



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 45 Number 10 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS April 2022

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the Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

A Hope for Peace



by Sean Cairney

Scotland is a nation with a long, complicated, proud, and harrowing conflict past. With key historical battles such as Flodden, Bannockburn, and Culloden just some examples of the conflicts which have been engrained into Scotland's story by blood and honour. This month is the 276th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden which took place on 16 April 1746 on Drumossie Moor, located just outside of Inverness, and which saw nearly 1,500 men killed within one hour. Perhaps one of Scotland's most famous and poignant battles, this was the final stand of the Jacobites and is still the last battle to take place on either Scottish, or British, soil. I have walked Culloden Moor on a misty November day and felt very moved by the ground in which I stepped on, Culloden is also said by some to still have the souls and ghosts of the dead wander the moor which they fought so hard to protect and the battle itself is forever engrained in the history and psyche of Scotland today.

By World War 1 Scots had made a reputation for themselves on the battlefields of Europe and Scottish soldiers played a significant role in the war effort. German military nicknamed the Scots as 'Die Damen aus der Hölle' or Ladies from Hell, as kilted pipers led troops to the German trenches and were considered staunch and brave warriors. The bagpipes today can still be referred to as an 'instrument of war'.

Scotland reacts to Ukraine

As the world watches the terrible events in Ukraine and witnesses war once again in Europe, Scotland has joined many other nations in

doing what it can in support of the Ukrainian people. The Scottish Government has pledged so far over £16 million to Scottish organisations and charities to assist Ukrainians fleeing their war-torn nation.

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has announced thousands of displaced Ukrainians would be coming to Scotland and said: "Over three million people have now fled the war in Ukraine, the biggest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. Scotland is ready to play its part to offer safety and sanctuary to those forced to leave their homes because of Russia's brutal invasion, and it is heartening to see preparations for increased support, advice and information already being put in place. We are determined to do everything in our power to give them the warmest welcome possible when people start to arrive."

Councillors in Edinburgh are preparing to grant the most prestigious honour it can bestow to the Ukrainian President and the Mayor of Edinburgh's twin city, Kyiv. In recognition of heroically standing by their country and their citizens to lead the fight against the invasion of Ukraine, Edinburgh City Council Leaders are seeking support to confer the Freedom of the City jointly to President Volodymyr Zelensky and Mayor Vitali Klitschko. The Freedom of the City is a tradition that dates back over 560 years to 1459, with Her Majesty The Queen and Sir Chris Hoy the only living individuals with the Scottish Capital's freemanship. It can only be 'bestowed upon those who are held in the highest esteem'. Some may not be aware that Edinburgh and Kyiv were twinned together back in 1989, in an agreement between the two historic capitals which was signed in Kyiv and done two years before Ukraine would leave the Soviet Union.

In Inverness the Highland Council also last month granted the Freedom of the Highlands to the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelenskyy. In addition along with Inverness, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and regions across Scotland are helping to raise money for those impacted by the war in Ukraine.

In the issue

Scottish scenery is known the world over for its beauty, drama and diversity. Whether you are up in the Highlands, seeing it from the water or discovering the lowlands it is simply magic. I am very much a 'travel junkie' and love not just visiting Scotland but the great and wider world. Tourism has so many benefits to so many countries, including Scotland where it brings in (pre-pandemic) billions of pounds and supported hundreds of

thousands of jobs. This month we are fortunate to speak to the Chairman of VisitScotland, Lord Thurso, on the forward-thinking initiatives Scotland is producing to sustain tourism for those of us visiting not only today, but well into the future.

Another battle that has an anniversary this month is the lesser-known Battle of Littleferry. The battle took place on April 15, 1746, during the Jacobite Rising in Sutherland, and just two days before the infamous Battle of Culloden. This month will see a Dedication Ceremony for a new Memorial Stone and also a Battle Trail launched.

Scottish landmarks that are lighting up in support

This month across North America Scots will be celebrating Tartan Day on April 6th, when the historic document the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. The idea was born in Nova Scotia on the Canadian east coast in the 1980's by passionate Scots who belonged to grass roots community organisations, like many Scottish Banner readers may do today. In fact, those that began the initiative were Scottish Banner readers, so congratulations on their foresight as it is now a continent-wide event with international reach. Wishing all our North American readers and friends a great celebration this month.

For those that follow us on social media (if you do not and have a Facebook, Twitter or Instagram account, please do!) you will notice our pages have highlighted the many Scottish landmarks that are lighting up in support of Ukraine in a sea of yellow and blue, such as The Kelpies, Eilean Donan Castle, Greyfriars Bobby, The Wallace Monument and Marischal College just to name a few. It is heart-warming to see so many of Scotland's key cultural locations lighting up in support during a very dark time in world history. I dearly hope however those lights can be turned off very soon, along with the sadness of war. 🇺🇰

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.

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. You may also make a donation to the Scottish Banner via our website.

We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



The Kelpies in support of Ukraine.



Gracing our front cover: Duncansby Head in Caithness. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

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Armstrong, BC Canada

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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?

The Koala Tartan



Just a quick note to say how great the Koala Tartan is, I bought a length of the tartan and it is lovely. I think all your readers should buy something made from tartan whether it's a scarf, wrap, shall, blanket or even a kilt or skirt. The Koala Tartan is made in Australia and a beautiful fabric. Come on Aussies please buy our very own tartan. I really enjoy *the Banner*, thank you.

Gerry Browne
Peakhurst, NSW
Australia

The Burrell Collection



How wonderful to see The Burrell Collection in Glasgow is now opening up again (*The Burrell Collection in Glasgow to open following major refurbishment, the Scottish Banner*, March, 2022). I have visited The Burrell a few times before and never leave without feeling how impressive it is Glasgow holds such a collection. Glasgow is such a great city for museums and visiting the new and improved Burrell Collection will be one of my 'must do's' on my next visit to Scotland. For anyone interested the location of The Burrell is Pollok Country Park, I believe the largest park in Glasgow, and so worth a visit as well. I so miss visiting Scotland and have enjoyed each issue of *the Scottish Banner* and it has helped keep my Scottish fires burning and continues to give me great information on what to do on my next trip across the pond. Thank you to all the staff and writers of *the Banner!*

Ann Forsyth
Chicago, Illinois
USA

Cancellation of 2022 Caledonia Celtic Festival and future Festivals



It is with regret that we announce the cancellation of 2022 Caledonia Celtic Festival and future Festivals. With the festival just getting off its feet in 2019, then COVID happening, and unable to have the last two year's Festivals, the Board of Directors have no choice but to discontinue the Caledonia Celtic Festival. COVID was not expected and continues to cause uncertainty. Therefore, we are in the process of dissolving the Caledonia Celtic Festival corporation. Our main concern was always the safety of our participants and visitors along with following public guidelines. We wish you all the best in the future and hope that you stay safe and healthy. The Board of Directors thank you for your continued support.

John Duff, President
Caledonia Celtic Festival
Caledonia, Ontario
Canada

Calling the Clans to Kingsville Highland Games



Visit the Clan Village at the Kingsville Highland Games and connect with your Scottish family. Clan Societies and Clan Members will gather here to share stories and connections and to get their Scottish on. The Clans will be an integral part of the Opening Ceremonies and will follow the Honour Guard onto the Main Field to be welcomed. If you represent a Clan and would like to register for a booth in the Clan Village, register today at: <https://forms.kingsville.ca/Highland-Games/Clan-Registration> Deadline for registration is April 29, 2022. Please complete the on-line registration form. If you have any questions contact kingsvillegames@gmail.com.

Kingsville Highland Games Committee
Kingsville, Ontario
Canada

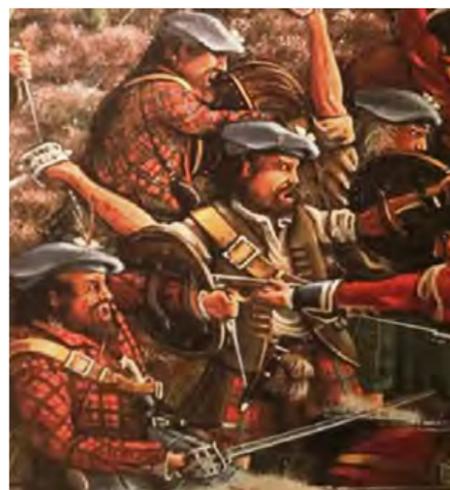
Outlander



I just love receiving my *Scottish Banner*. Love the recipes, the news from around the world and particularly that you feature *Outlander*-and on the front page of the March edition!

Thank you,
Pat McLean
Victoria, Australia

Loch Lomond- A story of Culloden



Thank you for sharing such a fascinating account (*Loch Lomond- A story of Culloden, the Scottish Banner*, February, 2022). I've been to Culloden on a windy grey morning in October. It was bleak and sombre, and I'll never forget it. Your ancestor seems a noble, selfless man of great strength and character. Little wonder you're so proud. My ancestors (the Robertson's) were tenant farmers not far from yours. I really do hope they somehow knew such honourable people as your Robert King.

Paul Robertson

Ae Fond Kiss

Cold grey mornings loved ones crying,
Onto the airport soon we'll be flying
Back to Australia with its desert and plains
Wull ye no come back again

Meeting old friends starts memories anew
Places we went and things we would do
We talk of the humour but never the pain
Wull ye no come back again

This tired old country of mountains and clans
Whisky and peat marching pipe bands
Proud pipers playing soft haunting refrain
Wull ye no come back again

Heads turn away as tears mist the eyes
Crying farewells as we climb to the skies
We gently hold hands settle back in the plane
Wull ye no come back again.

Time takes its toll on the weak and the strong
You've made a choice its there you belong
We aw love ye dearly that much ye ken
Wull ye no come back again.

Davidson Harris

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Corpach Shipwreck



A moody day at the Corpach Shipwreck and Ben Nevis.

Zen Escape Photo
<http://instagram.com/zenscapephoto>

Cambuskenneth Abbey



Cambuskenneth Abbey, Stirling. Steeped in history and reputedly where part of William Wallace was interred.

Scotdrone

Eilean Donan Castle



Eilean Donan Castle, my only image of this iconic location.

Ronald Stokes

Highland Coo



Taking in the beauty of Edinburgh from the Pentland Hills.

R Marr Photos

World's largest Jurassic pterosaur unearthed on Scottish island



Natalia Jagielska, Lead author, University PhD student with the world's largest Jurassic pterosaur. Photo: © Stewart Attwood.

Aspectacular fossil of a huge flying reptile known as a pterosaur, that was found on the Isle of Skye, is the largest of its kind ever discovered from the Jurassic period. The giant winged creature, more popularly known as pterodactyls, lived around 170 million years ago and had an estimated wingspan of more than 2.5 metres. The fossil is the best-preserved skeleton of a pterosaur found in Scotland, experts say. The species has been given the Gaelic name Dearc sgiathanach (pronounced jark ski-an-ach), which translates as 'winged reptile' and also references the Isle of Skye, whose Gaelic name means 'the winged isle.'

The unique specimen, discovered during a National Geographic Society-funded excavation in 2017, will now be added to National Museums Scotland's collection and studied further.

The find is described in a new paper published in *Current Biology* authored by scientists from the University of Edinburgh, National Museums Scotland, the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, the University of St Andrews and Staffin Museum on the Isle of Skye.

A superlative Scottish fossil

Lead author, University of Edinburgh PhD student Natalia Jagielska, said: "Dearc is a fantastic example of why palaeontology will never cease to be astounding. Pterosaurs preserved in such quality are exceedingly rare and are usually reserved to select rock formations in Brazil and China. And yet, an enormous superbly preserved pterosaur emerged from a tidal platform in Scotland."

Professor Steve Brusatte, Personal Chair of Palaeontology and Evolution, School of GeoSciences, University of

Edinburgh, said: "This is a superlative Scottish fossil. The preservation is amazing, far beyond any pterosaur ever found in Scotland and probably the best British skeleton found since the days of Mary Anning in the early 1800s. Dearc is the biggest pterosaur we know from the Jurassic period and that tells us that pterosaurs got larger much earlier than we thought, long before the Cretaceous period when they were competing with birds, and that's hugely significant."

Dr Nick Fraser, Keeper of Natural Sciences at National Museums Scotland, said: "Even in the context of the amazing palaeontological finds on Skye in recent years, this one really is remarkable. To find and describe a specimen which is both so well-preserved and so significant is really special and we're delighted to add Dearc into our collection, a unique addition to the fossil record and a specimen which will be studied now and long into the future."

Amelia Penny, a PhD student at the University of Edinburgh, discovered the fossil during a field trip in 2017, led by Brusatte, after spotting its jaw protruding from the limestone layer on a tidal platform at Rubha nam Brathairean (known as Brothers' Point). She alerted colleagues who inspected and identified the head of a pterosaur. A painstaking operation ensued to extract the fossil, led by Dugald Ross of Staffin Museum, involving the use of diamond-tipped saws to cut it from the rock, all while racing against time as the tide came in. After the fossil was salvaged, it was brought to the University of Edinburgh for analysis and description.

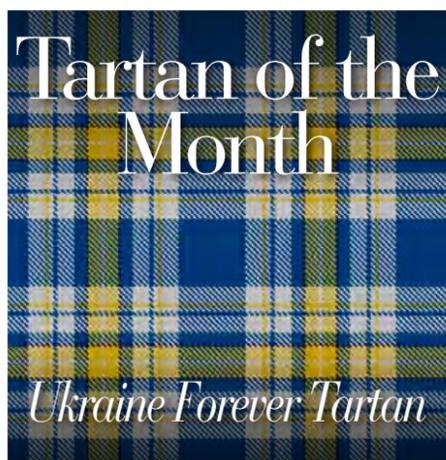
CT scans of the skull have revealed large optic lobes, which indicate that Dearc would have had good eyesight.

The Mesozoic era

The specimen will be the subject of further study by PhD student Natalia Jagielska, which aims to reveal more about Dearc's behaviour, particularly how it lived and flew. She adds: "To achieve flight, pterosaurs had hollow bones with thin bone walls, making their remains incredibly fragile and unfit to preserving for millions of years. And yet our skeleton, ~160 million years on since its death, remains in almost pristine condition, articulated and almost complete. Its sharp fish-snatching teeth still retaining a shiny enamel cover as if he were alive mere weeks ago."

Pterosaurs were the first vertebrates to evolve powered flight, some 50 million years before birds. They lived throughout the Mesozoic era – the so-called age of reptiles – as far back as the Triassic Period, about 230 million years ago. In the later Cretaceous Period – the time of Tyrannosaurus rex and Triceratops – and immediately before the extinction event that wiped out the dinosaurs 66 million years ago, pterosaurs grew to the size of fighter jets.

However, they were previously thought to have been much smaller during the Jurassic Period. Fragmentary specimens from England had hinted at the possibility that larger pterosaurs lived during the Jurassic Period and Dearc sgiathanach is the first complete specimen to confirm this.



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).

Great Scot meticulously and respectfully designed this unique tartan to reflect Scotland's solidarity with the people of Ukraine; one sovereign nation to another. The simple but bold colour elements of both the Scottish and Ukraine flags are fused together in this strong and emotive tartan. This tartan was registered in March 2022 by Great Scot of Keith, Moray, Scotland.

