



the Scottish Banner



Australasian Edition



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A' Bhratach Albannach

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The Banner Says...

Scotland the land of music and culture



by Valerie Cairney

August is an incredible month for many reasons. The weather is usually better this month than any other time of year - at least here in the Northern Hemisphere. The children are happy as they are usually out of school on summer holidays, many people are on vacations, and around the world things seem to slow down while people take a little time off, before starting off for the busy fall season ahead. When my children were young we all looked forward to being together for the summer season, and I would often try to have outings with them to enjoy each other during that time. However by the time the month was over and it was time for school again, both they and I were ready to get back to school routine again. Today as I look through events taking place in Scotland I see that the month of August is a very busy month, bursting with festivals both musically, as well as art festivals. In fact, after writing about Scotland in this publication for many years, I am still overwhelmingly impressed with how proud Scotland is of her own heritage. By this I mean how proud a country it is which seems so proud of its' music and other forms of heritage in so very many ways.

Scotland presents

Scotland continues to present numerous high profile events and festivals. Whilst these events are taking place across the country in the form of music festivals or highland games, Edinburgh in particular seems to be bursting at the seams with cultural events. No question about it, Scotland certainly is proud of its culture and wants to not only enjoy it themselves, but show it to the thousands of visitors who will be visiting the country over the summer months. Edinburgh alone has so many events which show off both the music and the dance of Scotland, as well as many from around the world, making it a melting pot of performance culture. Some of the more important of these is the Edinburgh Festival, Festival Fringe and The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Surely nothing is more Scottish than the Tattoo and when it annually visits Edinburgh each year, it brings with it thousands of visitors who are there to not only to see the country - but also this outstanding event. As a child I often watched this event on television and could hardly believe the time when I was actually

taken to the Mound in Edinburgh to watch it for myself. As I expected it was a most thrilling experience with the sound of the pipes and drums, the beauty of the Scottish dancers, and the pride of the guards as they marched so impeccably in their ranks. A stirring experience indeed, and certainly one that highlights the Scottish pride in each and every Scots heart. Yet the Tattoo is by no means a new or a recent event in Edinburgh. The first time it took place was as far back as 1950. At that time I was living and growing up in the UK. During that time it had also never been televised and so, of course was not so popular as it became later. Of course when that started happening the Tattoo soon became far better known, making the Tattoo far more important to not only Edinburgh but also to Scotland itself - particularly for the tourism cash which it helped to encourage. This year as the 2016 Tattoo prepares to unfurl the Tattoo will celebrate its 66th anniversary. This of course is quite a celebration, from its early days, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo has been an international favourite. Performers from over 48 countries have taken part in the Tattoo including from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

For a small country Scotland will be punching above its weight with world class music and culture, if you're going to Scotland this summer - you're going to a very unique place in this world.

Global gathering

Each year the Tattoo is very much a 'global gathering' which showcases the talents of musicians and performers from every corner of the globe. The international flavour of the Tattoo has been deliberately developed as a key element to capacitate and entertain a huge, cosmopolitan audience. Now that it is televised it is still as strong as ever - perhaps even more so. In spite of its length of time running, the Tattoo has always been staged at Edinburgh Castle (apart from Tattoo productions that have been held in both Australia and New Zealand), although rehearsals for the event take place at Redford

Barracks, which is also in Edinburgh. Since its inception it is believed that more than 14 million people have attended the Tattoo. This amount, coupled with the viewing audience internationally, is generally thought to be 100 million spectators making this an extremely large and loyal audience. Experts believe that approximately 70 percent of each audience comes from outside Scotland, with half being from overseas. In spite of the length of time the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo has been running, not a single performance of the Tattoo has ever been cancelled - that in spite of the somewhat changeable weather within Scotland. Yet of course, Edinburgh is not the only city you will find in Scotland ready and willing to show its' historic exhibitions this summer.

Pipes out in Glasgow

Another exciting event taking place this year, this time in Glasgow, is Piping Live! the international piping festival and the World Pipe Band Championships. Piping Live! will take place August 8 -14 August, and will include not only some of the world's finest piping but also entertainment by the fantastic Red Hot Chilli Pipers, who will also bring their "bagrock" to the event. There will also be many other entertainers on hand for the event. This year Piping Live! will also be adding Scottish food and drink to the event as well as a new addition called, 'Moments that Matter'. Whilst the world's pipe band community will also descend on Glasgow Green for the World Pipe Band Championships this month. In this issue we get a different perspective and hear from one of the international judges for this event which showcases the sound of Scotland like no other.

It certainly does sound as though Scotland will be very exciting this summer and will be sure to draw even bigger crowds this year than ever before. For the small country that Scotland is (approximately 30,414 miles), it certainly has a great deal going on. It is a country that boasts it's heritage and welcomes the rest of the world to share it. For a small country Scotland will be punching above its weight with world class music and culture, if you're going to Scotland this summer - you're going to a very unique place in this world.



Photo: The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Gracing our front cover: The future of pipe bands at The European Pipe Band Championships.

Scotland and Brexit



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon after the Brexit vote in Edinburgh. Photo: The Scottish Government.

declared, the Leave side won by a margin of 52% to 48%, the referendum turnout was 71.8%, with more than 30 million people voting it was the highest turnout in a UK-wide vote since the 1992 general election.

Reassurance following EU referendum

The First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has sent a message of reassurance to EU nationals living in Scotland that they are welcome and has pledged the Scottish Government's overriding priority is to protect Scotland's relationship with, and place in, the EU. The First Minister said: "Scotland voted to stay inside the single market and to protect the jobs, investment and trade that depend on it. We chose to be an open, inclusive and outward-looking society where other EU citizens are welcome to live, work and contribute. My message today - to EU citizens and to their representatives in Scotland - remains simple. Scotland is your home, you are welcome and your contribution to our economy, our society and our culture is valued. We will pursue every option to protect Scotland's position in Europe and, by extension, the interests of EU citizens who live and work here. I call again on the Prime Minister, and the potential candidates to succeed him, to give an immediate guarantee that the existing rights of the 173,000 EU nationals in Scotland will be protected. A strong starting point is a clear message from me to EU citizens that wherever they live and whatever they do, they are welcome here, now and in the future."

Many Scots, those across Europe and around the world were caught off guard in June as the UK went to the ballot box and voted on whether or not to remain as part of the European Union. The British exit or Brexit referendum was held on Thursday 23 June, to decide whether the UK should leave or remain in the European Union. Scotland has voted in favour of the UK staying in the EU by 62% to 38% - with all 32 council areas backing Remain. The people of Edinburgh delivered the strongest Remain vote in Scotland and many across the capital were shocked and devastated by the decision to leave the EU. Moray saw the closest result in Scotland, with Remain finishing just 122 votes ahead of Leave. Whilst outside Scotland London and Northern Ireland also voted to Remain, the UK as a whole has voted to Leave - raising the prospect of Scotland being taken out of the EU against its will. With all the votes

Another Independence referendum

The Scottish government will now be looking at the possibility of a second independence referendum in the wake of the UK voting to leave the EU. Scotland voted in 2014 to stay in the United Kingdom after voters decisively rejected independence. With, the "No" side winning with 2,001,926 votes over 1,617,989 for "Yes". A second Scottish independence referendum is "on the table", Nicola Sturgeon has proclaimed as the vast majority of Scots wanting to Remain in the recent EU referendum has given the SNP an extraordinary reason to again look at the case for independence. In a poll taken in February this year more than half (54 per cent) of Scots would vote Yes in a post-Brexit second independence referendum and since the EU referendum polls are showing that the pro-independence movement has gained more support. If the Scottish government goes ahead with a second independence referendum and it is successful, then the UK's union would dissolve at the same time as Brexit. British politics have gone into overdrive this summer with Prime Minister David Cameron resigning after the Brexit vote and the UK now has its second female Prime Minister in Theresa May who has promised to build a "better Britain" and to make the UK's EU exit a "success".

What was your reaction to the Brexit vote? Tell us at www.scottishbanner.com

Scotland introduces very first Snorkel Trail



Scotland's first snorkel trail has been created in the North West Highlands by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. As part of its living seas programme and supported by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, the self-led Snorkel Trail features nine beaches and bays on the coast of Wester Ross and Sutherland. Both beginners and advanced snorkelers will be able to dive down to see the impressive variety of marine life in Scotland. Locations include Tanera Mor in the Summer Isles, Camusnagaul and Achmelvich Bay with marine life such as dogfish, barrel jellyfish and sea urchins living in these areas. Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs said: "Scotland's coast boasts some of the UK's richest spots for marine wildlife, which is why nearly half of the visitors surveyed come to Scotland for our scenery and landscape. The snorkel trail is an innovative approach to marine and coastal planning that encourages use of existing infrastructure to help tourism diversification like this." The Snorkel trail officially launched on Saturday 9 July at Ullapool Harbour as part of the Rotary Club of Ullapool's Summer Festival.

Text and image: Scotland.org

Spectacular opening event for Edinburgh's International Festival



Photo 59 Productions.

This year's Edinburgh International Festival will be in full swing this month with events across the city and the Festival will open with the city's most famous attraction, Edinburgh Castle. The *Standard Life Opening Event: Deep Time* is the follow up to last year's spectacular *Harmonium Project* which attracted massive crowds to witness an amazing performance of light and sound. This year, the canvas for the Festival's opening event will be the walls of Edinburgh Castle, and the rugged rock beneath, as a digitally animated artwork displays projections and illuminations inspired by the city's past. Set to the music of Scottish rock band Mogwai, and produced by Tony-award winning 59 Productions (creators of *Harmonium*), the *Standard Life Opening Event: Deep Time* explores 350 million years of local history, from volcanic landscape to seat of learning and science. The area's unique geology

was the subject of 'father of modern geology' James Hutton's work, contributing greatly to the Scottish Enlightenment and revolutionising thinking about how the Earth formed. Councillor Richard Lewis, Edinburgh's Festivals and Events Champion, said: "Following last year's beautiful *Harmonium Project* at the Usher Hall, this year's opening event will yet again wow audiences. Celebrating 350 million years of Edinburgh's history and set to a soundtrack by Scotland's own Mogwai, *Deep Time* at Edinburgh Castle will be a phenomenal, free experience to be enjoyed by all." To tell the tale, cutting-edge 3D animation and projection techniques will be used by 59 Productions, who have also been named Associate Artists for the Festival for the next three years. The *Standard Life Opening Event: Deep Time* is a free, but ticketed, public event which takes place at 10.30pm on Sunday 7 August.

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Forres welcomes thousands for European Pipe Band Championships



Chieftain Dr Donnie Munro.



Forres gave a piping welcome for around 120 Pipe Bands and 50 Drum Majors who competed in the European Pipe Band Championships, held in Forres on Saturday 25 June to a crowd of thousands

who came to the park to enjoy the day. The list of bands included 11 grade 1 bands - from the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland including the current World Champions, Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia and 2015 European

winners, Field Marshal Montgomery. Whilst the majority of bands came from Scotland, bands also came from as far as Denmark, the Netherlands, the Republic of Ireland and 5 school bands from Australia. Sixty Highland dancers also competed on the day and The World's Tattie Scone Championship was won by Nichola Smith from Elgin with her Heart of Courage scone with fruits of Moray as her special ingredient.

Dr Donnie Munro (formally of Runrig) who thoroughly enjoyed his day as Chieftain said: "Visitors enjoyed themselves very much and I congratulate the founders for the legacy that they have left and offer my congratulations to the people of Forres for their support of the event – they deserve to have a real sense of pride in what they have achieved with this event."

Winners in grade 1 were: St Laurence O'Toole from Eire; second Field Marshal Montgomery from Northern Ireland and third Inveraray and District.

Grade 2 winners were the Pipes and Drums of the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Grade 4A was Lanark and District Grade 4B was Johnstone.

Grade 3A was the Lewis Pipe Band.

Grade 3B was local band 2622 (Highland) Squadron RAF.

Elgin Pipe Band won the Grade 4B Drumming.

Full results are on the RSBPA website: www.rspba.org.

Strikingly restored clock tower at GoMA unveiled



Work to restore the clock tower at one of Glasgow's most famous buildings has been completed. Restoration work at the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) focused on the clock tower and weather vane, which have been cleaned, restored and reinstated. Previously coated in stained cream masonry paint and cement repairs, together with vegetation growing out of the Corinthian column bases, the clock tower has undergone an extensive series of conservation repairs. Glasgow Life, who manage GoMA, instructed conservation accredited architects at the Glasgow studio of Austin-Smith:Lord to assess the true condition of the tower and advise on a suitable repair strategy. Initially the team began repairing the tower by cleaning off old paint, which was causing damage to the stonework, redecorating the clock face and removing vegetation from the building. However, during the examination of the sandstone masonry, the restorers discovered some serious errors in the way in which the original tower had been constructed, between 1827 and 1829. This necessitated more extensive conservation repairs, including replacing stones that were incorrectly bedded in the past.

Scotland's most visited modern Deputy Leader of Glasgow City Council and Chair of Glasgow Life, Councillor Archie Graham, said: "The Gallery of Modern Art is a building firmly tied to the history of Glasgow itself. We are delighted to reveal the restored clock tower and weather vane, in complete working order just in time for its 200th anniversary. This refurbishment ensures generations to come have the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful building in full as it was originally intended." Some 600,000 people have been to GoMA in the last year, making it Scotland's most visited modern art gallery. It also guaranteed the popular museum a place in the coveted Top Ten most visited attractions in Scotland during 2015. The Royal Exchange Square building was originally constructed in 1778 as the townhouse of William Cunninghame of Lainshaw, one of Glasgow's wealthy tobacco lords. It later became a bank in 1816-17 when it was enlarged to create the Royal Exchange. It was this work which added the Corinthian pillars of the temple frontage to Queen Street and the Cupola and clock tower design. The Royal Exchange was later purchased by Glasgow Corporation in November 1949 for £105,000.



Scotland in the Park



Queensland Police Pipes & Drums at Scotland in the Park.

Sunny skies blessed the 4th annual Scotland in the Park event in Greenbank, Queensland in July. A full day of Scottish activities took place with pipe bands, singers, Clan and information tents and much more. A large crowd gathered to take in a bit of Scotland for the family friendly day at the event presented by the Scottish Clans Congress of Queensland Inc.



Luke Smith (Mayor of Logan), Scotland in the Park organiser Neil Macdonald and Laurie Smith (Councillor) tasting a Haggis Burger.



Clans gather at Scotland in the Park.

SCOTSPEAK

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

"We have had a very full discussion about the result of the EU referendum, its implications for Scotland and the steps we need to take in the days, weeks and months that lie ahead to protect Scotland's interests. Cabinet expressed its pride in the vote in Scotland, the emphatic vote in Scotland, to remain in the European Union. The Cabinet also shared the deep disappointment at the UK-wide result that is clearly felt by a majority of people across this country, and we are determined to act decisively but in a way that builds unity across Scotland about the way forward."

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon says Scotland will engage with Europe after the Brexit vote across the UK. Talks have already taken place with EU institutions and member states to protect Scotland's place in Europe the First Minister has said. The Scottish Government plans to demonstrate that the EU remains a priority for Scotland as per the vote that the people of Scotland placed to Remain. In Scotland, where the electorate voted 2 to 1 to remain in the EU, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has vowed to do everything she can to keep Scotland's EU links, and is not ruling out calling a second independence referendum.

"We all live and work in an increasingly complex and demanding world where events can and do take place at remarkable speed, and retaining the ability to stay calm and collected can be hard," said the 90-year-old monarch, whose role demands strict public impartiality in political matters. As this parliament has successfully demonstrated over the years, one hallmark of leadership in such a fast-moving world is allowing sufficient room for quiet contemplation and reflection, which can enable deeper, cooler, consideration about how challenges and opportunities can be best addressed."

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth said as she formally opened the fifth session of Scotland's devolved parliament in



St Machar's Cathedral.

Edinburgh during July. The Queen made no mention of the Brexit vote which will see Britain leave the EU, a result which prompted dismay in Scotland and sparked calls for another independence referendum. Scots rejected independence 55 to 45 percent in a 2014 referendum.

"There were no cars or transport back when I first joined the club - except on Saturdays when there would be a bus, I'd cycle up to the course and park it against the hut before playing a round. When I first started as a child, I'd play with wee short clubs but there used to be a greenkeeper here who would pick up clubs on the course left behind by folk who didn't want them. I was quite lucky, I could naturally swing a golf club very well from a very young age. In golf you get what you earn. When you miss-hit a shot at golf you get punished for it but it's great when you have a good game."

102 year old (or young in this instance!) Scots golfer Willie Cuthbert said as it is believed that he may hold the title of the world's longest-serving golf club member. Willie joined Kirkintilloch Golf Club in 1926 and he still plays today at the course in East Dunbartonshire.

"One of the outstanding features of St Machar's is its unique heraldic ceiling dating from 1520. The flat ceiling contains 48 heraldic shields depicting Scotland as a sovereign state with the states of Western Europe united under Pope and Holy Roman Emperor. As the ceiling will be 500 years old in 2020 there are plans to celebrate this milestone in the cathedral's history. This led to the repair and development plans being called The 2020 Project."

Rev Barry Dunsmore of St Machar's Cathedral in Aberdeen said as the cathedral has announced a £1 million upgrade. The 12th century church has long been rumoured to be where Wallace's left arm ended up after he was hung, drawn and quartered in 1305. The cathedral celebrates its 500th anniversary in 2020.

"Heritage sites are a vital part of Scotland's wider tourism offering and by increasing our audience in the UK and internationally, we not only benefit the economy and tourist industry as a whole, but also raise awareness of the country's heritage and ultimately contribute to its preservation."

Stephen Duncan, director of tourism at Historic Environment Scotland said as the agency has recorded a sharp increase in international visitors to its sites that are

associated with the international hit show *Outlander*. Castles, palaces, museums and the scenes of ancient battles are all benefiting from an "Outlander effect" since the show began production in Scotland three years ago. *Outlander* which is set at the time of the 18th-century Jacobite Risings has now also been confirmed for at least a further series to be filmed using Scotland as its backdrop.

"It is a compromise. It deals with the problem of hands up kilts but still keeps the flag flying for the great Scottish tradition of tartan. We are a quintessential Scottish bar and tourists expect to see tartan."

