

Vol. XV No. 5 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree Section A October 2021

'Most powerful' tidal turbine starts generating electricity off Orkney Island

A tidal-powered turbine, which its makers say is the most powerful in the world, has started to generate electricity via the grid in Orkney.

The Orbital O2 has the capacity to meet the annual electricity demand of 2,000 homes for the next 15 years.

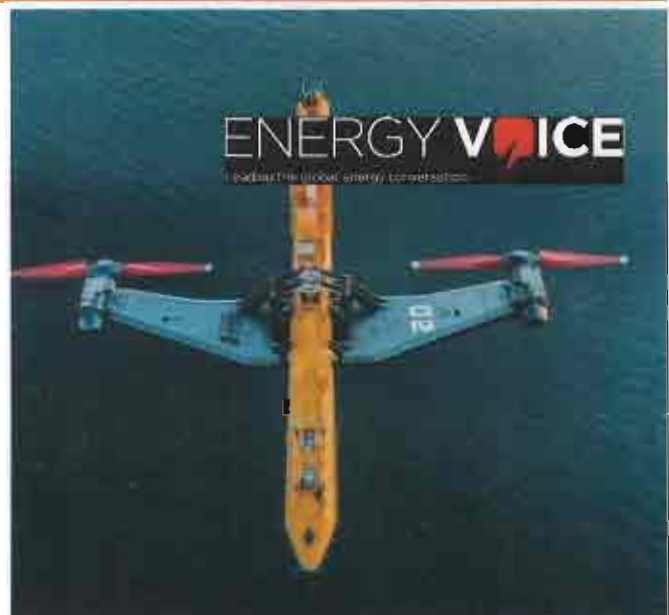
In May, it was sailed out of Dundee, where it was assembled over 18 months.

The 680-tonne turbine is now anchored in the Fall of Warness where a subsea cable connects the 2MW offshore unit to the local onshore electricity network.

Orbital Marine Power said its first commercial turbine, which will be powered by the fast-flowing waters, is a "major milestone".

It is also providing power to an onshore electrolyser to generate green hydrogen.

The turbine was lowered onto a barge on the River



Tay ahead of its journey to Orkney in May.

Orbital chief executive, Andrew Scott, praised his team and the supply chain for delivering the "pioneering renewable energy project" safely and successfully.

He added: "Our vision is that this project is the trigger to the harnessing of tidal stream resources around the world to play a role in tackling climate change whilst creating a new, low-carbon industrial sector."

Continued on page 17



monday, October 11, 2021





**Beth's Newfangled
FAMILY TREE**

AN ONLINE ALL ETHNICITY - SCOTLANDS PUBLICATION
THE HOMETOWN PUBLICATION FOR THE WORLDWIDE SCOTTISH COMMUNITY

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XOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOX

Browse amongst the archives,
read the current issue
and others as much as you wish!

Section B is "up" on the
Internet about the
15th of each month.

Section A is "up"
a day or so before the
first of the next month.



*"And while I stood there
I saw more than I can tell
and I understood more than I saw;
for I was seeing
in a sacred manner
the shapes of all things
in the spirit,
and the shape of all shapes
as they must live together
like one being."*

Black Elk

Native Americans Day 2021
Alastair, Beth and Tom

A "Thank You" letter from Beth & Tom

Just a few weeks ago we were cruising along just fine even though Tom was ordered to bed for a total of four months and told to be transported anywhere he needed to go in an ambulance - all because of a Stage 4 pressure ulcer.

This is not unusual for paraplegics.

We had done this five or six years ago and had come out on the other side with a healed rump.

Part of the routine was that Tom was taken to a wound care center every Thursday morning to have his wound vacuum dressing changed. It was changed again on Mondays at home by a Home Health Nurse.

The wound care doctor ordered him to the hospital for an X-ray to be sure there was no bone involvement. When he came home from that appointment, he also brought Covid-19 with him.

We had our vaccinations last January and had been so very careful for two years.

He got what he thought was a cold a few days after the X-ray appointment and I got a cold a few days after he did. We were not too concerned as we were vaccinated.

His cold got scary and he was sent to the hospital. He was diagnosed with Covid-19. Friends of ours brought me a self-test kit. I did have Covid-19, too.

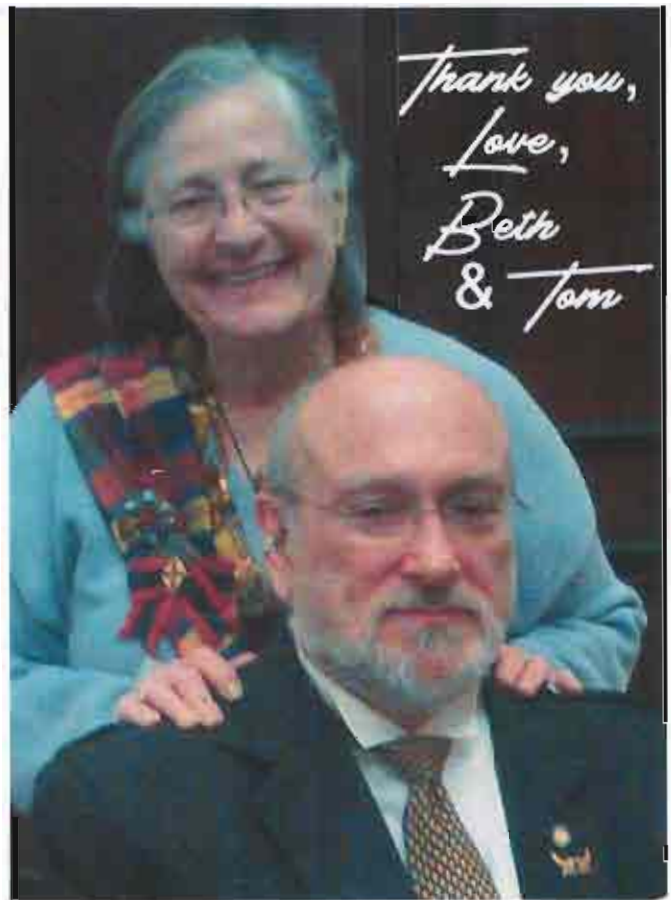
The doctor at that first hospital said that were it not for the vaccinations we both would be dead.

