



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 45 Number 7 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS January 2022



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the Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

Celebrating the Stories of Scotland



by Sean Cairney

Scots have long been known for telling a good story. Storytelling is one of Scotland's oldest and most ancient artforms, telling a story was a way of handing down history, education, culture and of course entertainment. Scotland's story has been woven by hundreds of years of stories, myths, legends and tales which became such an important part of human communication. The tradition of oral history has evolved for many hundreds of years in Scotland, from the Highlands to the lowlands and islands, each with its own unique story and tradition and left as a gift to us today from our ancestors.

Scotland's story heritage

If we go back in Scotland's history, storytellers were often affiliated with the 'elite classes' of society and advisors to rulers and even clan chiefs. Scottish clan chiefs would have a Shennachie (stemming from the Irish word senchaie for historian or storyteller), these individuals would assist the chief with clan history, genealogy and tradition and were an important part of keeping the clan story alive.

In Scotland different rulers would destroy anything from the previous ruling elite. Literature and historical material was burned and replaced

with items by the new rulers nearly wiping out the previous history, but thankfully, some literature was kept and hidden by storytellers. Storytellers became very important individuals, as they told the history of their people and kept their story alive and passed on.

In more recent times Scotland's stories have seen a renewed interest. Today in Edinburgh for example you will find the world's first purpose built modern centre for live storytelling. I have visited The Scottish Storytelling Centre on the Royal Mile a couple of times and been impressed with how this venue celebrates and promotes Scotland's story heritage year-round for people of all walks of life, ages and backgrounds.

In this issue

Tristan Cameron Harper loves everything about Scotland, especially the incredible outdoors. Tristan's passion for Scotland's natural beauty has literally seen him climb to some amazing heights and also he has had some great opportunities in life such as being a professional hockey player, becoming Mr Scotland and quite a bit of TV and social media work. However, it is his love of Scotland that he now loves to share with others that seems to be his favourite place to be.

If you have spent any time in Scotland during winter, you will well know how the days can be short and darkness takes over quite early. Taking in some of Scotland's historic sites under the cover of darkness can really be a new experience and allows visitors to see them in a whole new way. Sometimes historic landscapes can tell a different story in the dark and this month we look at this notion and realise night vision is something to behold.

The thistle is one of Scotland's most recognisable symbols, as you may expect considering it is also the national flower of Scotland. While some may not realise there are several varieties of thistles and they have been used on Scottish money, in heraldry and in poetry and song just to name a few. For a small resilient flower, it has played a big part in the Scottish story and become a national icon.

Scotland's Year of Stories 2022

As we look to start a new year January also happens to be the start of Scotland's Year of Stories 2022, a whole year of events that tells the tales of the nation. Book festivals, musical journeys, favourite cartoon characters and fresh takes on our culture and heritage, will form part of a dazzling programme of events to celebrate Scotland's Year of Stories 2022 in recognition of the wealth of stories inspired by, written, or created in Scotland. Every nation has its stories to tell, and Scotland has a particularly rich heritage of stories and storytelling to showcase and celebrate.

Of course, many this month will be finding ways to celebrate one of Scotland's most popular storytellers. Robert Burns poems, stories and songs will be celebrated across the world this month. Burns Night is a hugely important part of Scottish culture, celebrating the bard and his spirit of kindness, appreciation for the natural world and togetherness, especially during these difficult times.

Perhaps the pandemic has shown us that storytelling and celebrating Scotland's rich oral history tradition has never been more important and *that* certainly is a story to be proud of. 🍷

Do you have a favourite Scottish story, legend or tale?

Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition?

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

Covid-19 is having a major impact on many of our regular advertisers, with events being cancelled and businesses suffering. The Scottish Banner is more reliant than ever on our readers helping us to provide you with our unique content by buying a copy of our publication, regardless of if by print or digital subscription or at a retail outlet.

We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



Scotland's Year of Stories 2022. Photo: VisitScotland/Chris Watt.



Gracing our front cover: Proud Scot, photographer and mountain guide Tristan Cameron Harper.



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SCOT POURRI

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

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

Susan Boyle *Living the Dream*

What a great surprise to get my December issue of *the Scottish Banner* and see the one and only Susan Boyle on the cover! I am a huge fan of Susan's and had wondered what she was up to. To see her looking and sounding so well is fantastic. Susan's voice is one of those ones you cannot forget about. I have several of her albums and she certainly does Scotland proud. *The Banner* just seems to get better and better-thank you.

Maureen Sutherland
Chicago, IL
USA

Thank you for such a nice article. I so love and admire Susan's guts and grit that catapulted her into the orbit that lets all of us hear her incredible voice that she has so very humbly shared with the world! The fact that she can step out of that world and back into her home on YT speaks to us all!!! We, her fans, are anxiously awaiting for her to begin to tour and perform again. Covid has stopped us all in our tracks but here's hoping that changes going into the new year!!!

My best,
Jacki Nedry



I LOVE hearing Susan sing – and this write-up was lovely. I'm so happy for her and her love for sharing this amazing talent with the world! I am Scottish too – and am very proud of my heritage. I absolutely loved the two trips that I've taken to Scotland, and the friendly Scottish people, who told me amazing stories about a wonderful Scottish hero, who's name I am proud to have inherited through my Father's line. Thank you again,
Dianne

Thanks Neil for this great article (*Living the Dream, the Scottish Banner*, December, 2021). As for the 'exciting things', as Susan always says — watch this space!!!
Laura Jerabek

I grew up with the Banner

Thanks so much for printing Heather Patterson's letter and poem *A Tribute* as it brought a tear to my eye. I recently lost my father and to hear Heather was using her mother's voice as a guide to understand the poem was very touching. My parents came from the Glasgow area to Canada back in the 1970's, when so many did the same thing. I am sure my father would have been one of your very first subscribers and to have *the Banner* kicking around the house was part of childhood, and quite simply put I grew up with *the Banner*. My father passed away two years and I am now the subscriber as in an odd way it keeps me connected to him. I have read countless articles and also use his voice as my guide and while that was a bit sad at first now there is a sense of pride and tradition. I love *the Scottish Banner* and all the great features included throughout the year and the Scottish community is lucky to have it.

Wishing all the staff and fellow readers and very happy and safe 2022.

Fiona Gallagher
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Thanks Fiona for your note and we are so honoured to be part of your family's Scottish connection.

Kilted Culture for Year of Stories #YS2022

As you are likely aware, VisitScotland has deemed 2022 as the Year of Stories. We can't think of a more fitting theme for family historians.

Christine Woodcock (Canada) and Clare Wilson (Scotland) have partnered together to bring you a full year of events. Clare runs a Facebook group called Kilted Ancestors. Kilted Ancestors "is a place where anyone with Scottish Ancestry can share everything from Photographs, Stories, details of Artefacts, Letters & Information on where your Ancestors came from or anything else relating to your Scottish Roots. Social History is a big part of Genealogy. It is what brings our Ancestors to life. It is important to keep these stories alive!"

We feel that this group is the best place for us to focus on the theme for the year. We have four major themes for 2022 and we will be breaking these down to monthly prompts associated with the themes. The four themes are:

1. Immigration/Emigration
2. Police and Crime
3. Industry
4. Brands

Each month, Christine and Clare will be popping on with a Facebook Live event to motivate, encourage and share. All of these are free. We will be giving ideas, inviting guests, talking about some of the stories members of the page have shared and answering questions you may have as you work to build the stories of your ancestors.

Please consider joining the group and take part in some of the fun activities we have planned. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/569876660361269>

In addition to the Facebook group, Christine and Clare have planned four conference style events, each based on the four themes above. Each of these events will have guest speakers who will talk about the theme for that quarter. We will share more about these as we get closer, and the speakers have all been confirmed.

We have confirmed the dates and themes, however, so please save them in your diary!

- March 19th - Immigration/Emigration
- June 18 - Police and Crime
- Sept 10 - Industry
- Dec 10 - Brands (think whisky, biscuits and all things Scottish)

The days will start at 2 pm and run for about 3 hours. There will be a nominal fee to cover the cost of the speaker fees.

We look forward to sharing the details as they are confirmed! In the meantime, we would be grateful if you could share this information with your members and ask those who are interested in taking part to join the Kilted Ancestor's Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KiltedAncestors>, or email me for answers to any questions that they may have.

Christine Woodcock
Ontario, Canada
Email: genealogytoursofscotland@gmail.com

On a Mission



The River Tay. Photo: VisitScotland.

I would like to submit my poem for inclusion in your *Scot Pourri* page. The River Tay wends its way through beautiful Perthshire. It passes Kinnoull Hill and tower on its journey to Dundee.

On a Mission

Slowly and surely it wends its way this river so proud is a great place to play, an angler's delight with spoils to gain as from this sport you just cannot refrain.

Eyes on the hill look on with delight it knows not to give the heart outright, for once this is done life is never the same if you succumb then yourself to blame.

A valley to envy with riches galore round every bend makes you only want more, with the sun shining down on Perthshire so green the river wends through a rapturous scene.

Go walk in the sun, there are pleasures to find the river and valley are both intertwined, give your heart to the river you will not regret for this is a place that is hard to forget.

Lorraine Gilmour
Lorraine's poems

Ed note: Thank you Lorraine for sending this lovely poem to us.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Wee beastie



Mik Coia

Vital Spark



The Vital Spark at Inveraray, but no sign of Para Handy.
Neil Lea

Stirling



Stirling Castle & The National Wallace Monument.
The Kilted Photographer
Scotland

Iona



Idyllic Iona, Inner Hebrides.
Debbie Neilson

The first Burns Supper



Burns Cottage.

birth, but they got the date wrong and met up on 29 January. It wasn't until 1803 that they met on his actual birthday, 25 January, now the date on which we remember him.

The Bard's life

Today you can visit Robert Burns Birthplace Museum to see the cottage where the first Burns Supper was held, then get an insight into the Bard's life with the letters and manuscripts on display in the museum. You can also see prized personal objects such as his writing set. "We have old menus of Burns Suppers in our collection, and in the early years they ate things like boiled sheep's head, food that was common at the time", says Caroline. After the first event in Alloway, the Greenock Ayrshire Society started the tradition of the annual Burns Supper. By 1815, Sir Walter Scott had organised a Burns Supper in Edinburgh, but this was a much grander, literary affair than the celebrations in the west of Scotland. Now, more than 200 years on, we still get together to share the work of the Bard. The haggis is piped in, there are moving recitals of his songs and poems, finishing with a wee dram and a rousing rendition of *Auld Lang Syne*.

Text courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland. For more information on the Trust or to help them protect Scotland's heritage see: www.nts.org.uk

Five years after he died at the age of 37, nine of Robert Burns' close friends got together to remember him. It was 21 July 1801, the anniversary of the poet's death. Led by the Reverend Hamilton Paul, they met at Burns Cottage in Alloway to raise a glass to the memory of their friend and quote some of his work. They didn't know it at the time, but this was the first Burns supper. Haggis and sheep's head were on the menu, while they recited *Address to a Haggis* and sang some of the great man's songs.

Caroline Smith, Operations Manager at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, said: "The toast to Burns' life is where the *Immortal Memory* comes from in today's Burns Suppers. It was a recollection of his life and some of the things he did. They also recited some of Burns' liveliest works – as we still do today." The friends planned another get-together, this time on the anniversary of Burns'

Did you know? Burns Cottage



Burns Cottage interior.

- This cosy three-room cottage is where Burns was born and lived until the age of seven. Take a look at the tiny box bed that young Robert shared with three of his siblings.
- Burns and his family lived side by side with their farm animals. In the kitchen, they ate their meals together, read by the crackling fireside and received their earliest schooling. The kitchen area is brought to life with a spooky rendition of *Tam o' Shanter*, re-creating the atmosphere of the house where Burns's imagination was first fired.
- Throughout, the walls of the cottage are daubed with fragments of Burns' verse and a braw selection of Scots words, such as 'hawkie' and 'crambo-jingle.' Outside is the small cottage garden where Robert tended the crops alongside his father and brother Gilbert.
- The cottage was a privately rented residence and then an alehouse for most of the 19th century, before being restored to its former glory by the Burns Monument Trust in 1881.

Protecting Scotland's beaver population



The Scottish Government will actively support the expansion of the beaver population, promoting translocation, which involves safely trapping and moving beavers to a more suitable area. This will reduce or avoid negative impacts and help establish beaver presence in areas of Scotland outside their current range, beyond where natural expansion would be expected to reach in the short term. Biodiversity Minister Lorna Slater visited Loch of Lowes Wildlife Reserve at Dunkeld, managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, where beaver activity can be seen. Ms Slater said: "Beavers were driven to extinction in Scotland but have now become an established part of our environment in some areas following their reintroduction, and today's announcement will help them to continue to expand across the country. Restoring this lost species is important in its own right, but beavers will also contribute to restoring Scotland's natural environment as they create wetland habitats that support a range of species, and their dams can also help filter sediment from watercourses and mitigate flooding.



Trotternish. Photo: VisitScotland.

Ken your country

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

- 1) Name the extinct volcano overlooking Edinburgh?
- 2) Which tree is also known as the mountain ash?
- 3) Where is the mountain Goatfell?
- 4) Name the river that flows past Balmoral Castle?
- 5) Ben Cleuch is the highest point of which Scottish range of hills?
- 6) Where is the area known as Trotternish?
- 7) Which Scottish loch is the site of the Royal Navy's Clyde Submarine Base?

- 8) Earl's Seat is the highest point in which range of hills?
- 9) What are the Fairlie Roads?
- 10) Where are the Falls of Dochart?

Answers:

- 1) Arthur's Seat.
- 2) The Rowan.
- 3) Isle of Arran.
- 4) The River Dee.
- 5) The Ochils.
- 6) On the Isle of Skye.
- 7) Gare Loch.
- 8) The Campsie Fells.
- 9) A sea passage south of Largs, Ayrshire.
- 10) Killin, Perthshire.

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SCOTSPEAK

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

“Musically, Doric has been associated with Bothy Ballads and humorous songs, but little, if anything, has been produced for the concert hall using the language. There has been a good revival of poetry and prose written in Doric, but new composition has lagged behind. Many Doric speakers of a certain age will remember that when they started school they were expected to speak ‘proper English’ and speaking Doric in the classroom was liable to result in punishment. Doric was regarded as ‘sloppy English’ or even slang. Happily, this attitude has changed, and the use of Doric is now being more actively promoted and I hope to enhance this further through my music. Far from being “bad English”, Doric is a distinctive dialect of the Scots language, with many cognate words with languages found around the North Sea, and some specialist vocabulary due to Aberdeen having been a major centre of trade with continental Europe at least as far back as the fifteenth century. One of the best ways to give a language status is to write it down and Doric survives in poetry and other literature from at least the nineteenth century to the present day. I hope I can make own contribution to this important tradition, taking Doric into the concert hall.”

Former Banffshire music teacher Robert Milne said he is aiming to show that Doric deserves to be showcased in the concert hall, as well as valued in Scotland’s homes and communities. The University of Aberdeen student now plans to present a Doric concert for his PhD studies.



“Our field study identified former professional footballers as a population at high risk of dementia and related conditions.

The next challenge, which we hope to begin to address as part of this new arm of the PREVENT study, is to understand why this is the case and whether we might be able detect changes in brain health that would allow us to better target potential treatments to reduce their risk.”

Professor Willie Stewart, Honorary Professor at the University of Glasgow and co-investigator in the PREVENT study said as former professional footballers from across Scotland are set to join a study that aims to shed light on the links between dementia and the sport. In recent years, a number of former professional footballers have been diagnosed with dementia – a term that covers a range of disorders caused by abnormal brain changes. Funded by PFA Scotland – an independent union for footballers – the new study from the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow is open to former players between the ages of 40 and 59. The number of people with dementia in the UK is set to rise to one million by 2025.

“Our city motto is ‘Let Glasgow Flourish’. As COP26 hosts, we have a unique opportunity to do just that, to place our citizens front and centre of the transition to Net Zero and deliver a more prosperous, healthier and greener city. Becoming a Thriving City adds real purpose and momentum to these ambitions, helping ensure Glasgow’s existing policies and actions to improve the lives and well-being of Glaswegians are delivered within planetary boundaries. As we continue to address our long-term social challenges and the cycles which perpetuate them, overshooting those boundaries will be the detriment of our progress elsewhere. This transition to Net Zero will require will big changes. Glasgow’s last big transition following the demise of our heavy industries was neither fair nor just. This time we’ll get it right. And the real practical knowledge, experience and expertise becoming a Thriving City brings to our city partnerships delivering climate and social justice will be invaluable in the decade ahead. We look forward to working together.”

Leader of Glasgow City Council Cllr Susan Aitken said as Glasgow marks a new milestone as it formally launches its ambition to become a thriving city - a key legacy of its hosting of the COP26 Climate Conference. The plan is to co-create a thriving vision and plan with local communities and businesses, arts and culture, sports and academic institutions, to develop a city that allows everyone an opportunity to thrive without harming others or the planet.



“After an absence of two years, there’s excitement and anticipation about the European Pipe Band Championships – bands are desperate to get back competing. We are optimistic that pipe bands will embrace the return of major competitions, and that Piping Inverness will attract a similar crowd to 2019. That was one of the best competitions we’ve ever hosted, so we can’t wait to return to Inverness!”

Kevin Reilly, Chairman of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, said as pipe bands prepare for a busy season of competitions in 2022, organisers of Piping Inverness, which incorporates the European Pipe Band Championships, are set to welcome a strong turnout in 2022. In its inaugural year, Piping Inverness was hailed as an outstanding success, with organisers having attracted over 17,500 visitors and 100 pipe bands from around the world, including Australia and America. The 2022 Championship is set to mirror the same attendance.

“The work of Mesolithic Deeside reveals an extensive archaeological record that comprises multiple traces of diverse activity throughout this landscape.

This record is not and can never be complete, but in comparison with many other areas it is abundant. The prehistoric population of Mesolithic Deeside was not scattered, nor isolated. This part of the country was well able to support a thriving population over long periods of time. In this way, the excitement of unearthing the ancient past has come to many. The project has undoubted academic and archaeological benefits, but it has also resulted in much wider impact and this will, it is hoped, continue into the future.”