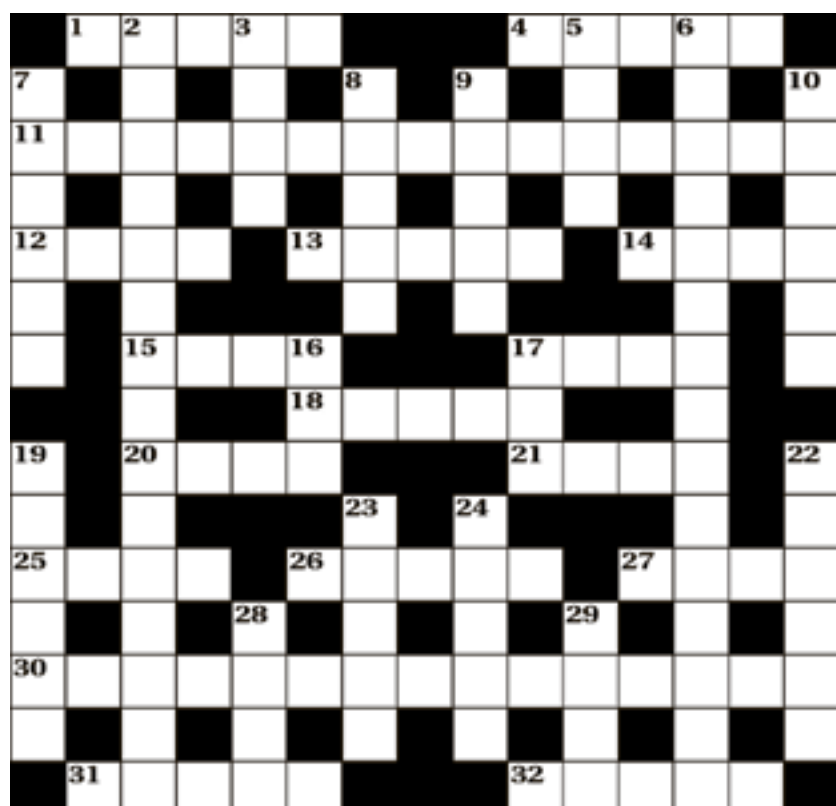
Kit Fraser owner of Inverness pub Hootananny said after male staff members were forced to stop wearing kilts as part of the bar uniform due to harassment from female customers. Barmen reported being "circled" by groups of women wanting to know what was worn under the kilt. Staff now wear tartan trousers in matching with the traditional Scottish theme of the bar.

"I'm horrified to hear that there may be plans to close Fort George. My grandfather was commander there after the war, and I've been a keen supporter of the museum, which has only just been renovated. It would be a bleak day for the Highlands if this rumour about closure turned out to be true."

British actor Hugh Grant said that he was horrified that plans by the Ministry of Defence to save money and shut down Fort George may be put into place. Fort George located outside Inverness is the historic Highland military base where his grandfather served as commander. Built after the Battle of Culloden, the garrison has been the home of the famous 500-strong Black Watch battalion for almost a decade. The base attracts 55,000 visitors each year, and studies carried out into its economic impact have revealed that its closure could cost the Highlands £14 million a year and lead to the loss of 112 jobs.

SCOTWORD

Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 24!



CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Scotland's only venomous snake (5).
- 4) It goes wī' tatties (5).
- 11) Famous Scottish song (6, 1, 3, 5).
- 12) Related by blood (4).
- 13) Whisky measures (5).
- 14) Advantage on the border (4).
- 15) Mr Breck! (4).
- 17) Useful at St Andrews! (4).
- 18) Cathedral city on River Lossie (5).
- 20) Montrose is on what coast? (4).
- 21) Variable star (4).
- 25) Mormon territory (4).
- 26) They talk Scots! (5).
- 27) Get infected by a Scot (4).
- 30) Ghostly container! (6, 2, 7).
- 31) Scots kids (5).
- 32) A passageway to a tenement (5).

CLUES DOWN

- 2) MacBeth's fortress (9, 6).
- 3) Old measures (4).
- 5) She's a flower (4).
- 6) Scottish lassies (10, 5).
- 7) A broad Scottish valley (6).
- 8) Dull to a Scot (5).
- 9) Suffer in Scots (5).
- 10) Wee islands (6).
- 16) It's the aim in soccer (3).
- 17) Small hotel (3).
- 19) Hallowe'en bangers (6).
- 22) Skilled worker (6).
- 23) Part of the Highland dress (5).
- 24) A hip one is handy! (5).
- 28) Highland family (4).
- 29) Spin round in Scots (4).

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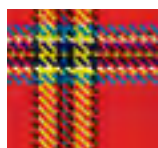
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The Scottish Banner 40th Anniversary



Congratulations to *the Scottish Banner* for forty years of publication and the registering of the Scottish Banner Tartan with the Scottish Tartans Register in honour of those forty years of publication. It's a grand tartan.

Mal Edmiston
Kirwin, Queensland
Australia

Dear Valerie



WOW!!! Forty years! Let's see, twelve times per year, times 40 years-that is 480 issues and I have read every single one of them. I still remember the store in Toronto (at Queen Street and Coxwell Avenue) where I used to go to renew my subscription. I am now 90 years young and still walk to my post office to get my *Banner*. You and I met many years ago in Barrie, Ontario, at a Sons of Scotland dinner. I am enclosing a picture taken while we were at this event. We all look so young then. The lady in the middle is my wonderful late wife, Marjorie Main, and you will remember the other wonderful lady on the right (yourself). I believe the picture was taken late 1970's or early 1980's. I would like to attend the Fergus Highland Games this summer and if you are there would like to meet you again.

Thank you for great reads,
Lawrence Main
Clan Gunn
Burke's Falls, Ontario
Canada

Ed. note: Thank you so much for the letter and the photo Lawrence. Indeed it is a long time ago. The gentleman next to your wife was my husband at that time, Jim Cairney. Yes we do look quite a happy group, don't we.

Vital publication

Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend celebrations for *the Scottish Banner's* 40th anniversary - a wonderful achievement in connecting, reconnecting and sharing the love of Scots and their descendants.

The Scottish Banner is a vital publication for the Scottish community, its many clans and kindred organisations, the bands and dancers and event promoters. Your support of activities in Bendigo associated with Scots Day Out is always appreciated and acknowledged for the warm manner in which it is given. Have an extra dram for me as you celebrate and look forward to catching up very soon.

Kindest,
Chris Earl
Scots Day Out
Bendigo, Victoria
Australia

Golf family from Aberdeen

I have been an avid reader of *the Scottish Banner* for more than two decades, and I was most interested and gratified to read the articles on Aberdeen in the March 2016 edition. You see my Father was born and raised in Aberdeen just near the New Brig 'O Don heading north to Fraserburgh. My Grandfather's home and farm was just one block off the highway and took off up the rae, "hill" which is now a modern subdivision. My Dad and all his brothers were keen golfers and became golf professionals. My Father immigrated here in about 1911. He was a teaching pro here at the Evansville Country Club and also in Palm Beach, Florida in the winter until his death. He sponsored his younger brother Archie and set him up at the Clearcrest Country Club here. The older brother Willie, who I was named after went to London and settled into a Club named Addiscombe, where he taught George V1 and Edward X111 to play their games. My Grandmother attended church at St. Machers in Old Aberdeen and lived out her very long life on the bank of the Don near the Auld Brig in a wee cottage. My wife Muriel and I have visited there many times and golfed in my father's footsteps on the Royal Aberdeen links.

Aye,
William Richie, M.D.
Evansville, Indiana
USA

Remembering the Galbraith's store's

How well I remember Galbraith's Store (*Scottish Banner*, April, 2016). It was in Glasgow, on Gascube Road and North Woodside Road. My Mother was a regular customer and I remember getting home from school one day, only to be told Galbraith's had received an order of 'H.P broon sauce', and if your surname began with an 'R' you could have one free. Our family name was 'Ritchie' so....! This was during World War II and rationing was heavy. Boy did our family enjoy that treat that night with our supper. Anyone living around Possil Road will also remember the Astoria Picture House. It was located beside Oakbank Hospital and held great memories for me. Every Tuesday night, my Aunt Rose took me to the 'pictures' there and we usually ended up on the Balcony (second floor). My biggest treat was when the ice cream lady sold her ice-cream cups as Auntie Rose always bought one for her and one for me. Another thing I remember about going to the pictures was, if the

movie had started when you arrived you stayed till the picture was over, but you didn't leave until the second showing part came to the part where you came in. Those were the days, and what sweet memories they left me with.

Mrs Elizabeth Donnelly
Brampton, Ontario
Canada

Ed. note: Thank you for these memories Elizabeth, you made us feel we were with you.

Use it or Lose it

The Scottish Heritage Centre of W.A. Inc. was formed to be a central organisation in this state dedicated to the conserving and promotion of Scottish culture. This includes the huge amount of music, songs, poems, and historical stories which are seldom heard now. There are however, three excellent Scottish Fiddle groups and some singers and musicians who have a vast knowledge of Scottish music and songs. SHC has been trying to publicise them through holding music sessions which, though truly superb, did not get much support from the Scottish community.

Luckily, Highland Dancing, Country Dancing and piping are well catered for and are secure. The W.A. Genealogical Society has a strong Scottish branch for family research, but Scottish arts and crafts have no organised groups. Scottish Heritage Centre would like more members to join so that it will be possible to promote all aspects of our culture and keep it secure here. Membership is \$20 per year, and 4 newsletters are published annually. Our website is called ScotsHubWA.com. Contact phone number is (08) 9457 1945.
Shirley Oliver
Secretary, The Scottish Heritage Centre of W.A
Perth, Western Australia

Landing on Barra



Yes, I have flown to Barra from Glasgow in September 2012. I spent a couple of interesting days on the island, albeit - very windy!
Maureen McLeod (Formerly Edinburgh)
Mississauga, Ontario
Canada

Celtic Thunder

Many thanks for the two tickets to see Celtic Thunder. A tremendous show was enjoyed by all at the full house crowd.
Mrs I Brown
Largs North, South Australia

The Proclaimers

Wow! What a concert! Thoroughly enjoyed The Proclaimers April concert at the Sydney Opera House. Thanks so much for the tickets I won from *the Scottish Banner* competition. The Concert Hall was packed-don't think there was an empty seat except for the audience standing and being part of the concert. The ambience was great!
Thanks again,
Shirley Smith
Kanhooka, NSW
Australia

Love Scotland

I am sorry my subscription renewal is late, as due to illness I had to get my son to write it for me. Now I want to thank those of you who collect and saves all the information about 'the Bonnie Scotland' I love so much. Thanks to all you wonderful folk for what you bring to us each month. These thanks are from my heart to yours. I believe Scotland is the best.
Ann Houston
Waterbury, Connecticut
USA

Descendants of Catherine Kidd

I am trying to track down descendants of Catherine Kidd, who married James Jack in 1839 in Lasswade, Midlothian, Scotland about the family tree and history. Catherine and James had 6 children: James, Alexander, Mary, Christine, George and Margaret Jack. One of Catherine and James' daughters, married a Mr McLennan and had daughters Charlotte and Christina McLennan. Christina corresponded with Tasmanian Kidd family and lived on McNeil Avenue, Loanhead, Midlothian, Scotland, while corresponding - she married but had no children. She went by "Chris McLennan."

Her sister, Charlotte McLennan, married a Mr. Stuart, and had a son, Charles Stuart, who was aged 60 in 1961. Charles lived in Dunfirmline, Scotland. His wife was Elizabeth. Charles and Elizabeth had a son who went to Toronto; a son who was living in Dunfirmline & was an artist and two daughters. Names all unknown.

Gage Kidd
29 Benvenue Rd.
St Leonards, Tasmania 7250
Australia
Email: golden_cameo@hotmail.com

POSTED TO THE SCOTTISH BANNER FACEBOOK PAGE

Images of Ben Nevis



Looking up to the summit and North Face Ben Nevis this evening. Fresh snow fell today here in Lochaber. Definitely living up to the old Scottish saying: "Never cast a clout till May's out". From sea life, to high life. Please see the attached image taken on the summit of Ben Nevis on Friday night of a Snow Bunting.
Bill Cameron
Fort William, Scotland

The Flying Scotsman



Even when you are forced to shoot without getting the name of the engine in the shot because people were just in your way, you know that you just have to take that picture. The Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway on Monday where the Flying Scotsman was on display. A once in a lifetime moment resulting in a picture which had an atmosphere that could have been taken 50 years ago. I call it - PROUD.
Ken Windsor
Glasgow, Scotland

Glasgow's Riverside Museum turns five



The Riverside Museum.
Photo: Glasgow Museums.



Glasgow's Riverside Museum has recently celebrated its fifth birthday and has announced a packed programme of free summer events. The award-winning £74 million museum has welcomed in excess of five million visitors since it opened on 20th June 2011. It is currently ranked as the second most popular attraction in Glasgow, the fifth most popular in Scotland. Throughout the previous five years Riverside has continued to attract an increasing number of visitors year on year, welcoming in excess of 1.1 million people in 2015, which represented an increase of 7.8%. The success of Scotland's museum of transport and travel is related to the ongoing programme of major display changes inside the building and the varied events programme outside,

which reflect the museum's diverse and growing audience base.

Riverside beach

Councillor Archie Graham, Chair of Glasgow Life said: "Riverside has been an outstanding success which has vastly increased the number of people visiting Glasgow's acclaimed transport collection. That success is mirrored by the ever-growing number of awards that this exciting and innovative Glasgow attraction receives. The addition of Riverside to the Glasgow skyline has helped ensure the city's position as the cultural capital of Scotland. I'm confident the diverse events programme announced today will ensure many people add Riverside to their list of must-see attractions this summer. Who

can resist the opportunity to kick off their shoes and wriggle their toes in the sand at the ever-popular beach, just one of a host of things happening at Riverside this summer." The hugely popular beach will also open for the season, with giant deckchairs, beach sports and an opportunity to simply kick-back and relax. Inside visitors can take in Riverside's latest major display change, Toucans and Lollipops. It tells the story of road safety and how our approach to learning about this deadly serious issue has changed since the 1950s, through one element that hasn't changed – the Lollipop Person.

For further details on Riverside Museum's summer events programme and events happening across all Glasgow Museums this summer visit www.glasgowmuseums.com

Historic Fort George closure threat



Photo: VisitScotland.

Fort George in the Scottish Highlands may soon close as a military base after operating for 250 years. Built after the Battle of Culloden, the garrison has been the home of the famous 500-strong Black Watch battalion for almost a decade, and is considered to be one of the finest fortifications of its type in Europe. The base attracts 55,000 visitors each year, and studies carried out into its economic impact have revealed that its closure could cost the Highlands £14million a year and lead to the loss of 112 jobs. Large parts of the historic site are open to the public as a visitor attraction and some of its buildings house a museum recalling the exploits of Scottish regiments past and present. Economy Secretary Keith Brown recently learned about the closure plans and has written to UK defence secretary Michael Fallon to say he is "disappointed" by the move – and that it would have "huge significance" for Scotland. Fort George was previously considered for closure in a 2011 review but those plans did not go ahead. The Ministry of Defence is reviewing its estate as it attempts to save £1billion by cutting the size of its footprint by 30%. It is expected to reveal its full plans this autumn and its closure would have far-reaching effects in the Inverness area.



PERTHKILTRUN

PERTH KILT RUN



PERTHKILTRUN

& HIGHLAND GATHERING

MINNAWARRA PARK, ARMADALE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2016 9AM - 5PM

Celebrations are kicked off early in true Scottish style with the high energy and quirky Perth Kilt Run, where Perth Australia competes for the record title of the Largest Kilt Run in the World.

This highly anticipated fun run raises much needed money for three important charities - Beyond Blue, The Amanda Young Foundation and The Intensive Care Foundation.

The Highland Gathering continues for patrons to dabble in all things Scottish including live music, food, craft stalls, the clan village, traditional heavy events, children's activities and the annual Pipe Band and Highland Dancing competitions.



PERTH KILT RUN

9.00am check-in/registrations

10.30am Fun Run Begins

Fun run for the Largest Kilt Run World Record

2.5km leisure run or 5km challenge

Kilts available for purchase.

For details and to register please visit: perthkiltrun.com.au

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By: Ron Dempsey



Have a name that has you stumped? Scottish Banner readers can send in their name queries direct to Ron via the Scottish Banner by post or email: info@scottishbanner.com. Ron will do his best to help you with your name query and may just add that extra piece to your genealogy puzzle.



15th century Kisimul Castle also known as the 'Castle in the Sea' and the seat of the chief of Clan Macneil. Photo: VisitScotland.

It is hot days in my part of the world. Temperatures are reaching 100 degrees F or 30+ degrees C. I know some the readers endure even hotter temperatures in their part of the world but this is anomaly for here. We have had 2/3 less than the usual precipitation. It has made me climb under the proverbial rock to avoid the heat of the day. With my combination Scottish and Irish fair skin I heed the words of Woody Allen who in one of his movie productions said: "I don't tan.....I stroke!!", so it is for this Scot, who grew up believing anything over 75 degrees was considered a "scorcher". I hope your August goes well and comfortable and to our south of the equator cousins, maybe you bask in the cooler temperatures.

Huxley, Rattray & MacAllan

A few months ago Ray Parry of Casino, NSW, Australia wrote with a long list of family names that he wished to be addressed. As he suggested I would cover a few each month. This month we can cover three of those names. The first is Huxley. Usually when a English name (the language, not the nation) ends with "ley" it is in reference to a lea, which is a clearing or a meadow. It can mean other things but invariably it is usually means lea. The "hux" element is a bit hazy but often is seen as ignoble which may mean a description of a person but it may also mean poor land or waste land for a person who lived at or near the waste land. The next is the very Scottish name Rattray. It is territorial name meaning "fort (usually circular) of the village." Rattray was a barony in Perthshire and was first recorded in 1253 when "Thomas de Rettre had a discussion with his neighbour the Abbot of Arbroath about territorial boundaries. Last on the list is MacAllan. Literally it is son of

Allan and the first recording was in 1477 when a "Gilfelan M'Allan was accused of killing one Gillaspy McClery." As in many instances, a name can be attributed to various clans not just one. The Aberdeen MacAllans are reputed to be descended from an Allan MacFarlane who settled and his son took the name MacAllan rather than MacFarlane. The Sutherland MacAllans have a MacKay connection. It is also listed as an associate of clan MacDonald. There is a MacAllan tartan for people of that name as well as tartan for famous MacAllan Distillery.

