



the Scottish Banner



North American Edition



Years Strong - 1976-2017 www.scottishbanner.com

A' Bhratach Albannach

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The Banner Says...

Scottish heritage

Connecting the past with today



by Valerie Cairney

Looking at some of the content we have in this issue one can't help but be amazed at how the Scottish community across the world is today constantly celebrating and showcasing Scottish culture and heritage.

Tartan Day Parade

Tartan Day was celebrated across North America in April (with Tartan Day celebrations soon coming up in the Southern Hemisphere) and is growing in popularity each year. Recently, in New York, it was the annual Tartan Day Parade which is featured in this issue. When you are thinking of New York, a city that never sleeps, it can be hard to stand out from the massive crowds. However, closing down Sixth Avenue with 3000 pipers, drummers and marchers, suddenly the Big Apple stops and takes in all the spectacle, sound and colour that comes with celebrating Scotland and Scottish culture to the world. This parade is an example of how keeping Scotland relevant in our modern world can be done successfully while helping to create a broader interest in Scotland as a destination, product and dynamic culture.

Return to the Ridings

In the glorious Scottish Borders this month the *Return to the Ridings* will see several towns come alive with colour, pageantry and tradition going back hundreds of years to a time when the Scottish border lands were not the peaceful and gentle place

they are today. Pageantry and horses will bring out locals and visitors from across the world to take part in this ancient festival which is a highlight in the Border calendar. This great sense of community spirit comes alive with history and celebration of tradition. The Return to the Ridings is enjoyed by young and old and thankfully this tradition is one that is alive and well and considered one of Europe's most unique events.

Highland games

In the Northern Hemisphere bagpipes will start sounding that bit louder and tartan will brightly light up the already lovely early summer days at Highland games. Across North America and Scotland, the Highland games season is now underway with events in towns, cities and even at the top of mountains. Many *Scottish Banner* readers will be attending these events as spectators, band members, dancers, athletes, with their Clan or society or even vendors.

The various aspects of the Scottish community will come together and proudly display the culture of Scotland to thousands of spectators, both those who are of Scottish heritage and those that simply wish they were... Each of the groups help make these events what they are and you can simply look at our events page to see there are things happening all over the world for everyone to enjoy and take part in.

Scotland also highlights its very own unique culture right at home as the Highland games season has also begun there and will run to September across the country. Visitors to Scotland over the next few months can enjoy these great traditional events in addition to other great festivals highlighting Scottish culture.

Events such as the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will be of interest to many this year with the Clans gathering to make a Splash of Tartan, whilst the World Pipe Band Championships and PipingLive! will see Glasgow come alive with the

sounds of the pipes in August.

Our Southern Hemisphere readers have events taking place year round to enjoy and winter is no exception. From cosy winter nights with fellow Scots at a range of events, Tartan Day next month, to the events in places such as Queensland taking place after the summer heat. There is much to enjoy.

Few countries have this form of global promotion with thousands of ambassadors who devote their time and energy to celebrating and keeping traditions, not only alive, but at the forefront of cultural calendars across the world.

Regardless if someone is a Scot, or not, just about everyone loves Scotland and her people and the country is simply easy to attach yourself to. We have had several regular readers of *the Scottish Banner* who do not have an ounce of Scottish blood but love the country and culture so much that they feel they do own their own personal piece of Scotland, and that is of course what it shares so well with the world.

New passion for Scotland

The way Scotland is celebrated has evolved over time and a new generation of Scots is developing Scottish heritage today. Young pipers and dancers for example are learning their notes and practicing tirelessly so that when you are at one of the Scottish events and see them perform, the new passion for Scotland is evident with each tune played or step performed in each new generation, and it is a passion they were born to have.

Today there are many ways to connect with Scotland's heritage. From visiting Scotland itself, joining your local club, pipe band or Clan, engaging with an online Scottish community or attending Scottish events.

Digital subscriptions

It is also heart-warming for us that you are a reader of *the Scottish Banner*, helping us spread the word of what this dynamic, ancient yet modern nation and culture are doing. We are also excited to now offer our readers a choice on how they can read *the Scottish Banner*, with both print and digital subscription options. Allowing you to connect with Scotland in the way you prefer. Have a wonderful month ahead.

