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## Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for August 7th, 2020

For the latest news from Scotland see our ScotNews feed at:

<https://electricScotland.com/scotnews.htm>

### Electric Scotland News

Sorry about the problem last week on not getting the pdf version of our newsletter out but did manage to get it done the next day and it's now available from our newsletter page.

Been a few things happening with the site since updating our server software. These things do happen of course and usually we can get them fixed by at least the next day if not sooner. I also noted our index page had a ton of white space below the header. As I have advertising turned of it took me quite a while to figure out what the issue was. It ended up being in inappropriate advert which was a vertical display advert and that pushed the text way down the page. I only discovered that when I loaded an alternative browser and then actually saw the advert which I've since removed.

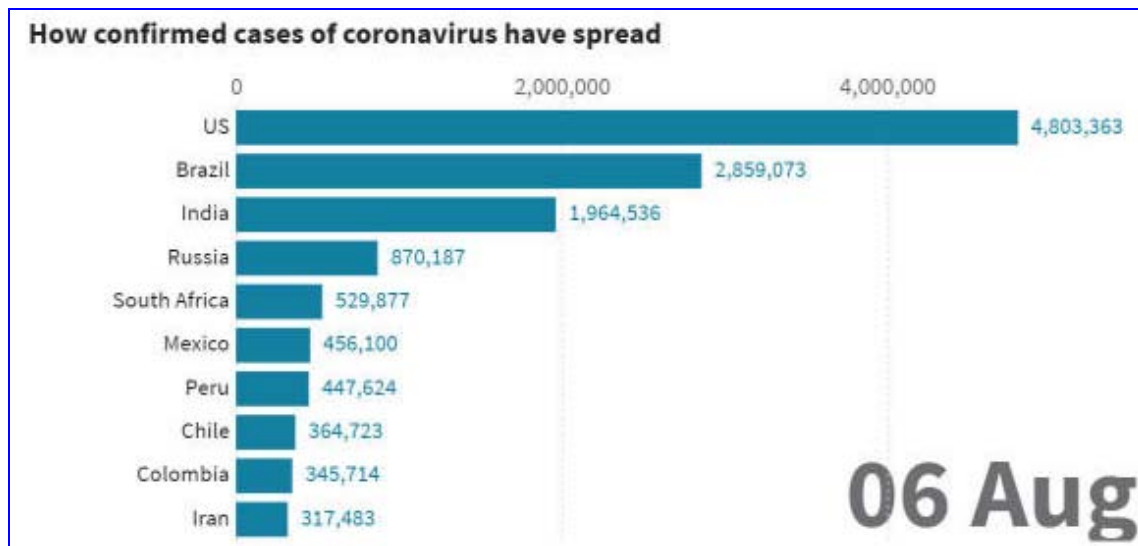
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I found a YouTube channel which is highly critical of the SNP and found it interesting as it does offer a counter to the largely pro-SNP media. So if you go to YouTube and search for Mahyar Tousi you'll note he has 169K subscribers which is more than the readership of most of the Scottish newspapers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTxQYsVqeQ8>

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On the Pandemic.. the top 10 countries affected are in order, US, Brazil, India, Russia, South Africa, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Colombia, Iran.



Scottish News from this weeks newspapers

Note that this is a selection and more can be read in our [ScotNews](#) feed on our index page where we list news from the past 1-2 weeks. I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland as world news stories that can affect

Scotland and all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on Google and other search engines. I might also add that in a number of newspapers you will find many comments which can be just as interesting as the news story itself and of course you can also add your own comments if you wish which I do myself from time to time.

Bespoke designer unveils new tartan in £2.5m fundraising effort to save Scotland's heritage

A new tartan has been created as part of a £2.5 million fundraising effort to help save one of Scotland's leading heritage bodies which has been hit hard by the Covid-19 crisis.

Read more at:

<https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/bespoke-designer-unveils-new-tartan-ps25m-fundraising-effort-save-scotlands-heritage-2928848>

Scotland's 10,000 year old wild heartland

Draped across 200,000 hectares of Caithness and Sutherland, Flow Country is Europe's largest blanket bog and one of the last wild places left in Britain.

Read more at:

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20200802-scotlands-10000-year-old-wild-heartland>

Obituary: John Hume, SDLP leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner

As the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), John Hume helped create the climate that brought an end to violence in Northern Ireland.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-13945530>

The Majority is the voice of Scotland's anti-Nationalist majority. We officially launched on 10 June, 2020, with a statement of our principles.

We are creating a new anti-nationalist media for Scotland that will unite the SILENT MAJORITY who want to fight back against the Nationalists.