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Ms Wickham-Jones said as archaeologists discovered prehistoric stone tool fragments used 14,000 years ago in Aberdeenshire. The ancient pieces were made from bone and antlers and used by hunter gatherers.



“This is the first purpose-built concert venue in Edinburgh in more than 100 years and I know so many people in the city are looking forward to enjoying a first-class cultural experience with an expanding number of amazing venues. The new concert hall is the cultural flagship of our City Region Deal and being in a central location with fantastic public transport connections, it will complement the wider transformation of the east end of the city centre alongside the newly opened Edinburgh St James Quarter helping to keep our city centre a vibrant and thriving destination.”

Edinburgh Council leader Adam McVey welcomed the approval of the plans for the 1,000 capacity Dunard Centre. One of the boldest ventures in the city’s contemporary story, the hall is ingeniously inserted just behind Dundas House off St Andrew Square.

SCOTWORD

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

CLUES ACROSS

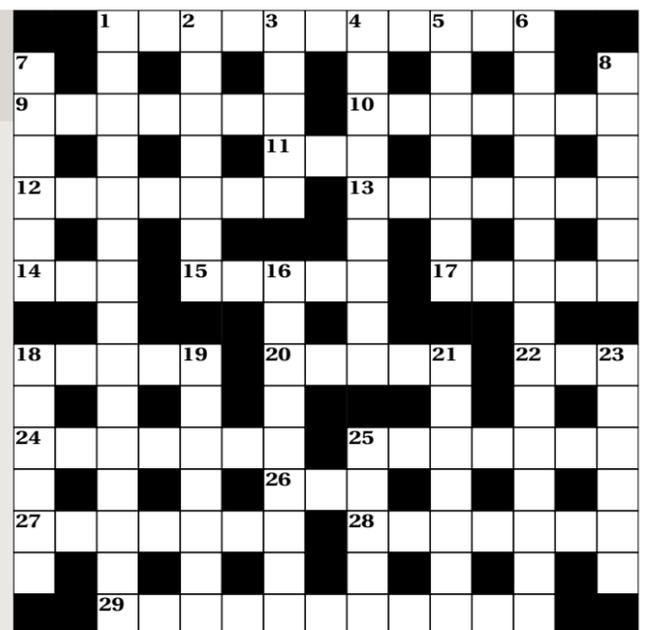
- 1 Scotland’s Playground (7,4)
- 9 Village 3 miles south of Lochmaben (7)
- 10 Old Scots wall linings (7)
- 11 The gift of speech! (3)
- 12 Italians by Scots (7)
- 13 Run of the mill (7)
- 14 Provider of warmth (3)
- 15 But never last! (5)
- 17 Old hands! (5)
- 18 Referee (5)
- 20 Regimental alternative to kilts (5)

22 Play 1 Across and get one (3)

- 24 Prettier in Scotland (7)
- 25 Erica.s flower (7)
- 26 North-east flower! (3)
- 27 Scotland’s emblem (7)
- 28 Red cents! (7)
- 29 Valley running west to Loch Fyne (4, 7.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Colourful games attraction (8,7)
- 2 A Village 3 miles south of Crieff (7)
- 3 The last of the drink (5)
- 4 Village 1 mile south of Dalkeith (9)
- 5 Deer tops! (7)
- 6 Low range east of Dumbarton (10, 5.)
- 7 Wishaw location sounds like gunfire (6)
- 8 We islands (6)
- 16 The ship’s back (9)
- 18 Highland Dress accessories (6)
- 19 Old correspondence (7)
- 21 Marine winger (7)
- 23 Religious district (6)
- 25 Long-legged kin of 21 Down (5)





44th CENTRAL FLORIDA SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES

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Scotland is Calling for 2022

Misty green landscapes and towering peaks, ancient city streets and tales of the past, freshly opened casks and the scent of seasonal dishes... they are all calling. Calling explorers, thrill-seekers, beach-goers, city-breakers, solo travellers, families, and everyone in between – no matter the season Scotland is the place to enjoy world-class food and drink, events, films, history and culture.

Inspired by the sense of 'fernweh', that ache to see far flung places beyond the doorstep, visitors from all over the world are invited to experience the magic of Scotland. Whether meeting new people, sharing new experiences, reconnecting with nature, or just breathing in the fresh air, memories to last a lifetime are waiting to be made in Scotland.

Having worked tirelessly over the past 18 months to adapt to and embrace the new normal, Scottish businesses are open once more and are ready to welcome visitors. Health and safety protocols and guidelines remain in place, and while travel continues to look a little different, visitors can enjoy a safe return to Scotland. Visitors should look out for the Good to Go logo which indicates the businesses that are adhering to government and public health guidance in order to operate safely.

The pandemic has also been a force for positive change, as tourism continues to develop in a responsible way. Visitors are encouraged to respect communities and the environment when exploring Scotland, and to slow down and take time to savour moments along the way – the journey, the destination and the people.

What's happening in 2022

Year of Stories 2022

1 January 2022 - 31 December 2022, Nationwide



Scotland's Themed Year will shine a spotlight on a wide-ranging and far-reaching programme of events and festivals throughout 2022. Visitors to Scotland will be able to experience a diversity of voices, take part in events and explore the places, people and cultures connected to all forms of Scotland's stories, past and present. 2022 will be a year to celebrate stories inspired by, created, or written in Scotland.

These include our local tales, oral traditions, iconic books, and tales told on the big screen – all inspired by Scotland and its culture and reflected back by many diverse voices and across the widest range of forms. Visitors can follow in the footsteps of Sir Walter Scott, explore the lands that inspired *Outlander* and find a great read in Wigtown Booktown. Scotland's Year of Stories will begin on 1 January 2022 and run until 31 December 2022.

The Burrell Collection

March 2022, Glasgow

Following a multimillion-pound refurbishment, The Burrell Collection is set to reopen in March 2022 set against the beautiful backdrop of Glasgow's largest green space, Pollok Country Park. The refurbished building, with new gallery spaces, displays and facilities will be an exemplar of sustainable low carbon design. One of the largest personal collections to be amassed, The Burrell Collection displays objects from Europe and Asia representing five millennia of art and history. The collection contains work from the late medieval and early Renaissance, Chinese art, Islamic art and more. On reopening, the museum's gallery space will have increased by 35%, allowing important and unique objects from the Collection, which have not been seen for decades, or have never been on permanent display, to go on show. New displays will give visitors a better understanding of the artworks, the people who made them and some of the people who have owned them. Highlights include Chinese pottery and porcelain produced over a 5,000-year period, making it one of the most significant collections of Chinese Art in Europe; paintings by renowned French artists including Manet, Cézanne and Degas; Medieval treasures including stained glass, arms and armour and over 200 tapestries and carpets, which are among the finest in the world.

The Famous Blacksmiths Visitor Attraction

April 2022, Gretna Green

Famous for runaway weddings since 1754, Gretna Green is a magical place to get married in and to visit. The Famous Blacksmiths Shop will unveil their newly developed Gretna Green Experience in April 2022. Visitors can immerse themselves in the new storytelling experience to learn about the thrill of the chase, meet the Anvil Priests and be a part of the long history of enduring love that is woven into the site.

Jack Vettriano: The Early Years Exhibition

17 June-23 October 2022, Kirkcaldy, Fife

Taking place at Kirkcaldy Galleries, this exhibition will feature early painting by Scottish artist Jack Vettriano. On display will be nearly a dozen paintings produced before he decided to become a full-time artist, signed Jack Hoggan, his birth name. In recognition of the process of development and evolution from the self-taught artist to one of the world's most

sought-after living painters, Vettriano has chosen to return to Fife where he was born and spent his formative years.

World's first UNESCO trail

Launched in October 2021, Scotland is home to the world's first ever UNESCO trail which brings together some of the country's most iconic, diverse and culturally significant sites. It connects 13 different UNESCO destinations, reaching from the biosphere in the south of Scotland to the island of St Kilda in the west, The North West Highlands Geopark, and the creative cities in the east, and much more in between. The trail is a proud testament to the richness and scope of Scotland's awe-inspiring nature, its ancient and compelling history, the vibrancy of its culture, and its proud scientific and technological legacy. The trail encourages visitors to slow down, stay longer, visit all year round and to make sustainable travel choices, contributing to Scotland's world-leading position as a responsible tourism destination.

Perth UNESCO City of Craft



Adding to the growing list of Scotland's world heritage cities and sites, Perth has become the first city in the UK to be awarded status as a UNESCO City of Crafts and Folk Arts. With an important history and heritage of craft which began in the early 16th century, Perth and Kinross is alive today with a wealth of creative talent and a growing creative industry. Testament to this creativity is Perth's plan to include craft as part of plans to meet its net zero target. Perth will join the UNESCO trail in 2023.

Sustainable sips

Scotland leads the way in eco-friendly sites, with a number of distilleries across the country running on renewable energy. 2022 is set to be another big year for the whisky industry.

Eden Mill

Spring 2022, St Andrews

Eden Mill will become one of Scotland's first ever carbon neutral single malt whisky distilleries, which will welcome visitors to their new home in Guardbridge, St. Andrews in 2022. Power and heat

for the stills will be generated locally by biomass plant and field electricity, and by solar panels installed by the University of St Andrews on the roof of the distillery and nearby buildings.

The Cairn Distillery

Spring 2022, Grantown-on-Spey

The Cairn, a name that pays homage to the distillery's stunning location overlooking the Cairngorm mountains, stands near Grantown-on-Spey. Promising to be an immersive and memorable visitor experience for whisky lovers and adventure seekers, The Cairn is expected to attract a global audience for their spring opening.

Port of Leith Distillery

Summer 2022, Leith



Building on Edinburgh's rich whisky heritage, Port of Leith Distillery will be Scotland's first vertical distillery when it opens in summer 2022. With panoramic views from the top floor double height whisky bar, visitors will be able to spot Fife and the Forth Bridges, as well as Edinburgh's iconic landmarks over a dram or two of single malt whisky. And, thanks to locally sourced barley, food miles and carbon impact are cut significantly.

Sustainable Scotland

Diverse landscapes, rich culture and unique experiences are what sets Scotland apart as a destination, and what makes a visit here so special. As a world-leading responsible tourism destination, Scotland is committed to building a better, more sustainable future, with the aim of keeping Scotland as beautiful as ever, for now and for future generations to enjoy. 2022 is the year to slow down, stay longer and savour the local charm.

Powered by water

The Highland Council has declared a climate and ecological emergency and aspires to be net zero by 2025. The River Ness Hydro scheme opens in spring of 2022 and will help reduce the organisation's carbon footprint, and further generation and use of renewable energy. The site is perfect for visitors of all ages who are interested in innovative projects dedicated to sustainability.

Travel in sustainable style

Lumo, a brand-new train service travelling exclusively down the east coast of the UK, has launched a new rail service connecting

Edinburgh and London which will provide affordable and low-carbon travel. Lumo will initially offer low fares in a bid to encourage more environmentally friendly travel between the two capitals

Green footsteps

2022 is the year to discover new stories and embark on new adventures. The UK's first Vegan Food Trail, which launched in September 2021, covers Argyll and the Isles, and with plentiful fresh ingredients and locally grown produce, it's a great way to sample all the seasonal delights and embrace the joy of low impact living.

Live events return

Live events are set to return to the big stage to delight audiences in person once again, and Scotland is the perfect stage for events big and small. 2022 is the year to make a date for an event experience like no other, only in Scotland.

Edinburgh Festivals

Home to 11 world-class festivals, Edinburgh is renowned as the world's leading festival city, attracting an audience of over 4.5 million every year. In 2022, the capital will once more come alive with vibrant colours, shows and events for all ages, and with next year marking the 75th anniversary of the Edinburgh International Festival, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the Edinburgh International Film Festival, it promises to be a very special year. Here's a taste of what's on offer.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

5-29 August 2022, Edinburgh
Born from a belief that every story should be heard and celebrated, Edinburgh Fringe Festival is now the world's largest arts festival, where visitors can watch a wide range of performances including theatre, comedy, dance, cabaret, opera, spoken word and more. And with an open access policy, anyone with a story to tell and a venue to host them can put on a show.

Edinburgh International Festival

6-28 August 2022, Edinburgh
The Edinburgh International Festival was the original Edinburgh Festival, dating back to 1947, celebrating the performing arts with dance, music, opera and theatre from around the world. It brings groundbreaking art, unique collaborations, world premieres, unexpected takes on classic works, and more to captivate and entertain global audiences, all in one place here in Scotland.

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



5-27 August 2022, Edinburgh
Returning to its iconic home on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle

for the first time since 2019, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is back with a bang for 2022.

Edinburgh International Book Festival

13-29 August 2022, Edinburgh
Held in the world's first UNESCO City of Literature, Edinburgh International Book Festival is the largest celebration of its kind in the world. Enjoyable for all ages, visitors can take part in creative workshops, meet famous authors and attend panel discussions.

Scottish International Storytelling Festival

Autumn 2022, Edinburgh
The Scottish International Storytelling Festival is an annual celebration of storytelling, oral traditions and cultural diversity. Visitors can let their imagination run wild with range of talks, tours and activities. Home - Scottish International Storytelling Festival

Highland Games



After a two-year absence, the ever-popular Highland Games return in summer 2022. Visitors and locals can experience a sense of community, heritage and celebration like no other, set against the backdrop of a gripping sporting spectacle of champions! At Highland Games across the country, attendees can marvel at the champions' feats of strength and have a chat with the locals over a delicious plate of mince and tatties. This year, after 18 years of absence, Elgin Highland Games returns in July 2022, starring the undefeated Elgin tug-o'-war team.

Burns, beats and more...

In the vibrant capital of South Scotland, Dumfries, Big Burns Supper returns to celebrate all things Robert Burns, music and performing arts. The programme line-up includes a heady roster of international talent including performer Eddi Reader and comedian Russell Kane. In Glasgow, Scotland's UNESCO City of Music, Celtic Connections returns with an extensive programme of events to celebrate traditional folk, roots, Americana, jazz and soul music. As well as showcasing musical talent from around the world, hundreds of performances including ceilidhs, exhibitions, film screenings, talks, theatre productions, workshops and more will take place across Glasgow.

Text and images courtesy of VisitScotland. For details on these and other events and attractions see: www.visitscotland.com

Second Season of Men in Kilts set to explore New Zealand



Graham McTavish and Sam Heughan having a dram in Scotland. Photo: STARZ.

STARZ have announced, *Outlander* stars Sam Heughan and Graham McTavish will hit the road again for a six-episode second season of the hit travel docuseries *Men in Kilts: A Roadtrip with Sam and Graham* – this time in New Zealand. Graham who is originally from Scotland calls New Zealand home and will be sure to enjoy showing Sam around his adopted land, with filming is expected to take place in 2022.

Men in Kilts: A Roadtrip with Sam and Graham is a fun-filled buddy travelogue. Heughan and McTavish will continue their immersive adventure travel experience, this time in New Zealand.

They will revel in the Scottish influence of New Zealand, while diving into its own history. In Season one, the two reunited for an epic adventure in Scotland, exploring their heritage and meeting an incredible collection of people who truly showcase what it means to be Scottish.

The half-hour, eight-episode first season of the series offers the duo's one-of-a-kind perspective on everything from Scottish clans and the Battle of Culloden to whisky tasting and folk dancing, with Sam and Graham's witty banter and hijinks leading the way. Whether hanging off the edge of a cliff, wrangling a flock of wild sheep or discovering the true legacy of their *Outlander* characters, both men dive headfirst into each and every experience.

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Edinburgh Squadron of the Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry to receive Freedom of the City

The highest honour a city can bestow will be awarded to the Edinburgh Squadron of the Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry (SNIY) following a motion by the Lord Provost and unanimous support at a meeting of the City of Edinburgh Council. The Freedom of the City is Edinburgh's most prestigious honour and is "bestowed upon those who are held in the highest esteem." It is a tradition that dates back over 560 years to 1459. The Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry is the Army's newest combat regiment and is based at Redford Barracks. Entering the Army's order of battle in 2014, the regiment's predecessors have a proud history that stretches back hundreds of years. It is formed of four Squadrons: Earl of Carrick's Own Squadron based in Ayr, North Irish Horse Squadron in Belfast, Fife & Forfar/Scottish Horse based in Cupar Squadron and in Edinburgh the Lothians & Border Yeomanry Squadron. The latter's ancestor regiments were formed by Sir Walter Scott and the move to honour the squadron in 2021 marks a further commemoration of the 250th anniversary of his birth. The regiments also protected the Lord Provost on North Bridge, formed the Reconnaissance Unit for the 51st Highland Division at St Valery in 1940 and more recently supported the NHS.

Edinburgh's Lord Provost Frank Ross, said: "The Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry Squadron has become an integral part of this city's long and proud history. It has a rich history and role in Scotland's past and at the forefront of the military contribution at home and abroad and has a proud and deep connection within the communities in which we live and serve. With its Edinburgh roots founded by Sir Walter Scott, and in this the 250th anniversary of his birth, it feels particularly fitting to show our pride and gratitude with this lasting tribute."

Perth named UNESCO City of Craft and Folk Art



UNESCO has announced Perth is to join their Creative City network as a City of Crafts and Folk Art - the first in the UK.

After a highly competitive bidding process, Perth will join the established global group of 50 countries from across the world in celebrating craft, including Jaipur, Cairo and Carrera. Perth's application was written during the pandemic, led by Perth and Kinross Council and with extensive consultation amongst craftspeople and makers. Further work with the creative and business sectors will take place in early 2022. It was also announced that Belfast will join the network as a Creative City of Music.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was launched in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities which recognise that creativity is a major factor in their development. The network membership lasts forever, as long as the city continues to meet the UNESCO requirements.