Clan Arthur/MacArthur to take part in Glasgow Kiltwalk

By: Carol Budlong



Clan Arthur/MacArthur is an ancient Scottish Highland Clan with a fantastic story to tell with legendary links back to King Arthur. But it has not had a sacred place to gather its folk and objects for over 250 years. This is because its lands were seized by the ruling parties at the time or taken over by other clans. The Clan Arthur Ancestral Lands Trust (CAALT) has been founded and activated to rectify this situation by finding and acquiring a piece of land as a homeland for its clanfolk near the original clan seat on the banks of Loch Awe. The CAALT is a registered charity in Scotland.

The High Commissioner in Britain, Hugh McArthur is taking part in the Glasgow Kiltwalk alongside other Clan Arthur members on 24th April 2022. Hundreds of people participate and walk to raise funds for their chosen charity. The amount raised by each group is increased by 50% due to the generosity of businessman Sir Tom Hunter.

To find out more about the Clan Arthur ancient lands project go to website: www.clanarthur.org/caalt



Hugh McArthur.

Team Clan Arthur are taking part in The Glasgow Kiltwalk 2022 this month to raise funds for the Clan Arthur Ancestral Lands Trust. To support see: www.justgiving.com/team/ClanArthur

BEING HERE CAN GET EMOTIONAL

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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.

“Scotland’s book festivals are a cultural treasure. Their growth has been extraordinary, and they are a powerfully positive and much-loved part of our lives. During the pandemic many were able to pivot and deliver great events digitally and online – and they achieved a huge amount at a time when people were facing tremendous challenges. But it has been a struggle for the festivals, and they have endured a serious battering, not least through the huge loss in revenues. It’s clear from our survey that they have an immense impact on Scotland’s culture and society, bringing hundreds of thousands of people of all ages, backgrounds and interests in contact with writers of every imaginable kind – firing imaginations, provoking discussion and strengthening the nation’s love of literature.”

Adrian Turpin, Artistic Director of Wigtown Book Festival and Steering Committee member of the Scottish Book Festivals Network, said new research reveals the immense contribution of the country’s book festivals and the importance of ensuring they can return to full strength after the pandemic. A survey covering nearly half the country’s 60+ book festivals shows that in 2019 they attracted audiences of almost 780,000 (410,000+ in person), featuring 2,800 authors and invested almost £6.7 million of staff, goods and services (with a wider knock on impact estimated at over £11.3 million). 2022 is Scotland’s Year of Stories which will spotlight, celebrate and promote the wealth of stories inspired by, written, or created in Scotland.



“It is an honour for Edinburgh to be selected as a ‘Champion City’ as part of The Queen’s Green Canopy – this is a fantastic initiative that will not only help the environment but be a lasting tribute to the Queen’s legacy. We’re very proud that Edinburgh is already one of the UK’s greenest cities, with more trees than people. This is another step as we strive towards our hugely ambitious target of making the city net zero by 2030.”

City of Edinburgh Culture and Communities Convener Donald Wilson said as Edinburgh becomes a Queen’s Green Canopy ‘Champion City’ and 1,270 new trees were planted, including Scots pine surrounded by meadowgrass, on 0.7 hectares of greenspace at Stenhouse. The Queen’s Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022, which invites people from across the United Kingdom to ‘Plant a Tree for the Jubilee’.

“Livingston is a wonderful place to live, work and do business and this is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this important milestone within the local community. The programme is being developed to include a wide range of activities and will aim to involve as many local groups as possible. We are obviously conscious of possible Covid-19 measures, but officers will progress with a programme of events that will take place throughout the year.”

Leader of West Lothian Council, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, said as Livingston prepares for its Diamond Anniversary. The New Town of Livingston will turn 60 years old in April 2022 and it is the largest settlement in West Lothian and second only in size to Edinburgh in the Lothian region.



“It feels really good, I loved it, I’ve come so far since my first challenge. Loch Ness is the most famous loch in the UK and one of the most famous in the world. The Highlands are beautiful anyway but it’s nice to see the surrounding area from a different perspective, not many people get to see it from Loch Ness, so it was lovely. It did get a little bit hairy out there. I think I fell in more times in this challenge than I have in my whole paddleboarding career. I blame me falling in on Nessie, I reckon she knocked me in.”

Paddle boarder David Haze said as he beat the World Record for the fastest paddle of Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands. David became the fastest person to paddle the famous loch of nearly 23 miles in length in five hours and forty-five minutes. David took up the sport after a stint in prison and now works with the criminal justice system to promote rehabilitation.

“Despite Trimontium being a well-known site and having had a series of excavations in the past, we don’t have accurate information about where

some of the previous trenches were. The high-density radar will let us relocate the excavation trenches from 1910 and allow us to use modern mapping methods to pull them all together and work out how they relate to what’s beneath the ground. We are hoping, with this fantastic technology, to fill in a lot of gaps.”

Dr Kayt Armstrong said a hi-tech geophysical survey will take place in the Scottish Borders of a historic Roman fort, located just outside Melrose. The Roman fort which will be studied was built in 79AD by Roman soldiers. This is the first time this technology will be used on a Roman site in Scotland.



“This is a hugely important improvement scheme for Stonehaven which was unfortunately postponed owing to the impact of the Covid pandemic on the construction industry. Given the deteriorating condition of the existing harbour infrastructure, this is quite simply a must-do project and timing to coincide with the summer tides and weather is equally critical. We appreciate there will be some disruption this summer, however we want the town’s harbour to remain a wonderful tourist attraction and a source of economic wealth for the town for decades to come.”

Philip McKay, Head of Roads and Infrastructure at Aberdeenshire Council, said a major infrastructure programme to safeguard the long-term future of the iconic Stonehaven Harbour will commence in May. The steel sheet piling at Stonehaven Harbour has suffered corrosion and pitting to the extent that there are now large voids in the existing sheet piles. This has resulted in the material behind the sheet piles being exposed and at risk of being washed out by the tidal sea waters.



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Our new look site now features online articles and news, with new content added weekly.
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SCOTWORD

Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try! If you’re stuck, answers can be found on page 26.

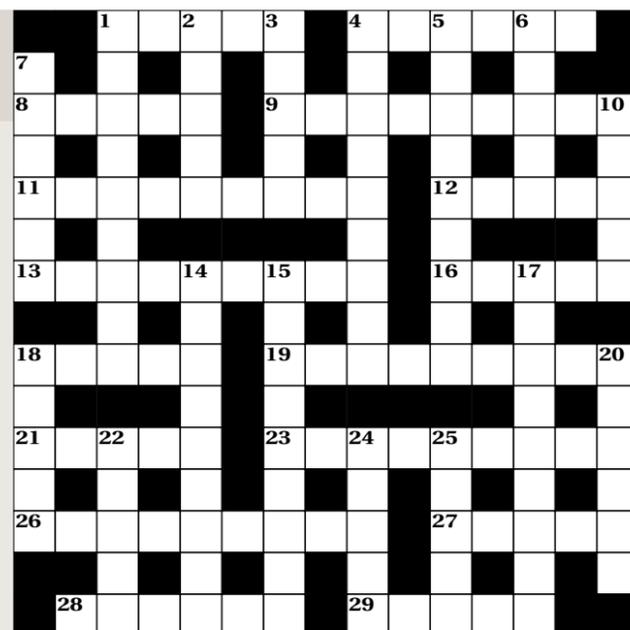
CLUES ACROSS:

- 1) Scotsmen’s shirts (5)
- 4) Upper edge of ship’s side (6)
- 8) Kirk divider (5)
- 9) Impart knowledge (9)
- 11) Powerful whirlpool (9)
- 12) It’s the pits! (9)
- 16) Precious stones (5)
- 18) Clay pigment (5)
- 19) Many inhabit the Herides (9)
- 21) Under the doctor (5)23)

- 23) Highlander’s weapon (9)
- 26) He looks after the reserves (9)
- 27) Representation (5)
- 28) Nation across the Channel (6)
- 29) The untrue image of the Scot (5)

CLUES DOWN:

- 1) Found over the Border (9)
- 2) Smokes in Scotland (5)
- 3) Agitate in old Scots (5)
- 4) Object of games entrants (4, 5)
- 5) Got to bed in it (9)
- 6) Participate in (5)
- 7) Dark Scot on the road (6)
- 10) Scots vegetables(5)
- 14) Recognised by secret signs (9)
- 17) He’s Sandy for short (9)
- 18) Wise young flier (5)
- 20) An Australian lady (6)
- 22) Shout of approval (5)
- 24) The end of a Scots thread (5)
- 25) Young wool suppliers (5)



Lady MacGregor's Scotland By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

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



The Chief's collection of crooks.

Greetings from a spring like Scotland where a few frost-free mornings mean thoughts are turning to the garden. The early potatoes are in the polytunnel. Tomato seeds are sprouting on the window ledge and the raised beds are being readied for the salad crops that will come later in the year. Growing fruit and veg in Scotland is not as easy as it might be in countries with kinder climes. That could be why we have so many walled gardens; built to give shelter from the wind; the warmth of southern and western walls perfect for ripening fruit. Some walled gardens come with three walls, instead of the usual four. I am told that it is a Scottish thing; so the frost does not get trapped and can roll out in the mornings.

Gardening is a tonic

During the two world wars, these walled gardens found themselves working extra hard as the country dug for victory. The Scottish gardening guru Kenneth Cox tells us how even royal residences like Buckingham Palace had their flower beds replaced with cabbage and tattie patches. Cox also notes how wounded soldiers returning

from the front were encouraged to grow food to help their mental and physical recovery – and today they still are. The Dumfries Veteran's Garden in southern Scotland is a place where former servicemen and women find not just a friendly ear but can put their hands in the soil and start to heal. There is no doubt that gardening is a tonic. As is working with animals. And this month we meet an amazing dog. Nap is a long-haired Border Collie who is devoted to his master – and his work in the field. We are introduced to Nap because we are making a film about Hebridean sheep. These are the beautiful black ones, by the way. They come with delicate faces, and some have an interesting four horns.

Scottish crooks and sticks are much prized and today the skill lives on.

As the name suggests, Hebridean sheep hail from the Western Isles. As such, they are hardy beasts; animals quite used to meagre rations and seemingly oblivious to the elements. In fact, it is an interesting breed all round, and one that has gone from near extinction to high popularity.

Twenty years ago, you would struggle to find large flocks of Hebs in mainland Scotland. They might be seen as curiosities on great estates, but, in the main, most of the country's sheep have been solidly white. Yet Hebrideans have a lot going for them. They are good mothers who lamb easily. They also appear to be good managers of the land, because, unlike most sheep that will eat anything in their path, this one is something of a conservationist. The Heb will steadily chew its way through invasive plants. Yet it has the sense to leave the good vegetation, like heather. What a wise breed! And what a clever dog Nap the Collie is.

Scottish crooks

And if you have a flock and a sheepdog, you'll need a shepherd's crook; its curved horn head useful for catching an errant sheep by the leg; the hooked bit at the top a handy place on which to hang a lantern. Scottish crooks and sticks are much prized and today the skill lives on. The Scottish Crookmakers Association was set up more than sixty years ago in the Borderlands by local gamekeeper, David Grant. Now it's run by David's granddaughter and her husband and at their home in the Scottish Borders Kate and Robert Elliott tell me how making a decent specimen takes skill and patience.

There is the boiling, pressing and moulding of the horn. Then there is the stick. Best is hazel wood that has been drying for a couple of years, and it must be ram rod straight.

Yes, making a decent crook is an art form. And, thankfully, it is one that appears to be enjoying a renaissance. Released from lockdown, folk want new hobbies. They are also flocking to the hills and scaling the heights means they need something sturdy to help them up.

Back at home I examine the chief's crooks with new interest. He has six, by the way – and the last one comes with a story. Back in the day the MacGregor and I were at an American Highland games, where he was kindly presented with an elaborately carved stick.

He was delighted to have another one to add to his collection - and popped it in the hotel cupboard. Unfortunately, when it came time to leave, we forgot about it. It was an expensive mistake. Two months later there we were, sitting in the kitchen when a delivery man arrived. He had in his possession one well-wrapped crook. This much welcomed gift had come across the Atlantic – and with it was a rather unwelcome bill for a hundred-and-twenty pounds tax and import duty. Yes, as with a lunch, there is no such thing as a free stick...



- The Corrieveckan Whirlpool is located in a narrow straight situated off the west coast of Scotland between the islands of Jura and Scarba in Argyll and Bute.
- It is one of the largest permanent whirlpools on earth and is the third largest whirlpool in the world at 300 feet wide and 100 feet deep.
- The whirlpool is created by a giant rock formation on the ocean floor to almost within 95 feet of the surface.
- Tidal flow from the Firth of Lorne cause waves of over 30 feet/9metres and the roar of the resulting maelstrom is so loud it can be heard up to ten miles/ 16 km away.

- Corrieveckan derives from the Gaelic term Coire Bhreacain, meaning 'cauldron of the speckled seas' or 'cauldron of the plaid'.
- The waters surrounding The Corrieveckan Whirlpool are considered some of the most dangerous in the British Isles.
- Author George Orwell came close to drowning in the Corrieveckan whirlpool in the summer of 1947 whilst writing a book in Scotland.
- You can today take boat tours of the whirlpool and surrounding coast and scuba dives of the rock pinnacle are also available.

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Commemorating The Battle of Littleferry

The Battle of Littleferry was fought, near Golspie, Sutherland on 15th April 1746. This month, on 15th April, a memorial stone is to be unveiled and a “pilot” battlefield trail launched. A history of the battle is also being written.

By: Alison Cameron



Dunrobin Castle.

Exciting plans to commemorate a previously unheralded Jacobean battle in Golspie in the Highlands – previously overshadowed by events at Culloden the following day - are accelerating. The Battle of Littleferry on April 15, 1746, between government forces and supporters of Bonnie Prince Charlie, resulted in as many as 100 being killed and twice that number injured. Now, this little-known piece of Jacobean history is to be marked later this year with the erection of a large memorial stone and garden at the site, a mile or so south west of Golspie, in memory of those who fell on both sides.

Overshadowed so much by Culloden

The small village of Golspie is in Sutherland on the eastern seaboard of the county. Littleferry, a hamlet of just a few cottages at the time, is about three miles along the shoreline. Littleferry resident Major General Patrick Marriott initiated the idea of the memorial and has gathered a project team together to take the idea forward.

He has written a full history of the skirmish, which resulted in the defeat of the rebel Jacobites, in spite of them outnumbering the government forces by perhaps as much as 2-1.

He says: “This is the first time ever that a full history of the battle has been written and is being captured by the erection of a memorial stone. Very few have really been able to research the battle before and little interest has been shown in it. Increasing digitisation and access to hitherto largely unknown primary sources has made this much easier. The battle was overshadowed so much by Culloden that it disappeared; yet how many villages in the UK have a pristine battlefield around them?”

276th anniversary

The stone will be dedicated at a special ceremony to commemorate the 276th anniversary of the battle on April 15 this year. Plans for the event to take place in 2021 on the 275th anniversary had to be postponed because of Covid restrictions. The stone itself was identified on land above Golspie and has recently been transferred to the site itself. It is believed to date back more than 400 million years and stands around 6ft high with a width of 5ft. However, such an imposing stone also presented a logistical nightmare – how to transport it to the memorial site? Weighing about 10 tons and having to negotiate mainly single-track roads it was quite a challenge for the team!