That doctor did not keep Tom in that hospital as he said there were too many Covid people there.

Tom was home for about a week and got sicker and sicker. I had to see after him all by myself. I really don't mind doing anything for him, but this was more than a team of medical folks could do. I was terrified the entire time. Finally, he was taken to another hospital that Friday night at almost midnight.

He had Covid-19, he had a little patch of pneumonia in the bottom of his lungs and his pressure ulcer. He also had a UTI and he had something I had never heard of at that point - Covid Brain Fog. The UTI also contributed to that.

I emailed friends as Tom and I neither one have any family. Word got around very quickly. Our friends



are our family in a very real sense.

My goodness, you all came to our rescue in an amazing way with your kindness, your generosity, your concern and care, and your very real love.

To be honest, then, I felt like I was the only person in outer space...as alone as anyone could be and so frightened. You have to realize, Tom and I have been together 24/7 for maybe 17 years. We laugh and enjoy each other every day and night and just love being with each other.

I tested "clear" last Monday. Who'd a thought that? Surprisingly, I was never sick at all. Your prayers made that so, I am convinced.

The phone calls, emails, cards, and messages I received kept me able to take the next step. I don't think I could have made it without your kind concern, care and love.

Tom came home 17 September minus the Covid and-with prescriptions and doctor's appointments and everything else under control now. He is back to himself, too.

Thank you, Lord. I was amazed to realize that Tom had prayers being said for him from all over the US and even all around the world.

Thank you! Thank you! Love, Tom & Beth

The Armstrong Clan Society

**Dedicated to the Armstrongs,
Crosiers, Fairbairns, Grosiers, Nixons
and those interested in those surnames.**

The Armstrong Clan Society was organized on October 8, 1981 and is incorporated in the State of Georgia, USA. The Society is recognized as a Section 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization and exempt from the United States Federal Income Taxes.

On September 24, 1984, the Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Scotland, granted warrant to the Lyon Clerk to matriculate in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in the name of the Armstrong Clan Society, Inc., the Coat of Arms to the right of this paragraph. Our motto "Semper Invictus" can be translated as "Always Unconquered."



Objectives of the Armstrong Clan Society

1. To seek friendship and unity among all Armstrongs, its septs and associated families. 2. To provide for the preservation of all armstrong artifacts unique to the family. 3. To serve as a genealogical and historical resource for the membership and the general public. 4. To provide news, Armstrong history, items of general interest and genealogy via our newsletter, *The Armstrong Chronicles*. 5. To establish worldwide geographic membership representation.

Membership

All Armstrongs, Croziers, Fairbairns, Grosiers and Nixons (regardless of the spelling and their descendants, are eligible for full membership in the Armstrong Clan Society. In the United States and Canada, dues are \$25 per year or \$45 for two years. All memberships include two adults and all minor children. In other countries, dues are \$35 per year. All dues are payable in US funds.



For membership application, email **Janet Armstrong** at <jdumeyer@hotmail.com> or download from <<http://www.armstrong.org/membership.htm>>. Note, "spouse" on the application includes: spouse, domestic partner or any other adult living at the same address.

To contact the Armstrong Clan Society president, **Chris Armstrong** at <chrisarmys@gmail.com>. Ceud Mile Failte (100,000 welcomes) to you!

11 weird *Guinness World Records* you didn't know were Scottish

Mya Bollan



The Guinness World Records 2022 book hit the shelves today with plenty of weird and wonderful accomplishments.

Published in 100 countries and in 23 languages, the epic book contains 53,000 records and has been documenting incredible achievements since the 1950s.

This year's newest records include the tallest teen, the longest dog ears and the most skips over a person's own hair in 30 seconds.

We all know that Scotland is pretty packed full of talent - however whacky and wonderful some of those may be.

From piercings to haggis, we Scots hold quite a few impressive records.

Here are 11 *Guinness World Records* that you may not have realised were Scottish...

1. Most expensive sheep



Pedigree Texel ram lamb Double Diamond, said to be the most expensive in the world

The pedigree Texel ram lamb sold for £367,500 at auction, in Lanark on 27 August last year.

Three breeders collaborated to win the auction, with a winning bid of 350,000 guineas. It is traditional for livestock to be sold in guineas at auction in the UK.

The starting price for the auction was just 10,000 guineas.

Who knew that sheep were so expensive?

2. Shortest street

Mackays Hotel in Wick sits on the world's shortest street.

Way up north in Wick, Caithness, you will find a tiny little street called Ebenezer Place.

Measuring just 2.05 m (6 ft 9 in) long, when checked on 28 October 2006 and has only one address- No.1 Bistro. There is simply no room for anything else.

Ebenezer Place is maintained by Highland Council as road authority. It first appeared in the Valuation Roll in 1886-1887.

3. Largest haggis

Cameron Hill from Kilmarnock addresses the world's biggest haggis.

It would be a tough one to take if this record didn't

Continued on page 11

Grandfather Mountain 2021 on the front porch!



Sandra and Steve Kelley on the front porch of the Queen Cottage (the rental) during some downtime at the 2021 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Sylvia Talley is the photographer. A good time was had by all.

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Clan Ramsay International

The clansman's handbook

It's a long haul project book... Lady Evelyne and myself have been spending years in building these 90+ pages books. Lady Evelyne had the idea at least 3 years ago to have a clansman's handbook.

It is a wonderful book that is going to give you lot of anecdotes about our clan's history. Did you know there are ties between our clan and the assassination of Henry the IVth, king of France ?

Do you know which Scottish clan is our hereditary enemy ?

Eddie Ramsay and Isabella Penttilä have heavily contributed in giving us some historical information about our clan in Great Britain and in Nordic countries.