The Perth bid focused on the importance of craft to the history and heritage of our city - it was known as 'Craftistown' from the early 16th century because of the importance of trades and its Incorporation of Guilds. It detailed how craft is still essential today with a wealth of creative talent across the whole area and the growing creative industry sector. Being a UNESCO city has huge positive impact on a city and the surrounding region; it is a world recognised badge of quality for the area, a driver of funding streams and a way of creating new commercial and learning opportunities for creatives and makers to live and work in. The bid centred on Perth itself but the designation will include the whole of Perth and Kinross. Perth joins the Scottish cities of Dundee, City of Design; Edinburgh, City of Literature and Glasgow, City of Music. Karen Merkel, Non-Executive Director for Communication & Information, UK National Commission for UNESCO, said: "The UK National Commission for UNESCO is delighted to welcome Perth to the family of UK UNESCO Creative Cities, which now counts four cities in Scotland. Located in the heart of Scotland, Perth's status as an historic centre of excellence for the trade and production of crafts has been recognised on a global scale for the first time. The inhabitants of Perth, especially those who make their livelihoods in Craft and Folk Art, can celebrate that, through this UNESCO Designation, their enduring heritage of making, educating and celebrating Craft and Folk Art can continue long into the future."

Glasgow Central Station remains Scotland's busiest



Even with rail numbers down during the pandemic Glasgow Central Station has again come out top as the busiest rail station in Scotland. With over five million journeys recorded in 2020-2021, down from over thirty-two million in 2019. Central Station located in the heart of the city centre has had up to 950 trains a day operating and is the main rail station for many coming from London and across the UK. Scotland's other busy stations include: Edinburgh Waverley (2.9m), Glasgow Queen Street (2.3m), Paisley Gilmour Street (982,530) and Partick (634,162). For many years Glasgow Central has been one of the top 10 of the UK's most used stations outside of London.

Stirling voted happiest place in Scotland



A poll of over 20,000 people recently found Stirling as the happiest place to live in Scotland. Stirling edged ahead of other areas including Edinburgh which was voted in at fourth place, Glasgow in seventh and Aberdeen in tenth. The Happy Home Index has been published by Rightmove for the past ten years running. Happiness is measured by the factors impacting quality of life, such as friendliness, green spaces, amenities, education and attractions. Hexham in Northumberland was crowned Britain's overall happiest place to live in the annual poll.

Labour of love as 100-year-old naval guns are dismantled for conservation at Scapa Flow Museum



Orkney contractors have successfully eased 100-year old naval guns from their plinths at the Scapa Flow Museum. In a delicate operation barrels were disengaged from mounts and century-old screws removed - with no cutting required - as the guns were removed from their plinths and dismantled in preparation for storage or transport to await conservation work. The guns - which are two of only five First World War German naval guns surviving

in the UK - are from SMS *Bremse* and SMS *Karlsruhe* which were interned with the rest of the High Seas Fleet in Scapa Flow in 1918 and scuttled by their own crews on 21 June 1919. Both are 15cm SK L45 guns - the *Bremse* gun was salvaged by Ernest Cox ten years later, but *Karlsruhe* remains on the seabed and is a popular site for recreational divers. The guns will go into storage as the team continues to hunt for the funds necessary to conserve artefacts of such international significance. The Scapa Flow Museum charts Orkney's military involvement in the First and Second World Wars and provides a safe home for a major collection of wartime artefacts, many of national and international importance.

Planning consent received for East Linton station development



East Lothian Council's planning committee has approved proposals which will see a station open in the village of East Linton for the first time in more than half a century. The plans for East Linton will see the construction of a two-platform station on the East Coast mainline, with 126 car parking spaces. The station itself will be fully accessible with lifts and a footbridge connecting both platforms. The planning application was submitted back in December 2020 following extensive engagement with the community - necessarily online due to COVID-19 restrictions - and local campaigners who have pushed for the return of the station for more than two decades. The new station will support economic growth by providing a connection into Edinburgh Waverley, offering an excellent new link to public transport and enabling residents from the area to access and expanded range of employment, education and leisure opportunities.

It is generally the case that station projects act as a catalyst for further investment and economic development in local areas. It is hoped that the construction of the new East Linton station will help support investment in the local community and further afield and will enhance and open-up transport links and improve connectivity. Councillor Norman Hampshire, East Lothian Council's Environment spokesperson, said: "The approval of the East Linton Station planning application is a vital step towards the reopening of this station and I look forward to seeing the works progress rapidly. The Council is very supportive of the station project as it will deliver significant benefits to East Lothian by providing easy local access to the east coast mainline services. This will in turn make this area more attractive for inward investment which will support local communities and the economy."

A station opened in the village of East Linton in 1846 but the last passenger services stopped in 1964.

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Scotland's Battle Royal



Edinburgh Castle.
Photo: VisitScotland.

By: Charlie Mill

Dundee based writer Charlie Mill provided stories for the Scottish Banner for many years, touching on Scottish history, lifestyle and some of Scotland's truly unique characters. We recently opened the vault of Charlie's great work to share a collection of some of his favourites with readers today.

Civil wars are truly horrific incidents, yet history reverberates with them. Some, such as the English, Spanish and American civil wars, are well known, but there are others, like the Scottish Civil War, less so.

Most Scots are acquainted with the Wars of Independence and the Jacobite rebellions, but ask them about their own civil war and the majority of them will struggle to answer. The hostility in question was a conflict between a royal mother and son, or, more accurately, the supporters of a royal mother and on — Mary, Queen of Scots and James VI.

The civil war between the Mariana and the Jacobites (not, you will note, the Jacobites) began with Mary's "encouraged" abdication in 1567 and almost immediate coronation of her year-old son, James. On the one hand stood the Catholic Queen, craving aid and arms from the great papist powers of France and Spain. She had, if you remember, once been Queen of France as well as Scotland. On the other hand, the infant king was little more than a Protestant puppet in the hands of the Presbyterian ministers led by John Knox. The Marian forces were led by Argyll, Huntly and Hamilton, the Jacobean by successive regents Moray, Lennox, Mar and Morton.

Impregnable

The Marians suffered a bitter blow when, after defeat at the Battle of Langside in 1568, Mary sought sanctuary in England with her cousin Elizabeth, leaving the cause without a queen. Not that the situation was hopeless. Despite what some historians would have you believe; the Marian forces were in control of vast swathes of the country.

Dumbarton Castle was also theirs, furnishing a secure means of supply from France. But the nucleus of Marian resistance though, was Edinburgh and its castle, the heart, not only of Midlothian, but of the entire kingdom. It was, to all practical purposes, impregnable. Technically, it could be reduced by heavy ordnance; but all the artillery in Scotland capable of doing so was inside the castle, pointing outwards at the Jacobites! So, a succession of regents remained holed up in Leith, plotting, planning, praying and pleading for help from Elizabeth's England.

Last great symbol

The two turning points of the civil war came in 1571. At the beginning of April, Dumbarton Castle was captured by Captain Thomas Crawford of Jordanhill. And in September, the Marians almost won the war when an attack on Stirling captured most of the leaders of the king's faction, before internal friction allowed a rescue. As the tide turned against the Scottish queen, Edinburgh Castle, held by William Kirkcaldy of Grange and William Maitland of Lethington, became the last great symbol of her reign.

When others wavered, they were her champions, albeit unlikely ones. Grange was a Protestant soldier and Lethington

a career civil servant, the Scottish Machiavelli, with no great attachment to any faith. But they regarded Mary as their sovereign and held the castle in her name for more than two years against successive sieges. This war of antagonism had reached a complete impasse when Elizabeth ultimately decided to support the Jacobites with practical aid rather than mere encouragement. So it was that a vast array of English ordnance arrived in Leith and began to pound the castle.

Defiant to the last

Desperately short of food, water, powder and ammunition, the end could not be long delayed. Holding out long after it had become hopeless, Grange and Lethington were eventually "persuaded" by what remained of their men to submit — but not to the Jacobites, though. Defiant to the last, Grange and Lethington surrendered to the English commander, Sir William Drury on May 28th, 1573. The siege had begun in January 1571. With the fall of Edinburgh Castle, so effectively ended the Marian resistance. Even though Mary herself would not go to the block for another 14 years, her cause was finished. By the shell of the castle the Presbyterians demanded vengeance. The aged Lethington managed to evade the scaffold by dying before he could be executed, but Grange was hanged at the Mercat Cross, with his old friend John Knox's dying curse that he would be "torn like an eagle from his rocky lair and immolated in the face of the sun" doubtless ringing in his ears.

The pitiless Calvinist divines had undoubtedly planned it that way —and that is another truly terrible thing.

One man and his dog complete epic 5,000-mile rewilding trek across Canada



Canadian PM and Scotland's Deputy FM extol Perthshire musician's 'astonishing feat'.

After a gruelling nine months on the road which began on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, 32-year Michael Yellowlees from Perthshire and his faithful Alaskan husky dog Luna have finally reached Canada's Atlantic coast, having trekked right across the vast country for Highlands-based rewilding charity Trees for Life. On Sunday 5 December, throngs of well-wishers gathered at the remote Cape Spear Lighthouse in Newfoundland, while political leaders in Canada and Scotland expressed their admiration for Michael's heroic venture.

Inspirational adventure

"My best wishes on the successful completion of your incredible walk across Canada, Michael!" declared Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Noting that Michael has raised \$50,000 for the Scottish rewilding charity Trees for Life, Prime Minister Trudeau added: "Michael chose Canada for this mission due to the many Scots who left their homeland generations ago, settled here, and contributed significantly to the fabric of our country. He was also inspired by the many and vast beautiful natural environments Canada continues to enjoy and protect. Despite the challenges faced by the pandemic, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael for his inspirational adventure."

Scotland's Deputy First Minister John Swinney — who is Michael's local MSP — said: "I warmly congratulate Michael on the astonishing feat of endurance he has accomplished in support of a cause to which he is devoted. Michael has demonstrated the power of individual action to raise awareness of this vital issue of our day. His commitment to restoring our natural environment is an inspiration to us all. I have had the privilege of knowing Michael and his family for many, many years. He is a shining example of the tenacity and inspiration that his family have brought to all they have done".

Restore the Scottish Highlands

Michael, a native of Birmam and a former pupil of Breadalbane Academy, has Canadian roots and travelled to the country in 2020. While working with sled dogs before he set off on his journey, he befriended Luna, who would become his constant companion every step of the way.

Midway through the journey, Michael was distraught when Luna vanished into the Canadian wilderness. After a week searching high and low, aided by local volunteers, the two were joyfully reunited when Luna suddenly reappeared at his side — having chewed away her lead, which appeared to have become entangled in forest vegetation. "Apart from that horrible scare, the journey through Canada has been amazing," says Michael. "And so too have the people. I've been marched into towns by pipe bands, applauded by crowds lining the streets, and inundated with offers of food, clothing and shelter. It has also been emotional. The huge population of people of Scottish descent in Canada is partly a consequence of the Highland Clearances, which were accompanied by ecological destruction. Canada is a beautiful land with an abundance of woodland and wildlife. This journey has been about raising awareness and funds to help restore the Scottish Highlands to a flourishing ecosystem as part of our contribution to tackling the twin global emergencies of climate change and biodiversity loss."

Steve Micklewright, Chief Executive of Trees for Life, expressed the gratitude of the whole charity: "We want to say a huge thank you to Michael for walking across Canada for the last nine months and raising so much money for our work rewilding the Highlands. His achievement has been amazing. His journey is a powerful reminder that rewilding offers hope for tackling the nature and climate emergencies, while benefitting people and local communities."

Michael was especially pleased to receive a video message from Scottish entertainment legend Elaine C Smith, who took time out from her hectic schedule as a pantomime dame in Cinderella at Glasgow's Kings Theatre to tell Michael: "You've done a wonderful, wonderful, thing. It's just brilliant." Michael, naturally, is feeling pretty exhausted and said: "So now I'm looking forward to taking a couple of weeks of rest, decompress, then try and process everything that's happened because it really has been a magical year and experience."

Trees for Life is dedicated to rewilding the Scottish Highlands. Its volunteers have established nearly two million native trees at dozens of sites, encouraging wildlife to flourish and helping communities to thrive.

A full interview with Michael can be found either in the November edition of the Scottish Banner or at www.scottishbanner.com. To support Michael and Luna's epic fundraising drive for Trees for Life, please visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/michaelandlunarewild



The Flower of Scotland

By: Judy Vickers



Spear thistle. Photo: Charles j Sharp/Wikimedia Commons.

When a group of Norse fighters crept up in the dead of night, getting ever closer to a sleeping Scots army, it must have seemed to them that the idea of going barefoot to allow a silent attack was a tactical master stroke. But the Ayrshire landscape had a surprise in store, something that is still remembered today, more than 750 years later. Walking over a bed of thistles without footwear is too much for most, and the invaders shrieked in pain as the sharp prickles pierced their skin. The Scots were alerted and saw off the Norsemen, a precursor to the ensuing Battle of Largs where King Haakon Haakonsson's men were seen off, ultimately ending five hundred years of Norse occupation.

An emblem of Scotland

While the events of 1263 may be interesting, and they certainly had a major impact on the future of Scotland, it is the thistle that has come out the real winner. From that tale of soldiers being thwarted by the plant, it has become an emblem of Scotland with a global

reach, marked by Royal Orders, flags, coins, army units, universities, sports teams and even mascots. Perhaps the most prestigious commemoration of the thistle is The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, the oldest chivalric order in Scotland.

According to the Royal Household: "The Order of the Thistle is the greatest order of chivalry in Scotland, recognising sixteen Knights with the highest honour in the country and recognises Scottish men and women who have held public office or who have contributed in a particular way to national life."

Its origins are steeped so far back in the mists of history that no-one really knows when the order was founded. Some say King Achaius made an alliance in 809 with the Emperor Charlemagne and began it then. Others claim it was started at the end of the 15th century by James III who had adopted the thistle as the Royal plant badge. What is known is that James VII of Scotland (James II of England) gave a statutory foundation to the order in 1687 - to reward Scottish peers who supported the king's political and religious aims.

The Queen appoints people to the order as her personal gift, and current knights and ladies include Lady Marion Fraser, a music teacher and former Director of St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh as well as former Chief Scout of the United Kingdom, Sir Garth Morrison. The order has its own chapel at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh and uses the motto *Nemo me impune lacessit* (No one harms me with impunity), which is the Latin motto of the Royal Stuart dynasty of Scotland.

The Scots Guards also use the motto *Nemo me impune lacessit*, and have the thistle on its regimental badge. The thistle appears on the badge of the Yeomen of the Guard as well - a bodyguard for the monarch which originated in 15th century England but expanded with the Union of the Crowns in 1603. Following the union, James VI of Scotland incorporated the thistle, with a Tudor rose, into a royal badge and the flower now appears in the Royal Arms of the United Kingdom, as well as the emblems of major public bodies, such as the United Kingdom's Supreme Court.

A symbol of strength

But it is not just nobility and the state who lay claim to the thistle as a symbol of strength. In modern Scotland it can be seen in many aspects of life, notably sport. The football teams Partick Thistle and Inverness Caledonian Thistle are the obvious examples, but it is also the name of the national netball team and Clyde the Thistle was the mascot for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. It is also the emblem of the country's rugby team, who also began the tradition - followed by other sports - of singing *Flower of Scotland* before games. In fact, images of the thistle are so widely seen in Scotland, you could be forgiven for not noticing them - the flower also forms the basis of the logo for the Scottish National Party and Police Scotland and is the emblem for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, which originated in Edinburgh.

Coins in Scotland have made use of the symbolism of the thistle, starting in 1474 with currency issued by James III. In 1536 a sixpence (commonly called a bawbee) was minted under James V showing a crowned thistle. Five pence pieces were minted with a thistle on them until 2008 and are still in circulation.

The Scottish thistle also has worldwide appeal and is in the coat of arms of Nova Scotia. Meaning New Scotland, the province was given the name after British conquest in the 18th century. The flags of Montreal, Canada and in the United States Annapolis in Maryland also use the thistle, as does the crest of Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania.

But which thistle are we talking about?

Many images of thistles on crests, flags, coins and badges are based on the cotton thistle. However, while native to most of Europe, it is only in the last few centuries that it has spread as far as Scotland and in medieval period it would not have grown in the country.

But the spear thistle could well be the thistle trodden on by Norse fighters more than seven hundred years ago. It is still found widely in Scotland, and across the world, including Australia and North America.

Some have wondered if the true thistle of Scotland is the musk thistle, the romantically named melancholy thistle or Our Lady's thistle. But whatever the actual species, it has a long-lasting place in the culture of Scotland which shows no sign of disappearing.



The insignia of The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle. Image: Wikimedia Commons.



Cotton thistle. Photo: Wilhelm Zimmerling/Wikimedia Commons.



The Thistle Chapel at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh. Photo: CP Clegg/Wikimedia Commons.



Clyde the Thistle, mascot for the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games. Photo: Andrew Hendo/Wikimedia Commons.



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For These Are My Mountains

The Scottish Banner speaks to Tristan Cameron Harper

Tristan on Aonach Eagach, in Glen Coe.

Tristan Cameron Harper is a photographer and mountain guide with a passion for Scotland's incredible outdoors. Tristan took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner on his love of the Scottish Highlands, being a former professional ice hockey player and Munro Bagging.

Tristan you grew up in Dundee and have had a passion for sport your whole life. This passion led you to becoming a professional ice hockey player both in Scotland and abroad, can you tell us more?

Being a Scotsman playing Ice Hockey then eventually turning professional doesn't really fit the expected narrative as ice hockey isn't a common sport in the UK even though it's gaining more momentum due to Great Britain doing well on the international platform and the professional league in the UK becoming more established. For me personally, I started off playing Rugby in school always enjoying the physical aspect of

it until one day a family friend introduced me to the world of Ice Hockey. At that moment a chord was struck and I never really looked back, I felt this deep calling, imagining one day that I would play in Canada or America with some of the best and then hopefully making it to the NHL following in the footsteps of a few of my favourite players at the time Wayne Gretzky and Pavel Bure.

Luckily for me I was fortunate enough my mum and dad let me go to an ice hockey training camp in Toronto during the summer months when I was about 14 years old where I was noticed by a former NHL player Roy Halpin who thought I had the skills to progress in the hockey world.

Without his help I would not have gotten the chance to play prep school hockey in Canada developing my skills further which took me back to Europe signing my first professional contract then back across the pond playing a few seasons between America/Canada, finishing my career in the UK. I had the passion from day one ever since hockey was introduced to me, as cliché as it sounds it was as if a fire had been ignited in my heart and all I ever did was live, think and breath hockey until I reached my next chapter in life.

