



46

the

Scottish Banner

Years Strong - 1976-2022

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*A' Bhratach Albannach*

Volume 46 Number 5

NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS

November 2022

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The Banner Says...

A Man of Destiny



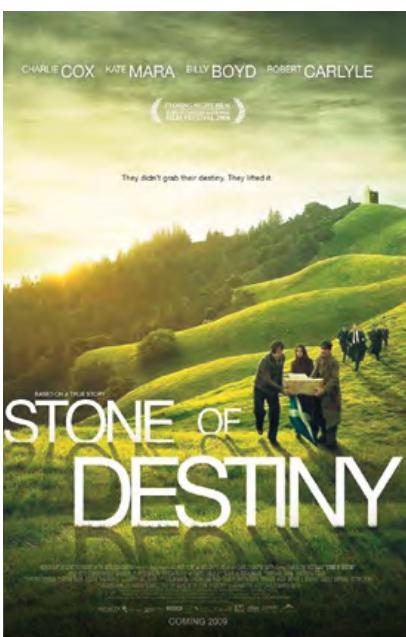
by Sean Cairney

In November 1996 an important piece of Scottish history was returned to Scotland after years in exile. The Stone of Destiny, or also known as the Stone of Scone, had been used for centuries at the coronation of Scotland's royalty. It was located in Scone in Perthshire, and was built into the seat of a royal coronation chair used for Scottish monarchs and remains a symbol of Scottish nationhood.

The Stone of Destiny

The Stone of Destiny was stolen from Scotland in 1296 by King Edward I and placed in Westminster Abbey, where he had built a coronation throne with the Stone of Scone embedded into it. That chair would be used at the coronation of Edward II in 1301, and since then all British monarchs have been crowned on a throne built around the sacred Scottish stone.

On the very symbolic date of St Andrews Day, 30 November 1996, thousands of people lined Edinburgh's Royal Mile to witness the Stone of Destiny return to Scotland for the first time in 700 years. However, the stone did make one brief return to Scotland prior to 1996. On Christmas in 1950 four university students, Ian Hamilton, Gavin Vernon, Kay Matheson and Alan Stuart made a brazen and dramatic trip to London which would eventually see the stone come back to Scotland.

**Ian Hamilton**

The mastermind of the repatriation of the stone was Paisley born law student Ian Hamilton. It was Ian's own raincoat that was used to haul the 152kg/336 lb. sandstone out of Westminster Abbey, which would lead to one of the largest manhunts in Britain's history, as well as the first closure of the border between Scotland and England for more than 400 years.

The stone was hidden in England before being repaired and turning up draped in a Scottish flag at Arbroath Abbey (where the Declaration of Arbroath was produced in 1320), it returned to Westminster 3 months later and would not come back to Scotland again until 1996. If this sounds like something out of a movie, well you would be right as Ian Hamilton would go on to write a book which was adapted to film in 2008.

In November 1996 an important piece of Scottish history was returned to Scotland after years in exile.

Some long-time readers of *the Scottish Banner* may recall Ian contributed to our pages over the years and remained a friend of *the Banner*. It was certainly with sadness to learn that in October Mr Hamilton passed away at the amazing age of 97, the last living member of the 1950 student plot. Ian Hamilton was obviously much more than this one event, as he became a very successful lawyer, author and father, but it was this iconic moment in the history of the UK which will forever define him and would win him respect and praise from generations of people.

In this issue

Born in Lerwick in Shetland Ian Bairnson is a talented multi-instrumentalist who has worked with some of the best in the business. His sound has been played across the world with acts such as The Alan Parsons Project, Kate Bush (whose career has recently skyrocketed to a new generation), Paul McCartney and Wings, Chris De Burgh, Elaine Paige, Mick Fleetwood, Tom Jones, and Kenny Rogers to name a few. With millions of record sales he really is Shetlands music maker.

This month we highlight two important Clan Chief inaugurations which recently took place in Scotland. Clan Buchanan had to wait for over 340 years to get their new Chief,

John Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan who we have featured in *the Banner* previously.

Richard McBain of McBain travelled back to Scotland from the USA to become the 23rd Chief of Clan MacBain. Two proud Clan's welcomed new Chief's to take on the role as head of the Clan and spearhead the Clan's place in our modern world.

Myths of the stone

There are many myths which surround the origins of the Stone of Destiny, could it in fact be from Egypt, Spain, Italy or simply quarried from Perthshire stone (geological results did confirm that the stone was quarried from the Scone area)? Did King Edward I in fact bring back the real stone all those years ago? Some say he got a replica faked by local monks. In fact, it was Ian Hamilton himself who told *the Scottish Banner* back in 2014 that he was convinced the real stone went to England for all those years. Mr Hamilton said: "Had it been a substitute for Edward to carry off it would have been produced when King Robert the Bruce remained in his kingdom. It wasn't."

The stone is still in Edinburgh today but plans for it to move are now underway. Next year the world will witness the Coronation of King Charles III, and it is expected the Stone of Destiny will be sent back to London for this event, this was the agreement with Scotland that it should return to London for Coronation events. This will be the first such use since 1953.

In 2024 the stone will then be moved from Edinburgh Castle to become the centrepiece of Perth's new £26.5 million museum at City Hall, close to where it was first installed at Scone Abbey around AD841, and where it is hoped to remain as a symbol of the great nation of Scotland, and somewhere Mr Hamilton would likely very much approve of.

Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or: #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner

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We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



*Gracing our front cover:
Luxury farm-stay holidays,
just one of the travel options
for 2023.*

Photo: VisitScotland/Luigi Di Pasquale.

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SCOT POURRI



In Flanders Fields

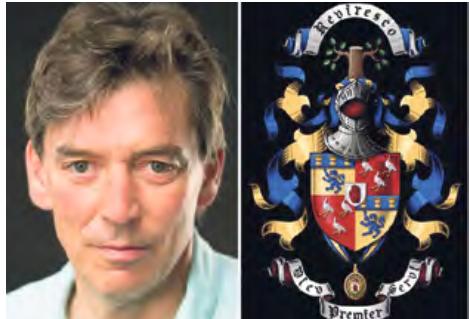
By John McCrae, May 1915

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

A message from Commander of Clan MacEwen



"If all goes according to plan, in June 2024 Clan MacEwen will have a Chief, for the first time since the 15th century. As Commander of the Clan I am required to seek out anyone who claims descent from our last Chief, Swene MacEwen (Swene was long considered to have died in the 1490s but his last certain communication - when he was in dire straits - was in 1433; his death probably occurred not long after that.) While it is surely unlikely that anyone will come forward with proof of descent, it is possible that someone considers him or herself a more suitable candidate for Chief than, well, than me. If this someone exists, please will they make themselves known to the Clan MacEwen Society as soon as possible so that we can get everything sorted before June 2024 which should witness one of the greatest days in the history of our wonderful, worldwide, talent-packed and in every way remarkable Clan, Clan MacEwen, 'The Clan That Plants Trees'. REVIRESCO!"

Commander of Clan MacEwen, Sir John R.H. McEwen Bt.
www.ClanMacEwen.com

The poem was written by a Canadian Medical Corps doctor, Major John McCrae, who was serving with a Field Artillery Brigade in Ypres. The death of one of his friends in May 1915, buried in the cemetery outside his dressing station, affected him severely and he wrote his poem as a way of expressing his anguish at the loss.

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare during the First World War.

Wednesday November 11th marks the 102nd anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18).

Remember those who gave their lives in the two world wars and all who have died in combat since. Lest We Forget.

A lifetime's history

Epitaphs on graveyard headstones nowadays usually contain the name of the deceased, their relationship to family members and possibly half a dozen or so kind words to illustrate their qualities during life. But there is a headstone in the wee Perthshire village of Dunkeld that is quite unique as it more or less tells the entire life story of one of its inhabitants who lived to the ripe old age of 100 years. It is in memory of Margery Scott, who passed away on February 26th, 1728 and reveals how much history can be witnessed in one lifetime. It reads as follows:

*Stop, passenger, until my life you read;
The living may get knowledge from the dead.
Five times five years I liv'd a virgin life,
Ten times five years I was a virtuous wife,
Ten times five years a widow grave and chaste,
Tir'd of the elements, I'm now at rest.
Betwixt my cradle and my grave were seen,
Eight mighty kings of Scotland, and a queen.
Three commonwealths successively I saw;
Ten times the subject rise against the law;
And, which is worse than any civil war,
A king arraign'd before the subjects' bar;
Swarms of sectarians, hot with hellish rage,
Cut off his royal head on open stage!
Twice did I see old prelacy pull'd down,
And twice the cloak did sink beneath the gown,
I saw the Stuart race thrust out; nay more,
I saw our country sold for English ore;
Our num'rous nobles, who have famous been,
Sunk to the lowly number of sixteen.
Such desolations in my days have been;
I have an end of all perfection seen.*

Craig Reilly
Edinburgh, Scotland

Ed note: Thank you Craig for sending this in, just proves why some of us just love reading headstones as you never know what you might find.

The Hebridean Baker



Thank you for a wonderful interview with the Hebridean Baker in the October issue of *the Banner*. I have been watching Coinneach's videos for much of the last year and absolutely love them and his calming energy and total love of Scotland. I am not much of a baker myself but have ordered his book in hopes I too can make a wee bit of Scotland in my kitchen. I love how Coinneach is so very relatable, he really comes across like a trusted old friend. Scotland has so many great ambassadors who do so much for this wonderful country.

I really enjoy all the stories and social media posts also from *the Scottish Banner*, so thank you to all that make this wonderful publication so enjoyable to read.

Jan Forbes-Taylor
Arlington, Virginia
USA

Scottish paper banknotes



I was very disappointed to see that Scottish paper notes will no longer be accepted across Scotland (*Scottish paper £20 and £50 notes withdrawn from circulation, the Scottish Banner*, October, 2022). Like many over the 'Covid years' have been unable to return to Scotland and actually have a wee stash of them which I had hoped to use on my next visit. We are now looking to make the trip back for either 2023 or 2024 and like any good Scot would hate to throw away good money. Maybe my paper notes will be come a collectors item and be of more value than the amount printed on them?

I do enjoy my monthly *Scottish Banner*, it really does keep us up to date with so much and is read cover to cover by several people, and generations, of our household. Keep up the great work!

Chris Keddy
Wellington, New Zealand

Ed note: Thanks for your letter Chris. Good news is Royal Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale and Bank of Scotland have all agreed that they will exchange their own paper £20 and £50 notes from non-customers up to the value of £250, provided that photographic I.D and you can 'update' your notes when you next get back.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

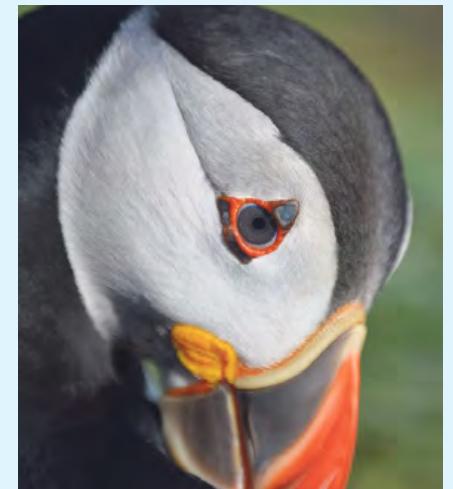
Isle of Skye



Sligachan Bridge through the arch on this iconic bridge on Skye.

Ronald Stokes

Puffin



Puffins of Staffa.
Debbie Neilson

Bass Rock



Stunning day at Bass Rock.
Mik Coia



Looking down Waterloo Place and Princes Street, Edinburgh.
Paul Watt Photography

Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Please keep letters under 300 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters can be emailed to info@scottishbanner.com or online at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us, alternatively you may post your letters to us (items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned). Please ensure you include your full contact details should you require a reply. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part!



Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor and Lady Fiona MacGregor honouring The Queen.

Greetings from Scotland – where a broken elbow sees me trying to type with one hand. Who would have thought that walking the dog could be so dangerous?! Actually, it wasn't his fault. For once, Bennie the naughty Norfolk Terrier was being rather well-behaved. It was me! I slipped on a wet wooden bridge, and down I went. With a rather large bang. The local Accident and Emergency were amazing. Despite media reports about lengthy hospital waits in Scotland, there were no queues, there was no fuss. Then we are in a rural part of the country. I believe things are not quite as good in the big cities. Surgery followed to pin things together. A plaster cast is now in place, and six weeks on, I should be able to drive again.

It seems a long time. Then it's hard to think that it's some two months since we said farewell to our beloved Queen. One minute joyfully celebrating seventy years, the next mourning a great loss. The thing is it was all so sudden. Earlier in the week,

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.



Her Majesty was at Balmoral saying farewell to one prime minister and hello to another. There was that lovely picture of her. Handbag on arm, lipstick on a smiling face...

Operation Unicorn

Two days later and gossip was leaking out. The MacGregor was returning from a Highland photographic trip and texted me to say that members of the Royal Family had been seen making their way to the castle. I was now glued to the news channels, and by early evening, we heard the worst. Two weeks of action followed. As Lord-Lieutenants – the monarch's personal representatives - we have been preparing for this sad event for many years. After all, who knows when any of us will depart this world? But really, The Queen seemed indestructible. It was as if she would go on forever. Here in Scotland, Operation Unicorn swung into action.

Our role was to organise local mourning. To comfort and reassure. There were press statements and TV interviews to give. There was the liaising with the council on Books of Condolence and wreath laying ceremonies. The area's flags had to be lowered. Then raised for the proclamation of the new King. Then lowered again for the mourning period. Which, for us, lasted three weeks. Twenty-one days of sombre clothing followed.

All social engagements were cancelled. Among them a multicultural ball, and a dinner to welcome the first man on the moon's family to our area. Yes, it's fifty years since Neil Armstrong visited the Scottish borderlands. Because this is where his forebears hailed from. After the local detail came the national. With 600 people, the service in Edinburgh's St Giles cathedral was intimate and moving. From where we were you could almost reach out and touch the grieving royals as they made their way up the aisle.

Our Queen wore her tartan with pride, because Scotland she loved with a passion.

The highest clanswoman in the land

Contrast that with the two thousand and more who packed London's Westminster Abbey. The MacGregor and I again there, with the great and the good, as the coffin processed to the altar. It was British ceremony at its best. Yet Scotland was ever present. From a distance, from out there in the streets, the sound of the pipes becoming ever louder and echoing round

ancient stone walls. Because this was not just saying goodbye to the world's most famous woman. It was the funeral of the highest clanswoman in the land. 200 years ago, the British king arrived on a tartan visit to Scotland's capital city. The clans were out in force, and there, in 1822, at a great Edinburgh banquet organised by Walter Scott, my husband's ancestor, Sir Evan MacGregor of MacGregor, raised the toast to George IV, 'the Chief of Chiefs'!

Our Queen wore her tartan with pride, because Scotland she loved with a passion. Precious weeks spent at her Highland home were greatly looked forward to. There in the hills she could relax with picnics by the river and walks across the glen. Here she was among folk who let her be and protected her privacy. And so, it is so apt that she spent her final days in the place she felt most at ease in. Not everyone is a monarchist. And to be fair, Scotland has more than its fair share of republicans.

I met some of them in those ten days leading up to the funeral. And whilst they would still argue that an accident of birth is no cause to be special, most had a good word for our late monarch. 'I'm not for the royals – but I have to admit that Lizzie did us proud'. You certainly did, ma'am. You were the mother of our nation, the steady presence in an often-turbulent world. Thank you for everything...

Ken your country

The Scottish birthplace of Princess Margaret. 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) Which top Hollywood movie star comes from Crieff in Perthshire?
- 2) What is a woman called Keiller from Dundee famous for?
- 3) In old Scots, what were people involved in clishmaclaver doing?
- 4) Peesweep is the old Scots nickname for which bird?
- 5) In the game of shinty what is the hail?
- 6) Name the hydro-electric plant situated above the west bank of Loch Lomond?
- 7) Where was the late Princess Margaret born?