Memorial stone and garden site to be just behind the line of trees.

The battle started at Dunrobin Castle on the outskirts of the village, seat of the House of Sutherland. As fighting became more fierce, the Jacobites realised that despite superior numbers, they were being outflanked. They made their escape along the Littleferry road, with various skirmishes along the way, until they were surrounded at Littleferry pier with only the sea as an escape route. A few managed to board small boats but many were captured and Prince Charlie's men eventually surrendered. The fascinating *Battle of Littleferry* book, going into the background to the events as well as monitoring in fine detail the roll-out of the battle, will be launched on the same day as the dedication ceremony. A battlefield trail has also been created with six way-marker stones placed along the route from Dunrobin. These will eventually have QR facilities for those travelling the route to learn about its history. The trail is also incorporated within the book. Local schools are being involved and the Sutherland Schools Pipe Band have



Littleferry today.



The stone at its original site on the hills above Golspie.

written a special tune to commemorate the battle. Talks are being held with the Culloden Visitor Centre to have a historic link between the two sites. The Royal British Legion Scotland have agreed to hold a ceremony annually from next year, at the memorial site, to commemorate the dead on both sides.

Keep up with developments or learn more at: www.facebook.com/BattleofLittleferry



Major General Patrick Marriott has written a book on the battle and instigated the idea of a commemorative stone.

Broch-t back to life

A millennia-old, ‘new-build’: first look at archaeological group’s ‘grand design’ for ancient monument.



Images courtesy of the Caithness Broch Project.

Archaeological charity Caithness Broch Project (CBP) has unveiled their impressive vision for the first broch to be built in Scotland in 2,000 years. Brochs - tall, double-walled, drystone towers found only in Scotland - were once common features in the Iron Age landscape across the Highlands and Islands, and Caithness can lay claim to have more brochs than anywhere else. CBP now want to recreate one as a thriving visitor

attraction for the county. The visuals, created by digital reconstruction artist Bob Marshall, showcase the ambitious aims of the charity, who seek to construct the monument using tools and techniques only available to their Iron Age counterparts. The broch, designed by CBP co-founder Iain Maclean, reflects the wider architectural repertoire of brochs across Scotland, incorporates a number of flourishes such as triangular doorway lintels, cells

built into the broch itself, and a series of outbuildings such as wags, wheelhouses and blockhouses.

Broch construction from all over Scotland

“We wanted to capture a variety of features found in Broch construction from all over Scotland, so the design isn’t a carbon copy of any individual Broch but instead is a kind of chimaera of elements chosen for a number of reasons, ranging from structural robustness, health and safety, or purely because they were interesting features.” said co-founder and director Iain Maclean.

Maclean also noted that there were “elements of the design such as the roof and the construction of the floors that had to be figured out with a degree of educated guesswork and speculation given that none of these survive in archaeological record”, remarking that their broch vision was “as honest an interpretation of what a Broch looked like as we may ever arrive at.”

It is hoped that the project will become an important visitor attraction for the region of Caithness, which has recently been projected to lose over 20% of its population over the next 20 years. “This project will be a hugely important one for the county,” remarked CBP director Kenneth McElroy, “not only do we want this to become a sustainable and successful contribution to the economy of Caithness, but it could become an icon for the county too.”

Caithness Broch Project hope to acquire land for the construction of the broch within the next year, with funding sources from a variety of sources. By 2023 it is hoped they can begin their project in earnest, involving a wide range of skilled heritage craftspeople.

For more on Caithness Broch Project, visit www.thebrochproject.co.uk

To view more of Bob Marshall’s work, for both, visit: <https://bobmarshall.co.uk>



Bronze Age women altered genetic landscape of Orkney

An international team, led by researchers at the University of Huddersfield, has used ancient DNA to rewrite the history of the Orkney islands. They have discovered that Orkney was much less insular than has long been assumed and actually experienced large-scale female immigration during the Early Bronze Age, which replaced much of the local population. The project was a close collaboration between genetic researchers in Huddersfield and Edinburgh, led by Professor Martin Richards and Dr Ceiridwen Edwards, and archaeologists living and working on Orkney.

Orkney Britain's Ancient Capital

Orkney is world-famous for its archaeological heritage. Around 5000 years ago, during the Neolithic period when farming first took hold, it was a hugely influential cultural centre. With many superbly preserved stone dwellings, temples and megalithic monuments, and a style of ceramics that appears to have spread out across Britain and Ireland, it has even been described as "Britain's ancient capital".

Over the thousand years that followed, however, as Europe moved into the Bronze Age, it has been widely viewed that somehow Orkney became left behind. Its influence dwindled and the islands became more insular. But with fewer archaeological remains to study, much less was known about this time. By combining archaeology with the study of ancient DNA from Bronze Age human remains from the Links of Noltland site, on the remote

northern island of Westray, researchers now know much more about this time than ever before, and the results have come as a great surprise to geneticists and archaeologists alike. Professor Martin Richards, University of Huddersfield said: "This research shows how much we still have to learn about one of the most momentous events in European prehistory – how the Neolithic came to an end."

Firstly, despite the supposed insularity, the team has shown that Orkney experienced large-scale immigration during the Early Bronze Age, which replaced much of the local population. The new arrivals were probably the first to speak Indo-European languages and carried genetic ancestry derived in part from pastoralists living on the steppe lands north of the Black Sea. This mirrored what was happening in the rest of Britain and Europe in the third millennium BC. But the researchers found a fascinating difference that makes Orkney highly distinctive. Across most of Europe, the expansion of pastoralists on the eve of the Bronze Age was typically led by men, with women being sucked into the expanding populations from local farming groups. But in Orkney, the researchers found exactly the opposite.

The Bronze Age newcomers were mainly women, while male lineages from the original Neolithic population survived for at least another thousand years – something not seen anywhere else. These Neolithic lineages, however, were replaced from the Iron Age and are vanishingly rare today.

Why was Orkney so different?

But why was Orkney so different? Dr Graeme Wilson and Hazel Moore of the Orkney-based EASE Archaeology, who excavated the Links of Noltland, argue that the answer may lie in the long-term stability and self-sufficiency of farmsteads on Orkney, which the genetic data suggests may have already been male-dominated by the peak of the Neolithic.

When a Europe-wide recession hit towards the end of the Neolithic, they may have been uniquely placed to weather harsher times and maintain their grip on the population as newcomers arrived. This implies that Orkney was much less insular than has long been assumed and that there was a protracted period of negotiation between the indigenous males and the newcomers from the south, over many generations.

"This shows that the third-millennium BC expansion across Europe was not a monolithic process but was more complex and varied from place to place," explained Dr George Foody, one of the lead researchers on the project from the University of Huddersfield. The results have been surprising for both the archaeologists and geneticists on the team, although for different reasons: the archaeologists did not expect such large-scale immigration, whereas the geneticists did not foresee survival of the Neolithic male lineages.

The University's Director of the Evolutionary Genomics Research Centre Professor Martin Richards said: "This research shows how much we still have to learn about one of the most momentous events in European prehistory – how the Neolithic came to an end."



The settlement of Links of Noltland extends from the late 4th millennium BC to the mid-1st millennium BC. Over 35 buildings have so far been excavated. This house was constructed around 2900 BC. Photo courtesy EASE Archaeology (Graeme Wilson and Hazel Moore).

Another fun moment at Canmore Highland Games...

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Capercaillie may become under threat of extinction

A new scientific review has advised on measures which could help reverse the fortunes of the iconic capercaillie in Scotland. The report from a sub-group of the NatureScot Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) advises that if perilous population declines continue the species could be lost to Scotland within two to three decades. After a thorough review of the scientific evidence, the report advises that current breeding success appears to be too low to allow recovery of the population.

Interventions that improve the survival of eggs and young chicks are especially important. These include predator control and diversional feeding; and creation of refuges around hotspots to minimise disturbance. Survival of adults would be enhanced with more work to mark or remove deer fences, which can cause injury or death to birds in flight. The review drew on a large amount of impressive past and on-going research by members of the Scottish Capercaillie Group.

Factors having the biggest impact on breeding success were identified as increased predation from foxes, pine martens and crows; as well as more disturbance due to rises in visitor numbers and recreational activities. The report highlighted the importance of further action across the core area of Badenoch and Strathspey if the population is to be conserved.

Biodiversity Minister Lorna Slater said: "Capercaillie are magnificent birds and an iconic species for Scotland, so I am deeply concerned that their population continues to decline. This underlines the need to redouble our efforts to work in partnership and at the landscape scale to reverse these declines. We will carefully consider the advice in this report and work with partners to build on the positive conservation work already happening on the ground, such as through the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project."

HRH The Princess Royal announces TS Queen Mary will sail again



HRH The Princess Royal has announced that *TS Queen Mary* will sail on the Firth of Clyde, once again. In the most

important development yet in the restoration of the ship – named after her great grandmother – The Princess Royal made the announcement on a visit to Pacific Quay, in Glasgow. It comes three years to the day since The Princess Royal became its Royal Patron and it is hoped *TS Queen Mary* will be back in service offering cruises by the summer of 2024. The announcement reflects a change of plan by the Friends of *TS Queen Mary* – tasked with its restoration – which has been "overwhelmed by the generosity of corporate donors and individuals" who are keen to see the ship restored to its former glory.

Originally, it was planned that *TS Queen Mary* would be permanently berthed at Pacific Quay next to Glasgow Science Centre and have a heritage and maritime training focus while connecting Glasgow and its citizens to the ship. Now it has been decided she will sail again, supporting the post-pandemic recovery and providing a boost to Scotland's tourism generally and notably Clyde coast resorts such as Rothesay and Dunoon, which were familiar destinations. Since restoration work began, Friends of *TS Queen Mary* have raised and invested £3.8 million of cash and in-kind support in the project. Many supporters have given generously of their time and resources. This reflects *TS Queen Mary's* pre-eminence and unrivalled international appeal. A number of celebrities also have pledged their support, including actor and author Robbie Coltrane OBE, who remains Patron of the charity.

During the restoration *TS Queen Mary* has forged strong links with City of Glasgow College which, among its many courses, offers Nautical Studies and Marine Engineering qualifications. Its cadets have already been making use of the vessel and will continue to do so when she sets sail again. This has enabled the creation of the "TS Queen Mary Skills and Training Academy" and the first UK cadet ship. Iain Sim, Chairman of the Friends of *Queen Mary* said the announcement that *TS Queen Mary* will resume cruising once again after 47 years was a "landmark day" in the proud history of a beloved ship. Iain said: "It is entirely fitting that this announcement should be made by HRH The Princess Royal given the strong family connection *TS Queen Mary* has – not just to her great grandmother Queen Mary after whom the ship is named –

but to the wider Royal Family. While *TS Queen Mary's* incredible history can only be understood looking backwards, her legacy must be lived looking forward."

Shipbuilders of Port Glasgow sculpture assembly complete



Assembly of the giant Shipbuilders of Port Glasgow sculpture is complete in Inverclyde. The huge 10-metre (33 feet) tall stainless-steel figures by renowned artist John McKenna are now in place in the town's Coronation Park. Lighting will soon be added to illuminate the figures, which pay tribute to the people who served in Port Glasgow and Inverclyde shipyards and made the area world famous for shipbuilding. Landscaping and paving works are also to be carried out and signage added between now and the summer to finish off the project.

Councillor Michael McCormick, Inverclyde Council's convener of environment and regeneration, said: "The delivery of these sculptures has been a long time coming and much has been said about them but it's now clear to see that they are quite spectacular, and the reaction thus far suggests they are well on their way to becoming an icon of Inverclyde and the west of Scotland. These sculptures not only pay homage to our rich shipbuilding heritage and the many local people who served in our yards but will also provide another reason for people to discover Inverclyde as we continue to promote the area as a good place to live, work and visit."

Sculptor John McKenna was commissioned to create a striking piece of public art for Port Glasgow and the design was chosen following a public vote. The artist said: "When my design of the shipbuilder's sculpture was overwhelmingly voted for by the people of Port Glasgow, I was absolutely thrilled that my vision for the artwork would be realised. It was no easy task to design and complete the sculpture, a complete unique one-off, a dynamic pose, the colossal pair swinging their riveting hammers, trying to evoke working together. To see the pair finished in metal at full-size was fantastic, for so long these complex figures were all 'in my head'. That complexity and the size of the work were a huge challenge, not only in the structural design but the faceted plating that is the sculpture surface. These artworks, made in my studio in Ayrshire, are to celebrate the historical shipbuilding industry of Port Glasgow and the impact 'Clydebuilt' had on the whole world.

They were made for the people of Port Glasgow, those who had faith in my design and voted for it. Hopefully, they will cherish and enjoy these colossal giants of industry for many generations to come."

The figures measure 10 metres (33 feet) in height with a combined weight of 14 tonnes. It is thought to be the largest sculptural figure of a shipbuilder in the UK and one of the biggest of its kind in Western Europe.

Outlander Effect to support tourism recovery



As hit TV series *Outlander* returns, national tourism body, VisitScotland, has published new research on the Outlander Effect during the pandemic. 'Droughtlander', the nickname for the period between *Outlander* seasons, ended in March with the premiere of Season Six. The TV series, based on the books by Diana Gabaldon, is primarily filmed in Scotland (a filming locations map is available on visitscotland.com) and has been a boon to screen tourism in the country since its first broadcast in 2014, particularly from US and Canadian visitors.

VisitScotland hopes interest in the latest season, combined with the return of international travel, will help support Scotland's tourism recovery. New figures published by the national tourism organisation, compiled by the Moffat Centre for Travel and Tourism Business Development, show that despite restrictions and temporary closures during 2020, *Outlander*-related attractions (historic, cultural, and filming locations) saw more than 1.7 million visitors. Visitor numbers at *Outlander*-related attractions peaked at 3.2 million in 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a 64% drop in total visits to all attractions in Scotland between 2019 and 2020, as monitored by the Moffat Centre. *Outlander*-related attractions fared better, falling by 45% over the same period. Attraction figures for 2021 have yet to be released.

Jenni Steele, Film and Creative Industries Manager at VisitScotland, said: "*Outlander* has had a huge impact on Scottish tourism for many years, especially by visitors from the USA and Canada. Despite the devastation to the tourism industry caused by the pandemic, it's been really encouraging that fans have continued to be drawn to Scotland and our many historic and cultural attractions. With season six on our screens and international travel routes returning, we hope this inspires UK, US and Canadian viewers to plan a trip to the home of *Outlander*." *Outlander* follows the adventures of World War II time-travelling nurse Claire Randall and her relationship with 18th century Highlander Jamie Fraser.