Your grandfather would take you as a boy to the Cairngorms and around the Highlands. How has that early exposure to Scotland's natural setting stayed with you as an adult?

I don't think I will ever forget those days when I was a wee boy, and my grandad would drive through parts of the Highlands while I sat in the back of

his old classic Volvo wondering where he was taking me. Every time I sat in the back of that Volvo it seemed like an adventure and every time I got out there was always something new to see, he would talk about the Grampian Mountains religiously telling stories while stopping off in small Highland towns on route taking me to some great local bakeries and museums trying his best to educate me on all there was to know about the clans and the Highlands. So, I would say he did a pretty good job leaving an imprint of adventure, Scotland and how much history our land holds which to this day is a constant interest and passion of mine.

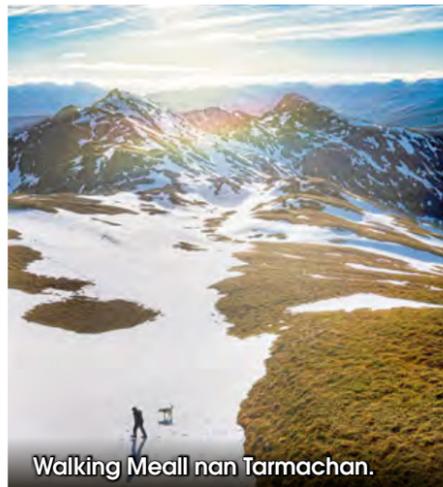
I love the mountains, how raw they are and how much the geology differs from the west to east.

You have a passion for Scotland and the incredible outdoors. Having travelled so much of the country can you tell us some of your favourite places, or where you recommend a tourist to Scotland should visit and why?

Definitely not an easy question to answer as there is so many beautiful places and many special places to visit when in Scotland and especially during certain times of the year with how much the flora and fauna changes from season to season. Scotland is filled with an abundance of mountains, lochs, castles, stunning beaches, delicious local food, great pubs, and wonderful cities plus more. My best answer I could give for this question would be what do you want to get out of Scotland? Do you want to try experience elements of it all in one go? Do you want to get lost exploring the highlands maybe finding yourself sleeping in a bothy deep in the Highlands wrapped up in your sleeping bag sipping on some whisky? Do you want to take a dip in the refreshing Atlantic Sea on a lovely golden sand beach or maybe even do a bit of coastal cave exploring in search of folklore that may get shared around the campfire? Or would you like to find yourself in a local pub down one of the narrow cobble streets tucked away in Edinburgh dancing the night away with locals in a ceilidh and attending festival shows. There is so much to choose from, and it can be like jumping from different worlds, but if I had to name a few of my favourite places I would say the Orkney Isles are special, filled with beautiful beaches, ancient standing stones and broch's, amazing local produce, an abundance of sea birds and sea life and of course friendly local Orcadians. Must not forget the Orkney Science Festival either which is fantastically put together with some amazing talks and events. As for the mainland, I love the mountains, how raw they are and how much the geology differs from the west to east, on the west coast in particular you have Torridon an epic part of Scotland that has a tremendous selection of mountain ridges and climbing at hand. And the Cairngorms the heart of the Highlands, the largest of National Parks in Scotland and someplace I would recommend exploring if you really want



Tristan with his dog Nacho.



Walking Meall nan Tarmachan.

to immerse yourself in this raw terrain giving you that feeling of solitude away from all. And then one of my favourite lochs, Loch Coruisk, a once hidden gem located on the Isle of Skye along with a fair share of spectacular sites to explore on the Island including some caves, beaches, mountains, waterfalls and castle ruins.

You also share some of your favourite places with visitors to Scotland with tours that explore the beauty of the nation, can you tell us more?

Of course, I am a fully qualified Scottish Mountain guide who offers day/multi day tours and bespoke packages with my business North Guides. It can range from hiking mountains, camping in the highlands, visiting select sites, to going off the beaten track whilst remaining respectful of the landscape and locals exploring places that you would not normally see, chatting flora and fauna along the way and giving you the experience you hope to achieve while in Scotland. I offer a range of packages, it doesn't always have to be hiking big mountains, it can be exploring forests, castles and going to areas that the big tour buses don't take you. North Guides tries and aims to be as inclusive as possible to help individuals and families explore Scotland, be they Scottish natives or from further afield, and to make the outdoors as accessible as possible. For me it's a pleasure to take clients to their dream locations as my main goal is to inspire you as best I can with my homeland and hopefully leave you craving the opportunity to come back and explore Scotland again.

Tristan you have been crowned Mr Scotland, more than once, and competed at the Mr Universe competition. Can you tell us more and what opportunities this has created for you?

Yes you caught me, I was indeed Mr Scotland for 3 years from 2016 getting the chance to attend Mr Universe, I finished 6th overall in the world at the event and got to meet some lovely gents from all over the world who I still remain in contact with to this day. It was a pretty cool opportunity but definitely not something I had intended to do, it all happened by chance. It took me further in the modelling industry, walking in fashion events in New York and even appearing on The Real Housewives of New York and other TV appearances, more people wanting to work with me and came at a time when I was just about to retire from the sports world. It gave me an opportunity to see what path it may lead me down and what I wanted in life; it was a learning experience. A fun chapter though, some lovely folk along the way and I made a lot of connections local and further afield throughout the world at the time as a result.

In 2017 you attended the New York Tartan Day Parade, how was it to be part of such an event and connect with international Scots?

What an event to be part of, never did I imagine how much support us Scots would get in the Big Apple and how many people love us across there. It was all quite overwhelming but equally awesome at the same time to be part of it and getting the chance to march down 6th Avenue. I have only attended this event on two occasions and both times I had an absolute blast, the event itself and events after are



Mr Scotland. Photo courtesy of Andy Barr/www.andybarr.com.

amazing, absolutely wild and filled with fun, and the amount of lovely people you meet along the way, it's great. I shall look forward to the next time I make it out for the New York Tartan Day Parade.

As a Qualified Mountain Guide you have climbed some of Scotland's most iconic mountains, would you call yourself a Munro Bagger? And which of Scotland's munros (mountains over 3,000 ft/914.4m) are your favourite to climb?

There was a point I might have deemed myself a Munro Bagger as I was reaching for each of those peaks one by one, I have about 200 Munros under my belt and probably done some of the same mountains a dozen times if not more. But it's not about bagging as much as I got to the point I just love being in the mountains regardless, I love the rawness and how peaceful they make you feel. I have quite a few friends who are Munro Baggers so there is probably a good chance I will end up completing all of the 282 Munros with them just because I am happy to go for a walk in the mountains with my friends, but I don't hike to tick off a list, I do it because I enjoy it as much as I love a challenge. A few of my favourite Mountains are An Teallach on the west coast which has an amazingly beautiful ridge walk and even better if you manage to walk the ridge during a cloud inversion. A little more inland I would say Aonach Eagach in Glencoe and my favourite in the Cairngorms and probably in Scotland is Carna Mhaim, not a particular hard Munro but a special one as its located right in the middle of the Cairngorms and almost like you are at the heart of the Highlands.

You have a passion for photography and your website and social media is full of incredible images of Scotland. What is it about Scotland do you find makes it a photographer's paradise and do you have a favourite time of year to shoot around the country?

The thing about Scotland is that the weather is incredibly dramatic even at the best of times, and we have an abundance of glens located throughout the Highlands and each kind of has its own microclimate. It's a unique country as there is so much to photograph from a nature point of view. I love how you can visit the same place a dozen times throughout the year and each time it feels and looks different giving you a different moment to capture with your camera. I believe from my perspective this is how I get the majority of my clients as I try as best I can to capture those special



moments in time that might inspire people to explore places they would not think of. If I had to pick a favourite time of the year I would have to say I love photographing in autumn going into winter, everything is gearing up for winter from tree leaves turning bright yellow/red and animals such as the red squirrels developing their thick darker red coat plus those fresh crisp clear starry nights.

And finally, Tristan your connection to the outdoors and your love of Scotland is obvious to see. How does it make you feel to be an ambassador for Scotland and be able to show so many people around the world all that Scotland has to offer and highlight its incredible natural beauty?

I feel extremely privileged I get this opportunity to do this for a living, the

people I meet and how I can inspire someone through my photography, and guiding groups in person with my knowledge and understanding of the land. Each day that goes by I am thankful I am from such a beautiful country, and how much magic we have to offer and how many feel this way about Scotland and how far the passion of the Scotsman/woman travels throughout the world. And I hope it inspires others to treasure their own homelands, discover what's on their own back door too and get into the outdoors in general, as well as visit my beautiful homeland.

For more information on how Tristan Cameron Harper can take you on an adventure via his photography or Explore Scotland Walking Tours see: www.north-guides.com



The warmth of the Highlands.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - King James V married Magdalene of France. **1537**

1 - First celebration of New Year in Scotland on this date (was March 25th till then). **1600**

1 - Charles II crowned at Scone, the last coronation on Scottish soil. **1651**

1 - The constitution is drafted for the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, making it the oldest in Britain. **1783**

1 - The Beatles opened a 5-day tour of Scotland to promote their first single *Love Me Do*. **1963**



1 - The United Nations examines claims of ownership of the Scottish island of Rockall (an uninhabited extinct volcano), after a request from Denmark, which has sovereignty over the neighbouring Faroes. The 1972 Island of Rockall Act, passed by parliament in Westminster, formally declared it to be part of Inverness-shire, though it is closest to North Uist in the Outer Hebrides. **2011**

2 - The Traverse Theatre opens in Edinburgh. The Traverse has embraced a spirit of innovation and risk-taking that has launched the careers of many of Scotland's best-known writers. **1963**

2 - Ibrox Park disaster, 66 supporters killed on stairway 13. The disaster led to the rebuilding of Ibrox Park as an all-seater stadium. **1971**

3 - O H Mavor (James Bridie) physician and prolific playwright, born in Glasgow. **1888**

3 - Poet and critic Edwin Muir died. **1959**

4 - The death of George Cathcart. Cathcart was a doctor from Edinburgh who instigated the annual series of concerts now known as the Proms, short for promenade concert. **1951**

5 - 89,000-tonne Liberian-registered Braer oil tanker, carrying 84,500 tonnes of crude oil, hit rocks on Shetland Isles in heavy seas. **1993**

6 - A.J. Cronin, author of *Keys of the Kingdom* and creator of the British television series *Dr Finlay's Casebook* died. **1981**



7 - Glasgow University founded at the request of James II and Bishop Turnbull. **1451**

8 - The first newspaper in Scotland was published. *Mercurius Caledonius* offered coverage of "the Affairs now in Agitation in Scotland, with a Survey of Foreign Intelligence." It ceased publication on 28 March after only nine issues. **1661**

8 - King Alexander I crowned. **1107**

8 - Earl of Stair, held responsible for the massacre of Glencoe, died. **1707**

8 - Rationing of sugar, bacon and butter introduced. **1940**

9 - The Diocese of Glasgow was elevated to an Archdiocese by Pope Innocent VII. **1492**

9 - Income tax introduced for the first time. **1799**

9 - The first women's golf tournament took place in Scotland, at Musselburgh. **1811**

9 - Liner Queen Elizabeth, launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank, in 1938, caught fire and sank in Hong Kong where it was to serve as a floating marine university. **1972**

9 - Author and *Scottish Banner* columnist Nigel Tranter died. Tranter published more than 130 novels and biographies during his 60-year-long career, most covering famous Scots and their place in the country's history. **2000**

10 - The Scottish Government announces that it plans to hold the independence referendum in the autumn of 2014. The No side won with 55.3% voting against independence and 44.7% voting in favour. **2012**

11 - John A MacDonald, first Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada in 1867, born at 20 Brunswick Street in Glasgow. **1815**

11 - The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Association was created. This independently funded service was responsible for Scotland's blood and blood products. The National Blood Transfusion Service in England and Wales was not set up until the 26 September 1946. **1940**

12 - John Buchan, author (*39 Steps* etc) and diplomat (Governor General of Canada, 1935/1940) died. **1940**

13 - Death of St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow (and also known as St Kentigern) and is buried at his church in Clau-gu which later becomes Glasgow. **603**

13 - Mary Slessor, missionary in West Africa and known to many as "Ma", died in Calabar. **1915**



14 - Skye Terrier Greyfriars Bobby died after staying by his master's grave for 14 years. The terrier belonged to Edinburgh policeman John Gray who died of tuberculosis in 1858. His gravestone reads: "Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all". A statue of Bobby is now one of the most popular in Edinburgh. **1872**

14 - Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated his telephone to Queen Victoria. She made the first call in the British Isles from her residence on the Isle of Wight. **1878**

15 - Neil M Gunn, author of *The Silver Darlings* and many other books and short stories, died. **1973**

15 - The Great Glasgow storm leaves 20 dead across central Scotland including 9 in Glasgow. The hurricane was described as Central Scotland's worst natural disaster since records began and the worst gale in the United Kingdom. **1968**

15 - Strathclyde Regional Council applies for 250,000 summary warrants against residents refusing to pay the highly controversial "Poll Tax", introduced in Scotland in 1989. **1990**

16 - Retreating Jacobite army defeated Hanoverian forces at Battle of Falkirk. **1746**

16 - Treaty of Union of Scottish and Westminster Parliaments ratified. **1707**

17 - Duddingston Curling Society became formally organised, one of the earliest in the history of curling - though Kilsyth lays claim to a date of 1716. Curling dates back to the sixteenth century in Scotland, with Scots taking the sport across the world where it still flourishes. **1795**

17 - Author Compton Mackenzie (*Whisky Galore* etc) born. *Whisky Galore* is based on a real-life true story. In the middle of war time rationing, the SS Politician ran aground with a cargo of 264,000 bottles of malt whisky. **1883**

18 - Death of Sir John Pringle, President of the Royal Society from 1772-1778 and physician to King George III. Sometimes called the "father of modern military medicine", the Scottish-born physician focused on the need to adopt a clean medical environment for the treatment of wounded soldiers. He also coined the term "influenza". **1782**

18 - The launch of the Scottish Labour Party. The inaugural meeting of the breakaway party was held in Glasgow. It was formed as a result of the dissatisfaction several Labour MPs felt with their party over its stance on devolution for Scotland. **1976**

18 - Raasay House on Raasay off Skye was badly damaged in a fire. The building was undergoing a £4m restoration project. The former stately home had been run as an activity centre since 1984 and was being restored for that purpose again. The sprawling 258-year-old mansion once belonged to the Clan MacLeod. **2009**

19 - A Scottish army under the Earl of Leven crossed the river Tweed into England. It remained in England for three years playing an important part in the Civil War. **1644**

19 - Birth of James Watt, mathematical instrument maker, developed the steam engine, invented the condenser and copying machine. **1736**

20 - Benny Lynch crowned world flyweight champion. Recognised as probably the greatest boxer Scotland has produced, Lynch enjoyed a meteoric rise to the top of the sport. **1937**

20 - The chemist Thomas Graham, was born. Graham is famous for discovering the diffusion rate of gasses, which is known as "Graham's Law". He is also called the "father of colloid chemistry", and was the author of, *Elements of Chemistry*. **1805**

21 - Sweetheart Abbey, near Dumfries, founded by Devorguilla, mother of John Balliol. **1290**

22 - Poet George Gordon Byron (later Lord Byron) born. He moved to Aberdeen at the age of four and attended Aberdeen Grammar School. The title was inherited from an uncle. **1788**

23 - James Stewart, the Regent Moray on the abdication of Mary Queen of Scots, murdered in Linlithgow, triggering civil war. **1570**

23 - William Hamilton, the Scottish Labour politician, died. He was MP for Fife West, 1950-74, and Fife Central, 1974-87. He became a controversial public figure due to his outspoken advocacy of Scottish independence and his dislike of the Royal Family. **2000**

24 - Birth of Publius Aelius Hadrianus, who built Hadrian's Wall to cut off Scotland from the rest of Britain. **76**



24 - First train over Forth Rail Bridge. The bridge is considered as a symbol of Scotland and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **1890**

25 - Robert Burns born Alloway. Burns Night is celebrated around the world on this night. **1759**

25 - First Minister Alex Salmond launches a consultation on the SNP Government's proposals for a referendum on Scottish independence. The referendum on Scottish independence was held on 18 September 2014 saw Scotland vote to remain part of the United Kingdom, with 55% voting against the proposal for Scotland to become an independent country and 45% voting in favour. **2012**



26 - One o'clock gun fired for the first time from Edinburgh Castle. The gun was created to complement a time ball on Nelson's Monument which was not reliable during Edinburgh foggy days. **1861**

26 - Kirkpatrick MacMillan, inventor of the bicycle, died. The thought of patenting his invention or trying to make any money out of it never crossed MacMillan's mind, but others saw its potential, and soon copies began to appear. However, Macmillan was quite unconcerned with the fuss his invention had prompted, preferring to enjoy the quiet country life he was used to. **1878**

26 - The 1st Glasgow Scout troop was registered, the first to be formed. **1908**

27 - *Glasgow Herald* newspaper first published. It is the longest continuously published daily newspaper in Britain. Today the paper is simply called *The Herald*. **1783**

27 - First public demonstration of TV by John Logie Baird. **1926**

28 - William Burke, murderer and body snatcher of "Burke and Hare" fame, executed. The duo was accused of killing 16 people over the course of 12 months, in order to sell their cadavers as "subjects" for dissection. **1829**

29 - The first adoption of GMT by Scotland. The subject has been the source of controversy ever since. **1848**

29 - Earl Haig, Commander in Chief of British forces 1915-18, founder of the British Legion, died. **1928**

29 - Members for Scottish Parliament (MSPs) vote 64-54 to back calls for a second Scottish independence referendum. **2020**

30 - King Charles I executed. His execution caused a change of sides by most of the Scots who had previously supported the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War as, for all his faults, Charles was still a Scottish Stuart king. **1649**

31 - Lachlan MacQuarie, "Father of Australia" born Ulva. Lachlan Macquarie was the governor of the colony of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821. **1761**

31 - Charles Edward Stewart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie" died in Rome. **1788**

31 - 270 Royal Navy servicemen were killed whilst on practice missions with other Royal Navy vessels in the Firth of Forth. **1918**

31 - *Princess Victoria*, Stranraer-Larne ferry, sank in a storm with the loss of 133 lives; 44 were rescued. **1953**

31 - The Scottish Court in the Netherlands convicts a Libyan and acquits another for their part in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 which crashed in Lockerbie in 1988. Lamin Khalifah Fhimah (aged 44) is cleared, but Abdelbaset al-Megrahi is found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment (in Scotland) with a recommended minimum term of twenty years. Megrahi was released from prison on compassionate grounds in 2009; as doctors reported he had terminal prostate cancer, and he died on 20 May 2012, aged sixty. **2001**

Stirling Station's post cards from the past



Information gained from the Cameron Highlanders Museum has revealed that the 8th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders left for France in July 1915, landed at Boulogne and took over a sector in the line at Loos on 6th August. The first major battle for the 8th Seaforth was the attack at Loos on 25th September which resulted in a high number of casualties and the battalion losing 718 of the 776 men it started the day with. Having clear detail on some of the postcards has allowed the Regimental Museum to identify and trace, Captain & Quartermaster Arthur James MacDonald of the 8th Battalion of the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders. Captain MacDonald was wounded on 28th October 1918, possibly at the Battle of Cambrai.

