water, the Glennifer Braes and best of all Stanely Castle. A more modern version of the map might just

as well have been called *The Land of Jim Stoddart and His Pals, 1954*. For these environs of Paisley that Tannahill knew well and had written poems and songs about were the places of our boyhood explorations and I felt that I might at last have found my mystery medieval keep. Could it have been Stanely Castle? Was another spirit from the past trying to tell me something?

According to the editor, David Semple, in the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Maxwell family built on their lands, lying between the town of Paisley and the Glennifer Braes, a strong baronial residence, a massive piece of masonry, 40 feet high which became known by the name of Stanely Castle. It was sold by the Maxwells in 1629 to Jean Hamilton, dowager of Robert, fourth Lord Ross, and continued in the Ross-Boyle family's possession until at least 1875, the time at which Semple was writing. He further tells us that the roof was taken off in 1714 when the "auld castle's turrets and the inside of the building were exposed to the inclemency of the weather". That's exactly how I remember our mysterious medieval keep on or about 1954 on venturing toward the Braes of Glennifer for day trips and camping and where Robert Tannahill in 1806 put these thoughts to verse.

*Keen blaws the wind o'er the braes o' Glennifer,  
The auld castle's turrets are covered wi' snaw;  
How changed frae the time when I met wi' my lover  
Among the brume bushes by Stanely Green Shaw.*





IN SCOTLAND TODAY



## Glasgow bid for 2026 Commonwealth Games

Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS) has secured support from Scottish and UK governments for its proposed plan for hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. In April, CGS revealed details of an innovative, cost-effective and sustainable concept for the Games without the need for significant public investment.

Since then, CGS has developed the concept with the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and other stakeholders, including the Scottish and UK governments. A fundamental part and principle of the project is that it does not require - nor has CGS asked for - any underwriting from Scottish or UK governments. Unique to this opportunity, the Games will be funded by private income rather than the public purse, with the majority of costs covered by the CGF, using money secured in a compensation negotiation with the Victorian Government following their withdrawal as hosts in July 2023.

Scotland would be looking to secure £100 million from the Victorian government's money to secure the future of the Commonwealth Games. An additional multi-million-pound investment into upgrading public sporting facilities including maintaining Tollcross as a world-class venue and to ensure the future of Scotstoun as a world-class rugby and athletics venue. The inward investment to the Glasgow and Scottish economies of that magnitude will bring significant benefits, with an anticipated 500,000 tickets available to spectators and an estimated economic value add of over £150 million to the region. Chair of Commonwealth Games Scotland, Ian Reid CBE, said "The Games will undoubtedly look and feel different to the historic events of 10 years ago. However, the circumstances facing us are remarkably different – the 2026 Games hang in the balance and the UK finances are facing tough decisions. But the Games presents a real opportunity for Glasgow and Scotland, giving us the chance to bring wide-ranging benefits to the country and public purse. Scotland has been offered £100m+ of the Victorian Government's money to secure the future of the Commonwealth Games. That is £100m+ of inward investment at a time when there are critical works needed in the city; that investment alone would account for 5% of the overall inward investment into Scotland over the past year. We are confident of delivering a world-class sporting event to packed crowds in Glasgow, with some of the world's sporting stars providing inspirational moments for the millions

of spectators in Scotland, the UK and across the Commonwealth. Glasgow 2014 provided a catalyst for success for many Scottish athletes, including those who won medals at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games; 25 of the 34 Scots on Team GB have competed for Team Scotland at the Commonwealth Games, including six of the nine medallists. The same can be said for many of the Scottish athletes inspiring the nation at the Paralympic Games. For so many in Scottish sport, the Commonwealth Games is a pinnacle – a career highlight, loved by athletes, support staff and fans alike. The Commonwealth Games is the only opportunity for many athletes to compete under the Scottish flag and is a key development stage for our stars on their journey to international success. The Scottish high-performance system is largely designed around the Games, being the biggest stage for many of our sports. This is a unique opportunity for the people of Glasgow and Scotland to be at the centre of a bold vision for the Games."

Glasgow is currently the only city bidding to take on the Games, which have only been cancelled once before during World War II since its 1930 inception.

The Scottish Government has written to CGS to announce its support for their proposal to host the event in 2026. Health Secretary Neil Gray said: "In 2026 all eyes will once again be on Glasgow, and I have every confidence that Scotland's largest city will provide a fitting platform for some of the world's top athletes."

### New shipbuilding facility named in honour of female World War II shipyard electrician



Janet Harvey (bottom right) during the Second World War.

The vast new ship build hall that will transform shipbuilding in Glasgow has officially been named the Janet Harvey Hall, after one of the many women who took on industrial jobs when the country needed them most during the Second World War. In 1940, at the age of 18, Janet Harvey joined the workforce to help the war effort as an electrician in the River Clyde's shipyards. Janet played a crucial role in the UK's war effort and was one of just a handful of women working as electricians alongside the 100,000 strong male workforce. At the age of 96, Janet was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering from Glasgow Caledonian University in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Glasgow's shipyards during the war. Poignantly, Janet died on Armistice Day (11 November) in 2023 at the age of 101. The Janet Harvey Hall is currently under construction at BAE Systems' site in Govan. Naming the hall after Janet not only honours her contribution, but also the efforts of all the women who stepped up and became electricians, welders, engineers and platers when the call came. Jen Blee, Business Operations Director of BAE Systems'

Naval Ships business said: "It's fitting that a pioneer such as Janet will remain synonymous with our efforts to re-imagine complex shipbuilding on the upper Clyde. Today, women like Janet are much more commonplace in our yards than they once were and their numbers and impact continues to grow. We owe so much to generations past and will use the wisdom they gave us to create our own legacy for generations to come."

June Cofflet, Janet's niece, added: "Janet would have been absolutely delighted to have the ship build hall named after her. She was so very proud of the work she did during the war. She had great memories of her time working on the Clyde and felt that the work she did made a difference. As a family we are delighted that BAE Systems has chosen our aunt's name to go on the ship build hall, it is a real honour." The hall is a key element of the £300m transformation of BAE Systems' shipbuilding facilities in Glasgow.

Once complete, this vast facility will be large enough for two Type 26 frigates to be constructed side-by-side. It will consist of more than 6,000 tonnes of steel and 20,000m<sup>3</sup> of concrete. Once complete, the hall will help enable efficient and safe shipbuilding for decades to come with future work unaffected by adverse weather. With two 100-tonne cranes and two 20-tonne cranes, the facility is designed to accommodate up to 500 workers per shift.

### Celebrations for Dunfermline's peacocks and new Coat of Arms



A Dunfermline peacock.

The Lord Lyon with Provost Leishman.

Dunfermline marked a historic day on Wednesday 28 August 2024, with a civic reception at the Glen Pavilion. The event celebrated the unveiling of the city's new Coat of Arms and honoured Pittencrieff Park's peacocks with the Freedom of the City. The evening began with music from the Dunfermline Pipe Band welcoming guests. The Provost of Fife, officially opened the event, highlighting the significance of the day for the city. Provost Leishman said: "Today, we honour our heritage while embracing our future. The new Coat of Arms symbolises Dunfermline's rich history and forward-looking spirit. We're also immensely proud to grant Freedom of the City to our cherished peacocks. Pittencrieff Park and the City of Dunfermline have been synonymous with these beautiful birds for many years."

Dr. Joseph Morrow, the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, presented Dunfermline's new Coat of Arms, saying: "The Coat of Arms is a powerful emblem of identity and pride for Dunfermline. It reflects the city's enduring legacy and its aspirations for the future." Another highlight of the evening was the formal recognition of the Freedom of the City for Dunfermline's peacocks, presented earlier in the day to the volunteers at the Peacock Sanctuary in Pittencrieff Park. Suzi Ross, lead peafowl warden, welcomed the honour

and praised the volunteers: "The Freedom of the City has been something I have desired for a long time, and I am delighted that the birds have the recognition they deserve. They have been such a huge part of Dunfermline's heritage and are much beloved by the community. Our volunteers are extremely dedicated, and we could not do what we do without their support or the unwavering love and support from the community." Peacocks have been associated with Dunfermline since they were introduced in 1905 by philanthropist Henry Beveridge.

### "Birthplace of Peter Pan" closes



Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust have announced the closure of the visitor centre in Dumfries. Known as the 'birthplace' of Peter Pan, Moat Brae, was the home of the National Centre for Children's Literature. Moat Brae is a historic Scottish home, was considered the true home of *Neverland*.

Moat Brae House was a site frequently visited by Peter Pan author JM Barrie during his time living in the town between 1873 and 1878. Barrie said he often visited Moat Brae and that the gardens were "enchanted lands" to him, going on to inspire the world of Peter Pan. The site was only reopened as a literary centre in 2019 following over a decade of dedicated work by local people, who had saved Moat Brae from demolition in 2009. The £7.5m regeneration project, which was opened to the public on 1 June 2019, was the culmination of 10 years' work by the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust to save, restore and develop the Category B Listed Moat Brae, which was built in 1832, into a magical world where reading, storytelling and learning through play are celebrated as an integral part of growing up in the belief that such activities improve the life quality of children of all abilities and backgrounds, contribute to social and cultural development and improve human interrelations. Moat Brae officials say it has become "necessary to close" due to running at a loss and lost funding, donor income and legacies as well as being heavily impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. In a statement Moat Brae said "It is with a heavy heart that we announce the imminent closure of the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust and Visitor Centre from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the staff, volunteers, members and many supporters of the Trust for their commitment in bringing the magic of books and storytelling to life for the thousands of visitors who have passed through the doors. Every possible effort and option have been explored by the Trustees and staff of the Moat Brae Peter Pan Trust, therefore it is with deep sadness that we announce the end of operations."

In closing their statement the Trust ended with, "Never say goodbye because saying goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting." – Peter Pan.



# Meet the Buchanans World Premier

**M**eat the *Buchanans*, a feature documentary from BAFTA award-winning producer Barbara Orton, has made its world premiere at the Tartan Film Festival in Los Angeles. For 300 years the Clan Buchanan has been without a chief.

That is, until now... Historical fact and historical fantasy collide in *Meet the Buchanans*, which observes the coming inauguration of millionaire Scottish landowner Mike Buchanan as the newly confirmed Clan Buchanan Highland Chief, along with his wife Lady Paula and their teenage family. Join the family in real *Outlander* style as the Buchanans attract tartan-mad enthusiasts from around the world. We meet characters drawn to Scotland by kinship, connection, and the excitement of the Clan's first chief in over three hundred years - from two American sisters who wear the Buchanan tartan proudly, to Mexican Pedro Buchanan.

## Cemented its place in Scottish history

The driving force behind his claim to the title, Mike's determined wife Paula planned the inaugural three-day bonanza and

ceremonial regalia on their magnificent Highland estate in 2022. She is now the chief architect of his 'coronation' (well, much of it, if an ancient source can't be found). Following in the footsteps of famous Buchanan house guest, the nineteenth-century Scottish writer Walter Scott – ceremony and ritual are being freely invented. This unique event took place at Cambusmore, Callander, the modern seat of Clan Buchanan and the chief's ancestral home. The ceremony cemented its place in Scottish history as the first for many hundreds of years, and the new chief swore an oath to protect and champion the Buchanan Clan. A hidden world of British wealth and privilege unfolds as the family uncover and invent fresh entitlements of the new role: revealing not only whether they can pull off this event, but also how history is made (up). *Meet the Buchanans* raises important questions around identity, historical values and traditions, belonging, and the place of Clans in the modern world.

The newly-completed feature-length version began its festival circuit in August with the world premiere at the Tartan



The Buchanan with Lady Paula .



The Buchanan sons with Malcolm Buchanan, Australia.

Film Festival in Los Angeles, organized by the St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles. A shorter version of the film was originally commissioned by BBC Scotland. The feature version which premiered at the Tartan Film Festival is supported by Screen Scotland. The film premier took place at Lumiere Cinema in Beverly Hills and was followed by a Q&A with the Clan Chief, Lady Buchanan, and producer and director Barbara Orton, hosted by BBC Correspondent Sandro Monetti. Following the week of the premiere, the film was screened at the Pleasanton Highland Games hosted by the San Francisco Caledonian Club where Mike was the Honored Clan Chief.

## A Clan story that's not stuck in the past

Barbara Orton, producer and co-director, says: "Now the feature version is finished, I can't wait for festival and cinema audiences to see it and witness a contemporary view of Scotland, in a story about Clans originating in the modern world. It's a Clan story that's not stuck in the past." Anthony Arnello, Events Director of the Tartan Film Festival added: "So often in America, people are fixated on dreams of discovering a long-lost connection to Robert the Bruce or a hope that they might in fact become a Clan Chief by some forgotten cousin. This film brings that



An eagle display at the inauguration.

fantasy to life, taking the viewer into the fold of becoming a Chieftain and along the way finding meaning, creating tradition, and building a legacy."