Did you know one of our chiefs was Governor General of India ?

This wonderful book is prefaced by our current president Richard McGraw and also by the one who is at the beginning of our clan's rebirth : Carl Bailey.

With this book you are getting to know how our clan is working, where it is coming from, the French roots (oh yeah !) of a nobleman who came along with William the Conqueror...

These books are also explaining you how our clan is basically working (in Europe) and what are our favourite suppliers.

The blue book is written in French... The red one is written in English (well, we intended to...)

If you like collections, purchase them both !!! It is the very first editions with mistakes and typos !



**To purchase one or more of these books,
visit <lulu.com> Click on images.**

Ora et Labora

Laurent Jaunaux
Clan Convener for Europe



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Family Bibles and your own genealogy

Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS



Family Bibles are often the most valuable source of genealogical information. There are many reasons for this but the most important ones are the pages that list births, marriages, and deaths.

In most but not all cases, these records may be the only source for such information for family members who lived and died before vital records were kept in the state or locality.

Bible records also tend, emphasis on the tend, to be more accurate than records maintained by churches and tombstone inscriptions.

When researching information found in family Bibles, the first step is to begin evaluating the reliability of the family information recorded in it.

1. Note the publication date of the Bible. When recording data from a family Bible, always include the following pieces of information:

- a. Date and place of publication.
- b. Name of the publisher.
- c. Name of the printer if it is different from the publisher.
- d. Complete contact information for the current owner.
- e. Name and dates of birth/death for the original owner.

2. Note the dates of the earliest family events recorded. If a Bible published in 1900 indicates that a Great-great-great grandfather was born in 1823, this indicates that the information was recorded long after the actual event. This could influence the accuracy of the information.

a. Perhaps it was copied from another source. If you are lucky, that source may be indicated on the entry. It does not happen often but if the person entering the information was diligent, that is a bonus for you

b. The information maybe someone's best recol-

lection of the birth date.

c. The bottom line for research purposes is accuracy. The possibility of error is far greater in this situation than if the event had been recorded at the time it happened.

3. Look for other clues such as changes in handwriting, inks, writing instruments, and the style of recording information. Changes such as these often suggest that the information was not copied from another source and that the events were probably being recorded as they occurred.

4. Other important clues for evaluation of accuracy and consistency include the following:

a. Are the entries made in chronological order, or was a birth or death recorded out of the proper order? Are there missing people who should have been recorded?

b. Are christenings or baptisms recorded in a logical sequence to births?

c. Are the children of each set of parents recorded together or are multiple branches and generations of the family all mixed together? Sadly, if this is the case, it will make your research analysis much more difficult.

While family Bible records can be beneficial for research in many cases, they can also confuse as much as clarify.

If this is the case, the Bible can be used in the same manner as undocumented family traditions and stories. Proceed with proving its accuracy just as you would prove or disprove the stories you have heard from older members of your family. Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Bryan L. Mulcahy
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Scottish Guinness World Records, continued from page 5

belong to someone in Scotland.

Luckily enough, the world's largest haggis was made by Hall's of Scotland at Fenton Barns in North Berwick.

Weighing in at a gigantic 1,010 kg (159 stone!) the beast measured 2.8m (9 ft 2 in) in length 0.93m (3 ft) in width and 0.65m (2ft 1 in) in height.

Halls have held the record since back in June 2014.

The colossal creation was sold off in portions at the 2014 Royal Highland Show with proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Care and other charities.

That is going to take some beating!

4. Most appearances by a football nation at FIFA World Cup without qualifying for second round

Could our luck turn? (Image: Getty)

Football fans might not be too proud of this record.

Scotland have appeared at eight FIFA World Cup tournaments without ever qualifying for the second round: 1954, 1958, 1974, 1978, 1982, 1986, 1990 and 1998.

They were denied progress from the group stages on goal difference for three successive tournaments, from 1974–1982.

Will Steve Clarke's men have better luck than the squads of Scotland's past?

Fingers crossed the 2022 World Cup can get the national squad in the record book for something a bit more positive...

5. Most female piercings in a lifetime

Elaine Davidson, the most pierced woman according to the Guinness Book of Records (Image: PA)

Since first receiving a skin piercing in January 1997, Elaine Davidson has been pierced a total of 4,225 times.

The most pierced lady lives in Edinburgh - despite originally being from Brazil - and performs at festivals like the Edinburgh Fringe.

The former restaurant owner is constantly adding and replacing jewellery, mostly in her face.

She enhances her exotic looks with tattoos and brightly coloured make-up, and often wears feathers and streamers in her hair.



6. Most make up sponges caught blindfolded in 30 seconds

This one is pretty specific.

The most make-up sponges caught blindfolded in 30 seconds by a team of two is 10 and was achieved by none other than Scottish make-up guru and Youtube star Jamie Genevieve and her hubby Jack McCann.

The pair completed the record in Glasgow on May 4 2020.

They recorded their record during their show which aired on the BBC Scotland channel.

7. Highest-ranking penguin

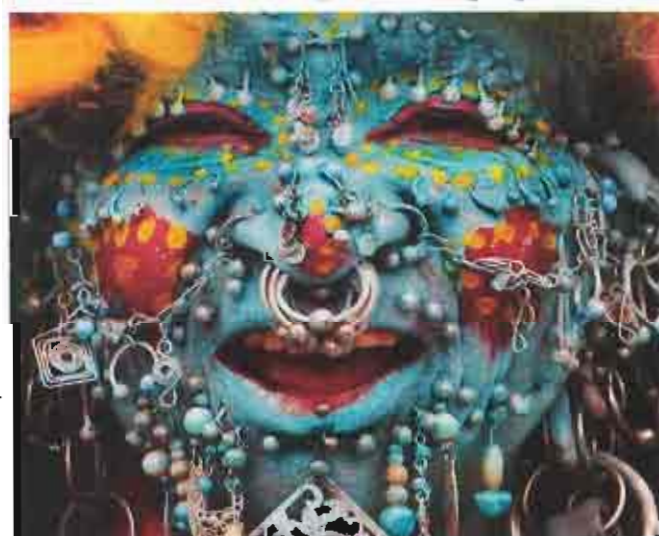
Edinburgh Zoo appears in the record books. The capital is home to the world's highest-ranking penguin.