Soldiers of The Queen

As Canada celebrates the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Armstrong Regional Co-op and the Okanagan Military Tattoo Society are pleased to present "Soldiers of The Queen" featuring the Strathcona Ceremonial Mounted Troop at the Armstrong Fairgrounds on May 26, 2022. The Strathcona Ceremonial Mounted Troop is a ceremonial mounted cavalry unit of the Canadian Army attached to the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), an armoured regiment based in Edmonton, Alberta. It is the last surviving military mounted troop in the country. The troop is designed to be a link to the regiment's time as a cavalry unit in the early 20th century. The first members of the regiment were trained horsemen who were recruited to serve as match for the Boers in South Africa. The regiment also served with distinction in the First World War as part of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

The Ceremonial Troop performed actively in North America from 1923 until it was dissolved in 1939 following the start of the Second World War in Europe. The mounted troop was re-formed in 1974 in time for the regiment's 75th anniversary and Calgary's centennial.

In September 2000, the troop mounted the Queen's Life Guard at Buckingham Palace; the first time a unit other than the Household Cavalry or the Royal Horse Artillery provided a mounted guard in London. It is therefore fitting that the Strathcona Ceremonial Troop be a part of our local Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The Troop consists of 20 soldiers and its show combines traditional cavalry drills with the tent pegging that is often seen in equestrian sports. The May 26, 2022 performance at the Armstrong Fairgrounds will include local pipe bands and other surprise performers. A second performance may be scheduled on May 27 if ticket sales exceed expectations.

Info: 250 549 7469 or www.ticket seller.ca



The Small Isles. Photo: VisitScotland.

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 deepest inland stretch of water in Britain?
- 2) In which city was the first U.S. Burns Club inaugurated in 1847?
- 3) It lives for 60 years and can be found on the beds of several Scottish rivers - what is it?
- 4) Which Scottish hero's dying words were, "Let the piper play Return No More"?
- 5) In auld Scots what was a carling?
- 6) Which mountain dominates the Royal Estate at Balmoral?

- 7) Was Glasgow Cathedral built before or after the Reformation?
- 8) Which islands comprise the group known as the Small Isles?
- 9) Where in Scotland would you find Sodom?
- 10) In auld Scots which part of the body is called the pow?

Answers

- 1) Loch Morar at 1077 feet.
- 2) New York.
- 3) The freshwater mussel.
- 4) Rob Roy MacGregor.
- 5) An old woman.
- 6) Lochnagar.
- 7) Pre-Reformation.
- 8) Rum, Canna, Eigg and Muck.
- 9) The Shetland Islands.
- 10) The head.

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Inaugural President's Day ceremony held at newly restored Abraham Lincoln Statue in Edinburgh



Angus Robertson MSP, U.S. Consul General Jack Hillmeyer and Amy McNeese-Mechan.

Culture and Communities Vice Convener Cllr Amy McNeese-Mechan has joined representatives of White House Historical Association, U.S. Consulate and Scottish Government to lay wreaths at restored Abraham Lincoln Statue in new Presidents' Day tradition. On Presidents' Day 2022 (21 February), wreaths were laid at the foot of the Abraham Lincoln statue and war memorial at the Old Calton Cemetery in Edinburgh. The new annual tradition has been initiated by the White House Historical Association,

a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and providing access to White House history.

Association President, Stewart McLaurin, travelled to Edinburgh over the Christmas period and visited the monument, which was inaugurated in 1893 to commemorate Scottish soldiers who died in the Union Army during the American Civil War. The memorial includes a statue of the 16th President, the first statue of any American president in Europe and still the sole statue of a U.S. president in Scotland, and a freed

slave and is also believed to be the only memorial to the Civil War outside the USA. Inspired by this and his own Scottish roots, McLaurin proposed a new annual tradition of marking on Presidents' Day Lincoln's life and the historic relationship between Scotland and the United States.

The United States and Scotland share many deep and profound connections

U.S. Consul General Jack Hillmeyer laid a wreath on behalf of the association and the U.S. Government alongside Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, Angus Robertson MSP, and City of Edinburgh's Culture and Communities Vice Convener Councillor, Amy McNeese-Mechan. The occasion also saw the unveiling of a minor restoration of the statue, which had been missing a spearhead on one of its regimental flags for over 40 years. The spearhead had been broken off and collected for repairs, sitting in various workshops for this time and had been thought lost. It was of great surprise when it was returned to the council in late 2021 by a now-retired employee now living in Spain who had kept it for safekeeping during various workshop moves.

Stewart McLaurin, President of the White House Historical Association said: "To see a statue of Abraham Lincoln in Edinburgh is a thrilling reminder of how he bent American history towards the arc of

justice—and of our nation's deep ties and everlasting friendship with Scotland."

Jack Hillmeyer, U.S. Consul General said: "The United States and Scotland share many deep and profound connections. The Scottish American Soldiers Monument provides a constant reminder that our close relationship even extends to the field of battle. This ceremony is a fitting tribute to Lincoln, whose shining example of leadership during America's darkest hour continues to inspire, and the Scots who were moved to fight for freedom and equality on American shores."



Trust pieces together Lady Grange's secrets



Lady Grange's House.

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland is piecing together the story of one of St Kilda's most notable residents after winter storms caused the collapse of the stone 'cleit' believed to be built on the site of Lady Grange's House. This particular cleit – a circular stone structure with a unique St Kildan turf roof - is thought to date from the mid-19th century, but may incorporate elements of the building where Rachel Chiesley was held from 1734 – 41. Lady Grange

was sent to St Kilda by her husband James Erskine, a Jacobite supporter who feared his wife would expose his sympathies to the UK Government.

St Kilda's main island Hirta has more than 1200 similar cleits which undergo an ongoing programme of monitoring and maintenance to keep them standing against the elements in this remote and exposed location, 40 miles west from the Isle of Lewis. The highest wind speed recorded in the archipelago was 144 miles per hour. Repairing the damage to Lady

Grange's House will be one of the most challenging tasks faced by the Trust in over half a century of conservation work on St Kilda, according to archaeologists.

A fascinating structure

The National Trust for Scotland's Western Isles Manager Susan Bain said: "This is a fascinating structure, with a really interesting history and we now have an unparalleled opportunity to discover so much more about it. Over the coming months, we'll not only be investigating the cause of the collapse, but we'll also be able to analyse the building techniques and materials. We'll also be able to get a really good look at the roof and take soil samples that will help us understand so much more about how the St Kildans created these unique buildings. We hope too to discover whether there are any elements of the earlier structure, where Lady Grange spent her time on Hirta incorporated into this cleit. Our records suggest that it has never previously been repaired but we'd love to hear from anyone who may have images of the structure that could shed light on its more recent history. It's never good when a structure sustains damage, but the Trust and our talented contractors are very experienced in dealing with these issues on St Kilda and making repairs on an ongoing basis. Without our work to protect and restore the buildings here, very few would still be standing. We are very grateful to everyone

who supports our charity for helping make our work to conserve the UK's only dual World Heritage Site possible."

As well as seeking information from the public, the conservation charity is accepting donations to help with the cost of this investigation, analysis and subsequent repairs. Contributions can be made at www.nts.org.uk/caring-for-st-kilda.

St Kilda is the UK's only dual UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to nearly 1 million seabirds, including the UK's largest colony of Atlantic puffins. After 4,000 years of human presence on the island, St Kilda was evacuated on 29 August 1930 after the remaining 36 islanders voted to leave as their way of life was no longer sustainable. As well as more than 1200 stone cleits, there are also blackhouses and cottages, drystone enclosures, a church, schoolroom and manse, which are all designated as Scheduled Monuments.



Bay City Rollers tartan to march at New York's Tartan Day Parade



Bay City Rollers founding member Alan Longmuir.

Mrs Eileen Longmuir proudly wearing the Alan Longmuir Proud Son of Edinburgh tartan.

In the 1970's the Bay City Rollers were one of Scotland's hottest exports. Fans the world over were obsessed with Les, Alan, Derek, Eric and Woody and Rollermania was born. The founder members, Alan and Derek Longmuir created the band in the front room of 5 Caledonian Road, Edinburgh, after which their lives were never the same again. With their half-mast trousers and scarves tied

to wrists, they made tartan trendy and for the next forty odd years the Rollers were synonymous with tartan. When Alan passed away 2nd July 2018 there was huge outpouring of grief from fans the world over, a true legend had gone. Lesley Stirrat, a lifelong fan and traditional kiltmaker, had the idea of honouring Alan with his own tartan. The idea was run past friend and fellow fan Gillian Watkins and Alan's

wife Eileen, who both loved the idea and so the seed was sown. Working with Marton Mills, designs and colours were discussed and chosen. The colours chosen were purple for the heather, green for the Ochil Hills, blue for the Bannock Burn and pink a favourite of Eileen and Lesley. Next was the name, although Alan lived for many years in Bannockburn near Stirling, he was always first and foremost a proud son of Edinburgh and so this beautiful tartan, the Official Alan Longmuir Proud Son of Edinburgh tartan was born.

Team Tartan in the Big Apple

On 9th April 2022 Bay City Roller fans from all around the world will be taking part in the world-famous New York City Tartan Week grand finale, the Tartan Day Parade. Eileen was touched and honoured beyond words when she was told that the march, down iconic 6th Avenue into Central Park, was to be in honour and memory of Alan.

Eileen, Lesley and Gillian were so thrilled that Alan's Proud Son of Edinburgh tartan was to be the featured and showcased tartan on the day. Lesley and Gillian are beyond excited to now be able to complete the "Team Tartan" attendance Stateside and join with Eileen and 100 other fans from across the UK and around the world, at this unique and exciting fan event. For Eileen it will be especially poignant as only a few years ago Alan was asked to be

the honoured Grand Marshall of the Tartan Day parade that year, but alas was unable to do so. Perhaps with his own beautiful tartan being waved and displayed, it will almost be like him being there after all.

If folks at home the world over, who cannot attend, display their tartan at home in Alan's honour on the day, we can show the world that though he is no longer with us, Alan Longmuir, Proud Son of Edinburgh, the original Bay City Roller can still turn the world tartan.

You can follow the story, and journey to New York this month, of the Official Alan Longmuir Proud Son of Edinburgh tartan at: www.facebook.com/Alan-Longmuir-tartan-Proud-Son-of-Edinburgh-102578251193391



The Alan Longmuir Proud Son of Edinburgh tartan being made.

The Washington Tattoo is coming to Northern Virginia



The Washington Tattoo (TWT) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to producing world-class music events consistent with the tradition of military tattoos. Founded in 2019 by current and alumni members of elite military bands,

The Washington Tattoo supports veterans and first responders through a host of music and entertainment opportunities. These events include an annual Fife & Drum Workshop, Tattoo performances in and around the DC area, special events and presentations. On April 4th, 2022, The Washington Tattoo will be hosting our Gala '22 event at the Winery at Bull Run (15950 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA).

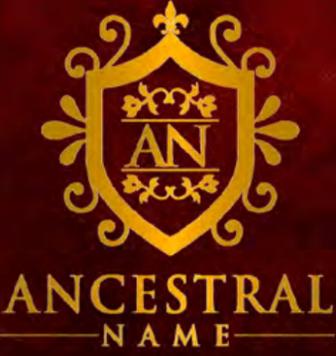
The evening will include several internationally acclaimed traditional bands and artists, amazing silent auction items, fine wine, beer, and food. Our guests will enjoy a wide array of music while strolling through the winery. The conclusion of the evening will include a mini-tattoo performance with several of our entertainers performing in a massed-bands march-off.

Featured performers include OzScot Highland Dancers (from Australia), Baroque Flute Trio, GMU 8th Regiment Brass Band, 22nd Battalion Gray Coats Fife & Drum Corps, Irish Trio, Mularky, and the Spirit of 76 Pipe Band.

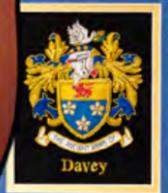
For details: www.thewashingtontattoo.com/gala

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Sustainable Scotland

The Scottish Banner speaks to Lord Thurso, the Chairman of VisitScotland

The natural beauty of Glen Affric.



Lord Thurso.

Lord Thurso was appointed as Chairman of VisitScotland in 2016 and has significant travel industry experience. Lord Thurso and the team at VisitScotland today are responsible for promoting Scotland as not only the incredibly beautiful destination so many know it is, but also a sustainable destination for many to enjoy into the future. Lord Thurso took time to speak to the Scottish Banner from his home Caithness on how Scotland has managed the tourism downfall caused by the pandemic, what is happening in Scotland in 2022 and why Scotland really is calling so many to come back when they are ready to travel again.

Lord Thurso, you have had a long and varied career in the hospitality and tourism industry. With all your many years of experience how do you feel tourism will begin to rebound, particularly in Scotland, after the last two years?

The first thing is, for me, the core elements of what makes Scotland great, have not changed. And it's a combination of all the environments: the built heritage, the natural environment, you've got the heritage and the history, and you've got fantastic people who are dying to do great things and a huge centuries long tradition of hospitality. So those core elements of why people love to come to Scotland are unchanged. I have absolutely no doubt that at a

moment, we will recover back to where we were in 2019. And actually, go beyond that.

One of the most interesting things for me to remember is that in 2019, we had approximately 3.5 million overseas visitors come into Scotland, and they represented about 43% of the spend that we had. They're incredibly valuable. Whatever it is about Scotland, that combination of things, it touches heartstrings and pulls people back, and I think that's coming back. When I look back to the first three or four months of the pandemic and lockdown, and the moment when the entire hospitality industry, every element of tourism, the whole visitor economy was basically closed, I think there was about 10%

of the industry that was open looking after key workers, but 90% closed. And I must admit, there were times that I did wonder how we will get through it. But in fact, the interesting thing was that people at home rediscovered they were in Scotland, which was tremendous.

As an example, my own little business here, I had people coming back to stay in cottages and play golf and fish and all these kinds of things and they said, "We haven't done this for 20 years, we normally go to Spain, or somewhere else. This is rather fun. I think we'll do this again." Rediscovering your own country for Scots was quite interesting. What I think will happen and I suspect it will take a year or two to build right back up, but I think there is an immense pent-up demand for people to come back. I know so many other of the diaspora Scots, that I've been in touch with who say, "we just can't wait to come back", there is still that emotional pull to come back to Scotland. And it's one of the huge advantages of brand Scotland is that people have an emotional attachment to Scotland, which is not something you say about every country. The enabler was always going to be the airlines coming back, and the ability to travel without doing umpteen million tests and all the other things and that is now beginning to happen. We're seeing flights in and out of Glasgow and Edinburgh and connecting flights up from Heathrow. We are certainly expecting this summer to see something of a

resurgence, but I suspect this year will be better than two years ago and last year, but not back to 2019 levels. I think 2023 will be close to 2019 visitor levels and I think 2024 will be exceeding 2019. So, I am hugely optimistic as to the fact that it will happen. I simply don't know quite the timing.

2022 is Scotland's Year of Stories, can you tell us more about what the year will hold for visitors to the country?

I thought it was a stroke of genius to come up with the idea of the Year of Stories, because in every part of Scottish tradition, is the tradition of telling tales. Going right back to the wonderful Celtic myths, and right back to the sagas of the Vikings. But then you add into that all the great storytellers, some of the obvious ones like Robert Burns or Sir Walter Scott, but also the modern storytellers and you've got *Outlander*, you've got TV, you've got films. So, there's a huge canvas which to take pictures of Scotland. For example, the National Trust for Scotland have put together a range of products based on their places where you tell tales. For example, there is the Sir Walter Scott Trail and there is an *Outlander* Trail. So, the Year of Stories just gives everybody an opportunity to tell a tale about Scotland, and the visitor will find that all over Scotland, people are telling tales in lots of different ways. From the wonderful peat fire with a lovely peaty whisky and a tall tale of the evening, right through to the history and to modern times, and TV and film trails, there is such a story to tell.