Thom(p)son

I have been remiss in thanking Mr. Robin Thompson of Timaru, New Zealand. I should have mentioned this in last month's column when I addressed the surname Thom(p)son. Mr. Thompson sent me a copy of a detailed booklet of his family's branch of Thompsons. They originated in County Down in Northern Ireland but considered themselves Scots from the days of the Plantation in the 1600's. Mr. Thompson has been avidly researching his family's history man and boy for many years and has had great success. As well as tracing it back to a farm in Scotland, he has used DNA to find extended family members.

Ronnie Corbett

Last month I made mention of the passing of Ronnie Corbett who was a distant cousin of mine. I wasn't fortunate in being unable to meet the man but enjoyed his work and was a big fan even before I knew that we had a distant relationship. Mr. Bob Jones of Washington D.C was kind enough to send me a note saying that he enjoys my columns and my mention of Ronnie. He included an article from the

Daily Mail which had a full page article on Ronnie as well. On it was a cartoon in reference to the Two Ronnie's' famous skit "fork 'andles." It also listed many typical jokes that they delivered. Mr. Jones' favourite being: "There was a fire at the Inland Revenue office in London but it was put out before any serious good was done." Thank you Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones mentioned his grandmother originated from Greenock and was named Elizabeth MacNeill who arrived in U.S. prior to 1900. I thought that this was an opportunity to address this great clan.

Clan MacNeil was thought to have its origins with Niall of the Nine Hostages, a heroic figure from the 4th century in Northern Ireland.

Clan MacNeil

Clan MacNeil was thought to have its origins with Niall of the Nine Hostages, a heroic figure from the 4th century in Northern Ireland. He became an 'Ard Righ' or high king and created a dynasty that lasted centuries. From him descended the great Ui Neill clan that became the great clan O'Neill of Ulster. In some of his mythical meanderings, Niall is said to have conquered parts of Kintyre for the small Scotnic colonies there, against the native Picts. In his many raids, it is believed that one of the slaves taken from Britain was the boy who was to become St. Patrick.

The last paragraph is the story of Clan MacNeil as believed for generations however, modern DNA testing for males bearing the MacNeil name across the world have shown a different story in that most of them have Viking DNA and thus disputes the clan history of having an Irish genealogy. Now the recorded history of the clan from the 11th century. There was King in the North of Ireland in present day Ulster known as Aodh (Hugh) O Neil, supposedly twentieth in descent form the original Niall.

Barra

Aodh's descendent, another Niall arrived on the island of Barra in the Outer Hebrides. Barra means the island of St. Barr. Although a Gaelic stronghold, the majority of the islands have endings of 'a', 'ay' or 'ey' all from the Norse language for island. Two origins for the name of Barra for the islands are offered but in particular suggests a St. Barr from Cork in Ireland who was a great grandson of Niall of the Nine Hostages. Barra is the most southerly of the major islands of the Outer Hebrides with the smaller islands of Berensay and Mingulay nearby. There were many generations of Neil MacNeils who were chiefs of the name. One Neil Og MacNeil fought with Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn and was rewarded with lands of Kintyre to add to his Barra lordship. The ninth chief of Barra, Gilleonan received a charter for the island from the Lord of the Isles in 1427. The next few centuries saw the clan within and without the graces of the Scottish monarchy like so many of their highland peers. This was settled when another Neil Og was made a colonel of horse by King Charles and fought at the battle of Worcester in 1651. The Mac Neils remained Jacobite's, that is loyal to the Stewart dynasty and paid for it with imprisonment. They didn't lose their estates and prospered until 1838 when Roderick Mac Neil, chief of the name had to sell Barra. Roderick had no progeny and the chief ship passed to an emigrated cousin in the United States. That family worked valiantly to recoup the family losses in the restoration of Kisimul and the purchasing of the great part of Barra in 1937, a notable achievement. Niall or Neil is Gaelic for Champion. The Vikings took the name as Njal and to further rerouted via the Normans as Nigel.

Various spellings and septs include Mac Gugan, Mac Neill, McNeil, Mac Neal, Neil, Neall, Neilson Nelson etc. Visit www.macneilgroup.com in the U.S.A. and www.clanmacneil.ca in Canada. Australians can reach their society at www.clanmacneil.ca/australia.htm. Support your clan society and I will borrow the following from the Canadian site, as it is applicable to everyone researching their family's past. "Cuimhuich Air Na Daoine o'n D' thainig thu-Remember the men from whom you have come."

Enjoy this August.

The World Pipe Band Championships 2016

The biggest event in any piping fan's calendar is certainly the annual World Pipe Band Championships, affectionately known as 'The Worlds' and Glasgow is again ready to welcome to the world of piping to the city.



The pinnacle of pipe band music will again return to Glasgow Green this month. The two day event will be held at Glasgow Green on 12 and 13 August 2016 and will feature hundreds of bands competing to be named World Champions. Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band are the defending World Champions

after they became the first Scottish band to win the coveted title in more than a decade. More than 200 bands have already entered for 2016 with entries already in from as far afield as Canada, USA, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and Zimbabwe as well as from across Europe, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. The World Pipe Band Championships

have been associated with Glasgow for more than 60 years and have been held in the city continuously for 30 years. As well as musical performances of exceptional quality, the World Pipe Band Championships welcomes up to 8000 pipers and drummers from well over 200 bands and visitors from across the world. They all come together for an unforgettable and unique 2 day celebration of Scottish culture.

Fantastic performances from top class musicians

Ian Embelton, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, said: "These championships have been exceptional in recent years with many fantastic performances from top class musicians from all over the world. The level of competition has seen more and more bands come to the fore to compete for the ultimate prize in pipe band music and we can expect a similarly hard fought contest this year. There is nothing like the sights and sounds of 'The Worlds' at Glasgow Green and bands from all over the world are already practising hard seeking musical perfection as they prepare to battle for the title of World Champions." As well as two days of top class pipe band competition, the

Worlds features a whole range of events for the whole family to enjoy including Highland Dancing, a Highland Games, Children's Zone and a huge range and variety of food and drink. Piping Live! Glasgow International Piping Festival is the biggest festival of its kind in the world and this year's week-long celebration will see over 150 events take place in various venues across the city from August 08 – 14. Musicians will play daily throughout Glasgow, including band performances in George Square and on the steps of The Royal Concert Hall. The annual Pipe Idol competition and International Quartets competition will return to this year's programme and the Pipers Market' will be back in George Square, providing the best fresh and local food and drink from across Scotland. This year's stellar line-up includes RURA, the Scott Wood Band, Finlay MacDonald and Chris Stout and there will be special concert on Saturday night, featuring the world famous Red Hot Chilli Pipers at 02 Academy Glasgow. Glasgow will host the World Pipe Band Championships until 2021.

Tickets for the World Pipe Band Championships and full event information are available at: www.theworlds.co.uk and for Piping Live! see: www.pipinglive.co.uk.

New exhibition brings Fort George to life



A new exhibition revealing the remarkable history of Fort George has been installed in the expansive stronghold, which was built almost 250 years ago. The fort sits within massive grass-topped artillery defences on an isolated spit of land 11 miles north east of Inverness. Built in the wake of the Battle of Culloden over a 22 year period by Hanoverian kings George II and George III, the site covers more than 42 acres and contains army barracks, gun batteries, ammunition stores and a chapel. The 18 new exhibition panels explain why the fort was built, explore the way castles evolved into forts, and look at the influences of siege warfare and the military theories on its design. Steve Farrar, Interpretation Officer for Historic Environment Scotland, said: "The new interpretation tells the story of how the fort was built to control the Highlands after the last Jacobite Rising and includes eye-witness accounts of

18th-century sieges. We have also added two interactive displays to the exhibition, including one that involves building a castle and fort rampart, then attempting to demolish them with squash balls. It's a bit like a game of pinball, and it's a great way to show how these defences coped with artillery fire." The exhibition has been installed as part of an ongoing programme of research and interpretation by Historic Environment Scotland. It is designed to complement the visitor offering at the fort, which includes the recreated historic barrack rooms, the grand magazine that displays a priceless collection of 18th-century guns and military equipment and the Highlanders Museum. Visitors can also walk around the ramparts for spectacular views over the Moray Firth. From Point Battery, it is often possible to spot wildlife including dolphins.

For further information on opening hours and access, visit www.historicenvironment.scot

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Wave of optimism for Wick seaweed firm



The first batches of seaweed have been harvested and processed by a new food and drink business in Wick. New Wave Foods has invested £240,000 at its newly fitted out premises on the Wick Industrial Estate and will turn wild-harvested seaweeds into edible products. The business also has potential to generate future export sales for the north's valuable food and drink sector. Seaweed is a valued food ingredient in other parts of the world and the market for seaweed products is considered to have significant potential in the UK and Europe. Trends point towards healthy eating awareness and growing consumer sophistication. Peter Elbourne from New Wave Foods said: "The clean cool waters off the north coast provides the ideal natural environment for high quality nutritious seaweed to grow. New Wave Foods is proud to have created a sustainable harvesting policy to enable us to utilise this resource, while ensuring we take care of the natural environment. Indeed, we are proud to have already gained organic accreditation for our seaweed."

Kelvin Hall to reopen after £35million revamp



Photo: The University of Glasgow.

Glasgow's iconic Kelvin Hall is set to re-open this summer following a major £35 million refurbishment. The project is a unique collaboration between Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Life, the University of Glasgow and the National Library of Scotland. The reinvention of Glasgow's historic exhibition hall as a cultural, academic and sporting complex of international significance will drive forward the city's capacity for learning and innovation, contribute to its cultural, social and economic regeneration and inspire a new generation to lead a healthier and more active lifestyle.

This summer, the first phase of the redevelopment will be revealed, with the Glasgow Club at Kelvin Hall set to be the

first area to welcome the public through its doors. The project will bring about 50 per cent of the building back into use.

The second phase of the refurbishment of the Category B listed building, will build on the current partnership, with the Hunterian expected to move into the building, while Glasgow Museums will build on the city's contemporary art spaces and displays and the city's Charles Rennie Mackintosh treasures will be shared with the public. There will also be enhancements to the National Library of Scotland's Moving Image Archive, events and civic spaces and the Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum will connect with the space. Work on the planning of the second phase will gather pace as the new facilities come on-stream later this year.

Globally important home
Councillor Archie Graham OBE, the Depute Leader of Glasgow City Council and Chair of Glasgow Life, said: "Kelvin Hall is fixed within our collective memories. As a space for exhibitions, boxing matches, athletics, circus performances and as a museum of transport – it has adapted over the decades to match the needs of our citizens and visitors. Thanks to this unique and incredible partnership, we have worked together to secure this iconic building for the next generation – completing the first phase of what promises to be a globally important home for culture, learning, entertainment, health and fitness, and social inclusion. Our ambition for sport, culture and learning knows no bounds and our investment in what promises to be an incredible new chapter in this historic hall is testament to our shared desire to increase opportunity for all."

Kelvin Hall opened in 1927 and at 19,000m² was the city's main exhibition hall. Following its many guises, in the 1980s it became the national indoor sports arena and home to Glasgow's Museum of Transport. With the opening of the Emirates Arena and Riverside Museum, a new use for the building emerged, forged by the opportunities identified by the partners. The project will create a new cultural quarter, a physical link between the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, the University of Glasgow and The Hunterian and the Riverside Museum.

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KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS

Australian Jim Stoddart who 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.



Hitchhiking in the Highlands



Photo: Scottish Youth Hostels Association.

Our group of five campers who had braved the wilds of Argyll stayed together until our next annual holiday. That was to be our hitch-hiking tour of the Highlands staying at youth hostels, camping in our lightweight tents and even kipping down next to the pigs in a pigsty, once, when the weather was wet and cold and the farmer and the pigs warm and friendly. We set off through the Pass of Brander and on to the Gre at Glen to Newtonmore, Kingussie, Fort William, Loch Morlich, Aviemore and

Inverness. The modern highway didn't yet exist and the old road still made its winding way through these towns bringing them holidaymakers and a vitality which disappeared when they were later by-passed. We broke up into ones and twos to more readily obtain our lifts in family cars and trucks, arranging to meet up again in the next town.

An entirely safe venture

This was at a time when hitch-hiking in Scotland was an entirely safe venture, even

for young women. In summer Scotland was full of young people from all over the world hitch-hiking from one youth hostel to another, without encountering any serious problems. We had good fun teaching naïve young German boys romantic things to say to Scottish lassies they encountered and hoped to impress on their travels. Try, 'I think your face is as pretty as a boiled sheep's head or your beautiful skin has a smell like the perfume of cabbage leaves', we offered as a sure fire way to get things going with coy young Scots girls. Morris was an accomplished pianist so we were always assured of good company for a sing song around the piano in the common rooms of the youth hostels we visited. At Inverness we struck out east to Elgin and Banff where Moley and I took a detour to Turriff to visit girls who we had met at the Inverclyde Recreation Centre, arranging to meet up with the others once more in Aberdeen. We visited his friend on a farm outside Turriff and then my friend, Elizabeth, who I had met at Inverclyde, who lived in the town.

Good-humoured farmer

It was on our journey onward to Aberdeen to meet up again with the others that Moley and I inadvertently caused a road accident. We were thumbing our way south when a local farmer's truck drew

The modern highway didn't yet exist and the old road still made its winding way through these towns bringing them holidaymakers and a vitality which disappeared when they were later by-passed.

up alongside. The driver had hardly had time to open the cabin door when there was a loud crump and the sound of glass being smashed. A middle-aged woman had driven into the back of the truck. She had obviously swerved and tried to avoid the collision but the front passenger side of the car had clipped the roadside rear end of the truck tearing off the corner of the roof and smashing in the windscreen and side window. No-one was injured and both parties were remarkably philosophical about the whole affair. We got a passing motorist to assist by informing the police in the next town while Moley and I took on the job of directing the traffic around both vehicles until the police and the tow truck had come to take the driver, her passenger and the wrecked car away. Our good-humoured farmer, with next to no damage to his truck, took us safely on our way to Aberdeen, the Granite city.

A throne fit for a Queen

Official present from the people of Scotland



A bench hand crafted from a single piece of Clashach stone from Moray has been presented to Her Majesty The Queen to mark her 90th birthday. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon presented the gift, carved with a rose, Lion Rampant and stag's head motifs, on behalf of the people of Scotland during Royal week in Scotland. The bench was designed by Historic Environment Scotland and crafted by Modern Apprentice stonemasons based in Elgin, while the timber seating slats are made from elm timber from HM's garden at The Palace of Holyroodhouse were carved by joiners at Holyrood. Ms Sturgeon said: "On behalf of the people of Scotland I would like to personally send our warm wishes to Her Majesty The Queen on her 90th birthday. Last year we were fortunate to be able to celebrate with Her Majesty as she became the United Kingdom and Commonwealth longest

serving monarch. It was an incredible day and it was clear the huge affection Her Majesty had for Scotland and the tremendous bond she has forged with people across our country over her many years of dedicated public service. Our present was specially designed with Her Majesty in mind and each carved element required many hours of focused concentration and advanced stonemasonry skills. I am thrilled that Charlotte, our own Modern Apprentice has had this amazing opportunity to showcase her talent and skills that she has gained whilst at Historic Environment Scotland. The timber used in the seating slats came from the felled elm tree that was planted at Holyroodhouse under the direction of Prince Albert and Queen Victoria. I would like to join the thousands of people across the country toasting Her Majesty as her birthday celebrations continue during her annual visit during Royal Week in Scotland."

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Thank you!

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

Lady MacGregor's Scotland



Lady MacGregor of MacGregor – otherwise known as British broadcaster Fiona Armstrong. Fiona is currently news reading for the BBC. But she also leaves the studio from time to time to report on matters Scottish. She lives in Scotland with her husband, the MacGregor clan chief. Sir Malcolm is Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, and Fiona is an active member of Clan Armstrong, so their lives are interwoven with all things tartan. The couple have moved from the borderlands to the lowlands, home is now a white tower house between Perth and Dundee, although filming and writing takes Fiona all over Scotland.



At Government House, (l to r) Richard Warner; Lady MacGregor of MacGregor; Her Excellency Prof. Kate Warner, Governor of Tasmania; Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor; Frank McGregor.



With Hobart's Lord Mayor, Her Worship Ms Sue Hickey.



The MacGregors with The Rt Hon. Will Hodgman, Premier of Tasmania.

It is official - an Australian winter is warmer than a Scottish summer. And whilst we didn't see a kangaroo down under, we did spot a kilt or two... The chief and I were invited by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council to celebrate a week of Scottish custom and culture. One highlight was a Highland festival in a Sydney park, complete with massed pipe bands and an electrifying rifle display by the Australian Federation Guard. The MacGregor also inspected the Scotland-Australian cairn, built from stones sent from parishes all over Scotland to mark the historic links between the countries.

Scottish Banner 40th

Indeed, the 'father' of Australia was a Scotsman. Lachlan Macquarie hailed from the Hebrides and as Governor of New South Wales oversaw the creation of roads and buildings. But there was compassion among the concrete. In 1813 Macquarie laid the foundation stone for a Female Orphan School at Parramatta. It was a replica of the Scottish home of his wife, Elizabeth Campbell of Airds. Macquarie also sanctioned the building of a hospital, a mercy mission only made possible by vice. 60,000 gallons of rum were sold to fund the new infirmary which was erected by convict labour. The building would eventually become the New South Wales parliament house - and it was here, in this grand old colonial building, with its pretty balconies and wood-lined debating chamber, that we celebrated with a Scottish lunch. Our host was David Elliott, MP, whose ancestors, like mine, stem from the Borderlands. In times past, Armstrongs and Elliots may not have dined easily together, but all was cordial as we ate spiced lamb and toasted the homeland...

We were piped in to a whisky tasting at the British Consul's house where we ate tiny balls of haggis. At a party to mark the fortieth anniversary of this venerable paper, we drank wine and met old friends. 2016 is a milestone for *the Scottish Banner* and Sean Cairney who organised the reception should be very proud of his work. As should his mother, Val, who started this great paper. Well done *the Banner* - not least for getting so many chiefs and chieftains in one room.