Sir Nils Olav is a male king penguin who holds the rank of Brigadier of the Norwegian Royal Guards.

The animal was bestowed the rank on 22 August 2016 – a promotion from his previous rank of Colonel-in-Chief held since 2005.

In 2008, he was also granted a knighthood by King Harald V of Norway.

Sir Nils is a pretty important little penguin!



Continued on page 13



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Scottish Guinness World Records,

continued from page 11

8. Largest can-can dance

Some might assume that the world's largest can-can dance took place in France.

You would be mistaken. It in fact in took place in Glasgow back in 2009.

The largest can-can dance was achieved by 151 participants in Glasgow Green during an event organised by IRN BRU, UK, on 13 September 2009.

9. Most people juggling simultaneously

Fancy your hand at juggling?

Attendees of the European Juggling Convention held in Edinburgh on August 7, 1998 gathered together to set the record for juggling simultaneously.

For ten seconds, each of the 1,508 participants were juggling at least three objects. With some juggling more

10. Shortest domestic scheduled flight



The shortest domestic scheduled flight is 2.74 km (1.7 miles) between the gorgeous Scottish Orkney islands of Westray and Papa Westray.

The flight takes just two minutes (including taxiing). Pretty incredible stuff, and not even any traffic to worry about!

The flight is operated by Loganair which has been flown with Britten-Norman Islander eight-seat aircraft since September 1967.

11. Longest duration to spin a fidget spinner on the nose

But Cherry Yoshitake aka Mr Cherry, was totally up for the challenge. He managed to spin a fidget spinner on the edge of his nose for a massive eight minutes and 49 seconds.

Originally from Japan, Mr Cherry broke the record in Glasgow.

Edinburgh Tartan

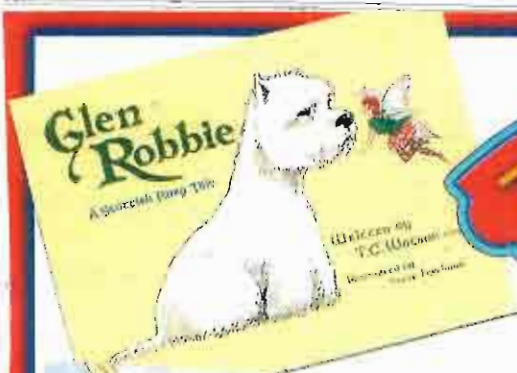
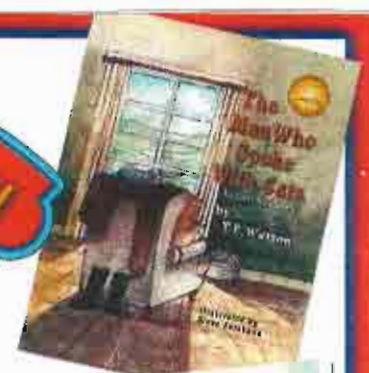
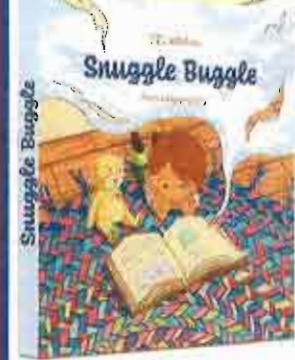
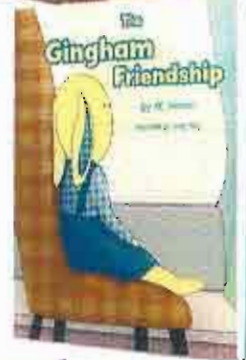
Designed in 1970 to commemorate the Commonwealth Games, the blue and white of the Saltire combines with the greens and reds taken from the colours of the hills and landscapes around Edinburgh.



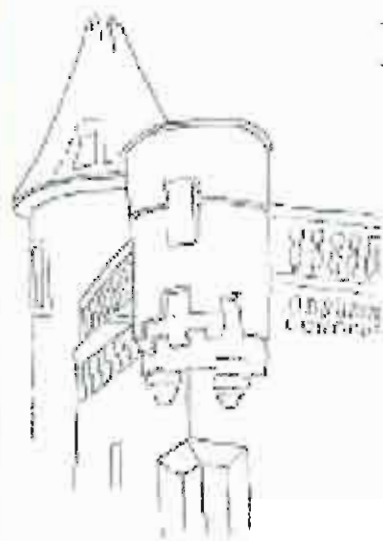
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From council house to royal palace: My life as the Queen's piper



Each morning at exactly nine o'clock, a little-known ritual takes place in grounds of where the Queen is in residence.

For 15 minutes, a lone piper in Highland uniform strikes up a selection of tunes below the monarch's window - a position called the Piper to the Sovereign.

Scottish veteran Pipe Major Scott Methven held the role for four years, a job often considered one of the most coveted in the piping world.

From humble beginnings growing up in Stirling, Scott joined the army and travelled the world. Upon returning from service in Afghanistan, he was chosen to be the Queen's personal piper from 2015 to 2019.

During his service, he was "thrust into the inner circle of the monarchy", playing at countless public and private occasions entertaining royalty, celebrities and visiting heads of state.

Video by Morgan Spence.

With thanks to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum.



If you would like to see the video about Pipe Major Scott Methven, just visit the URL below.

<<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-scotland-58476253>>

THE CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

'S Rioghal Mo Dhream!

Royal is my Race!

Fàilte! The Clan Gregor Society is a growing organisation with membership throughout the world. It's most active objectives are to extend the links of kinship and friendship between MacGregors, wherever they may be, and to provide a focal point for all members of the Clan and interested visitors who wish to learn more of our noble past.