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

Scotland's tourism industry is really getting behind responsible tourism. Can you tell us more about just what that means and how visitors to Scotland can also be participants of responsible tourism?

Funnily enough, the genesis of what is now responsible tourism came from a way we began to think at VisitScotland about four years ago, so that predates a lot of what has come since. I remember saying to my colleagues I feel that the environment is something that we really ought to pay attention to, and I think it's going to come up the political scale in every country in the world.

We began to look at how do we take carbon out of what we do, because tourism essentially is a good story as tourism brings wealth in. I've always defined economic activity of tourism as being to generate the maximum wealth for the minimum environmental and social disruption.

I know so many other of the diaspora Scots, that I've been in touch with who say, "we just can't wait to come back", there is still that emotional pull to come back to Scotland.

But on top of that, being a tremendous wealth generator for the country. It also enhances our wellbeing, and we are all understanding of mental health following two years of isolation and lockdowns. Tourism also spreads understanding and friendship and I am a huge believer in the fact that tourism is a force for good.

So internally, we've decarbonized, hugely. Interestingly, one of the things is I don't travel nearly as much as I used to, but I've learned to do things like video conferencing and much more online. We're great believers in reusing if we possibly can, and recycling if we can't reuse, and working towards a minimum waste.

We have got a couple of initiatives, one of my favorites was to encourage the use of electric cars on the touring routes, and to talk to some of our big electricity providers about putting in more electric charging points and encouraging more accommodation providers to have electric charging points. And that if you like is all about environmental sustainability, then there's the community sustainability, which is the other half of it, which is about having a positive impact in the community by supporting jobs and wealth creation and not having a negative one by trashing the place and blocking the roads or whatever it may be. And the two actually go hand in hand.

So, it's responsible tourism which is the beginning of a journey. It's about encouraging people to be responsible when they're here and encouraging businesses to offer a product that is naturally green.

Has the legacy of the recent COP26 (UN Climate Change Conference) event in Glasgow further driven how the Scottish travel industry can show the world just how tourism and sustainability can work together?

I think interestingly, the first thing I'd say is Glasgow appeared on the world stage day in day out for two weeks, and most of the coverage was fantastic. It demonstrated to the world that a major conference can be staged in Glasgow, and there's no other city in the UK that's done that. So, the knock-on effect of showing the world just how good we are at major events was a huge plus for the future and I think we will get a lot of business coming into Glasgow and Edinburgh on the back of COP26.

My sense was that for the first time probably ever in the history of COP conferences that there was a huge willingness to try and achieve something, and it was the first conference where coal was allowed to be discussed, and a kind of no coal future was part of the conference. I think that reflects the fact that really, everybody now gets that the manmade heating of the planet is not going to be a terribly good thing. And if we want to preserve the planet, in the way we like it, then we're going to have to do something about it. One of the things I learned about it was that a large chunk of it is going to be about changing behavior, but it's also going to be about technology.

I see the unbelievable advances that are taking place, literally in the space of two or three years, which is going to be a huge difference. Some of the technologies we think we're going to be able to invent, but we haven't invented yet. Scotland certainly took COP26 to its heart, and what a wonderful way to introduce people to Scotland, and Glasgow, but through one of the most important conferences for one of the most important topics that has ever taken place. So, I thought it was fabulous, and we're doing everything we can to build on that.

Last year VisitScotland became the first National Tourist Board to declare a Climate Emergency. Can you tell us why that was so important for VisitScotland to do and how you aim to play a leading role in the development of Scotland as a globally recognised responsible destination?

I am absolutely convinced that the generations that are coming along, they want to enjoy a destination, they want experiences, but they want to do it responsibly. And if they have a choice between somewhere that takes account of that and was working hard on sustainability, and somewhere else that doesn't, I think they will choose the sustainable product every time.

I think it's in part about doing the right thing, but I think it makes huge economic sense. And I think that's what really will drive this. And I'm convinced if we can say, we've created a visitor experience that doesn't use any carbon, I think that's a choice that people will make. I see it as one of the things that within the next few years will become one of our great unique selling points. Scotland is not only a beautiful place, but it's a sustainably beautiful place, and one the visitor can enjoy sustainably.

Scotland is such a varied destination with incredible natural assets, creative and vibrant cities and coastlines that transport you to another time. For a relatively small country it more than packs in much for the visitor, how easy, or hard, is it to showcase the huge variety Scotland has to offer to potential visitors?

Well, the wonderful starting point is that virtually everybody in the world is heard of Scotland. All across the world in Africa and Asia and beyond armies have regiments with pipes and drums. It's one of those extraordinary exports that exists. There is a reach from Scotland, that goes right across the world that very few other countries have. Are problem to a certain extent is that reach is bagpipes, shortbread, and Edinburgh Castle.

The great thing is to look at that hook of the fact people know something about Scotland and give them the rest of Scotland. That plays into our current campaign, Scotland is Calling, which is all about understanding that there is emotion involved, and it is about appealing to people's emotions and appealing to how people feel about Scotland.

What you appeal to is the sentiment, what you appeal to is the sense of experience. If we offer an experience that's clearly got emotion behind it and feeling, we get far more hook into people.

You come from Caithness in the north of Scotland, an area often untouched by tourists. Can you tell us a bit more about this special region and perhaps why visitors should consider it on their next visit?

The first thing I'd say is Caithness is an example of lots of bits of Scotland which are slightly off the beaten track. I have had the privilege as Chairman of VisitScotland to visit huge amounts of Scotland that I had never seen before and there really is just so many different places that offer something different. So, I would encourage people to come to Caithness but also to lots of different parts, for example if you go into Dumfries and Galloway and locations like that, as there's huge, wonderful places off the beaten track. I visited several spots in the country that are such a pleasure to see like across Aberdeenshire or visit the whisky trail. Scotland offers a rich smorgasbord of experiences for everybody to enjoy.

Caithness is a wonderful county; several writers have described it as being beyond the Highlands. The names up here are mostly Norse, and we have a huge amount in common with the Orkney Islands and people often describe Caithness as an island that didn't manage to get through. I think we have spectacular coastal landscapes, stunning sea birds, and then right up butting up against these beautiful Heather headlands.

Then, in the middle of the county, you have the blanket bog, known as the flow country, which is taken from a Norse word meaning wet boggy place and the flow country of Caithness and Sutherland is the largest blanket bog in the world. There are more carbons sequestered in the peat of Caithness and Sutherland than in the entire Amazonian rainforest. It's a stunning world class environment and we are very hopeful it will become a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Of course, I happen to think that the people of Caithness are among the most special of Scots and we have a reputation for very warm hospitality.

The international Scottish community has always been a strong driver of inbound tourism to Scotland. How important does this market continue to be for Scotland and what message do you have for the Scottish Diaspora now getting ready to make plans to come back 'home' for a visit?

My message is we're here with open arms ready and willing to look after you. It's Haste Ye Back, but when it's safe, and you're comfortable to do so. I think that level of comfort is coming this year and so what we always say to everybody is, is that "Scotland is Calling", we're calling out to you, we are here, we love you, we remember you, and we're ready to look after you as and when you are ready. But do it when you're comfortable. So hopefully across the globe, the Scottish diaspora is getting ready to come back and when people feel they'd like to, we're ready to welcome them. It's always good to see the diaspora coming back and we so appreciate how much they amplify the sound of Scotland in their communities and teach non-Scots what fun it is to come and be in Scotland. I'm hugely grateful for the fact that all the organisations across America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the rest of the world, do such a really great job in helping us promote Scotland.

If Scotland is Calling you, plan your trip at: www.visitscotland.com



Duncansby Head is the most north-easterly part of the British mainland in Caithness. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Hunt the Gowk - Scottish equivalent of April Fool's Day (gowk is a cuckoo).

1 - The birth of Sir William, Mr Justice MacPherson of Cluny, the noted Scottish jurist and the 27th Chief of Clan Macpherson. Cluny passed away in February, 2021. **1926**

2 - The College of New Aberdeen was founded. The college was founded by the Earl Marischal of Scotland, George Keith of Inverugie, and became known as Marischal College. Marischal College was the second university in Aberdeen, following the foundation of King's College in 1495 by Bishop William Elphinstone. The two universities were united in 1860 as the University of Aberdeen. **1593**

2 - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island. **1992**

3 - Murder of Duke of Rothesay, heir of Robert III. **1401**

3 - King James VI travelled to London to take up the English throne. James moved his court to Whitehall Palace in London, where they settled around the palace in an area which became known as "Scotland Yard". On his way to London he knighted 300 people, and in the space of four months in England had knighted more people than Queen Elizabeth had in her entire reign. James returned to Scotland only once, in 1617, and he liked to boast that he now ruled his northern kingdom with a stroke of his pen. **1603**

4 - Parliament held by King Robert II at Scone, resolved that his son, the Earl of Carrick should succeed his father as King (as Robert III although he was baptised John). **1373**

4 - King Robert III died and James I ascended the throne (but was not crowned until 1424 as he was a prisoner of the English). **1406**

4 - John Napier, inventor of logarithms, died in Edinburgh. **1617**

5 - Birth at Lesmahagow of composer Alexander Muir, creator of Maple Leaf Forever. **1830**

5 - Disaster at a England vs. Scotland football match at Ibrox Stadium when part of the flooring collapsed, killing 25, injuring over 500. **1902**



6 - Declaration of Arbroath - "For we fight not for glory nor for riches nor for honour, but only and alone for freedom, which no good man surrenders but with his life", was drawn up by the monks of Arbroath Abbey. The Declaration of Arbroath is widely regarded as being the inspiration behind the American Declaration of Independence in 1776. **1320**



6 - Nova Scotia officially proclaims Tartan Day. Started originally as "Tartan Day in Nova Scotia," founder and *Scottish Banner* reader Jean Watson approached every provincial Legislative Assembly in Canada, as well as other Scottish-cultural societies across Canada, to help get such a date established. **1987**

6 - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. **1992**

6 - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian province of Newfoundland & Labrador. **1995**

6 - The U.S. Senate declared April 6 to be National Tartan Day to recognize the contributions made by Scottish-Americans to the United States. **1998**



7 - Jim Clark, Duns farmer, twice World Motor Racing Champion, killed in crash, Hockenheim. The Jim Clark Motorsport Museum opened in the historic market town of Duns in the Scottish Borders in 2019. **1968**

7 - The Scottish National Party was founded. The SNP was created out of the merger of a number of parties; the National Party of Scotland, formed in 1928 from an amalgamation of a number of small parties following the rejection of a Home Rule bill, and the Scottish Party, a breakaway section of the Cathcart Conservative Association. The party enjoyed its first success in 1945, when Robert MacIntyre was elected to represent Motherwell. **1934**

7 - The last native person born on the island of St Kilda, Rachel Johnson, died at the age of 93 at a care home in Clydebank. **2016**

8 - Radical prisoners were taken from Paisley to Greenock jail under escort. The citizens of Greenock fought their escort, the Port Glasgow Militia, until they reached the jail. Still coming under attack, the Militia opened fire on the stone-throwing crowd. Eight were killed, including an eight year old boy, and ten wounded, before the militia retreated from Greenock. In the evening, the angry Greenockians stormed the jail and freed the prisoners **1820**

9 - Second Treaty of Durham in which David I is recognised as King of an independent Scotland by King Stephen of England. **1139**

9 - Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the leading Scottish Jacobite rebel was beheaded on Tower Green, London. Lovat has the unwanted notoriety of being the last man to be publicly beheaded in Britain. It is said his last words said were in Latin: "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori" or "It's sweet and seemly to die for one's country". **1747**

10 - King James V born. **1512**

10 - Sandy Lyle becomes the first Scottish (and British) golfer to win the US Masters tournament. **1988**

11 - Scottish settlement in Darien, Panama, abandoned. **1700**

11 - Scotland won the final Five Nations Rugby Championship. Scotland became champions by default when Wales beat England 32-31 at Wembley. If England had won the last game of the championship they would have been the champions. Both teams had won the same number of games, but Scotland won the title on points scored. The last time they won the championship was in 1990. The following season, Five Nations became Six when Italy joined the competition. **1999**

11 - The wedding of Scottish tennis star Andy Murray to his long-term partner Kim Sears takes place in Dunblane. **2015**



12 - Union flag adopted as the flag of England, Wales and Scotland. **1606**

12 - The SNP won their first electoral victory. Dr Robert D. MacIntyre won the Motherwell and Wishaw by-election in a straight fight with Labour by a majority of 617 votes. MacIntyre later became Provost of Stirling. **1945**

12 - The Cromarty Bridge opens. The road bridge joins a junction with the B9163 to the south in Ross and Cromarty with a junction with the A862 to the north at Ardullie Point. It became part of the A9 in 1982. **1979**

13 - The Stone of Destiny, which had been removed from underneath the Coronation Chair by Scottish nationalists on 25 December 1950, was returned to Westminster Abbey after being found at Arbroath Abbey. **1951**

13 - Scots entertainer, actor and comedian Jimmy Logan died. **2001**



14 - University of Edinburgh founded. **1582**

14 - Aberdeen Football Club was founded. **1903**

15 - Prof Joseph Black chemist, researcher, teacher, first to identify carbon dioxide, died. **1799**

15 - Actor and comedian Rikki Fulton born in Glasgow. He was best known for his double act with Jack Milroy as Francie and Josie and as the Rev I M Jolly in *Scotch and Wry*. **1924**

15 - Infamous passenger liner the *RMS Titanic* sank in the Atlantic Ocean after hitting an iceberg. Several Scots died on the ship including musician Jock Hume who played as the ship sank, First Officer William Murdoch, and several staff members. 1500 people perished on the maiden voyage to New York. **1912**

16 - *Royal Yacht Britannia* launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank. The *Britannia* opened as a visitor attraction in Edinburgh in 1998. **1953**



16 - The Battle of Culloden took place at Culloden Moor, where British troops defeated the Scottish Jacobite army for the final confrontation of the 1745 Jacobite Rising. It was the last ever battle to be fought on British soil with over 1500 Scottish fatalities. **1746**

16 - Livingston in West Lothian is officially designated as a New Town. It was the fourth post-war new town to be built in Scotland. **1962**

17 - A British record attendance at a football match was set when 149,547 watched Scotland play England at Hampden Park, Glasgow. Until 1950, this was a world record. **1937**

17 - Alexander Mackenzie, the Scottish-born Canadian statesman, died. Mackenzie was the first Liberal Prime Minister of Canada, serving from 1873-78. **1892**

18 - Remains of David Livingstone interred in Westminster Abbey. **1874**

18 - Harbourne Stephen, the Scottish World War II fighter pilot, was born. Stephen was a Battle of Britain fighter ace who went on to forge a career for himself as a newspaper executive. On his way to a tally of 23 registered kills (though it was almost certainly higher) he shot down five enemy aircraft in a single day in August 1940. **1914**