- 8) In old Scots, what does the verb to wauchie mean?
- 9) What is the traditional name of the Caledonian harp?
- 10) Name the medical invention tested on himself, by Sir James Young Simpson (1811-70)?

Answers

- 1) Ewan McGregor.
- 2) She was the first to produce and sell marmalade.
- 3) Indulging in idle gossip.
- 4) The lapwing or plover.
- 5) The goal.
- 6) The Loch Soy scheme.
- 7) Glamis Castle, near Forfar, Angus.
- 8) To weary.
- 9) The clarsach.
- 10) Chloroform.

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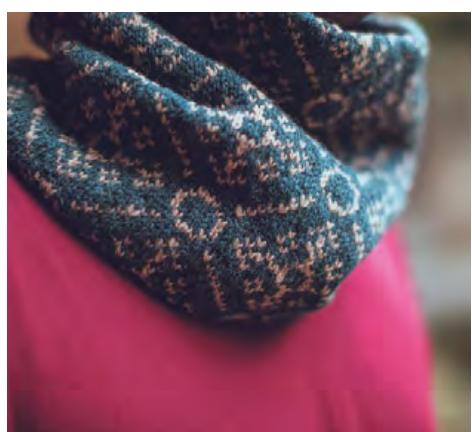
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SCOTSPEAK

"Glasgow is one of the UK's coolest cities right now and the action is not just in the centre. Shawlands is really worth heading south of the river to explore. It has a fantastic multicultural community with new food spots and nightlife opening all the time as well as the big draw of the refurbished Burrell Collection."

James Manning, Travel Editor at *Time Out*, said that the Glasgow suburb of Shawlands has been ranked as one of the coolest neighbourhoods in the world. Shawlands in the city's southside was one of only 16 in Europe to make the list and is being highlighted for its parks, food scene, lifestyle, and multicultural community.



"The genesis of this book of knitting patterns, inspired by the built environment of the University of Glasgow, lies in research carried out by historians at the University of Glasgow

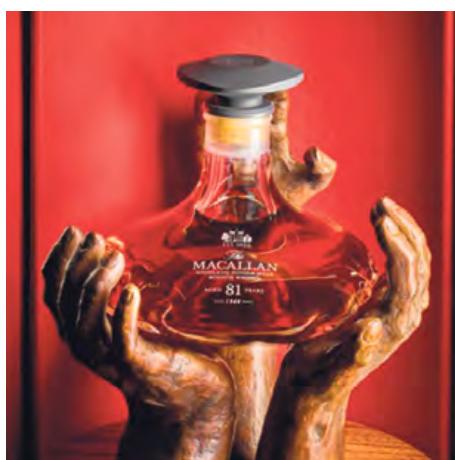
into the economies and cultures of handknitting in Scotland from the eighteenth century to the present. Scotland's long tradition of knitwear production is rightly celebrated. It feels fitting therefore to celebrate the beauty of the University of Glasgow's iconic buildings in knitted form. We hope that this book will be as well received by knitters around the world as our own branded wool – Cochno Wool – was when we launched that in 2018."

Professor Lynn Abrams of School of Humanities at the University of Glasgow said as the university launched its own knitting pattern book inspired by its iconic architecture. Designers from across Scotland contributed their designs for a range of knitted items based on the splendour and beauty of the University's architecture – from the ornate details in the cornicing and spires to the sweeping arches and grand windows and the modernism of the library.

"We have been excavating the fort's ditches to gather artefactual and environmental evidence that may yield insights into the lives of the people who once lived here. So far wheat, barley and oat cereals have been recovered, demonstrating a little of their diet. Charcoal from oak and willow has also been recovered, indicating the species of wood they used for fuel and for their timber roundhouses."

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

GUARD Archaeology director Warren Bailie said that an Iron Age Fort has been excavated as part of the new Cross Tay Link Road construction. The fort was first discovered using aerial photographs which revealed a series of dark cropmarks enveloping the Perthshire hillside.

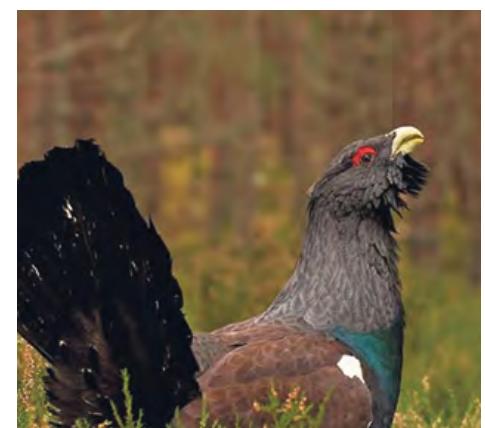


"This extraordinary result for the oldest whisky ever to come to auction is thoroughly deserved. One of one versions of special Single Malts are highly coveted, and we saw competitive bids playing out as the sale began to close, pushing the final price ever higher, to nearly three times over estimate. Age, rarity and provenance – once again, the holy trinity for collectors."

Jonny Fowle, Sotheby's head of whisky & spirits said as a very rare bottle of Scottish single malt whisky has sold above the price guide for £300,000. The one-of-a-kind special edition bottle is over 80 years old and was made by distillers at Macallan and was the oldest whisky ever to come to auction.

"Massive congratulations to Liverpool, a great city. Now gie it laldy for Ukraine. Am so proud of our Glasgow team who put together a brilliant bid to get to the final two. We'll be cheering Liverpool on for a successful Eurovision with the Ukrainian people at its heart."

Glasgow City Council leader Susan Aitken said as it was announced that Liverpool will host next year's Eurovision Song Contest. Glasgow had been a favourite to host the annual international music event at the OVO Hydro on the River Clyde.



"This up-to-date estimate of capercaillie numbers reveals just how vulnerable the population in Scotland is. Previous surveys have seen numbers fluctuating between around 1,000 and 2,000 birds so it's really worrying that the results from last winter indicate there are only an estimated 542 individuals remaining now."

Nick Wilkinson, conservation scientist at RSPB Scotland, said a new study has found the population of capercaillie in Scotland has fallen to critically low numbers. The latest national survey has estimated there are now only 542 individual capercaillie in Scotland. This is a reduction of around 50 percent from the previous survey, putting the population at real risk of extinction. Capercaillie are the world's largest grouse and populations range from Iberia in the southwest of Europe to Siberia and Mongolia in Central Asia in temperate and boreal forest. The UK population is only found in Scotland, mostly in Scots Pine forests that have a rich growth of blaeberry on the forest floor.

"We didn't see a ship for twenty days and the only company we had was the Space Station flying 220 miles above us, that was the only human contact that was anywhere near us! When you look at it we have been 151 days at sea, 31,500 miles, five crew and the driver has to get the boat and all the crew home safely and it's not until I stepped onto the quayside I thought 'You did it.'

Scottish Captain Iain MacNeil said after he set a new round-the-world record by taking his motorboat around all the 'Capes' in the southern hemisphere, crossing the equator twice and travelling 31,500 nautical miles over 166 days.

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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 22.*

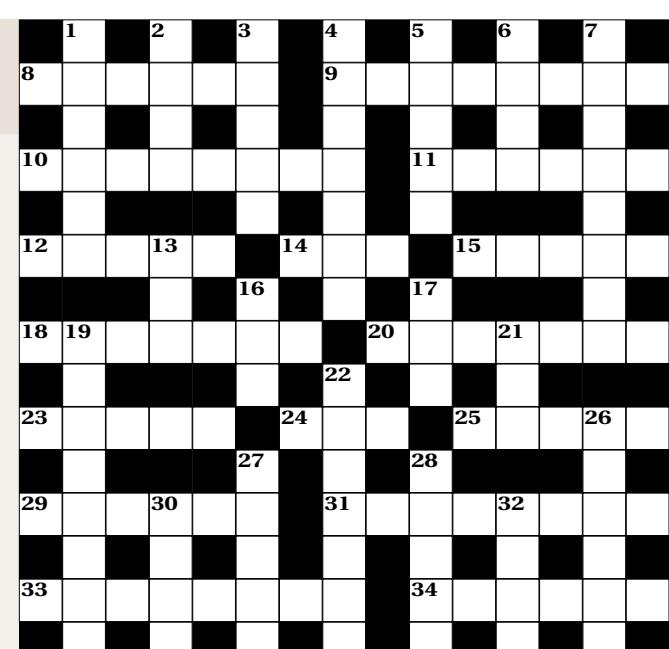
CLUES ACROSS

- 8) Above it you're a Scot (6).
- 9) Scots vests (8).
- 10) Deeside village (8).
- 11) A cured haddock (6).
- 12) A Scottish serving plate (5).
- 14) Racecourse town on the Clyde (3).
- 15) A man-made waterway (5).
- 18) Tatties for Burns Night! (7).
- 20) Find them at St Andrews (7).
- 23) Part of the Highland Dress (5).
- 24) Twisted humour! (3).

- 25) Describing Burns' best-laid plans (5).
- 29) A dirty Scot! (6).
- 31) Firth north of Inverness (8).
- 33) Gardens on Isle of Gigha (8).
- 34) Wee land groups (6).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Berries of the mountain ash (6).
- 2) Hero (4).
- 3) Scottish soup (5).
- 4) Birds of prey (7).
- 5) A skean dhu is one (5).
- 6) Scots family group (4).
- 7) To roam aimlessly (8).
- 13) Tree (3).
- 16) 6/8 tempo (3).
- 17) Aberdeen waterway (3).
- 19) Inlet north of Dunoon (4, 4).
- 21) A Scots listener (3).
- 22) Scots fern (7).
- 26) Landed property (6).
- 27) Supreme court of the kirk (5).
- 28) A dismal Scot! (5).
- 30) It's loud at Hampden! (4).
- 32) Colleague (4).



United States Consulate General asks public to help choose official tartan



The Journey From 1798

Taking inspiration from the colors of the American rose and Scottish thistle, this design celebrates the growth in relations between Scotland and the United States since the Consulate General's founding in 1798.



The Uniting of Flags

Taking inspiration from the two iconic flags of Scotland & the United States, this design celebrates the two countries united. The forest-green overcheck symbolizes the growth of the partnership.

After opening its doors 224 years ago, the United States Consulate General in Edinburgh is launching an online poll and asking the Scottish public to help choose its official tartan. One winner will be chosen among three designs, which incorporate colors and patterns influenced by the shared history between Scotland and the United States. The poll closes Monday, November 21, with the winning design announced on St. Andrew's Day, November 30. Officials at the Consulate General partnered with acclaimed tartan designer Clare Campbell of Prickly Thistle, based in Evanton, north of Inverness, to develop the three options. The Consulate General's winning design will be registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans, where it will be publicly accessible among thousands of other tartans.

Millions of Americans claim Scottish ancestry, including dozens of U.S. Presidents.

Clare Campbell from Prickly Thistle said: "I was delighted to work with the U.S. Consulate General on their tartan project. Tartan is an expression of history, geography, and self-expression. These designs are instantly recognizable as Scottish but help visually tell the story of the different ways America and Scotland are interlinked. No matter the winner, Scotland will be welcoming a wonderful new tartan onto its national tapestry."

Tartan aims to celebrate

The Consulate General's team will seek to engage online audiences throughout the competition. The winning tartan will form a distinctive part of the U.S. diplomatic presence in Edinburgh, symbolizing the deep connections between the United States and Scotland and boosting awareness of the Consulate General's activities.

U.S. Ambassador to the UK Jane Hartley said: "Tartan is embraced internationally as a symbol of Scotland, and we are thrilled to be one step closer to finally having an official tartan to call our own. All three designs up for a vote are representative of the deep historic and contemporary ties between the United States and Scotland. I hope our tartan will come to symbolize the continued growth of our relationship."

U.S. Consul General Jack Hillmeyer added: "The United States has maintained a diplomatic presence in Scotland since 1798, when President John Adams appointed the first U.S. Consul. Since then, the ties between our nations have grown wide and deep. Millions of Americans claim Scottish ancestry, including dozens of U.S. Presidents. Americans harbor a deep love of Scotland, and the United States boasts

more than 1,000 Scottish associations and clubs. Hundreds of thousands of Americans visit Scotland annually, in addition to the thousands more who choose to study in Scotland each year. We are proud to be Scotland's principal international trading partner, and our bonds continue to grow in new and emerging industries. This tartan aims to celebrate all we have in common with each other."

The tartan poll can be accessed via the Consulate's @USAinScotland Twitter page or by visiting <https://bit.ly/3fSUWhs>.



Thistle & Rose

Taking inspiration from the American rose and Scottish thistle, this design features blocks of 98 threads crossed with sections of 17 threads to represent the founding of the U.S. Consulate General in 1798.

ANSWER THE CALL

IN 2023



SCOTLAND IS CALLING

VISITSCOTLAND.COM

Top Ten Reasons to Visit Scotland in 2023

Autumn is often the time when thoughts turn to travel plans for the coming year. To inspire you in planning your next trip, we've teamed up with VisitScotland, Scotland's national tourism organisation, to bring you our top ten reasons to visit Scotland in 2023!

1) Explore Scotland's UNESCO Trail

In a world first, Scotland has launched the first ever UNESCO digital trail. What makes Scotland's UNESCO digital trail so unique is that the 13 designated sites featured, from Dumfries and Galloway in the south to Shetland in the north, feature such a variety of different experiences. These range from Cities of Literature, Music and Design, to World Heritage Sites of architectural and historic significance, and even geoparks and biospheres with fascinating geological and natural stories to tell. For more information see www.visitscotland.com/unesco-trail

2) Get a taste of farming life



Blairmore farm, Crieff, offers luxury farm-stay holidays.
Photo: VisitScotland/Luigi Di Pasquale.

A trend which has really taken off in the last few years is agritourism. More and more people are becoming aware of food provenance, and are looking to find out more about sustainable farming methods on a farm, croft or estate when they come to Scotland. Go Rural is a close-knit network of quality agritourism businesses throughout the Scottish countryside offering visitors high quality farm produce, accommodation and memorable experiences. They are passionate about producing the highest quality food and drink, caring for the environment, and protecting Scotland's landscapes for everyone to enjoy responsibly. From luxury lodges and cosy cottages to camping and glamping, you're sure to find your ideal farm experience. See www.goruralscotland.com

3) Relax on a wellness break

Given the fast pace of modern life, more and more of us are looking for ways to relax, de-stress, and reconnect with nature. The tranquillity of the Scottish countryside is so conducive to this type of break and there are a variety of options right across the country. You might choose to commune with the natural world by staying in a rural cottage in a peaceful glen, take to the waters on a sailing experience and spot wildlife as you go, or enjoy the soothing experience which an island holiday offers. You might want to undertake a mindfulness course or yoga retreat amid stunning countryside. Whichever you choose you'll find it in Scotland. More information on these and many other wellness options at www.visitscotland.com/holidays-breaks/wellness

4) Discover the freedom of cycling



Cycling to see stunning views around Loch Ness and the surrounding area.
Photo: VisitScotland/Luigi Di Pasquale.

Scotland is made for cycling, offering 32,000 square miles of cycling adventures. Whether you're a complete beginner, want to challenge yourself, or simply take it slow and enjoy some family time, there's a cycling experience in Scotland that's perfect for you. There are several long-distance routes through awe-inspiring scenery, purpose built world-class mountain biking trails at over 25 centres across the country, and lots of safe, traffic-free cycling networks and routes for fun, family days out, plus lots of options for bike hire and guided cycling tours. See www.visitscotland.com/cycling

If spectator sports are more your thing, the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships, the biggest cycling event ever staged, will bring the world's greatest riders together in Glasgow and across Scotland from 3 to 13 August: www.cyclingworldchamps.com

5) Connect with your Scottish ancestry

For anyone with Scottish connections, there's nothing like actually being in Scotland - walking in the footsteps of your ancestors in landscapes they would have known well, and maybe even touching the walls of your clan or family castle which has seen centuries of history. If you have Scottish clan or family surnames in your family tree, you can visit the regions and places in Scotland most strongly associated with those names. For those wishing to explore their family genealogy, there is no better place to start than ScotlandsPeople in Edinburgh which holds a collection of records acknowledged to be among the best in the world (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk). The Scottish Council on Archives, located in the same building, can provide fascinating insights into the wider social aspects of Scotland's history (www.scottisharchives.org.uk). To find out more about how you can enjoy the unique and special experience of exploring your ancestry in Scotland, go to www.visitscotland.com/ancestry

6) Stay somewhere unusual



Hobbits overlooking Loch Ness at the Loch Ness Holiday Park, Invermoriston.
Photo: VisitScotland/Paul Tomkins.