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor

7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balquidder

24th Chief of Clan Gregor

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Join Clan Gregor today! www.clangregor.org

Tidal Turbine, *continued from page 1*

The turbine's superstructure floats on the surface of the water, with rotors attached to its legs which extract energy from the passing tidal flow.

It is held on station by a four-point mooring system with each mooring chain having the strength to lift over 50 double decker buses.

Electricity is transferred from the turbine via a dynamic cable to the seabed and then through a static cable to the local onshore electricity network.


The company is now aiming to commercialise its technology in a move it says will deliver a jobs boost to

coastal communities.

Mr Scott said: "We believe pioneering our vision in the UK can deliver on a broad spectrum of political initiatives across net zero, levelling up and building back better at the same time as demonstrating global leadership in the area of low-carbon innovation that is essential to creating a more sustainable future for the generations to come."

The construction of the O2 turbine was enabled by public lenders through the ethical investment plat-

Continued on page 19



When Franklin Roosevelt started a foundation to fight polio, Comedian Eddie Cantor came up with the "March of Dimes", asking people to mail a dime to the White House. They were soon overwhelmed with 2,680,000 dimes mailed to them, literally truckloads, mostly from children. These dimes went directly to research that resulted in the Polio vaccine. This is why Roosevelt is on the U.S. dime.

The Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center, Inc.

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www.scottishtartansmuseum.org

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form, Abundance Investment.

It also received £3.4m from the Scottish government's Saltire Tidal Energy Challenge Fund.

Energy Secretary Michael Matheson said: "With our abundant natural resources, expertise and ambition, Scotland is ideally-placed to harness the enormous global market for marine energy whilst helping deliver a net-zero economy.

"The deployment of Orbital Marine Power's O2, the world's most powerful tidal turbine, is a proud moment for Scotland and a significant milestone in our journey to net zero."



**The older you get
the more you realize how
precious life is. You have
no desire for drama, conflict
or stress. You just want good
friends, a cozy home, food
on the table, and people
who make you happy.**

The *Clan Macneil* Association of America

If you are a Macneil or any of the following "Sept Names" then you have found the clan you have been searching for.



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| * MacNeillie | * McNeilage | * Oneill | * Macgugan |
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| * Macneally | * Neale | * MacGuigan | |
| * Mcneil | * Neill | * Macguigan | |
| * McNeil | * Niel | * McGougan | |



Autumn in Scotland



While I was recently out on Dunnet Head, the most northerly part of the island of Great Britain, I visited a small, remote harbour, whose claim to fame is that the Queen and her family once docked here. In Britain, this is a big deal, and warrants a significant plaque.



From the harbour, there is a path that heads north over a significant hill, but once on the other side, you get a lovely view of the sea cliffs and also of a lovely beach known as Peedie Sands.



At first the sands seem unreachable from atop the cliffs. But I explored around a bit, and past the solitary grave maker and the remains of an old hunting lodge, I found a place to scramble down over the rocks, abloom with small white and yellow flowers, to find the lovely beach below, and several small waterfalls flowing off of the cliff.



Dr. Pete Hylton, Ed.D.

Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy
Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology
Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
Fulbright Scholar



Continued on page 23



Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

Founded 1965

Putting pride in your heritage to work for you
Become a member today

A Non-profit Organization providing student scholarships for highland dance and bagpiping and making charitable donations to the National Trust for Scotland and other non-profit organizations that promote Scottish tradition, history, crafts and culture here in the United States and Scotland

Email us: <shusa457@gmail.com>

Some of the funding Scottish Heritage USA has provided over the years:

• Culloden Visitor's Centre – media centre	\$300,000*
• The Scottish Gaelic Studies Lectureship at UNC Chapel for the academic years of 2017-20	\$185,000
• Renovation of Eisenhower Suite, Culzean castle	\$50,000*
• Scholarships for dance and piping students 2010-2019	\$50,000
• The National Trust for Scotland USA 2018-20 Corporate membership	\$35,000
• Interpretation Project at Glencoe	\$25,000*
• Renovation of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Hill House, Helensburgh	\$20,000*
• Highland Echoes "Scotland in the Class"	\$16,900
• Scottish Tartans Museum Franklin NC	\$7,700
• Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Cultural Village 2017-20	\$6,000

* National Trust for Scotland sites



Eisenhower Suite, Culzean Castle



The Hill House, Helensburgh

PLANNING A TRIP TO SCOTLAND ?

Before you go check out the deals you get from membership in Scottish Heritage USA

- Reciprocal membership to the National Trust for Scotland Foundation, USA
- **Free Admission** to all (over 70) National Trust for Scotland properties
- **The Highlander** magazine (six issues per year)
- **National Trust's** magazine (three issues per year)
- **Scottish Heritage USA Newsletter** (three issues per year)

Memberships range from \$25 to \$500 and are well worth the price! – JOIN ONLINE

Come visit us at Grandfather Mountain Games July 9 – 12 2020 *



On another sunny day, I hiked the path along the gorse-covered hills, along the north coast, past an abandoned mill to Saint Mary's Chapel, the oldest still-standing ecclesiastical building in the far north of Scotland. It features familiar stone steps to get over some of the walls.



As things in Scotland finally fully opened up from covid lockdown in July, I was able to travel to Scotland's foremost auto racing circuit for a variety of sports car racing.



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The Clan Skene

Association, Inc.



The Clan Skene Association, Inc., invites membership from SKENE and Septs Carison, Carney/Carnie, Curriehill, Dyas, Dyce, Dyer, Hall, Halyard/Hallyard, MacGaillard, Rennie & Skains



Al McGalliard,
president

PO Box 1404

Gray, GA 31032

<alsrx95@gmail.com>





On the way, I stopped at the village of Fowlis Wester, where a medieval church now stands and inside it is a protected Pictish stone, with a replica standing in its original location outside.