How do you connect with Scotland's heritage? Tell us your story and share with us your views by email, post or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us To see how you can connect with your Scottish heritage see our events page or at: www.scottishbanner.com/events



Keeping up with tradition at New York's Tartan Week.

Gracing our front cover: The Kilted Yogis, Finlay Thomas Wilson and Mr Scotland, Tristan Cameron-Harper, at the New York Tartan Day Parade. Photo courtesy of Moya McAllister / New York Tartan Day.

Lost garden found at Culzean Castle



Archaeologists working for Scotland's largest conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland, have discovered the remains of an 18th century walled garden buried below the Fountain Court in front of Ayrshire's Culzean Castle. The discovery was made as part of a major project to improve the drainage at the Fountain Court and to make it suitable for staging large public events. During the excavation of a new herringbone pattern of drains and the installation of an irrigation sprinkler system, stone walls were located and recorded.

A very rare opportunity

It emerged that these walls formed a large rectangular enclosure over 60m long (north-south) by 30m (east-west). As the current works presented a very rare opportunity to dig below the well-kept lawn, a larger trench was excavated to locate and expose the southern corner of the garden.

Careful excavation and cleaning revealed that the wall at this point survives to over six courses, standing around 0.7m high. This garden wall is thought to result from work undertaken by Sir John Kennedy of Culzean, 2nd Baronet, in 1733 where he extended the walled garden at the foot of the terrace walls on the east side of the castle. This garden is shown on the estate map of Culzean drawn by John Foulis in 1755.

It is likely that the walled garden functioned as an enclosed kitchen garden for the castle with fruit trees lining the south-facing walls of the terraces. The map appears to show rows of planted beds in a rectangular arrangement. This garden was abandoned in 1782 and the walls were demolished by Robert Adam's workmen as part of the wide range of improvements carried out around the castle, leading to the iconic clifftop structure we see today. As was the fashion in the late 18th

century, the kitchen garden was moved away from the immediate view of the house and the former site was given over to wider views of the picturesque landscape. A new walled garden was built to the south-east, just out of sight of the castle and the date stone above the gate is 1786.

Hidden aspect of Culzean's past

It is likely that a lot of the stone used for this new garden (the existing walled garden at Culzean) would have been re-used from the original one. In the middle of the 19th century the area below the terraces was used as a bowling green before the large, ornate fountain was installed in 1876. The area has since come to be known as Fountain Court. Prior to the 16th century it is likely that this area was a narrow glen that formed a defensive barrier to the ridge upon which the medieval castle stood.

Derek Alexander, Head of Archaeological Services for the NTS said: "It is so exciting to see part of the original walled garden at Culzean. Although it was marked on the estate map, until now we never knew that any of it survived below the immaculate turf of the Fountain Court. This work has given us the perfect opportunity to explore a hidden aspect of Culzean's past and, once the lawn is re-seeded, I can't imagine the gardeners will want us digging more holes!"

Tartan of the Month *The Border Reiver*

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 is courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans.

Whenever anyone mentions 'Reiver', no-one hesitates to add 'Border'. This month the Scottish Borders come alive with tradition with the Border Reivers at the ancient Common Ridings and one of Europe's biggest equestrian spectacles. Common Riding is an annual celebration that involves townsfolk in a grand 'ride-out' on horse-back around the town. The Border Reiver tartan (Ref:2471) was designed by Madam May McKerrell of Hillhouse for the Border Gathering in 1998, with the proceeds going to the Border Gathering. The Shepherd's Check (Ref: 3781) is/was also known as Border Reiver - a fact perhaps unknown when this one was named.

Paisley hosts British Pipe Band Championships



One of the biggest events in world piping took place on May 20th in Paisley with the first of five Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) major competitions. With 4,000 pipers and drummers from 145 pipe bands from across the UK and also countries including Canada, Denmark and Ireland competing, and over 200 live performances, it was a spectacle of sight and sound not to be missed. Paisley 2021 Bid Director Jean Cameron said: "We are thrilled to welcome the British Pipe Band Championships back to the town for the second of its three-year run here. Events like this are important for the UK City of Culture 2021 bid as it shows Paisley has the infrastructure and know-how to host large-scale events. Our visitors from throughout Scotland and abroad will be guaranteed a warm welcome in the town."