From holidaying in an apartment topped with a gigantic pineapple to enjoying a stay in a Hebridean cottage built to the design of a prehistoric island dwelling that looks like a set from a Tolkien novel, Scotland's fantastic range of visitor accommodation offers so many experiences. You can stay in a castle, a lighthouse, a boat, a yurt, a church, a glamping pod, a tree house, a log cabin – all in midst of breath-taking countryside. You'll find an abundance of suggestions at <https://www.visitscotland.com/accommodation/unusual-places-to-stay/>

If you have a special occasion anniversary or event coming up, you might want to consider celebrating it Scotland by treating yourself to a touch of luxury. There are plenty of ideas to inspire you at www.visitscotland.com/luxury

7) Uncover the story of tartan

Although most closely associated with Scotland, tartan is known throughout the globe. It has a rich history, has inspired unity as well as rebellion, and while strongly linked with tradition, it has also made its mark on the contemporary world, even touching the pinnacle of high fashion. A fascinating, not-to-be missed exhibition entitled *Tartan* will take place at the V&A Dundee, Scotland's design museum, from 1 April 2023 to January 2024. Bringing together a unique collection of objects and media, the exhibition will tell the story of the impact of tartan right up to the present day. www.vam.ac.uk/dundee

8) Discover Scotland's Royal connections

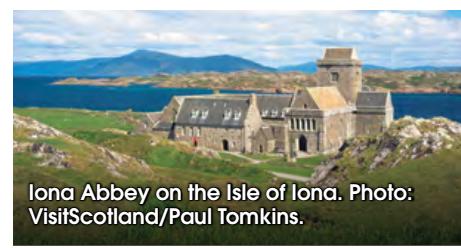


Balmoral Castle has been a Royal residence since 1852. Photo: VisitScotland/North East 250/Damian Shields.

Following the sad news of the loss of Her Majesty The Queen in September, there has been a renewed focus on her famous love for Scotland, and the Scottish locations associated with the British Royal Family. Balmoral Castle at the heart of Royal Deeside is normally open to the public between April and July each year, though it is said His Majesty King Charles may be considering extending this. There are also a number of holiday cottages on the estate (www.balmoralcastle.com).

In Edinburgh, the Royal residence is the Palace of Holyroodhouse, lying at the foot of the historic Royal Mile where visitors can explore the rooms which once belonged to Mary Queen of Scots (www.rct.uk/visit/palace-of-holyroodhouse). Other Royal places to visit include the Royal Yacht Britannia in Edinburgh (www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk), Glamis Castle in Angus (www.glamis-castle.co.uk), the enchanting childhood home of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, her beloved holiday home at the Castle of Mey on the North coast of the Scottish Highlands (www.castleofmey.org.uk) and Dumfries House in Ayrshire which is now a visitor attraction and event venue (www.dumfries-house.org.uk).

9) Visit Scotland's most fascinating churches



Iona Abbey on the Isle of Iona. Photo: VisitScotland/Paul Tomkins.

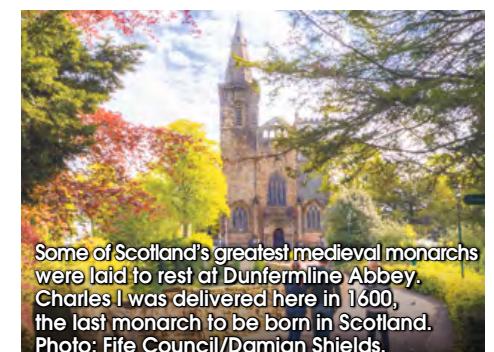
While Scotland has experienced times of religious turbulence, there's no doubt that our many churches offer havens of peace and contemplation.

Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh has a rich history, from the Covenanters who fought for Scotland's religious freedom to the story of the famous Greyfriars Bobby, plus a programme of world-class classical music performances (www.greyfriarskirk.com). Iona Abbey, located on the tiny island of the same name is a place of pilgrimage for many. Originally founded by St Columba in 563 AD, it is a magical place with a special atmosphere. See www.historicenvironment.scot or the Iona Community (www.iona.org.uk). Although no longer used as a church, the Italian Chapel in Orkney, built by Italian prisoners of war during WWII from two Nissan huts, is one of the islands' best loved attractions. www.orkney.com

The Pilgrim Way is a 64-mile route across the Kingdom of Fife to St Andrews which for 400 years was one of the main pilgrimage destinations in Medieval Europe. [www.fifecoastandcountryside.co.uk/walks/fife-pilgrim-way](http://www.fifecoastandcountrysidetrust.co.uk/walks/fife-pilgrim-way)

The Lammermuir Festival takes place in East Lothian each September. This cultural gem offers stunning music and choral performances in a variety of equally stunning locations, including the county's many churches. www.lammermuirfestival.co.uk

10) Experience Scotland's newest city



Some of Scotland's greatest medieval monarchs were laid to rest at Dunfermline Abbey. Charles I was delivered here in 1600, the last monarch to be born in Scotland. Photo: Fife Council/Damian Shields.

Dunfermline is now officially Scotland's newest city, having been granted city status in June. It actually boasts a rich and ancient history – no surprise, since it was once the capital of Scotland!

The impressive 12th century Dunfermline Abbey and Palace is effectively a Royal mausoleum, since it is the final resting place of Robert the Bruce and the burial site of 11 other Scottish kings and queens. The Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum is located in the humble cottage which was once the home of the world-famous philanthropist and tells the story of his life and legacy, and as you might expect, Dunfermline also has a Carnegie Library & Galleries! The city's Pittencrieff Park, gifted to the local people by Carnegie himself offers an abundance of colour throughout the year with its Japanese, Rock and Kitchen Gardens, and glasshouses containing exotic plants from across the world.

For more information on Dunfermline see: www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/dunfermline

For more inspiration on planning your 2023 visit, go to: www.visitscotland.com

The Clan Macpherson Museum re-opens



On Friday 5th August 2022, as part of the 75th Annual Clan Macpherson Gathering, Clan Chief James Brodie Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie invited a group of approximately 190 clansmen and women to 'raise a glass' to the future prosperity of the Clan Macpherson Museum as the latest chapter in the Museum's illustrious history was written. The Clan Macpherson Museum was opened in 1952 by the Chief's grandmother. Unique then, the first ever clan museum in Scotland, it comprised just two rooms housing artefacts rescued from Cluny Castle following the sale of the estates in 1943. Subsequently, the Museum has undergone two extensions. Most recently it has benefitted from a new roof and internal reconstruction of the displays. Over the years, the collection has expanded with acquisitions and donations, while the way the collection has been presented has also changed, whether in reality or virtually.

An exciting innovation was the development of the Electronic Museum, presenting artefacts to those unable to visit the Museum. Future plans propose a new and interactive website, harnessing the best to match ambitions. In 2007, the Museum was awarded Visit Scotland's four-star rating, an accolade proudly retained to this day, as well as a long-standing formal Accreditation by Museums Scotland. Emerging from COVID 19 quarantine like a butterfly, the Museum abounds with colour and light, through interconnected galleries taking the visitor through different chapters of Clan history. Familiar and traditional themes are presented to capture the imagination, and to inform and delight. In addition, a theatre area is provided, as well as a dedicated space for children, and an expanded shopping area which will focus on the work of local artists.

Reborn and reinvigorated

The Museum's new Curator, Aila Schafer, is working to forge new and lasting relationships across the local and wider communities and building a network of volunteers to help manage the Museum.

Since her arrival in April, she has been pleased to welcome many visitors to the Museum, some of whom have not visited in years. Over seventy years, many people have been, and continue to be involved in creating and maintaining the Museum.

Funding bodies and government agencies from whom grants have been received, Friends and Guardians of the Museum, generous visitors, people from afar who have raised money, office bearers and committee members. And not just Macphersons - members of the local community and people much further afield have helped. The Chief went on to commend Ewen SL MacPherson's newly published and highly recommended book, *The Clan Macpherson: Trials, Triumphs & Treasures*, wherein reference is made to the Museum as a jewel in the Crown of Scotland. The Chief concluded, "Clansmen and women, the people of Badenoch ... friends and supporters of the Museum - as your Chief, I invite you to raise a glass to those that had the foresight to set up the Museum 70 years ago and those, donors, public agencies and contributors of time, energy and imagination, who have enabled it to reach this, the next stage of its development - Newtonmore's Clan Macpherson Museum, reborn and reinvigorated, a jewel in the Crown of Scotland: the Museum."

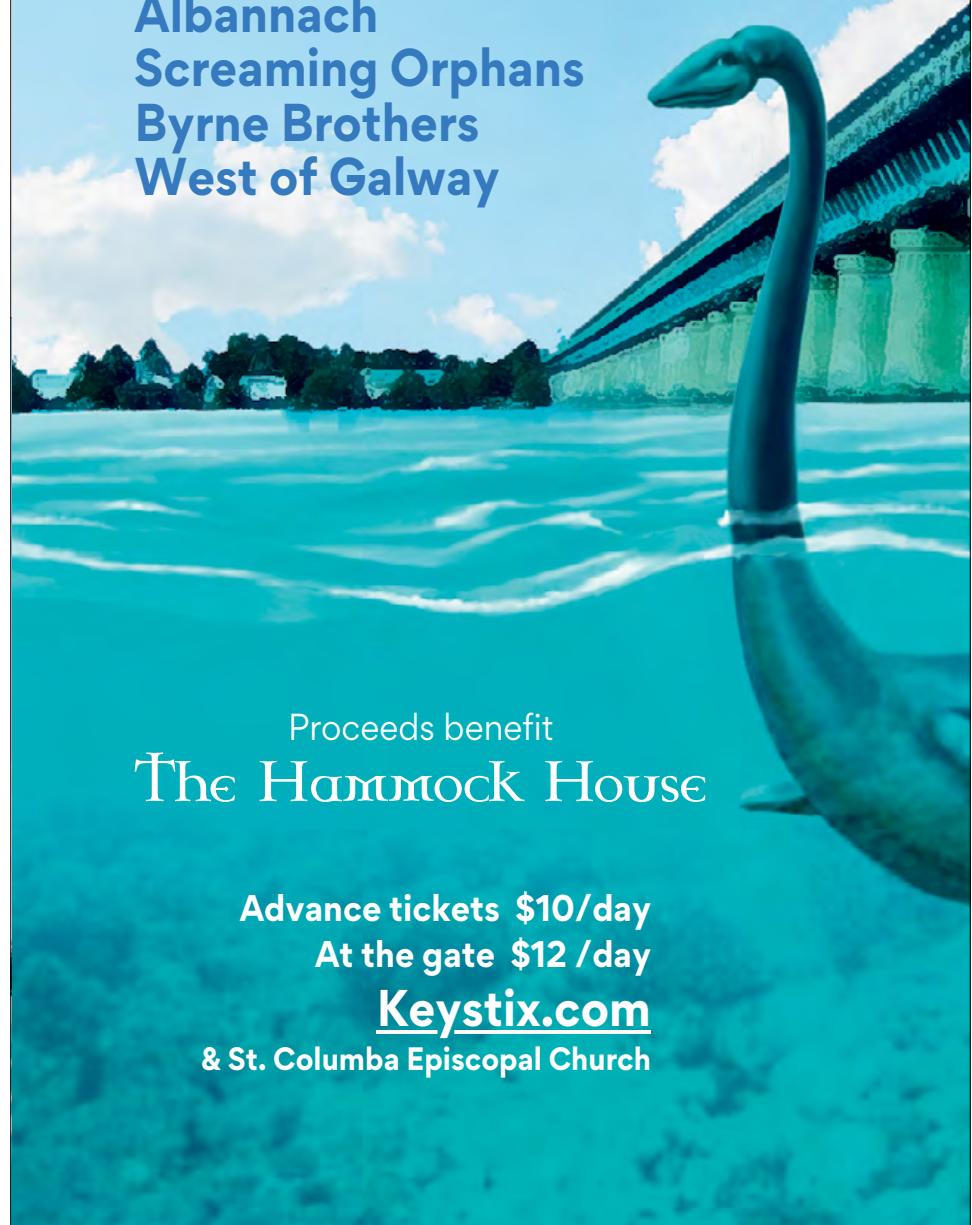
For further information about the Clan Macpherson Association, and the Museum contact your Branch Chairman at: www.clan-macpherson.org/branches.html, and visit www.clan-macpherson.org/museum



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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Provost Leishman welcomes King Charles to the city of Dunfermline.

King visits Dunfermline - Scotland's newest city

The (now official) City of Dunfermline welcomed Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort to the City Chambers for an official ceremony to hand over the Letters Patent, confirming the new city status. Dunfermline is now the newest city in Scotland, despite its ancient history, having been granted City status as part of Queen Elizabeth II's diamond jubilee celebrations. At a short ceremony inside the City Chambers, King Charles officially presented the official documents to Provost of Fife, Cllr. Jim Leishman, in front of an audience of invited guests, which included First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Secretary of State Alister Jack.

Provost Leishman said he was so proud for the people of Dunfermline to receive this status for the town, which will always hold a special place in his heart and said: "Although I'm not a native, Dunfermline is my second home having spent most of my career playing and managing Dunfermline Athletic Football Club. So, to be able to welcome our new King here so early in his reign is a real honour. Having the title of city will be a huge boost for Dunfermline opening up more economic growth, investment and truly putting the city on the map for tourists. It was great to see so many people turned out to cheer, wave and welcome the new King to our new City."

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: "Dunfermline has had a very strong association with the monarchy for many centuries. That is why it is so fitting that Their Majesties the King and Queen Consort were here to mark such a significant milestone for the community at the beginning of this new era. The granting of city status will help Dunfermline – a place with an extraordinary history – as it looks to create a more prosperous future. I want to express my huge thanks to everyone who has played their part in supporting Dunfermline's successful application over many years."

The King and Queen Consort then left to visit Dunfermline Abbey where they were greeted by the Rev Mary Ann Rennie, the Abbey's Minister, then given a short tour by representatives from Historic Environment Scotland. Crowds lined the

streets between the Chambers and the Abbey keen to get a view or shake the hand of the Royals. Invited representatives from a large and diverse number of community groups and clubs also had a chance to chat to The King and Queen Consort inside the 950 year old abbey, before they left for their next engagement.

Scots actor Robbie Coltrane dies



Scottish actor Robbie Coltrane has died at the age of 72. The two-time BAFTA Scotland Awards winner had a multi-decade long career with roles in the James Bond films to the lead in the 1990s British TV series *Cracker* and mini-series the 1980s *Tutti Frutti*, however his best-known work was as Hagrid in the *Harry Potter* films. His agent of 40 years Belinda Wright said: "Robbie was a unique talent ... He will probably be best remembered for decades to come as Hagrid in the *Harry Potter* films. A role which brought joy to children and adults alike all over the world prompting a stream of fan letters every week for over 20 years. James Bond fans write too to applaud his role in *GoldenEye* and *The World Is Not Enough*. For me personally, I shall remember him as an abidingly loyal client as well as being a wonderful actor, he was forensically intelligent, brilliantly witty and after 40 years of being proud to be called his agent, I shall miss him."

