



# TARTAN Herald

The Newsletter of the Scottish Tartans Authority

No. 44 July/August 2013



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## All things to all people!

**From T in the Park music festival to the Vogue fashion show in Linlithgow Palace, tartan is truly all things to all people**

On the left we have Jade Thirwall of the Little Mix's group taking to the stage in Kinross, Scotland, for the final night of this year's most successful ever T in the Park Music Festival attended by over 80,000 pop fans.

On the right we have a luxurious creation from Carl Lagerfeld parading on the much more sedate stage of the Vogue Fashion Show in Scotland's Linlithgow Palace. This outfit admirably demonstrates Carl's mastery of detail with a mix of opulent tartan

and argyle patterned hose. Matching scarf and coat trim, handbag with a sporran strap, luxurious 'ghillie brogue' shoes with their tassel-ended laces and the crowning glory of that cocky Glengarry hat!

Youngsters don't escape being in the tartan spotlight either - have a look at Vogue Bambini and our home grown Little Legs Baby Kilts on Page 2.

## Great Changes Afoot at Tartans Authority

The Scottish Tartans Authority has for many years been quietly campaigning for greater recognition of its contribution to the Scottish Economy. Not just to the tartan industry but to the much wider economy that benefits from its promotional forays into export markets.

As Director Brian Wilton MBE explains: "When it comes to exports, tartan is just a key to the door - if we can manage to enthuse overseas store groups and design houses on the great benefits of embracing the romance, tradition and public appeal of tartan, then the take-up of a whole range of Scottish products and services can follow - knitwear, crystal, genealogy and . . . most importantly tourism . . . the benefits of which spread into a myriad small businesses in Scotland.

We are delighted to learn very recently that the Scottish Government agrees with us and has signed up to a major injection of funding over a three year period. Discussions are starting on the most effective way of translating that vote of confidence in the STA into further developing our commercial role. That may well result in the recruitment of a dedicated Business Development Manager so — watch this space!





## Vogue Bambini

“Vogue Bambini is an Italian language magazine detailing the latest in kids’ fashion trends. If you want your child to be the most stylish on the street, then buy a single copy of Vogue Bambini and get inspiration and information on how to achieve this. With details of the latest fashions and where to buy them, in shoes, hats, jumpers, and loads more, they’ll always be looking their smartest with Vogue Bambini magazine.” (Advertisement)

## Jan Crook Donation

Long-time weaver and friend Jan Crook of Rohnert Park, California has very kindly donated to us, her extensive collection of books on tartan, weaving and kindred crafts — and what a joy they’re proving! Amongst the collection are books of handwoven tartans by Jan and a host of other weavers which together, form an almost living example of disappearing skills.

Fascinating references and historical snippets on old tartans are dotted throughout her papers and there are a few very dated ‘Shuttle Craft’ magazines from the late 50’s and early 60s. The photo bottom right shows a brief article on the Burns Check together with a small woven sample - the inclusion of such samples in all the subscriber copies seems to have been a characteristic of the publishers.

The snippet on the right reads: “Lovers of Robert Burns will welcome the new Burns Check originated by Baron

Georges Marchand, senior member of an Edinburgh firm, to mark the bicentenary of the birth of the famous Scottish poet.

The design is made up of a black and white shepherd check, suggesting the farmer, with an overcheck of Hodden grey; the two soft green lines which run through this overcheck symbolise the fields and meadows where most of Burns’ thoughts were born.

Among articles on sale in England and other parts of the British Commonwealth, which have proved most popular, are scarves, car robes, suit and coat yardages, women’s handbags, men’s deer hats, etc. Each article, or yardage sold bears a label with the silhouette of Robert Burns and the words, “Robert Burns check, all wool, made in Scotland.”

It’s interesting to compare that extract with the notes we have in our industry-standard tartan database:

“Almost 50 years ago the late Baron Marchand of Messrs George Harrison & Co. of Edinburgh explained to E S Harrison of Johnstons of Elgin, how the Burns Check came about. He related that he had been





approached by a friend from 'The Scotsman' newspaper with the suggestion that he create a Robert Burns tartan. The first idea had been to base it on the Campbell - a clan with which the Burns family were connected - but after much discussion it was decided more appropriate to model it on the Shepherd's Check. The overcheck introduced 'the hodden grey and a' that' and a little flavour of green fields was added. There was thought of calling it the 'Ayr Tartan' but that was discarded in favour of the present name which more aptly celebrated the bicentenary of the poet's birth. In June 1959 the Burns Federation accepted the design with the condition that all goods should be made in Scotland."

Back to Jan Crook's generosity and to that of her friends who contributed to the shipping costs of getting the collection across to us. We're most grateful to them (see their names below!) and especially to Jan for her kindness. Our thoughts are with you all the time Jan.