You are likely familiar with the traditional red phone boxes. With nearly everyone having a mobile phone nowadays, most of these no longer contain working telephones. But many have found other uses. This one in Fowlis Wester is the local book exchange.



I took a hike in Perthshire, through a moss covered forest.



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OH, CANADA!



<https://electriccanadian.com>





That led to two waterfalls, named the Devil's Cauldron and the smaller Wee Cauldron.



At the top of the large hill, overlooking the cauldrons, was a large monument to Henry Dundas, Viscount Melville, who died in 1811. This is one of many such monuments that I have come across in my years here. It almost seems that in the 19th century there was a regional competition to see who could build the largest giant stick into the sky in the most inconvenient spot, such that the workers had to carry the cut stones up the steepest slopes. Now, two centuries later, in many cases, they are lost among the trees and only visited by a few hikers like me.



As travel under covid has become more possible, I have hiked to a number of scenic locations, like the Fairy Lochs.



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**Are you an Arthur, Carter,
MacArthur, McArthur or similar
name? If so, you can become a member
of the Clan Arthur Association!**



Clan Arthur is worldwide with branches in UK, USA, Canada & Australia. Our leader is **Chief John MacArthur of that ilk.**

We welcome new members who are of "Arthur" decent or those interested in our clan who are prepared to be loyal to our Chief. Membership includes a quarterly magazine which is full of stories about the Clan around the world, articles on current events, ancestry & history. Members also receive ongoing newsletters & updates on local happenings within their community.

For information & how to join, see our website clanarthur.website/

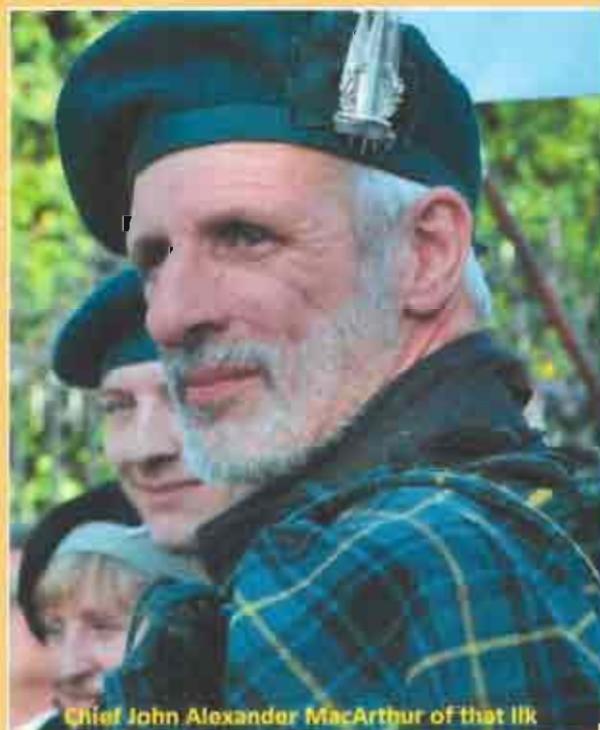
Contacts:

UK: Chief John & Lorraine MacArthur arthurofthatilk@btinternet.com

USA: Joann Helmich caausamembership@gmail.com

Canada: Lloyd K. McArthur mcartld@shaw.ca

Australia/NZ: Carol MacArthur Budlong carolmcarthur18@gmail.com



Chief John Alexander MacArthur of that ilk

And Rogie Falls



And Victoria Falls



Even travelling along the backroads of the far north can yield some awesome views.



Across Scotland there are a number of sites known as Cloutie Wells. These are natural springs, reputed to be inhabited by fairies. Folklore says that the fairies will bestow good luck on anyone who leaves them a piece of colorful cloth. In my recent travels I visited one of the Cloutie Wells. Naturally, I left a cloth. Scots know better than to mess with fairies. If they offer you good luck in exchange for cloth, then leave cloth.



The village of Brora here in the far north has a very active Heritage Center



Recently they performed a reenactment of traditional salt-panning, which is the process by which sea water is boiled to create sea salt.

Continued on page 31

Clan Home Society, International

The Clan Home Society,
International cordially invites
membership from all HOME
and HUME and allied families.

All Clans: The Clan Home Air Force invites members
from all clans. In fact, the first member from a clan
becomes their own Squadron Commander.

The Clan Home Air Force flies squadrons of Stealth
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JOIN NOW! T-Shirts with membership.

Write the president, below, for details.



Rodney Green,
president

317 Oak Ridge Drive
Moody, AL 35004
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<lawmmower391@gmail.com>





Brora was fortunate to have just the right combination of natural resources. The Brora River was a salmon run, and the fish were easily captured. But to transport any distance, they needed to be preserved. And the only available preservation method in the 1800s was salt. Brora sits on the North Sea. So, salt water was not a problem. And there happened to be a vein of coal near the surface. So, the villagers mined the coal, and carried it to fire the salt-pans.



Across 6 hours, the pan was repeatedly filled with sea water to the depth of about 4 inches and boiled down to 1 inch, then refilled with more sea water. This was done 4 times, to increase the density of salt in the water in the pan. After the final boil, the density of salt is such that crystals form and can be scooped out and harvested.



As Covid restrictions continued to open up across the summer in Scotland, we joined some friends for a Whisky Festival at Castle Menzies, near Aberfeldy, for both a taste of whisky and a taste of how the medieval residents lived, see following pictures of some of the bedrooms, and the garderobe (toilet).



Continued on page 33

Clan Davidson Society USA



Davidson Clansmen dominate the Parade of Tartans at the International Gathering of Clan Davidson sponsored by the Clan Davidson Society USA. The event was held June, 2011, in conjunction with the Kansas City Highland Games.