Apart from my own chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, I counted Alistair Henderson of Fordell, Sir Wayne Broun of Coulston, Donald MacLeod of the Lewes - and the Earl of Dunmore, senior representative of the Murray clan. Only John Macleod of Raasay was missing. He was holidaying in Scotland.

It is official - an Australian winter is warmer than a Scottish summer. And whilst we didn't see a kangaroo down under, we did spot a kilt or two...

Tasmania

We flew on to Tasmania, where the Lord Mayor of Hobart, Sue Hickey, welcomed us with whisky, whilst we offered a wooden spurtle with which to stir her porridge. Again, another MacGregor piper, Steve, piped us in and we chatted to dozens of Tasmanians, all with Scottish ancestry. With streets and buildings bearing Scottish names, Hobart felt just like home. Then there was out hotel, an iconic place overlooking the harbour. In 1831, ten-year-old Alexander McGregor and his family left Paisley to make a new life in Tasmania. The young man set about learning the ship building trade and went on to own the largest fleet of sailing vessels south of the equator. McGregor's 'Blue Gum' clippers would become famous the world over. One of them, 'The Flying Childers', features on Hobart's coat of arms. Alexander helped shape Hobart and in 1880 he built himself a grand house. 'Lenna' is the aboriginal word for 'house' or 'hut'. It is now a magnificent hotel and the owners, Lloyd and Jan Clarke, keep the sense of history. Here you can view a model of the 'Harriet McGregor', a record-breaking vessel that managed a staggering twenty-four journeys between Hobart and London. Here you can climb the stairs to the Victorian tower used as a lookout for the safe arrival of ships.

Tasmania's Governor, Her Excellency Professor Kate Warner, and her husband, Richard, kindly gave us lunch and we

discussed Australian Scottish links - and golf. We were also honoured to meet the Premier of Tasmania, Will Hodgman, to talk about tourism ideas between Scotland and Tasmania. A visit to the famous Salamanca markets and to Mona, the Museum of New and Modern Art followed. Mona is now ranked as the world's number one tourist spot and the underground building is a work of art in itself, although some exhibits are more challenging than others. The convict settlement at Port Arthur also made us thoughtful as we

reflected on the thousands of Scots who arrived in chains in former years...

What a trip! Our gratitude goes to Malcolm Buchanan and all the wonderful members of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. Thanks also to our lovely MacGregors, especially Kevin and Faye. But most of all, we are grateful to Frank McGregor in Tasmania... You made it happen Frank - and what's more, you are bringing an Aussie film crew over to Scotland this month to make a film with the chief. Watch this space...

Glasgow Prestwick pushes to be the UK and Europe's first spaceport

Glasgow Prestwick Airport is all set to help the British Government deliver its commitment to establishing the UK and Europe's first spaceport, after the Queen set out the programme in her speech to Parliament in May. Glasgow Prestwick Airport welcomed the inclusion of a Modern Transport Bill in this programme. This Bill will include plans for commercial spaceports in the United Kingdom. Glasgow Prestwick Airport is calling for a licensing process for the selection of suitable spaceport sites to enable the commercial space market to move this forward at pace. Commenting on the ongoing spaceport selection process, Mike Stewart, Glasgow Prestwick Airport Business Development Director, said: "It is great to hear that spaceports are back on the political agenda. The space industry in the UK is already huge and growing. However, a spaceport would support that growth even further by providing our own launch capability. When Government first announced its plans to identify a site for a commercial spaceport in the UK they said they would like to have it up and running by 2018. Glasgow Prestwick believe that there could be a spaceport up and running in the UK for that date if the site selection was a licensing process rather than a bid process. A licensing process could be similar to the approach taken for airports - where the CAA ensures that sites are safe and compliant - and the commercial market invests to create and operate a spaceport.

If we were able to secure a license, Glasgow Prestwick would provide the best opportunity to meet the 2018 target date. We have virtually all the infrastructure in place and we would require a relatively small amount of investment - around £3 million - to be up and running according to experienced US spaceport consultancy RS&H. We also have the technically capable workforce here already with businesses like BAE, UTC, GE and Spirit Aerospace all based at the airport." Councillor Bill McIntosh, Leader of South Ayrshire Council and Chair of the Prestwick Aerospace Stakeholder Group, added: "Glasgow Prestwick Airport is perfect to be the UK's first commercial spaceport and I warmly welcome the Modern Transport Bill announced in Her Majesty The Queen's speech, which will provide the framework for that first facility. The economic benefits of this will be felt across the country - and across the world - so let's all get to work on encouraging government to make this happen."

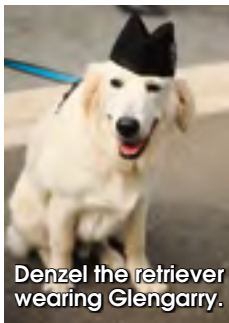


Townsville Tartan Day 2016

Photos: Laurell Bourne.



Massed bands led by Drum Major Mal Edmiston.



Denzel the retriever wearing Glengarry.



The next generation - Hamish Clark.

The third Townsville Tartan Day held on 26th June 2016 consolidated its place as an annual event not to be missed on the local calendar. A crowd of approximately 10,000 people flocked into the CBD to enjoy the sound of the pipe bands, Highland and Scottish Country dancing and great accordionist Iain McKenzie. The Parade of Tartans featured a wonderful display of 52 Scottish banners and it was particularly encouraging for the future of the Townsville Scottish Community to see so many young adults bringing their wee bairns to take part. And let's not forget the inclusion of some of the Scottish dog breeds in the parade!



Edinburgh International Film Festival celebrates its 70th edition

Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF) has celebrated a hugely successful 70th edition of the Festival which saw record audience numbers, an array of high profile talent from around the globe in attendance and widespread support across the city. This year the Festival showcased over 160 features and 13 shorts from 55 countries and included 22 World Premieres, 5 International Premieres, 17 European Premieres and 85 UK Premieres reaching 51,947 Festival goers across the 12-day period, and an additional 9,000 people enjoying the Festival's weekend of outdoor screenings, as part of Film Fest in the City. More than 500 filmmakers were in attendance this year to support their films, with close to 300 press delegates and over 600 industry delegates also present.

premiere for a film which is the remake of a Scottish film classic." The cast includes established Scottish actors Gregor Fisher, James Cosmo and Kevin Guthrie, alongside new talents Sean Biggerstaff, Naomi Battrick and Ellie Kendrick. The film also features playing comedian and actor Eddie Izzard as the uptight Home Guard Captain Waggett. Established in 1947, EIFF is world renowned for discovering and promoting the very best in international cinema - and for heralding and debating changes in global filmmaking. Intimate in its scale, ambitious in its scope, and fuelled by pure passion for cinema in all its manifestations, EIFF seeks to spotlight the most exciting and innovative new film talent, in a setting steeped in history.

Whisky Galore!

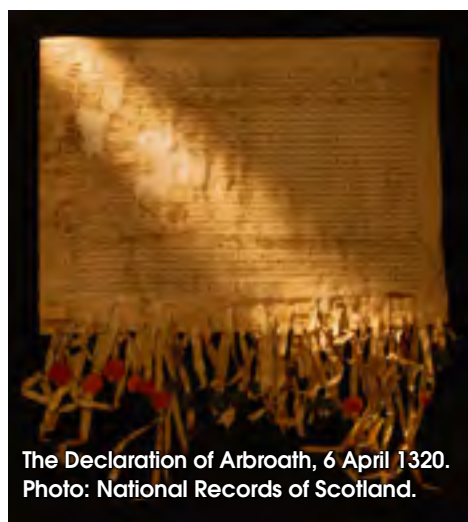
Fans of classic Scottish cinema were in for a treat as EIFF delivered the world premiere of the remade *Whisky Galore!* Director Gillies Mackinnon's new version of the much-loved Sir Compton Mackenzie novel. The iconic comedy tells the true story of how a group of local people from the island of Eriskay take full advantage, when a cargo ship carrying whisky to America is shipwrecked in the midst of a wartime drought of whisky. Gillies Mackinnon said: "I am delighted that *Whisky Galore!* will close the Edinburgh International Film Festival. This feels like the perfect and most appropriate world



Whisky Galore! Photo: Edinburgh International Film Festival.

Declaration of Arbroath awarded UNESCO special status

As long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours, that we are fighting, but for freedom - for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself."



The Declaration of Arbroath, 6 April 1320. Photo: National Records of Scotland.

fitting that it has been globally-recognised." Tim Ellis, Keeper of the Records of Scotland, said: "The Declaration of Arbroath holds a unique place in Scotland's history and tells a vital piece of our story, as its entry in UNESCO's Register confirms. We're proud to hold it in our collections at National Records of Scotland and to work to preserve it for future generations." Elizabeth Oxborrow-Cowan, Chair of UK Committee, UNESCO Memory of the World Programme, said: "I am delighted to welcome the Declaration of Arbroath onto the UK Memory of the World Register and I congratulate the National Records of Scotland on this achievement. This famous document rightly deserves the accolade of outstanding significance to the UK. It is a wonderful example of our remarkable documentary heritage both in Scotland and across the UK. I urge people to go out and discover this heritage for themselves." The Declaration was written in Latin and was sealed by eight earls and about forty barons. Over the centuries various copies and translations have been made, including a microscopic edition. UNESCO established the Memory of the World Programme in 1992. Its vision is that the world's documentary and audiovisual heritage belongs to all, should be fully preserved and protected for all, and permanently accessible to all without hindrance.

The most famous document in Scotland's history has been awarded special status by the United Nations. UNESCO has included the Declaration of Arbroath in its UK 'Memory of the World' register. The original document is in the keeping of National Records of Scotland. It was a letter to the Pope, written in 1320 and signed by the Scottish barons pledging their resistance to English rule. Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop said: "The Declaration of Arbroath is a hugely significant document in Scotland's history and I welcome its inclusion in UNESCO's register. Almost seven hundred years after the Declaration was drafted, it is

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Sunday 18th September 2016 Kirkin of the Tartan-10.30am-12pm
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Judging at The 2016 World Pipe Band Championships

This month the eyes of the piping world will again be drawn to Glasgow for the 2016 World Pipe Band Championships or The World's as they are known. Each performance is judged by four adjudicators: two piping judges, who listen carefully to the pipers, another who is focused on the drummers, and a fourth who judges the overall ensemble performance. Judges are very experienced musicians themselves, who have all been accredited by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA). One Grade 1 international judge who will be winging his way to Glasgow this month is Australian judge Sam Young who spoke to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on the importance of The World's and pipe band movement across the world.



International Adjudicators Ken Eller (Canada), Nat Russell (Melbourne) and Sam Young (Sydney).



Australian judge Sam Young.

throughout the years. It would be fair to suggest the "sky is the limit" when it comes to the medley construction in recent years. I tend to refer some of the performances as suites rather than medleys. It is common to identify a band by their stylistic presentation and tonal balance. The introduction of the larger bands in grade 1 in recent times and the inclusion of the multiple pitched mid sections has had an influence on the style and presentation of the modern pipe band. All of this said I believe pipe bands today have a tremendous amount of resources available to learn and develop and The World's is a great platform to hear the best.

SC: Is there any band in particular you are most excited about who will be at this month's World's?

SY: Ha ha. Well I am sure we will have the opportunity to hear some 24 grade 1 band performances which will all have some great music to present. Of course we should not forget the Juvenile Grades, worthy of a close listen. They are amazing these days which can be attributed the intense school's programs in place throughout the UK.

SC: Top international piping will descend on Glasgow this month, with some considering it the "home of piping". With other locations also looking for the chance to host The World's just how important is it do you feel for this event to remain in Glasgow?

SY: Personally I think it would be a sad day to see The World's changed from Glasgow to other locations. The World's week lead up with the Piping Live! events and the common bond that is formed each year through all meeting in the one regular location, in my humble opinion is the reason The World's is the event it is today. I put it another way, if there was a decision to have The World's relocated to Sydney in Australia, I very much doubt there would be some 280 pipe bands attend.

SC: And finally Sam you have been involved with pipe bands for most of your life and today you continue to development and promote all aspects of piping and pipe bands. What message do you have for those who may be interested in getting involved in the pipe band movement?

SY: Well after 54 years in pipe bands, I still find there is something new to learn. Importantly for me, I still have the passion for the music and importantly still get to play from time to time. Placing an importance in teaching and encouraging all with the skills to impart knowledge is the future of our fraternity. The key to achieving good results is to have the passion and commitment to ensure the integrity of your learning (in other words have credible teaching) and most importantly a cohesive environment with team work under a good leader. Ultimately a good pipe band involves the listener from the onset.

SC: Thanks Sam for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. There must be a great deal of work involved to reach your level of judging, can we begin by you telling us how you get to be chosen as a judge for such a high level piping contest in Scotland and just what it means to you to have reached such an important level of international judging?

SY: In 2004 the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association opened up an opportunity for suitably qualified adjudicators from the affiliated associations to apply for acceptance into their trial adjudication program under what was termed as International Adjudicators. Of course it should be noted that there were already a handful of Overseas Adjudicators formally accredited. The following year in 2005 some eight international applicants were formally invited to undergo the RSPBA Adjudicators' Training Program which included a number of live trials at various competitions. I have been attending the UK as an International Adjudicator since 2006 and consider it a privilege to adjudicate at this level. The most important part of adjudicating is the pipe bands' interests, as they spend many hard hours rehearsing; being part of this level of adjudication process provides a platform to perform the duties as an adjudication with credibility.

SC: The entire pipe band world watches The World's either in person or from afar. Just how important is this event to the greater pipe band community, both for players and judges themselves?

SY: There is no doubt that it does not get any better than The World's. The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association continuously work effortlessly to ensure the standards are maintained and interests of the bands, the public and the adjudicators are a priority.

The World's is the pinnacle of the pipe band world and there is no doubt, an opportunity for the public and the adjudicators to hear the world's best, at their best. We should not forget this event



Sam Young judging Northern Ireland's Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band.

is the benchmark for true pipe band musical standards.

In any competition forum there can be only one winner, however any partition at the worlds provides a great opportunity for a band's learning and development in a sometimes overwhelming environment and challenging weather conditions.

SC: Your judging has taken you all over and given you chance to experience a huge variety of bands from across the world. What similarities do you find pipe bands have in common and how important is it do you feel it is for bands to gain as much exposure to other band cultures, styles and presentations as possible?

SY: The similarities generally in my view are about the passion for the musical art form in the first instance, and no doubt people in general seeking to have a common bond as pipe bands people. The World's week provides a perfect environment collectively on the worldwide stage. Bands have the opportunity to listen to the various practice performance through The World's

week and also on the actual competition day in between their own respective activities. In particular, the lower grade bands can attend many of the grade 1 practices. In regards to cultures, The World's event is probably the only pipe band event throughout the world where the Pakistanis, and Britton pipe bands attend and perform in their traditional costume dress playing Highland bagpipes collectively at the same event. The World's is a truly international event on the pipe band calendar attracting bands from Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, South America, Europe, South Africa, Canada, USA, New Zealand and Australia. Musical style is something that is a very interesting subject. The March/ Strathspey/Reel competition generally maintains a common traditional Scottish style to the point we quite often hear the same tunes being played year in, year out. I am not saying this is a bad thing. Importantly this element is the real "meat and potatoes" of our pipe band musical origin's. The medley element since its introduction has certainly evolved

Floral Clock designed to honour Scotland's architects

Edinburgh's world-famous floral clock ticks again, this year in honour of The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland's (RIAS) centenary. The timepiece, located in Princes Street Gardens, was completed in July following more than a month of work by parks staff to plant over 35,000 individual flowers and plants. Each year the clock, which was first created in 1903, celebrates a different individual, organisation or anniversary and since then has been inspired by the Girl Guides Association, the 100th anniversary of Robert Louis Stevenson's death and its own centenary. Both the Lord Provost, Donald Wilson, and Environment Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds, watched gardeners make the finishing touches last month with the Lord Provost Donald Wilson said: "The floral clock is a longstanding and popular addition to the city's summer attractions and is as popular today as it was when it was first

created in 1903. This year the clock celebrates The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, which has enjoyed a rich history and recognises the country's forerunners in building conservation." Environment Convener, Councillor Lesley Hinds, said: "I am delighted to once again see the city's beautiful floral clock completed, which I know will be enjoyed by the many thousands of people to pass by it this summer."

The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland

The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), based in Edinburgh, was founded in 1916 and is the professional body for all chartered architects in Scotland. As part of its centenary celebrations, the organisation held the Festival of Architecture 2016 – a Scotland-wide, year-long celebration involving more than 150 partner organisations. Neil Baxter, Secretary of RIAS, said: "For many Scots, Edinburgh's floral clock is a very special childhood memory. Visits to the Capital were always sure to have the clock on the itinerary. This clock represents the very best of Scottish horticulture, just as the RIAS promotes excellence in our architecture. It is a tremendous honour that this year's clock marks the RIAS' centenary."



The completed floral clock.

Floral clock facts:

The floral clock was first created in 1903 by the Edinburgh Parks Superintendent, John McHattie. The clock takes two gardeners five weeks to produce, and is trimmed, weeded and watered by one gardener for the rest of the season. The clock flowers from July until October. Until 1972 the clock was operated mechanically, and had to be wound daily. From 1973 it was electrically driven. The minute and hour hands measure approximately 2.4m and 1.5m respectively and when filled with plants, the large hand weighs approximately 36kg while the small weighs 22.7kg. The clock itself is 3.6m wide, with a circumference of 11m. Plants vary each year but some of the more commonly used varieties include Lobelia, Pyrethrum, Golden Moss and succulents such as Echeveria and Sedum.

Barra fly's high at 80

The iconic Barra Airport has recently celebrated 80 years of unique airport service providing a opportunity to land on a tidal beach runway, in Scotland's Outer Hebrides. The first flights landed on the sand in the wide bay of Traigh Mhor in June 1936 and the airport earned its official license in August of 1936. Considered one of the world's most scenic and unique airports, Barra is the only airport in the world where planes use a beach as a landing strip. Because of its location, flight times can vary with the tide and at night Barra's three runways are submerged by the sea. Small planes, specially designed to be able to land on the beach, fly between the island and Glasgow and the route has more than 11,000 passengers a year.