**Doug Cisney, Wayne Till, Randy Holmberg, Long Nguyen, Joan Elliot**

# Olé!

The Celtic region of northern Spain celebrated its 17th International Celtic Festival a few weeks ago and our Director Brian Wilton - seen on the right masquerading as a Spaniard - attended and presented the organisers and the city of Avilés with their own specially designed tartan.

The gift was very well received and the local culture representative (Senor Roman . . . on the right) reciprocated with historical gifts from the ancient city.

Extensive press, TV and radio coverage was evident and the ties between these Spanish Celts and their Scottish counterparts was greatly strengthened and aided by beer, wine and the potent local cider.

Work continues on converting the visit into some positive business for the Scottish weaving industry.



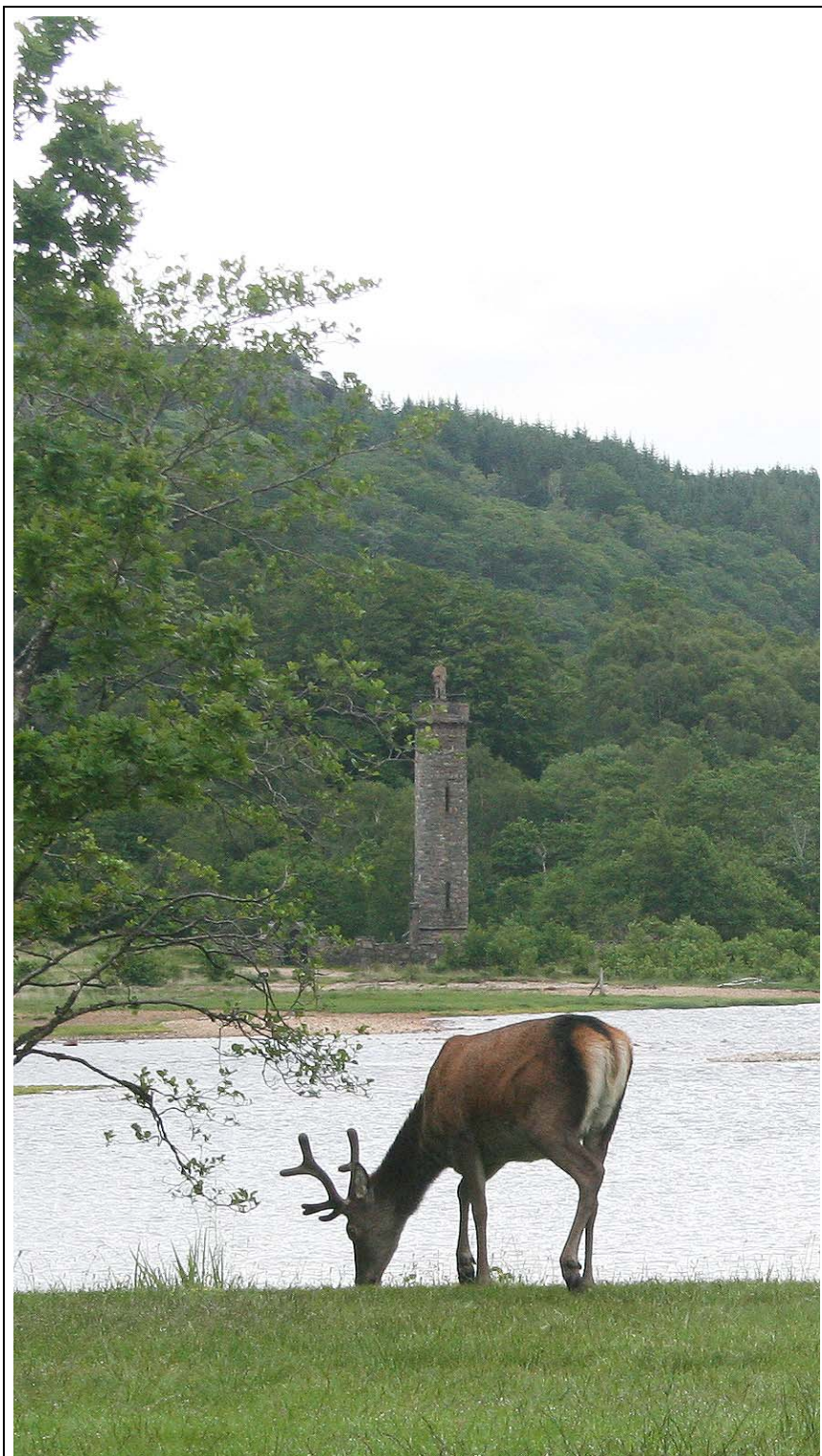
**Below: The Asturian drummer Miguel and his piping colleagues.**