Is your name listed here? If so, then you may be interested in membership in the **Clan Davidson Society USA!**

Davey	Davisson	Dea	Dee	Dhai	Keay	MacDade	MacDavid
Davie	Davy	Dean	Desson	Dow	Keys	MacDagnie	MacDavitt
Davidson	Daw	Deane	Devette	Dye	Key	MacDagny	MacDhai
Davis	Dawson	Deas	Dewis	Dyson	Keys	MacDaid	MacKay
Davison	Day	Deason	Dey	Kay	MacAdie	MacDavett	McKeddie

The Clan Davidson Society USA is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit corporation recognized by the **US IRS** as a 501 c(3) Educational and Charitable organization. We are dedicated to the preservation of our rich Scottish and Clan Heritage. CDA-USA publishes an award-winning, electronic, full color newsmagazine of 40-60 pages twice a year, packed with informative articles and photos of interest both to Davidson Clansmen as well as anyone interested in the history and culture of Scotland.

The Society's On-Staff Genealogist is the Founder of the Davidson/Davison DNA Project and is available at no charge to assist the membership with their own genealogical excavations.

For more information, check out our website at [www.elandavidsonusa.com] or contact the Society's Membership Registrar at [sennachie@earthlink.net].

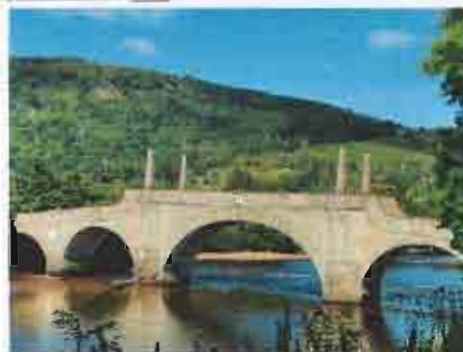




Wendy checks the time in the castle, to see if we are late for dinner.



Aberfeldy sits on the River Tay, and the main road crosses it on the Wade Bridge, built by General Wade in 1733 as part of the network of roads he constructed into the Highlands to facilitate the transport of English Troops in order to quell any future uprisings by the Scottish Jacobites who were seeking to put James Francis Edward Stuart, the son of deposed King James II back on the throne.



A striking monument to the Black Watch stands next to the bridge. The Black Watch has been recognized as one of Scotland's elite regiments from the time of the Jacobite Rebellions all the way to the recently ended war in Afghanistan.



To finish off the trip, the four of us hiked from the town up the valley of the Moness river, through the birch (birks in old Scots vernacular) forest. These woods and this river are where Scotland's bard, Robert Burns penned his poem "The Birks of Aberfeldy." These pictures follow our path from the village upwards through the gorge past all the waterfalls and cascades to the top.



Continued on page 35

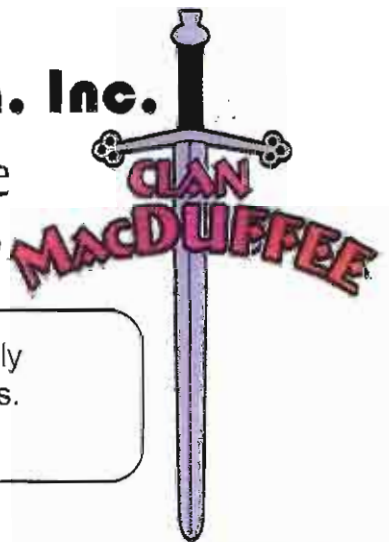
MacDuffee Clan Society of America. Inc.

of Clan Macfie



Ceud Mile Failte! 100,000 Welcomes!

Annual General Meeting held each year in July
at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.
You are always welcome to attend.



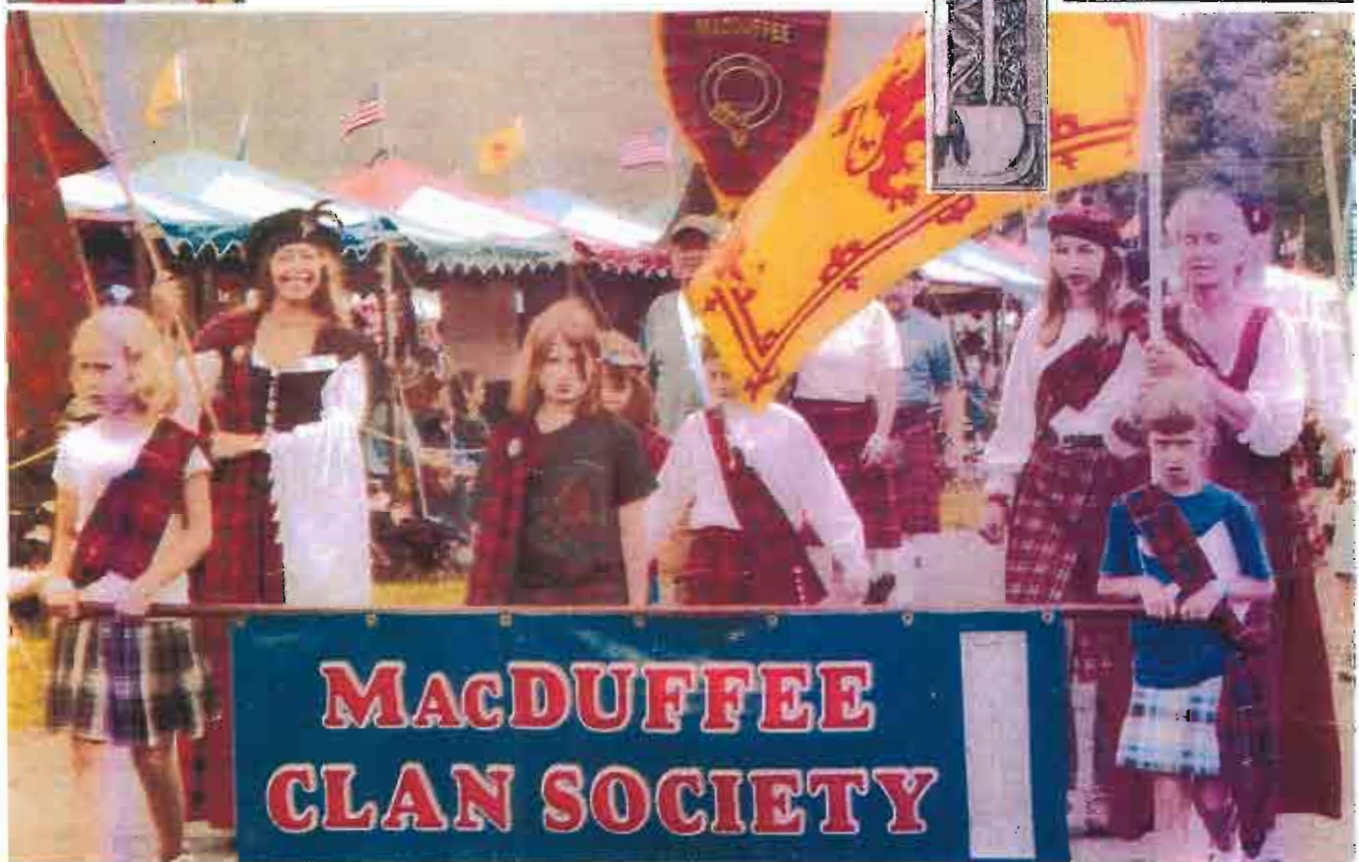
President: Thomas P. McDuffee
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Genealogist: Richard Ledyard
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rledyard@tds.net