Helen Agnew, Network Rail project manager for the Stirling Station roof works said, "It's been incredible to see these postcards, many of which are more than one hundred years old and to find out about some of the items that were sent on the railway. Finding these items in the roof of the station has already offered a fantastic insight into the past but to be able to trace any family members of those who served would be incredible."

Ernie Pope, Coordinator for The Highlander's Museum who was instrumental in the research into Captain MacDonald said "I believe the importance of remembrance is that everyone of us, in this country, will have a distant relative who either, took part in the Great War, or was impacted by it. We should never forget the suffering, loss and sacrifice made by so many during one of the darkest periods of world history. Let us all hope and pray we never see it's like again."

The post cards and papers are in a fragile condition and will be properly preserved before being put on display in the future.

To contact Network Rail visit:
www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/contact-us



Work to renew the roof at Stirling Station has opened a window to the past and unearthed a treasure trove of papers and post cards - some dating back to the First World War. The project at the Grade A listed rail station will see the refurbishment of all slate roofs and all roof sections will be inspected and repaired. It was during an inspection of the crawl space of the roof of the building, that members of the site team stumbled upon a bundle of old papers and postcards. Further inspection revealed that the bundle consisted of official Caledonian Railway postcards, which had been sent to members of the public in the Stirling area, requesting that they collected items which had been

sent on the train. Amongst those postcards, which dated back as far as 1912, were several dated April 1916 and had been sent to troops and regiments stationed in the Barracks at Cambusbarrow, requesting that they collect kit bags and parcels from the station.

During World War One, a number of regiments were stationed in barracks around the Cambusbarrow area, which is said to have consisted of training camps including areas for live shooting practice. Following the discovery, Network Rail contacted the regimental museums for the Gordon Highlanders, the Cameron Highlanders and the Black Watch in a bid to trace the named soldiers, and determine where they were stationed during the war, and if and when they returned home.

Fantastic insight into the past

Given that this was only several weeks from Armistice, the Regimental Museum believes that it was likely he survived the war and possibly returned home. Network Rail are keen to hear from anyone who has any information on Captain & Quartermaster MacDonald. Little is known about the other soldiers named on the post cards and we are keen to uncover more of the men's stories and are appealing for any information on the soldiers and their regiments: 2nd Lt. J M or H Campbell-11th Gordon Highlanders, Private W Reddiford-B Company 11th Gordon Highlanders, Private George Rankine 6th Black Watch and Officer Commanding A Company, 11th Gordon Highlanders.

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Cullen skink

Ingredients:

For the stock:

75g/2½oz. butter
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
2 leeks, roughly chopped
2 onions, peeled, roughly chopped
2 fennel bulbs, roughly chopped
250ml/9fl oz. white wine
500g/17½oz smoked haddock
750ml/1-pint 7fl oz. water

For the soup:

75g/2½oz. butter
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
2 leeks, finely chopped
2 shallots, peeled, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, peeled, crushed
300g/10½oz. potatoes, peeled, chopped
500ml/17½fl oz. double cream
1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley
pinch freshly grated nutmeg

Method:

For the stock, heat the butter and vegetable oil in a large pan and gently fry the leeks, onions and fennel for 3-4 minutes, or until softened.

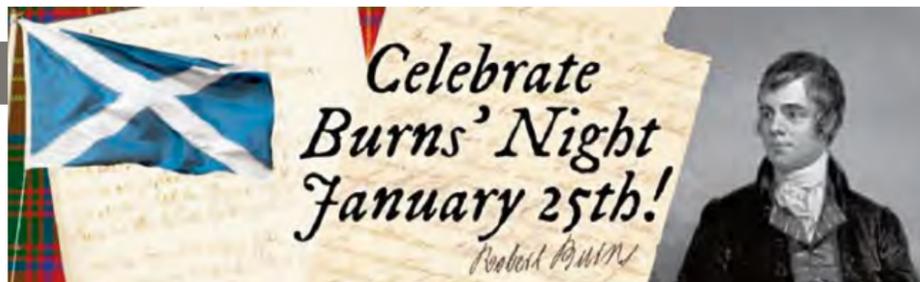
Add the white wine to the pan and bring to the boil. Add the smoked haddock, pour in the water and bring back to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes, skimming off any scum that rises to the surface, until the haddock is cooked through.

Strain the haddock, reserving the cooking stock. Chop the haddock into bite-sized pieces.

For the soup, heat the butter with the vegetable oil and fry the leeks, shallots and garlic for 3-4 minutes, or until softened. Add the potatoes and the chopped smoked haddock to the pan.

Add the reserved cooking stock and bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 10-15 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender. Stir in the cream and briefly blend the soup with a stick blender.

Serve the soup with crusty bread and sprinkle with the chopped fresh parsley and a sprinkling of freshly grated nutmeg.



Burns Night Recipes

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the pudding-race!*

The Burns Supper on January 25th is an institution of Scottish life: a night to celebrate the life and works of the national Bard. Suppers can range from an informal gathering of friends to a huge, formal dinner full of pomp and circumstance, enjoy!

Neeps



Ingredients:

1 large turnip, peeled and diced
splash whole milk
salt and pepper, to taste
chopped fresh chives, to taste (optional)

Method:

Bring a saucepan of water to the boil over a high heat. Add the turnip then allow to cook until tender, about 12 minutes over a medium heat.

Drain and mash then add a good splash of milk, salt and pepper and some chopped fresh chives, mix well. Serve hot.

To heat put in a medium oven until warm. Make a stock from the port, red wine, sugar, garlic, thyme and salt. Simmer in a pan together with the shallots until tender. Remove the tough outside layer when cooked. Make a whisky sauce with the brown chicken stock and cream before adding the whisky at the end to taste.

Serve the timbale of haggis with 2 shallots and the whisky sauce.

Cranachan



Ingredients:

570ml/1-pint double cream
85g/3oz. porridge oats
7 tbsp. whisky
3 tbsp. honey
450g/1lb. raspberries
fresh mint, to garnish

Method:

Toast the oats in a frying pan, being careful not to burn them.

Lightly whip the cream until it reaches the soft peak stage, then fold in the whisky, honey, oatmeal and raspberries.

Serve in dessert glasses garnished with a few raspberries and mint.

Haggis, Neeps and Tatties

Ingredients:

400g/14 oz. of haggis – purchased from a good quality butcher
4 baking potatoes
50g/2oz. butter
50g/2oz. cream
1 turnip
8 shallots
1 sprig of thyme
3 cloves of garlic
50g/2oz. of sugar
salt
200ml/7oz. of red wine
80ml/3oz. of port
500ml/17oz. of brown chicken stock
10ml/.5oz of whisky
200ml/7oz. of cream

Method:

Scrub the potatoes and bake them whole in the skins in the oven at 180 degrees until cooked. Remove from the oven and scoop out the flesh of the potatoes and pass through a fine sieve or potato ricer. Add in the cream and butter and mix.

At the same time, peel and dice the turnip and cook in salted water then pass through a fine sieve or potato ricer. Follow the butcher's instructions for the haggis based on size. Use a round metal ring and layer with one third of haggis layer followed by a third of mashed turnip before adding the mashed potatoes to fill the ring.

Tartan of the Month

Robert Burns World Federation Tartan

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

A tartan for the Robert Burns World Federation. The colours are intended to represent items or events of significance to the RBWF: red represents the blood of humankind, to which Burns great song *A Man's A Man* is dedicated and which was sung to open the Scottish Parliament; light blue represents the pale blue skies under which Burns as a farmer toiled, and the lochs and rivers of the Scotland; yellow represents gold for the chain of office and the harvest; green represents the nature which inspired Robert Burns in his poetry and life; black represents the ink he used to write with and white represents the pages he wrote upon. This tartan (SRT reference: 12970) was designed by Ewan MacDonald and the Robert Burns World Federation and registered in November, 2020. Wishing all our readers a Happy Burns Night this month!

Tartan Up! It's Kilt Skate Season



likely for years to come. What's more, the experience of skating in a Home Edition has inspired some Canadians to organize community events for 2022. In addition to the established kilt skate communities of Montreal QB, South Glengarry ON, Ottawa ON, Toronto ON, Fergus ON, Winnipeg MB, Saskatoon SK, Lethbridge AB, and Calgary AB, kilt skates are now planned for, Halifax NS, Glenaladale PEI, Moncton NB, and Midland ON.

After years of endeavouring to promote kilt skates in Canada's Maritime provinces, where the Scottish roots run very deep, the SSO's organizers are particularly delighted that the Home Edition seems to have reached Maritimers. In Prince Edward Island, for example, the community kilt skate this winter will be part of the year-long festivities to mark the 250th anniversary of the arrival of PEI's first Scottish settlers on the brig Alexander in 1772.

This winter, the Great Canadian Kilt Skate has received support from Ontario's Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture. With this help, a video is planned that will showcase the highlights of the 2022 kilt skate season. Meanwhile, the kilt skate phenomenon continues to grow south of the border. New York City will host its fourth annual Tartan Kilt Skate NYC, organized by the American Scottish Foundation. There are reports that other Scottish organizations in the USA are considering hosting kilt skates in their cities. You don't need to be Scottish to kilt skate. You just need a Scottish sense of fun and fortitude. Wear your tartans and don a kilt if you have one. Bring your friends and send your pictures to kiltskatemedi@ottscot.ca. Let's add to the Home Edition Gallery the photos and videos of *Scottish Banner* readers from around the world.

For more information: <https://ottscot.ca/kiltskate> and www.kiltskate.com



By: Don Cummer

In spite of the global pandemic, the Great Canadian Kilt Skate is back for its eighth season of celebrating Scottish culture with bare knees and ice. And because of the global pandemic, it's back bigger than ever. Last year, when COVID-19 health protocols closed community events, the Scottish Society of Ottawa (SSO) convened a Zoom meeting of eight kilt skate partners across Canada to discuss options. The seed of an idea was planted: promote small, socially distanced, safely bubbled "micro-skates." The idea grew to become the "Home Edition."

From backyard ice, community outdoor rinks, frozen ponds and rivers, and Ottawa's ever-popular Rideau Canal Skateway, individuals and families sent their photos and videos to the SSO, to be displayed on a website gallery. The number and variety of pictures on the SSO Gallery helped determine which city would be anointed as the Kilt Skate Capital of Canada. In the end, the honours went to Winnipeg, MB: a triumph that was duly noted in the Manitoba legislature by Dougald Lamont, MLA, who had sent SSO his video of his own Burns Day skate at the Forks of the frozen Red and Assiniboine rivers (watch it on YouTube).

Canadians celebrated their inner Scot

The Home Edition reached places that had never experienced a kilt skate. Without the need to be at a particular place at a particular time for a community event, Canadians celebrated their inner Scot in their own place at a time of their choosing. The Home Edition proved to be so popular that it will continue as a feature of the Great Canadian Kilt Skate this year and



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Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President

3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565

Email: djbaird4@gmail.com

Regional Directors for Australia

David and Patricia Benfell

Email: clanbairds@gmail.com

website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



Clan Cumming Society of the United States

Website: www.clancumming.us

Email us: info@clancumming.us

See us on Facebook



Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid

People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh "The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.

For information and membership application, contact Gordon Robertson. Email: gord7@bigpond.com



Clan Fraser Society of Australia

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

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

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts

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

Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>

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

482236358590288



CLAN BELL

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

Website: www.ClanBell.org

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

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

Email: President@clanbell.org

Clan Bell North America

4676 Emerald Willow Drive

Acworth, GA 30101



Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

CHIEF: Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing one of these Names: Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day; Dye; Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dee; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dhai; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny; MacDhai; McKeddie. In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson. Applications may be made online: clandavidsonaus@gmail.com or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P., P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

UK: London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands

Canada: Ontario * Western Canada

Australia: New South Wales * Victoria * Queensland * Western Australia

New Zealand: New Zealand

Europe: Spain

Africa: South Africa

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

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

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

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

Email: ivc@donnachaidh.com



Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

www.clangalbraith.org



Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce

Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary

President

5561 Earl Young Road

1051 Eagle Ridge Trail

Bloomington, IN 47408

Stillwater, Minnesota 55082

www.familyofbruceinternational.org

Clan Donald Australia



"under the patronage of the High Council of the Chiefs of Clan Donald"

High Commissioner Mr A. Neil Macdonald

State Commissioners

NSW

Mr John Currie

Qld

Mr A. Neil Macdonald

SA

Ms Therese McCutcheon

Vic

Mr Norman A Macdonald

WA

Ms Pamela McDonald

secretary.donaldaustralia@gmail.com

There is no joy without Clan Donald



Edmonstone Clan Society

Invites membership to anyone of the surname or variations:- Edmiston/e, Edmondston, Edmanson, Edmeston, Edmonson, Edmondson, etc. Chieftain Sir Archibald Edmonstone Bt of Duntreath

Contact: Mal Edmiston

3 Laguna Ave

Kirwan, Qld, 4817

61 (0)7 4755 4370

m.edmiston@bigpond.com



National Clan Cameron Australia Inc.

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

President: Alistair Cameron

Secretary: Terry Cameron

secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com

www.clan-cameron.org.au



Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald

Ph: 0412 090990

Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au

Web: www.clandonaldqld.org

ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald

Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald,

OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald,

OR with a connection through family lineage.

There is no joy without Clan Donald



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

Direct inquires to: Jim Dougherty

Treasurer/Membership Chair

Email: elliottcommia@gmail.com

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com



Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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

Frank McGregor

PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002

Email: clangregoraustalia@gmail.com

Web: www.clangregor.com

"Royal is our Race"



THE CLAN CAMPBELL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

All Campbells or descendants of Campbells and members of Clan Septs are welcome to join the Society.

For State Branches contact the National Secretary Margaret Vallance

Email: libertyv93@gmail.com

www.clan-campbell.org.au



Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

Membership is open only to persons of the blood of Macdonald, however spelled or of the blood of a recognized associate family or is related by marriage or legal adoption to either of these write for more info and a complete Sept list.

William H. McDaniel

High Commissioner, CDUSA

bill-mcdaniel@att.net



Clan Farquharson Association Australia

Membership inquiries are invited from descendants of Farquharson and descendants of Sept family names. Please contact the association by mail to:

The Secretary: Clan Farquharson

Association Australia

PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777

or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com

www.clanfarquharsonaus.weebly.com



American Clan Gregor Society

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

Gregor Grier MacAdams MacNish Magruder

McGehee Gregory King Peter Fletcher

Gregg Lecky Black and many others

Contacting our registrar, Jeanne P. Lehr

11 Ballas Crt.

St. Louis, MO 63131-3038

Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org

website: www.acgsus.org



CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-



Clan Chief Peter Carruthers of Holmains (Honorary Society President)

Bi-Annual Journal, Weekly Blog, Clan Merchandise, DNA/Genealogy project etc.

www.clancarrutherssociety.org

clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald

Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mr Thomas R. Macdonald

Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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



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CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG



Clan Hamilton Society

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

Inquiries to be sent to:

Sheri Lambert, Treasurer

P.O. Box 5399

Vernon Hills, IL 60061

visit our website:

www.clanhamilton.org

Clan Hay Australia

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

McAlpin/e

and variant spellings
Commander: Michael T. McAlpin
DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!
 Contact: Membership@MacAlpein.com
 Website: <https://macalpein.com/>

Clan MacLaren

MacLaren MacLaurin Lawrence
 Lawson Low[e]
 Low[e]ry Law[e] Patterson
 MacPatrick MacRory
 Mark A. McLaren, President
 President@clanmaclarenna.org

CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
 invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, to join us in celebrating our heritage!
 website: ClanMacNeilUSA.us
 Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram @ClanMacNeilUSA



Clan Hay

April Rich
 28 Oxbow Drive
 Willimantic, CT 06226
clanhaymembership@hotmail.com
 The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Hays(e); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Arml; Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgatie; D' Ay(e); Della'h'ay; Errol(l); Garrad; Garrow; Gifford; Hawson; Haygood; Hayter; Hayward; Haywood; Haynie; Hayden; Hayfield; Hayne(s); Leask(e); Leith; Lester; MacGaradh; Peebles; Peeples; Peoples; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester
www.clanhay.com

Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.
 Valerie MacDougall
 VP Membership
 505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON N5Z 3B2
 Email: info@macdougall.org Home page: www.macdougall.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall
Names Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyll and Clan MacDowall of Galloway

Coul	MacCoul	Macoual
Conacher	MacConacher	
Coyle	MacCoyle	
Dole	MacDole	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	MacDougal
Dougal	MacDougal	MacDougal
Dougle	MacDougle	MacDougal
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDugle
Dowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
MacDowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
Lullich	MacLullich	MacLullich
MacCulloch	MacCulloch	MacCullagh
MacClintock	MacClintock	MacClintock
MacHale	MacHale	MacHale
MacHowell	MacHowell	MacHowell
MacKichan	MacKichan	MacNameil
MacLucas	MacLucas	MacLuke

Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc

Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.
 Treasurer
 383 Ash Brook Lane
 Sunnyvale, TX
 75182-3250
 Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net
 Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of surname spelling to join in preserving our heritage.
 Various family names are MacLellan(d), McClellan(d), McLellan(d) and Gilliland.
 Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail
 of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac
 Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson
 PO Box 243
 GYMEA NSW 2227
www.clanmacnicol.org

Clan Henderson Society

The MacEanruigs, proud sons of Henry, invite you to join!
Purposes of the Society
 • Foster Scottish culture and activities
 • Promote Scottish festivals and games
 • Assist in genealogical research
 • Foster fellowship among kith and kin
 • Promote the history of Scotland
 • Promote charitable and educational activities via a scholarship fund
 • Gather the Clan, as directed by our Chief,
Alistair of Fordell
 Contact: Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
 0439 330 012
www.clanhendersonsociety.com

INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC.
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 Michael R. MacFarlane, FSA Scot - President
 Richard G. Kilby, FSA Scot - Treasurer
 John K. Manchester - Secretary
 International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.
 PO Box 339 Eldersburg, CA 91740 USA
info@macfarlane.org
MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling), and descendants. **Recognised Septs:**
 Askey MacAndie MacClure
 Beaton MacAskill MacCorkill MacWilliam
 Bethune MacAulay MacCrimmon Norie
 Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallum Norman
 Harold MacCaig MacHaigh Tolmie
 Lewis MacCaskey MacRaild Williamson
 • NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
 • Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
 • South Australia - Alex McLeod 08 8327 0925
 • Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334
 • Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

Clan Macpherson Association

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

Africa: Derek Macpherson African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +265 999 512 620	Australia: John L. Macpherson Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +61 409 122 141
Canada: Denise Lagundzin Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 519 507 4465	England & Wales: William Macpherson EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7877 363 507
Europe: Will Tulling Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7793 317 387	New Zealand: Tony McPherson NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 360 701 8133
Scotland & Northern Ireland: Annie Le Roy-Lewis SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7793 317 387	USA: Robert T. McPherson UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 360 701 8133

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

Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope
INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA
 President & Commissioner: Stephen J. Hope
president@clanhope.org
www.clanhopeaustralia.org
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope
highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org
 Membership Chair: Cynthia Hope Henderson
membership@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org
CANADA
 Commissioner: Scott Hale
commissioner@clanhope.ca
www.clanhope.ca
SCOTLAND
 Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope
commissionerscotland@clanhope.org
www.clanhope.org
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClanHopeofCraighall>

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

Worldwide, we welcome descendants of all spelling variations, including (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis, (Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.
 Scott McInnis, Member Services: scott@macinnes.org
 or visit **www.macinnes.org**

THE MACLEODS

RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS
 FOR INFORMATION:
WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG
 A.L. MACLEOD
 3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B
 WEST VALLEY CITY, UT
 84120-6880

The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

If your surname is MacRae, or you are descended from a person having the surname MacRae (any spelling) or that of a Sept of the Clan then you are eligible to join our Society.
Australian Contact:
 Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: learn@vsr.com.au
NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: sue.treg1@gmail.com

Clan Irwin Association

Clan Irwin Association Patron
 Alexander Irvine of Drum
 27th Baron of Drum & Chief of the Name.
 Contact: Brian S. Ervin, Chairman
 1103 Highview Dr. Lapeer, MI, 48446
 Phone: 248-854-0798 brian.ervin@clanirwin.org
 IRWIN • IRVIN • IRVINE • IRVING • ERWIN • ERVIN
 Over 270 ways the name has been spelled since 325 A.D.
www.clanirwin.org

Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.

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

Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide

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

Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008
 We invite MacRaes of all spelling variations and their descendants to join our Clan MacRae Society. Learn your Scottish MacRae history and family lineage!
www.macrae.org
 Need more info? Contact:
 Bruce McRae, President
 303-670-9611
brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com

CLAN LAMONT SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

invites membership from Sept names refer to Web Site www.clanlamontaustralia.com
 Clan Chief Peter Lamont of that Ilk resides in Sydney Australia.
 For all enquires about the Clan and Membership contact :-
 President Ian McLucas.
 Email ianandbevmclucas@bigpond.com
 mobile 0448 778 799

MacLaren

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

Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: John McNeil
 21 Coopers Avenue
 Leabrook, South Australia 5068
 Phone: 08 833 33990 Email: kisimul@chariot.net.au

Clan Maitland Society

Chief: Ian Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale!
 We are all related! Contact your local society
North America: Rosemary Maitland Thom
rthomnprdcn@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org
Australia: Amanda Maitland clanmaitland@yahoo.com.au
 6/1 Hinemoa Ave. Normanhurst, NSW, 2076
New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz
 33 Disley Street, Highbury, Wellington 6012. NZ
 We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at: www.clanmaitland.org.uk



Clan Munro Association, U.S.A

We are the only national organization of Munro in the U.S.A. affiliated with the Clan Munro (Association) of Scotland.

COME JOIN US!

Web site: www.Clanmunrousa.org

Write: Heather Munro Daniel

4600 Lloydrown Road

Mebane, NC 27302



Clan Scott Australia Group

Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch KT, K.B.E
Commissioner: Heather de Sylva

Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs:
Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.

E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

Email: clanwardlaw@yahoo.com

'Wardlaw ivermair!'

www.clanwardlaw.com

Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcomed from all Australians of Scottish descent.

For information please contact
The Hon Secretary SAHC, Susan Cooke
Ph: 0411097724

E: info@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Scottish Associations and Societies

OLIPHANT CLAN & FAMILY ASSOCIATION of North America



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Olifant - Olifent
and all descended

ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com

www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

For further info contact

President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174

Secretary: Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263

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THE AMERICAN-SCOTTISH FOUNDATION, INC.

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

www.americanscottishfoundation.org



The American-Scottish Foundation

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Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277

Email: scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

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Founded in 1905

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For further details contact John: 0427 990 754

Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com

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Clan Ross in Australia

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

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

Contact: Commander Des Ross at

lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853

Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0409 322 374



Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary

PO Box 1166

Park Ridge QLD 4125

genealogist_clan_sutherland_australia@hotmail.com

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

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Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

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

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

Web: hvscots.org Email: hunterscots@gmail.com

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Email: Secretary@ClanSutherland.org

Website: www.ClanSutherland.org

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- > Celebrates Scottish Culture
- > Conducts Annual Burn Supper, Poetry Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

For Membership Information contact:

Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973

Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au

Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

Scottish Resource Centre
Level 1, 420 - 424 William St.
West Melbourne VIC 3003

E-mail: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au

Website: <https://scotsofaus.org.au>

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Trust's Royal Patron at the birthplace of Burns

Photos by: John Sinclair and courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland.



Cottage to be met by Phil Long OBE, Chief Executive of the National Trust for Scotland and Caroline Smith, Operations Manager and Chris Waddell, Visitor Services Manager, both of the Trust's Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. In the course of their visit, the Royal couple entered the rustic cottage where Robert Burns was born on 25th January 1759. The cottage was built by Burns' father, William Burnes, a tenant farmer.

Culturally significant

Among the items placed on display for the Duke and Duchess to view were: Jean Armour's wedding ring - Jean was a very important part of Burns' life and the inspiration for many of his poems and love songs. Her ring is contained in a box, which has two signet rings on either side of the wedding ring. Each of the signet rings holds a fragment of the couple's hair. *Auld Lang Syne* manuscript - An original manuscript dating back to 1793 and one of only six known to be in existence that we know of.

The National Trust for Scotland today welcomed the conservation charity's Patron, HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay and Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Rothesay on their first visit to Burns Cottage in Alloway, Ayrshire. Their Royal Highnesses were greeted by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, Sheriff Iona Sara McDonald in Alloway High Street before making their way to Burns

It features the original prose of the poem in Burns' handwriting. *The Uncut Kilmarnock Edition: Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect* - This is the only one in existence in its raw state before being bound and personalised. Published by John Wilson of Kilmarnock on 31st July 1786 at the cost of three shillings per copy. The success of the book undoubtedly formed a turning point in Burns' life as he was about to depart Scotland and sail to Jamaica. Robert Burns' socks - Knitted, probably by a family member, they have his initials sewn at the top. From their measurements we can tell that he would have been around a size eight.

The Duke and Duchess also met with local schoolchildren and enjoyed a brief performance played on a violin that had been owned by Burns' dance teacher, William Gregg, and may have been played by the Bard himself. On leaving the cottage, The Duke of Rothesay joined front-line staff and volunteers from the National Trust for Scotland at a reception to mark the charity's 90th anniversary.

The National Trust for Scotland's Chief Executive, Phil Long OBE FRSE said: "It was a delight to welcome their royal highnesses to one of the most culturally significant places cared for by the Trust. The humble origins of Robert Burns, in a building his family shared with livestock, provide a breath-taking juxtaposition with the worldwide fame and undying influence his talent enabled him to achieve. The Duke and Duchess asked many questions and their fascination with

the cottage and the history it embodies it was evident for all to see. It was also wonderful that The Duke was able to join some of the dedicated volunteers and staff who care for the cottage and the collections within the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. We reflected upon the 90 years our charity has devoted to conserving, protecting and sharing some of the finest of Scotland's historic buildings and our rich cultural and natural heritage."



Did you know?

- The last Royal Visit to Burns Cottage by Her Majesty The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh was in 1995.
- HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay has been the Patron of National Trust for Scotland since 2003, succeeding Her Majesty The Queen Mother in this role. The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay, are the titles used by The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall when in Scotland
- Burns Cottage is part of the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum.
- The world's first Burns Supper was held in the cottage in July 1801, when nine guests sat down to a meal of haggis and sheep heads. Back then it was a memorial dinner, commemorating Burns' death on 21st July 1796. Nowadays, Burns Suppers are held annually on the day of his birth, 25th January.
- The cottage was a privately rented residence and then an alehouse for most of the 19th century, before being restored by the Burns Monument Trust in 1881. The National Trust for Scotland took charge of the cottage in 2008, and it underwent further restoration while the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum (which opened in 2010) was being constructed. Over the last year, the cottage has been rethatched and structural repairs undertaken thanks to generous donations and the support of the Friends of Robert Burns Birthplace Museum.
- The Gregg Violin - Named by VisitScotland in 2017 as one of the '25 Objects That Shaped Scotland's History,' is made from pine, maple and sycamore, and decorated with a red, green and black floral design. It dates back to 1750 and was owned by Burns' dance teacher William Gregg and was possibly played by Robert Burns himself. It was rediscovered by the committee of the nearby Bachelors' Club and restored in 1995. It was played during Their Royal Highnesses' visit by Alistair McCulloch.
- The National Trust for Scotland was formed after a meeting in Pollok House, Glasgow in 1931. It is the independent charity that ensures that Scotland's heritage is valued by everyone and protected now and for future generations. The Trust cares for and maintains 76,000 hectares of countryside, 245 miles of mountain footpaths, eight National Nature Reserves, 10,000 archaeological sites, collections containing over 300,000 precious objects and 100 historic properties. Among the places in its care are Culzean Castle & Country Park, Glencoe, Fair Isle, the battlefields of Culloden and Bannockburn, Brodick, Bodie and Fyvie Castles and St Kilda, the UK's only dual World Heritage Site.

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WHOLESALE AVAILABLE

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

The international Scottish event community worldwide has been greatly impacted by event postponements, scaled down presentations and cancellations due to restrictions related to COVID-19.

We are listing both events taking place and that have been cancelled/postponed. Please check direct with event contacts for the most up to date information.

You can also see our latest updates (including events across Scotland and Australia/New Zealand) or add your event at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

Canada

JANUARY 2022

Great Canadian Kilt Skate -- Home Edition 1-February 28, Nationwide

Tartan up! Celebrate Scottish heritage by skating in kilts, tartans or anything that reminds you of Scotland. Send your photos and videos to communications@ottscot.ca. #TartanUp #ottscot #kiltskate2022

Great Canadian Kilt Skate Ottawa 8, Ottawa, ON

Come join us for our 8th annual event. Celebrate Scottish heritage with bare knees and ice at Lansdowne Park Skating Court. Info: www.kiltskate.com.

A Celebration of Robbie Burns 15, Coquitlam, BC

Join us for our annual celebration of Scotland's National Bard, Robbie Burns! Fiddler Rosie Carver with Celtic band Blackthorn and a special guest piper feature the musical traditions of Scotland with a special focus on Burns' songs and poems at Place des Arts, 1120 Brunette Ave. Info: www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-celebration-of-robbie-burns-tickets-168324809035

Rabbie Burns Dinner 21, Toronto, ON

Join the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto at the University Club of Toronto. The event follows the time-honoured format with the Address to a Haggis, The Immortal Memory and Toasts to the Lassies and Laddies. Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

The Gaelic Society of Toronto Ceilidh 21, Virtual event

A Ceilidh is all about community and coming together! If you have a story, a song, or an instrument you play, we invite you to contribute – skill level is not the important thing at a Ceilidh, so simply join and tell, sing or play! Most of all, we invite you to contribute with your presence and join us via Zoom. Info: gaelictoronto@gmail.com or www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com

Burns Supper 22, Vancouver, BC

A traditional Scottish meal with all the trimmings – wonderful music – entertainment – and more. It's a great way to introduce your family and friends to Scottish culture and enjoy the camaraderie of the local dance community. Info: www.rscsdsvancouver.org

Burns Supper 22, Calgary, AB

Celebrate Robert Burns with the Calgary Burns Club at The Westin Hotel. Info: www.calgaryburnsclub.com

Robbie Burns Celebration 22, Ottawa, ON

Join the Scottish Society of Ottawa at The Canadian Museum of Nature with guest performances from Bobby Watt, Graham Lindsay and The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke of Edinburgh's Own). Info: www.ottscot.ca/burns-supper-ottawa

Happy Burns Night

January 25, 2022

Nationwide

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

Burns Statue Celebration

25, Toronto, ON

Everyone is welcome to celebrate the birthday of Scotland's national bard. There will be piping, haggis, neeps, tatties, singing, and good cheer at the Robert Burns Statue (Allan Gardens -Sherbourne and Carlton). Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

FEBRUARY 2022

The Gaelic Society of Toronto Ceilidh

18, Virtual event

A Ceilidh is all about community and coming together! If you have a story, a song, or an instrument you play, we invite you to contribute – skill level is not the important thing at a Ceilidh, so simply join and tell, sing or play! Most of all, we invite you to contribute with your presence and join us via Zoom. Info: gaelictoronto@gmail.com or www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com

Great Canadian Kilt Skate - Fergus

20, Fergus, ON

Tartan up! Come join us to celebrate Scottish culture in Canada in a unique winter way at Centre Wellington Sportsplex, 550 Belsyde Ave E. Info: www.kiltskate.com

Kilt Skate

27, Williamstown, ON

Tartan up! Join us for a full afternoon of winter carnival fun -- indoors and out. Skating, music, Highland dancing, horse rides, snow sliding, hot chocolate, roasted marshmallows at Char-Lan Recreation Centre. Info: www.kiltskate.com

March 2022

The Gaelic Society of Toronto Ceilidh

18, Virtual event

A Ceilidh is all about community and coming together! If you have a story, a song, or an instrument you play, we invite you to contribute – skill level is not the important thing at a Ceilidh, so simply join and tell, sing or play! Most of all, we invite you to contribute with your presence and join us via Zoom. Info: gaelictoronto@gmail.com or www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com

USA

JANUARY 2022

Florida Keys Celtic Festival

8-9, Marathon, FL

The Florida Keys Celtic Festival features family-friendly Celtic rock and Traditional music, Irish & Scottish Dancing, Sheep-dog herding, Pipes and Drums, a Children's Glen with games, face painting and fun activities, and fabulous Celtic (and Keys) foods and crafts vendors. Highland Athletics, the original Strongman sport, features a sanctioned Woman's Highland Athletics Competition and Men's Highland Athletic Demonstrations at Marathon Community Park MM49 US Hwy 1 Ocean Side. Info: www.floridakeyscelticfestival.com

Winter Storm

13-16, Kansas City, MO

Cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Winter Storm is looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Kansas City in 2023, January 12-15. Info: www.mhaf.org

Burns Supper

15, Norfolk, VA

Celebrate the Bard with the newly-founded Siren City Pipe Band as it presents a fundraiser to help build the band and its impact on the community at Norfolk's Lake Wright Hotel. Info: www.sirencitypipeband.com

Central Florida Scottish Highland Games

15-16, Winter Springs, FL

Presenting a taste of Scotland & celebrating Scottish heritage at Central Winds Park. Info: www.flascot.com

The 27th Annual Burns Night Gala Celebration

21, New York, NY

Celebrate Scotland's National Bard, Robert Burns. Hosted by the American Scottish Foundation and University Club, New York. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

Scotfest Burns Night 2022

22, Broken Arrow, OK

Join Scotfest as we celebrate Scotland's prodigal son, poet laureate and philosopher, Robert Burns. Fantastic food, Single Malts, drinks, poetry and lots of frivolity and fun at Stoney Creek Hotel Tulsa. Info: www.facebook.com/OKSCOTFEST

The Jersey Devil Pipe Band Burns Supper

22, Stafford Township, NJ

Come out for an evening filled with traditional Scottish music, poetry, and fine Celtic cuisine. Entertainment for the evening will include performances from The Jersey Devil Pipe Band, The Nae Breeks Pipe Band, several notable solo pipers, a proper presentation and address to the Haggis, and will be capped off with a collective Massed Bands at Manahawkin Elks Lodge. Info: www.facebook.com/jerseydevilpipeband

Burns Supper

22, Cazenovia, NY

Grey Barr Memorial Pipe Band performs several times throughout the evening. Bells & Motley strolling mistrals, Highland Dancers, Irish Step Dancers, Address to a Haggis. Seven course supper at Brae Loch Inn, 5 Albany St. Info: 315-655-3431 or www.braelochinn.com

Happy Burns Night

25, Nationwide

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

Burns Night Supper

29, Washington, DC

An annual St. Andrew's Society of Washington event honoring the birthday of Scotland's greatest poet and author, Robert Burns. The Society comes together for drinks, followed by dinner and a celebration of the life and contributions of Robert Burns, called the "Immortal Memory." Info: www.saintandrewsociety.org