19 - Robert II, grandson of Robert the Bruce, died at Dundonald Castle. **1390**

19 - Jim Mollison, the pioneering Scottish aviator, was born. Mollison held many individual records for distance, endurance, and speed flying, he became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from East to West. **1905**

20 - The first public meeting of the Scottish National Party was held. The meeting was held in the Central Hall, Tollcross, Edinburgh. The Scottish National Party was formed by the amalgamation of The National Party of Scotland and The Scottish Party. **1934**

21 - John Muir, the Scottish-born American naturalist, was born in Dunbar. Muir was responsible for the creation of Yosemite and Sequoia national parks in California. The 550-acre Muir Woods National Monument is named after him. **1838**

21 - Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act passed by the Scottish Parliament, the first piece of legislation in the UK to give formal recognition to the Scottish Gaelic language. It aims to secure Gaelic as an official language of Scotland, commanding "equal respect" with English, by establishing Bòrd na Gàidhlig within the framework of the government of Scotland. **2005**

22 - Captain John Paul Jones (born and raised in Scotland), Commanding Officer of the Continental Warship Ranger, led a raid on the town of Whitehaven, England. The first raid on England in over a hundred years and the last time England was attacked on its own shore. No one was hurt and the damage was minimal but the fear created in England played a huge part in the American victory. **1778**

23 - King Alexander I died at Stirling Castle, succeeded by David I. **1124**

23 - Blackout restrictions lifted as World War II heads to a conclusion. **1945**

24 - 15 year old Mary, Queen of Scots, married French Dauphin, Francis Valois (aged 14) at Notre Dame in Paris. They had no children and Francis died in 1560, ruling France for just eighteen months. **1558**

24 - Novelist R M Ballantyne, who wrote 90 books, the best known of which was *The Coral Island*, was born in Edinburgh. **1825**

25 - Malcolm III (Canmore) crowned. **1058**



25 - The Royal Navy's last battleship, *HMS Vanguard*, was accepted for trials by the navy. The ship was built at John Brown's in Clydebank. It was originally intended to be part of the Far Eastern Fleet fighting the Japanese but was not completed until after the war, and so became the only British battleship never to fire her guns in anger. **1946**

26 - Philosopher David Hume born. **1711**

27 - The Scottish army was routed in the Battle of Dunbar by Edward I, King of England. Hostilities started when the King of the Scots, John Balliol, renounced his allegiance to the English Crown. The battle became known as the "Dunbar Drave". **1296**

27 - James Bruce, the Scottish explorer, died. Bruce became the first European to discover Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, in 1770. **1794**

27 - The population of Scotland reaches a record high, standing at 5,404,700. **2017**

28 - Henry Dundas, powerful politician, known as "Uncrowned King of Scotland", born. **1742**

28 - Glasgow Garden Festival opened by Prince Charles and the Princess of Wales on the south bank of the River Clyde. The festival would welcome 4.5 million visitors over five months. **1988**

29 - Stephen Hendry, aged 21, becomes the youngest world snooker champion by beating Jimmy White 18-12 in the final. **1990**

29 - Lonnie Donegan, the Scottish skiffle singer, composer and guitarist, was born. Considered by some to be Britain's first pop superstar, James Anthony Donegan burst onto the scene in the mid-1950s with a distinctive, lively sound called skiffle. **1931**

30 - Royal Bank invents first overdraft, William Hogg overdrafts by £1,000 (over £75,000 at today's money). **1728**

30 - David Livingstone, the renowned Scottish missionary and explorer, died. Born in Blantyre, Livingstone was famed for his exploration of central and southern Africa. He was the first European to see Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. **1873**

30 - An Comunn Gaidhealach was formally instituted as a vehicle for the preservation and development of the Gaelic language. **1891**

Spring: Highlights of the season

Spring is a magical time to visit Scotland and some of the favourite National Trust for Scotland (NTS) places, as the coasts, islands, mountains and moorlands all spring back to life. As the days lengthen and warm, it's a lovely time of year to spot some of the seasonal visitors to Scotland, as well as some much-loved resident species.

Puffins arrive to nest

In April, puffins start to arrive on Dun Mor, the chunky sea stack south of Canna and Sanday. Around 350 pairs breed here, laying their eggs in burrows during May and June. The eggs are incubated for about 40 days and each pair hatches just one young puffling a year, which is fed by the parents for around 50 days until it's ready to set off into the Atlantic. With their colourful beaks and charming waddle, puffins are known as the 'clowns of the sea', and a group is known collectively as a circus. Puffins often mate for life.

Singing as the sun rises



A meadow pipit, ready for spring.

The spring dawn chorus starts an hour or so before sunrise, when the first male songbirds burst into song. Choose a day with clear, calm weather and head out to enjoy the music. For adventurous walkers, upland areas like Ben Lomond and Mar Lodge Estate are wonderful places to hear the piping call of the meadow pipit or the complex song of the skylark. Or head to Killiecrankie, or the Hermitage near Dunkeld in Perthshire, to listen to robins, wrens, warblers and thrushes.

Flowers of the ancient woods

In the Pass of Killiecrankie, the flowering of star-shaped wood anemones signals the arrival of spring. These gentle white flowers

enjoy the sun, so they flower early in the season to make the most of the dappled sunshine before the canopy above fills out with leaves. Wood anemones spread slowly, expanding their territory through their roots, so finding large areas of these pretty white flowers is a good indicator of the ancient vintage of the woodland in which you're wandering.

Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve is renowned for its wide range of arctic and alpine plants. The first to bloom in spring is the richly coloured purple saxifrage, its flowers opening as the snow melts, sometimes as early as February. This incredibly hardy plant flowers at some of the highest altitudes and most northerly locations in the world. Take your binoculars and look out for it on the crags of Grey Mare's Tail, one of the UK's highest waterfalls, which plunges into Moffat Water Valley in Dumfries & Galloway.

Return of the osprey



Osprey chick at Threave Estate.

From March, ospreys migrate from Africa to breed in southern Scotland. Once extinct in this country, since 2008 these fish-eating birds of prey have been nesting at Threave Estate in Dumfries & Galloway, where we worked with a local tree surgeon and raptor expert to encourage them to breed here.

Between March and September, you can visit our viewing platform on the estate, where our knowledgeable volunteers can tell you all about the ospreys. In between visits, keep an eye on the Friends of Threave Osprey Facebook page for regular reports from the nests.

Wheatear

They may be small, but wheatears have plenty of stamina! One of the earliest migrants to arrive at St Abb's Head in the spring, male wheatears seem to stake their claim on breeding territory in late March, followed by females in April. These mainly ground-dwelling birds have travelled a very long distance – all the way from sub-Saharan Africa, the longest migration of any small bird in the world. The male has a grey back with black wings and an orange front. The female sports more muted shades of buff, grey and brown. Both have a distinctive white rump, seen in flight.

Bats



Pipistrelle bat.

Bats start to emerge from hibernation in March, becoming fully active in April and May when they emerge to feed most nights. Threave Estate has Scotland's first dedicated bat reserve and is home to eight

different species, but bats can be seen at many different Trust places, including our historic buildings and natural heritage sites. Several countryside rangers, ecologists and building surveyors are specially trained to care for bats, inspect roosts and look after any strays. The NTS also conduct surveys to learn more about bat behaviour and ensure that our maintenance work doesn't disrupt their homes.

Black grouse



Black grouse. Photo: Rob Hume.

In the heart of the Cairngorms, the ancient pinewoods of Mar Lodge Estate are home to the rare black grouse. Early mornings in springtime provide the best opportunity to see their famous, swaggering courtship displays known as leks, which take place in open areas away from the woods.

This fascinating show of prowess by the male birds sees them fan out their white tail feathers, emit courtship calls and perform energetic displays. This builds into a frenzy of activity before the females eventually decide on a partner with which to mate.

Text and images 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

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Beef and Onion Pie with Cheese Crust

Ingredients:

For the pastry:

225/8oz. plain flour, plus extra for dusting
75g/2¾oz. chilled butter, cut into cubes, plus extra for greasing
pinch salt
75g/2¾oz. mature cheese, or similar mature crumbly cheese, grated
4 tbsp. water
1 free-range egg yolk

For the filling:

1-2 tbsp. vegetable oil
250g/9oz. beef mince
1 onion, peeled, chopped
1 carrot, peeled, finely chopped
1 celery stalk, trimmed, finely chopped
1 tbsp. tomato purée
1 tbsp. Worcestershire Sauce
splash bitter ale
1 free-range egg, beaten

To serve:

mashed potatoes
brown sauce

Method:

For the pastry, blend the flour, butter cubes and salt in a food processor until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the cheese, water and egg yolk and continue to blend until the mixture comes together as a dough. Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knead lightly for 3-4 minutes, or until smooth and elastic. Wrap the dough in cling film and chill in the fridge for at least one hour. Meanwhile, for the filling, heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the beef mince, in batches if necessary, and fry for 6-8 minutes, turning once, or until browned all over. Remove from the pan and set aside (keep warm). Repeat the process with the remaining batches of beef mince. Add the onion, carrot and celery to the pan used to fry the mince. Fry for 3-4 minutes, stirring well, until softened. Return the mince to the pan and stir in the tomato purée, Worcestershire Sauce and bitter ale. Bring the mixture to a simmer and cook, stirring regularly, for 8-10 minutes, or until much of the liquid has evaporated. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/

Gas 6. Grease a 20cm- 25cm/8-10in pie plate with butter. When the dough has chilled, divide it in half. Roll out one half onto a lightly floured work surface until slightly larger than the pie plate. Carefully line the pie plate with the pastry, pressing it into the edges of the plate. Spoon the filling into the pie case. Roll the remaining dough out onto a lightly floured work surface until it is slightly larger than the pie dish. Brush the rim of the pie case with a little of the egg wash. Place the pastry disc on top of the pie and press the edges together. Brush the pie lid all over with the remaining beaten egg. Prick the pastry all over several times with a fork. Bake the pie in the oven for 35-40 minutes, or until the pastry is crisp and pale golden-brown. Serve with mashed potatoes and brown sauce.

Pork Chops with Apples and Cider

Ingredients:

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

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Season the chops well with salt and freshly ground black pepper. In a large shallow ovenproof pan, heat the olive oil and fry the rind of each chop for a good head start to get them crisp. Then lightly fry each side for a minute or so to get the outside crusty and golden brown and remove from the pan. Add the onion to the same pan with the pork juices and brown a little before adding in the apple wedges and sage leaves (add only a few as sage can overpower the dish) with the juniper berries. Add the chops back into the pan, and nestle them among the apples and onions, along with the remaining whole apples. Pour over the cider, enough to just cover the ingredients, season to taste and place in the oven for about half an hour, or until the pork and apple are cooked.

Highlander Soup

Ingredients:

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

Method:

Wash lentils, or peas, and soak overnight in cold water. Drain. Add the recipe water & bones. Heat to boiling. Simmer 2 hours. Add greens (celery) and carrots and simmer until lentils or peas are tender. Skim all fat from soup. Remove bones, cut off any meat, dice it, & return diced meat to the soup. Sauté onions, then add flour, salt and pepper. Mix well. Slowly add one cup hot soup stock to onion mixture, cook until thick & smooth & return thickened mixture to rest of hot soup.

Aberdeen Butteries



Ingredients:

1 lb/.45kgs. plain flour
1 oz. yeast or ½ tablespoons dried yeast
1 tablespoons sugar
1 cup butter ½ cup lard
1½ cup water at blood heat
pinch of salt

Method:

Mix sifted flour and salt in basin. Cream yeast with sugar. When it bubbles, add to flour with water. Mix well, cover, set in warm place until bulk doubles; about ½ hour. Cream butter and lard together, divide into three parts. Put dough on floured board, roll out into long strip. Dot first third of fats on top third of pastry strip. Fold over like an envelope as when making flaky pastry. Roll out, repeat with other strips until all butter mixture is used up. Roll out, cut in small oval shapes or rounds. Lay on floured baking sheet, leave 2 inches between each to allow for expansion. Cover as above, let rise ¾ hour. Bake for 20 minutes at 375°F/160°C-400°F/205°C.

Flora MacDonald

Ingredients:

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

Method:

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

Chocolate and Raspberry Brownies



Ingredients:

350g/12oz. dark chocolate (55-60% cocoa solids)
250g/9oz. unsalted butter
3 free range eggs
250g/9oz. dark muscovado sugar
110g/4oz. plain flour, sifted
1 tsp baking powder
pinch of salt
175g/6oz. fresh raspberries

Method:

Preheat the oven to 170C/325F/Gas 3. Butter a 23cm/9in square cake tin. Melt the chocolate and butter together, then cool slightly. Whisk the eggs until thick, then gradually add the sugar and beat until glossy. Beat in the melted chocolate mixture, then gently fold in the flour, baking powder and salt. Pour just over half the mixture into the prepared cake tin. Scatter over the raspberries, then cover with the remaining mixture. Bake in the preheated oven for about 40 minutes or until the surface is set. It will be cooked when a skewer into the middle comes out with just a little mixture adhering. Remove the cake to a wire rack and allow it to rest for about 20 minutes. Cut the cake into squares and remove them from the tin when cold.

Glazed Chestnut Rice Pudding

Ingredients:

250ml. milk
320ml. cream
90g. sugar
6 egg yolks
1 vanilla pod
chestnut purée
vanilla foam
sprinkle of caster sugar

Method:

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

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



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Calling the Clans

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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/>

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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

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Vic

Mr Norman A Macdonald

WA

Ms Pamela McDonald

secretary.donaldaustralia@gmail.com

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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.

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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

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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

Contact our registrar: Jeanne P. Lehr

11 Ballas Crt.

St. Louis, MO 63131-3038

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

website: www.acgsus.org



CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-



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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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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

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For further info contact
President: Wayne Sinclair 0417 146 174
Secretary: Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263
E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com
www.clansinclairaustralia.com



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Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277
Email: scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

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Founded in 1905
<https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com>




Clan Pollock

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

A. D. Pollock, Jr.
PO Box 404
Greenville, KY 42345
e-mail: apollockis@comcast.net



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Tel/Fax 0131 220 4512 www.stewartsociety.org



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Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com
www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.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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Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

The Society cordially invites membership of all Sutherlands (however the name is spelled) and of the associated families: Cheyne, Duffus, Gray, Frederith, Mowat and Oliphant.

Email: Secretary@ClanSutherland.org
Website: www.ClanSutherland.org

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For Membership Information contact:
Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973
Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au



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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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Clan Ross of The United States

David Ross of Ross, Baron Balnagowan, Chief of the Clan invites all Ross', septs and their descendants to join in preserving our heritage.

www.theclanross.com
clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com
Contact L. Q. Ross
105 S. Graham Ave, Orlando, FL 32803



YOUNG Clan Young Australia

Invites membership from all those with the surname Young or with ancestral ties or connection to the surname.

Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot
10 Cedric Street, Parkdale VIC 3195
E: membership@clanyoungaustalia.com.au
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Clan Sinclair	Warrambool & District Caledonian Society
Geelong Scottish Dance	Warrambool Highland Dance

Chief: Mr Grant McKinna
President Norman Macdonald
Secretary Jan Macdonald

Contact details:
Email: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
Mobile 0438 584 930
Address: PO Box 116, Cobden, Victoria 3266
www.victorianscottishunion.com



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



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The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

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www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

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The show must go on!