Ian Embelton of the RSPBA added: "We are pleased to be back in Paisley for

another year and delighted to have another huge turnout from bands. Everything is in place for a day of top-class competition and I am sure the piping community and visitors alike will find plenty to enjoy."

2017 British Pipe Band Championship results

- Grade 1**
- 1st Inveraray & District (Scotland)
 - 2nd Field Marshal Montgomery (Northern Ireland)
 - 3rd Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia (Scotland)
 - 4th St. Laurence O'Toole (Ireland)
 - 5th Police Scotland Fife (Scotland)
 - 6th Scottish Power (Scotland)
- Drumming: St. Laurence O'Toole
- Grade 2**
- 1st Lomond & Clyde (Scotland)
 - 2nd Glasgow Skye Association (Scotland)
 - 3rd MacKenzie Caledonian (Scotland)
 - 4th Balagan (Denmark) (9,9,3,4)
 - 5th Closkelt (Northern Ireland)
 - 6th Bucksburn & District (Scotland)
- Drumming: Manorcunningham (Ireland)

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SDHighlandGames.org

The 2017 New York Tartan Day Parade

A celebration of Scotland



Barbour Tartan Dog Pack.

On Saturday April 8th, Sixth Avenue from 44th-55th Street was awash with tartan and the sound of the bagpipes as the 19th Annual New York Tartan Day Parade took place. Scottish actor Tommy Flanagan, who was Grand Marshal of the 2017 Parade (past marshals have include Sir Sean Connery, Scots-born actors Brian Cox, Kevin McKidd, Alan Cumming, Sam Heughan, and former New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg), led 35 pipe bands and over 3,000 marchers up Sixth Avenue. To the sound of the pipes, dancers, clans, organisations - and the Barbour Tartan Dog Pack of Scotties and westies - marchers were greeted by the Scottish loving crowds



lining Sixth Avenue. The Parade is organized by the National New York Tartan Day Parade Committee which comprises St. Andrews Society of the State of New York, New York Caledonian Club, American-Scottish Foundation, Clan Campbell, and recent member Carnegie Hall.

Tartan Week

Kyle Dawson, President, National NY Tartan Day Parade Committee said after the event; "A thank you to all that joined us for the 19th Annual New York Tartan Day Parade - what a great celebration of our love of Scotland and Scottish American heritage." This year the future was also spotlighted by Scottish Universities taking part in the parade as Scotland's Ambassadors of tomorrow. Amongst the Universities which took part were Glasgow, Edinburgh, St Andrews,

Stirling, Aberdeen, Strathclyde, Napier and Dundee Universities. Three Scottish school pipe bands - Oban, Lathallan and St Columba, joined the parade and took part in various events of the week. The New York Tartan Day parade takes place during the city's Tartan Week which featured events throughout the city from ceilidh's to concerts and plays, there was something for all to enjoy. With over 50 million people across the world claiming Scottish ancestry (the majority of them in the USA and Canada), Scotland Week is a chance to reconnect people with their heritage. It's also an opportunity for those with an interest in Scotland to find out a little bit more.

The 2018 New York Tartan Day will take place on Saturday April 7th, for further information see: www.nyctartanweek.org



Grand Marshall Tommy Flanagan.



The graceful Highland dancers.



Images courtesy of the New York Tartan Day Parade/ American-Scottish Foundation.



SCOTSPEAK

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

"We usually get our first big catch the first week in June. It has been quite mild on the west coast and you've got a bit of humidity as well. The numbers should increase between now and the end of June. You've got two generations in the summer time, but sometimes you get a third generation at the end of the summer, it really depends. You can't really stop them, they are part of the ecosystem."

Dr Alison Blackwell has warned Scots and visitors to Scotland this summer to prepare for 68 billion midges that will come alive in Scotland over the summer season. Dr Blackwell was involved with the recently published *Scottish Midge Forecast* said the mild winter has helped the blood sucking insect breed. The biting insect is found mostly in the Highlands and islands and the Highland Midge or 'Culicoides Impunctatus' has a reputation for being particularly ferocious.

"I saw it quite far across the Loch near the castle, but by the time I stopped the van, it was very close and other people stopped to take photos too. Sadly I don't believe in monsters, but would love to know what it was."