Read more at:

<https://themajority.scot/about/>

Scotland's results 2020: How grades were worked out for Scottish pupils

Scotland's class of 2020 have got their results, but for the first time in history they will not be based on exams. The coronavirus pandemic led to the closure of schools and an abrupt end to the 2019/2020 academic year.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-53580888>

Seven reasons not to give up on poetry

Tennyson, Ted Hughes, Carol Ann Duffy and Imtiaz Dharker. These are just a handful of the poets GCSE students in England may study for their exams as part of a curriculum that spans from 1789 to the present day.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53648412>

Scientists shed new light on entangled particles

A team of Scottish-based scientists has found the solution to a quantum fankle

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-53650369>

Obesity not defined by weight, says new Canada guideline

Obesity should be defined by a person's health - not just their weight, says a new Canadian clinical guideline. It also advises doctors to go beyond simply recommending diet and exercise

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-53656651>

Douglas Ross MP becomes the fifth Scottish Tory leader in the devolution era

He takes over as polling shows the SNP is headed for a majority at the next Holyrood election

Read more at:

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/douglas-ross-mp-becomes-fifth-22472376>

COVID-19: Why Scotland vs England comparisons are misleading  
Does the zero deaths narrative in Scotland stand up to scrutiny?

Read more at:

[https://www.these-islands.co.uk/publications/i355/covid\\_19\\_why\\_scotland\\_vs\\_england\\_comparisons\\_are\\_misleading.aspx](https://www.these-islands.co.uk/publications/i355/covid_19_why_scotland_vs_england_comparisons_are_misleading.aspx)

Douglas Ross provokes fear and loathing among disunited separatists  
Someone unambiguously opposed to the dystopian Scotland that has emerged under the SNP has come to the forefront of politics. He may be capable of giving a party now drunk with power a sobering reality check.

Read more at:

[http://www.thinkscotland.org/todays-thinking/articles.html?read\\_full=14232](http://www.thinkscotland.org/todays-thinking/articles.html?read_full=14232)

Scotland already has a great trade deal with its neighbours, it's called the United Kingdom  
SCOTLAND HAS UNFETTERED ACCESS to the wider UK market. The UK is the overwhelmingly critical market for Scotland's economy accounting for £51.2bn of sales, almost £10,000 per head of population, which accounts for just over 60 per cent of all Scottish trade.

Read more at:

[http://www.thinkscotland.org/thinkbusiness/articles.html?read\\_full=14233](http://www.thinkscotland.org/thinkbusiness/articles.html?read_full=14233)

Aberdeen coronavirus outbreak: Number of cases rises to 79  
The number of coronavirus cases linked to an outbreak in Aberdeen has increased to 79 - with more expected in the coming days.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-53672793>

## Electric Canadian

Interview with Michael Dederer  
by Museum of History & Industry. A 12 part oral interview which you can listen to at:  
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/Dederer.htm>

Armed forces in Scotland and Canada  
Did a video introduction to our resources on our two sites of Electric Scotland and Electric Canadian.

<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/5563-Armed-Forces-of-Scotland-and-Canada>

Handy Book of Canadian Law  
By Edward Sugden, Lord St. Leonards, Revised and adapted for Canada with additions by Walter S. Scott, LL.D., (Dub.), F.R.S.L.  
(1917) (pdf)

You can read this at: [http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/canadian\\_law.pdf](http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/canadian_law.pdf)

Thoughts on a Sunday morning - 2nd August 2020  
By the Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch Nola's homily at:  
<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/5562-Thoughts-on-a-Sunday-morning-2nd-August-2020>

Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies  
First edition but Other copies can be found on the Internet Archive.

Read the first edition at:  
<http://www.electriccanadian.com/magazines/TrailRidersoftheCanadianRockies01.pdf>

Other copies on the Internet Archive can be found at:

<https://archive.org/search.php?query=%22Trail%20Riders%20of%20the%20Canadian%20Rockies%22>

## Electric Scotland

The Scottish Society of Louisville newsletter for August 2020

Contains a good article and video presentation on Clan Baird. You can get this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/Louisville>

Information on Spreull becoming a Sept of Lennox.

Got in two papers about this which I've added to their page in the Scottish Nation. You can read them at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/nation/sprewel.htm>

Musings of a real Tank Commander

By Stuart Crawford

This is a 14 part article with more to come and can be read at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/scotreg/tank/index.htm>

The Shipbuilders of Aberdeen

John Humphrey & Co., Shipbuilders, Upper Dock, Aberdeen, 1865 to 1875 (pdf)

You can read this book at: <https://electricscotland.com/history/aberdeen/JohnHumphrey&Co.pdf>

His other books are available at: <https://electricscotland.com/history/aberdeen/aberdeenshipbuilding.htm>

Scotland Picturesque; Historical; Descriptive

Being a series of views of Edinburgh and its Environs; the Mountains, Glens, Lochs, Sea-Coasts: and the Palaces, Castles, and Ecclesiastical Buildings of Scotland, consisting of over seventy chromo-lithographs from original and copyright drawings by Sir William Allan, F.R.S.A., Clarkson Stanfield, R.A., George Cattermole, W. L. Leitch, Thomas Creswick, A.R.A., David Roberts, R.A., J. D. Harding, Joseph Nash, Horatio MacCulloch, R.S.A., D. O. Hill, R.A., W. Simpson, R.A., &c., &c. Accompanied by Descriptive, Historical, Antiquarian, and Anecdotal Notices of the Principal Scenes and Events illustrated by John Parker Lawson, M.A. In 4 volumes (1840)

You can to these volumes at: <https://electricscotland.com/books/pdf/scotlandpicturesque.htm>

Armed forces in Scotland and Canada

Did a video introduction to our resources on our two sites of Electric Scotland and Electric Canadian which you can view at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/5563-Armed-Forces-of-Scotland-and-Canada>

What God Has Joined Together

By the Reverend Malcolm James MacLeod M.A., D.D., Minister of the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, N. Y. (1915) (pdf)

You can read this at: <https://electricscotland.com/bible/whatgodhathjoined.pdf>

## Story

As I've just added 14 parts of this series I thought I'd bring you part 1 to read here...