By: David McVey

The Royal Highland Show began in 1822 and is today one of Scotland's largest and most loved outdoor agricultural events. The annual event celebrates the best in farming, food and rural industry across Scotland in the Scottish capital, as David McVey explains.



Being sheepish at the show. Photo: VisitScotland.



On show at the show. Photo: VisitScotland.

Think of an event that lasts for four days near the end of June and which attracted between 170,000 and 180,000 people pre-Covid. It sounds like I'm talking about the Glastonbury music festival but the event I have in mind is very different, has better toilets and catering and you won't need wellies. This is the Royal Highland Show, Scotland's largest outdoor event.

For such a major event, the show doesn't have a massive profile for tourists. Rather, it tends to attract people from Scotland, the North of England and Northern Ireland who are interested in farming, food or rural life - or who just want a different day out. Of course, the Royal Highland Show has suffered during Covid. A curtailed event did go ahead in both 2020 and 2021, but with only online spectators. The 2022 version will admit visitors, though in reduced numbers. But, in some form, it will go ahead; because this is its 200th anniversary.

Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland

The show is run by the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS) which works to improve Scottish agriculture, rural life and industry. It was formed in 1784 and held its first show in 1822. The first show was held in the grounds of Queensberry House in Edinburgh's Canongate. Queensberry House survives today, incorporated into the Scottish Parliament complex. MSPs now congregate where livestock once paraded. Make of that what you will.

The show has always had strong royal links. In 1859, the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII, visited the show. In 1872 his mother, Queen Victoria, asked to be enrolled as an ordinary member of the society. The society and show both acquired 'Royal' status in 1948, granted by George VI. His daughter, the present Queen, became patron of the show in 1984 and visited as recently as 2009. The show tends to clash with Royal Ascot.

Each year the show used to be held in a different venue; for example, it travelled to Alloa in 1929, Dundee in 1933 and

Inverness in 1948. The last host location of the itinerant years was Aberdeen in 1959. Since 1960, the Royal Highland Centre at Ingliston has been the show's established home. The site is squeezed between Edinburgh Airport and the busy A8 road. The heart of the site is a large grandstand by the main showing rings where equine showing classes, showjumping and agricultural champions' parades are held. A highlight is the parade of brewers' drays from across the UK, the vehicles exquisitely decorated and hauled by magnificent Clydesdales and Shires that smell faintly of shampoo. Scott Brash from Peebles has often competed in the showjumping events; he has been top-rated showjumper in the world and is an Olympic gold medallist. His every clear round brings the house down.

200 years

Not far away from the main arena are the sheep and cattle showing rings, and there are other, more distant showjumping and showing arenas. Much of the vast site is given over to shopping villages and showrooms where you can buy a pair of stirrups or a tractor or a sack of horse feed or a punnet of strawberries or a sturdy tweed jacket. The food exhibition features demonstrations by celebrity chefs and stalls where you can sample the produce of quality food companies from throughout Scotland and beyond. The RHASS have, in recent years, tied to promote quality among the dozens of on-site catering outlets - local sourcing, sustainability and so on. The Royal Highland Show is all about Scottish food and farming; do your duty and eat as much as possible.

At the show, city folk (like me) get to see prize bulls and cows and goats, watch sheep being sheared, experience the sounds and smells of farriery, and visit food stands that explain how goodies get from farm to shop to kitchen. The Royal Highland Educational Trust (RHET)



Falconry on display. Photo: David McVey.

arranges visits for young people to farms and provides educational resources on food and farming. At the show, the RHET runs a special facility where young children can learn about farming and farm animals. The RHET, and the show itself, do their bit to ensure people know where their food comes from.

But there's more for visitors than an insight into farming and rural life. The Countryside Arena hosts falconry demonstrations, gundog displays, terrier racing and duck-herding. One year there was an exhibition of ferret-racing which was my highlight of the show. The Forestry Arena offers even more dramatic entertainment, with pole climbers spidering up 100ft tree trunks, axes being hurled at archery targets and mountain bikers performing jaw-dropping leaps and bounds.

A surprising feature of the show is its eclectic selection of musical entertainment, from traditional pipe bands to buskers. I once saw the legendary Alexander Brothers belying their years to wow the crowds. A different take on Scottish traditional music was provided by Clanedonia, an alarming-looking bunch with straggly hair and beards, like battle extras in Braveheart. They perform high-octane music with six drummers, a piper and the energy of a fight outside

a pub. One year a schools' pipe band from West Lothian bravely toured the site playing stirring stuff, defying the miserable conditions of a soggy summer. In another, drier, year the musical headliners were the Red Hot Chili Pipers. The confused announcer introduced them as The Red Hot Chili Peppers. The American rockers would have been a real coup for the show.

The site is served by vast car parks and during the four show days special double-decker buses roll in regularly from Edinburgh. In 2012, the attendance over the four days dropped to 161,000 owing to unremitting rain. Yet the Royal Highland Show can cope with wet, thanks to its permanent buildings and network of tarmac roads and paths. This year will be quieter than usual, but visitors will return. After 200 years, the show must go on.

The Royal Highland Show returns June 23-26th at Ingliston in Edinburgh. For more details see: www.royalhighlandshow.org



The Main Ring. Photo: David McVey.

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WHOLESALE AVAILABLE

Science behind the sword

By Debbie Reid
Visitor Services Manager:
Culloden Battlefield

The 276th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden (April 16, 1746) takes place this month and we highlight one of the battles weapons of choice.



A close-up of the broadsword's sharkskin-covered handle.

At Culloden we are fortunate enough to have several weapons from the battle on display in our museum including canons, muskets and the famous basket-hilted broadsword. This sword was an essential piece of kit for any Jacobite soldier, but what made it so deadly? With the growing use of firearms in battle, the basket-hilted broadsword was designed to be quick and light and wielded with one hand whilst the other held a targe (a round shield) and dirk (a long-bladed dagger). Don't confuse it with the larger two-handed Claymore sword, which was used earlier in history such as at Bannockburn in 1314. The broadsword itself consisted of two main parts: the blade and the basket.

The blade of the sword was a single piece of sharpened steel. It was designed to slice through the enemy in front of you with ease and be strong enough not to bend or snap. Often both sides of the blade were sharpened to inflict maximum damage. In order to make the sword light enough to be wielded with one hand, a channel – or fuller – ran down the centre of the blade.

Some believe that this was a 'blood groove' to allow fluid to flow out of the body so the blade did not get stuck, but this is not true. The fuller is actually there to keep the weight of the sword lower without compromising on strength. It works much the same as I-beams used in supporting structures.

To give someone a good pommelling

The basket kept the users hand protected whilst serving as an excellent knuckle duster! On the base of the basket sat a pommel weight. This weight not only balanced the sword but also acted as a fierce tool for knocking someone over the head with. The term 'to give someone a good pommelling' comes from this very action. Swords would have been used for fast movements in close hand-to-hand combat and so good grip was essential; no one wants to lose a sword in the heat of battle because it slips out of your hand. To combat this, special material was used to wrap the handle of the sword. Typical swords used leather banded with wire or even sharkskin to increase the friction between the handle and the hand. By increasing this friction, it reduced the chance for the sword to slip or move about, and allowed more power to transfer into each stroke.

The basket and pommel were designed to balance the weight of the blade, but why is this important? Well, it all depends on what you want your sword to do. If the point of balance is nearer the basket, then the user will be able to move the sword with much more ease and control. However the power of the sword is reduced as all the focus is down at the hilt. Shifting the balance out towards the point of the sword results in more cutting power, but it will be much harder to control. Either way, shifting the balance is a compromise and there is no clear-

cut answer on where the perfect point of balance should be. Typically, swords were made with the balance within 2–5 inches of the hilt to create the best combination of power and control.

Here in the museum at Culloden you can see beautiful ornate swords such as the Brodie sword, which was designed as a display piece alongside battle weapons from the day of the battle. We also have replica weapons which you can see outside of the cases to get an even better idea of the science behind their power.

Culloden is 5 miles east of Inverness and the richly researched, stimulating and sensitive Culloden Visitor Centre, which stands beside the battlefield, features artefacts from both sides of the battle and interactive displays that reveal the background to the conflict.

Text and images are 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



The basket-hilted broadsword on display in the museum.

Can Robert Burns' Soul of Freedom Save Us From Another Civil War?

By: Andrew McDiarmid



He survived the cancel culture of his day to become the favorite poet of presidents. His song *Auld Lang Syne* is among the most recognized choruses in history. He championed honesty and humility over wealth and rank. Son of a farmer and hailing from an obscure village in southwest Scotland, Robert Burns became a household name in the United States throughout the 19th century, inspiring many in the new republic with his catchy lyrics promoting equality, liberty, and democracy. And in 2022, he can inspire us again to be a humble, grateful people deserving of the American experiment.

Scotland's Bard

Long before the Battle of Fort Sumter ignited the Civil War in 1861, a teenage Abraham Lincoln discovered Scotland's Bard. Along with Holy Scripture and

Shakespeare, Lincoln quickly committed to memory some of Burns's most popular poems and songs, including *Tam o' Shanter*, *The Twa Dogs*, and *Scots Wha Hae*. Here was a man from similar humble beginnings who not only shared a strong faith in God's providence but also conviction in the intrinsic worth of the ordinary individual. As Ferenc Morton Szasz points out in his book *Abraham Lincoln and Robert Burns: Connected Lives and Legends*, Lincoln found in Burns a kindred spirit he would carry with him throughout his whole life. And it would not be unreasonable to say that Burns's lyrics about the equality of man reinforced the belief in Lincoln's heart that all men are created equal. "The rank is but the guinea's stamp," Burns puts it. "The man's the gowd (gold) for a' that."

Some say we're on the verge of another civil war in America. And while that may sound extreme, it's certainly true that we're a divided people. Respectful interaction is getting harder to find. Tolerance is in short supply. Vitriol is plentiful. But Burns can help us move past this polarizing, combative moment to see each other once again as brothers and sisters. His advice is threefold: rise above cancel culture, remember who we really are underneath it all, and live with that "soul of Freedom."

Burns offered bold ideas in his work, and for that, he had his haters. If he had kept his mouth shut like his superiors

in the Board of Excise wanted him to, he would have gotten promoted. But he couldn't, and we're all better for it. Whether it was ratting on him to authorities as a sympathizer of the French Revolution or walking on the other side of the street to shun him, upset locals and leaders made efforts to de-platform him. But while he vented privately to friends about the miscreants who "deliberately plot the destruction of an honest man," he kept writing, penning some of his bravest and best lines in what would be the last years of his life.

Burns lives on

Burns had a keen sense of human nature, knowing we all have the same worth irrespective of title, class, or background. For this, he is cherished by those of all stations in life. In his book, Szasz declares that "[f]reethinker and cleric, Democrat and Republican, socialist and entrepreneur—somehow everyone could find a way to celebrate the lyrics of Robert Burns." And if you know your worth and the value of those around you, Burns holds, you'll be more likely to "gently scan your brother man, Still gentler sister woman," and let He who made the heart do the judging.

Burns was a great admirer of the American cause of independence. His *Ode for General Washington's Birthday* may as well have been an ode to liberty itself:

"But come, ye sons of Liberty, Columbia's offspring, brave as free, in danger's hour still flaming in the van, Ye know, and dare maintain the Royalty of Man!" He goes on to praise the arm that crushed Usurpation's boldest daring and the Despot's proudest bearing. Seeing America come into its own would have gladdened Burns's heart immensely. Let's live with what he described as the soul of Freedom. Let's take none of our freedoms for granted. And let's fulfill the responsibilities of freedom too, both to our nation and to our fellow citizens.

Robert Burns has been dead for over two centuries. The American republic has been alive about the same amount of time. Burns lives on through his words, and every year his birthday is celebrated across the globe, for good reason. America can live on too, if we can remember who we are and the value of what we hold in our hands.

Andrew McDiarmid is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute. Born and raised in Scotland's capital city, he hosts Simply Scottish, the long-running podcast of Scottish music and features. His writing has appeared in the New York Post, The Scots Magazine, History Scotland Magazine, and others. Learn more at www.andrewmcdiarmid.org.

This piece first appeared on the American Greatness website: www.americangreatness.com

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Canada

APRIL 2022

Tartan Day Pub Night 2, Toronto, ON

The St. Andrew's Society is pleased to announce an evening of Scottish-Canadian hospitality. The room will be filled with foot-stomping tunes courtesy of band members from Old Man Flanagan's Ghost at Dora Keogh Pub This event is open to the public so please invite anyone interested in a night of Celtic music, culture and fun! Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society Hamilton Branch Dinner & Formal Ball 2, Hamilton, ON

A night of Scottish dance, food and friendship at Scottish Rite Club of Hamilton, 4 Queen Street South. Info: Kathleen Noble (905) 690-1856 or www.rscdshamilton.org

Tartan Day 6, Nationwide

Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish heritage on April 6, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. Wear some tartan with pride today!

Burns Supper 7, Montréal, QC

Join the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal's annual event that celebrates Robert Burns who came to fame as a poet when he was 27 years old, and whose lifestyle of wine, women and song made him famous all over Scotland. Share a wee dram with friends, enjoy a traditional Scottish meal (with a gourmet flair) and raise your glasses in a toast to the lads and lassies at L'Espace Canal at L'Ambroisie, 4020 Saint Ambroise St. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca

National Tartan Day 24, Ottawa, ON

Join the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band on Parliament Hill to celebrate Tartan Day. Info: www.sospb.com

MAY 2022

Saskatchewan Highland Games and Celtic Festival 21-22, Regina, SK

A celebration of Scottish culture, music and sport at Victoria Park. Info: www.saskhighland.ca

159th Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival 21-22, Victoria, BC

Scottish music, dance and more at Topaz Park. Info: www.victoriahighlandgames.com

World Whisky Day 21, Nationwide

World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Slàinte Mhath!