Botanical Services Manager David Dorward puts the finishing touches to the clock.

Dundee plans for European Capital of Culture

Dundee is to compete for the title of European Capital of Culture 2023. The award aims to "celebrate the cultural features Europeans share" and also highlight "the richness and diversity" of cultures in Europe with previous UK winners including Liverpool, who were awarded the title in 2008, and Glasgow, who were winners in 1990. According to the European Commission, previous winners have experienced a boost in tourist numbers, city wide regeneration and a raised international profile. Dundee failed to win the UK City of Culture bid for 2017. Dundee is currently undergoing a huge

cultural transformation with new waterfront developments, including the V&A Dundee, which will dramatically change the city cultural and physical landscapes. Wroclaw in Poland and San Sebastian in Spain are the current title holders, and it is understood that Dundee could be competing with Leeds and Milton Keynes from the UK and another city from Hungary. Council leader Ken Guild said: "Bidding for the title of European Capital of Culture is a way of reaching out beyond the UK and into Europe and the world." Dundee plans to bid regardless of the recent Brexit vote.

Nessie remains found on Loch Ness



Loch Ness hunters and fans across the world were in a spin recently when the remains of a strange creature were washed up by a

dog walker on the shores of Loch Ness. The skeletal remains sent social media, sceptics and Nessie supporters into overdrive earlier this summer. The buzz was short lived as it revealed the carcass was in fact being used by a television crew who have been filming in the area for an upcoming television show to be screened in the UK early next year. Whilst there has been no conclusive evidence of the Loch Ness monster the mystery and interest surrounding Nessie is worth an estimated £60 million to the Scottish economy, with hundreds of thousands of visitors travelling to Loch Ness every year in the hope of catching a glimpse. To date 1079 unverified sightings have been recorded.

20th Annual Gathering of The Clans
9.45am - 4.30pm
Saturday 3rd September 2016
Bungary Rd Norah Head



www.gatheringofthec clans.weebly.com



Gathering Entry: Gold Coin Donation



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Parade of the Tartans

Leaving Lawson street at 9.45am

Clans Gathering

- * Scottish Pipe Bands
- * Highland Dancing
- * Massed Bands Display
- * Clan Stalls
- * Market Stalls
- * Medieval Stalls & Displays
- * Traditional Scottish Food
- * Cultural Food
- * Children's Entertainment

Highland Games

Male & Female Competitors

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The Scottish Banner celebrates 40 years of publication

Last month *the Scottish Banner* reached the milestone of 40 years of monthly publication. To mark this special event a reception was hosted in Sydney by *the Scottish Banner* and included guests from the Scottish diaspora networks, Scottish business community, pipe band and Scottish dance communities, Clan chiefs and some *Scottish Banner* writers. Guests were piped in by Ian Mason from the Sydney Thistle Pipe Band and enjoyed a night which included Scottish food and drink, including an exclusive whisky tasting from The Scotch Malt Whisky Society.

The Scottish Banner thanks so many for their support over the last four decades and for helping us reach 40 fantastic years. Here's tae us!



Scott Strain- UKTI Director of Trade for Australia & New Zealand, Sean Cairney-Scottish Banner, Lorraine Chung and Ben Shepherd- The Scottish Business Network Australia.



Lady Fiona MacGregor, Sir Malcolm MacGregor, Susan Cooke – SAHC, Sean Cairney-Scottish Banner and Malcolm Buchanan – President Scottish Australian Heritage Council.



Journalist Charles Wooley, Lady Fiona McGregor and Frank McGregor-Overseas Representative Australasia, Clan Gregor Society of Scotland.



Sir Wayne Broun, Charles Wooley and Sir Malcolm McGregor.



Elizabeth Munro- The Scottish Dancing Association of Australia, Vicky Lindsay-Manly Warringah Pipe Band and Pauline Finlay- Clan Farquharson Australia.



Torquil Donald Macleod of The Lewes and his wife Heather Macleod.



Scottish Banner columnists Pauline Donald, Jim Stoddart and Lady Fiona McGregor.



Matt Bailey- Brand Ambassador and Development Manager, The Scotch Malt Whisky Society and the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney.

The Scottish Banner speaks to Gregor Ewing

Scotland is a land full of rich historical characters and also a walker's paradise with stunning scenery. Falkirk based long distance walker and author Gregor Ewing has combined both of these and experienced a unique view of Scotland. Gregor and his faithful dog Meg have embarked on two historic walks, covering hundreds of miles, and retracing the steps of both Bonnie Prince Charlie and Robert the Bruce. Gregor Ewing took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on some of Scotland's greatest hero's, how amazing the nation is by foot and how a friend with four legs makes it all possible.



Gregor and Meg.



Meg passing a croft.

SC: Gregor thank you so much for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can you start by telling us how you came up with the idea to walk in the footsteps of your Scottish hero's?

GE: Delighted to be talking with you Sean. For a long time I had wanted an escape to the hills- a break from everyday routine in a beautiful, challenging environment. When I had an unexpected career break, I suddenly had the time. Although, with my wife working full time and three children to look after I couldn't just disappear without good reason. I needed a purpose (or should I say an excuse!). Having always been interested in history, I decided to combine my interest in history with my interest in the outdoors and follow in the footsteps of firstly Bonnie Prince Charlie and then Robert the Bruce.

SC: Gregor in 2012 you completed a 530 mile walk retracing the route of Bonnie Prince Charlie travelled after the Battle of Culloden. Can you tell us where your journey took you and how you prepare for such an adventure?

GE: My journey started at Culloden Battlefield just outside Inverness where the Jacobite army was defeated in April 1746. Charles escaped from the battle and an epic five month journey began as he sought to escape troops loyal to the British Government who were out hunting him. I followed the Prince's journey accurately and was the first person to walk the route in one go since Charles himself. I began by following the Prince's flight across to the west coast of Scotland and then onwards to the Western Isles where like Charles I walked on Scalpay, Lewis, Benbecula, Wiay and South Uist. Unable to find a ship to take him to the safety of France, the Prince was forced to return to the Scottish mainland via the Isle's of Skye and Raasay. On the mainland once more I followed Charles' further adventures as he was pursued as far north as Glen Cannich and as far south as Badenoch before once again, reaching the rugged west coast. At Loch nan Uamh, near Arisaig, Bonnie Prince Charlie left Scotland for the final time in September 1746. Before I left I spent one year researching the Prince's route, trying to find all the places mentioned in the historical sources. I then transferred this route to modern day maps. To prepare for the physical challenge I kept myself fit by running and I undertook a

practice expedition accompanied by my collie Meg and 11 year old daughter Sophie. We walked the West Highland Way (96 miles) and raised money for Cancer Research. This gave me the opportunity to test out my gear and equipment and I learned some valuable lessons – the most important of which was what equipment was strictly necessary so that I could keep my rucksack as light as possible.

SC: This was followed in 2014, and the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, when you went on to complete a 1,000 mile nine-week unsupported journey around Scotland, firstly following the route of Robert the Bruce's campaign of 1307-1308, before continuing on to other locations critical to King Robert's eventual victory. If possible can you tell us what the highlight's of this amazing adventure was and how you managed to travel so far and for so long?

GE: The Galloway Hills in the southwest of Scotland were the natural highlight of my journey. These rugged hills are remote, beautiful and unspoiled. It was easy to transport myself back to the 14th century and imagine that a party of mud splattered knights were around the next corner. Historically this area was critical to the success of Robert the Bruce because in these hills and glens the King learned the skills of general-ship that were to lead eventually to the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. At the outset of the walk I found the mental challenge difficult – knowing that I would be walking on my own for nine weeks with just the dog for company and living in a small tent. I longed for the comforts of home. However once I adapted to my environment and began concentrating on just the day ahead I began to really enjoy and appreciate the adventure I was experiencing.

SC: Walking is a big past time in Scotland and having the right gear is always essential for Scotland's changeable weather conditions. I assume there was not more valuable of an asset on your journey than your faithful border collie Meg, who carried supplies and was a constant companion. This brings a whole new meaning to "walkies", how was it to undertake such an amazing adventure with such a special friend?

GE: Without doubt I could not have completed my walks without Meg. She is a great companion and listens unperturbed

to all my moans and complaints. As well as being a great route-finder she is a fantastic ice breaker. By this I mean that when we meet people on our journeys she runs up to people and makes friends quickly. People talk to the dog and I am not just a lonesome hiker but the owner of a cute and friendly dog. This gives me the chance to converse with people, something which I am often desperate to do, having sometimes gone on for days on end without hearing another human voice.

SC: Scotland's landscape is one of the most dramatic and beautiful in the world. As someone who has probably seen more of Scotland by foot than anyone else what did you learn about the country which you travelled on and did you have any favourite places to visit on your travels?

GE: In Scotland we have a great and increasing number of long distance walking routes. The West Highland Way is the most famous by far but there are no many others. On the Bruce walk I tried to make use of these routes wherever possible - some of them like the Great Glen Way, follow an ancient historical route crossing the country. Also in Scotland we have great access laws. People are free to roam where they please (within reason) and this gave me the opportunity whilst following Charlie to recreate his route accurately.

Scotland is a land of varying physical characteristic each with its own unique story but my overall favourite would be the northwest Highlands of Scotland. The stunning scenery, adventurous terrain and human history make this area a place that I love dearly and return to regularly.

SC: Scottish history is filled with dramatic tales and characters who to this day are still revered and honoured. Why did you choose Bonnie Prince Charlie and Robert the Bruce over other Scottish historical figures and by doing these epic voyages did you learn anything about these two great men that you did not already know?

GE: I chose to follow Bonnie Prince Charlie because his escape took place in the northwest Highlands (and because no-one had walked the route in one go before). An unseen side to Charles' character was revealed. Many of us (myself included before the walk) have a shortbread tin image of Charles – a foppish, popinjay Prince. In fact by the end of his adventure, Charles had proved himself a tough, spirited, indefatigable man – respected by the Highlanders of Scotland for his physical attributes. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the Jacobite Rising of 1745-46 I learned that this man overcame tremendous difficulties to eventually escape to France and thereby maintain the hopes of Jacobite's who had fought so hard and forfeited so much in his families' cause. Robert the Bruce is known the world over: For Bannockburn, the Declaration of Arbroath and sharing a cave with a spider. Like Bonnie Prince Charlie, Robert the Bruce was chased from the country as a fugitive. The story of the turnaround in his fortunes

from, loser to leader, was what I wanted to relay – what the historian Barrow called 'one of the great heroic enterprises of History'. What I discovered was that Bruce was shaped by his surroundings to a degree that is not well known. The skills that he learned were directly attributable to the travels that initially he endured and then thrived upon. The great King that he became, learned his skills on the road from the people and the landscapes that he encountered. These skills were put to use most famously at Bannockburn but were the basis for his martial success over many years from 1307-1328.

SC: Gregor you have been filming a documentary about your first book *Charlie, Meg and Me* with an independent film team. Can you tell us more about this and are we likely to be able to see this overseas?

GE: Yes, Meg and I have been recreating our journey as described in my book *Charlie, Meg and Me* but this time accompanied by a film crew from Shoogly Peg Productions. I have really enjoyed going back to places that I don't get to often enough, like the Western Isles. Catching up again with people I met first time round has been really nice and some of the conversations have shed new light on Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite Rising of 1745-6. Fingers crossed it will make it to the small screen at the end of 2016 or early 2017.

SC: Clearly you are an avid walker. Can you tell us about your favourite spots in Scotland to walk and what walks you would recommend to a visitor to Scotland looking to take the high road?

GE: I have found that every part of Scotland has a well-developed walking trail network. In my home town of Falkirk you can experience great walking along the Antonine Wall, to the Falkirk Wheel and along to the outstanding new Kelpies at the Helix Park. To experience the Highlands of Scotland, that became so well known to Bonnie Prince Charlie, basing yourself in the Fort William area is an excellent choice. Short forest walks or adventurous mountain trips are within easy reach. A walk to the Steall Falls in Glen Nevis, along the Nevis Gorge is a personal favourite. For those wishing a more sedate but equally dramatic journey, the famous Jacobite railway that runs from Fort William to Mallaig goes through much of the terrain where Charlie traipsed.

SC: And finally Gregor what is next for you? Any more footsteps to follow?

GE: I live in Falkirk and Mary Queen of Scots was born nearby at Linlithgow Palace. During her lifetime she was famous for her progresses around the country and like Robert the Bruce and Bonnie Prince Charlie, she was also a fugitive for a time. Meg and I hope to follow her story in the autumn of 2016.

Gregor Ewing has written *Charlie, Meg and Me and Bruce, Meg and Me* which have been published by Luath Press and also available on Kindle. For details see: www.luath.co.uk or www.charliemegandme.net.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



An artist's impression of The Three Stills.

New £10m distillery approved for Scottish Borders

Plans for a new £10 million distillery at a former industrial site in the Scottish borders has been approved, the first in the area since 1837. The Three Stills distillery chose a disused industrial site for its proximity to fine barley, plentiful supply of water and the town's history of manufacturing excellence. Water will be taken from the nearby River Teviot for the cooling process, while water from a borehole will be used to make the whisky. The building to be used is one of the only Tudor buildings in Hawick. It will be restored and renovated to house the distillery and a visitor centre, creating an estimated 20 jobs. Former William Grant executives John Fordyce, Tim Carton, Tony Roberts and George Tait are leading the project, with work expected to start this year. It will become the first distillery in the Scottish borders for nearly 200 years, with several other companies also now working to open distilleries in the area. Last year a competition launched by R&B Distillers saw the public pick Peebles as their preferred site for a distillery. The company has said the project will create 20 local jobs. Plans have also been lodged for a £40m whisky distillery development near Jedburgh also in the Scottish Borders. Mossburn Distillers want to build the plant near the former Jedforest Hotel at Camptown which could produce millions of bottles a year. A planning application has been submitted to Scottish Borders Council with a decision expected in the autumn.

Scotland's Jute Museum at Verdant Works wins support for the High Mill Open Gallery Project



A 200-year-old former Dundee jute mill that was saved from collapse

by becoming a museum has won a prestigious conservation award. The recently refurbished High Mill at the Verdant Works was one of the first jute mills built on the site in 1833. Before its £2.9m renovation last year, the A-listed building had lain empty for decades and was on the buildings at risk register. Historic Environment Scotland has now recognised Dundee Heritage Trust's efforts in transforming the derelict building into a huge new museum space.

Dundee Heritage Trust has received initial support of £1.48 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Verdant Works High Mill Open Gallery Project. The project is focused on Dundee's internationally significant jute heritage, the cornerstone upon which the city's prosperity was built. The development will complete the restoration of the Verdant Works, securing a sustainable future for this nationally important industrial heritage complex by creating a stunning space for the display of the Trust's collections and for artistic, cultural, educational and community events. As well as complete renewal of the roofs and building stabilisation work, the scheme involves an innovative idea to remove the rotten wooden floors, creating a full height cathedral-like space with a dramatic 'forest' of columns, revealing the monumental scale of the architecture. The project will open up and improve public access to the city's rich textile heritage by creating 971 square metres of new exhibition space, allowing for further interpretation and enabling some of the large industrial objects in the Trust's reserve collections to be displayed for the first time. Graphic and audio visual interpretation will allow for more stories and themes to be explored and will use evocative images from the Trust's important archive and photographic collections. Built in 1833 the High Mill is the oldest and most imposing part of the significant industrial complex, approximately half

of which has already been transformed into the award-winning Scotland's Jute Museum at Verdant Works.

Lewis Chessmen to return to Western Isles



Six pieces of the famed Lewis Chessmen are now the star attraction at a new multi-million-pound museum in the Western Isles. The £19m Lewis Castle restoration project in Stornoway, includes a modern museum which opened in July, and includes a dozen pieces from the Viking treasure hoard to take centre stage in the museum galleries as part of a long-term loan deal between Western Isles Council and the British Museum. A spokesman for the council said: "The museum and archive will host a range of fascinating artefacts, including the Lewis Chessmen, which we are confident will be of massive interest to local people and visitors to the islands." Hidden on the west coast of Lewis for centuries, the walrus ivory chessmen were discovered among stone bothies in a small glen by the stunning sandy beach at Ardross by crofter Calum Macleod of nearby Pennydonald. They are believed to have been made in Norway during the Viking period and imported on one of the Norse expeditions to the Hebrides. As the largest and best group of early chessmen to survive, they are one of the most significant archaeological discoveries made

in Scotland and are of major international importance. The chess characters in their home setting is forecast to be a major summer crowd-puller, providing a tourism boost with visitor numbers estimated at about 50,000 per year.

Perth hosts Weeping Window poppy display



Poppies: Weeping Window by Paul Cummins, Artist, and Tom Piper, Designer, opened at The Black Watch Castle and Museum on 30th June and will run until 25th September 2016, specially presented with 14-18 NOW to mark the centenary of the First World War.