Born March 30, 1950, in Rutherglen, South Lanarkshire, Anthony Robert McMillan changed his professional name as a homage to celebrated jazz musician John Coltrane. Coltrane was made an OBE in the 2006 New Year's honours list for his services to drama.

Two in a row for Lisa Williams at the World Porridge Making Championship



2022 winners Chris Young and Lisa Williams.

Lisa Williams from Suffolk has been crowned World Porridge Making Champion after beating competitors from around the world at the 29th World Porridge Making Championship, which took place in the Highland village of Carrbridge. Lisa was amongst 26 competitors competing for the highly-coveted title of World Porridge Making Champion and the Golden Spurtle trophy. Following five heats, the final cook off included competitors from Australia, Iceland, Cyprus, Scotland and England. Lisa said: "I can't put into words how delighted I am. I came to Carrbridge thinking that I was saying goodbye to the Golden Spurtle trophy, and I can't believe that I am taking it home with me again. It has been so lovely being back in the village seeing everyone. There's great camaraderie amongst the competitors, and the whole event is so friendly and welcoming."

The title of World Porridge Making Champion is awarded to the contestant deemed to have made the best traditional porridge using just three ingredients – oatmeal, water and salt.

Entries are judged for appearance, texture, colour and taste. This year's judges included former Gleneagles Executive Chef, Neil Mugg, Scottish MasterChef finalist Sarah Rankin, and New Zealander Kirsten Gilmour, owner of KJ's Bothy Bakery in Grantown on Spey.

Neill Mugg, Chair of the judges, said: "Lisa's porridge was really well made. Rich, flavourful, well seasoned and the perfect consistency."

In addition to the main competition, the title of Speciality Porridge Champion is awarded to the creator of a sweet or savoury dish where oatmeal can be combined with any other ingredients. This year's speciality winner was Chris Young, owner of street food and events caterer The Rolling Stove, who wowed the judges with his porridge noodles two ways, with hand-dived seared scallops and caramelised figs. The 2022 World Porridge Making Championship was held in person for the first time since 2019. A virtual speciality competition was held in 2020 and 2021 during the pandemic.

Karen Henderson, the main organiser of the 2022 World Porridge Making Championship said: "It has been wonderful to have porridge fans, their supporters and so many visitors in a very packed Carrbridge village hall. What started very much as a small local event has grown to be a highlight of Scotland's food and drink calendar, and it has been fantastic being able to welcome back visitors from around the world again."

New international partnership to provide students with a global textiles experience



Assistant Professor Marnie Collins.

For the first time in its 200-year history, Heriot-Watt University is partnering with a US university to deliver a unique learning experience for its textile students. A joint MSc in Global Textile Design program launches in September 2023, delivered by Heriot-Watt University and Thomas Jefferson University – the world's two oldest textile institutions. The initial cohort will welcome 12 students who will divide their time between Heriot-Watt's School of Textiles and Design (SoTD) in the Scottish Borders and in the Kanbar College of Design, Engineering & Commerce at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, using each campus location as a base to explore international textile trade fairs and artisanal heritage sites. Over 18-months, students will develop deep learning around textiles and design in a global market whilst building their understanding and appreciation of textile heritage; contemporising traditional manufacturing techniques through innovation and sustainable practices. Furthermore, each will gain real-world industry experience through a summer internship with an established textile brand, as a key component of the course.

Assistant Professor Marnie Collins is Co-Director of the new multi-disciplinary MSc and based at the SoTD at Heriot-Watt University. She said: "This is the first time this university has introduced a joint-degree of this nature with a US-based university and it really is an unprecedented opportunity for students. It will provide postgraduates with a global perspective of the textile industry, opportunities to advance their enquiry through research, to network with top designer/makers in the field, to innovate using world class facilities and to delve into contemporary global issues such as sustainability, ethics, artisanal heritage and provenance, to inform their own creative practice. Graduates of the programme will enjoy the benefits of earning a joint degree from both Institutions, giving them a competitive advantage for employability."

With course places limited, a rigorous selection process will be carried out, ensuring only the highest calibre of students are accepted. Successful applicants will learn about entrepreneurship, artisanal heritage and textiles sustainability, through research and practice. Students will travel to major, international trade events such as London Fashion Week, Premier Vision in Paris, and Texworld in New York. The program is expected to provide a supported pathway into a variety of fashion or interior textile related jobs such as a textile creative, designer or artist.

Celebrating tales from Dundee and Angus



Dundee city skyline.
Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

Visitors to Dundee and Angus this autumn are being encouraged by VisitScotland to discover more of unique history and legends of the region as part of Year of Stories 2022.

The Themed Year aims to spotlight, celebrate, and promote the wealth of stories inspired by, written, or created in Scotland. Located within the V&A Dundee in the heart of the city's waterfront development, VisitScotland Dundee iCentre is an important resource for visitors and local tourism businesses offering recommendations on things to see and do, helping with reservations and bookings and practical advice on travelling around the area.

Unique stories, legends and hidden gems

With more than 35 years of visitor experience between them, the team of friendly and knowledgeable local staff are also on hand to help visitors unearth some of the unique stories, legends and hidden gems in the region including:

Bruin the Dundee Polar Bear, Dundee High Street – Dundee's status as the UK's only UNESCO City of Design is an important draw for visitors with over 600 pieces of public art on offer. One of the newest sculptures depicts a famous incident from 1878 when a polar bear named Bruin escaped and ran through the city's streets. It is said that the bear ran into the shop Messers J. Jamieson & Co, Clothier and Outfitters and after being distracted by its own reflection in one of the shop's mirrors was recaptured. The sculpture can be found outside Maisie & Mac on the High Street which was previously Messers J. Jamieson & Co, Clothier and Outfitters.

Earl Beardie and Old Nick, Glamis Castle – celebrating its 650th anniversary this year, Glamis Castle is famous for its links to the Royal Family but is also home to several ghost stories including the tale of Earl Beardie and Old Nick. It is said that while playing cards one Saturday night at the castle the Earl was reminded by a servant that it was close to midnight with gambling on the Sabbath a sacrilege. Despite this, the Earl continued to play and at the stroke of midnight a mysterious figure asked to join the game. It is reported the mystery man was the devil and having won the Earl's soul in the game of cards, condemned him to until Doomsday for daring to play cards on the Sabbath. To this day sounds are reported to come from the West Tower of the castle – the alleged site of the card game.

Bamse, the Norwegian Navy Dog, Montrose Harbour – Bamse was a St Bernard dog that lived during the Second World War and was regular visitor to harbours at Montrose and Dundee onboard the Royal Norwegian Navy vessel Thorodd. He became well known for collecting his crewmates from local pubs while they were on shore leave and there are also accounts of Bamse breaking up brawls and saving a sailor from a robbery attack near Dundee Docks. He died in Montrose and buried with full military honours attended by hundreds of Norwegian soldiers, Allied servicemen and civilians. A statue dedicated to him can be found today overlooking the harbour in Montrose.

killed nine maidens at Pittempton on the outskirts of the city. Villagers tracked the dragon to the foot of Sidlaw Hills with a local man named Martin slaying the dragon. The name Strathmartine it is said was created by the villagers shouting "Strike, Martin!". Alongside the Strathmartine Dragon statue on Murraygate, a stone marking the site where the dragon was slain can be found at the foot of the Sidlaw Hills near Bridgefoot.

Interesting history and folklore

Eleanor Mitchell, VisitScotland Visitor Services Advisor said: "There is more to Dundee than you think with the city and surrounding area full of interesting history and folklore. Year of Stories 2022 presents the ideal opportunity for our visitor services advisors to lift the lid on some of our more unique characters and places. We would encourage locals and visitors alike to pop into our iCentre in the V&A Dundee for new suggestions on things to see and do in area this autumn. Between us we have over 35 years' experience and love nothing more than regaling visitors with a local tale or two. We find it is often the more quirky and unusual stories that our visitors remember the most."

The delivery of a programme of special events is an important part of the Year of Stories with over 300 taking place across the country.

For more information on Scotland's Year of Stories, visit: www.visitscotland.com/about/themed-years/stories/

**There is more to
Dundee than you think
with the city and surrounding
area full of interesting
history and folklore.**

The Strathmartine Dragon, Dundee Murraygate – Dundee is a city of dragons from the city coat of arms to statue on Murraygate and spire on top of St Andrews Church. The connection is based on an old Dundee folk tale of a dragon that

Fast facts about St Andrew



- St Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland.
- St Andrew is celebrated on 30 November.
- St Andrew's Day is a day to celebrate Scottish culture, food and dance.
- St Andrew's flag is the flag of Scotland.
- The flag is in the form of a white X on a blue background and is commonly known as The Saltire.
- St Andrew's Societies celebrate Scottish culture around the world.
- St Andrew's Day is a bank holiday in Scotland but entitlement to leave depends on the employer.
- St Andrew is also the patron saint of Romania, Greece and Russia.
- Scotland is one of the few countries to have one of Christ's disciples as their patron saint.
- St Andrew was one of the Twelve Apostles (disciples of Jesus) and brother of St Peter.
- St Andrew is believed to have died on a diagonally transversed cross which the Romans sometimes used for executions and which, therefore, came to be called St Andrews Cross.
- St Andrew's Day is connected with Advent, which begins on the first Sunday after November 26.
- St Andrew's Day marks the beginning of Scotland's winter festivals.



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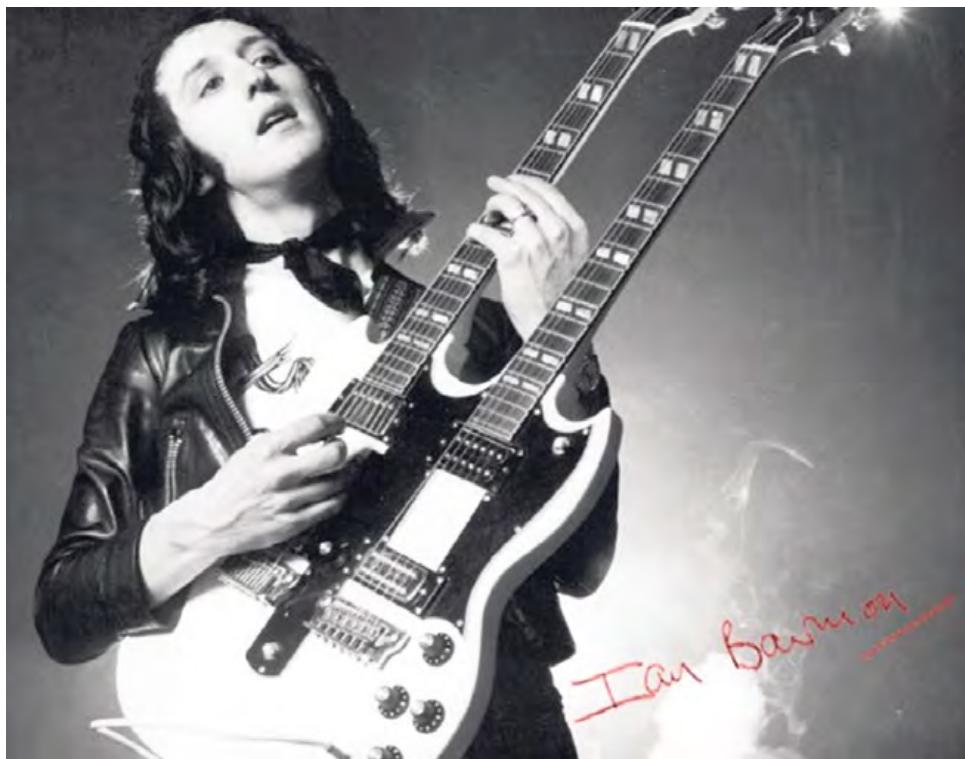


Use code SB15 for 15% off!

By: Neil Drysdale

Ian Bairnson-Shetland's music maker

For some Scottish musician Ian Bairnson may not be instantly a recognised name, however you are very likely to have heard the many projects which he was part of. Neil Drysdale tells the story of the Shetland guitarist who played on Kate Bush's biggest hit *Wuthering Heights*. Ian Bairnson, who also had a No 1 hit with Pilot, also recorded backing vocals on Paul McCartney's *Mull of Kintyre* and sold millions of records with the Alan Parsons Project.



Ian Bairnson

It's the longest-ever period between an artist having No 1 singles; a gap of 44 years from when Kate Bush scaled the peaks with *Wuthering Heights* to the success of *Running Up that Hill* this past Scottish summer. When the singer-songwriter first released her Gothic song, inspired by the Emily Bronte novel, early in 1978, she was still a teenager, Jimmy Carter was the American president, Margaret Thatcher was a year away from becoming the Prime Minister and *Grease* was the summer's big box-office movie hit. But if Kate appeared to have emerged from her own private world, she was helped by the otherworldly guitar performances of another young musician who had grown up in the far north of Scotland. And, even as a new generation enjoys her work after *Running Up that Hill* was featured on the series *Stranger Things*, it's time to pay homage to how Ian Bairnson was an integral part of Kate's early hits.

Bairnson, born in 1953, spent his early years in Levenwick, a small village about 17 miles from Lerwick, on the east side of the South Mainland of Shetland. From an early age, he was interested in music and bought his first guitar at the age of six, for £3 15 shillings, with what he later described as "some birthday money".



Photos courtesy of ianbairnson.com.

Expertise as a guitarist

His father, John, owned a local shop and while it was a remote setting, the youngster was encouraged by one of his neighbours, Peerie Willie Johnson, who dwelt at Bigton on the other side of the hill. Though still a child, Bairnson marvelled at the rhythmic sounds which Johnson could produce on his guitar whenever he visited him. Tragically, he lost his dad when he was just nine in 1963 and the family moved to Edinburgh. But that was only the start of a peripatetic career which propelled Bairnson to the top of the charts before he ever met Kate Bush. In some quarters, they were derided as teenyboppers, but with hindsight, Pilot were the antithesis of the Bay City Rollers. When they released their first LP *From the Album of the Same Name* in 1974, it featured a compelling mixture of pop, rock, bossa nova, a quirky pub anthem in *Auntie Iris* and a bona fide classic hit single in *Magic*, which is still heard on football terraces and the occasional TV advertisement. Bairnson only featured on one track, but he was fully on board for their next effort, *Second Flight*, which propelled the band to the top of the charts with January at the beginning of 1975. And it offered further evidence that Bairnson and his fellow band members, David Paton, Billy Lyall and future 10cc drummer Stewart Tosh, weren't simply expert craftsmen, but as comfortable with appearing live on *The Old Grey Whistle Test* as they were on *Top of the Pops*. The Pilot project soon hit the buffers, and there was something ironic from Bairnson's perspective about how January was knocked off its pedestal by Cockney Rebel's *Make Me Smile (Come Up and See Me)*. Prior to joining his fellow Scots, he had been given the opportunity to become part of Steve Harley's iconic band, but politely declined the offer.

In the grand scheme, it didn't matter much because Bairnson's expertise as a guitarist had attracted interest from some seriously big names - and, as 1976 turned into 1977, he and Paton were recruited as the engine room of The Alan Parsons Project which became a global multi-million-selling phenomenon.

Life was hectic for the Shetlander and his companions. Whilst recording the Alan Parsons work *I Robot* at the famous Abbey Road studios, he and Paton were enlisted to provide backing vocals for a song being created next door. It just happened to be a catchy little ditty called *Mull of Kintyre* by Paul McCartney and Wings, which subsequently became the top-selling single in UK history for the former Beatle and his new bandmates. By this stage, punk was taking over the charts to a large extent, but there was always room for new talent with a USP - and nobody could have foreseen the impact made by Kate Bush when she unveiled *The Kick Inside* in 1978. This was an LP of staggering imagination, featuring several songs which had been written when she was only 13 or 14. It was balletic, melodic, eccentric, occasionally mad as a bag of frogs and mesmerising in equal measure. But what would the first single be? EMI wanted *James and the Cold Gun* (which might be the worst track on the album). Bush, who described herself as "the shyest megalomaniac you're ever likely to meet" disagreed. And eventually, they all plumped for the song with nods to the Bronte canon. Now it was time for Bairnson to do for *Wuthering Heights* what Raf Ravenscroft had done for Gerry Rafferty's *Baker Street*.