Clan Chiefs must be approved by the Lord Lyon King of Arms. The Lord Lyon has full judicial powers to enforce use of heraldry and coats of arms in Scotland through the Lyon Court, the last surviving 'Court of Chivalry' in the world. As well as those with the surname Buchanan, clansfolk also include those with Scottish roots and surnames such as Bohannon, Coleman, Colman, Cormack, Dewar, Dove, Dow, Gibb, Gibbon, Gibb, Gibson, Gilbert, Gilbertson, Harper, Masters, Masterson, Morris, Richardson, Rush, Rusk, Walter, Walters, Wasson, Waters, Watson, Watt, Watters, and Weir. In the modern day, these are known as affiliated families but were previously known as septs of the clan.



The Buchanan family.



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# Dál Riata healing



*Gaelic's healing heritage gets put back on the map*

Sgeir Bhuidhe Lighthouse.

All images courtesy of Phil Wilkinson.

**A** new drive has been launched to revive the ancient Gaelic healing properties in the heartland of the historic kingdom of Dál Riata – the coast of the Gaels - also known as Argyll and the Isles, on Scotland's west coast. The importance of connecting to nature to boost our wellbeing has been well documented through numerous studies in recent years, but the Gaels have known and embraced these healing properties for thousands of centuries, as recorded throughout history and through Gaelic language and place names.

More recently, the 2021 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey revealed that 70 per cent of those learning Gaelic believed it contributed to their wellbeing.

### Ancient Dál Riata heartland

Now members of the Argyll and Isles Tourism Cooperative have come together to ensure that visitors and locals alike can experience Dál Riata's ancient and unique naturally restorative properties for themselves. Launching the drive, Cathy Craig, CEO of the Argyll and Isles Tourism Cooperative ([wildaboutargyll.co.uk](http://wildaboutargyll.co.uk))

said: "With our breath-taking natural environment, exceptional fresh air, rich flora and fauna, and outstanding array of water sources - from the Atlantic Ocean and lochs to rivers and waterfalls - it is

easy to see why the Gaels would make our destination the capital of their ancient Dál Riata heartland. We've joined forces with our members in a bid to put these ancient restorative properties and our important Gaelic heritage back on the map. We would encourage visitors to follow in the footsteps of the ancient Gaels to really discover the wellbeing benefits that connecting with nature and Gaelic culture can bring. And with a wealth of truly blissful wellbeing experiences for visitors still to experience in Argyll and the Isles to this day, there are so many ways to do this. Argyll and the Isles is truly Scotland's Wellbeing Coast."

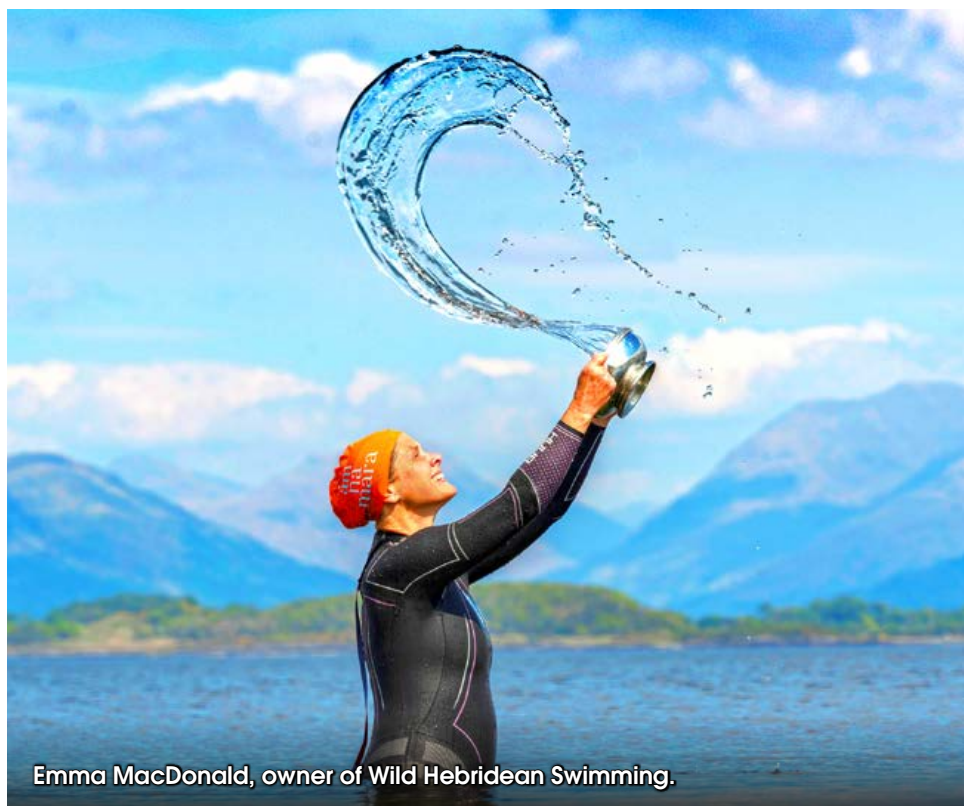
**Gaelic can provide an extra layer to the authentic Scottish experience.**

Open water swimming coach, Emma MacDonald agrees. Having been a visitor for over two decades she now calls Tobermory on the Isle of Mull home. Drawn by its outstanding natural beauty and the warmth of the local community, Emma moved to the island with her husband John, who is a native "Muileach" (the Gaelic name for people from Mull) and their two sons. In 2023 they launched Wild Hebridean Swimming providing wild swimming retreats on the Isles of Mull & Iona, where Saint Columba, who was highly regarded by the Gaels and the Picts, established a monastery that played a key role in the spread of Celtic Christianity throughout northern Britain.

On her retreats, Emma arranges for her swimmers to visit local Ardanish Weavers where they can see a traditional working loom. And new for 2024 is a visit by Cuigeal, a Sgioba Luaidh (a waulking group)

### Did you know?

- Most of modern-Scotland once spoke Gaelic. It's still spoken today by around 60,000 Scots.
- Gaelic has been preserved through literature, arts and folklore from across the ages. It plays a vibrant role in the modern world. It features in the hugely popular TV series *Outlander*, as well as in other radio, television and theatre productions.
- There are three types of Gaelic language still spoken today: Scottish, Irish and Manx. These are grouped under the term Goidelic.
- Goidelic languages are also regarded as Celtic, an umbrella designation including another three tongues which can also happily be thought of as sisters to one another; Welsh, Cornish and Breton, often referred to as Brythonic languages.
- Celtic languages arrived in Britain from the Continent somewhere in the region of a couple of millennia ago. Although there is debate about whether Brythonic or Goidelic came across from Europe first, there is no doubt that Celtic languages represent the oldest spoken "vernaculars" in the British Isles.
- The people from whom the Gaelic language sprung are known as Gaels, and today they are indigenous to Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.
- The Gaelic language has been preserved through literature, arts and folklore from across the ages, despite over 400 years of suppression.
- It is still spoken in some areas of Argyll and the Isles, for example on the Isles of Tìrìdhe (Tiree) and Ìle (Islay) where it is still possible to hear the language in shops, community centres and at Gaelic cultural events.
- Gaelic culture and language is celebrated through events and festivals in Argyll and the Isles, including the Royal National Mod which takes place in Oban this year.
- The Gaelic community has supplied Scotland with many of the country's national icons, including the kilt, tartan, sporrán, bagpipes, ceilidhs and Highland games.
- VisitScotland research shows visitors are interested in Gaelic origins, areas spoken and heritage - four in five users who viewed Gaelic content on [visitscotland.com](http://visitscotland.com) were from outside the UK



Emma MacDonald, owner of Wild Hebridean Swimming.



consisting of members of Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich (the Isle of Mull Gaelic Choir), where guests are treated to a re-enactment of waulking, or 'fulling', the process by which tweed is shrunk in order to make it waterproof. This process was long and wearisome and was accompanied by singing many rhythmic songs to lessen the boredom. Speaking on the launch of the Argyll and Isles Tourism Cooperative's drive today, Emma said: "I am delighted to be part of an initiative that raises the awareness of the Gaelic language and culture. As well as enjoying the landscape, people really appreciate seeing how people used to live and of course still do."



Bringing in the catch at Pierhouse Restaurant.

**Drink from the Gaelic cultural well**

Àdhamh Ó Broin, Gaelic Culture Officer for the Culture, Heritage & Arts Assembly, Argyll and the Isles (CHARTS) added: "In a world where people find themselves cut off from the rhythms of the natural world, it is increasingly important to return to the practices of our ancestors and to the land in which we experience symbiosis with nature. Argyll is choc-full of opportunity for this. Whether people have Gaelic roots or not, exposure to Gaelic language and culture allows people to think about and explore their own cultural legacy. Drawing from the ancestral well can bring enormous health benefits as we channel thousands of years of wisdom which has often become lost in the modern, western world. There is nothing quite like the feeling of bare feet on the living earth and Gaelic language in Argyll has been a descriptive tool of this relationship for hundreds, if not thousands of years. Come and visit, take off your socks and shoes, walk in sacred places that have

held spiritual resonance for centuries, invest your energy here and drink from the Gaelic cultural well."

The new 'maitheis' or wellbeing drive by The Argyll and Isles Tourism Cooperative also recognises the wide range of studies over the years (such as the Nord-Trondelag Health Study) that have evidenced the real difference that culture, museums, heritage sites, galleries and art workshops can make to boosting mental wellbeing.

Welcoming the drive and encouraging more tourism businesses to celebrate Gaelic culture, VisitScotland Regional Director David Adams McGilp said: "We know our history and culture are among the main reasons people choose Scotland as a destination and the Gaelic language plays a distinct role in our heritage, identity and culture. Visitors are also looking to connect with local communities and immerse themselves in our culture to boost their wellbeing. Gaelic can provide an extra layer to the authentic Scottish experience and we



Sgeir Bhuidhe Lighthouse.



Castle Stalker.

would encourage businesses in Argyll & Isles to consider maximising the opportunities that Gaelic brings and adding an element of Gaelic language to their offering."

*For more information about wellbeing experiences and connecting to Gaelic culture in Argyll and the Isles visit: [www.wildaboutargyll.co.uk](http://www.wildaboutargyll.co.uk)*

**Members of the Argyll and Isles Tourism Cooperative offering visitors unique opportunities to boost their wellbeing or connect to nature or Gaelic culture or heritage include:**

- The Royal National Mòd (11 to 19 October) – festival-goers can relax and unwind to the soothing sounds of Gaelic songs and voices at Scotland's premier Gaelic festival, which takes place in Oban again this year. Organised by An Comunn Gàidhealach (The Highland Association), which was founded in Oban in 1891, The Mod represents 'an annual opportunity for Gaels and non-Gaels to gather and renew old friendships as well as forging new ones'. The event features competitions across a range of disciplines, including music, song and dance, and performances from some of Scotland's top traditional musicians and Gaelic singers.
- Heathery Heights leads sustainable foraging adventures, guided walks and outdoor experiences across Argyll & the Isles - from the less frequented hills and stunning rugged coastal paths with the chance to see a wide range of birds and sea life to ancient historical sites; and A' choille-uisge Cheilteach (The Celtic Rain Forest). Due to its unique position on the Gulf Stream, Argyll is known for its special habitats of Atlantic temperate rainforest.
- Kilmartin Museum (Cille Mhàrtainn in Gaelic) – situated close to what was once the centre of Gaelic civilisation (Dunadd Fort - thought to be the capital of Dál Riata), Kilmartin Museum reopened in 2023 after a multimillion-pound

refurbishment in one of Scotland's richest prehistoric landscapes. Kilmartin Museum houses a nationally significant collection, which includes some panels describing the ancient belief in the restorative power of nature.

- Historic Kilmun (Cille Mhunna in Gaelic) - Historic Kilmun is a small village located on the shores of the Holy Loch, just north of Dunoon on the beautiful Cowal Peninsula. Founded by Gaelic monk St Fintan Munnu, the village was a monastic community in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. It is surrounded by Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which are rich in wildlife, including otters, eagles and ravens, bats, roe deer, red deer, red squirrels, pine-martens, seals, eider ducks and many other species. The perfect place to unwind.
- Auchindrain Historic Township - Sheltered in the hills of Mid Argyll lies a hidden gem, a sole survivor of a kind of rural settlement where many residents spoke Gaelic and worked the land together. Up until the 1800s most people in rural Scotland lived in places like Auchindrain. In 2012, part of a much-thumbed Gaelic Bible was found in Auchindrain, tucked into a gap in the wall above the kitchen sink along with some sheets of newspaper from 1937. Today visitors can reconnect with the site using guide tablets in many different languages including Gaelic and English.