Weeping Window is a cascade comprising several thousand handmade ceramic poppies seen pouring from a high window to the ground below; *Wave is a sweeping*, which can currently be seen at Lincoln Castle, is an arch of bright red poppy heads suspended on towering stalks. These two sculptures, by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper are now brought to audiences at venues across the country as part of the 14-18 NOW programme. As with all 14-18 NOW projects, the presentation of these sculptures to new audiences across the United Kingdom aims to prompt a new, nationwide dialogue around the legacy of the First World War. The breath-taking sculptures were initially conceived as the key dramatic sculptural elements in the installation *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red* at the Tower of London in the autumn of 2014. Over the course of their time at the Tower, the two sculptures were gradually surrounded by a vast field of ceramic poppies, each one planted in memory of the life of a British and Colonial soldier lost during the First World War. In their original setting they captured the public imagination and were visited by over five million people. The original installation was conceived of as transitory, the sea of poppies growing in size until the final one was planted on 11 November 2014. On completion, however, it was agreed that the works of art at the heart of this broader act of memorial should be preserved for the nation. 14-18 NOW is grateful to the Backstage Trust and Clore Duffield Foundation for their support in securing these sculptures for posterity. For the remainder of the 14-18 NOW programme, *Wave* and *Weeping Window* will be on view at selected locations around the United Kingdom finishing at IWM North and IWM London in the autumn of 2018. The sculptures will then be gifted to the Imperial War Museums. The Black Watch Museum is a focal point for remembrance and learning about the Great War and other conflicts. A stunning setting easily accessible from most of Scotland's major population centres, *Weeping Window* will flow from a second floor turret window onto the Castle gardens. By the end of the First World War, nearly 9000 soldiers of The Black Watch were killed and almost 20,000 wounded.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Death of Queen Anne; George I, Elector of Hanover becomes king. **1714**

1 - Proscription Act introduced, banning tartan and the carrying of weapons. The penalty for a first offence was six months in jail and a second offence resulted in transportation for seven years. **1747**



1 - University of Dundee which was incorporated into the University of St Andrews in 1890, constituted as a separate university. **1967**

2 - Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, died in Nova Scotia. Although he is best known for this invention Bell was also well known for his work on deafness. **1922**

3 - Sir William Kirkcaldy of Grange executed, after defending Edinburgh Castle on behalf of Mary Queen of Scots from May 1568 to May 1573. **1573**

3 - King James II killed by an exploding cannon at the siege of Roxburgh Castle. **1460**

3 - William Wallace betrayed and handed over to the English. **1305**



3 - The 2014 Commonwealth Games (officially the XX Commonwealth Games) closing ceremony took place in Glasgow, Scotland. **2014**

4 - Birth of the entertainer Sir Harry Lauder. **1870**

4 - Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, the future Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, born. **1900**

5 - James, Earl Douglas, died out of sight of his army, in a bush, at Battle of Otterburn in which Scots defeat Henry Percy, (Hotspur) but with the loss of the Earl of Douglas. **1388**

5 - The Scottish Parliament established a General Post Office. **1695**

6 - First Glasgow/Edinburgh coach service began from White Horse Inn, Edinburgh. **1678**

6 - Donald Alexander Smith - later Lord Strathcona - born in Forres. A pioneer of the Hudson Bay Company in the North-West, he later championed the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway across Canada and drove the last spike at Craigellachie, British Columbia. **1820**

6 - Birth of Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin. **1881**

7 - Lord Kitchener, the war minister, began a mass recruiting campaign, three days after Britain declared war on Germany. By the war's end a total of 147,609 Scots had been killed, a fifth of Britain's dead from a country that made up only 10% of its population. **1914**

8 - Former World flyweight boxing champion Benny Lynch died. **1946**

8 - King Edward I removed to England the Stone of Destiny on which generations of Scottish kings had been crowned. **1296**

8 - King James IV married Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII of England. The marriage was known as the Union of the Thistle and the Rose. **1503**

9 - Civil engineer Thomas Telford born in Dumfries. **1757**



9 - Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire opened after David McIntyre set up Scottish Aviation Ltd. Aircraft had been flying from the area since 1913. **1935**

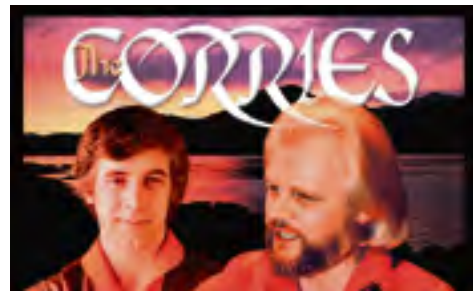
10 - King James III crowned at Kelso Abbey. **1460**

10 - Education (Scotland) Act passed, providing elementary education for all children. **1872**

10 - Perth Museum and Art Gallery opened by the Duke and Duchess of York. **1935**

11 - Andrew Carnegie, the Dunfermline-born steel industrialist and philanthropist, died. Throughout his later life Carnegie established a number of foundations for education and research such as the Carnegie Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. **1919**

12 - Popular character actor Fulton McKay was born in Paisley. **1922**



12 - Roy Williamson, the Scottish folk musician and songwriter, died. Williamson was one of the famous duo, The Corries, along with Ronnie Browne. **1990**

13 - Explorer Alexander Gordon Laing became the first Christian to reach Timbuctu, Africa. **1826**

13 - Birth of John Logie Baird, developer of television. **1888**

13 - Scotland's first nuclear power station at Dounreay went "critical" ushering in the generation of power from atomic reactions. **1957**

14 - King Duncan I killed in battle at Pitgavney by Macbeth. **1040**

14 - King Robert III born at Scone. **1337**

14 - King Robert III crowned at the Augustinian abbey of Scone. **1390**

14 - University of Strathclyde was constituted in Glasgow, based on the Royal College of Science and Technology. **1964**

15 - Macbeth killed in battle by Malcolm at Lumphanan. **1057**

15 - Novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott born. **1771**

15 - Foundation stone for the Monument to Sir Walter Scott laid in Princes Street Gardens. **1840**

16 - Birth of Carolina Oliphant (Lady Nairne), poet and author of many Jacobite songs, including *Charlie is my Darling*. Her songs are second only in popularity to Burns. **1766**

17 - The see of St Andrews became an archbishopric by a bull of Pope Sixtus IV. **1472**

17 - Visit of George IV to Edinburgh began, orchestrated by Sir Walter Scott. **1822**

17 - First Edinburgh International Festival opened. **1947**



18 - The Tay Road Bridge opened. The Tay Road Bridge carries the A92 road across the Firth of Tay from Newport-on-Tay in Fife to Dundee. **1966**

18 - Arthur Elphinstone, Lord Balmerino, the Jacobite noble, was executed. Balmerino was captured along with Lord Kilmarnock after the Battle of Culloden and the pair were tried for treason in London and beheaded in the Tower of London. **1746**

19 - Mary Queen of Scots lands at Leith on her return from France, after the death of her husband, King Francis II **1561**

19 - Charles Edward Stuart, raises his standard at Glenfinnan, at the start of the '45 uprising. **1745**

19 - Scottish aviator Jim Mollinson landed after the first East/West solo flight of the Atlantic from Portmarnock, Ireland to Pennfield, New Brunswick. **1932**

20 - Ronald Ross, the first Scot to win a Nobel prize (in 1902) dissected a mosquito and established the link with malaria. **1897**

21 - Battle of Dunkeld when the newly formed Cameronians defended the town against 3,000 Highlanders. **1689**

21 - Birth of William Murdoch who pioneered the use of coal-gas lighting in 1792 in partnership with James Watt and Mathew Boulton. **1754**

21 - Birth of Donald Dewar, former Secretary of State for Scotland and First Minister in the new Scottish Parliament. **1937**

22 - Battle of the Standard at Northallerton in which King David I was defeated by the English. **1138**

22 - Devorgilla, Countess of Galloway founded Balliol College, Oxford. She was mother of John Balliol (who acceded to the Scottish throne in 1292). **1282**

22 - King Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham, initiating a Civil War in England between the Royalists (also known as Cavaliers) and Parliament (Roundheads). **1642**

22 - *Beyond the Fringe*, an influential satirical revue, opened in Edinburgh. **1960**

23 - 1305 Sir William Wallace was executed in London. Wallace was captured after being betrayed by Sir John de Menteith and was transported to London. King Edward I had devised a new method of execution for one of his arch-enemies, and Wallace became the first person to endure the agonies of being hanged, drawn and quartered. **1305**

24 - Berwick on Tweed finally ceded to England (Edward IV) after changing hands 12 times. **1482**

24 - The first Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama opened. The festival was inspired by the arts festivals organised in Salzburg before the Second World War, but has grown to become the largest event of its kind in the world. It has also spawned a book festival, film festival and the festival fringe. The festival was also responsible for the creation of Scottish Opera and forced a greater amount of funding from the Arts Council to be given to Scotland. **1947**

25 - James Watt, developer of steam power, died. **1819**

25 - Actor Sir Sean Connery born. Connery famously went from an Edinburgh milk man to global movie superstar. **1930**

26 - Novelist and statesman John Buchan born in Perth. **1875**

26 - The Donibristle Mining Disaster occurred in the Fife coalfield. The disaster occurred when part of Mossmorran peat bog near Cowdenbeath collapsed on sixteen miners 360 feet underground. Four miners were lost, as was a four-strong rescue party. All the bodies were eventually recovered but some remained underground until the December of that year. **1901**

27 - First balloon ascent in Britain by James Tytler, Edinburgh. **1784**

27 - James Thomson, the Scottish poet, died. Thomson's most famous works include the anthem, *Rule Britannia* **1748**

28 - Edward I of England held a parliament at Berwick to which he summoned all Scottish landholders to sign the Ragman Roll. **1296**

28 - The Battle of Newburn on Tyne. The battle was fought between Leslie's veteran Scottish army and a hastily assembled English force. The Scots had invaded northern England in response to the attempts of Charles I to impose an Anglican prayer book upon Scotland. **1640**



29 - The population of St Kilda were evacuated from the island. The island was evacuated on economic grounds at the islanders own request as the population had dwindled from 73 in 1920 to only 37 in 1928. The island had been populated since Bronze Age times, but from the latter part of the 19th Century, the islanders had begun to lose their means of self-sufficiency and the fate of the resident population was sealed. The island was sold to the Marquess of Bute, a keen ornithologist, who bequeathed it to the National Trust for Scotland in 1957 **1930**

30 - Birth of golf course designer Dr Alister Mackenzie; he was responsible for Augusta National and Cypress Point, among others. **1870**

30 - Liz McColgan won the World Athletics Championship 10,000 metres in Tokyo by a margin of 20 seconds. **1991**

31 - The first Edinburgh Film Festival opened. The festival was officially opened on this date by the Lord Provost at the Playhouse Cinema. The festival was originally known as the International Festival of Documentary, but has now grown to become recognised as one of the great worldwide film festivals. **1946**

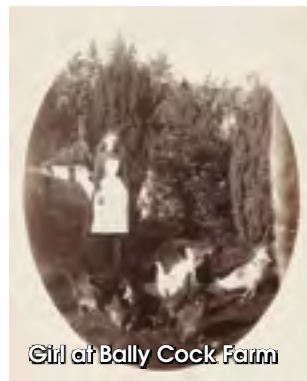
By: Judy Vickers

Beatrix Potter at 150

*Celebrating 150 years since the birth of Beatrix Potter a community owned arts centre in Perthshire have a special exhibition examining her relationship with Birnam and the surrounding area during her adolescence in the late 1800's. Potter was one of Britain's most beloved writers of such classic children's books as *The Tale of Jeremy Fisher*, *The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck* and, of course, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, Beatrix Potter has delighted generations of children around the world, and had a very special place for Scotland as Judy Vickers explains.*



Unlabelled old woman, believed to be Kitty MacDonald.



Girl at Bally Cock Farm



Ram at bridge

photograph it. She also visited people she first met as a child, including the Stewart family at Bally Cock Farm. Her photographs include one of a girl with hens at the farm – her journal entry for September 21st talks of the “nice old kitchen” in the farmhouse with a fire that had burned for 24 years. She also took several photographs of sheep revealing an early interest in the animals – she later became a prize-winning breeder of Herwick sheep in the Lake District. Helen Beatrix Potter was born on July 28, 1866, and her family first stayed in Perthshire in 1870 at Tulliemet House near Ballinluig. For the ten following years, they stayed at Dalguise House, five miles north of Dunkeld, where Kitty was washerwoman. In 1892, the year

Love of Perthshire

The photographs were passed to Perth Museum in 1990 by a Mrs Dukes from Troutbeck in the Lake District. Two years ago they were used as a backdrop for a talk in Birnam for the Beatrix Potter Society on Potter's watercolours and it was witnessing the members' stunned reaction to the pictures which made staff realise what a treasure they were. “The society members are such experts and they were absolutely jumping up and down about them,” explains Mrs Anderson. “So we decided to make a display of them.” Lynne McGeachie, author of *Beatrix Potter's Scotland*, said it was wonderful to have this new added dimension to Potter's work alongside her art and writing. “It's going to be a tremendously interesting exhibition.” She said there was little doubt that Kitty MacDonald was the inspiration behind Mrs Tiggle-Winkle: “I think the memories of those days as a little girl watching Kitty in the laundry were so influential. Kitty was a friend, a very valued friend. Everything that Beatrix did in her art and her writing was based on her experience. “And she says the subjects of the photographs reflect Potter's love of Perthshire. “She was truly inspired by Perthshire, she said it was home. It was a central influence on her for her whole life. The scenes that she took, of the countryside and the people, are ones that are very dear to her heart.”

The exhibition runs at the Birnam Arts Centre in Birnam, Dunkeld until the end of August.

Helen Beatrix Potter was born on July 28, 1866, and her family first stayed in Perthshire in 1870 at Tulliemet House near Ballinluig.

she took the photographs, they stayed at Heathpark villa in Birnam. The camera she used most likely belonged to her father, Rupert, a keen amateur photographer. She returned to Scotland the following year, where she stayed at Eastwood in Dunkeld and where *Peter Rabbit*, her most famous creation, was born – in a picture letter she wrote and drew to Noel Moore, her former governess's son, who was ill at the time.



Ice on the river Braan

A photograph believed to be the only one of an old washerwoman who inspired Beatrix Potter's Mrs Tiggy-Winkle is on display for the first time, more than 100 years after it was taken. The picture, taken in 1892 by the 26-year-old Potter while on holiday in Perthshire, is thought to be of Kitty MacDonald, washerwoman to the family during the ten years they holidayed near Dunkeld when Beatrix was a child. Mrs MacDonald is widely acknowledged to be the inspiration behind the hedgehog laundress in *The Tale of Mrs Tiggy-Winkle*, published in 1905, and one of Potter's best-loved characters. The picture is one of around 20 taken by Potter which are on display at the Birnam Arts Centre to mark the 150th anniversary of her birth after recently coming to light. There are only six other known photographs taken by Potter, all in the V&A museum in London, and no others of Scotland. “Beatrix came to Dalguise in Perthshire as a child and returned in 1892 as an adult and wrote long journal entries in her code,” explains Jane Anderson, a volunteer with the Birnam Arts Centre. Her 1892 entries frequently refer to her photography as well as her joy at being able to roam freely compared to the confines of her life in London.

Kitty

The picture of the elderly woman outside her cottage is not labelled so cannot definitely be said to be Mrs MacDonald. However, Potter's journal describes several visits to Inver, where Kitty was living,

and her description closely matches the photograph. On September 6 she wrote: “I went to Inver to photograph old Kitty and that graceless person Tomby the dog. I don't know when I laughed so, and Kitty nearly rocked off her stone.” And on August 1, in words echoing those in *The Tale of Mrs Tiggy-Winkle*: “Went out with the pony, first to see Kitty MacDonald, our old washerwoman. Kitty is eighty-three but delightfully merry. She is . . . brown as a berry and wears a multitude of petticoats and a white much. Her memory goes back seventy years and I really believe she is prepared to enumerate the articles of her first wash in the year '71.” She adored talking to Kitty about her childhood in Strathbraan and made several trips with her pony and trap to photograph the area. An entry for Thursday September 29th reads: “Drove up the Braan to the sixth milestone. A very beautiful valley to my mind. I prefer a pastoral landscape backed by mountains . . . It really strikes me that some scenery is almost theatrical or ultra-romantic.” A picture of the River Braan churning with ice matches her entry from October 26th: “I think it was the most perfect day for driving we have had this summer . . . I was surprised with the amount of ice in the Braan which gives it an oily appearance.”

Interest in the animals

She was also intrigued by the deserted village of Salachill in the Ballinloan Burn valley, where Kitty spent part of her childhood, and made several trips to

By: Angus Whitson

Tartan – The Culloden Effect



Re-enactors at Culloden Battlefield and Visitors Centre today.
Photo: The National Trust for Scotland.

In my last article I wrote about the pivotal role the Scottish Tartans Authority plays in recording, researching and advising on tartan's historical significance and disseminating tartan's contemporary global message. I touched also on the plans for a National Tartan Centre as a focus and educational resource for future generations. This month I want to look at some of the historical considerations which have brought us to the place we are at today in regard to Scotland's national dress. The study of tartan is riddled with inconsistencies, contradictions, claim and counter-claim. Almost any opinion or statement of fact expressed about tartan can be countered, and most likely will be, by another. We need to know, in the first instance, what tartan is. My own definition, that it is a fabric design, is probably too simplistic and unlikely to satisfy the enthusiast or researcher seeking a definitive description. Luckily, in Scotland, we have that definitive description enacted by the Scottish Parliament in the Scottish Register of Tartans Act 2008. Section 2 of the Act states – "...a tartan is a design which is capable of being woven consisting of two or more alternating coloured stripes which combine vertically and horizontally to form a repeated chequered pattern." The cloth is constructed of the warp, i.e. threads running lengthwise, and the weft, being threads woven transversely between the warp threads. Both the warp and the weft contain an identical number of threads in the various colours making up the design or sett.

The Dress Act

In 1746, in less than an hour, Bonnie Prince Charlie lost the Battle of Culloden and King George II and the Hanoverian government used the opportunity to eradicate the perceived military threat of the Jacobite Highland clans who supported the return of the Stuart dynasty. Their intention was to eliminate the culturally separate identity of the Highland people and their way of life. The Highlanders were perceived as little better than primitive savages – bare-arsed banditti. The blunt instrument that was adopted, and which today would be regarded as cultural and racial intolerance, was the Act of Proscription 1746, otherwise known as the Dress Act. This banned the wearing of "the Highland Dress" -....." from and after the first day of August, one thousand

seven hundred and forty seven, no man or boy, within that part of Great Britain called Scotland, other than shall be employed as officers and soldiers in his Majesty's forces, shall on any pretence whatsoever, wear or put on the clothes commonly called Highland Clothes (that is to say) the plaid, philibeg, or little kilt, trowse, shoulder belts, or any part whatsoever of what peculiarly belongs to the highland garb; and that no TARTAN, or partly-coloured plaid or stuff shall be used for great coats, or for upper coats" It is notable that the Act did not apply to Gentry, the sons of Gentry or women.

During the 36 years of prohibition the cottage industry weavers living above the Highland Line – a geographical fault running diagonally across Scotland from Dumbarton on the west to Stonehaven on the east and delineating the Highlands and the Lowlands - had stopped weaving tartan.