Wuthering Heights

It turned into one of those joyous occasions where everything clicked. Bush recorded her vocal in a single take and even some seasoned studio hands were amazed at the nonchalance with which she performed the swooping lyrics. The melancholic guitar solo was played by Bairnson, who initially said he disliked the tone due to "purely guitarist reasons", but that's what happens when you are a perfectionist. Audiences loved it, not least because it has a heartbreak quality as the record fades out the way the novel ends. Engineer Jon Kelly - who went on to work with the likes of Paul McCartney, Tori Amos and the Beautiful South - was an ingenu when he was at the helm for that original session of the song. No wonder he said later: "I remember finishing that first day...and thinking: 'My God, that's it. I've peaked!'" *Wuthering Heights* was simply unique in the history of popular music. It was the first time a female singer-songwriter had ever topped the charts with a self-penned song. It had a video which featured just her in a swirl of fog and choreographic movement. She was completely in control at the age of 19.

Behind the scenes, Bairnson and Paton recorded the majority of the tracks for both *The Kick Inside* - which went platinum - and the follow-up *Lionheart*. There was great work on such songs as *The Man with the Child in His Eyes*, *Strange Phenomena* (long before *Stranger Things*) and *Hammer Horror*.

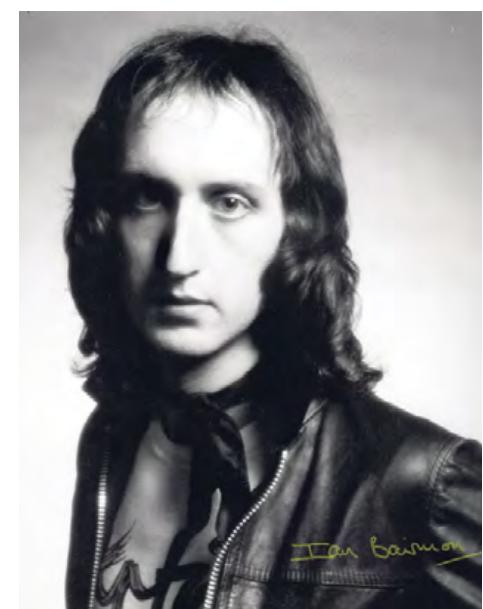
And although they had departed by the time Bush released *Running Up that Hill* in 1985, that didn't mean life was any less hectic. If anything, Bairnson seemed determined to prove he could hit his stride in any musical genre whether writing,



recording or performing. During the 1980s, he worked with The Alan Parsons Project, Jon Anderson, Buck's Fizz (he co-wrote their 1983 hit *Run For Your Life*), Elaine Paige, Mick Fleetwood, Bananarama, Kenny Rogers, David Sylvian, in addition to rejoining Kate Bush for her experimental 1982 album *The Dreaming*. Then, in the 1990s, he teamed up with the likes of Sir Tom Jones, Jim Diamond, Beverley Craven and Tam White, while touring with Alan Parsons. Nobody could ever accuse him of being one-dimensional or lacking industry or innovation. And, meanwhile, Japan woke up to the delights of Pilot and their albums suddenly became popular again with a whole new fan base, who demanded fresh material from Bairnson and Paton.

However, his busy itinerary couldn't carry on indefinitely or not once his wife, Leila, posted a message on Facebook in 2018. She said: "I and Ian's family would like to make you aware that he has been diagnosed a while ago with a progressive neurological condition which affects his communication skills. As a result, he will not be playing in public in future, although he still plays guitar and piano daily for his own pleasure. We would like to thank you for your loyal support through the years and to assure you that he is otherwise very healthy and receiving good care".

It's sad that such a gifted musician can no longer perform on concert stages. But Ian Bairnson has left a rich legacy for future generations to savour. And that unforgettable, spine-tingling fade-out on *Wuthering Heights*!



KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS



Bell, Book & Strap

*Getting 'sair haunds' at school.
Mr Fearn is a good man,
He goes to the pub on Saturday,
And he goes to the church on Sunday,
Where he prays to God to gie him strength,
Tae belt us weans on Mondays.*

*A traditional Scottish children's rhyme
and with due apologies to Mr Fearn.*

At Leithland Road Primary School we were to find Mr Fearn a very severe and strict teacher. Most of the time I only came across him at playtime, lunchtime and on odd occasions when Mr Lauder was away sick and when our class had to be 'split up' and fostered off around the other classes. Unfortunately for us he was a teacher, who either by chance or by choice, was responsible for catching and punishing school latecomers. In the mornings, at playtime and at lunchtime, our classes were lined up like soldiers, before moving into the buildings.

Once these regimented lines were formed and everyone had been ordered to stop fidgeting and talking, woe betide the pupil who dared come roaring around the corner - late. None of us were ever asked why we were late, and we rarely offered a lame excuse such as "our clock stopped or I slept in." We very soon got the message that even if our houses had burned down or we had been accidentally run over by a bus - and dramatically and miraculously had survived that event, that these excuses would appear unacceptably weak to Mr Fearn. Nor did we have the advantage of the more modern era's convenient excuse of 'car breakdown' or 'heavy traffic on the roads'. Hardly any of our parents owned cars and almost all of us got to school by walking. Instead, we automatically began to heat up our hands, blowing and spitting on them to make them warm and moist, and then lined up for the inevitable strap, as our teachers called it, the belt as we called it and the Lochgelly tawse as the Department of Education would have called it. No matter what we all named it, it was the same thick leather, two and a half foot long, two-tailed object of dread provided to teachers by Glasgow Corporation to dispense discipline and order within its schools. It came in various weights to suit the hand of the individual teacher and to produce variable impact upon his pupils.

Corporal punishment

Mr Fearn's belt was suitably sleek and well-oiled like the belt used by a barber to keep his razor sharp. Seeing the dreaded object in the hand of Mr Fearn we would take a deep breath and await our turn with brave faces. Meanwhile, the rest of the school moved into their classes. If we were lucky, those

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



in front of us in the line-up for punishment would take the belt well. That meant in schoolboy mythology that they kept the hand stiff and straight. They then tried to move it down imperceptibly at the same time as the teacher brought down the strap and reached the surface of our hands. The idea was that the hand and the strap moved down together to reduce the impact. It didn't work but we nevertheless went through the customary effort to try and fool the teacher. In our anxiety, the hand in most cases, travelled faster than the belt, only to have us required to put it back up again. Mr Fearn took a firm hold of our hands and placed our arms at right angles to our trembling bodies at just the right height to suit his swinging arm.

For some of us, moving the hand away at the last minute and just about anywhere rather than leave it where the teacher placed it in space was a conditioned reflex. Complemented with whimpers of "aw naw, mammy, daddy, that was sore", after the first stroke, it was often very difficult for many of us to put up our hands for a second stroke. This led to greater anger and frustration by the teacher who sometimes hit his own thigh instead of the disappearing hand. The unfolding drama did not make it any easier for those of us standing behind, patiently awaiting our turn. Nevertheless, Mr Fearn sometimes kindly remembered to bring a jotter or a book with him. He placed that upon our wrists in order to avoid the excruciating welts that could occur when the strap cruelly missed the palm of the hand and instead snaked its forked tongue onto our wrists. All in all, the punishment process went fairly smoothly. Most of us were well used to taking the strap on occasion as part of our school lives and were not over-fearful of this form of corporal punishment so long as we could get it over with quickly.

The belt

Teachers could of course get us to stick our noses against the blackboard, put our hands on our heads for a long time, or give us lines to do but the belt didn't seem to unduly subdue or inhibit us from being happy bairns and enjoying the good parts of school life. It didn't make us dislike our teachers either, for it was usually given for fighting, bullying, stealing, swearing, and vandalism and for other terrible offences like coming to school late. One or two strokes of the strap were the norm, and it was usually over quickly. Although teachers didn't think twice about using the strap, I don't believe it was overused or mis-used in my experience. I once saw a child from another class being made to wash out his mouth with soap and water, presumably for swearing. Most of us would have considered that a much worse punishment than getting the belt. I had my fair share of the belt, especially for lateness in the morning or taking too long to get back to school from lunchtime play and sometimes for simple mischief and messing about in class or in the playground. There was always sympathy and condolences from other members of the class to look forward to, "hard cheese, hard lines, or tough luck", for it could be any one of them next time. I probably deserved most of what I got at primary school and when I got the strap on

the odd occasion when I didn't deserve it, I can with hindsight balance that against the times when it was well deserved, and I didn't get caught. And I must thank Mr Fearn for having helped develop me to become an adult who is rarely, or ever, late for anything. So much so that I am often blamed for getting to places for appointments and airport flights far too early.

Respect educators

My parents had a tremendous confidence and respect for my teachers. It was a Scottish tradition to respect educators as well as education per se. In general, this blind faith was well deserved. I never complained to my parents when I got punished at school for there would have been little point and little sympathy to be found. My mum and dad made the assumption that if I got the strap from the teacher then I must have done something wrong that warranted it. That was the end of the matter in their eyes. This meant that my parents were never caught up in that unsatisfactory cycle of complaint, of trying to justify my behaviour, of claiming that I was being picked on, or that corporal punishment was not supported by them. My parents were sensible people. If you were being picked on by a teacher, then you must have been doing something wrong. Why else would a teacher be picking on you? It was all very simple. When you stopped misbehaving then the teacher would stop picking on you and you could

get on with your schoolwork. Similarly, when I misbehaved my parents expected my teacher to deal with the matter, there and then. I was punished immediately so there was no need for the teacher to contact my parents, to waste time, sending home letters and complaining to them.

This simple form of parent, teacher and involuntary pupil cooperation seemed to work for my family and for the vast majority of pupils in my school. It made for a very efficient teaching and learning process. There was never any need to waste class time by going through an elaborate web of excuses, argument or abuse of your teacher. In most cases there wasn't even any need to tell fibs. You were going to get the belt anyway. You might as well save your breath and act bravely, for if you didn't accept your punishment with good grace your pals would think less of you and your dad would probably hear about it and punish you as well when you got home. Undoubtedly some children, now adults from those times will have a quite different view of corporal punishment and in some cases may have suffered an abuse of it by some bad and insensitive teachers. And I would never support going back to corporal punishment in schools today. But for me and my family it really all worked quite well in those times and for most of us what didn't kill us at school possibly strengthened us with a resilience required then as a child and as an adult in the future.

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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Bank of Scotland founded by an Act of the Scottish Parliament. **1695**

1 - Scotland made a serious bid to enter the lucrative English sea-trading market. The Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies issued a subscription list to stockholders in London. Later known as The Darien Company, £300,000 sterling was quickly raised, but London merchants saw it as a threat to their own East India Company. They put pressure on the King, and the English subscriptions were withdrawn at the behest of their government. **1695**



1-12 - The city of Glasgow hosts the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26), a major United Nations climate summit and put the city on the world stage for 12 days. **2021**

2 - Jack Alexander MBE of The Alexander Brothers died. The Scottish folk singer began his career in the 1950s with his brother Jack and was born in Cambusnethan, Lanarkshire in 1935. **2013**

3 - The Scottish expedition to Darien landed at 'New Caledonia'. The expedition left Leith on the 12th July 1698, heading for the isthmus of Panama. The enterprise began in 1695 when the Scottish Parliament passed an Act for the establishment of the 'Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies'. **1698**

3 - Queen Elizabeth officially opened an underwater pipeline to bring the first North Sea oil ashore. **1975**

4 - Birth of King William III. **1650**

5 - Opening of the original Mitchell Library, Glasgow, now the largest public reference library in Europe and is home to one of the world's finest collections of Robert Burns materials. **1877**

5 - The Commercial Bar in Fraserburgh receives a direct hit from a German bomb, killing over 30. **1941**



6 - Celtic Football Club formally constituted in Calton, Glasgow, to alleviate poverty in Glasgow's East End parishes. The first Celtic Park was established on a vacant lot next to St Mary's Church. **1887**

7 - Writer and World War Two garrison commander Eric Linklater died in Orkney. **1974**

8 - Scholar and philosopher John Duns Scotus died. His dry subtleties led to the word "Duns" or "dunce" meaning dull and incapable of learning. Beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1993. **1308**

9 - In Edinburgh, Sir James Young Simpson delivered Wilhelmina Carstairs while chloroform was administered to the mother, the first child to be born with the aid of anaesthesia. **1847**

9 - *The Royal Yacht Britannia* left the Clydebank shipyards to begin her speed trials. Built by John Brown's shipbuilders, she was famously luxurious and entertained countless dignitaries in opulent style. The Britannia carried the royal family on more than 1000 visits to over 600 countries. Today she is moored at Ocean Point, Edinburgh. **1953**

9 - Dorothy Dunnett, the cult Scottish novelist, died. The writer of intricate and meticulously researched historical novels, she attracted a devoted following with her multi-volume sagas. **2001**

10 - Journalist Henry M Stanley found the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone with the classic "Dr Livingstone, I presume". **1871**

11 - Today is Martinmas, Scottish Quarter Day. The feast of St Martin of Tours was traditionally the day for slaughtering livestock and salting it for preservation through the winter.



11 - Armistice Day, marking the end of hostilities in World War I. The guns were finally silenced on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Though Scots made up only 10% of the UK population at the time, a total of 147,609 Scots were killed during the war, a fifth of Britain's total dead. **1918**

12 - St Machar Day, patron saint of Aberdeen.