WhiskyFête 2022 26, Montréal, QC

The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal is proud to announce the return of an evening of unique and rare whiskies in aid of the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital at Mount Royal Club 1175 Sherbrooke Street West. Info: www.whiskyfete.org

Soldiers of the Queen 26, Armstrong, BC

The Okanagan Military Tattoo together with the Armstrong Regional Co-op, will be hosting the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Mounted Troop in a performance called "Soldiers of the Queen" in celebration of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee at Armstrong Fairgrounds. Info: 250 549 7469 or www.ticketseller.ca

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:

- 1) Sarks
- 2) Gunnel
- 8) Aisle
- 9) Enlighten
- 11) Maelstrom
- 12) Tیره
- 13) Coalfield
- 16) Opals
- 18) Ochre
- 19) Islanders
- 21) Locum
- 23) Battleaxe
- 26) Treasurer
- 27) Model
- 28) French
- 29) Miser

Down:

- 1) Sassenach
- 2) Reeks
- 3) Steer
- 4) Gold Medal
- 5) Nightgown
- 6) Enter
- 7) Tarmac
- 10) Neeps
- 14) Freemason
- 15) Edinburgh
- 17) Alexander
- 18) Owlet
- 20) Sheila
- 22) Cheer
- 24) Thrum
- 25) Lambs

JUNE 2022

Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen Celebration 2, Ottawa, ON

Marking the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, Sons of Scotland Pipe Band will have a gathering of pipers, drummers, and dancers on Parliament Hill. Info: www.sospb.com

Georgetown Highland Games 11, Georgetown, ON

A fun filled day of piping, dancing and heavyweight athletes, surround by friends and family at Georgetown Fairgrounds. Info: www.georgetownhighlandgames.com

St. Andrew's Society of Toronto Spring Dinner 17, Toronto, ON

Join us for a night of fine dining courtesy of Chef John Higgins and his staff at The Chef's House. The focus for the dinner is modern Scottish cuisine. Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

ScotFestBC: The British Columbia Highland Games 17-18, Coquitlam, BC

Pipe bands, Clans, entertainment and more at Lafarge Lake Park, just steps away from the Lafarge Lake-Douglas Station. Info: www.scotfestbc.com

Cobourg Scottish Festival & Highland Games 17-18, Cobourg, ON

A full traditional Highland Games with Friday Night and Saturday Night Ceilidhs at Victoria Park. Info: www.cobourghighlandgames.ca

Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival 17-19, Moncton, NB

Features Highland dance, pipe, drum, and pipe band competitions as well as dozens of workshops & demonstrations covering everything from Gaelic language and song to falconry and sheep dog herding to historical elements, and more at the Hal Betts Sportsplex. Info: www.monctonhighlandgames.com

Water Valley Celtic Festival 18, Water Valley, AB

Celtic music and more. Info: www.watervalleycelticfestival.org

Orillia Scottish Festival 18-19, Orillia, ON

A celebration of Scotland in Orillia. Info: 705-325-8442 or www.scottishfestival.ca

Kingsville Highland Games 25, Kingsville, ON

Pipe bands, Scottish dance, Clans, entertainment and more at Kingsville's beautiful Lakeside Park. Info: www.facebook.com/kingsvillehighlandgames

Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo 25-July 2, Halifax, NS

The 2022 Tattoo will feature talent from around the globe, including the Heeresmusikcorps Neubrandenburg (German Army Band Neubrandenburg) from Germany, the IMPS Motorcycle Display Team from the United Kingdom, and the Vancouver Police Pipe Band from British Columbia at the Scotiabank Theatre. Info: www.nstatattoo.ca

USA

APRIL 2022

The Wallace Award 1, New York, NY

The American-Scottish Foundation introduced the Wallace Award in 1970 to recognize the extraordinary diversity of contribution that Scots have made to the world - and, in particular, to recognize one or more living citizens or residents of the United States of Scottish descent for their individual contributions to the wellbeing of this country. Held at the University Club. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

Dunedin Highland Games & Festival 2, Dunedin, FL

Highland dance competitions as well as Pipe Band and Heavy Athletics contests. Food, craft beer, Celtic merchandise and more at Highlander Park. Info: www.dunedinhighlandgames.com

Pittsburgh Tartan Day 2, Bethel Park, PA

The members of the St. Andrew's Society of Pittsburgh will host visitors between 10:00 AM and 4:30 PM at Bethel Presbyterian Church. The event is free to the public. There will be entertainment from bagpipers, fiddlers, and dancers. Food, raffles, Celtic workshops, and a variety of gifts can be purchased. Info: www.facebook.com/pittsburghtartanday

San Antonio Highland Games & Celtic Music Festival 2-3, Helotes, TX

A weekend of Scottish celebration and culture at Helotes Festival Grounds, 12210 Leslie Rd. Info: www.sahga.org

ScotWeek 2022

3-24, Los Angeles, CA

In person & virtual events to promote Scottish modern culture and excellence across multiple industries to facilitate and cultivate education including, film & television, music, art, fashion, design, sport, philanthropy, innovation and more. Info: www.scotweek.org

The Washington Tattoo Gala and Mini-Tattoo 4, Centreville, VA

The Washington Tattoo will be hosting their Gala '22 event at the Winery at Bull Run. Performers include OzScot Highland Dancers (from Australia), Baroque Flute Trio, GMU 8th Regiment Brass Band, 22nd Battalion Gray Coats Fife & Drum Corps, Irish Trio, Mularky, and the Spirit of 76 Pipe Band. Info: www.thewashingtontattoo.com/gala

Tartan Day 6, Nationwide

Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish heritage on April 6, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. Wear some tartan with pride today!

Loch Norman Highland Games 8-10, Huntersville, NC

Come and experience all the fun with Highland dancing, pipe bands, Highland athletics, a Giant Kid's Zone, Scottish merchants, Haggis, Celtic rock and traditional performers, historic re-enactments, Scottish Country Dancing and more at Historic Rural Hill, 4431 Neck Rd. Info: www.lochnorman.com

24th Annual NYC Tartan Day Parade 9, New York, NY

The swirl of kilts, the skirl of bagpipes and the cheers of thousands of spectators await. This beloved celebration of Scottish-American culture promises to be extraordinary in scope, talent and turnout as we gather in person for the first time since 2019. Info: www.nyctartanweek.org

Houston Highland Games 9, Humble, TX

A celebration of Scotland at Humble Civic Center Arena & Expo Building, at 8233 Will Clayton Parkway. Info: www.houstonhighlandgames.com

Las Vegas Highland Games 9-10, Las Vegas, NV

A festival for the community presented by the Las Vegas Celtic Society, featuring Celtic music, food, vendors, and athletics at Floyd Lamb Park. Info: www.lasvegascelticsociety.org

2nd Annual Tartan Day Celebration 10, Longwood, FL

Come enjoy a day of celebrating our Scottish heritage! There will be food, music, and activities for the whole family to enjoy. A free event presented by the St. Andrew's Society of Central Florida at Reiter Park. Info: st.andrews.society.cf@gmail.com

**A Celebration of Scotland's Treasures
14, New York, NY**

Join the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA for an evening of Scottish music, dining and dancing with presentation of the Great Scot Award to Diana Gabaldon, The New York Times bestselling author of the Outlander series, at The Metropolitan Club. Info: www.ntsusa.org/about-us/celebration-gala

Ormond Beach Celtic Festival 23-24, Ormond Beach, FL

Live music, traditional Celtic food & vendors, Celtic clans, Highland Games, and plenty of activities for the wee ones. Info: www.ormondbeachcelticfestival.com

Southern Maryland Celtic Festival 24, Saint Leonard, MD

Music, dance, vendors, crafters, living history, genealogy, clans and societies, Highland athletics, the pipes and more at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum. Info: www.cssm.org

NH/John Paul Jones/USS Ranger saved the Revolution 24, Exeter, NH

The John Paul Jones House, New Hampshire; will be celebrating how New Hampshire, JPJ and the USS Ranger changed the course of the American Revolution in just 3 days in April 1778 on and off the coast of Scotland! VIPs will talk about this subject, children essay winners will be rewarded, tours of the House will be given and guests can enjoy food and drinks while listening to Drum and Fife music along with re-enactments from the 1st New Hampshire Regiment. Info: www.portsmouthhistory.org

The 2022 Virginia International Tattoo 28-May 1, Norfolk, VA

The Tattoo will return to its long-time home at Scope Arena in Downtown Norfolk; international performers will be back with a renewed desire to share their music, culture and traditions; and the free preshow Tattoo Hullabaloo will once again wow crowds for hours every day. Info: 757-282-2800 or www.vafest.org/tattoo

MAY 2022

Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games 6-8, Decatur, TX

The sounds of bagpipes and Celtic music will fill the air at the 36th Annual Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games celebrate everything "Scottish" at the Wise County Fairgrounds, 3101 FM 51, in Decatur, Texas. Info: www.texasscottishfestival.com

Savannah Scottish Games and Celtic Festival 7, Savannah, GA

A full Scottish Games at The Bethesda Academy. Info: www.savannahscottishgames.com

Grand Valley Highland Games 14-15, Grand Junction, CO

Bagpipes, Drummers, Pipe bands, Live music, The Young Dubliners, Wicked Tinkers, Food, Whisky Tasting, Heavy Athletics, Clans Culture, kid friendly games, Highland Dancing and more. Info: www.grandvalleyhighlandgames.com

Springtime at Fraser's Ridge-A North Carolina Scottish Experience 19-21, Ferguson, NC

The event is a celebration of the Scottish history of North Carolina and the traditions of Scottish culture in the backcountry of North Carolina inspired by the books and series, Outlander. This is a 3-day immersive event that will include Scottish culture-focused workshops, music, dancing, food, living history encampment, clans, and vendors at Leatherwood Mountains Resort. Info: www.ncsassenachtours.com/springtime-at-frasers-ridge

Stirling Classic Scottish Festival 20-22, Yukon, OK

Vendors, Clans, pipe bands and Highland Games at Mollie Spencer Farm. Info: www.thestirlingclassicsf.com

World Whisky Day 21, Nationwide

World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Slàinte Mhath!

Fair Hill Scottish Games 21, Elkton, MD

A day of athletics, music, dancing, food, and arts celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture at Fair Hill Fair Grounds, 4640 Telegraph Rd. Info: www.fairhillscottishgames.org

Finger Lakes Celtic Games & Festival 21, Shortsville, NY

The first Celtic Games & Festival of the season in New York state, with Highland Heavy Games, Pipe Bands en Masse, Clans and Societies, musical entertainment all day and close to 100 vendors. Info: www.flceltic.com

Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival & Games 21-22, Townsend, TN

Come celebrate all things Scottish - family friendly and pet friendly weekend event - music - food - highland games and dancers at the Townsend Visitor's Center, 7906 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway. Info: www.smokymountaingames.org

Alma Highland Festival 27-29, Alma, MI

Memorial Day Weekend for Scottish dance, music, food, entertainment, athletics, vendors, Scottish clans, and more at Alma College. Info: www.almahighlandfestival.com

Eugene Scottish Festival 28, Eugene, OR

A celebration of Scotland at Irving Grange, 1011 Irvington Dr. Info: www.eugenescottishfestival.com

Scottish Fest 28-29, Costa Mesa, CA

Memorial Day Weekend at the Orange County Fair & Event Center www.scottishfest.com

Greenville Scottish Games 28-30, Greenville, SC

A series of activities bringing the best of Scotland and rich Southern heritage together for your enjoyment at Furman University. Info: www.gallabrae.com

JUNE 2022

Glasgow Highland Games 3-5, Lucas, KY

A celebration of Scotland at Barren River Lake State Resort Park. Info: www.glasgowhighlandgames.com

Milwaukee Highland Games 4, Wauwatosa, WI

Wisconsin's original and oldest traditional Scottish Highland Games at Hart Park, 7300 Chestnut St. Info: www.milwaukeehighlandgames.org

Garrett County Celtic Festival 4, Friendsville, MD

A Celtic celebration at Friendsville Community Park, bonnie banks of the Youghiogheny River. Info: www.gccelticfestival.com

Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games 10-12, Salt Lake City, UT

A great weekend of Scottish events presented by Utah Scottish Association at Utah State Fair Park 155 North 1000 West. Info: www.utahscots.org

Rare Pictish symbol stone found near potential site of famous battle



Only 200 Pictish symbol stones are known to exist.

Archaeologists have uncovered a Pictish symbol stone close to the location of one of the most significant carved stone monuments ever uncovered in Scotland. The team from the University of Aberdeen hit upon the 1.7metre-long stone in a farmer's field while conducting geophysical surveys to try and build a greater understanding of the important Pictish landscape of Aberlemno, near Forfar.

Aberlemno is already well known for its Pictish heritage thanks to its collection of unique Pictish standing stones the most famous of which is a cross-slab thought to depict scenes from a battle of vital importance to the creation of what would become Scotland - the Battle of Nechtansmere.

Leading Pictish research

The archaeologists were conducting geophysics surveys of the ground early in 2020 in an effort to better understand the history of the existing stones as part of the Leverhulme Trust funded Comparative Kingship project. Taking imaging equipment over the ground, they found anomalies which looked like evidence of a settlement. A small test pit was dug to try and establish whether the remains of any buildings might be present but to their surprise, the archaeologists came straight down onto a carved Pictish symbol stone, one of only around 200 known

Their efforts to establish the character of the stone and settlement were hindered by subsequent Covid lockdowns and it was several months before they were able to return to verify their find. The team think the stone dates to around the fifth or

sixth century and they have painstakingly excavated part of the settlement and removed it from its resting place - finding out more about the stone and its setting.

Professor Gordon Noble who leads the project says stumbling upon a stone as part of an archaeological dig is very unusual. He said: "Here at the University of Aberdeen we've been leading Pictish research for the last decade but none of us have ever found a symbol stone before. There are only around 200 of these monuments known. They are occasionally dug up by farmers ploughing fields or during the course of road building but by the time we get to analyse them, much of what surrounds them has already been disturbed.

Archaeologists have uncovered a Pictish symbol stone close to the location of one of the most significant carved stone monuments ever uncovered in Scotland.

To come across something like this while digging one small test pit is absolutely remarkable and none of us could quite believe our luck. The benefits of making a find in this way are that we can do much more detailed work in regard to the context. We can examine and date the layers underneath it and extract much more detailed information without losing vital evidence."

Pictish symbols

Research fellow Dr James O'Driscoll who initially discovered the stone describes the excitement: "We thought we'd just uncover a little bit more before we headed off for the day. We suddenly saw a symbol. There was lots of screaming. Then we found more symbols and there was more screaming and a little bit of crying! It's a feeling that I'll probably never have

again on an archaeological site. It's a find of that scale." Like the other stones at Aberlemno, the new discovery appears to be intricately carved with evidence of classic abstract Pictish symbols including triple ovals, a comb and mirror, a crescent and V rod and double discs. Unusually the stone appears to show different periods of carving with symbols overlying one another. The stone has now been moved to Graciela Ainsworth conservation lab in Edinburgh where more detailed analysis will take place. Professor Noble hopes that it could make a significant contribution to understanding the significance of Aberlemno to the Picts.

Dr Noble added: "The stone was found built into the paving of a huge building from the 11th or 12th century. The paving included the Pictish stones and examples of Bronze Age rock art. Excitingly the 11th-12th century building appears to be built directly on top of settlement layers extending back to the Pictish period. The cross-slab that stands in the nearby church at Aberlemno has long been thought to depict King Bridei Mac Bili's defeat of the Anglo Saxon King Ecgrith in 685, which halted the expansion of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms to the north. The settlement of Dunnichen, from which the battle is thought to have

taken its name, is just a few miles from Aberlemno. In recent years scholars have suggested another potential battle site in Strathspey, but the sheer number of Pictish stones from Aberlemno certainly suggests the Aberlemno environs was a hugely important landscape to the Picts. The discovery of this new Pictish symbol stone and evidence that this site was occupied over such a long period will offer new insights into this significant period in the history of Scotland as well as helping us to better understand how and why this part of Angus became a key Pictish landscape and latterly an integral part of the kingdoms of Alba and Scotland."

Researchers will now be working with the Pictish Arts Society to develop a fundraising campaign for the conservation and display of the stone.



Images such as a mirror can be found carved into the stone.



The University of Aberdeen archaeological dig site at Aberlemno.

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