Break the spirit of the Highland clans

It also reiterated the Disarming Acts of 1716 and 1725 which outlawed anyone in defined parts of Scotland from having "in his or their custody, use, or bear, broad sword or target, poignard, whinger, or durk, side pistol, gun, or other warlike weapon" unless authorised – which effectively meant only the military. It was a humiliation that was intended to break the spirit of the Highland clans, the clan system and its supportive social structures and emphasise that they had lost the war. It was an indiscriminate punishment because it was a catch-all that included Highland clans such as Mackays, Grants, Campbells and Munros who had fought – and died – for the King. The Heritable Jurisdictions (Scotland) Act, passed the following year, deprived the Highland chiefs of their feudal right to hold their own courts and dispense justice, including the right of pit and gallows, i.e. power of sentence of death. More importantly, these two acts weakened the independence of the Highland lifestyle and extinguished the patriarchal link which was fundamental to the relationship between

the Father of the Race, the Chief, and his clansmen – the kindred or family – the Clan. Another disruptive element was the drift of the Highland chiefs and their families to the fashionable centres of Edinburgh and London and Paris where they could parade themselves like peacocks. They became absentee landlords, needing money to support their new extravagant lifestyles. Their distant Highland estates were impoverished lands that generated little or no income. Some of the Highland chiefs bankrupted themselves and had to sell not only their own patrimony, but their clans' patrimony too, and they became Highland chiefs in name only. The new owners of the clan lands had no sentiment for the unfortunate clansmen who they bought along with the land.

The Highland Clearances

Voluntary emigration to the Americas had started after the 1715 Jacobite Rising. Between 1760 and 1886 involuntary emigration through the Highland Clearances became a stain on Scotland's social conscience, effectively ending with the passing of the 1886 Crofters Act. The Clearances were dressed up as agricultural improvement by those such as the infamous Patrick Sellar, the Duchess of Sutherland's factor, whose disingenuous explanation was that, in order to effect improvement, it was necessary to "disengage the people from the land". In 1782 the Dress Act, prohibiting the wearing of tartan, was repealed. The Highlanders were told – "You are no longer bound down to the unmanly dress of the Lowlander". But the damage had been done. During the 36

years of prohibition the cottage industry weavers living above the Highland Line – a geographical fault running diagonally across Scotland from Dumbarton on the west to Stonehaven on the east and delineating the Highlands and the Lowlands - had stopped weaving tartan. It is thought that in that time many tartans were lost through their enforced abandonment.

Tartan weaving

But the processes and skills of tartan weaving were not lost. Tartan weaving had continued on an industrial scale to clothe the Highland regiments raised to meet the Napoleonic threat, and also the Fencible regiments for home defence. Tartan was being exported by the mile to North and South America, to the West Indies where the plantation owners clothed their slaves in it, and to India. It hadn't been tartan as such that had been proscribed – just the wearing of it. While the right to wear tartan again was welcomed, its use in Highland Scotland as the universal everyday garment it had been, did not revive. Thirty six years earlier breadline Highlanders, living peasant lives, had been compelled to discard one set of clothes and pay for new ones. That outrage was still fresh in the collective memory and they weren't going to fork out good money again to replace their adopted clothing and revert to tartan. They continued wearing the Lowland style of clothing known as hodden grey.

The last of this series of three articles will discuss how tartan recovered from its Culloden setback and began its fightback. For more content check out my blog at manwithtwodogs.com.

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Oven chips

Ingredients:

2 large sweet potatoes, scrubbed
 1-2 large potatoes, scrubbed
 4 sprigs thyme, leaves only
 1 tsp ground cumin
 1 pinch chilli flakes
 1 tbsp. olive oil
 2 tsp. hot smoked paprika
 sea salt flakes

Method:

Preheat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Cut the sweet potatoes into thick wedges and put into a large mixing bowl. Cut the white potatoes into slightly thinner wedges (they take longer to cook so need to be slightly smaller for an equal cooking time) and add to the bowl. Add the remaining ingredients and toss until the wedges are evenly coated. Season with sea salt then spread over a non-stick baking tray in an even layer. (Put the sweet potatoes in the centre and the white potatoes round the edge of the tray where it will be hotter.) Cook for 20-25 minutes, checking after 10 minutes, shaking and turning occasionally, until cooked through. If the sweet potatoes are cooked before the others are ready then remove them from the oven and leave the rest to cook for longer.

Tweed Kettle

Ingredients:

900g/2lb fresh salmon, preferably from the tail end
 2 chopped shallots or 1 tablespoon of chopped chives
 Salt, pepper, pinch of ground mace
 150ml/ ¼ pint water
 150ml/ ¼ pint dry white wine
 115g/4 oz. chopped mushrooms
 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

Method:

Put the fish in a pan, just covered with water and bring to the boil. Simmer gently for five minutes. Remove fish from the pan (keep the stock), remove skin and bone and cut the fish into small squares. Season with salt, pepper and mace and put into a clean dish with a quarter pint of the fish stock plus the wine and finely chopped shallot or chives. Cover the dish and simmer gently for about 20 minutes. Heat up the butter and soften the mushrooms in it, drain and add to the salmon and heat together for another five minutes. Serve with chopped parsley.

Lemon drizzle muffins



Ingredients:

2 eggs, beaten
 85g/3oz. caster sugar
 240ml/8fl oz. milk
 100ml/3½fl oz. vegetable oil
 300g/10oz. plain flour
 3 tsp baking powder
 ½ tsp salt

4 lemons, zest only
 For the topping:
 50g/2oz. icing sugar
 1 lemon, juice only
 sprigs lemon thyme, to garnish (optional)

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Line a muffin tin with paper cases. Mix the egg, sugar, milk and oil in a large bowl. Sift in the flour, baking powder, salt and then add the lemon. Roughly mix. Spoon the mixture into the pre-prepared muffin cases. Bake for 30-35 minutes until well risen and golden. Cool on a wire rack. Make the lemon drizzle topping by mixing together the sugar and lemon juice. Spoon the lemon drizzle mixture over the cooled muffins. If desired, decorate the muffins with sprigs of lemon thyme.

Asparagus and puff pastry tubes

Ingredients:

150g/5oz. ready-made puff pastry flour, for dusting
 25g/1oz. cream cheese
 10 asparagus spears
 1 free-range egg, beaten
 2 tbsp. freshly grated parmesan (or a similar vegetarian hard cheese)

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Roll the puff pastry out on a floured surface into an 15cmx25cm/6inx10in rectangle and spread all over with the cream cheese. Using a sharp knife, cut the pastry into 10 long, thin strips. Wrap one pastry strip in a spiral around each asparagus spear and place onto a baking tray. Lightly brush each with beaten egg then scatter over the parmesan. Bake the cigars in the oven for 15-20 minutes, or until the pastry has risen and is golden-brown.

Salt fish fritters

Ingredients:

125g/4½oz. salt cod, or other salt fish, soaked in water overnight (water changed several times)
 100g/3½oz. self-raising flour
 ¼ red pepper, diced
 ¼ green pepper, diced
 ¼ onion, finely diced
 ½ Scotch bonnet chilli, seeded and finely chopped (use ½ green chilli for a milder version)
 freshly ground black pepper
 vegetable oil, for shallow frying

Method:

Drain the soaked salt cod and cook in boiling water for 20-25 minutes, or until the fish is flaky and tender. Drain the salt cod and flake the flesh, removing the skin and pin bones. Tip the flour into a bowl and stir in enough cold water to make a thick paste (about 250ml/9fl oz.). Stir in the salt cod, red and green peppers, onions, scotch bonnet pepper and season with freshly ground black pepper. Heat 2.5cm/1in vegetable oil in a deep heavy-based frying pan until a breadcrumb sizzles

and turns brown when dropped into it. (CAUTION: hot oil can be dangerous. Do not leave unattended.) Carefully place spoonful's of the batter into the hot oil and fry for 2-3 minutes, or until the fritters are crisp and golden-brown (you may need to do this in batches). Remove from the pan with a slotted spoon and set aside to drain on kitchen paper to remove any excess oil.

Apple cake

Ingredients:

330ml/11½fl oz. cider
 300g/10½oz plain flour
 2 tsp. bicarbonate of soda
 1 tsp. mixed spice powder
 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
 pinch freshly grated nutmeg
 4 apples, peeled, core removed, grated
 150g/5oz. soft dark brown sugar
 150g/5oz. melted butter
 2 free-range eggs
 200g/7 oz. golden sultanas
 100g/3½oz. pecans, chopped
 For the mascarpone cream:
 250g/9oz mascarpone
 splash double cream
 1 tsp. ground cinnamon

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/360F/Gas 4. Place the cider into a pan over a high heat. Bring to the boil and cook until reduced by two thirds. Sift the plain flour, bicarbonate of soda, mixed spice powder, cinnamon and nutmeg into a bowl. In a separate bowl, mix the apples with the sugar and butter. Add the eggs and reduced cider to the apple mixture and stir well. Add the spiced flour mixture to the apple mixture and mix well.

Add the sultanas and pecans and fold together to combine. Spoon the cake mixture into a 20cm/8in spring-form cake tin and bake in the oven for 45-60 minutes, or until a skewer comes out clean when pushed into the centre of the cake. Turn out the cake onto a wire rack and leave to cool.

For the mascarpone cream, whisk together the mascarpone, cream and cinnamon in a bowl. To serve, place slices of cake onto plates and spoon the mascarpone cream alongside.

Ginger alert

Ingredients:

40ml/1½fl oz. whisky
 2 tsp clear apple juice
 1 tsp clear pear juice
 20ml/½fl oz. fresh lemon juice
 2.5cm/1in piece fresh ginger, peeled
 ginger ale, to top up
 apple slice, to garnish

Method:

Pour the whisky, apple juice, pear juice, and lemon juice into a cocktail shaker with a handful of ice. Grate the ginger into the shaker, then shake well. Strain into a highball glass filled with ice cubes. Top up with ginger ale and garnish with an apple wedge.

Battle of Somme remembered 100 years on

Text & images courtesy: Scotland.org



An overnight vigil was held at the Scottish War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle on 30 June and 1 July to mark the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of Somme. Held in partnership with WW100 Scotland, Royal British Legion Scotland (Legion Scotland), the Scottish National War Memorial, the Ministry of Defence, Historic Environment Scotland and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the vigil was one of four national commemorative events taking place across the UK. Members of the public filed silently through the memorial, passing the shrine where the Casket containing the Roll of Honour for the fallen

of WW1 was guarded by sentinels with heads bowed. Veterans, military personnel, descendants and guests joined the public for a short service, conducted by Reverend Neil Gardener of Canongate Kirk. Following the service the reverend led a candle party into the memorial where they officially opened the overnight vigil.

Significant battle

Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop, said: "The Battle of the Somme was a significant battle in terms of casualties. On the first day alone there were nearly 57,470 British casualties, 19,240 of whom

died. 51 Scottish battalions took part, and the National and local Vigils being held across the UK are a fitting way to remember those that fought at the battle. The vigils also provide an important chance to reflect on what can and should be learned from the horrors of war." The Battle of Somme was the largest Western Front Battle of World War One with 51 Scottish Battalions taking part in the campaign, including the renowned 16th Battalion Royal Scots 'McCrae's Battalion' which was composed of professional and amateur sportsmen and their supporters. The Battalion lost 12 officers and 573 soldiers in the attack on the first day.

Tartan of the Month Edinburgh Festival & The Edinburgh Military Tattoo 50th

The Scottish Banner is pleased to be offering the Tartan of the Month series highlighting a variety of tartans from around the world and registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans in Edinburgh. Text and image use is courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans.



This month we feature two tartans for our Tartan of the Month as the world descends on Edinburgh this month for The Edinburgh Festival and The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The Edinburgh Festival tartan (ref: 4790) was registered in 1996 by Lochcarron of Scotland. This tartan was recorded prior to the launch of The Scottish Register of Tartans and a sample is with the Scottish Tartans Authority's Johnston Collection.

Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail officially launches in Dundee for the summer



Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail, Dundee's largest ever mass-participation public art event has launched in the City of Discovery. This one-of-a-kind project has introduced over 50 sculptures of Scotland's iconic comic character Oor Wullie which have descended onto the streets of Dundee and will be in place to raise money for The ARCHIE Foundation's Tayside Children's Hospital Appeal. All sculptures have been individually designed and painted by an array of local and international artists, some of the designs celebrate recent world events including a Tim Peake inspired Astro Wullie, which will be situated outside Dundee Science Centre for the summer, and a David Bowie inspired Oor Bowie, in memory of the pop star who passed away earlier this year. Others celebrate Scotland's heritage, including a Tunnock's Tea Cake inspired design. At the end of the trail, in September, all the sculptures will be sold at an auction in Dundee, with all proceeds going to The ARCHIE

Foundation's appeal to raise funds to create a brand new twin operating theatre paediatric surgical suite for the Tayside Children's Hospital at Ninewells.

Cassie Thompson, Head of Fundraising for The ARCHIE Foundation, commented: "As organisers, we are very proud and excited to see Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail arrive in Dundee. An incredible amount of work has gone into this project, which is all to help raise money for The ARCHIE Foundation's Tayside Children's Hospital Appeal. The support from the businesses and community organisations who have sponsored sculptures, to the local schools who have embraced the project decorating their own miniature Oor Wullie sculptures has been amazing. This is a truly one-of-a-kind event that we expect will bring thousands of visitors to Dundee over the next ten weeks to explore the city, seek out the individual Oor Wullie sculptures spread across the area and pose for selfies on Oor Wullie's trusty bucket." The official Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail app is now also

available and members of the public can begin following the trail, collecting sculpture sightings on their travels and taking selfies with the mischievous champ along the way.

To find out more about Oor Wullie's Bucket Trail, visit: www.oorwulliebuckettrail.com



The Edinburgh Military Tattoo 50th tartan (ref: 3614) was also recorded prior to the launch of The Register of Tartans. Based on a Wilsons of Bannockburn sett, designed by Peter MacDonald in 1998 for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo to celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2000. The colours depict the three military forces - Navy, Army & Air Force with the black from Edinburgh's heraldic arms. Launched on June 16th 1999 in time for the final Tattoo of the 20th century.

Top 10 reasons to visit Edinburgh this summer

Text: Marketing Edinburgh Photos: Marketing Edinburgh/VisitScotland.



The beating drum of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Looking for beautiful scenery, outdoor day trips and unmissable cultural events this summer? Edinburgh has it all! From internationally renowned events to family friendly day trips to the picturesque sea sides, Edinburgh is the perfect place to spend the summer months. It's quite hard to limit the reasons to visit Edinburgh this summer but here are 10 to get you going in Edinburgh as provided by Marketing Edinburgh. So, make the most of the longer summer days and try out some of the suggestions below:

- **Edinburgh Castle:** Situated at the top of the Royal Mile on top of Castle Rock, Edinburgh Castle is the number one visitor attraction in Scotland and the most iconic building in the city. Perched on top of an extinct volcano, the Castle and its Esplanade offers unparalleled views of Edinburgh. Once inside you can explore some of the oldest and most important buildings of the city, including St Margaret's Chapel, The National War Memorial and the Half Moon Battery. The regal Crown Square is a real highlight, where you will find the magnificent Grand Hall and Scotland's Crown Jewels - including the famous Stone of Destiny.
- **Catch a show at the Edinburgh Festivals:** To many, the one thing that comes to mind when thinking of summer in Edinburgh is the Festivals. In July and August the city will showcase the best in art and culture from around the world, from the eclectic Edinburgh Fringe Festival to the swinging Jazz and Blues Festival. During these months the city will be transformed into a hub of artistry and creativity, where any street, pub or theatre can be turned into a performance venue. If catching a show isn't on your agenda, but would like to soak up the electric atmosphere, then make sure you hit up one of the pop-up bars or food stalls where you can also enjoy music on till late.

- **Get your barbecue sizzling in the Meadows:** Everyone loves a good get-together over a sizzling BBQ, so when the sun is shining in Edinburgh residents excitedly rush off to purchase mini barbecues and head along to the nearest green space, which in a lot of cases is the Meadows. This is the ideal place to relax in the sun, listen to some tunes, meet friends and to grill your beef burger or halloumi to your heart's content - just don't forget to keep our green spaces clean and take your rubbish with you when you leave.
- **Look for a sun trap at one of the beer gardens:** A warm summer afternoon spent in a pub beer garden is a true delight for many Edinburgh locals. From the buzzing Pear Tree to the hidden gem Royal Dick at Summerhall, there's plenty to choose from all over Edinburgh. So grab your sunglasses and get yourself down to one of Edinburgh's best beer gardens. Just make sure you get there early to claim your table - as everyone else will have exactly the same idea!
- **Grab your bucket and spade and hit the seaside:** You really don't have to travel far to get some 'vitamin sea' in Edinburgh. Long summer days mean there is plenty of time to escape the city and head to our beautiful sandy beaches. There are plenty to choose from, including Portobello beach which is just a mile or two from the city centre, to the picturesque Cramond beach located near Queensferry. When the tide is out at Cramond beach you can walk along the causeway over to Cramond Island. Just make sure you check the board at the start of the causeway to ensure you have enough time to walk out and return safely.
- **The Scott Monument:** The largest monument to a writer in the world commemorating the Scottish novelist Sir Walter Scott. Built in the 19th century, it is one of the most striking landmarks in the Edinburgh city skyline. Climb the 287

swans and ducks in the loch. Continue on your route by following the Mountcastle Road all the way back to the west side of Holyrood Park. Make sure you round off your big ride by rewarding yourself at Edinburgh's oldest pub, The Sheep Heid Inn, for a refreshing beer!

- **Leith:** Edinburgh's exciting new waterfront development and boasting the award-winning Royal Yacht Britannia. Discover the shops, restaurants and galleries in the popular shore area of Leith. As far as iconic areas go, they don't come more legendary than Leith. A wholesale regeneration hasn't robbed Leith of its earthy qualities. Enjoy the delights from curio shops to a diverse range of cafés, restaurants and bars.
- **Take an open top bus tour:** Whether you are visiting or live in Edinburgh have you ever jumped on one of the many open-bus tours that passes you every day? If you have a spare hour and the weather is kind then this is your perfect chance to explore the city. You will be able to see the very best of Edinburgh's New Town, Old Town, Grassmarket, Edinburgh Castle, National Museum of Scotland, Palace of Holyroodhouse, Our Dynamic Earth and Calton Hill. Taking a bus tour not only gives your legs a rest, but also gives you a unique perspective of Edinburgh from the top deck.
- **The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo:** One of the most iconic events on the festival calendar, this is a must see show for all the family. Set against the backdrop of Edinburgh's imposing castle, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is one of the most iconic events in Edinburgh's calendar. Bringing together audiences from across the globe, the Edinburgh Tattoo celebrates the skills and talents of military bands and display teams from the British Armed Forces, the Commonwealth and military teams throughout the world. Each year approximately 220,000 people attend this impressive showcase of military talent. Audiences get into the spirit and stamp and cheer to the sounds of the military pipes and drums, clap to the Highland Dancers and watch in awe at some of the daredevil feats of accomplished motorcyclists or intricate marching formations.