Musings of a Real Tank Commander

By Stuart Crawford

AS FAR BACK as I can remember, I always wanted to be a soldier.\* I can't really explain why, it's just the way it was. My Dad had been subaltern in the Highland Light Infantry just after the Second World War when he did his National Service and had always spoken fondly of his time in uniform, but we weren't a military family in the classic sense. I was just born with it I guess, just as other folk are born to be trainspotters or stamp collectors. Whatever floats your boat.

Comics and Airfix have to take part responsibility though. My comic of choice growing up was the Victor, which majored on stories of derring-do in the military, from which I graduated to Commando comics. Almost all of the story lines were based in the War and presented in a very positive and gung-ho fashion. Whether Airfix models arrived concurrently or later I can't quite remember, but again I graduated from early attempts at aeroplanes to tanks and armoured cars. I longed to visit the near-mythical Tank Museum at

Bovington in Dorset, but it might as well have been on the Moon as far as a Glasgow-based schoolboy enthusiast was concerned in them days.

I got there (both becoming a soldier and seeing the Tank Museum) in the end, but it took some time to get there mind. School and university got in the way, then that splendid old-fashioned wet coast Presbyterianism told me that I really should have a career to fall back on if my military aspirations came to naught, so I spent two years plus qualifying as a chartered surveyor. The day I qualified I decided to try and join the army, hoping to get a three year Short Service Commission a bit like my Dad had done.

Up to this point I had no experience of the army whatsoever, not at school, not in the Combined Cadet Force, not in the Territorial Army. I was truly a military virgin. But I did know a bit about universities, and I knew that Glasgow University (sorry, the University of Glasgow, I'll get it right next time) would have an army liaison office somewhere and, after a quick shufti through the Yellow Pages as one did in those days, I found out where it was and presented myself there one morning.

An elderly gent in tweed jacket and regimental tie asked me my business, very politely. I answered that I'd like to be an army officer and in particular one in a Scottish tank regiment. After a few pertinent questions he declared that "4RTR are just the chaps for you!" and phoned up the Regimental Adjutant (I had no idea what an adjutant was at this point) and informed him that he had a potential officer candidate for him and that, with great enthusiasm, "he's Scottish too!" I thought that was fairly self-evident, but let's just park that one for the moment.

Things then started to move quickly, because at the tender age of 25 I was, apparently, rather older than most who sought commissions in a front line tank regiment, and there was no time to lose. My first ever MoD Rail Warrant took me down to Regimental HQ Royal Tank Regiment, in those days in the rather splendid location of 1 Elverton Street, London SW1, where I met first the Regimental Adjutant (of whose job I was still completely ignorant) and then the Regimental Colonel, who somewhat confusingly held the rank of Major General.

Anyway, I must have passed muster because I was accepted as an officer candidate, subject to security clearances, medical, and passing the Regular Commissions Board to get into RMA Sandhurst. The medical threw up the first problem; I had a perforated eardrum, a relic of over enthusiastic diving in Govan Baths when I'd been learning to swim as a lad. I had to get it fixed, and quickly, otherwise they might not take me. There was too little time to join the NHS waiting list for the operation – known as a myringoplasty since you ask – so I went privately at the Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow. I seem to recall it cost me £420 in early 1980, which seemed an awful lot then and maybe it was, but I was dead keen. [£1,814.58 to be exact – Ed.]

That was the first hurdle out the way. My designated regiment, the 4th Royal Tank Regiment (Scotland's Own) – to give it its proper title, was in Munster in (then) West Germany, and had planned to have me out for a visit. Given the state of my lug, however, it was deemed a bit risky, so I got to visit one of the sister regiments, 3RTR, on Salisbury Plain instead. The Third recruited in the West Country and were called the "Armoured Farmers" by everyone else. They were very nice to me, and I remembered to hold my knife and fork correctly at dinner in the officers' mess. I also got my first ride in a Chieftain tank, which was a bit of an eye-opener. But more of that later.

In Part 2, attending the Regular Commissions Board, going to Sandhurst, and finally joining my regiment, 4RTR.

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END

And that's it for this week and hope you all have a great weekend and mind and keep your distance, wash your hands and stay safe. Don't be stupid or selfish and instead be considerate of others and wear a mask if going shopping or into a crowded place and consider whether you should indeed go into a crowded space in the first place.

Alastair