



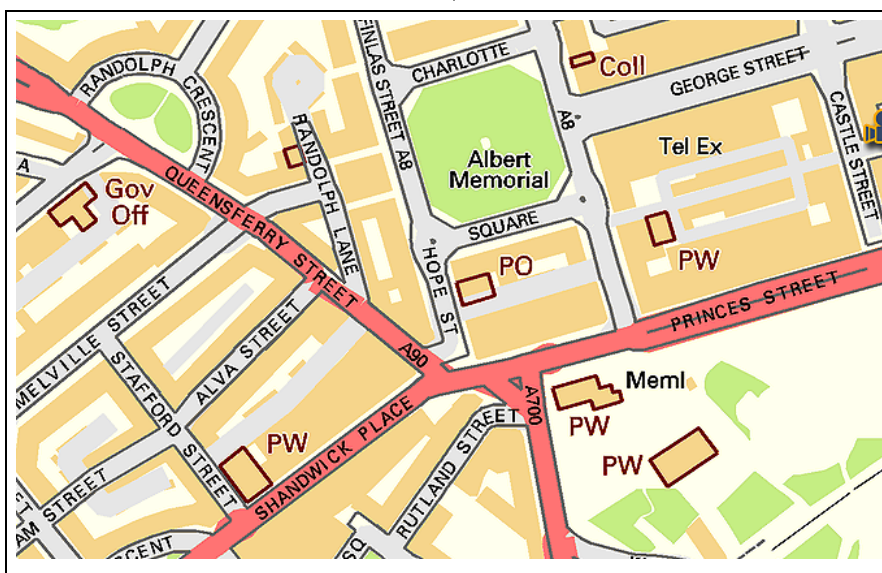
December 2004

Bringing history alive!



with the Victorian paintings and would appreciate anyone giving us a clue.

So there, reaching out over almost 180 years is the great painter himself living at No. 30 Stafford Street - shown bottom left on the modern Edinburgh Street map on the right.





Palace Visit for MBE Director

As previously reported, STA Director Brian Wilton was appointed an MBE last June for services to the tartan industry in Scotland and January saw the most exciting element of the process — the investiture at

Buckingham Palace! Brian and his family drove 450 miles south to scrub up and present themselves at Buckingham Palace where HRH The Prince of Wales conducted the

investiture of almost 100 award recipients.

“The whole event was absolutely spectacular” reported Brian. “From the moment we entered, the opulence, the atmosphere, the statue-like figures of the Household Cavalry, the resplendent Beefeaters, the magnificent portraits and the polite and sincere Palace officials made it a day to treasure.”

“I would like to think,” he continued, “that this award was a vote of confidence in the tartan industry in Scotland and a ‘thank you’ for what it and Scottish Enterprise have achieved over the last few years under very difficult trading circumstances.”



We feel this photo should trigger a caption competition.
“OK lads . . . if you insist!” can start it off.

Tartan Day Arbroath

Visitors to Arbroath during the town's Tartan Day Scotland Homecoming Weekend on April 5 and 6, 2014 will be able to step back in time to the medieval glory days of Arbroath Abbey, find out about the lives of local fisher families at the turn of the century and discover more about their ancestors.



www.tartandayscotland.com

Beating Textile Targets

A recent report from the Independent newspaper

The idea that Scottish haute couture is confined to kilts, woolly jumpers and "see you Jimmy" hats needs updating. The nation's booming rag trade is starting to rival the economic powerhouses of North Sea oil, whisky and high finance.

New figures have revealed that the textile industry is thriving north of the border, based on high-value luxury goods. The sector has recorded a 30 per cent rise in exports since 2009 and now sells £375m worth of exports annually – hitting a 2015 target early.



Cathy Black, head of textiles at Scottish Enterprise, said the clichéd image of tartan was out of date because the Scottish textile industry now designs, makes and exports everything from tea bags to heart valves as well as luxury fashions for French brands Chanel, Louis Vuitton and Hermès. "This isn't just about green woolly jumpers. The nature of the industry has changed and instead of volume we have focused on quality. Innovation has been the key and the high-end market is our focus," she said.

Expertise in cashmere, tweed and Gore-Tex, as well as wool and lace manufacturing are all found in Scotland. Technical textiles used in airline and train seats, hotel rooms and the interior design industry are also big business. Brands that use Scottish

fabrics include BMW, Disney, British Airways and Gucci.

Big export markets have been the United States, France, Italy and Germany. Sales in Asia are steadily growing with Japan a big consumer. And sales to China are set to reach a record high, according to HM Revenue and Customs, with exports reaching £9.7m in the first nine months of 2013. Scottish cashmere and wool is sought after by the world's top designers. In 2012, Chanel bought Hawick-based manufacturer Barrie Knitwear.

James Sugden, who has worked in the industry for 40 years and recently joined his daughter's brand, Rosie Sugden Cashmere, expects this year's export figures to be even stronger. He said: "The industry really is on the up. From weaving, spinning, sewing and knitting – we really are growing. I think Scotland is following the Italian pattern where small businesses really can thrive."