12 - Edinburgh University first admitted women to the study of medicine. Sophia Jex-Blake and her friend Edith Pechy were the first to attend the prestigious medical school. Though Jex-Blake passed her exams, she was not allowed to graduate as regulations prevented women from actually serving on the wards. **1869**

13 - King Malcolm III (Canmore), last of the Celtic kings was killed at the Battle of Alnwick. Succeeded by Donald III. **1093**

13 - The birth of Robert Louis Stevenson, author and poet, in Edinburgh's New Town. His books included *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. He died in Samoa, aged 44. **1850**

14 - Speed limit for horseless carriages was raised from 4mph (2mph in towns) to 14mph. **1896**



15 - Statue to Greyfriar's Bobby, who stayed by his master's grave for 14 years was unveiled. **1873**

15 - The Stone of Destiny was finally returned to Scotland. Legend has it that the stone is a relic from the Holy Land and once belonged to the biblical Jacob. From an early date the kings of Scotland were inaugurated sitting on a royal chair with the stone in its base. In 1296 Edward I removed the stone and installed it at Westminster Abbey. It remained there until it was kidnapped by Scottish nationalist students in 1951. They managed to hide the stone in Scotland for four months until it was found and returned to Westminster. It was moved from there to Edinburgh Castle in 1996 amid much celebration. **1996**

16 - James Macpherson, the famous fiddling freebooter, was hanged at Banff. The town clock was said to have been advanced to forestall a messenger carrying a reprieve for his hanging. Legend has it that before the notorious outlaw musician was hanged for sheep and cattle stealing he treated the crowd to one of his own compositions, *Macpherson's Rant*, and then broke the fiddle over his knee. When Burns heard of the tale he wrote the song *Macpherson's Farewell*. **1700**

16 - Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show opened in the East End Exhibition Buildings, Duke Street, Glasgow. **1891**

17 - David Livingstone reached Victoria Falls in Africa. Livingstone was born at Blantyre, south of Glasgow and went on a mission to reach new peoples in the interior of Africa and introduce them to Christianity. **1855**



17 - Tam the Gun - the soldier who famously fired Edinburgh Castle's One o'Clock Gun for more than 25 years died. Staff Sergeant Thomas McKay, 60, lost a year-long battle against bowel cancer. **2005**

18 - Sir David Wilkie who later became a well-known painter of historical and religious works as well as portraits, was born near Pitlessie, Fife. **1785**

18 - Robin Hall, the Scottish folk singer and musician, died. Hall achieved national fame in the sixties along with fellow Scot, Jimmie Macgregor, on the BBC TV show, *Tonight*. Hits included *The Mingulay Boat Song* and schoolboy favourite, *Ye Cannae Shove Yer Grannie Aff a Bus*. **1998**

19 - King Charles I born. **1600**

20 - James Bruce, 8th Lord Elgin, the Scottish Liberal statesman and diplomat, died. During his career he served as Governor-General of Canada, 1847-54, and India, 1862-63 and was special envoy to China and Japan. During a visit to China he burnt down the emperor's famous Summer Palace in Beijing, destroying thousands of priceless works of art, in order to intimidate the emperor and force him to sign an unratified treaty. **1863**

20 - Nicola Sturgeon is officially sworn in as First Minister of Scotland, the first female in the role, at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, in front of senior judges. **2014**

21 - King James VII married Mary of Modena. **1673**

22 - Birth of Mary of Guise, the French Queen Consort of James V. She was regent of Scotland during the minority reign of her daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. **1515**

22 - Jack McConnell elected First Minister of Scotland, succeeding Henry McLeish who had resigned. **2001**



23 - Historical novelist Nigel Tranter born in Glasgow. He was the most prolific Scottish writer of all time, writing mainly factual and fictional books related to Scottish history and was also a columnist for many years for *the Scottish Banner*. **1909**

24 - David II (aged 7) crowned at Scone. **1331**

24 - The Scots army defeated at the Rout of Solway Moss. King James V had sent a huge force of 10,000 men into England which was defeated by an English force under the command of Sir Thomas Wharton. James died shortly afterward, and was succeeded to the throne by his baby daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots. **1542**

24 - The high court in Glasgow imposes a minimum sentence of 27 years for Al Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi, the Libyan national convicted of bombing Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, which resulted in 270 deaths. He was released on compassionate grounds by the Scottish Government on 20 August 2009 and died on 20 May 2012 in Libya. **2003**

25 - General Tam Dalyell raises a regiment to suppress Covenanters which later became the Royal Scots Greys. **1681**

25 - Steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie born in Dunfermline. Carnegie became a powerful businessman and a leading force in the American steel industry. Carnegie believed that the wealthy had an obligation to give back to society, so he donated much of his fortune to causes like education and peace. **1835**

25 - Helen Duncan the last person to be jailed in the UK under the British Witchcraft Act of 1735 was born. **1897**

25 - Scotland becomes the first country in the world to make it a legal duty for period products to be available to anyone for free after the Period Products (Scotland) Bill is approved. **2020**

26 - Death of John McAdam, inventor of "macadamisation" road surface with a smooth hard surface with a camber to ensure rainwater rapidly drained away. **1836**



26 - Elsie Inglis, the Scottish nursing pioneer and suffragette, died. Inglis is perhaps best remembered for her role in the First World War, where, convinced that women could play an active role in the conflict, she led volunteer medical units of women who served in France and in Serbia, where Inglis herself was taken prisoner. Winston Churchill wrote that Inglis and her nurses "would shine in history". **1917**

27 - The greatest storm on record hit Britain with the loss of 8,000 people in 24 hours. **1703**

27 - The first deaths from an E.coli outbreak in Lanarkshire were reported. The outbreak was subsequently traced back to a butcher's shop in the town of Wishaw, and by early 1997 twenty people, mostly senior citizens, had died, making this the world's worst outbreak of E.coli poisoning. **1996**

28 - Battle of Rullion Green on the Pentland Hills, south-west of Edinburgh, in which the King's army led by Sir Tam Dalyell defeated the Covenanters. **1666**

28 - W.Oliver Brown, the candidate for the fledgling National Party of Scotland (NPS), polled 4,818 votes in the Renfrew East By-Election. In doing this he became the first NPS candidate to save his election deposit. The National Party of Scotland amalgamated with the Scottish Party in April 1934 to form the modern Scottish National Party/SNP. **1930**

29 - Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII of England was born. She later married King James IV of Scotland in the "Union of the Thistle and the Rose". It was due to her bloodline that King James VI of Scotland was able to inherit the crown of England in 1603, after the death of his cousin, Queen Elizabeth I. **1489**

29 - Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons granted its charter by King James VI. **1599**

29 - Thomas Edison demonstrated the phonograph publicly for the first time. **1877**

30 - St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Annraig') – celebrate the patron saint of Scotland. St Andrew, according to Christianity's teachings, was one of Jesus Christ's apostles, the twelve followers chosen by him.

30 - World's first international football (soccer) match, Scotland V England at West of Scotland Cricket Ground. Result was 0-0. **1872**



30 - HMS Vanguard, Britain's biggest and last battleship, was launched at Clydebank. **1944**

30 - Stone of Destiny, stolen from Scone by King Edward I of England in 1296, returned to Scotland and installed in Edinburgh Castle. The stone had previously been taken from Westminster Abbey in London by university students in 1951. **1996**

30 - Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh officially opened. **1999**

Chicago Scots host 21st annual Kilted Classic golf tournament



Experience the most unique golf tournament on this side of the pond while enjoying performances from Highland Dancers, Scotland's finest whisky, beer and food tastings, Scottish trivia and much more Chicago Scots, the oldest non-profit organization in Illinois, is celebrating its 176th anniversary this year and recently hosted the 21st annual Kilted Classic golf tournament at Cantigny Golf Course. Players could enter the tournament as a foursome, pair, or single, and were matched with a group after registering online.

The most unique golf tournament this side of the pond

Dubbed the most unique golf tournament this side of the pond, Kilted Classic players enjoyed performances from Highland Dancers, got to taste Scotland's finest with whisky, beer, and food stations, test their knowledge with Scottish trivia, participate

in competitions like Beat the Scot and Longest Drive, plus got the chance to win a bottle of whisky on every hole. "We're thrilled to be able to host our annual golf tournament for the 21st year," said Gus Noble, President of the Chicago Scots. "It's something we look forward to all year and is tons of fun, all while supporting a cause we deeply care about."

Following all the fun on the links, golfers and non-golfers were invited to stay for a causal dinner, cocktails and an auction to benefit Caledonia Senior Living & Memory Care, Chicago Scots' primary beneficiary for over one hundred years that offers a range of outstanding services including Assisted Living, Sheltered Care, Memory Care, Intermediate and Skilled Nursing Care, and Respite Care.

For more information about the Chicago Scots, please visit: www.chicagoscots.org.



Ian Rankin archive goes on display



A selection of items from Ian Rankin's literary archive has gone on display at the National Library of Scotland. Rankin – a crime writer of international literary success and renown – donated his archive to the Library in 2019, and also paid for a post to catalogue the collection. Since then, the Library has made most of the archive available for consultation at the reading rooms, and the forthcoming 'Collections in Focus' display will highlight just a taste of what's in store for anyone who wishes to delve into the archive.

Manuscripts Curator Dr Colin McIlroy said: "For more than 30 years, Detective Inspector Rebus and other recurring major characters have captured the minds of millions around the world. Rankin enjoys a loyal following of people who are in love with his version of Edinburgh. The sense of place he has created is profound – anecdotally, we know many readers feel they have an intimate knowledge of the city without ever having been here. The world of Rebus and other characters had their genesis in the Library's reading rooms, and it makes it all the more fitting – and thrilling – that documents chronicling decades of this writer's thought processes are back home at the Library. We look forward to sharing some of the highlights on display."

The archive is substantial

The size of the archive is substantial – in Library shelving terms it equates to 21 feet of archival material. Alongside working drafts of his novels, the archive also contains Rankin's correspondence with other writers, and unsurprisingly, correspondence with police officers. Almost as famous for his music tastes as his writing, the archive also contains clues as to what Rankin might have been listening to while working on a particular novel, or what societal conundrum he was seeking to make sense of at the time. But as a whole, the archive provides tremendous insight into the working mind of a novelist, from early career to the top of their game.

Dr McIlroy adds: "It contains what people would typically expect – drafts of novels with handwritten notes to help guide the next draft. But it also includes the unexpected, such as highly critical notes to self. We're truly indebted to Ian for including this oftentimes personal material. Emerging writers should take note, and comfort, that – even for successful authors – the writing process invariably involves a degree of internal struggle and self-criticism. But from this, it compels a writer to push themselves further. Where Rankin is concerned, the results speak for themselves."

'The Rankin Files' runs until 29 April 2023, at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. Entry is free. The Library will host an event with Ian Rankin on 24 November at George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, which will be live-streamed via YouTube.

Tartan of the Month

Remember Me Tartan

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

Remembrance Day falls on the 11th of November each year. On the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, one minutes of silence is observed and dedicated to those soldiers who died or were injured fighting. Approved and supported by The Royal British Legion, in celebration of the poppy, a symbol of remembrance and hope worn by millions of people as part of modern British life, culture and heritage.

A percentage of the sales of "Remember Me" tartan products is donated to The Royal British Legion to help and support those who are proud to wear the poppy, and to help those in need. Colours: red, green and black represent the poppy and remembrance and white represents hope and the future of the living. This tartan (reference: 11742) was designed by Margi Lawson and registered in March, 2017.

Clan Fraser Reserve

Avoid the New Year's Eve Stampede...

...Have a wee dram for Christmas



Clan Fraser Reserve Blended Scotch Whisky

Imported from Scotland by

Locoworks LLC Pueblo West, Colorado

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Cullen Skink

Ingredients:**For the stock:**

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

For the soup:

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

Method:

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

Add the white wine to the pan and bring to the boil. Add the smoked haddock, pour in the water and bring back to the boil.

Reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes, skimming off any scum that rises to the surface, until the haddock is cooked through.

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

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

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

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

Braised lamb with mash and malt whisky gravy

Ingredients:

2 shanks of Scotch lamb (ask your butcher to cut bone neatly across lower end)
1 carrot, peeled and chopped
1 onion, chopped
1 leek, chopped
2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
300 ml/10 fl. oz. lamb stock
60 ml/4 tablespoonfuls malt whisky
450g/1 lb. potatoes, cooked and mashed
Vegetable oil
Salt and freshly-ground black pepper, to taste

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 325 F/170 C/Gas Mark 3. Heat the oil in a heavy-based saucepan

or casserole dish. Season the lamb shanks and brown on all sides. Add the chopped vegetables, garlic and stock and bring to a simmer. Place in the oven and cook for about 2 hours, turning the shanks once or twice during the cooking. The meat should just be falling off the bone when cooked. Strain the cooking juices into a saucepan, add the whisky and reduce by one-third (to thicken the sauce a little, mash in some of the cooking vegetables) and check the seasoning. Place the mashed potato in the centre of a large plate. Put the lamb shank on top with the shank pointing up and spoon the sauce around.

Scottish cranachan

Ingredients:**For the cardamom honey:**

1 x 250g/9oz jar clear honey
20 cardamom pods, seeds only, finely ground

For the cranachan:

40g/1½oz. medium or coarse oatmeal
200g/7oz raspberries
400ml/14fl oz. double cream
2 tbsp. cardamom honey (from above), or to taste
3 tbsp. malt whisky
½-1 tsp. rosewater, or to taste
rose petals, to garnish (optional)

Method:

To make the cardamom honey: crush the cardamom pods in a pestle and mortar to separate the dry pods from the seeds. Discard the husks. Toast the seeds in a dry pan to release their oils so they become aromatic.



Celebrate this St Andrew's Day with a traditional dinner using some of the finest recipes from Scotland's natural larder. Sample some great Scottish food and drink on November 30th with your friends and family and enjoy a St Andrew's Night!

Pour half of the honey into a pan and add the crushed and toasted cardamom seeds. Gently heat through until the honey has become more liquid and starts to bubble at the edges; if you have a probe thermometer, the temperature should be 75C/165F. Remove from the heat and pour the flavoured honey back into the jar with the remaining honey. Stir gently, and leave to cool, uncovered. When cool, put on the lid and ideally store for 24 hours before using.

To make the cranachan: heat a heavy-bottomed pan and toast the oatmeal over a low heat, stirring occasionally, until it smells warm and nutty and has changed colour. This will take 10-15 minutes, sometimes as long as 20 minutes. Leave to cool.

In a bowl, crush half of the raspberries to make a rough mash. In a separate bowl, whisk the cream with the honey, whisky and rosewater until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed, then fold in the crushed raspberries.

Fold in the toasted oatmeal and two-thirds of the remaining whole raspberries. Adjust the honey and rose water to taste. Spoon the cranachan into small glasses, and garnish with the remaining raspberries and some rose petals, if using. Drizzle with a wee bit more of the cardamom honey and serve.

GoFundMe campaign launched for 24th annual Pipes of Christmas



The Pipes of Christmas will celebrate its 24th joyous season with performances in New Jersey and New York this December. The holiday favorite opens on Saturday, December 17 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, located at 921 Madison Avenue (at 73rd Street) for two performances at 2 and 7PM. The concert moves across the Hudson River on Sunday, December 18 to Central Presbyterian Church located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ also with performances at 2 and 7PM.

In preparation for the concert's return, producers have launched a GoFundMe campaign to help cover financial deficiencies brought about by two years of weathering the global Covid pandemic.

Proceeds from the concert support an extensive music scholarship program, which include annual gifts to the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (both located in Glasgow, Scotland) the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia and the Carol Hassert Memorial Fine Arts Scholarship at Summit (NJ) High School. Proceeds also support the annual Tartan Day on Ellis Island celebration and the Society's sponsorship of the US National Scottish Harp Championship, the Gaelic Literature Competition at Scotland's Royal National Mod, and an academic research prize at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye. The concert is also seeking Title Sponsors as well as Program Advertisers. These gifts help offset production expenses and outreach programs.

Celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit



Tickets will soon be available. GoFundMe donors will receive priority notice of ticket availability. As an extra incentive, donors exceeding \$100 or more will also receive a specially produced downloadable EP featuring music from past concerts never before released. The EP features two remastered tracks from the Pipes' highly acclaimed 2020 virtual concert, which was a finalist in Scotland's 2021 MG Alba Trad Music Awards. *O Holy Night* features Scottish tenor Jamie McDougall and was recorded at Glasgow Cathedral. Famed Gaelic singer, Christine Primrose's *Lenabh an àigh*, or *Child of Joy*, was recorded on the Isle of Skye.

Additional tracks from last year's concerts in New York City and New

Jersey include holiday favorites from the Blandford Pipe Band of Redlands, California; the US National Scottish Harp Champion Rachel Clemente; and a rollicking Traditional Set arranged by Steve Gibb from Inverness, Scotland and performed by top musicians.

Since its debut in 1999, The Pipes of Christmas has played to standing-room-only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert gives audiences a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of Christmas has become part of their family's annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for *Classical New Jersey Magazine*, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well-constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth. *The Westfield Leader* described the concert as "a unique sound of power and glory nowhere else to be found."

For more information on the Pipes of Christmas visit: www.pipesofchristmas.com
To donate: www.gofundme.com/f/the-24th-annual-pipes-of-christmas

Scotland's ancient clans unite to 'crown' first Buchanan Chief for 340 years



The Lady Buchanan and The Buchanan.



so it's truly humbling that members of Clan Buchanan and our good friends from other clans have reunited to celebrate with us. I have pledged to bring Clan Buchanan into the modern era by restoring our ancient traditions and championing the values, relevance, and importance of the global community we represent. For centuries our clan had no chief or Clan Parliament, so this is the start of a new era for Clan Buchanan."

While Clan Buchanan can be traced back to 1010 AD in Scotland, its global community includes members across Great Britain, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa among many other countries. Over 120 affiliated family surnames are recognised as part of the clan including Watson, Morris, Richardson, Coleman, Gilbert, Walter and Harper. They are represented by the world's oldest clan society, the Buchanan Society, which was established in 1725 to support members of the clan in times of hardship, and the worldwide Clan Buchanan Society International. Kevin (Buck) Buchanan, Vice President of Clan Buchanan Society International based in California, said: "It's fantastic to be here representing Clan Buchanan's members from the USA. Our clan is spread across the globe but today we've united to make it relevant in the modern day while restoring our ancient traditions. This has been such a historic moment in Scotland – I'm proud to be part of it."