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GLASGOW



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# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

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

1-Battle of Largs-Scots defeated the Vikings who were attempting to invade. **1263**

1-Contract to construct the North Bridge, Edinburgh, signed. **1763**

2-Birth of Sir William Ramsay, Scottish chemist who discovered helium, xenon, neon, argon, radon and krypton. **1852**

2-Death of Sir Thomas Lipton, grocer, tea merchant and contestant for the Americas Cup. Lipton was born in Glasgow's deprived Gorbals area in 1848. **1931**



2-The new paddle steamer *Waverley* was launched from A. & J. Inglis's yard on the Clyde. After providing services on the Firth of Clyde she has been preserved and still takes passengers "doon the watter" as the oldest sea-going paddle steamer in the world. **1947**

3-Treaty of Berwick, freeing David II from imprisonment by the English. **1357**

3-Last Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh before the Union with Westminster. **1706**

4-Boys' Brigade founded in Glasgow by Sir William Alexander Smith. The first uniformed youth organisation in the world, from one small company of 35 boys it has grown into a worldwide organisation with companies in over 60 countries. **1883**

4-The Northern Lighthouse Board decommissions its last Scottish lighthouse foghorn, at Skerryvore. **2005**

5-Balloon flight by Italian aeronaut Vincenzo Lunardi from Heriot's School, Edinburgh to Ceres in Fife. **1785**

5-The birth of Jock Stein, famous Scottish football manager. Stein was manager of Celtic between 1965 and 1978, during which time it was one of the most successful clubs in Europe, and in 1967 became the first British club to win the European Cup. He suffered a massive heart attack after watching Scotland draw 1-1 with Wales in a World cup qualifying match in Cardiff in 1985. **1922**

5-The Glasgow Royal Concert Hall opens in Sauchiehall Street. **1990**

6-Scot Ebenezer Henderson formed the first Congregational church in Sweden. He spent many years travelling throughout Scandinavia and Russia, giving out bibles translated into local languages. **1811**

7-Birth of Charles McLaren, one of the founders of the *Scotsman* newspaper. **1782**

8-Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the first savings bank, born in the Manse at Lochrutton. **1774**

9-King James IV ratified the Charter incorporating the Surgeons and Barbers. **1506**



9-Backwater Reservoir opened to supply the Dundee area. **1969**

9-Scottish Parliament Building in Edinburgh, designed by Enric Miralles, is formally opened. **2004**

10-Writer and geologist Hugh Miller born on the Black Isle, Cromarty. **1802**

11-Letter from Wallace and Moray to the mayors of Lubeck and Hamburg saying that "The Kingdom of Scotland has, by God's Grace, recovered by battle from the power of the English". The Lubeck Letter was thought to have been destroyed during World War Two, but was found in a Lubeck Museum and is now on permanent loan to the Museum of Scotland. **1297**

11-Ship *Great Michael* launched for King James IV. **1511**

11-The British fleet, under the command of Admiral Adam Duncan (born in Forfar in 1731), defeated the Dutch off the village of Camperdown, Holland **1797**

11-Scotland's first First Minister Donald Dewar died suddenly at 63 after a fall on the steps of his official residence in Edinburgh. He was the first person to hold the position of First Minister following the establishment of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. **2000**

12-Ramsay MacDonald, first Labour Prime Minister of UK, born in Lossiemouth. **1866**

12-The birth of Magnus Magnusson, writer and broadcaster. Born in Iceland, Magnus moved to Scotland when only a baby. He made a career in journalism, finally achieving the post of Assistant Editor with *The Scotsman*. Magnusson died on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2007. **1929**

13-Battle of Aberdeen, James Graham, 1st Marquess of Montrose, sacked the city. **1644**

13-Birth of Allan Ramsay, painter and son of Allan Ramsay the poet. **1713**

14-Second marriage of King Alexander III (to Yolanda de Dreux). **1285**

14-Edward Bruce, brother of Robert the Bruce, killed in a battle near Dundalk, Ireland. **1318**

14-Birth at St James' Palace, London of King James VII, second son of King Charles I and brother of King Charles II. **1633**

14-The 50 pence decimal coin was first issued, replacing the ten shilling note. **1969**

14-Introduction of plastic shopping bags charges in Scotland. The number of plastic bags handed out in stores was slashed by 80% - the equivalent of 650 million carriers - in the first year of Scotland's 5p charge. **2014**

14-Robbie Coltrane, actor and comedian dies. Coltrane was known for decades on UK TV and international hit films such as Harry Potter, James Bond, and more. Coltrane was born in Rutherglen in 1950. **2022**



15-Edinburgh's Balmoral Hotel opened its doors for the first time. The hotel was originally known as the North British. Acclaimed as one of the great railway hotels, it originally boasted 300 bedrooms and 52 bathrooms. It was later renamed The Balmoral—which means "majestic dwelling" in Gaelic. **1902**

15-HMS *Hawke* was shot and sunk off the coast of Aberdeen by a German submarine. Launched in 1891 the ship was the sixth British warship to be named *Hawke*. 524 officers and men died, including the ship's captain, Hugh Williams, with only 70 survivors. **1914**

15-Nicola Sturgeon succeeds Alex Salmond as leader of the Scottish National Party and First Minister of Scotland after she was the only candidate to put their name forward in the party's leadership election. Sturgeon is the first female, and longest serving, First Minister for Scotland. **2014**

16-King James II born. **1430**



16-Bridge to the Isle of Skye opened. Built as a private finance initiative, the bridge initially had the highest tolls in Europe which led to a decade of non-payment protests. The crossing became free in 2004 following protests from islanders and local businesses. **1995**

17 1346-Battle of Neville's Cross during which King David II was captured by the English.

17-James "Paraffin" Young obtained a patent for the extraction of paraffin from shale, starting the chemical industry in West Lothian. **1850**

18-The death of Margaret Tudor, English princess, sister of Henry VIII, wife of James IV, and mother of James V. It was through Margaret, a paternal great-grandmother (through Henry, Lord Darnley), and a maternal great-grandmother (through Mary, Queen of Scots), that James VI based his claim to the throne of England following the death of Queen Elizabeth I. **1541**

18-Aberdeen-born Denis Law became the youngest footballer to play for Scotland. At the time playing for Huddersfield Town, he was 18 years and 7 months old when he played against Wales at Cardiff. Scotland won 3-0. He has recently been nominated Scotland's best player of the last 50 years by the SFA. **1958**

19-The first public-hire sedan chairs became available in Edinburgh. A sedan was an enclosed chair for one person, carried on poles by two men. They reached the height of their popularity in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when there were as many as 180 sedans for public hire in Edinburgh. **1687**

19-Discovery of the Port an Eilean Mhòir boat burial, the UK mainland's first fully intact Viking ship burial site, at Ardnamurchan (the most westerly point on the island of Great Britain), is announced. **2011**

20-Explosion at Clarkston Toll shopping centre, killing 12. **1971**

20-Introduction of a minimum charge of 5p for single-use carrier bags in Scotland. **2014**



21-Last tram car ran in Dundee. Trams ran in the city running for almost eight decades from 1877 to 1956. **1956**

21-The Queen officially opened the Burrell Collection in Glasgow's Pollok Country Park. The museum's collection had been donated to the city nearly 40 years earlier by the shipping magnate Sir William Burrell. The Burrell Collection re-opened in 2022 after a multi-million-pound redevelopment. **1983**

22-Foundation stones of main Post Office and National Museum of Scotland laid by Prince Albert in his last public engagement before his death. **1861**

23-Treaty between King John Balliol of Scotland and King Philippe IV of France which promised mutual help against the English - the start of the "Auld Alliance". The Alliance, which was described in 1942 by Charles de Gaulle as 'the oldest alliance in the world' promised mutual help against the English, asserting that should either Scotland or France be invaded by England, the other country would invade English territory. **1295**

23-Death of John Boyd Dunlop who re-invented the pneumatic tyre from the design of Robert W Thomson. **1921**

24-Artist David Roberts born in Edinburgh. He died on 25 November 1864 whilst working on a painting at St Pauls Cathedral. **1796**

25-Elvis Presley touched down at Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire, his only visit to Scotland. This was also the only time "The King" set foot on British soil. **1960**

26-George III crowned, beginning a 60 year reign, one of the longest in British history. **1760**

26-Poet Sorley MacLean born on the island of Raasay. Sorley MacLean was the greatest Gaelic poet of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He died in 1996. **1911**

26-Following the death of Donald Dewar, Henry McLeish is selected to be First Minister of Scotland by the Scottish Parliament, and is officially appointed by The Queen. **2000**

28-Birth of Robert Liston in Linlithgow who was to carry out the first operation in Britain with the aid of an anaesthetic. **1794**

28-Dr Henry Faulds, a Scots medical missionary working in Japan, published a letter in "Nature" which gave the first evidence that fingerprints could be used as proof of guilt or innocence in legal cases. **1880**

29-James Boswell, biographer of Dr Johnston, born at Blair's Land, Parliament Square, Edinburgh. **1740**



30-Caledonian Canal opened. The Caledonian Canal links the west of Scotland to the East, and makes it possible to navigate a canal boat journey coast to coast right through Scotland's Great Glen, between Fort William and Inverness. It is scenically spectacular along its whole length, surrounded as it is by Scotland's highest mountains and most beautiful scenery. **1822**

30-First moving image on a television screen when John Logie Baird transmitted the image of a 15-year-old office boy in his London workshop. **1925**

30-Glasgow born Scottish aviator Scottish aviator Jim Mollison died. Mollison became the RAF's youngest serving officer, the first person to fly solo east to west across the Atlantic and flew from Scotland to Australia in 8 days, 19 hours and 28 minutes. **1959**

31-Pneumatic bicycle tyres were patented by inventor John Boyd Dunlop from Ayrshire. **1888**

31-Hampden Park Stadium opened in Glasgow as the home of Queen's Park Football Club. The national stadium of Scotland bears the name of an English politician John Hampden and is actually the third venue to be called Hampden Park in Glasgow. **1903**



# Rum named as Scotland's first International Dark Sky Sanctuary



Rum house with starry skies.  
Photo: ©Steven Gray Cosmos Planetarium.

The Isle of Rum has been designated as Scotland's first International Dark Sky Sanctuary by DarkSky International. The designation recognises the efforts of the Isle of Rum Community Trust and NatureScot to protect and promote the island's special starry skies and nocturnal environment, as well as acknowledging its scientific and cultural importance. While Scotland has five designated International Dark Sky Places, the Inner Hebridean island is the first area to be designated as a Sanctuary following stricter night sky quality criteria to reflect its remote location and naturally dark night skies. There are just 20 other International Dark Sky Sanctuaries worldwide, with only one other in Europe – Ynys Enlli or Bardsey Island in Wales. Over the past few years, Rum's small population has been working to ensure

that all lighting on the island is dark sky-friendly, as well as hosting astrological and educational events for the community, the local school, and visitors.

### Importance of dark skies

Amber Harrison, the Dark Sky Places Program Manager, said: "This certification represents the hard work and dedication of advocates, residents, and community officials who recognize the value of Rum's natural and cultural resources and are dedicated to safeguarding them against human impacts into the future. Rum is home to a significant breeding population of Manx shearwaters and these efforts will ensure that their habitat is protected for years to come."

Future aspirations include the establishment of a Dark Sky Tower in Kinloch village with telescopes available to

all to view the night sky and views of the island's dramatic mountain ridges. An all-sky camera and weather station in the village is also planned to provide round-the-clock online viewing worldwide. A year-round program of astronomy events and informative signs around the island will be put in place to educate visitors and locals alike on the importance of dark skies both for human health and for nature. Alex Mumford, who led the Dark Sky bid while visitor services manager on the Isle of Rum, said: "We are thrilled to become Scotland's first Dark Sky Sanctuary and relish the prospect of the impact we can have far and wide. It has been a long process and a lot of hard work has gone into this and we hope to provide inspiration around the world for other small communities to do the same. The work now begins to put our exciting plans into motion and we cannot wait."

### Nationally important natural heritage

Fliss Fraser, a director for the Isle of Rum Community Trust, said: "As a small Scottish island with a resident population of 40, we are really proud to have achieved Dark Sky Sanctuary status. Along with all the benefits for our natural heritage, we hope to encourage visitors to enjoy our dark skies as part of our ongoing sustainable approach to tourism."

Most of Rum is designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR), recognizing its internationally and nationally important natural heritage. Rum National Nature Reserve is managed by NatureScot as a

special place for wildlife and people. In spring and summer, the island's mountain tops are home to one of the world's largest breeding colonies of Manx shearwater.

More than 120,000 pairs descend on Rum each year, representing around 25% of the world's breeding population. Lesley Watt, NatureScot's NNR manager for Rum, said: "Dark skies are vital for many species to thrive, and this is especially so for Rum's population of Manx shearwater. Along with many birds, light pollution can have a really negative impact on these amazing seabirds, particularly for fledglings who are active at night and are attracted to artificial light. When it is time for the Manx shearwater fledglings to leave Rum and make their first flight out to sea, light pollution can disorient them causing them to crash on land and never reach the sea or their destination. This designation is excellent news as by protecting our night skies we can ensure the island remains a safe haven for these birds and the many other species that make Rum so special."



Manx shearwater, Rum National Nature Reserve.  
Photo: ©Laurie Campbell/NatureScot.