Robert Burns Supper

29, Eagan, MN

Join the Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games to celebrate Robert Burns at Lost Spur Golf and Event Center. Info: www.facebook.com/events/614611769657856

FEBRUARY 2022

Sarasota Highland Games & Celtic Festival

4 - 5, Sarasota, FL

February 4th, 7PM-10PM Ceilidh, followed by a full day of Scottish celebration February 5th, 9AM-5PM with the Games at Sarasota County Fairgrounds. Info: www.sarasotahighlandgames.com

Ninth Annual Celtic Family Jamboree

4 - 5, Brooksville, FL

Celtic music, workshops, Highland athletics demo, Celtic merchandise at The Rustic Sertoma Youth Ranch, 85 Myers Rd. Info: www.celticheritageproductions.com/fj.htm

Balmoral Winter Workshop Online

4 - 6, Virtual event

Beginning in February 2021, Balmoral is offering weekend-long Winter Workshops for Pipers and Drummers. Workshop attendees receive instruction on the Great Highland pipes, Scottish smallpipes, Scottish snare drum and more. Info: www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org/winter-workshop

City of Dunedin Pipe Band presents

"Highland Roads," LIVE in concert

5, Alexandria, VA

The City of Dunedin Pipe Band, Grade 1 Champions, present "Highland Roads," LIVE in concert, along with a WORKSHOP for pipers & drummers at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Dr. Info: www.cityofdunedinpipeband.com/events

Asheville Celtic Festival

19, Fletcher, NC

A winter indoor Celtic Festival bringing the Celtic spirit of the Seven Nations to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, will be held inside of the Davis Center at the WNC Agricultural Center. Info: www.ashevillecelticfest.com

Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival

19 - 20, Mount Dora, FL

Celebrate the Scottish Culture in Mount Dora with bagpipers, Highland Athletics, Celtic music, dancing, Society and Heritage Clan Village, Shortbread Contest, and more. Info: <https://ci.mount-dora.fl.us/698/Mount-Dora-Scottish-Festival>

Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival

26, Green Cove Springs, FL

Bringing a "Wee Bit o' Scotland" to the Northeast Florida area. Each year residents of Northeast Florida and the surrounding areas gather and enjoy the athletics, music, food and fun of the games at Clay County Fairgrounds, 2497 State Road 16 West. Info: www.neflgames.com

MARCH 2022

Phoenix Scottish Games

4 - 6, Gilbert AZ

New location is the Gilbert Regional Park, at Queen Creek Rd. and Higley Rd. (3005 E. Queen Creek Rd) Info: www.phoenixscottishgames.com

Southeast Florida Scottish Festival

& Highland Games

5, Plantation, FL

A celebration of Scottish culture at Plantation Heritage Park, 1100 S. Fig Tree Lane (W 63rd Ave), presented by Scottish American Society of South Florida. Info: www.sassf.org

36th Annual Celtic Heritage Celebration

11 - 13, Angels Camp, CA

The largest Celtic event on the West Coast at Calaveras County Fairgrounds, 2465 Gun Club Rd. Info: www.celticheritagecelebration.com

The St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival

12 - 13, St. Augustine, FL

Find the Celt in you at America's oldest Celtic city at the multi-award winning St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival, a weekend of great Celtic entertainment. Info: www.celticstaugustine.com

Tartan Day South

31 - April 3, Cayce, SC

A celebration is a four-day event honoring Celtic heritage, featuring unique sports, incredible music, great foods and interactive as well as interesting exhibitions. Info: www.tartandaysouth.com

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:

- 1) Hampden Park
- 9) Higtæe
- 10) Wattles
- 11) Gab
- 12) Tallies
- 13) Average
- 14) Sun
- 15) Least
- 17) Serfs
- 18) Judge
- 20) Trews,
- 22) Cap
- 24) Bonnie
- 25) Heather
- 26) Dee
- 27) Thistle
- 28) Roubles
- 29) Glenkinglas

Down:

- 1) Highland Dancing
- 2) Muthill
- 3) Dregs
- 4) Newbattle
- 5) Antler
- 6) Kilpatrickhills
- 7) Shotts
- 8) Islets
- 16) Afterdeck
- 18) Jabots
- 19) Epistle
- 21) Seagull
- 23) Parish
- 25) Heron

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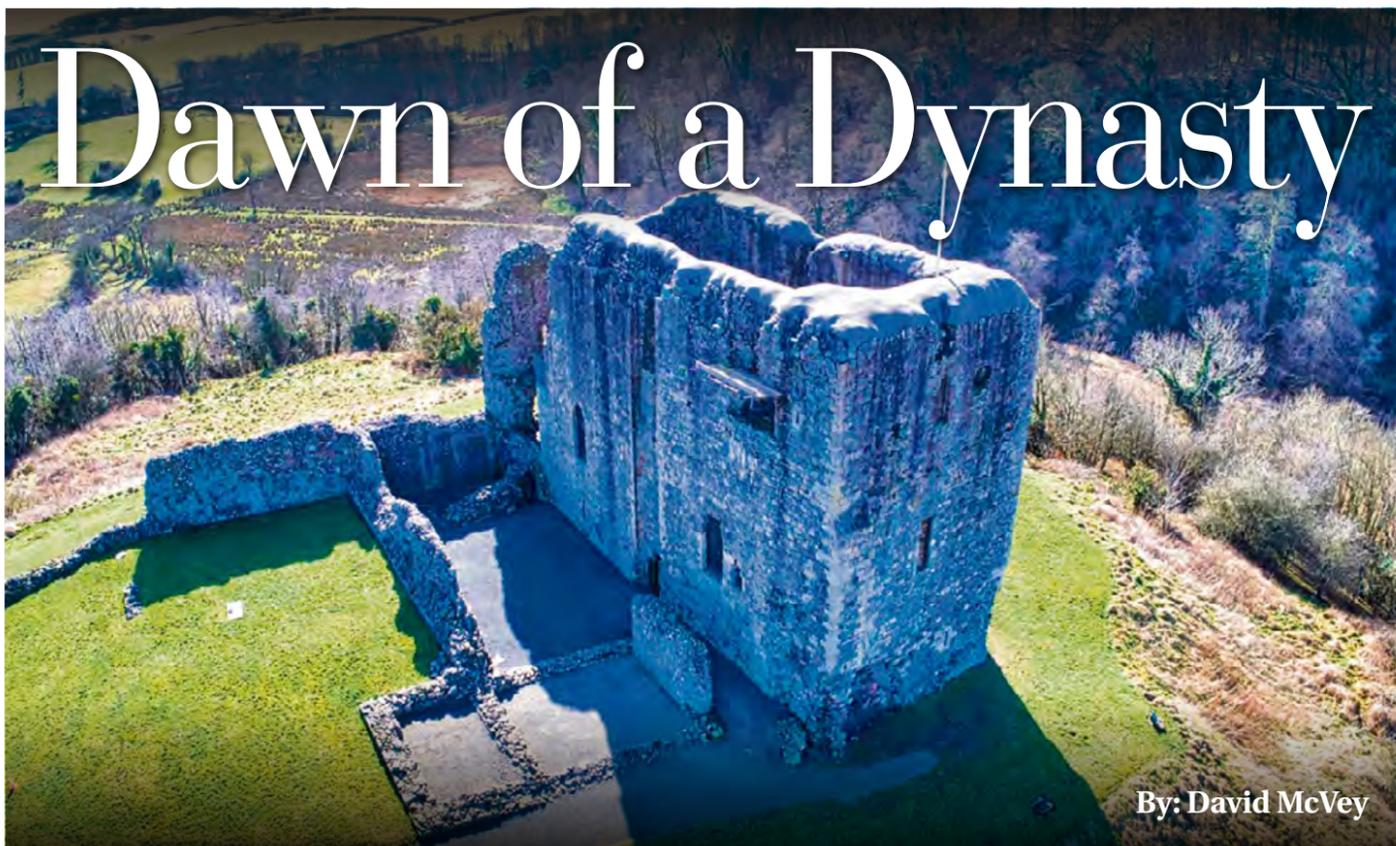
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Dawn of a Dynasty

Photo: VisitScotland.



By: David McVey

In 2014 BBC 2 ran a three-part documentary entitled *The Stuarts*, presented by Dr Clare Jackson of the University of Cambridge. The series began with James VI and I, meaning that over 200 years of monarchical history were omitted, as if the Stuarts only became interesting when their dynasty took over the English throne. In fact, the Stuarts - or Stewarts - presided over colourful times when they ruled Scotland alone. And it all began at Dundonald Castle in Ayrshire.

The site of Dundonald Castle has a long history. There was probably an Iron Age settlement on the hilltop and the obvious defensive qualities of the steep, rocky hill were continued when a motte and bailey structure occupied the site. The present structure was built around a 13th century tower which may have been the gatehouse of an earlier version of the castle.

A royal dynasty

The castle belonged to the Stewarts, the hereditary High Stewards of the kings of Scotland who became a royal dynasty themselves. Their first monarch was Robert the Steward, who became Robert II in 1371 at 55. Only four years earlier he had been a prisoner in Lochleven Castle, as would his descendent Mary Queen of Scots 200 years later. He lived at Dundonald and is believed to have improved and enhanced the building in the 1350s. The intent was not, it's believed, defensive, but rather just to impress. As you approach the castle on the steep path from the Visitor Centre you can only imagine that he succeeded; your view of the castle emerges in an imposing way.

Robert II died at Dundonald in 1390 and his successor, Robert III was also associated with the castle. In fact, it's possible he also died in his bed here in 1406, though Rothesay Castle on Bute is more likely.

A family of local magnates, the Cochrans, bought the castle in 1636 and almost immediately began robbing the stonework for the rebuilding of nearby Auchans House. Cochrane was a Royalist, and after the Restoration was rewarded by being made Earl of Dundonald. A descendent, and 10th Earl of Dundonald, was the legendary naval figure Admiral Thomas Cochrane (1775-1860). A swashbuckling adventurer, Cochrane even served in the Chilean navy during a period when he was out of favour with the Royal Navy. He became the 10th Earl in 1831.

"It stands on a beautiful rising ground, which is seen at a great distance on several quarters, and from whence there is an extensive prospect of the rich district of Cuninghame, the western sea, the Isle of Arran, and a part of the northern coast of Ireland."

He laments its ruinous, roofless state and goes on: 'we could not, by any power of imagination, figure it as having been a suitable habitation for majesty.' Johnson joked about 'King Bob' and, according to Boswell, 'roared and laughed till the ruins echoed.' As there always are with

The site of Dundonald Castle has a long history.

His buccaneering adventures are said to have been an influence on two fictional naval heroes; CS Forester's Hornblower and Patrick O'Brian's Jack Aubrey. And further, the Star Trek team's debt to Royal Navy history and fiction is well-known, so their supposed inventor of the Warp Drive, Zefram Cochrane, is surely a tribute to the 10th Earl of Dundonald.

A beautiful rising ground

Dundonald Castle was never lived in again after the Cochrane era. Boswell and Johnson visited the ruin in 1773 during their tour of Scotland and Johnson was apparently much amused that such a grubby ruin could have been a royal residence. Johnson used this as the basis for another tongue-in-cheek snook to cock at Scotland's relative poverty. Johnson doesn't mention the visit to Dundonald in his *A Journey to the Western Isles of Scotland* but Boswell, in his parallel *The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides* says of Dundonald:

historic castles, Dundonald has tales of underground passages, leading to Stane Castle and Seagate Castle near Irvine, and to the other Cochrane home at Auchans. Almost certainly there is nothing to these tales, but the children will enjoy hearing them and constructing stories around them.

The building came into state care in 1953. While it is still structurally looked after by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), its day-to-day management is in the hands of a local volunteer group, the Friends of Dundonald Castle. They run a small Visitor Centre with toilets, a café and a small museum. During 2021 HES was forced to undertake consolidation work on some of the building and so it was closed off to visitors. It's almost a relief to see access limited for a reason other than Covid. However, the Visitor Centre remained open and you can still view the building from outside a temporary fence.

Dundonald Castle has a car park and Stagecoach bus 10 runs here from Kilmarnock. Check in advance to see whether the castle has fully reopened.

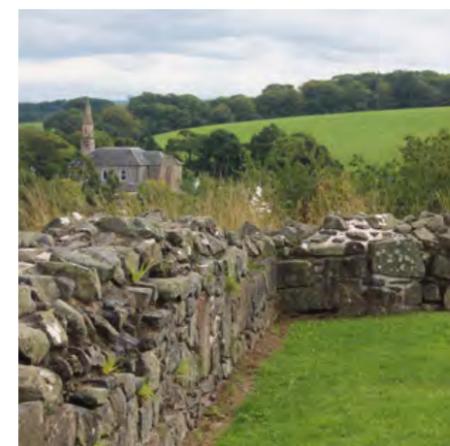


Photo: David McVey.



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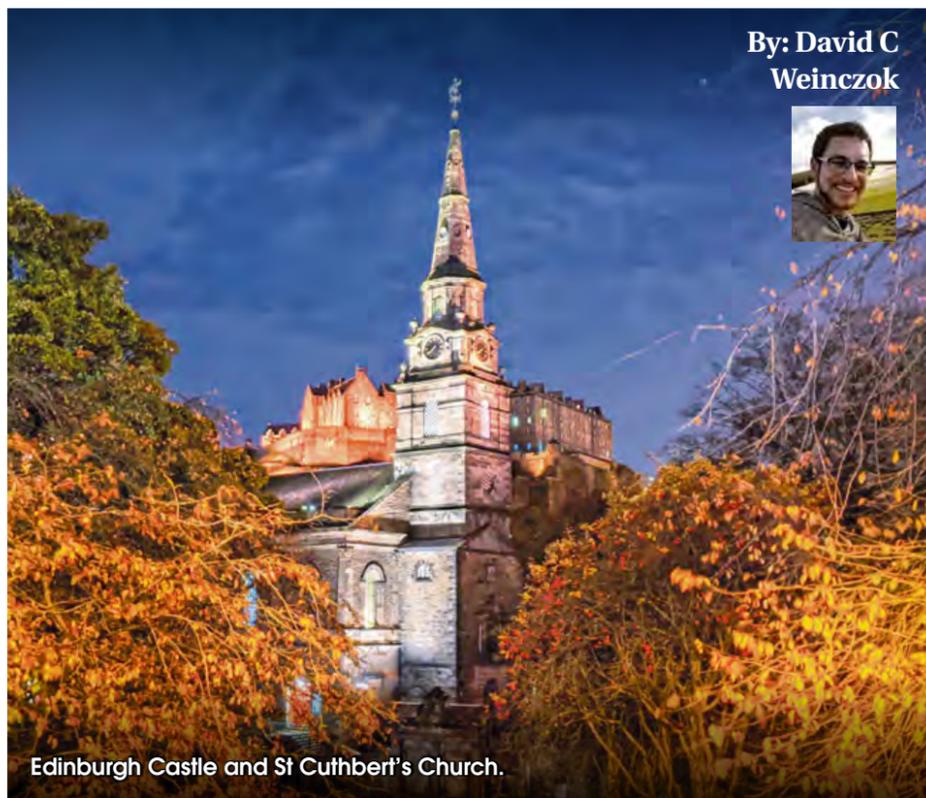
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If a .scot domain or email address is among your New Year Resolutions (and it should be!) please get in touch. I'll be happy to help you establish the perfect online identity. Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year!



Glen Moyer
glenmoyer@american.scot
USA Global Ambassador

Scotland After Dark: *Keeping curiosity alive after sunset*



By: David C Weinczok



Edinburgh Castle and St Cuthbert's Church.

mostly set, under a soft blue and purple gloaming. After dinner and in full darkness I went to Kilmartin Church to visit one of my favourite collections of medieval and Early Modern artefacts. Within a former mausoleum turned lapidarium are 23 grave slabs, carved between the early 13th century and 1712. They are carved with images of swords, warriors and knights, standing side by side in an unbroken line along the walls from left to right, surrounding you as you enter. I turned on the flashlight and moved it over each one in turn, casting them into sharp, shadowy relief. The spotlight made them appear like statues in the niches of a church, which I'm sure they would be happy to hear. I had seen them several times before, but always in daylight. For reasons I can't quite explain, this time it felt as though I got to know them better than in all of the previous times combined.

Light takes on a whole new life in the dark.

During the past two years when the world sometimes shrank to what's within walking distance of my front door, I sought out the nocturnal sights of my Edinburgh neighbourhood, Stockbridge. I noticed that how I thought about places that had become mundane through daily repetition took on new, interesting characteristics. There is a set of stairs next to the local pharmacy that I always found intriguing - a zigzag of arched steps that appear almost to float, especially in the dark, wedged into a narrow multi-level close (the Scots term for an alley used as a thoroughfare). I had been up and down them several hundred times before, but as my curiosity piqued due to the lack of anything 'new' to see, they became not just any steps, but my favourite steps. Passing by them now I always take a look, as if checking in on an old friend.

Embracing the dark side
Light takes on a whole new life in the dark. My phone is equipped with a function called 'Night Sight', which artificially enhances the visibility of features in the dark. It is not quite an honest representation of what the eye sees, but it captures the spirit of it.

Blues contrast with oranges, the sky appears ever so slightly illuminated, and the glare from street lamps sends little sparks across the image. With this new way of seeing, I took hundreds of pictures of places I had long ago stopped bothering to photograph. A local twisting path affectionately called 'the Snakey' was transformed into trees that seemed almost ablaze against the coldness of the sky. The lights of Dean Village became a scene emanating storybook cosiness. A tiny patch of garden along the Water of Leith containing similar tree specimens to those in the nearby Royal Botanic Garden looked as though it might play host to the next revelry of the faerie folk. St Bernard's Well, a place known for its healing waters and statue of Hygieia, Greco-Roman goddess of hygiene and health, became a monument of shadows that you might expect Mr Hyde to pounce out from. Other, grander monuments in Edinburgh's city centre, like the Scott Monument and Edinburgh Castle itself, were no less subject to this transformation.