Welsh tourist Rob Jones said as he spotted a mysterious object from the banks of Loch Ness. The slow moving dark thin object was protruding from the loch at a slow pace before disappearing and was spotted by several people both on the water and on shore. Nessie sighting generally happen in the warmer months and 2016 had 8 sightings, with the last official sighting taking place in August 2016.

"Over the past thirty years the Beltane Fire Festival has evolved from a handful of performers and a pretty small crowd into a cultural institution attracting thousands of attendees from all over the world that around 300 volunteers who come together to create something truly

special. It's both mad and beautiful and cannot be described; it has to be felt. We're so proud of what we accomplished this year, and look forward to evolving further over the next thirty years."



Beltane Fire Society chair Erin McDonald said as the 2017 Beltane Fire Festival wrapped up in Edinburgh. The ancient Celtic fire ritual is an annual participatory arts event and ritual drama, held on 30 April on Calton Hill in Edinburgh to mark the beginning of summer and light.

"What the women of Roslin have achieved is something remarkable: not only have they refused to let the miserable people who stole the original panel win, they have also poured all their love and labour into creating a stunning new panel of the Apprentice Pillar that is even more powerful. Their panel will have a special place in my heart and it will join its companions in the new building to house the tapestry in Galashiels."

Project historian of the Great Tapestry of Scotland Alistair Moffat said as a panel, from the Tapestry's 160 panels was stolen whilst on display in 2015, has been painstakingly been redone by the original stitchers. The section, which depicts the Apprentice Pillar at Rosslyn Chapel, is part of the world's longest embroidered tapestry and is now on display in Galashiels in the Scottish Borders.

"I'm quite shocked, to be honest. I had no idea it had actually been stolen, nobody told me. It's upsetting because the people who have stitched this tapestry are all volunteers. It's a community art project. Who would want to steal this? It's a shame." I just find it very strange that someone would want to steal it."



Scottish artist Andrew Crummy said as a panel from the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry was stolen in May from St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. The panel from the tapestry depicted Scotland's connection with the Netherlands. The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry is a project to involve communities around the world in celebration of Scottish heritage and culture, it has previously visited Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA and is currently touring Scotland.

"Charles Rennie Mackintosh is rightly celebrated around the world as one of the most creative figures of the 20th Century. He is regarded as the father of Glasgow Style, arguably Britain's most important contribution to the international Art Nouveau movement. As we approach this significant anniversary I am thrilled Glasgow

Museums will join in a city-wide celebration with an exhibition commemorating one of their most famous sons."

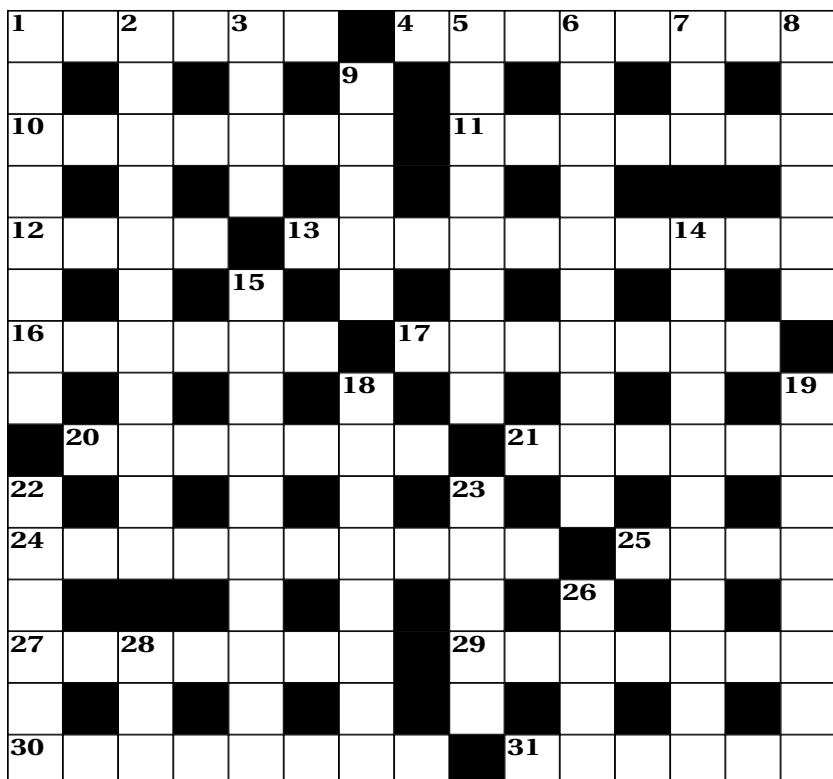
Alison Brown, curator with Glasgow Museums, said as Glasgow prepares for the 150th anniversary of architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh's birth. Events will take place throughout 2018 in Glasgow and the will be celebrated with an exhibition of unseen works and some pieces not seen in public in a generation.