## Hamilton Highland Gathering 2024



Hamilton and Districts Pipe Band in 1912.

The Hamilton and Districts Pipe Band celebrates, this year, 120 years of continuous service to the Hamilton community. The sound of bagpipes and drums have been synonymous with Victoria's western plains since the earliest Scottish and Irish settlers sought to continue their own ancient culture in a new land. In 1904 the Hamilton Pipe Band was formed through the merger of the existing Caledonian Pipe Band and other players. To celebrate this amazing milestone, on Saturday 26 October, the Pipe Band is reviving what was once an annual event and holding the Hamilton Highland Gathering 2024 in the Botanical Gardens.

"The Pipe Band is just one of the many clubs and volunteer groups that make Hamilton a great place to live, work and play", says Band president, Richard Murphy. "The Pipe Band is going to begin the event with a Street Parade made up of visiting pipe bands and local clubs", Richard explains.

Southern Grampians Shire have sponsored the Pipe Band performances in the Botanical Gardens. Wannan Water has sponsored the Street Parade. Anyone wishing to contact the Hamilton and Districts Pipe Band can phone Ken on 0437 711 444, Richard on 0407 516 532 or see [www.hamiltonpipesanddrums.org.au](http://www.hamiltonpipesanddrums.org.au).



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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



## Scotch broth

**Ingredients:**

- 1 kg/2 lbs. lamb (or mutton) trimmed of fat
- 1 large chopped onion
- 1 large chopped leek
- 85g/3oz. split peas
- 85g/3oz. pearl barley
- 3 carrots, peeled and diced
- 1 medium swede, peeled and diced
- Water
- Salt and pepper
- Fresh parsley (for garnish)

**Method:**

Soak the peas and barley for an hour or so. Rinse under cold water and drain in a large pot. Sweat the onion in a little butter or oil to soften. Add the meat and cover with water. Bring to a boil and skim off the surface despoit. Add the presoaked barley and peas. Simmer for 30 minutes. Add the remaining vegetables. Continue simmering gently until just cooked. Remove the lamb bone, leave to cool. Take meat off the bone, chop it and return to the soup. Add parsley just before serving. Serve piping hot with bread or rolls.

## Scotch toast

**Ingredients:**

- 4 heated oatcakes
- Fish paste
- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsp. of butter
- 1 pinch of cayenne pepper
- 2 tbsp. browned bread crumbs

**Method:**

Make sure oatcakes are hot. Melt butter in a pan and add 2 egg yolks, 1 egg white, fish paste and cayenne pepper. Mix until thick. Pile mixture on top of oatcakes. Sprinkle with browned bread crumbs and serve immediately.

## Flank steak Dundee

**Ingredients:**

- 3.5kgs./8lbs. flank steak, in one piece cut very thin
- 8 slices of bacon
- ¼ cup of wheat germ
- Grated parmesan cheese
- Oregano
- 2 hard boiled eggs (chopped)
- Chopped parsley
- Garlic salt
- Salt and pepper
- Olive oil
- 1 can (15oz.) tomato sauce
- 1 cup water

**Method:**

Pound steak until very thin. Line the strips of bacon, then sprinkle them with wheat germ. Over wheat germ sprinkle grated cheese, a little oregano, then chopped eggs and parsley.

Season with garlic salt and salt and pepper. Roll up steak and tie with a string. Brown on all sides with some olive oil. Add tomato sauce and water, cover and simmer for 1-1 ½ hours, turning often. Makes 4 servings.

## Rock cakes

**Ingredients:**

- 225g/8oz/ self-raising flour (plain flour can also work)
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tsp. mixed spice
- 115g/4 oz. margarine
- 85g/3 oz. caster sugar
- 85g/3 oz. dried fruit (raisin/current etc.)
- 1 egg
- A drop of milk

**Method:**

Sieve flour and salt in a bowl and rub in fat. Add sugar, fruit, spice, beaten egg and only enough milk to make a stiff dough. Place in required portions on greased baking sheets. Bake 220C/425F for 15-20 minutes and allow to rest.

## Potato (Tattie) Scones



**Ingredients:**

- 225g/8oz. mash potato
- 3 tbsp. of melted butter
- 60g/2 ½ oz. sieved flour

½ tsp. of salt  
You can add cheese also for added taste

**Method:**

Add the melted butter and the salt to the mashed potatoes, then mix in some of the flour slowly, ensuring the mixture does not become too dry (this will depend on the type of potato you use). Turn on to a well-floured flat surface and roll out very thinly. Prick all over with a fork and fire each side on a well-greased pan or griddle for 5 minutes each side.

## Witches Brew Cider

- 4 cups of apple cider
- 2 cans of frozen lemonade concentrate (thawed)
- 2 cups of water
- 8 cinnamon sticks
- Lemon slices

**Method:**

Into a large saucepan pour cider, lemonade concentrate and water and stir. Over a medium heat bring cider to a simmer. Pour into cups and place a lemon and cinnamon stick in each glass.

## Malibu

**Ingredients:**

- 1-part Malibu
- 1-part Irn Bru
- Strawberries

**Method:**

Pour half of a glass with Malibu and the other half with Scotland's iconic Irn Bru. Put a strawberry or two on the rim of the glass and enjoy!

## The Williamstown Highland Celtic Gathering - A celebration of Scottish and Celtic culture

The Williamstown Highland Celtic Gathering is thrilled to announce its upcoming event, a vibrant celebration of Highland Scottish and Celtic culture. This much-anticipated gathering will be on Saturday, 26 October 2024, at the historic Seaworks precinct in Williamstown, a short train ride from Melbourne Central. Join in for a day filled with the stirring sounds of bagpipes, the grace of Highland dancers, and the strength of athletes displaying their skills in a mini-heavy games event. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore a variety of stalls offering authentic Celtic food, drink, merchandise, and crafts, with plenty of activities to amuse the children all day.

**Highlights of the Williamstown Highland Gathering:**

- Celtic Music: Immerse yourself in the playing of the bagpipes and Celtic folk music on the stage and all day in the Pirate Bar.
- Celtic Dancing: Watch dancers of forms of Celtic dancing & all ages perform traditional and modern Celtic dances.
- Heavy Events: Cheer on athletes as they showcase their skills in classic and traditional events.
- Cultural Displays: Learn about Scottish and Celtic history and heritage through interactive exhibits and demonstrations.
- Unique Merchandise: Take home a piece of the Highlands with crafted goods.

The Williamstown Highland Gathering is a family-friendly event that celebrates the rich cultural tapestry of the Celtic people. It's a perfect day out for anyone interested in experiencing the warmth and excitement of Highland Scottish hospitality. Tickets are available for purchase online. For more information, please visit the website or contact our event coordinator. The Williamstown Highland Gathering is an annual event that brings together the best of Scottish and Celtic culture in Melbourne. The Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation of dedicated volunteers giving access to all who identify with and want to celebrate Scottish heritage and culture.

**Event details:**

- Date: Saturday, 26 October 2024
- Time: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Location: Seaworks, Williamstown, Melbourne, Victoria
- Cost: Children under 16 FREE, All concession holders \$20.00, Adults \$25.00

**Contact: Event Coordinator: Secretary; Alistair MacInnes**  
**Email: mcinnes210@ozemail.com.au**  
**Website: www.melbournehighlandgames.org.au/williamstown-highland-celtic-gathering**





# Samhainn and the Scottish traditions of Hallowe'en

*Discover some of the traditional ways Hallowe'en, or Samhainn, has been celebrated in Scotland.*

By: Lucy Rodger



A young boy and girl dooking for apples. © The Scotsman Publications Ltd. Licensed via Scran.

## Scottish Samhainn traditions



A group of children gather around a bonfire in 1960. © The Scotsman Publications Ltd. Licensed via Scran.

Traditionally a Celtic festival which divided the year between the light and the dark half, Samhainn, pronounced 'Sa-wayne', was the celebration of the end of the harvest and a time where the boundary between our world would become weaker allowing ancestors and fairies to roam. Samhainn in Scottish Gaelic, was celebrated on 1 November with the festivities starting the night before. The festival is known as Samhain in Irish and Sauin in Manx.

As religion changed in the British Isles with the arrival of Christianity, Samhainn was possibly purposefully assimilated in the 8<sup>th</sup> century when All Saints Day or All Hallows Day was moved from 13 May to 1 November. Hallowe'en became the name for the night before All Hallows Day and in Scottish Gaelic Halloween is called Oidhche Shamhna as an t-Samhain is the month of November.

**Bonfires**-The folklore leads to the belief that bonfires, or samhnagan ('sa-ow-nag-in') in Gaelic, were lit as a form of protection from evil spirits that could be lurking on the night of Hallowe'en. The fire was meant to repel those with ill intentions and hold them at bay until the sun rose again. On the islands there were competitions between neighbours with each household trying to build the biggest fire. On the mainland it was common to put bonfires in prominent points on the landscape so that they could be seen from far away.

**Turnip lanterns**-We may now be more used to carving pumpkins for Hallowe'en, it was once turnips (or "tumshies" in Scots) that would have been carved with evil looking faces in order to scare off fairies and ghosts.

Candles were placed inside to illuminate the faces so they could be seen from far away.

**Guising-Guising** is the original form of trick or treating. Parents would disguise their children to deter the roaming fairies and spirits from stealing them. On a night of mischief the children could play tricks on friends and neighbours or they could go from house to house telling jokes in order to earn treats. Perhaps one of the most famous guisers in Stirling could be James V who liked to dress up and visit his subjects in the villages near Stirling Castle.

fire and if the nuts hissed then it would be turbulent however if the nuts quietly and evenly burned then it was a good match.

**Pulling up stalks**-This is a fortune telling method mentioned in Robert Burns' poem *Hallowe'en*. Those that wished to know the height and shape of their future partner waited until it was dark then with their eyes closed would pull a kale stalk from the ground. The shape and length of the stalk would answer their query. If your stalk had lots of soil in the roots that was an added bonus! It symbolised a wealthy partner.

**Fuarag na Samhna**-A tasty combination of toasted oats and whipped cream called Fuarag na Samhna was made on Samhainn. Tokens would be folded in to predict what the next year would bring. Each person would eat a spoonful of the fuarag and if they found a token then their future had been foretold. If you found a coin then you would receive money, a ring represented an engagement, a button meant you would lose money and a thimble would mean another year without finding love.

Oidhche Shamhna sona dhuibh uile! Happy Hallowe'en! How will you be celebrating this year?

**Historic Environment Scotland is the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment. For more details see: [www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)**

## Divination



This is a froh stick or milk whisk. It would have been used to froth up milk when making fuarag. © The University of Aberdeen. Licensed via Scran.

**Nut Burning**-On the bonfires that were lit on the night of Samhainn couples could question whether their relationship would last. Each would place a nut on the

## Aberdeen Highland Gathering 2024



The Clans on display.



Massed bands at Aberdeen.

Text and images by: Mal Nicolson

Held on the first Saturday in July to finish Scottish Week is the annual Aberdeen Highland Gathering in the Upper Hunter Valley region of NSW. A big crowd always meets to visit the stalls and Clan tents, watch the Heavy Events and bands, plus Scottish entertainment and novelty events.

The Clan tents had quite a few visitors with members visiting and those seeking information or their story. The weather remained nice through the day with sunshine and only occasional clouds to highlight the sometimes-cool southerly breezes. The weekend ends with a Kirkin' at Aberdeen.

Tickets: \$110 per person  
[www.trybooking.com/CSWHE](http://www.trybooking.com/CSWHE)

Dress: Highland Dress  
Semi Formal  
Cocktail

  
**The City of Newcastle RSL Pipe Band**  
**Centennial Ball**  
Saturday 19th October 2024  
The Concert Hall, Newcastle City Hall, King Street Newcastle  
Three course Dinner and dancing with  
Musical Entertainment from Newcastle icons

*Love that Hat*  
and  
**The City of Newcastle RSL Pipe Band**



# Tartan of the Month



## Thunderbird 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 military tartan was created as part of the RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force) centenary celebrations. The colours are based on the heraldic crest of 426 Squadron, the dress uniform of the RCAF and includes Pacific Sunset gold, as a nod to the West Coast home of the mythical Thunderbird, the Squadron icon.

This tartan (reference: 14297) was designed by CWO Glen Slauenwhite and registered in May, 2024.



# Calling the Clans

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

## Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

Clan Baird Commander

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

Hereditary President of Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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



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

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

**Clan Carruthers Society - International**  
officially representing Carruthers worldwide  
[www.clancarrutherssociety.org](http://www.clancarrutherssociety.org)  
[clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com](mailto:clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com)

## CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

**CLAN DONALD VICTORIA**

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald

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

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

**CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE**

Hon Chief: Mr Lindsay McDonald

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

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

## Clan Fraser Society of Australia



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

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

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts

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

Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>

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

482236358590288

## CLAN BELL



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

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

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

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

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

Clan Bell North America

49 Greystone Lane NW

Cartersville, GA, 30121

## CHISHOLM



**Clan Chisholm Society of Australia Inc**

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

Contact: Kim Polley OAM

PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301

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

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

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



**Duncan Robertson Reid**

People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh

"The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.