MacDuffee
Clan Society
of America



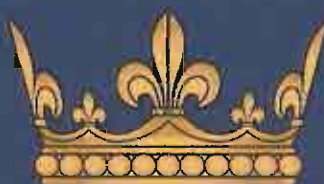
Bonie lassie, will ye go,
Will ye go, will ye go?
Bonie lassie, will ye go
To the birks of Aberfeldy?



Now Simmer blinks on flow'ry braes,
And o'er the crystal streamlets plays;
Come let us spend the lightsome days
In the birks of Aberfeldy.



Continued on page 37



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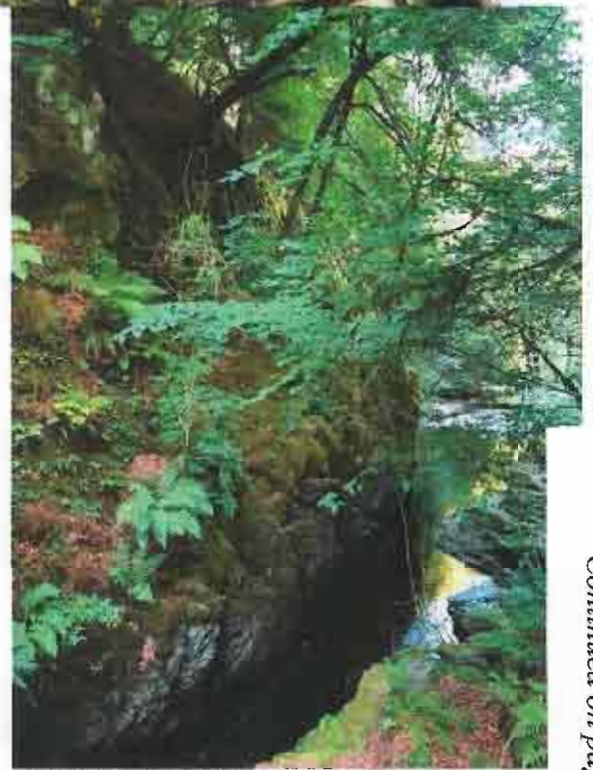
706-839-3881



The little birdies blythely sing,
While o'er their heads the hazels hing;
Or lightly flit on wanton wing
In the birks of Aberfeldy.



The braes ascend like lofty wa's,
The foaming stream deep-roaring fa's,
O'er hung wi' fragrant spreading shaws,
The birks of Aberfeldy.



The hoary cliffs are crown'd wi' flowers,
White o'er the linns the burnie pours,
And rising, weets wi' misty showers
The birks of Aberfeldy

Continued on page 38

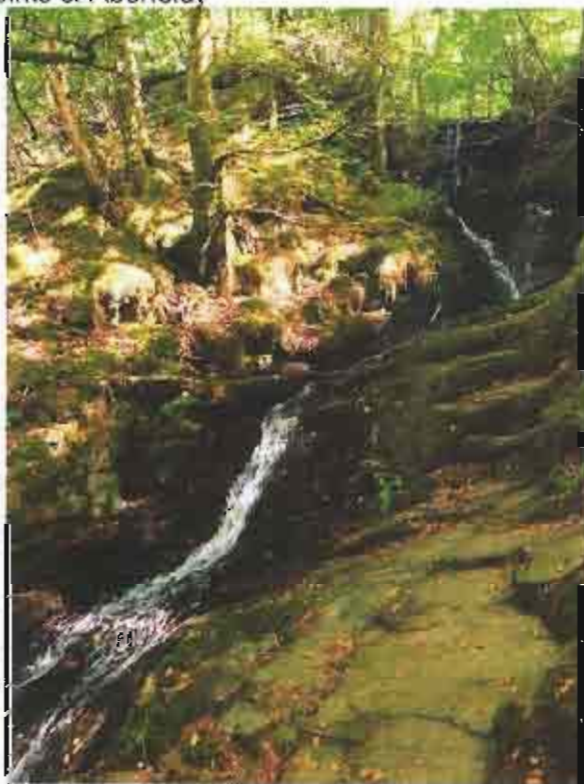


Let Fortune's gifts at random flee,
They ne'er shall draw a wish frae me;
Supremely blest wi' love and thee
In the birks of Aberfeldy



There are so many beautiful walks in Scotland, but I have to say that this one has instantly become one of our favorites. It reminds me of a quote I read recently from an old Scot, that sums up how one comes to feel about Scotland, particularly the Highlands:

"Tis an auld land. God took His time a makin her, and He done it proper"



Bonnie lassie, will ye go,
Will ye go, will ye go?
Bonnie lassie, will ye go
To the birks of Aberfeldy?

The end of this Pete Hylton newsletter