The clans of Scotland have reunited for the inauguration of the first Buchanan Clan Chief for over 340 years. Bringing together the Buchanan clan for the first time in centuries, John Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan was appointed as the true heir and chief of the Buchanan Clan. As the leader of a global community of over five million members, and one of Scotland's oldest and most prestigious clans, the newly inaugurated chief pledged to lead the clan into the modern era. This historic Clan Chief's Inauguration ceremony was based on existing resurrected ancient Celtic rituals and customs.

This unique event took place at Cambusmore, Callander, the modern seat of Clan Buchanan and the chief's ancestral home. International representatives of the clan's diaspora celebrated alongside the chiefs and other representatives of ten ancient Scottish clans. The last Buchanan chief, John Buchanan, died in 1681 without a male heir. Identifying the new chief required decades of genealogical research conducted by the renowned genealogist, the late Hugh Peskett. The inauguration event drew on Scottish traditions dating back prior to the coronation of the first King of Scots, Kenneth MacAlpine, in 843 AD. Heralded in by trumpet fanfare and accompanied by a procession of pipers and banner bearers, the chief was officially named and presented by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Dr Joseph Morrow.

The ceremony cemented its place in Scottish history as the first for many hundreds of years, and the new chief swore an oath to protect and champion the Buchanan Clan. His first act as chief was to restore the Clan Parliament, for the first time in over 350 years, in order to explore the future of Clan Buchanan and discuss how its traditions can be celebrated in the modern day. The chiefly family was joined by several hundred clansfolk from across the globe, members of the Clan Buchanan Society International and heraldic expert Sir Crispin Agnew. The chief was honoured with the Letters Patent, which confirmed the Court of the Lord Lyon's acceptance and legitimacy of his claim as chief.

The world's oldest clan society

He was 'crowned' in traditional chiefly fashion with the 'Balmoral Bonnet' hat featuring three golden eagle feathers, the more contemporary style of headwear now used by Scottish clan chiefs. He was then presented with painstakingly recreated 'clan jewels' based on those historically thought used for this type of ancient inauguration ceremony. This included the Chief's Signet Ring bearing The Buchanan coat of arms, representing family heritage, eternity and the Clan unification. The Chief of Clan Buchanan said: "This is a turning point in our clan's history. For centuries our traditions were confined to the history books



The Buchanan with the Lord Lyon.

Did you know?

- The Buchanan is the manager of Cambusmore Estate in the Southern Highlands near Callander. He has four children with his wife The Lady Buchanan including, Angus, Bruce, Lucy, and Rory.
- As well as those with the surname Buchanan, clansfolk also include those with Scottish roots and surnames such as Bohannon, Coleman, Colman, Cormack, Dewar, Dove, Dow, Gibb, Gibbon, Gibb, Gibson, Gilbert, Gilbertson, Harper, Masters, Masterson, Morris, Richardson, Rush, Rusk, Walter, Walters, Wasson, Waters, Watson, Watt, Watters, and Weir. In the modern day, these are known as affiliated families but were previously known as septs of the clan.
- Clan Chiefs must be approved by the Lord Lyon King of Arms. The Lord Lyon has full judicial powers to enforce use of heraldry and coats of arms in Scotland through the Lyon Court, the last surviving 'Court of Chivalry' in the world. Its powers are governed by an Act of the Scots Parliament from 1672. Many features of the inauguration ceremony came from a book by the late Lord Lyon, Sir Thomas Learney of Innes' who wrote *The Clans, Septs & Regiments of the Scottish Highlands*.
- The inauguration celebration took place on Saturday 8 October at Cambusmore and was followed by the Clan Parliament meeting at Cambusmore Chapel and in the walled garden.
- Further information about the uniquely reconstructed 'clan jewels' are available at www.theclanbuchanan.com/jewels



Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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

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

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President
3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565
Email: djbaird4@gmail.com

Regional Directors for Australia
David and Patricia Benfell
Email: clanbairds@gmail.com
website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



CHISHOLM

Clan Chisholm Society of Australia Inc

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

Contact: Kim Polley OAM
PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301

Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com
www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/AUSmembership.php

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.clandonaldvictoria@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.



FORBES

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CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG

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 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 Richard Harvey, Secretary
Email: c2100575@uon.edu.au



Clan Fraser Society of Australia

Invites all Frasers and Fraser septs

to join our clan society.

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"
Membership enquiries to Don Chitts
Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com
Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/>
482236358590288

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 decent, 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



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 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; Davy; Day; Dye; Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dee; Dey; Dow; Dhai; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDevett; 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 Donald Australia

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

High Commissioner Mr A. Neil Macdonald
State Commissioners
NSW Mr John Currie
Qld Mr A. Neil Macdonald
SA Ms Therese McCutcheon
Vic Mr Norman A Macdonald
WA Ms Pamela McDonald

secretary.clandonaldaustralia@gmail.com
There is no joy without Clan Donald

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, and locate a Branch near you.

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

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

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

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 Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald
Ph: 0412 090990
Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.clandonaldqld.org
ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.

There is no joy without Clan Donald



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

Direct inquiries to: Jim Dougherty Treasurer/Membership Chair Email: elliottcommia@gmail.com

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com

CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-



Clan Chief
Peter Carruthers of Holmans (Honorary Society President)

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

www.clancarrutherssociety.org
clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com



Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

Clan Donald USA is a nationwide organization of over 2,000 families who trace their ancestry to any of the branches of Clann Domhnaill. We embrace all the MacDonals and other surnames that are recognized as branches or adherents of the greatest of the Highland clans.

www.clandonaldusa.org



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 Cr.

St. Louis, MO 63131-3038

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

CLAN LAMONT SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA invites
membership from Sept
names refer to Web Site
www.clanlamontaustralia.com

Clan Chief Peter Lamont of that Ilk resides in
Sydney Australia.

For all enquiries about the Clan and
Membership contact :-

President Ian McLucas.
Email ianandbevmlucas@bigpond.com
mobile 0448 778 799

MacLaren

Clan Labhran

Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

Information about the Clan and application for CMSA membership is available on the website or via the email address below.

Membership is open to MacLarens (all spellings), Septs, individuals and families with an association to the Clan.

<https://clanmaclarenau.org/>
clanmaclarenau@gmail.com

The image shows the front cover of a book titled "A History of the Clan Macnachtan" by Mary Nivison Burton. The cover features a circular emblem at the top left containing a traditional Scottish tower or castle. The title is prominently displayed in large, bold, serif capital letters. Below the title, the subtitle "Paperback available through" is followed by the online retailers "Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk, Amazon.ca". The bottom right corner of the cover displays a small, framed portrait of a man in historical attire.

Clan Hay Australia

A' Hay A' Hay

A callout to all Hay's and our name variants, descendants, and supporters. Clan Hay looking for new members to join our illustrious Clan. All descendants and supporter's welcome.

Alderston; Ayer; Bagra; Beagrie; Conn (Aberdeenshire only); Constable; Delahaye; Delgaty; Du Plessis; Dupplin; Erral; Garrow; Geary; Gifford; Hayden; Haye; Hayes; Hayle; Haynes; Hays; Hayton; Hayward; Hey; Hy; Kinnoul; Laxfirth; Leask'; Leith; Locherworth; Logie; Macara; MacGadrath; McKester; Peebles; Phillips (Aberdeenshire only); Slains; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester; Zester

For more information, please contact:
Australian Clan Hay convenor, Chris Hay McMor Fairbank
 PO Box 70, Darrinallum, Victoria, 3325, Australia
 E: clanhayAustralia@outlook.com

clanHayAustralia@Facebook.com

McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

	Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.	
MacDougall	Valerie McDougall VP Membership 505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON N5Z 3B2	MacDowall
Email: info@macdougall.org	Homepage: www.macdougall.org	
Facebook: www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall		
<i>Names Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyll and Clan MacDowall of Galloway</i>		
Coul	MacCoul	Macoual
Conacher	MacConacher	
Coyle	MacCoyle	
Dole	MacDole	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	MacDougall
Dougal	MacDougall	MacDougald
Dougle	McDougle	McDougald
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDugle
Dowall	MacDowal	MacDowall
MacDowell	MacDowell	MacDowell
Lullich	McLullich	MacCullich
MacCulloch	McCulloch	MacCullagh
MacLachlan	MacLachlan	MacLach
MacHale	McHale	MacTheuil
MacHowell	MacCowhan	McCown
MacKlichan	M'Gowall	MacNameell
MacLucas	MacLughash	MacLuke
<i>Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc</i>		

Clan MacLellan

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



Clan MacInnes

Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

*Worldwide, we welcome descendants
of all spelling variations, including*

*(Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis,
(Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Kinnis,*

(Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.

Scott McInnis, Member Services: scott@macinnes.org
or visit **www.macinnes.org**

Clan MacLeod

Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling), and descendants. *Recognised Septs:*

<i>Askey</i>	<i>MacAndie</i>	<i>MacClure</i>	<i>MacWilliam</i>
<i>Beaton</i>	<i>MacAskill</i>	<i>MacCorkill</i>	<i>Norie</i>
<i>Bethune</i>	<i>MacAulay</i>	<i>MacCrimmon</i>	<i>Norman</i>
<i>Caskie</i>	<i>MacCabe</i>	<i>MacGillechallum</i>	
<i>Harold</i>	<i>MacCaig</i>	<i>MacHaigh</i>	<i>Tolmie</i>
<i>Lewis</i>	<i>MacCaskey</i>	<i>MacRaile</i>	<i>Williamson</i>

- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
- South Australia - Alex McLeod 08 8327 0925
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334
- Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

Clan Macpherson Association

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

Africa. Derek Macpherson

African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +265 999 512 620

Canada. Denise Lagundzin

Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org
phone +1 519 507 4465

Europe. Will Tulling

Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +31 655 774 425

Scotland & Northern Ireland. Annie Le Ro-Lewis

SandNl.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +44 7793 317 387

Australia. John L Macpherson

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phone +64 274 587 813

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UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
phone +1 360 701 8133

The **Clan Macpherson Museum** is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE,
at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1st April to 31st October.

Ph +44 1560 673 332 See <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/>

The logo for the Clan Irwin Association consists of three circular heraldic shields arranged in a triangle. The top shield is white with a green tree in the center. The left shield is green with a white tree. The right shield is gold with a green tree. Above the shields is a crest featuring a tree with a banner below it that reads 'LET IRWIN FLAME'. Below the crest is the text 'CLAN IRWIN ASSOCIATION'.



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Need more info? Contact:
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303-670-9611
brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com



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Clan Maitland Society

Chief: Ian Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale!
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North America: Rosemary Maitland Thom
rthommprdc@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Amanda Maitland clanmaitland@yahoo.com.au
6/1 Hinemoa Ave. Normanhurst, NSW, 2076

New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz
33 Disley Street, Highbury, Wellington 6012. NZ

We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maiten and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at: www.clanmaitland.org.uk



Clan Scott Australia Group

Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch KT, K.B.E
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www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au




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www.ibydeit.org
ENISBET@IBYDEIT.ORG




Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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

Scottish Associations and Societies



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Email: scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

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www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com



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Greenville, KY 42345
e-mail: apollockis@comcast.net



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>
Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



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
P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289

Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group
Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

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

E-mail: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au
Website: <https://scotsofaus.org.au>
Facebook: facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria



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 of North America Inc.

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

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



The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

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

For Membership Information contact:
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Secretary Jan Macdonald
Contact details:
Email: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
Mobile 0438 584 930
Address: PO Box 116, Cobden, Victoria 3266
www.victorianscottishunion.com

Community makes history as South Scotland's biggest land buyout gets over the line to double size of nature reserve



The South of Scotland's largest community buyout is set to double in size having defied the odds and "achieved the impossible" for a second time in two years, following one of the most ambitious community fundraising campaigns ever seen. A historic agreement for 5,300 acres of land and three properties between The Langholm Initiative charity and Buccleuch will now go ahead, after the Dumfriesshire town of Langholm successfully reached its goal of £2.2m by the 31 July deadline. This will double the size

of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, created last year after the buyout's first stage raised £3.8m to purchase an initial 5,200 acres and six residential properties from Buccleuch. The reserve aims to help tackle the nature and climate crises, while boosting community regeneration.

Jenny Barlow, Tarras Valley Nature Reserve's Estate Manager, said: "We are so grateful to every single person who has backed this beacon of hope for people and planet – together we have achieved the impossible. It's been a rollercoaster, but

Scotland's UNESCO Trail

Some of Scotland's most iconic, diverse and culturally significant sites are being promoted to domestic and international visitors with the launch of a dedicated VisitScotland marketing campaign, developed in collaboration with UNESCO and designation partners. The campaign will promote Scotland's UNESCO Trail to potential visitors with the aim of encouraging them to discover more about the country's 13 place-based designations included in the trail. The world's first UNESCO Trail was launched last year to connect the unique sites that include World Heritage Sites, Biospheres, Global Geoparks and Creative Cities to form a dedicated digital trail. The trail was designed specifically to support the ambitions of the national strategy to make Scotland a world-leading responsible tourism destination by encouraging visitors to stay longer, visit all year round, make sustainable travel choices, explore more widely and at the right time of the year, and in turn, contribute to the sustainable quality of life of those communities surrounding the designated sites.

The world's first ever UNESCO trail

Tourism Minister Ivan McKee said: "Last year I launched the world's first ever UNESCO trail at the V&A in Dundee, which brings together some of Scotland's most iconic, diverse and culturally significant sites. I welcome the next phase of the trail and the opportunity to promote our unique UNESCO designations within the UK and Europe, to invite visitors on a cultural journey across the country to experience everything from history to



the generosity and unwavering support of so many wonderful donors and volunteers have got us over the line in the nick of time. This is about a grassroots fightback against the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, and helping to create a better future. We are doing something so special here, and our expanding reserve is an amazing opportunity for people to visit this part of the world and be inspired by the wonders of nature.”

Project of hope

On the reserve, globally important peatlands and ancient woods are to be restored, native woodlands expanded, and a haven ensured for wildlife including rare hen harriers. Community regeneration through a nature-based approach is a central aim, with six new jobs already created. Langholm was once a thriving textile centre, but the industry has declined in recent years.

Margaret Pool, Trustee of The Langholm Initiative, said: "The generosity of so many people locally, nationally and worldwide has been amazing. Our heartfelt thanks go to every donor, supporter and volunteer who helped us overcome what so often felt like impossible odds. We are also very grateful to Buccleuch for their ongoing positive engagement, which was absolutely crucial. Every single pound donated to the crowdfunder counted. Each donation kept this impossible dream alive, while major donors could see from the outpouring

of support that this was an inspiring, serious project of hope. This is a historic result for our community now and for future generations. We also hope our story will inspire other community-led nature recovery projects across Scotland and beyond. We know that communities can be powerful forces for positive change.”

Buccleuch has supported the community bid, agreeing with The Langholm Initiative a fixed purchase price in 2019 and extending purchase deadlines to give more time for fundraising. The purchase will be legally finalised between the community and Buccleuch over the coming months.

The Langholm Initiative was formed in 1994 as one of south Scotland's first development trusts. It facilitates projects making a lasting difference to the local area and people.

See: www.langholminitiative.org.uk.