**For information and membership application, contact Richard Harvey, Secretary**  
Email: [lh100@tpg.com.au](mailto:lh100@tpg.com.au)

## Clan Galbraith Society



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

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

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

## The Blair Society for Genealogical Research



Collect, preserve, and disseminate genealogical and historical knowledge and information concerning the Family of BLAIR in its various lines of descent and in all parts of the world.

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

**Learned Kindred of Currie**

A leading Scottish non-profit cultural and educational organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Scottish and Highland heritage and the arts through a wide variety of programs.

contact@curriekindred.com  
[www.learnedkindredofcurrie.com](http://www.learnedkindredofcurrie.com)

## CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

**UK:** London & Southern Counties \* Rannoch & Highlands  
**Canada:** Ontario \* Western Canada  
**Australia:** New South Wales \* Victoria \* Queensland \* Western Australia  
**New Zealand:** New Zealand

**Europe:** Spain

**Africa:** South Africa

**USA:** Arizona \* Carolinas \* Florida \* Gulf Coast \* Mid-Atlantic \* New Mexico \* Mid-West \* Northeast \* Northern California \* Pacific Northwest \* Rocky Mountains \* South \* Southern California \* Texas \* Upper Mid-West



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

<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>

Facebook: [The Clan Donnachaidh Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheClanDonnachaighSociety)

Email: [ivc@donnachaigh.com](mailto:ivc@donnachaigh.com)

## CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

Est: 1822 in Edinburgh Scotland

**Patron:** Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor Bt

Membership enquiries for USA: [usa@clangregor.com](mailto:usa@clangregor.com)

**Rest of the World:**

[membership@clangregor.com](mailto:membership@clangregor.com)

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

6 The Esplanade  
Broughty Ferry  
DUNDEE, DD5 2EL  
Scotland UK



## Family of Bruce International, Inc.



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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce  
President  
1051 Eagle Ridge Trail  
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082

Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary  
5561 Earl Young Road  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
[www.familyofbruceinternational.org](http://www.familyofbruceinternational.org)

## Clan 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:clangregoraustralia@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.clangregor.com](http://www.clangregor.com)  
**"Royal is our Race"**

ARE YOU A BURNETT, BURNET, BURNETTE, BARNET, BARNETT, BARNETTE, BERNIT, BERNAT, BURNAP, BURNAT, MACBURNET, OR OTHER SPELLING VARIATION; MARRIED TO A BURNETT, OR A DESCENDENT?

**HOUSE OF BURNETT INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
THE WORLDWIDE BURNETT SOCIETY  
[www.houseofburnett.org](http://www.houseofburnett.org)

**Clan Donald Australia**  
*"Under the patronage of the High Council of the chiefs of Clan Donald"*

**High Commissioner** John Angus Currie  
**State Commissioners**

NSW	John A Currie
Qld	A. Neil Macdonald
SA	Michael Murphy
Vic	Norman A Macdonald
WA	Pamela McDonald

[clandonald.com.au](http://clandonald.com.au)  
[clandonaldnsw.au@gmail.com](mailto:clandonaldnsw.au@gmail.com)  
*We are a family of many names, come & join your family!*

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

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

Direct inquires to: Marianne Elliott, Membership Chair  
Email: [marianne@mmelliott.com](mailto:marianne@mmelliott.com)  
Website: [www.elliotclan-usa.com](http://www.elliotclan-usa.com)

**American Clan Gregor Society**

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

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

Contact our registrar: **Jeanne P. Lehr**  
11 Ballias Crt.  
**St. Louis, MO 63131-3038**  
Phone: 314-432-2842, [registrar@acgsus.org](mailto:registrar@acgsus.org)  
website: [www.acgsus.org](http://www.acgsus.org)

**National Clan Cameron Australia Inc.**

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

**President:** Alistair Cameron  
**Secretary:** Terry Cameron  
[secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com](mailto:secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com)  
[www.clan-cameron.org.au](http://www.clan-cameron.org.au)

**Clan Donald Queensland**

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald  
Ph: 0412 090990  
Email: [clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au](mailto:clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au)  
Web: [www.clandonaldqld.org](http://www.clandonaldqld.org)  
ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonnell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.  
**There is no joy without Clan Donald**

**FORBES**

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

Facebook: @CLANFORBESSOCIETY  
Instagram: @CLANFORBESSOCIETY

QR code: SIGN UP FOR A FREE NEWSLETTER!

For more information: [Membership@Clan-Forbes.org](mailto:Membership@Clan-Forbes.org)

**Clan Hamilton Society**

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

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



## Clan Hay Australia

**A' Hay A' Hay**  
A callout to all Hay's and our name variants, descendants, and supporters. Clan Hay looking for new members to join our illustrious Clan. All descendants and supporter's welcome.  
Alderston; Ayer; Bagra; Beagrie; Conn (Aberdeenshire only); Constable; Delahaye; Delgaty; Du Plessis; Dupplin; Errol; Garrow; Geary; Gifford; Hayden; Hays; Hayes; Hayler; Haynes; Hays; Hayton; Hayward; Hey; Hye; Kinnou; Laxfirth; Leask; Leith; Locherworth; Logie; Macara; MacGaradh; McKester; Peebles; Phillips (Aberdeenshire only); Slains; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester; Zester  
For more information, please contact:  
Australian Clan Hay convenor, Chris Hay McMor Fairbank  
PO Box 70, Darrinallum, Victoria, 3325, Australia  
E: clanhayaustralia@outlook.com  
[clanHayAustralia@Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/clanHayAustralia)



## Clan Little Society, Inc.

Welcoming Little/Lyttle/Lytle and the like.  

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

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

## Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.

Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs  
 Contact: N Dennis, 61 Alma Street, East Malvern 3145 Ph 03 9569 5716  
 Visit our website  
 Check out your Tartan and Sept  
[www.clanmackenzie.org.au](http://www.clanmackenzie.org.au)

## THE MACLEODS

**RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS**  
 FOR INFORMATION:  
[WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG](http://WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG)  
 A.L. MACLEOD  
 3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B  
 WEST VALLEY CITY, UT  
 84120-6880

## Clan Henderson Society

The MacEanruigs, proud sons of Henry, invite you to join!  
**Purposes of the Society**  

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

 Contact: Jeff Henderson  
[jeffh@bigpond.com](mailto:jeffh@bigpond.com)  
 0439 330 012  
[www.clanhendersonsociety.com](http://www.clanhendersonsociety.com)

## McAlpin/e

and variant spellings  
**Commander: Michael T. McAlpin**  
**DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!**  
 Contact: [membership.macalpein@gmail.com](mailto:membership.macalpein@gmail.com)  
 Website: <https://macalpein.com/>

## Clan MacKenzie Society of New Zealand

We welcome all MacKenzies  
 All spellings and from all Septs  
 Secretary: [clanmackenzie@gmail.com](mailto:clanmackenzie@gmail.com)  
[www.clanmackenzienz.org](http://www.clanmackenzienz.org)

## Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide

Descendants and Septs of the CLAN MACNAUGHTON are invited to join our Worldwide Association to learn and share our MacNaughtan and Scottish heritage. For more info go to: [clanmacnaughton.net](http://clanmacnaughton.net) or contact Mary Nivison Burton, Membership Secretary at: [membersec@clanmacnaughton.net](mailto:membersec@clanmacnaughton.net)  
 New Second Edition!  
**A History of the Clan Macnachtan**  
 Paperback available through Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk, Amazon.ca

**Clan Hope of Craighall Society INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA**  
 President & Commissioner: Stephen J. Hope  
[president@clanhope.org](mailto:president@clanhope.org)  
[www.clanhope.org](http://www.clanhope.org)  
**UNITED STATES of AMERICA**  
 High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope  
[highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org](mailto:highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org)  
 Membership Chair: Cynthia Hope Henderson  
[membership@clanhope.org](mailto:membership@clanhope.org)  
[www.clanhope.org](http://www.clanhope.org)  
**CANADA**  
 Commissioner: Scott Hale  
[commissionercanada@clanhope.org](mailto:commissionercanada@clanhope.org)  
[www.clanhope.org](http://www.clanhope.org)  
**SCOTLAND**  
 Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope  
[commissioner4scotland@clanhope.org](mailto:commissioner4scotland@clanhope.org)  
[www.clanhope.org](http://www.clanhope.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClanHopeofCraighall>

**Clan MacDougall Society of North America**  
**MacDougalls, MacDowalls, & ALL Associated Families**  
 YOU are invited to join CMSNA!  
 We would love to share Scottish heritage and traditions with YOU!  
 Learn MORE at [www.MacDougall.org](http://www.MacDougall.org)

**MacLaren**  
 Clan Labhran  
 Clan MacLaren Society of Australia  
 Information about the Clan and application for CMSA membership is available on the website or via the email address below.  
 Membership is open to MacLarens (all spellings), Septs, individuals and families with an association to the Clan.  
<https://clanmaclarenau.org/>  
[clanmaclarenau@gmail.com](mailto:clanmaclarenau@gmail.com)

**Clan 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](mailto:malcolmjmcneil@outlook.com)

**CLAN IRVING**  
 HEREDITARY CHIEF AND PATRON  
**Rupert Christopher Irving of Bonshaw**  
 Chief of the Name and Arms and 20<sup>th</sup> Clan Chief  
 Cordially invites all **Border Irvings & Irvines** and variations of the Name to join in preserving the Clan and Family history!  
**DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!**  
[clanirving.com](http://clanirving.com)

**Macfie Clan Society of Australia**  
 Invites anyone interested in our Clan and its ancestral heritage to contact us. Various Clan names include McPhee, MacFee, Macfie, McAfee, Fee, Phee, McDuffy, Duffy, McCathie and many more.  
 For more information please email: [colonsay@bigpond.net.au](mailto:colonsay@bigpond.net.au), visit us at [facebook.com/clanmacfieaustralia](http://facebook.com/clanmacfieaustralia) or our website: <https://clanmacfie.com.au>

**Clan MacLennan worldwide**  

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

 Become a member now  
[www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com/join](http://www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com/join)  
[www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com](http://www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com)

**CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
 invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, to join us in celebrating our heritage!  
 website: [ClanMacNeilUSA.us](http://ClanMacNeilUSA.us)  
 Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram  
[@ClanMacNeilUSA](https://www.facebook.com/ClanMacNeilUSA)

**Clan Irwin Association**  
 Chief and Patron  
 Alexander H.R. Irvine of Drum,  
 27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name  
 Mary Erwin, Chairman  
 155 Hattaway Road, Calhoun, LA, 71225  
[mary.erwin@clanirwin.org](mailto:mary.erwin@clanirwin.org)  
[www.clanirwin.org](http://www.clanirwin.org)  
 IRWIN • IRVINE • IRVIN • IRVING • ERWIN  
 And the many other spellings of the Name

**INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY** Est. 1911  
**DISCOVER YOUR MACFARLANE ROOTS!**  
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[MACFARLANE.ORG](http://MACFARLANE.ORG)

**Clan MacLellan**  
 Kevin S Gates  
 Treasurer  
 2610 Kuykendall Dr.  
 Arlington, TX  
 76001-6726  
 Email: [treasurer@clanmaclellan.net](mailto:treasurer@clanmaclellan.net)  
 Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of surname spelling to join in preserving our heritage. Various family names are MacLellan(d), McClellan(d), McLellan(d) and Gilliland.  
 Visit our website: [www.clanmaclellan.net](http://www.clanmaclellan.net)

**Clan MacNicol**  
 Chief: **John MacNeacail**  
 of **MacNeacail and Scorrybreac**  
 Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson  
 55 Arcadia Ave  
 GYMEA BAY NSW 2227  
[www.clanmacnicol.org](http://www.clanmacnicol.org)

**CLAN LAMONT SOCIETY AUSTRALIA** invites membership from Sept names refer to Web Site [www.clanlamontaustralia.com](http://www.clanlamontaustralia.com)  
 Clan Chief Peter Lamont of that Ilk resides in Sydney Australia.  
 For all enquires about the Clan and Membership contact :-  
 President Ian McLucas.  
 Email [ianandbevmclucas@bigpond.com](mailto:ianandbevmclucas@bigpond.com)  
 mobile 0448 778 799

**Clan MacInnes**  
 Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)  
 Worldwide, we welcome descendants of all spelling variations, including (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis, (Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.  
 Scott McInnis, Member Services: [scott@macinnes.org](mailto:scott@macinnes.org) or visit [www.macinnes.org](http://www.macinnes.org)

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

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

 Email: [peter.macleod@exemail.com.au](mailto:peter.macleod@exemail.com.au)

**Clan Macpherson Association**  
 Clan Macpherson welcomes enquiries from Macphersons and members of our Associated families. For information about local activities visit our web site [www.clan-macpherson.org/branches](http://www.clan-macpherson.org/branches)  
**Africa:** Derek Macpherson  
 African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
 phone +265 999 512 620  
**Canada:** Denise Lagudzin  
 Canada.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
 phone +1 519 507 4465  
**Europe:** Bodo Bernd Schmitz  
 Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
 phone +0152 538 19 355  
**Scotland & Northern Ireland:** Moray G Cattanach  
 SandN.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
 phone +44 7810 860 528  
**Australia:** Pam Rhemrov  
 Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
 phone +61 407 789 924  
**England & Wales:** William Macpherson  
 EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
 phone +44 7877 363 507  
**New Zealand:** Tony McPherson  
 NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
 phone +64 274 587 812  
**USA:** Dave McPherson  
 UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
 phone +1 408 781 5199  
 The **Clan Macpherson Museum** is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October.  
 Ph + 44 1540 673 332. See <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/>





### The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

**Australian Contact:** Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054  
email: [clanmacraeastnz@gmail.com](mailto:clanmacraeastnz@gmail.com)

**NZ Contact:** Sue Tregoweth  
email: [sue.treg1@gmail.com](mailto:sue.treg1@gmail.com)

### OLIPHANT CLAN & FAMILY ASSOCIATION of North America



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[ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com](mailto:ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com)  
[www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org](http://www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org)



### YOUNG

#### Youngs of Scotland in Australia

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

**Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot**  
E: [membership@clanyoungaustalia.com.au](mailto:membership@clanyoungaustalia.com.au)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/)  
<https://clanyoungsociety.com/australia>

### Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

Founded in 1905

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

#### Scottish Gaelic Language Classes

Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm during school terms  
at Kathleen Syme Community Centre,  
251 Faraday St, Carlton and on Zoom.

#### Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria

Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:00 pm during school terms  
at Kathleen Syme Community Centre,  
251 Faraday St, Carlton and on Zoom.

Enquires: [scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com](mailto:scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com)



### Clan Maitland Society

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

**North America:** Rosemary Maitland Thom  
[rthomnvrpcan@aol.com](mailto:rthomnvrpcan@aol.com) [www.clanmaitlandna.org](http://www.clanmaitlandna.org)

**Australia:** Amanda Maitland  
[clanmaitlandaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:clanmaitlandaustralia@gmail.com)  
12 Settlers Way, Westleigh, NSW, 2120

**New Zealand:** Judette Maitland [judette@xtra.co.nz](mailto:judette@xtra.co.nz)  
33 Disley Street, Highbury, Wellington 6012. NZ

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



### Clan Pollock

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

**A. D. Pollock, Jr.**  
PO Box 404  
Greenville, KY 42345  
e-mail: [apollockis@comcast.net](mailto:apollockis@comcast.net)



### Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

Email: [clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com](mailto:clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com)

**'Wardlaw ivermair!'**

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

**Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books**

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER



The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited

ABN 30 093 578 860

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association

The Secretary, P.O. Box 352, Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122  
[www.standrewsociety.com](http://www.standrewsociety.com)

### Clan Muirhead Society



A NON-PROF. CORP.

Muirhead, Muirde, Morehead, Moorhead  
and all Variant Names

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

Rev. Ref. Chev. Raymond L. Morehead, GOTJ, FSA Scot,

Chief Officer Elect Clan Muirhead Society

Email: [raymondktj@msn.com](mailto:raymondktj@msn.com) or [raymond@clanmuirhead.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

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

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



### Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

Suite 87, 139 Cardigan St  
Carlton Vic 3053

Email: [resource\\_centre@scotsofaus.org.au](mailto:resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au)  
Website: <https://scotsofaus.org.au>  
Facebook: [Facebook.com/ScotsOfVictoria](https://www.facebook.com/ScotsOfVictoria)

### CLAN MUNRO ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



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

BECOME A MEMBER, VISIT

[www.clanmunroassociation.org.au](http://www.clanmunroassociation.org.au)

memberships@clanmunroassociation.org.au

### Clan Ross America

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Michael Ross, President  
Nancy Ross-Anderson, VP Membership  
18865 Cooper Street, Apple Valley, CA92308  
[membership@clanross.org](mailto:membership@clanross.org)  
[info@clanross.org](mailto:info@clanross.org)

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



### Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

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

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

Web: [hvscots.org](http://hvscots.org) Email: [hunterscots@gmail.com](mailto:hunterscots@gmail.com)  
P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289

### St Andrew Society of W.A.



Promoting Scottish dancing, singing, literature & other cultural activities.

For further information contact:

[secretary@saintandrew.org.au](mailto:secretary@saintandrew.org.au)

<https://saintandrew.org.au/>

**Celebrating All Things Scottish**



Membership cordially invited from those who are connected with this great Clan, i.e., Morrison, Morison, Gilmour, Gilmer, Gilmore, Murrison or descendants of eligible name.

[www.clanmorrison.net](http://www.clanmorrison.net)



### Clan Sinclair Australia

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

For further info contact

President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174

Secretary: Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263

E: [clansincliraustralia@hotmail.com](mailto:clansincliraustralia@hotmail.com)

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

### The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.



- > Promotes interest in the works, life and milieu of the Scottish Poet Robert Burns
- > Celebrates Scottish Culture
- > Conducts Annual Burn Supper, Poetry Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

**For Membership Information contact:**

**Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973**

Email: [noelwright@netspace.net.au](mailto:noelwright@netspace.net.au)



### Victorian Scottish Heritage Cultural Foundation

- Pipe Band Support
- Highland Dance Awards
- Scottish Gaelic Scholarship
- Literature & Performing Arts
- Schools Scottish Music Prizes
- Scottish Festivals & Exhibitions
- Highland Games • Young Fiddler Awards

email: [info@vshcf.com.au](mailto:info@vshcf.com.au)  
website: <https://www.vshcf.com.au/>

### Discover Your Nesbitt/Nisbet Ancestry



[ibydeit.org](http://ibydeit.org)  
[nesbittnisbet.org.uk](http://nesbittnisbet.org.uk)



### Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary

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

<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus>

Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia

### The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

For information please contact  
[members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](mailto:members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au)



[www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au)

### Victorian Scottish Union Inc

Established 1905

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

Affiliated Clans & Societies

- Brunswick Scottish Society
- Clan Donald Victoria
- Clan Grant
- Clan Hay
- Clan Macdonald of Yarraville
- Clan Sinclair
- Geelong Scottish Dance
- Glenbrae Celtic Dancers
- Maryborough Highland Society
- Scottish Country Dance Society of Victoria
- Robert Burns Scottish Festival Camperdown
- The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
- Warrambool & District Caledonian Society
- Warrambool Highland Dance

Chief: Mr Grant McKinna  
President Norman Macdonald  
Secretary Jan Macdonald

Contact details:  
Email: [secretary@victorianscottishunion.com](mailto:secretary@victorianscottishunion.com)  
Mobile 0438 584 930  
Address: PO Box 116, Cobden, Victoria 3266  
[www.victorianscottishunion.com](http://www.victorianscottishunion.com)



# Inauguration of the Chief of a Scottish Border Clan

By: George Carruthers



Dr Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains .

Even with the heavy rains and a change in venue due to flooding, history was made in Annan, Dumfriesshire on the 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 on what was to be a fine but windy day. The Annan Festival and Gathering of the Clans, was well attended and a great success.

The Festival consisted of a parade of the chiefs greeted by Fiona Armstrong, Lady MacGregor, Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries, performances by the Teviotdale Steel Bonnets and the Time Bandits covering Reiver history and weaponry. There were highland games, piping and dancing and a performance by the Scottish tribal group Clanadonia. Clan tents were available offering information on the history and genealogy of the respective clans and families present. The final part of the programme was the inauguration of the Chief of Carruthers. The last stage of the process initiated in 2007 by the Clan Shennachie, Dr George Carruthers, FSA Scot, was about to be completed. A petition was presented to the Lord Lyon in 2017 to bear the chiefly arms of Carruthers, first registered along with all other Scottish arms in 1672 by the petitioner's ancestor. As such in 2019 and after 210 years of dormancy and analysis of the documents and

proofs accompanying the petition, Dr Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains was confirmed Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers.

## Ancestral lands

The inauguration on our ancestral lands to name him Chief, began with a procession led by the Convenor, Mr Michael Carruthers carrying the Society banner. He was followed by those Chiefs and Commanders in attendance, the Shennachie and his banner, the Chief's Household, the Inauguration Chaplain, the Lord Lyon's representative and the Chief and his heir with their banner.

They were welcomed to the stage area by Dr George Haig, Advisor to the Chief, who handed the proceedings over to the Shennachie. He welcomed the Chief onto the stage and explained the importance of a confirmed chief to the official status of Carruthers as a Scottish clan and family. The Lord Lyon's representative Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw, Albany Herald Extraordinary presented the Chief's Letters Patent from the Lord Lyon on behalf of the Sovereign. He spoke of the Chief's lineage being 22<sup>nd</sup> of his line, his legal right to bear the chiefly arms, the 1587 Act of the Suppression of Unruly Clans in which Carruthers are named and reiterated the importance that a Chief brings to the official recognition of any clan, both in Scotland and overseas. Sir Crispin Agnew finished with his best wishes and congratulations.

The presentation was followed by the Shennachie presenting the Chief with his symbols of office: A family bible, embossed with his arms, a Balmoral bonnet with the three eagle feathers of a chief,

a gold ring with his arms upon it and finally a Cromach. Proudly wearing his three feathers, oaths were taken. Firstly, an oath by the Chief to his clan to preserve, protect and defend the name of Carruthers to the best of his ability. Secondly an oath of fealty and loyalty to the Chief by the Shennachie on behalf of all the elders and stewards of Carruthers. Finally, the oath from the clan to the Chief, who loudly pledged fealty and loyalty and a willingness to honour the traditions of their name.

## Ancient custom

Following ancient custom and in line with the Chief's faith, the Inauguration Chaplain, the Reverend John Pickles, minister of the Church of Scotland for the parishes Annan, Brydekirk, Dalton and Hightae, gave readings from Psalms and the Gospel of St Luke.

The Reverend led all present in prayers and according to ancient tradition as a member of the kirk, gave his blessing to the Chief and then to all those gathered. The other Chiefs present were invited to give greetings. The Chiefs of Clan Irving; Rupert Irving of Bonshaw, Hunter; Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston, Hanney; Dr David Hanney of Kirkdale, MacArthur; John MacArthur of that Ilk and the Commander of Clan McEwen; Sir John

McEwen of Marchmont and Bardrochat gave their warm best wishes and Ross McEwen Esq, FSA Scot gave greetings from the Buchanan Chief; Michael Buchanan of Buchanan.

The Chief himself gave a heartfelt response to all greetings, all those from both the UK and overseas who had attended and to Annan the History Town Committee mainly Graeme MacGregor and Neil Carruthers for helping make it happen. He also thanked those who had worked in the background and supported him through his journey, namely George and Michael Carruthers and finally to his family, for their continued love and encouragement. The Shennachie closed the proceedings, by declaring Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains, Chief of Carruthers and commented on the fact that this was a culmination of a great many years of hard work and effort, and that by ensuring the legal process to have a Chief named was followed to the letter, today marked the final piece in a very long and arduous process.

The celebration continued at the Annan Distillery with speakers, an inauguration dinner, appointments by the Chief and a ceilidh. He apologised to the latecomers, who sadly couldn't attend.



Madam Judith Carruthers of Holmains with the Chief's cousin, Cecilia Mitchell Carruthers.



The Shennachie, the Albany Herald Extraordinary and the Chief. Presentation of the Letters Patent.

# Key moment in church history goes online

The moment the Church of Scotland defied King Charles I is among a vast number of historical documents now available to view on the Scotlands People website. As part of a wider release of almost 4,000 volumes of church court records, National Records of Scotland (NRS) has added papers from the church's governing court, the General Assembly, for the first time. This includes the minutes of the meeting held in Glasgow in November 1638 when delegates representing Scotland rejected the monarch's rules for worship.

NRS archivist Jessica Evershed said: "The 1638 meeting of the General Assembly is a turning point in Scottish history. It sees the ministers disobey the King to remove the bishops and the new common prayer book he had introduced. As part of the wider Covenanters' movement, this led to 50 years of war and upheaval. This is just one item among the church court records available on ScotlandsPeople. The latest release includes approximately 300,000 digitised images of mostly handwritten historical records dating from the 1500s to 1900. These records are a treasure trove for professional historians and amateurs working on their family tree. The records of local church courts contain details of parish work such as grants for the poor, mediating family disputes, payments for services and issuing punishments for minor offences."

## A unique window into the history of Scotland

Reverend Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: "I am delighted that National

Records of Scotland are making further Church of Scotland records available in a digitised format, providing a unique window into the history of Scotland itself, as well as aspects of daily life in our parishes, unfolding over the course of hundreds of years. We hope it will allow many more people to access these meticulously written documents, which tell the stories of local communities from across Scotland."