**Above: The Festival Interceltico tartan goes on display.  
Below: The Little Cumbrae Pipe Band strut their stuff in the Spanish town of Avilés**







**Left:** *It can't be often that a stag can be sighted grazing on Loch Shiel with the famous Glenfinnan Monument towering in the background, but our intrepid photographer (whose day job is as our Director) was there and captured it for us!*



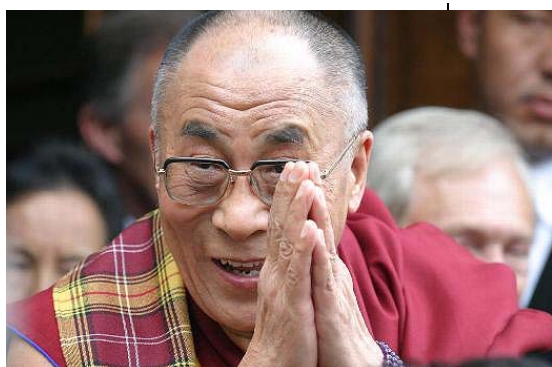
## New Glasgow Nova Scotia

Canadian Councillor Troy MacCulloch contacted us recently

the early 2000's the Mayor of New Glasgow in Nova Scotia visited the 'old' Glasgow in Scotland and was presented with a tartan that she was told was the 'New Glasgow' that been registered by the City of Glasgow (Scotland).

No record of any such registration could be found and the Authority is now helping New Glasgow to add it to the official Scottish Register of Tartans.

Keen tartan watchers will spot that the New Glasgow tartan is the traditional 1790 Glasgow 'rock and wheel' tartan from Wilsons of Bannockburn with the simple addition of a white stripe.



## Dalai Lama ...football fan?

We were recently asked to identify the tartan scarf worn here by the Dalai Lama during his 2012 visit to Scotland. To our surprise it turned out to be Motherwell Football Club! Has divine support helped them at all?

Modifying the familiar saying we come up with "The road to hell is paved with late Tartan Heralds."



Once again the volume of work and overseas visits have taken their toll of timeous Tartan Heralds for which we must apologise. With all the exciting things going on in the Tartans Authority at the moment, we hope the occasional late Herald is not too high a price to pay.





## Special Air Service Tartan

We are told by Scotland on Sunday that the style-conscious SAS soldier will soon be able to boast a kilt as part of his wardrobe after a tartan was registered for the regiment.

It was created by the Perth-based House of Edgar, where staff admitted that the commissioning process had been shrouded in mystery.

Blair McNaughton, managing director at the House of Edgar's parent company McNaughton Holdings Ltd, told Scotland on Sunday he personally had not realised that the firm had been commissioned by the elite regiment until contacted last week.

McNaughton said: "Initially we were not aware that we were working for the SAS. "We have been working on the tartan for about six months and we put forward a number of designs to our client who then put them forward to the regiment and the one that has

been registered is the one they selected. I don't know how – presumably by secret ballot." He added: "We are always astonished as to where requests for tartans come from and we are chuffed to bits for our



design to be selected by the SAS."

The tartan is predominantly in Oxford blue, one of the two SAS colours, with lighter blue and black, white and green.

The Scottish Register of Tartans entry states: "[This tartan is] the official regimental tartan for the - Special Air Service Regiment, approved by the various bodies within the regimental structure."

The SAS was founded by a group of military leaders including Lieutenant Archibald David Stirling, a supplementary reserve officer of the Scots Guards, in 1941 during the Second World War, when it was known as the SAS Brigade.

Tasked to fight secret battles far behind enemy lines the world famous regimental motto is "Who Dares Wins". The regiment itself has a reputation for maintaining radio silence on high level operations around the world.



## Monochrome Kate

According to the Sun newspaper "Kate Moss smoulders in a checked PVC dress with new brunette locks in her latest shoot."

That looks very much like Menzies black and white to us - said to be regarded as the clan's mourning tartan. Nothing miserable about Kate in it however!





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## Mad for Plaid

It was tartan . . tartan . . everywhere on Brian Wilton's recent three-day whirlwind visit to Brooks Brothers annual Envision Conference in Connecticut. Attended by some 750 staff representatives from around the world the Envision conference is an annual briefing on the company's progress and future plans.

A sizeable part of its plans are focussed on the Brooks Brothers Signature Tartan which we've featured in the Herald before. However . . . until now we hadn't seen the range of products being rolled out in the imminent launch. A launch, by the way, that was originally scheduled for last October until Hurricane Sandy put an end to the event!

Brian's part in Envision 2013 was to brief 350 key personnel in batches on the history, development and global symbolism of tartan - paying particular attention to his design rationale for the Brooks tartan.