Maybe this all sounds daft to you and you'd rather stay curled up under a blanket with a hot drink in hand throughout winter, and that's perfectly reasonable. Normally I would do the same. The circumstances thrust on us since March 2020, however, have necessitated new ways of engaging with our local communities and own our sense of curiosity. Exploring Edinburgh and other Scottish historic sites after hours has been my way of keeping that curiosity alive. Plus, there's no rule saying you can't tuck in with a hot toddy afterwards as a reward for embracing the dark side.



Scott Monument.



Stockbridge steps.

Historic landscapes

One November evening I was standing on a narrow wooden walkway, unable to see either its beginning or end, surrounded by bog and the ambient silence of night. I was visiting Finlaggan, once the capital of the medieval Lordship of the Isles, in Islay. Finlaggan is a sort of geographic fractal - two islands in a loch on an island in a sea. Earlier that day I visited by daylight, and was curious to see how the cover or darkness transformed the place. By necessity, each step on this return journey was more deliberate. The ability of my senses to orient myself was considerably dulled, yet rather than blunting the experience I found that it heightened it. By day, the wooden walkway was just a practical, if novel, way of staying dry; by night it felt like a tunnel or portal, inexorably drawing me closer to its invisible yet inevitable destination. Standing halfway along it, for all I knew the world at either end had ceased to exist. It was a little bit terrifying, but utterly thrilling. Arriving flashlight in hand on Eilean Mòr, Finlaggan's 'big island', each step forward exposed a tiny new sliver of the unknown. Casting the light over the fragmentary ruins of a stone chapel, which in daylight seemed entirely innocent, made it appear like a giant's grasping hand rising up from the dark, waterlogged earth. Everything was familiar, yet otherworldly and slightly hair-raising. I'll never forget it.

Another experience, also in Argyll, cemented this newfound thrill. Kilmartin Glen is one of Scotland's most extraordinary historic landscapes. It contains castles, cairns, rock art, standing stones, crofts, medieval settlements, hillforts, harbours, and so much more. I arrived there one April evening as the sun had



Kilmartin - grave slabs.



Dean Village.

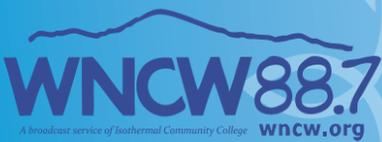
As I write this in Edinburgh on the 4th of December, it is fully dark outside by 15:45. Elsewhere in Scotland, night comes much sooner. Two days ago, a friend who recently moved back to Orkney after several years living in the Central Belt lamented the loss of all-natural light there by 14:30. Tellingly, the Scottish Gaelic term for the month of December is An Dùbhlachd, 'the darkness'. Confronted with the diminishing daylight, there are two responses: to hibernate, which is wholly sensible; or to embrace the novelty of seeing your world in a whole new (lack of) light, which is arguably less so. More and more, I find myself doing the latter.

Evidenced by the above, at this time of year, 'dark' does not necessarily equate to 'night' so many of the following wanderings were done in the early evening rather than in the wee hours of mid-night. It always felt safe, although I acknowledge that as a man often accompanied by a dog, that safety comes in no small part from a place of privilege. Before you take inspiration from this, bear that in mind and take whatever steps you need to, perhaps by bringing a companion along, to stay as safe as can be. I can vividly recall the moment when I became enamoured with exploring after dark.

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Book of Deer to return to north-east Scotland for the first time in a millennium



For the first time in more than one thousand years, the Book of Deer, possibly Scotland's oldest surviving manuscript, will return to the north-east of Scotland in 2022. The community heritage group The Book of Deer Project, based in Aden Country Park in Aberdeenshire, has secured £128,588 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to bring the 10th century text back to the area where it is believed to have originated and to celebrate its return. It will be on loan from Cambridge University Library, where it has been since 1715, and will be exhibited at Aberdeen Art Gallery in summer 2022, during the Year of Scotland's Stories.

The Book of Deer is a rare example of a pocket gospel book, and was produced for private use rather than for church services.

It contains the oldest surviving example of written Scots Gaelic (it also includes Latin text) in the world within its margins. Plans to celebrate the temporary return of the Book of Deer are well underway and a series of community cultural events will take place in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire to celebrate the book and its heritage. Parallel events are also being planned in Cambridge. The programme will include a further archaeological dig at the Abbey of Deer in Aberdeenshire, thought to be the site of the early mediaeval monastery where the Book of Deer was annotated with the earliest written Gaelic. This community excavation will take place over ten weeks in summer 2022, the longest excavation yet, hoping to find the Monastery of Deer following 11 years of searching.

Internationally significant

The project will engage with the community and schools in the local area, allowing children, young people and others to be actively involved in the excavation, ensuring the legacy of the book's loan continues well beyond 2022. Anne Simpson, chair of the Book of Deer Project, said: "We act as the catalyst for renewed interest, research and community engagement surrounding the book in the north-east of Scotland and beyond. The central objective of our project is to celebrate the book and its heritage in a modern context. We're delighted to ensure the Book of Deer will be accessible to the wider public next summer, fittingly

coinciding with the Year of Scotland's Stories. Artefacts like the Book of Deer, and the 200,000 plus rare books and unique manuscripts the University holds in its own collections, are invaluable in shining a light on our past and how that shapes who we are today so we are looking forward to being part of sharing this knowledge with the wider community."

Cllr. Anne Stirling, chair of Aberdeenshire Council's Communities Committee said: "The Book of Deer Project has been working to increase the profile of this internationally significant book for many years, so the award of lottery money to bring it back to the north-east in such a high profile way is fantastic and testament to all the hard work that's gone in so far. It's clearly very relevant that it will return to the north-east in the Year of Scotland's Stories and I'm really looking forward to seeing more details of the cultural programme which will help mark the return of the book and hopefully highlight the existence and importance of this text among many people who may never have heard of it until this point. Just imagine how exciting it would be if the community dig taking place next summer was finally able to identify the site of the Monastery of Deer, adding further to the fascinating story of the Book of Deer and its legacy in the north-east."

The Monastery of Deer in Aberdeenshire had the historic book, which highlights the early church, culture and society of the period, in its care by 1,000AD.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee bid for Dumfries to become a city



Dumfries has submitted a bid to become a city under the upcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee Civic Awards scheme. Should the Dumfries bid be successful, it would see the town become the first city in the south of Scotland – and the first rural city in the country. Council Leader Elaine Murray said "When I received the Minister of State at the Cabinet Office, Lord True's letter I recognised the potential for Dumfries to bid for city status and asked senior officers to consider how to take this forward. I was pleased to learn from some of our parliamentarians that they would be supportive and look forward to developing proposals in partnership with other stakeholders. At this expression of interest stage, we are looking at what an application would mean for Dumfries and the region."

Her Majesty The Queen has agreed for a competition to be held to grant the prestigious and rare civic honours of 'city status' and 'Lord Mayor or Lord Provost status', to a select number of worthy towns and cities in the United Kingdom. This will be the first time in 10 years that Her Majesty awards civic honours and the occasion comes as part of celebrations to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The ultimate Burns' tour in Scotland

This month many will honour Robert Burns our national Bard. When next in Scotland you may fancy incorporating the places that impacted Robert Burns in your next Scottish itinerary, where would you go to discover Robert Burns in Scotland?

1. Ayr

Text: Scotland.org



Any journey has to start in Ayr, the beginning of the Burns story - a No 1 Spot is Burns Cottage in Alloway. It's not just a museum - it's an icon, celebrated in pictures all over the world and even has a perfect replica in Atlanta, Georgia!

Standing in that simple house, built by his own dad's hands, you feel carried back to a life we can't imagine. The back-breaking work of the farmer with the lack of money, meat or social security. Yet you feel the gifts that were given; family love, education, independence of spirit. The museum alongside gives you the chance to check the words of *Auld Lang Syne* (and there's no 'for the sake of') against the manuscript in Rabbie's own hand, to see the very first Kilmarnock edition of his poems (which started off this whole phenomenon) or to see the pistols he fired chasing smugglers along the Scottish coastline.

You could use his poem *Tam o'Shanter* as a guide round the adjoining Heritage Park - no witches today in the Alloway Auld Kirk (unless you're brave enough to check it out at midnight?) but there is the poignant gravestone to Rabbie's father, a testament to a son's love and honour. At the Brig o'Doon itself you'll find a graceful mediaeval arch over the

river where Tam crosses running water and so eludes capture by the witches - as you walk across you'll imagine horseshoes clattering in the distance. Catch the magnificent views of Burns Country from the top of the elegant Monument (the enterprising architect who designed it sold the design twice - so you can see it again on Calton Hill in Edinburgh) and enjoy the park and its facilities.

2. Mauchline



For those of you wanting to catch the spirit of Rabbie the poet, the lover, the frequenter of controversies and bars alike, the place to visit is Mauchline which comes as the second recommendation. They say in the town that Burns 'was born in Alloway, died in Dumfries but lived in Mauchline'. And the locals take great care of those memories especially on the day in May annually when the town is transformed into The Holy Fair to become the Mauchline of the 1780s as celebrated in Robert's poems. Horses, carts, haggises, singers and entertainers jostle in a street fair around the buildings our poet knew so well: the Burns House Museum (where he and Jean first set up home) and of course, the old pubs - Poosie Nancys and Nance Tinnocks - which are a bit more demure now than when our lad passed their portals!

3. Dumfries



Number three on the list is the pretty town of Dumfries where Robert and Jean brought up their growing family in what's now called Burns Street. You can see the house where he died aged only 37 and where Jean bore their last son on the day of his father's huge funeral. They all three lie round the corner at St Michael's churchyard. The poet's mausoleum dates from slightly later but captures a feeling of pride and reverence for a genius taken too soon and will be a pilgrimage point for thousands this year.

Rabbie was often inspired as he walked or rode around the countryside, and there are pleasant walks to be taken around Dumfries. What better, after a brisk ramble through the brambles, than to close the day at the Globe Tavern - which Burns called 'my favourite howff'. Here where you can have a quiet pint or a wee dram and see the very chair that Burns sat on while entertaining the company in the evenings after his hard day's work as an exciseman.

We can find Burns in the big cities, too.

4. Mitchell Library, Glasgow



Glasgow's collection of Burnsiana in the Mitchell Library is unsurpassed in the world - a constant stream of academics and fanatics use this as the motherlode of scholarship. So it is the 4th choice. It's a huge and varied hoard, ranging from another *Auld Lang Syne* and many early books and manuscripts to a rather grisly plaster cast of the poet's skull.

5. The Writers' Museum, Edinburgh



And for No 5, let's go over to Edinburgh, where one of the most enjoyable of Scotland's small museums is The Writers' Museum, tucked away off the Royal Mile. A jackdaw's nest of memorabilia to do with our hero (and you also get marvellous objects relating to two other global figures in our literature: Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson). What better than to share in the life and works of our national poet as you track the man himself down to the places he walked and talked, and then wrote himself into the history books.

US Consul General celebrates close ties between Scotland and the US



US Consul General Jack Hillmeyer.



Athelstaneford Parrish Church.

The Scottish Flag Trust has recently launched an international fundraising drive to restore and renew the birthplace of the Saltire with interest already shown from Saltire and Clan Societies in the USA. Today we are launching a new initiative to allow everyone to have the Saltire flown in their honour at the birthplace of our flag. People can go online to Saltire.scot and sponsor the flag for a day for themselves or for someone special"

Provost of East Lothian Cllr John McMillan said: "It was an honour to welcome the Consul General to East Lothian and to the birthplace of Scotland's National flag in the village of Athelstaneford. With our historic links, and so many visitors from USA welcomed annually to our famous golf clubs along our coastline, we feel we have so many special points of interest for our USA visitors who will love to learn about the home of John Muir in Dunbar and spend time in our wonderful county."

Tradition has it that the Saltire, Scotland's National flag, originated in a battle fought in East Lothian, near the village of Athelstaneford in the Dark Ages. Today the flag flies proudly all year round from the floodlit Saltire Memorial in Athelstaneford Parish Church to celebrate this special connection. The Flag Heritage Centre at the back of the churchyard tells the story of the Battle of Athelstaneford.

Friendship between Scotland and the USA celebrated on St Andrew's Day.

The US Consul General visited the birthplace of Scotland's flag to celebrate the close ties between Scotland and the USA. Jack Hillmeyer the US Consul General in Edinburgh visited Athelstaneford in East Lothian where the US flag was flown at the Saltire Memorial. The Saltire flies from the memorial in the kirkyard of Athelstaneford Parrish Church all year round, flood lit at night.

The Saltire is rarely lowered, flying another national flag is a rare honour, particularly on Saint Andrew's Day.

Donations are essential to keep the memorial and flag heritage centre free to visit, so the story of Scotland's flag can continue to be told. David Williamson, Chair of the Scottish Flag Trust said: "We were delighted to host the US Consul General on St Andrew's Day and fly the US flag at the Saltire Memorial to celebrate the close links between Scotland and the USA.

The US Consul General visited the birthplace of Scotland's flag to celebrate the close ties between Scotland and the USA.

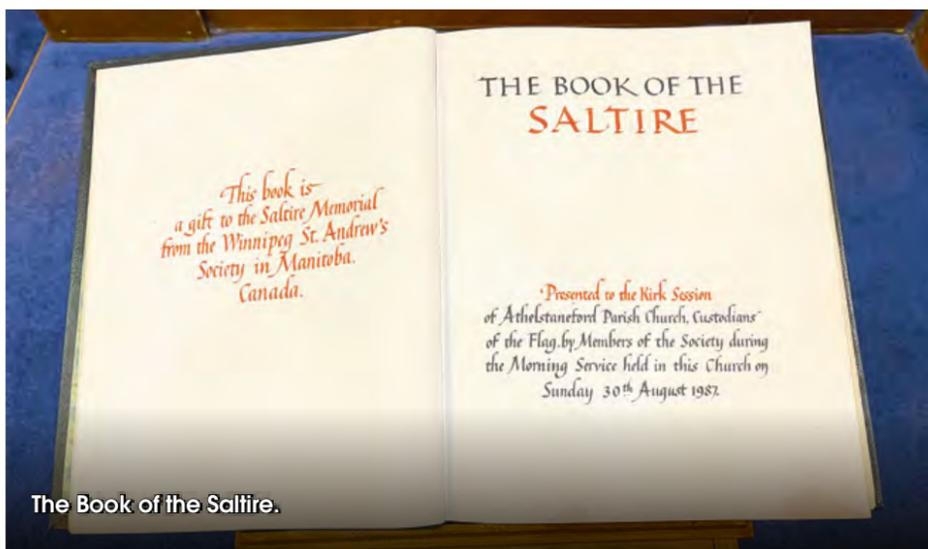
Commenting Mr Hillmeyer said: "It was a great honour to be in Athelstaneford on Saint Andrew's Day and it was a tremendous honour to have the Stars and Stripes flown at the Saltire Memorial, it shows the depth of friendship of our two nations especially on this beautiful St Andrew's Day."

The birthplace of Scotland's National flag

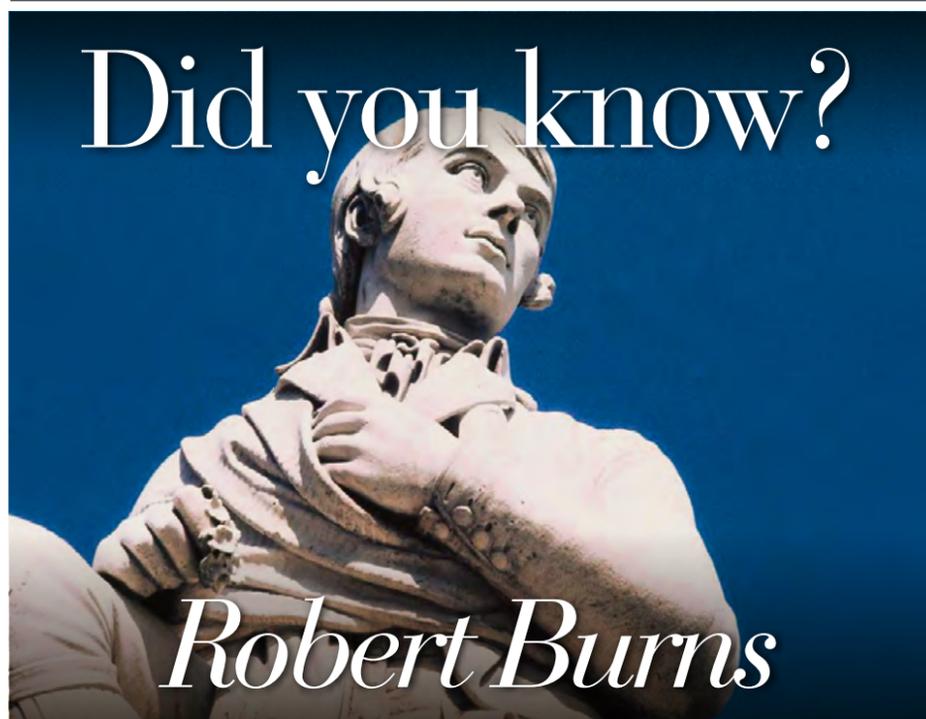
The Scottish Flag Trust is a volunteer run charity and donations help to cover annual running costs and maintenance.



Members of The Scottish Flag Trust, Jack Hillmeyer and Provost of East Lothian Cllr John McMillan.



The Book of the Saltire.



- Robert Burns was born on January 25, 1759, in Alloway, Ayrshire on the southwest coast of Scotland.
- The original spelling of Roberts surname was Burnes.
- Robert Burns grew up on an Ayrshire farm as the oldest of seven children and penned his first poem at age 15.
- Sadly, Robert passed away on 21 July 1796 at age 37 in Dumfries, Scotland. The funeral took place on Monday 25 July 1796, the day that his son Maxwell was born.
- Robert Burns body is located at the Burns Mausoleum in St Michael's Churchyard, Dumfries.
- After Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus, Robert Burns has more statues dedicated to him around the world than any other non-religious figure.
- Robert Burns has been featured on currency, stamps and is the first person in the world to feature on the Coca-Cola bottle.
- The poetry of Robert Burns was taken up to space in 2010 and a crater on the planet Mercury has been named after him.
- The Mitchell Library in Glasgow is Europe's largest public reference library. It also houses the world's largest Robert Burns Collection.

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