But Sugden warned the key to longevity is training, apprenticeships and the passing on of skills. Many of the businesses in Scotland have hundreds of years' experience. Morton Young and Borland, whose lace curtains have appeared in ITV's Mr Selfridge, has been making Scottish lace and weaving madras in the Irvine valley since 1900 and now exports globally. Meanwhile, Fife-based Scott and Fyfe, established in 1864, manufactures items as diverse as car airbags and tennis nets. And Johnstons of Elgin, founded in 1797, makes cashmere for luxury-goods groups as well as its own line.

Johnstons' chief executive, Simon Cotton, said: "Lots of new brands are coming to us because they want British products. Scottish cashmere has a particular reputation and is unique."

Harris Tweed, worn by celebrities from Matt Smith to Madonna, has enjoyed a resurgence in popularity in recent years. Harris Tweed Hebrides reported orders up by 25 per cent in 2013.

On Parade

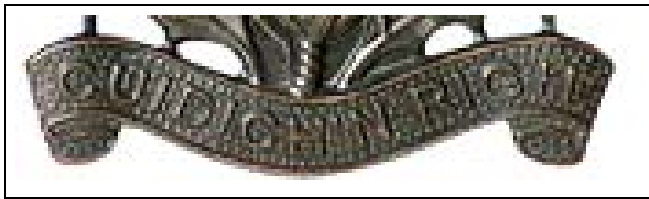
We were recently asked to identify this soldier's regiment. His tartan looked as if it might be MacKenzie but since quite a few regiments have worn that one, we decided to have a look at the badges on his collar.



Those looked very much like thistles to us so we searched amongst the regimental insignia and came up with the thistle shown below. To double-check we needed to see the



motto on those thistles and you can see the result below - **Cuidich 'n Righ** which means **Aid the King** and



confirms the identity of the soldier as being a Seaforth Highlander.

Tradition has it that Colin Fitzgerald, ancestor of the Mackenzies of Seaforth, saved King Alexander III from a charging Stag when he shouted "Cuidich 'n Righ" as he slayed it with his spear.

Now . . . research can be a thirsty pursuit so we were delighted when another reference to the regimental motto appeared in the form of a Speyside single malt whisky of the same name. Here's what's that version of **Cuidich 'n Righ**: looks like.



It would be perfect if we could impregnate the page with that golden malt and you could conduct a 'lick test' but unfortunately you'll have to make do with the distillers' description.

"The outstanding quality of this Speyside Single Malt Whisky distils in a bottle the exceptional attributes of the Highlanders and their predecessors for the past 230 years. Everything these Highland Warriors have achieved is a result of quality, pride, precision and dedication, which this whisky reflects."

The flavour is rich and mellow with ripe fruit and fudge aromas. The fruitiness continues on the palate with a vanilla sweetness and delicate hint of smoke, which are representative of its highland heritage and the long 10 year ageing process."

Belgian Date

Belgium's annual Sangreal Celtic Festival will be held in Evergem this year on 4th April.

~
See www.sangreal.com



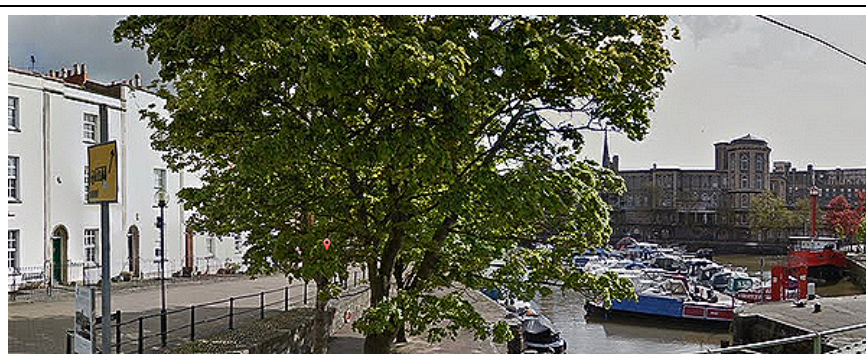
More Mackenzie

Above is an old postcard from our archives that is so reminiscent of a bygone age that we thought you'd like to see it.

It's unstamped so we have no date to offer but there is the address of the intended recipient - **Miss N. Leworthy of 4 Bathurst Parade, Cumberland Road, Bristol.**

With the aid of Google Street View we decided to have a look at the house in the address and here it is in the 21st century. It's the green door just to the left of that modern traffic sign. So you *could* say that we've delivered the postcard after a gap of many decades - even if it's only on this page.

History coming alive again!