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WHOLESALE AVAILABLE

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

Enjoy North America's top Scottish event listings in the Scottish Banner. Please check direct with event contacts for the most up to date information. You can also see our latest updates (including events listed across Scotland and Australasia) or add your event at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

Canada

NOVEMBER 2022

Scottish Studies Virtual Lecture

3, Virtual event

The Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph invites you to an online lecture from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. EDT. The lecture will be given by Professor Fiona Edmonds who will draw on highlights from her book *Gaelic Influence in the Northumbrian Kingdom: The Golden Age and the Viking Age*. The event is free and early registration is encouraged, as tickets are limited. To register please visit the Eventbrite site at: www.eventbrite.ca/e/gaelic-influence-in-the-northumbrian-kingdom-tickets-428648658677

SHGCF Ceilidh

5, Regina, SK

A ceilidh in support of the Saskatchewan Highland Gathering & Celtic Festival. There will be Celtic tunes, dancing, pipe bands, Scottish food and more at St Martin de Porres Parish 4720 Castle Rd. Info: www.eventbrite.ca/e/shgcf-ceilidh-tickets-435726037307

100 years of Dancing in the Waterloo Region

5, Kitchener, ON

Kitchener-Waterloo Branch of the RSCDS was established in 1960; Blair Scottish Country Dancers group was established in 1980. Add those legacies together and we can celebrate 100 years of dancing in Waterloo Region. Come join us, and dance on a sprung wood floor at the Alpine Club in Kitchener to the music of Don Bartlett & The Scottish Heirs. Info: Contact: Kathryn Lecocq kwball2022@rscd.kitchener.on.ca or 519-572-2741.

St. Andrew's Ball

18, Montréal, QC

A gala evening of dining, dancing and pageantry celebrating Scottish heritage in Montreal at The Windsor Ballrooms, 1170 Peel St. Info: www.standrewsball.com

Vancouver Ceilidh

25, Vancouver, BC

At the Scottish Cultural Centre Free lesson 7pm-7:45 Dancing 8pm to 10:30pm, Admission \$15 for adults, \$10 for students. Everyone welcome, no experience or partner required. Loads of fun and live music too with the resident Ceilidh Band Calanais. Info: www.vancouverceilidh.org

St Andrew's Society Toronto Charity Ball

26, Toronto, ON

Gather with the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto for a great evening of Scottish food, music, dance and friendship. Info: www.standrewstoronto.ca

2022 St. Andrew's Day Dinner & Dance

26, Winnipeg, MB

Celebrate Scotland's patron Saint with the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg at Hotel Fort Garry. Info: www.standrewssocietywinnipeg.com

Happy St Andrew's Day

30, Nationwide

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

DECEMBER 2022

Sons of Scotland Pipe Band Ceilidh

3, Ottawa, ON

The Sons of Scotland are pleased to be hosting their annual St. Andrew's Day Ceilidh with music, dance, dinner and more at Location Royal Canadian Legion, Eastview, 294 Cyr Ave. Info: www.sospb.com

Christmas Highland Dance Competition

3, Moncton, NB

The Greater Moncton Scottish Association is thrilled to announce the return of its popular Christmas Highland Dance Competition at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Info: www.monctonhighlandgames.com/competitions-1

Happy Christmas/A Blithe Yule/Nollaig Chridheil

25, Nationwide

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas!

Happy Hogmanay

31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023!

Hogmanay Dance

31, London, ON

Join RSCDS London Ontario Canada and celebrate Hogmanay at Colborne St. United Church. Info: www.rscdslondoncanada.org

USA

NOVEMBER 2022

The Annual Charleston Tartan Ball

4, Charleston, SC

The Citadel Regimental Pipes and Drums, Clarsach (Scottish harp), Scottish food and more at The Daniel Island Club. Presented by The Robert Burns Society of Charleston. Info: www.burnscharleston.org

Asilomar Workshop Weekend

4-6, Asilomar CA

A magical weekend of Scottish country dancing at Merrill Hall, classes with world-class teachers and outstanding musicians. Info: www.asilomar.rscds-sf.org

Charleston Scottish Games

5, Charleston, SC

Celebrate and enjoy the rich history and culture of Scotland with an incredible line up of events ranging from athletics to live music at Riverfront Park. Info: www.charlestonscottishgames.com

72nd Annual Tartan Ball 2022

5, Washington, DC

At the historic Willard Intercontinental Hotel, this formal celebration of Scottish heritage will include Society's own Color Guard Pipes & Drums & Highland Dancers, Cocktail Reception with Scottish Single Malt Whisky, Three-course gourmet dinner with wine pairings and more. Info: TartanBallDC@gmail.com

Austin Celtic Festival

5-6, Austin, TX

The largest gathering of Celts in Central Texas with multi-stage and programming of all things Celtic at the beautiful Pioneer Farms in North Austin. Info: www.austincelticfestival.com

Salado Scottish Gathering and Highland Games

11-13, Salado, TX

The three-day event includes the skirl of the bagpipes, the wearing of the tartan, tossing the caber, Highland dancing, Celtic entertainers, shopping, food and fun at Salado Museum. Info: www.saladomuseum.org

The Fall Hawaii Scottish Gathering and Games

12, Honolulu, HI

A celebration of Scottish culture and friendships as well as a Scottish Highland Games Heavy Athletics clinic and competition at McCoy Pavilion Grounds, Ala Moana Beach Park. This event is a lead up to the full 40th Anniversary Hawaii Scottish Festival in April 2023. Info: www.hawaiianscottishassociation.com

Balmoral Classic: US Junior Solo Championships

12, Pittsburgh, PA

The Balmoral Classic championship is the only solo bagpiping and Scottish snare drumming competition in the US exclusively for those age 21 and under, presented by the Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming. Info: www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org/balmoral-classic-competition

Scottish Society of Indianapolis

St. Andrews Dinner

12, Indianapolis, IN

Celebrate Scotland's patron Saint with the Scottish Society of Indianapolis at Murat Shriners. Info: www.indyscot.org

Scottish Ball NYC

12, New York, NY

Enjoy an evening of Scottish music and Reels in a lovely Beaux-Arts mansion in New York City. Info: www.nyscottishball.com

St. Andrew's Annual Dinner

12, Winter Springs, FL

A night of Scottish cuisine, Highland dancers, bagpipes, historical presentation, live auction and wee drams with the St. Andrew's Society of Central Florida. Info: www.standrewscfl.com

Highlands and Islands Highland Games & Celtic Festival

12-13, Gulfport, MS

Featuring great Celtic entertainment, storytelling, Clans, pipe bands, sheep herding, Highland athletics and more at Harrison County Fairgrounds, 15321 County Farm Rd. Info: www.mshighlandsandislands.com

Dunedin Celtic Music Festival

19, Dunedin, FL

Great Celtic music, food and more at Highlander Park. Info: www.facebook.com/DunedinCelticFestival

Happy St Andrew's Day

30, Nationwide

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

DECEMBER 2022

Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend

2-3, Alexandria, VA

For more than 50 years, Campagna Center has celebrated Alexandria's Scottish heritage during the holiday season. Proceeds from all events of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend benefit our core programs that help children and families in Alexandria from cradle to career. Info: www.campagnacenter.org/event/scww

The Fire's Very Scottish Christmas

4, San Pedro, CA

California's favorite Scottish music trio returns to the Annex with their Very Scottish Christmas. Enjoy David Brewer's unparalleled mastery of the Great Highland Bagpipe, Rebecca Lomnick's internationally awarded Scottish fiddling, and Adam Hendey's warm-emotive voice over a lush foundation of guitar and reed organ. The Fire's Very Scottish Christmas showcases Scottish and Irish dance and seasonal folk ballads dating back to the 1300s alongside beloved holiday favorites. Info: www.grandvision.org/event/the-fire-scottish-christmas

Scottish Christmas Party

13, New York, NY

American-Scottish Foundation & Burns Society of New York invite you to a braw wee Scottish Christmas Celebration, with traditional Scottish songs and Christmas carols, at Union Club 101 E 69th St. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.com

The Pipes of Christmas

17-18, New York, NY

The 24th Pipes of Christmas, a celebration for the soul with Celtic festive performances. The concert presents the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. One show in NY and another in NJ, both dates at 2 & 7 PM. Info: www.pipesofchristmas.com

Happy Christmas/A Blithe Yule/Nollaig Chridheil

25, Nationwide

Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends a very happy and peaceful Christmas!

Happy Hogmanay

31, Nationwide

The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023!

Scotland

NOVEMBER 2022

Brodie Illuminated 2022

2-26, Forres

Enjoy the beauty of Brodie Estate & Brodie Castle with a spectacular night walk around the illuminated grounds. Info: www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/brodie-castle

The Autumn Gathering

4-6, Glasgow

The Autumn Gathering allows Scottish country dancers to gather over a weekend in Scotland. Dancers from the UK, North America, and continental Europe take part in classes, discussion fora, and workshops. Info: www.rscds.org/events/autumn-gathering-2022

Scotland v New Zealand Rugby

13, Edinburgh

Scotland and New Zealand first faced each other in 1905 and have since played 31 matches as opponents. Of those 31 games, New Zealand have won 29 and 2 have been a draw leaving the All Blacks with an impressive winning streak of 19 consecutive matches. At Murrayfield Stadium. Info: www.scottishrugby.org

The Proclaimers Scotland Tour

24-26, Various venues

Scottish twins Craig & Charlie Reid aka The Proclaimers tour Motherwell, Dunfermline and Dundee. Info: www.the.proclaimers.co.uk/the-gigs

The Saltire Festival

24-December 2, East Lothian

A festival celebrating St Andrews Day and the very best of Scottish history, heritage, culture, film, music and food is set to take place in East Lothian (home of Scotland's iconic Saltire Flag). Info: www.visiteastlothian.org

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The inauguration of the Chief of Clan MacBean/MacBain

The 23rd hereditary Chief of Clan MacBean was installed by the Lord Lyon at MacBain Park near Inverness in August and a memorial was dedicated to the memory of Alan Bean, the astronaut who took a piece of MacBean tartan to the moon.

The Chief of Clan MacIntosh was present along with clansmen from both sides of the Atlantic as US reader Phillip Beane explains.



The new Chief of Clan MacBean, Richard McBain of McBain.
Photo: Scott McElvain.

By: Phillip Beane

August 6, 2022, was going to be a big day for Clan MacBean, and for my wife Jennifer and me. We had planned to go to the Alan Bean Memorial ceremony when it was originally scheduled back in August 2020. We paid for the tickets and added a tour of Scotland and were to spend some time in the Inverness area. COVID, canceled those plans but instead of a refund, I did get a credit towards a future tour, which we decided to use this summer. The sad deaths of Chief James MacBain and his wife Peggy in the past year now meant that a new Chief of Clan MacBean/MacBain had to be put in place. My own Mother and Father had known MacBain and his wife since meeting them in the 1980's. I had met him when I was President of the Clan MacBean and when he came to the Sumter and Greenville, SC games, I acted as sort of an aide for both. But now, their son Richard was going to be inaugurated as the new Chief of Clan MacBean and we had the chance to be present for that historic occasion.

We wanted to be in Inverness a few days before the ceremony so we could explore the area where the MacBean Clan had lived so long ago. Of note, the standing stones made famous in the *Outlander* TV series are just outside of Inverness at the Clava Cairns. Jennifer ran up to the big stone that Claire Randall had touched. Claire had then been transported in time back to Scotland of the 1740's, but thankfully Jennifer is still here with us today. The MacBain Park is not on a regular tour route, so I paid a driver extra to take us to the park. We were the only visitors and we wandered around and took pictures, the Alan Bean Memorial was very well done. We drove on down to Dores for dinner and signed the Clan MacBean guest book. At the dinner, Jennifer and I were seated at a table with 8 members of Clan MacBean. I do believe that our Clan had maybe 40 people present for the dinner and our new Chief, Richard McBain of McBain was a guest and speaker.

The inauguration

At our table, was John MacBain, brother of Allan MacBain who will become the "chieftain" of Clan MacBean for the UK. After the work on the Alan Bean Memorial was stopped by COVID in March 2020, John was asked by Richard to be the local representative to deal with the stone masons and other workmen to get the project completed. After the original masons did not work for 1 year, John approached some masons who were very expensive and couldn't guarantee a finish before October 2022. John then found a local stone mason and he and that gentleman finished the Memorial, two benches and worked on the older Chief's Memorial further up the hill. John was instrumental in getting the Alan Bean Memorial finished within budget and on time. For that our entire Clan should be thankful. Our new Chief made a few comments at the dinner, and it should be noted that the Lord Lyon presented Clan Chattan with its very own Coat of Arms. This heraldry is for the organization of Clan Chattan and every member is entitled to wear the special Coat of Arms. It doesn't belong to just any one individual, like the Coat of Arms of a Clan Chief.

The day of the inauguration was a beautiful day, blue skies with some white clouds. Although Loch Ness was very close, it was not visible from the park then due to the summer foliage. The City of Inverness also sent a representative to this very important regional event. Local cyclists rode by, and some paused to watch the very colorful proceedings. Mr. Phillip Beddows of the UK was doing a great job as MC for this event. He is also a Clan Historian and the Seanachaidh to the Chief. I am glad I am writing that title and don't have to pronounce it. The dignitaries marched in behind the official Clan MacBean piper, Stewart McBain who played a special pipe tune that was made especially for the Chief of Clan MacBean. First was the dedication of the Memorial to Astronaut Alan Bean who



took the Clan MacBean tartan to the moon and back. A truly notable achievement, if you ask me. They played a recording of Alan Bean's daughter, Amy, who talked about her Father and his connections to Clan MacBean. The Chief gave formal recognition to John MacBain and others who gave of their time and efforts to have the Memorial completed on time.

23rd Hereditary Chief of Clan MacBain

Next the Lord Lyon, Joseph Morrow, gave a talk about the importance of the ceremony inaugurating the new Chief of Clan MacBean. I talked with the Lord Lyon afterwards about the significance of our Chief living in Arizona. The Lord Lyon stated that adhering to all the requirements and duties of the office was much more important than where the Chief lived. He pointed out that over the centuries so many Clansmen had gone to other parts of the world and that it would be expected that some Chiefs would also live away from Scotland. The Lord Lyon, told me that inaugurations, like the one that day, were important and that he was there representing the Scottish Community. He felt strongly about the Clan and family system that exists in Scotland. He feels that it gives so many a sense of identity, a sense of belonging, and a word he used... rootedness. Clans were originally formed for safety and community. They can still fulfill a role today in giving one a Scottish community they can belong to. We moved on to the actual inauguration of our new 23rd Hereditary Chief of Clan MacBain.

The Lord Lyon spoke about the history of these events. Phillip Beddows gave the genealogy of our line of Clan MacBean chiefs and presented Richard with a special and elaborately made "Cromach". Money from many Clan members went towards the purchase of this special Shepherds Crook.

The Chief talked about the future of the Clan and the history of the MacBain Memorial Park. Whisky was passed out and a toast was given to the new Chief of Clan MacBean. It was a wonderful and moving ceremony. Later, the Chief talked to me about how pleased he was about how well the whole thing had come together, and explained that the four main organizers of the event all lived in different locations on both sides of the pond (most had met for the first time only on the day of the Clan Chattan Annual Meeting that week). The Chief discussed his wish that Allan MacBain assume the role of Clan Chieftain and represent him at events where he can't attend, particularly in the UK. There is some discussion by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs about the role of Clan Chieftains but our Chief feels strongly about the position. Richard also told the story of finding a penned tune for a piper in his father's papers. The tune had apparently been authorized by his grandfather back in the 70's for a pipe band in Calgary. Phillip Beddows posted the tune on Facebook and a man named Stewart McBain had copied it and learned to play the tune. He volunteered to travel hundreds of miles to MacBain Park and play the tune for this ceremony. The Chief appointed him the Clan Piper for the UK.

The Chief also discussed the YouTube sites for Clan MacBean and Clan Chattan. With 100 subscribers, YouTube gives page holders a lot of privileges, to include live streaming. This could be used for future events such as the Clan Gatherings, etc. This trip was certainly a bucket list for myself and the whole adventure exceeded all my expectations. The Scottish people, the weather and the countryside were wonderful and made the trip one I will remember always.



Jennifer and Phillip Beane
at the Alan Bean Memorial.



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January
14-15, 2023

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