From internationally renowned events to family friendly day trips to the picturesque sea sides, Edinburgh is the perfect place to spend the summer months.

steps to the top and enjoy breathtaking views of Edinburgh and the surrounding countryside.

- **Cycle around Holyrood Park:** See Edinburgh from another perspective this summer by grabbing your bike and hitting Holyrood Park for a cycle, where you can admire the surrounding hilly landscapes right in the city centre. We recommend doing a loop around the park by starting your cycle at Holyrood Park's Queen Drive and following the cycle path to St.Margaret's Loch, where you can stop off for a quick break and admire the



Sydney Scottish Week 2016

Photos courtesy of Barbara Gurney.



Donald and Heather McLeod with the Clan McLeod Pipe Band.



SAHC President Malcolm Buchanan with Sir Malcolm and Lady Fiona MacGregor, St Leonards Park.



Sir Wayne Broun and Sir Malcolm MacGregor at the Scottish Forum at Rose Bay.



The parade of Banner at St Leonards Park led by Steve Buchanan.

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council (SAHC) again hosted its annual flagship event of Scottish Week with events across the city in June. This year Scottish Week had four Clan Chiefs in attendance including guests of

honour Sir Malcolm & Lady Macgregor of MacGregor, Alistair Henderson of Fordell, The Earl of Dunmore and Donald Macleod of The Lewes. A variety of Scottish themed events took place which included a Clans and Families Forum, Highland Gathering in

North Sydney, a Parliamentary Lunch and a formal inspection of the Scotland-Australia Cairn on the Sydney Harbour and more.

For further information about Scottish Week and the SAHC please see: www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au.

Royal Troon swings votes for female members



Members of Royal Troon Golf Club voted overwhelmingly to end the club's male-only membership policy, paving the way for the club to remain in the rotation to host the British Open. Muirfield Golf Club, the site of 16 British Opens, was stripped of the right to stage the event in the future after members of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, which owns and operates Muirfield, voted in May against allowing female members. That vote fell just short of the two-thirds majority required to pass, with 64 percent of the club's members voting in favour of admitting women. Royal Troon's constitution required only a simple majority. It did not release a vote total, saying only that the motion to admit women members had passed "overwhelmingly." In June, the club reported that a survey of its members had shown that three-quarters of the respondents supported allowing female members. Royal Troon, which is on the west coast of Scotland, has hosted the British Open on eight previous occasions, most recently in July this year. In 2014, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews voted to end its male-only membership policy, which had been in place for 260 years. In 2015, another Open venue — Royal St. George's Golf Club in Kent, England — also voted to allow female members. The vote to admit women was expected, with the prestige and economic benefits of hosting the Open at stake. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon tweeted: "A victory for equality and common sense. Well done, Royal Troon. Hopefully Muirfield will follow suit."

Walkhighlands brings Google technology to Scotland's stunning landscapes



Leading Highlands-based walkers' website Walkhighlands is ten years old this summer, but has always sought to embrace the latest technologies in a bid to help and encourage more people to visit and walk in Scotland. The views from some of Scotland's finest walks are set to become more accessible, thanks to their latest project in partnership with Google. Walkhighlands is capturing 360o imagery on the routes using the futuristic Google Trekker technology. This weighty device combines 15 camera lens and a GPS and automatically snaps a series of photos every 2.5 seconds. Walkhighlands

founders' Paul and Helen Webster took turns carrying the 44lb backpack in addition to their normal gear.

Experience some of Scotland's most stunning landscapes from home

The resulting imagery will eventually form part of Google Street View as well as being part of Walkhighlands' own online route guides. "We hope that the footage we are capturing with the Trekker will enable more people to experience some of Scotland's most stunning landscapes from home, and encourage more of them to come and experience these magical

places for themselves," commented Helen. Walkhighlands works on behalf of more than 3,000 tourism businesses and accommodation providers in Scotland who advertise through the website. It is the busiest walkers' site in the UK and the busiest independent Scottish tourism website, receiving over 24,000 unique visitors each day. Its aim is to help visitors plan their walks and find accommodation as well as chat to and encourage others through its popular community forum, which has begun many friendships and even a couple of weddings. The business is based in the Cairngorms National Park in the Highlands.

Did you know?



Dancers on the High Street. Photo: Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Edinburgh is the world's leading festival city. Festivals peak this month with over 25,000 performers in the city with 1000 shows per day. The number of tickets sold for Edinburgh festivals are only exceeded by the Olympics and the World Cup.

Archaeologists uncover evidence of Scotland's earliest farming

Faint plough marks dating back to the 38th century BC have been found in Perthshire. An archaeological dig next to the Perthshire village of Dunning has revealed traces of human activity dating back 10,000 years. This included evidence of what experts believe is the earliest farming activity recorded in Scotland, and also remains of hunter-gathering activity dating back thousands of years before farming began. The discoveries were made by archaeologists from the University of Glasgow, as part of the ten year, Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot (SERF) project. As part of the excavation of a large series of pits, the archaeologists discovered faint plough marks dating back to the 38th century BC (3800 – 3700BC), likely made by a hand-held scratch plough known as an ard, which does not turn over the soil. Early Neolithic pottery (from almost 6000 years ago) was also found, with hundreds of pot shards recovered close to the plough marks. Dr Kenneth Brophy from the University of Glasgow, said of this discovery: "Evidence for ploughing and fields in Neolithic Britain is incredibly rare and so the excavation of the ard marks at Wellhill is a very significant discovery that suggests a farming economy had taken hold in this location only a few generations after farming began in Britain around 4000BC. This is an amazing insight into the lives of Scotland's first farmers". Further radiocarbon dating of the dig sites showed that the pits actually dated back even further, to the late 8th millennium BC, meaning that they provide evidence of the first Mesolithic events in the lowlands of Perth and Kinross.

US students sample Gaelic culture-Californian theatre students enthralled by Highland heritage

American visitors rehearse for Edinburgh Fringe world premiere while learning about the history, culture and languages of the Highlands.



A group of theatre students from California are in Glenelg to learn about Highland culture before heading for the Fringe to stage a world premiere. The 18 young men and women from Pepperdine University, in Malibu, spent a week with playwright and cultural consultant Eddie Stiven who is introducing them to everything from history and folklore to Gaelic language. They have described how they have been delighted by their first impressions of the Highlands. The visit to Scotland is an unparalleled opportunity to learn about other ways of life, work with superb writers, and take part in one of the world's greatest festivals. Eddie said: "Coming to the Highlands is a wonderful experience and lets them see a very different side to Scotland than the one they will get in the Central Belt. It's a chance



to be immersed in histories and cultures with roots that go back millennia. Many young people from the west coast of America are not used to a landscape where the names all have meanings, and may have stories attached to them which go back hundreds or thousands of years and where the people feel so connected with the landscape. Being in a place with no internet or phone signal gives them a chance to relate directly to the reality of where they are rather than some kind of virtual reality. Some of them are from families that originally came from Scotland, and for them it's a chance to find out something of their origins."

Highland hospitality

The students will go to Sabhal Mor Ostaig College on Skye to get a taste of Gaelic and a masterclass from Gaelic playwright and

actor, Catriona Lexy Campbell. This will give them an insight into how different languages offer people fresh concepts and allow them to see the world in new ways. They will have a tour of Glenelg's renowned Pictish broch towers to learn more about pre-Gaelic culture and the important role of powerful women in these early societies. Eddie has written many plays based on mythology and folklore. He uses the study programme to tell some of these tales to the students and to demonstrate how the structure of these ancient tales can be used by playwrights and scriptwriters to construct dramatic plotlines today. He said: "We are going to Dun Sgiath on Skye to hear about the legendary boy hero Cuchulainn's exploits, and how he left there to rescue his beloved Eimer. This is a classic rescue scene, arguably one of the oldest in literature, and how it is constructed and timed within a plot is really a lesson that has been learned by modern dramatists from the old storytellers." Student Sarah Barney, described her first impressions of the Highlands, saying: "What keeps hitting me is that everything in Scotland has history and weight – because of that everything has meaning. It all adds to the legacy that makes this country so special." The students also learned about Highland hospitality with a ceilidh taking place at the end of the week.

The Scottish

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Text and photos by: Nick Draine

Rambling Scotland - *Lochnagar, Balmoral Estate*

Refresh and enliven your senses in Scotland, a country perfect for walking. Whether you want a gentle stroll in the countryside among the trees and rivers, a breezy coastal stroll along sandy beaches or a walk through the wild mountain and loch scenery, Scotland has all of this in abundance. Nick Draine will be taking readers on some of his favourite walks around the country and this month visit's Lochnagar on the Balmoral Estate. Rising spectacularly above the Royal Balmoral Estate, Lochnagar will not only have some rather famous visitors staying this month but is also easily the most impressive mountain in the North East of Scotland and must rank as one of the most beautiful in Britain.



Loch Muick with a boathouse used by royalty for 150 years.



Glas Allt.

The Royal Family have done a lot for tourism in Scotland. Not just because they go on holiday among the glens and mountains of Upper Deeside but because they actually seem to enjoy it. Queen Victoria bought the Balmoral Estate in 1848 and spent a lot of time there after the death of Prince Albert in 1861. Nowadays a silhouette of her head adorns many signposts indicating places she visited in the area, as well as other parts of the Highlands. In fact, her prodigious walking and horse riding went a long way to making the Scottish scenery a fashionable place to visit, as much as the writings of Sir Walter Scott a few decades earlier. The current queen's love of Balmoral is well known and locals view it as a place where they can be treated as normally as royalty can be, even visiting the shops of Braemar and Ballater without the presence of press officers and photographers.

Lochnagar-Cac Carn Beag

Tourists flock to the area and some have been known to slow down in their cars to try to catch a glimpse of the famous family. Most, however, are content to see where they live before turning their attentions to the scenery. Towering above Balmoral is Lochnagar-Cac Carn Beag, more commonly known simply as Lochnagar. (The name of the lochan found below the summit, at the bottom of soaring crags.) The mountain has attracted walkers and rock climbers for more than a century with perhaps its most famous fan being Prince Charles who once wrote a children's book – *The Old Man of Lochnagar* - set around it. He went on to read it on BBC's *Jackanory* in 1984. A walk up Lochnagar is a classic with stunning cliffs and extensive mountainous views, finishing with the tranquil Loch Muick - complete with its own royal boathouse. The drive to the car park gives you the first sense of being somewhere



The corrie of Lochnagar.



The summit.

special as a single track road threads its way from Ballater, getting ever higher as the farms and cottages disappear in the rear view mirror. The road end comes at the Spittal of Glenmuick car park and for some this is enough of an escape – the cliffs of Lochnagar can be glimpsed ahead and it is only a short stroll to the waters of Loch Muick. In the pine trees near the car park is a small but extremely good visitor centre detailing all the wildlife around the area. However, if you are loitering before setting off, midges can be a pest in the summer months so a good supply of Avon's Skin so Soft is a sensible idea (the Marines at the Naval base at Faslane swear by it).

Glen Muick

Once you have crossed the wide open Glen Muick, usually frequented by a herd of red

deer, the serious walking begins beyond some small cottages (sometimes used by royalty, sometimes by normal people who will become bemused if you stare too long).

The path cuts through the pine woods, the last shade for many miles if it is a hot sunny day – I once had to force some water on a young family who had not brought enough with them; when they had made it on to the high plateau were at risk of dehydration.

As you go along the heather clad slopes of Lochnagar's outlying hills look for ptarmigan, a bird with a croak like a chain smoking sailor which changes its plumage, from light to match the winter snows into dark for the summer months of the moorland. Higher up, the first view of the day reveals itself with the sight of Deeside far below.

Best amphitheatres of the natural world

You now turn towards a col between Meikle Pap and Cuidhe Crom; just before it there is a memorial to Bill Stuart, a climber who died in a fall from the rocks of Lochnagar in 1953. Beyond this you walk up to one of the best amphitheatres of the natural world, formed by the shattered cliffs of Lochnagar – if you were thinking of taking a breather, this is the place to do it, take a picture or two as well. A

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steep clamber over boulders then leads on to a magnificent mountain plateau (you can actually complete a circuit of five Munros on this high level expanse, ending in Broad Cairn, but that is a serious undertaking). Eventually the summit is reached and the view indicator on top of an impressive jumble of rocks shows an extensive panorama over the Angus Glens and round to Deeside, with the Cairngorms beyond. Further to the west lie the mountains around Glenshee and beyond them is Schiehallion. If you don't take a breather here the only reason can be that the cloud is too low to see this magnificent sight. The best return is along Glas Allt to the shores of Loch Muick. This leads you to the Falls of Glasallt, another impressive sight just when you think the walk is leaving drama behind and becoming more tranquil. Finally, you stroll the two miles along Loch Muick before returning to the start, probably a little weary but definitely with memories to last a good while, whether you saw a member of the Royal Family or not.

Walk factbox:

Distance: 12 miles.
Height climbed: 2,500ft.
Time: 6 to 8 hours.
Map: OS Landranger 44.
Start point: At the Spittal of Glenmuick car park, seven and a half miles from the River Dee to the south of Ballater.

Text and photos
by: Marieke McBean

GlenWyvis

Scotland's first community owned whisky distillery



Community ownership is becoming popular in Scotland. There are community owned islands (Eigg), castles (Breamar) and now the first community owned whisky distillery is about to become reality. GlenWyvis in Dingwall is in line to become Scotland's first distillery owned by the people - a project that is supported by many people, among them Alex Salmond himself.



Burns Night

If all goes according to plan, the distilling will start on 25 January 2017 - Burns Night. This is an appropriate date because of the link Robert Burns had with another local whisky. In this area whiskies have been distilled for hundreds of years. One of the most famous ones to come from here is Ferintosh, of which Robert Burns wrote passionately. Ferintosh was one of the oldest distilleries in Scotland. The Jacobites had ruined a distillery owned by Duncan Forbes of Culloden back in 1689. He supported William of Orange, something the Jacobites were not happy about. As compensation, the king gave Duncan the right to distil whisky for just 400 merks a year - a very low fee. As a result, Ferintosh became one of the most successful distilleries in Scotland. After around ninety years the distillery went bust, partly because the cheap permit was taken away.

The area became home to a new distillery in 1879. It was initially called BenWyvis, but later renamed as Ferintosh. They were not able to repeat the success of the previous Ferintosh, and neither were the few other distilleries that tried their hand at whisky making in the future years. The last distillery in the area closed in 1976. Now, forty years later, a new attempt is being made to start up a successful distillery, this time with the support of many locals. Of course it takes time to make whisky, but to start making some money already, GlenWyvis Gin is now on sale. This is made with ingredients from the area around Dingwall and although it is currently distilled on Shetland, the bottles make the name GlenWyvis known around the country. It's a promising start for an interesting new distillery.

More information can be found on www.glenwyvis.com.

It was at this point that Robert Burns wrote:
*Thee Ferintosh! O sadly lost!
Scotland lament frae coast to coast
Now colic grips an' barkin hoast
May kill us a':
For loyal Forbes' chartered boast
Is ta'en awa'!*



On a hill above Dingwall stands a farm with great prospects. For now, all that's visible is the traditional farm plus several banners advertising what is to come: GlenWyvis distillery. Whisky will be made, while gin is already in production. Starting this new distillery is the idea of farmer and helicopter pilot John F McKenzie. He enthuses: "We have a truly winning combination here of a stunning Scottish Highland location, immense historical appeal (...) and readily available hydro, solar and wind energy to bring this innovative whisky project to fruition."

Democratic distillery

So far no turrets are in sight yet, but a distillery office is based in a new building added to the farm. It's on top of a hill and you have views over Dingwall and the Cromarty Firth. "The view here is breathtaking," admits marketing manager Craig McRitchie. He is part of a team that tries to drum up support for the distillery. Everyone with a postal code that starts with IV (Inverness) can invest in the distillery for as little as £250. People from elsewhere in Scotland and abroad can start the investment at £750. No matter how much money someone invests, they still only get one vote each. This way, the management team hope to start up a very democratic distillery. "As soon as

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the distillery starts making a profit, we will invest money in local projects," Craig explains. "The investors can then vote as to where the money will be spent." The goal is to reach an initial investment of 1,5 million pounds. This should be enough to build the distillery and start making whisky. If more money is raised, the plan is to build a visitor centre in Dingwall, thus attracting more tourists to the area. At the time of writing £819,000.00 was raised. The initial closing date is July 2016, although investing will likely be possible after this date, too. The environment plays an important part in GlenWyvis. It promises to become the first completely CO2 neutral distillery in Scotland, with the help from solar, wind and waterpower. The company car is electric, literally "charged by the Scottish weather". Solar panels are visible in the fields, while a hydro system is installed in the river.

Clan Campbell Society of Australia (Qld) Inc. Bannockburn Dinner 2016



The 28th Annual Bannockburn Dinner Dance recently took place at the Riverside Function Room. The entertainment began with the pageantry of a Parade of Banners by Clans Campbell, Jardine, MacNeacail and The Aussie Scots. Very welcome guests were John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac along with his Lady Jenni and members of the MacNeacail Northern Branch. Ian Millard of The National Servicemen's Memorial Pipes and Drums gave a thought provoking talk on the Band's tour of the Outback giving free concerts to raise money for the drought victims. After the stirring music of the Pipes and Drums, the Thistle Highland Dancers charmed the diners with their skill and grace. The wee dancers were a great hit and the superb dancing

of Hamish McInnes and the more senior dancers was breath-taking. The Address to the Haggis was dramatically presented by Bill Campbell and a talk on the Battle of Bannockburn from an engineer's point of view as given by the guest speaker Keith Blackwood.