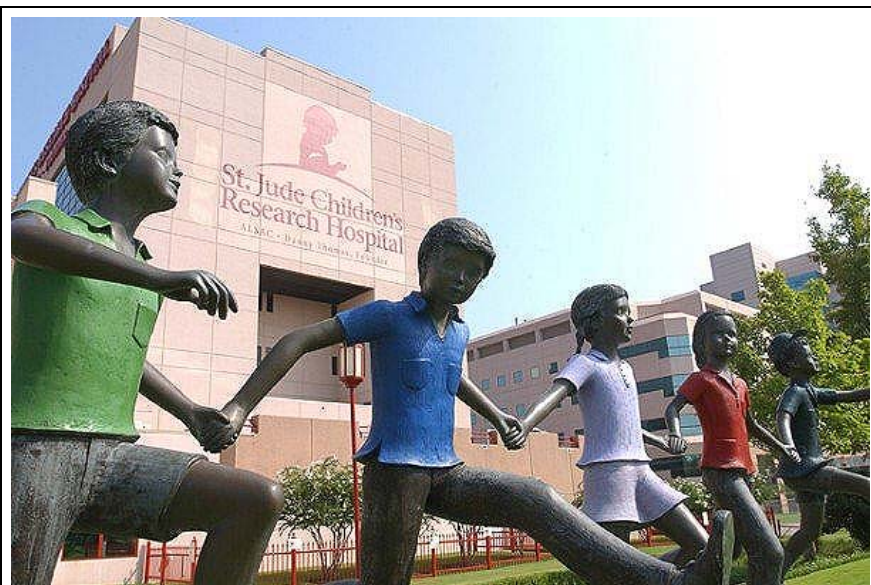


Giving with Tartan

When a new tartan comes out of the 'design studio' here in Scotland, we can never anticipate all the applications for which it may be used.

One such wonderful example has been Brookes Brothers of Madison Avenue, New York, who've used it for over 100 different articles of merchandise - some of which we've proudly shown you in the past.

The most heart-warming application of it however has been their St. Jude Bears which each (along with other special St. Jude products) generate a \$5 donation to the famous St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee which leads the world in treating and defeating childhood cancer and other 'catastrophic' diseases .



Mix & Not Match

Known for her quirky and carefree 'shabby chic' dressing style- and her love of tartan -



here's the gorgeous and multitalented English actress Helena Bonham Carter giving one of her eclectic ensembles a London airing by bicycle.

Also shown on the previous page is how she made a major splash at Buckingham Palace in 2012 when she was made CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) and received the honour from the Queen.



Commonwealth Games TARTANS



There seems to be an embarrassment of riches when it comes to the 2014 Commonwealth Games tartan. Not one, but two are in the frame. The bright green one above was designed by Aamir Mehmood, 15, of Glasgow's Shawlands Academy and will be used for official merchandise and in the lead-up to the Games and the other pastel offering is by fashion designer Jill Blackwood and is destined to be worn by 'Team Scotland.'

A sight for sore eyes (after they've seen it perhaps) will be the great sporran created by Marcus Eagleton of Scottish Sporrans in Perth who are noted for their modern interpretation of the ubiquitous 'manbag' that we Scots love.



Tartan Treasures

Tartan's rehabilitation into polite society can now be considered complete with one of Moira Dalgetty's



Brian's Highland Dress

Jacket ~ T.J. Matthews (Tailors) Ltd,

Kilt ~ Johnstons of Elgin fabric,
Glenisla Kilts build.

Sporran ~ Margaret Morrison Sporrans

Late arrival photo: We've just received the above and wonder what Prince Charles would have thought if our Director had turned up dressed in a tartan 'onesie' as seen out and about (left) on George Shelley one of the Union J boy band members!

stunning tartan sculptures gracing the Cabinet Room of Bute House, the official Edinburgh residence of Scotland's First Minister. Based on the Isle of Bute, Moira's bespoke creations comprise interwoven strips of tartan (whatever you want as long as it's available) that morph into unique tartan mosaics that celebrate a quintessential Scottish

tradition with an eye-catching and intriguing contemporary twist. Set in black hand-finished frames, they're now to be seen in many art galleries across Scotland where they're being snapped up as heirloom pieces or anniversary and wedding gifts. See them at:

www.tartanconnections.com



Time Targe

Blowing the dust of some long-stored artefacts the other day we came across this bowed old targe (round shield used by Scottish Highlanders) and at first glance, dismissed it as an amateurish copy.

Once the dust was removed however, a very different impression quickly gained ground. The first clue was the leather-tooled inscription around the ring next-but-one to the central boss which read "*Fear God Honor the King*" The message itself plus the old fashioned spelling of honor (except in the USA where this spelling is still current) suggested great antiquity.

On the reverse of the brass-studded targe, the handmade nails, the forge-wrought holding handle, the leather arm strap and the rough handmade buckle and retaining bars and the stretched timeworn leather added up to ANCIENT!

And ancient it turned out to be! After half an hour of Googling there appeared a modern copy (above right) exact in every detail and which dated the original to around the 1730s.

No sword cuts or musket ball holes evident so perhaps its owner was lucky enough not to have been forced to test it out in action.

Once cleaned up and given a substantial feed of conservation leather dressing, this has made a really magnificent exhibit with almost 300 years of history behind it.



If you have any news or general interest items for inclusion in the Tartan Herald please email to:

admin@tartansauthority.com