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*Top left: just a small selection of merchandise in the new tartan - brogues, ties, belts, hats, umbrellas, trousers, hand baggage & slippers.*

*Left: An iconic photoshoot in Scotland that is receiving widespread coverage in US publications.*

*Top this column: Supplementing large 'Mad for Plaid' button badges (not shown here) were these very popular twin flag pin badges backed by a small scrap of the Signature tartan. This striking promotional idea was first used by the STA in Japan last year where it proved most effective.*





*Above: A striking piece of personal luggage in the BB Signature tartan.*

*Below: Lined gum boots, a plaited belt and a highly desirable trapper's hat add even more to the Signature collection.*



The STA will again be present at the major launch of the tartan in late September and they'll be joined by colleagues from Brooks Brothers' instore Highlandwear specialists Kinloch Anderson, Hawick Knitwear, Johnstons of Elgin, other Scottish companies and representatives from Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Development International - all of whom have been instrumental in helping to generate the American store's mega-spend in Scotland.

Tartan and its associated unique and authentic heritage has been the catalyst and key component supported by SE and SDI and the formula is

being replicated with other major store groups whenever the opportunity arises.



tired of weaving the design. I then scaled up the sett and wove a shawl, entered it in Palmetto Hands (a juried fine craft exhibition) and won an honorable mention and also was selected to be in the traveling show through the South Carolina State Museum.

Well done Beth - we need more handloom weavers like this in Scotland - who's up to the challenge?

#### A Reader's letter

I thought the article on the late Enid Inch was very moving. I was privileged to meet Miss Inch twice before her passing. Indeed, on one of those occasions I was fortunate enough to be present with her in the very weaving shed pictured in the article. As a member of Fredericton's weaving community, I can say that Miss Inch is held in great reverence - as much for her humility and friendly manner as for her undoubted skill as a weaver. We are much enriched for having had the benefit of her presence among us.

## Winthrop University Tartan

WU President Anthony J DiGiorgio advanced the idea for a unique tartan design for Winthrop University and while searching for inspiration, designer Beth Melton became aware of industrialist Andrew Carnegie's familial ties to weaving in Scotland. Beth is also a weaver and is often influenced by historical ties to textiles as well as the physicality of historic structures. Interestingly, one of Carnegie's philanthropic efforts was the establishment of libraries, and Winthrop's campus is home to a Carnegie library. Therefore, she thought it fitting that Carnegie's Scottish weaving heritage and the physical aspects of the building made possible by his philanthropy contributed directly to Winthrop's tartan design.

Beth told us: "I was commissioned to weave two dozen scarves for the university dignitaries and never once

Regards,  
Keith McCormick

*Thank you Keith - it's so rare that we get any feedback from readers and its doubly pleasurable to hear from some one who encountered the almost legendary Enid Inch. Ed.*



## \$3,300 Bargain

The Coco Channel sporran!



# Tartan Spotters - a Challenge!

STA member and inveterate researcher Willie Scobie alerted us to this interesting topic:

“I was watching a DVD of a BBC documentary last night. In one scene it showed soldiers of the Indian Army marching in a procession to the source of the Ganges. I identified the piper's regimental badge as that of the Garhwal Rifles. What surprised me was the brightness of their tartan(s)”

What are those tartans?



## The Good Old Days

How about that for price then?  
9/- a yard - 45p! From the cover of an old scrap book donated to the Tartans Authority



## Tottering Tartan

Nicki Minaj is featured in the August 2013 issue of Marie Claire wearing Nicholas Kirkwood tartan peep-toe sandal booties. This shoe was created exclusively for Moda Operandi featuring a wool tartan plaid print, star studded embellishment and elastic sling back strap.



## Organised Chaos

Tartans Authority Library on the move.

Reorganisation is afoot at the Tartans Authority in Crieff with the closure of the retail shop. Despite being highly praised by very many domestic and overseas visitors, it just wasn't generating sufficient turnover to justify the time being devoted to it.

So . . . the space that's been freed up is being put to excellent use by moving the Authority's ever-growing library of books and archival records. The opportunity is being taken to absorb recently acquired collections such as Jan Crook's and to categorise all books, papers and woven samples and attach library labels to everything.

Here you can see the start of the process - piles of books everywhere!



## Tail Piece

We've kept the most interesting bit of news until the end . . . on the right you *could* be seeing the future 'International Tartan & Heritage Centre'. At the moment it's the semi-derelict Drummond Arms Hotel in Crieff - the spot where Bonnie Prince Charlie held his last war council before the disaster at Culloden. STA Governors have given the green light to continue enquiries as to its feasibility, and pro bono work is underway from a leading

architect and a museum specialist. Keep an eye out but don't hold your breath - such a project has countless hurdles and will be quite a few years - and millions of £s away. But . . . we've started the journey!