"We wanted to go somewhere that would inspire us as well as inspire other people and Alaska is such a great wilderness – a huge expanse of amazing landscapes and wild animals – so it's really enticing, but ultimately it just started with us poring over maps to see what had and hadn't been done before. We're aiming to become the first people in history to travel the full length of Alaska from south to north using only human power. It requires a 400-mile kayak through the Pacific Ocean and then we'll be cycling 650 miles through south Alaska into the Yukon of Canada heading north and then we begin the running stage, which is 550 miles of running through the Arctic Circle, and we end with a final kayak stage which is another 300 miles through the Arctic Ocean in the very north. No-one has ever put the pieces together to do this challenge – the only way to get to the very northern tip of Alaska is by kayaking along the coast or flying in. It's a world-first expedition."

Scottish adventurer and cancer survivor Luke Robertson said as he and his wife Hazel embarked on a world first bid to travel the length of Alaska using their own power and raise money for Scottish cancer charity Marie Curie. The couple have already raised £85,000 from other charity endurance events. Luke also was the first Scot to complete a solo, unassisted trek to the South Pole in 2016.

SCOTWORD

Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 23!



CLUES ACROSS

- 1) A short-billed duck (6).
- 4) She handles cows! (8).
- 10) It's a wrench in the US (7).
- 11) In Scotland they're glens (7).
- 12) Water flow (4).
- 13) Top Scots golfing hotel (10).
- 16) The kirk's second in command (6).
- 17) Town east of Bonar Bridge (7).
- 20) A starter for pipers (7).
- 21) A drop of water! (6).
- 24) District of Edinburgh (10).
- 25) Inner Hebridean island (4).
- 27) Put down in the sea (7).
- 29) Collectively named (7).
- 30) Close up for a punch up! (8).
- 31) Kirk office-bearer (6).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) They're found in steamiest (8).
- 2) Mountainous US games (11).
- 3) Possesses (4).
- 5) James Watt was one (8).
- 6) Town east of Irvine (10).
- 7) View this loch in wonder (3).
- 8) Leave off (6).
- 9) Row of plants! (5).
- 14) Waterway east of Glen Shiel (4, 7).
- 15) Fife new town (10).
- 18) Mary, Queen of Scots' fate (8).
- 19) Scottish get-togethers (8).
- 22) Made the Bruce try again (6).
- 23) Kirk congregation (5).
- 26) The true Highlander (4).
- 28) Old Scots measure (3).

Did you know?



Glasgow City Chambers in George Square, Glasgow. Photo: Paul Tomkins / VisitScotland.

Glasgow is Scotland's largest city but did you know these unique Glaswegian facts?

- There is more marble in the Glasgow City Chambers than there is in the whole of the Vatican.
- The Mitchell Library is Europe's largest public reference library. It also houses the world's largest Robert Burns Collection.
- John Logie Baird broadcast the first ever TV images from Glasgow.
- The longest bar in Europe can be found at the Horseshoe Bar in the city centre.
- The West End is made up of a group of hills which were formed by the action of ice flows during the last ice age. Glasgow University sits on top of one of them: Gilmorehill.
- The first official international football match was played at the West of Scotland Cricket Club in Partick in 1872. It was between Scotland and England.

SCOT POURRI



Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks. Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history? Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Our letters page is a very popular and active one and many readers have been assisted across the world by fellow passionate Scots. Please keep letters under 200 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters, photos and any other items posted to *the Scottish Banner* cannot be returned. We prefer letters to be emailed to your nearest office or please visit our online Scotpourri form at www.scottishbanner.com alternatively you may post or email your letters to us. Please ensure you include your full contact details, when emailing it is best to include your post address for those without internet access. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part! Thanks to all our readers from around the world who have made this such a special page.