ScotlandsPeople is run by National Records of Scotland. It offers access to a wide range of official records including births, deaths, marriages and census records from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to modern times. Modern records are restricted but older records can be searched free of charge and viewed online on payment of a fee. Church court records are among those available to search and view free of charge at [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk).



The National Covenant, a protest against Charles I's religious reforms in Scotland.

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SUNDAY  
9AM-4PM 3 NOVEMBER 2024

MAITLAND SPORTGROUND  
MAITLAND, HUNTER VALLEY, NSW

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[MAITLANDPIPEBAND.ORG.AU](http://MAITLANDPIPEBAND.ORG.AU)



# 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](http://www.scottishbanner.com/events)

## Australia

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/BundabergCaledonianPipeBand)

#### South West Coast Piper Drummer Dancer 2024 5-6, Warrnambool, VIC

Warrnambool Pipe Band are excited to announce the 2024 South West Coast Piper Drummer Dancer workshop at Kings College. Register at: <https://forms.gle/UhLrTkQiuuYhsGHG7>

#### 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.perthkilttrun.com.au](http://www.perthkilttrun.com.au)

#### Clan Mackenzie Society of Australia Inc National Gathering

11-13, Canberra, ACT  
All Clan members and those from other septes are welcome to join us for a wonderful weekend of fun and friendship in conjunction with the Canberra Pipes and Drums Highland Gathering in Kambah. Info: Trudi Mackenzie 0406 678 261 or [www.clanmackenzie.org.au](http://www.clanmackenzie.org.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](http://www.canberragathering.com.au)

#### Combined Clans Luncheon 13, Felixstow, SA

Luncheon with Scottish food, music and dance at the Fogular Furlan Centre, 69 Briar Rd. Info: Jan Twyerould 0408 898 332 or [jan\\_twyerould@bigpond.com](mailto:jan_twyerould@bigpond.com).

#### 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](http://www.ccaq.org.au)

#### Scottish Masonic Charitable Foundation of WA Charity Golf Open

18, Secret Harbour, WA  
This day includes playing 18 holes of golf, a sausage sizzle before the game begins and a three-course dinner & presentation after the game conclude at Secret Harbour Golf Links. Info: [www.smcfwa.com.au/golf-day](http://www.smcfwa.com.au/golf-day)

#### 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](http://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](http://www.abercrombiehouse.com.au)

#### Glenbarr Highland Gathering 20, Strathalbyn, SA

Experience the thrill of traditional Highland games like the caber toss and stone lift, enjoy stirring live performances of bagpipes and Highland dancing, and explore our artisan market filled with unique crafts and delicious Scottish fare. A celebration of Scottish culture hosted at the beautiful Glenbarr Historic Homestead. Info: 0419 679 829 or [www.glenbarr.com.au](http://www.glenbarr.com.au)

#### Williamstown Highland Celtic Gathering 26, Williamstown, VIC

A celebration of Celtic culture at Seaworks, Williamstown. Celtic music and stalls, dancing and more. Info: [www.melbournehighlandgames.org.au](http://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](http://www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com)

#### Hamilton Highland Gathering 2024 26, Hamilton, VIC

Join the Hamilton & District Pipe Band for their 120 year celebration Highland Gathering. The event includes a street march and stalls in the Hamilton Botanic Gardens and a Scottish Dinner. Info: [www.hamiltonpipesanddrums.org.au](http://www.hamiltonpipesanddrums.org.au)

#### 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](mailto: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](http://www.pipebandsqld.com)

### NOVEMBER 2024

#### 2024 NSW PBA State Pipe Band Championships 3, Maitland, NSW

Bands from around NSW competing at Maitland Regional Sports Ground 9am-3pm. Featuring competing pipe bands, the HVGS Wind Ensemble Group, along with our award-winning Town Crier Stephen Clarke as MC, stalls and more. Info: City of Maitland Pipes & Drums, Greg Queenan: 0409 918 260, [john.queenan@bigpond.com](mailto:john.queenan@bigpond.com) or [www.maitlandpipeband.org.au](http://www.maitlandpipeband.org.au).

#### Scots On Show 9, Bendigo, VIC

Inaugural Scottish festival and pipe band contest at the Bendigo Showground. Info: [www.goldencitypipeband.org.au](http://www.goldencitypipeband.org.au)

#### Southern Fling/Southern Fringe 22-24, Melbourne, VIC

Southern Fling is a weekend of Scottish country dance for young people and is open to dancers aged up to 40. Running parallel to the Fling is The Southern Fringe weekend aimed at dancers aged 41+ who have danced SCD for 2 years or more. All those attending can look forward to a fantastic weekend of dancing, socialising and making friends. Info: [www.rscdsmelbourne.org.au/southern-flingsouthern-fringe](http://www.rscdsmelbourne.org.au/southern-flingsouthern-fringe)

#### The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society-Dance Around the World

23, Nationwide  
Taking dancers on a journey from Scotland around the world and back, the programme features 12 dances with connections to six continents through devisers, themes and locations, before bringing everyone together with The Homecoming Dance. Dance Around the World will mark one year since the RSCDS Centenary and on this day we want to fill the internet with photos, videos and stories of Scottish dancing (#DanceScottish). Info: <https://rscds.org/blog/dance-around-world>

#### St Andrews Night 23, Canberra, ACT

Join the Canberra Burns Club in celebration of Scotland's patron saint, 28 Kett St, Kambah. Info: [www.burnsclub.com.au](http://www.burnsclub.com.au)

#### Overnewton Castle Scottish Celebration 24, Keilor, VIC

Spend a lovely Sunday soaking up the vibrant atmosphere and sampling the very best Scottish products, food and drinks at Overnewton Castle. Info: <https://overnewtoncastle29.rezdy.com/606823/scottish-festival-2024>

#### R U Brown Piobaireachd Society of South Australia Silver Chanter Competition

24, Payneham, SA  
This competition consists of three grades: Open (players of gold medal and clasp standard), Restricted (players of silver medal standard and below) and Beginners (novice and bronze medal standard) at Payneham RSL, 360 Payneham Rd. Info: [www.rubrown.org.au](http://www.rubrown.org.au)

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24, 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](http://www.pipebandsqld.com)

#### St Andrews Day Ball 29, Perth, WA

Come join the St Andrew's Society of WA at The Rendezvous Hotel Scarborough. Entertainment includes the Coastal Scottish Pipe Band, Perth Academy of Highland Dance & the Heel N' Toe Ceilidh Band. Tickets will go on sale mid-September 2024, through the website: [www.saintandrew.org.au](http://www.saintandrew.org.au)

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

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

#### Caledonian Society of WA St Andrews Day Ceilidh 30, 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](http://www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com)

#### St Andrews Day at Fox & Hounds 30, Wongawallan, QLD

Celebrate Scotland's patron saint with Scottish food and pipers, drummers and dancers from Brisbane City Pipe Band at Fox & Hounds Country Inn, 7 Elevation Dr. Info: 07 5665 7582 or [www.foxandhounds.net.au](http://www.foxandhounds.net.au)

## New Zealand

### OCTOBER 2024

#### Scottish Fiddle Club 4, Auckland

Celtic music group meeting at St Lukes Church, 130 Remuera Rd, Remuera. Info: 021 473 402 or [orlearnScotsfiddle@gmail.com](mailto:orlearnScotsfiddle@gmail.com).

#### 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](mailto: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>

#### Scottish Whiskies & New Zealand Cheeses 23, Blenheim

Join Whisky Galore and Cheese & Cheers for an evening appreciating single malt whiskies from around Scotland paired with matching NZ cheeses. You will be tasting six whiskies from the Lowlands, Campbeltown, Highlands, Speyside andIslay accompanied by the best matching New Zealand cheeses, and will be discussing the history and distilleries of each whisky. Info: [www.eventfinda.co.nz/2024/scottish-whiskies-new-zealand-cheeses/blenheim](http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2024/scottish-whiskies-new-zealand-cheeses/blenheim)

#### 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>

### NOVEMBER 2024

#### Scottish Fiddle Club 1, Auckland

Celtic music group meeting at St Lukes Church, 130 Remuera Rd, Remuera. Info: 021 473 402 or [orlearnScotsfiddle@gmail.com](mailto:orlearnScotsfiddle@gmail.com).

#### Hororata Highland Games 9, Hororata

A Scottish Festival with a Kiwi twist! Pipe bands, Scottish dancers, stalls, Clans, heavy events and more at the Hororata Domain. A great family day out with lots of chances to take part and have a go in Scottish events. 45 minutes inland of Christchurch. Info: [www.hororata.org.nz/highland-games](http://www.hororata.org.nz/highland-games)

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## Scotland

### OCTOBER 2024

#### Clan MacNicol 2024 International Gathering 3-6, Portree, Isle of Skye

Clan Chief, John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac along with Clan Chieftains have decided it's time to return to the land of their forebears and reconnect with their worldwide family. New Chieftain, Donnie Nicolson will be hosting the events such as talks, walks and a ceilidh. Info: [www.clanmacnicol.org](http://www.clanmacnicol.org)

#### The Enchanted Forest 3-November 3, Pitlochry

Set your imagination alight with dazzling visuals and innovative design, all choreographed against an original music score, while you explore the stunning autumn woodland setting of Forestry & Land Scotland's Faskally Wood near Pitlochry. Info: [www.enchantedforest.org.uk](http://www.enchantedforest.org.uk)

#### Leith Comedy Festival 4-6, Leith

This annual weekend is packed with various comedy events across Leith in Edinburgh, including stand-up shows, workshops and a quiz. Info: [www.leithcomedyfest.com](http://www.leithcomedyfest.com)

#### Golden Spurtle World Porridge Making Championship

5, Carrbridge  
The Golden Spurtle is awarded to the contestant who makes, in the judges view, the best bowl of porridge. Past competitors have come from all corners of the world including New Zealand, Australia, America, Canada, Africa and across Europe. The event takes place in Carrbridge village hall and is live streamed to the world over Facebook. Info: [www.goldenspurtle.com](http://www.goldenspurtle.com)

#### The Royal National Mòd 2024 11-19, Oban

Oban welcomes back Gaeldom's premiere musical and cultural event for the 17<sup>th</sup> time in 2024, continuing its legacy on the West Coast. The event promotes Gaelic language and culture through music, song, dance, drama, literature, and the arts. Info: [www.ancomunn.co.uk](http://www.ancomunn.co.uk)

#### Borderlands Whisky Festival 12, Lockerbie

The best whisky producers from the Borderlands and beyond. Info: [www.borderlandswiskyfestival.com](http://www.borderlandswiskyfestival.com)

#### Scottish International Storytelling Festival 18-31, Edinburgh

An annual celebration of storytelling and one of the most admired storytelling events in the world and the largest of its kind. Info: [www.sisf.org.uk](http://www.sisf.org.uk)

#### Perth All -Scotland Accordion & Fiddle Festival 25-26, Perth

Run every year since 1950, the Perth Accordion & Fiddle Festival features competitions, concerts and ceilidhs - opening with a welcome dance on Friday night. Info: [www.perthaccordionfestival.co.uk](http://www.perthaccordionfestival.co.uk)

#### Loch and Land Festival 25-November 3, Loch Ness

A new festival around Inverness and Loch Ness to celebrate the abundant natural beauty and multitude of outdoor activities that the destination has to offer. From climbing, yoga, archery, sea kayaking, whitewater sledging, fly fishing and axe throwing, to tours, cruises, litter picks, speaker events, wood carving and wild swimming, there's something for everyone. Info: [www.visitinvernesslochness.com/loch-and-land-festival](http://www.visitinvernesslochness.com/loch-and-land-festival)

#### Stitched-Scotland's Embroidered Art 25-January 18, Edinburgh

Dovecot Studios will present a major new exhibition of Scotland's textile treasures, many of which have never been on public display. Curated in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland, the exhibition will be the first time these textiles are presented together as significant works of art in their own right. 'Stitched: Scotland's Embroidered Art' will explore 200 years of the domestic interior in Scotland, examining the art and design of embroidery from the National Trust for Scotland's extraordinary collection of textiles. Info: [www.dovecotstudios.com](http://www.dovecotstudios.com)

#### Glenfiddich Piping Championship 26, Blair Atholl, Perthshire

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship was established in 1974 to inspire the world's finest individual pipers and to seek the best overall exponents of ceòl mòr or piobaireachd (the great music) and ceòl beag or light music (the little music). Each year, 10 competitors qualify to play at Blair Castle, through placing in one of a series of qualifying events. Info: [www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/play/competitions/glenfiddich-solo-piping-championships](http://www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/play/competitions/glenfiddich-solo-piping-championships)

#### The National Piping Centre Adult Seasonal Piping Gathering

28-31, Glasgow  
The National Piping Centre is bringing you a fantastic, four-day Adult Gathering for pipers aged 18+ at The National Piping Centre, Glasgow. This school has been designed to give a fantastic social learning experience with World Class instructors. Info: [www.thepipingcentre.co.uk](http://www.thepipingcentre.co.uk)

#### Samhuinn Fire Festival 31, Edinburgh

Edinburgh's spectacular Winter celebration returns with a live parade to celebrate the ancient ritual of Samhuinn, putting a fiery twist on Halloween night. Info: [www.beltane.org](http://www.beltane.org)



# Alan Cumming - *Living the High Life*

By: Neil Drysdale



**Y**ou certainly can't accuse Alan Cumming of being stuck in a rut. On the contrary, the Scot's CV is a thing of wonder; a bewildering variety of films, TV series, voiceovers, musical roles, cameos and compelling comic turns. He has been in a James Bond film - *Goldeneye* - and illuminated successful movie franchises such as *Spy Kids*.

He has won a Tony award for starring on Broadway in *Cabaret*, gained Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for his work in the drama series *The Good Wife* and presents the American version of



the hit show *The Traitors*. Some people approaching 60 - Alan reaches that milestone in January - might consider slowing down, but if anything, the opposite seems to be the case with this multi-faceted performer.

### Never looking back

Currently he's making a film with Brian Cox, creating a stage version of the cult TV series *The High Life with Forbes Masson* and flitting between the United States and Scotland so often that he must have racked up plenty of frequent flier air miles. Anybody who lives a nighthawk existence and channel-hops around old TV programmes from the 1980s and 1990s will have caught up with Alan at some stage, whether in Scottish staples *Taggart* and *Take the High Road* or such eclectic offerings as *Rik Mayall Presents*, *Black Beauty*, *Blind Date* or *The Invasion of the Comic Tomatoes*.

So, one can understand why he "hated" being asked to name his favourite performances from a career which prides itself on never looking back. Yet, as he said: "I've played so many people and creatures and I also don't ever hang on to them, but am always moving on to the next person I am going to inhabit. It's actually more important the kind of experience that I have on a set. That's what I remember. Hopefully, it was a happy one, with kind people and it felt fun to come to work every day. But I suppose the characters from *The High Life* are in my mind again

because we are working on a musical of the show for the National Theatre of Scotland and revisiting them has been such fun. I also really like Mr Floop from the *Spy Kids* movies. He touched the hearts of so many kids who are now young adults and so many people approach me in such a different way if they have watched those films. I'm very much enjoying the character I play on the US *Traitors*. I know that I'm officially the host of the show, but I'm acting my socks off and I love being the castle daddy."

### How vital the arts are to our lives

Alan isn't somebody to throw in the towel in arguing for his beliefs. He might be frustrated at how arts and culture organisations always seem to be an easy target for parties of all political persuasions whenever they need to trim their budgets. But that doesn't mean he won't keep championing the need for greater investment and for youngsters from all backgrounds to have access to opportunities. He said: "It's sad that the arts is the first area to be hit by cuts when we need to pull in the purse strings, but is also the first area we turn to in times of crisis. Look at Covid, and how much we relied on artists and performers to entertain us, help raise money and try and make sense of what was happening to all of us. We constantly have to remind everyone how vital the arts are to our lives, and I find that really annoying. I guess because it's worth can't be quantified

in spreadsheets, but rather through imagination and inspiration, people find it difficult to remember."

And yet, despite these concerns, Alan has hardly been busier and is continuing his transatlantic sojourns to be involved in a diverse range of new ventures. He explained: "Right now, I am making a film near Glasgow with Brian Cox. He's directing and we are playing brothers who have a family distillery. It's a lovely film about the way you can't run from your past, and how Scotland is a sort of siren, pulling you back home. I know that's how it feels to me too. After that, I am doing some concerts in America and making another film in Scotland about the poet Jorge Luis Borges. The latter's the fellow who once memorably described the Falklands conflict as being "a fight between two bald men arguing over a comb".

It's the sort of witticism which you can imagine Alan delivering on stage. He's living his own *High Life* at the moment and there's no sign of him being grounded any time soon.



## The World Highland Dancing Championships



From left to right: Aisla Gocan-Wright, Rebecca Thow and Eilidh Gammons. Photo: Cowal Gathering.

**B**illed as one of Scotland's best days out the finale of the 130<sup>th</sup> Cowal Gathering lived up to its reputation. Thousands of people from across the world gathered in Dunoon for the final day of the world's most spectacular Highland Gathering with competitors, entertainers and spectators joining forces to make sure super Saturday was a day to remember. Crowds watched as over a thousand competitors fought to secure some Cowal silverware. Dancers, pipers, heavy athletes and wrestlers were joined by entertainers including cyclists, axe throwers, stunt runners and musicians to ensure the Gathering's crowds were wowed from early morning until the end of the day. The standard of competition was world class, with every athlete and competitor giving their all to leave the Stadium as a Cowal Gathering winner.

Then came the biggest Highland Dancing competition in the world - the World Championship finals - with dancers from Australia, Canada and the USA pitting their skills against the best the UK has to offer. In the end, it was Aisla Gocan-Wright from London, Ontario who emerged victorious in the World Juvenile finals, followed by Rebecca Acob of Coldstream and Ellie Murgha of Townsville, Queensland. The trophy for best

Scottish Juvenile Dancer went to Cody Fong from Kirkcaldy and the best Overseas Juvenile Dancer was Aisla Gocan-Wright. In the World Junior championship, Eilidh Gammons of Helensburgh, defended her title and held off the challenge of Katjana Bruinsa from Leduc County and Maria Monk of Glasgow. The best Scottish Junior Dancer was Eilidh Gammons, and the trophy for the best Overseas Junior Dancer went to Katjana Bruinsma. The Adult World champion was Rebecca Thow from Aberdeen, followed by Marielle Lesperance from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, with Chloe McClean from Edinburgh in third. Marielle Lesperance is taking home the Mary McHarg Quaich for best Overseas Adult Dancer. The cup for best Scottish Adult Dancer went to Rebecca Thow.

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Cowal Gathering, Fraser McCowan said: "On behalf of the Gathering's organisers, I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make sure the 130<sup>th</sup> Cowal Gathering goes down in history as the best party in town! I'd also like to thank the thousands of people who have come out to support the Gathering over three days. We've welcomed spectators not just from Argyll and Bute and Scotland more generally but from right around the globe, and the feedback we've received has been overwhelmingly positive. Of course, we wouldn't have a Gathering at all without the wonderful competitors, who excelled themselves this year. Those of us lucky enough to have been here witnessed levels of performance never seen before. We all know how popular the traditional Highland Games events such as the piping, dancing and heavy athletics are, and of course they remain the main draw."

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 With David Keith  
 On 106.7 Phoenix FM  
 Monday 2:30 to 4:30pm  
 Traditional, Folk & Gaelic Music  
 Scottish News Views & Blethers  
 Live Streaming  
[www.phoenixfm.org.au](http://www.phoenixfm.org.au)

**Scotword answers from page 6**

<b>Across:</b>	<b>Down:</b>
1 Peat	1 Puffer
3 Bap	2 Township
5 Damson	3 Burnsnight
8 Any	4 Paps
9 Flower	5 Dyke
10 Shetland	6 Sprain
12 SOS	7 Need
13 Rash	11 Toe
15 Nineteenth	14 Awe
19 Neep	16 Niece
20 Gleam	17 Tombstones
21 Spey	18 Hay
23 Privateers	19 Nip
26 Rasp	21 Strength
28 Tee	22 Ems
29 Victoria	24 Inches
32 Noggin	25 Ago
33 Aye	27 Punnet
34 Easter	29 Vale
35 Ass	30 Roar
36 Hart	31 Area

**Hamilton SATURDAY**  
**HIGHLAND GATHERING 26 OCTOBER**  
 10:30AM STREET PARADE  
 11:00AM COMMUNITY CLUB EXPO  
 HAMILTON BOTANIC GARDENS  
 Phone: Ken 0437 711 444 or Richard 0407 516 532  
[HAMILTONPIPESANDDRUMS.ORG.AU](http://HAMILTONPIPESANDDRUMS.ORG.AU)  
 WITH SUPPORT FROM:



# Kryal Castle Highland Spectacular 2024 another resounding success



Andrew McKinnon (Clan MacKinnon), Simon Abney-Hastings (the Earl of Loudoun), Frank McGregor (Clan MacGregor) and Malcolm Edmiston (Edmonstone Clan Society).

On 17-18 August 2024, Clans Buchanan, Edmonstone, Fraser, MacDonald, MacGregor, MacKinnon, MacNicol and McPherson gathered and struck their tents at Kryal Castle, Ballarat. The haunting sound of the lone piper from the 5/6 Royal Victorian regiment calling the crowds to gather within Kryal's mighty walls.

A sizeable proportion of those attending were from the large Scots diaspora residing near Ballarat and in the Central Highlands

region of Victoria. This year's event was also celebrating the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of King Robert I of Scotland. On both days the event was opened by the burly lads and lasses from Highland Muscle, who kept the crowd entertained with feats of strength including caber tossing, hammer throw and other expositions of superhuman strength. Crowd participation was encouraged and great fun was had by all.

This was followed on the Saturday by the official opening of the event by our Chief of



Combined Pipes and Drums.

the Day, Simon Abney-Hastings, the 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Loudoun. Mayor of Mirrabool Shire, Councillor Ally Munari also gave a great speech in support of the event. The Earl presented a mighty claymore known as the 'Tarskavaig Toothpick' to be awarded to the winner of the England versus Scotland joust.

Shortly thereafter the massed bands including members from 5/6 Royal Victorian Regiment Pipes and Drums, Golden City Pipe Band, and the Ballarat Pipe Band regaled the crowd with many classics Highland tunes. Special mention to Malcolm Edmiston, Armiger and High Commissioner for Australasia for the Edmonstone Clan Society, who took the salute on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> in remembrance of those who served in the Australian Armed Forces with honour in Vietnam, including himself!

### The castle walls were filled with lots of other attractions

The Highland Dancing by the Victorian Scottish Union Highland Dancing with performers from Geelong Scottish Dance wowed the crowd with their Highland dancing demonstration and the tiniest dancers stealing the show. This year "Who is the real William Wallace?" with the real versus the woad covered imposter, again attempted to educate the crowd about how the historical William Wallace would have looked and sounded. It did seem that the woad covered comedian proved the most popular of our William Wallace's. Following, was a joust between the knights of England and the mighty knights of Scotland. Andrew McKinnon, armiger of Clan MacKinnon and Commissioner for Australia

for the Clan MacKinnon Society, jousted with his own heraldry and proved too good for the English taking victory and winning the might claymore for Scotland!

The castle walls were filled with lots of other attractions including Highland cows and the magnificent Scottish Deerhounds and lots of fabulous vendors selling Scottish food and wares. As the dusk drew in, the audience enjoyed the individual band performances from all band participating in the massed bands performance. As part of the action packed program, there was a Highland themed feasts held with haggis and delicious Scottish food served and a whisky tasting narrated by Craig Merson from the Whisky Company. The hungry attendees were royally entertained by Auld Alliance, a two-piece band playing stirring Scots classics who also called a few enthusiastic patrons up to dance at the post feast ceilidh.

Due the success of 2024's event another one has been confirmed for 2025 with an announcement about the date to follow.



Scotland Vs England in the jousting.

## Hat's off to Scotland!

Hats off to Scotland! Cover Yer Heid with this great range of Scottish baseball and beanie hats.

All hats one size fits all adult and are \$19.95 plus \$11.30 postage. To order see us online or the coupon on page 6. Many more styles are available online at [www.scottishbanner.com/shop](http://www.scottishbanner.com/shop). Go on, wear your Scottish pride on yer heid!



Scotland Rampant Lion Lip Peak - Navy/Khaki Code: C3238E



Saltire Flag Scotland - Navy Code: C3238E



Glasgow Scotland Code: C3032E



Scotland Jersey Saltire Code: C3218E



Lion Rampant Royal Stewart Tartan Code: C3002ER



Lion Rampant Black Watch Tartan Code: C3002E



Scotland Golf Saltire Crest-Navy Mesh Code: GC702E



Saltire side Scotland text-Navy Code: C3096E



Scotland Sports White Rampant Lion Light Blue Code: C3226E



Scotland Saltire Black Clan-with Royal Stewart accent Code: SCS6



Scotland Jersey Rampant Large Text-Grey Code: C3220E



Lion Rampant Scotland-Navy Code: C3215E



Scotland Lion Rampant Ski Hat-Royal Blue Code: C3060E



Scotland Lion Rampant Ski Hat-Bottle Green Code: C3060E



Saltire/Scotland Ski Hat-Navy Code: C3059E



Scotland Pom Pom Ski Hat-Navy Code: C3018J



The Kelpies



Rainbow Highland Coos



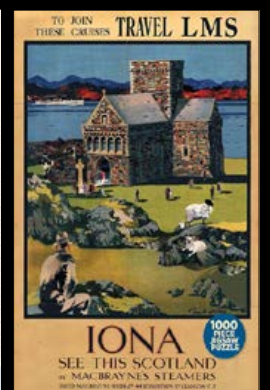
Eilean Donan Castle

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