The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band in Europe



The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band of Ottawa, Canada decided to make a trip to France this April to help mark the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge, as well as many other sites. They visited Dieppe, Juno Beach and various cemeteries in between – laid over 12 000 poppies at each and every headstone at every cemetery they visited – and participated in the very moving ‘Last Post’ service at Menin Gate, in Ypres Belgium, which has taken place every night at 8 pm since 1928. They played over Pegasus Bridge and piped in bunkers on the beach – and along with guest World Champion Drum Major Brian Wilson from Ireland and dancers of the Sherry Sharpe School of Dance and their friends and family, had a magnificent time in France. It was an honour to be there, and it was a journey they will never forget.

Bethany Bisaillion
P/M Sons of Scotland Pipe Band
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Congratulations to the band for marking this special trip and representing Canada at this important anniversary.

Coming to America

Our family arrived in New York on May 14th, 1949. We lived in Alexandria near Balloch Castle and Loch Lomond which we walked to many times. My father died in 1946 of T.B so my mother, older sister and brother boarded the train from Glasgow to Liverpool on May 5th which is my birthday. My mother never saw her mother again. We set sail the next day on the *Brittanic* which was her maiden voyage as a passenger ship from a troop transport in World War 2. We met our sponsors with hundreds of people on the

dock. They were holding photos of us-it was very exciting for an eleven year old coming to America. We lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and are still living in the area. I am presently living in New Jersey with my wife and two grown married sons.

I have learned so much about Scottish history from *the Scottish Banner*, keep up the good work, we love it. Congratulations on 40 great years.

W. Alex Dunlop
Mt Laurel, New Jersey
USA

Ed note: Thanks very much for sharing your story with us Mr Dunlop.

Clan Donnachaidh

Thank you Ron for your expanded article concerning Clan Donnachaidh in the April issue *What's in a Name*, and the provision for people to make further inquiries. However, I would like to point out that we advise visitors at Scottish gatherings that we are “the children of Duncan” not “children of the Duncans” as you wrote in the article. Duncan was the last of the Celtic Earls of Atholl and is considered the first Chief of Clan Donnachaidh, and it was from this Duncan that the Clan took its name.

I hasten to make this correction as I may be besieged by Clan Donnachaidh members correcting my recorded misstatement.

You will also find in the first paragraph of James Irvine Robertson's article where he says that “The Gaelic for Duncan is Donnachadh, in the genitive case Donnachaidh, so the name of the Clan literally translates to ‘Children of Duncan.’”

I do enjoy reading *the Scottish Banner* and always look for *What's in a Name* among the first items I read.

Gordon Robertson
Bonnells Bay, NSW
Australia

Ed note: Thanks Gordon for the note and clarification and we are delighted to hear that you along with many enjoy Ron's column each month.

Carstairs Mental Hospital

I am writing to ask if Carstairs Mental Hospital in Carstairs village, South Lanarkshire is still open for the criminally insane or has it closed its doors?

Also what happened to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh?
Thank you,
Rose Aitkenhead
8-93 Ruahime St
Palmerston North
New Zealand

Tartan Day



Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington, Indiana celebrated Tartan Day on April 8th at College Mall Kroger. The Society was there to help educate the public concerning Scotland. Scottish Country

Dancers of Greater Bloomington performed and encourage all to participate in Ceilidh dancing. There were some pipers from Southern Indiana Pipes and Drums playing outside.

Polly Bruce Tilford
Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington
Bloomington, Indiana
USA

I look forward to receiving my copy each month

Thank you for the reminder regarding my subscription. I certainly don't want to miss out-I look forward to receiving my copy each month and then pass onto my daughter. A few years ago we both visited Scotland and it is wonderful to recognise places that we had been to and read more of Scottish history.

Thank you again,
Ron Douglas
Ballarat, Victoria
Australia

Waverly celebrates 70 years in preservation



My first trip on the *Waverley Paddle Steamer* was in Scotland in 1965. My uncle, Joseph Cassidy, who lived in Glasgow treated me to a sail on the *Waverley* from Broomielaw (where my father sailed to Canada in 1910) down the Clyde Rover and through the Kyles of Bute to Tinabruach and return on a lovely day. Uncle Joe had been an electrician working on submarines in Gourock in the First World War and he loved ships of all kinds that he saw on the Clyde.

When we travelled down the Clyde they were still building ships then that we could see from the *Waverley*. I remember the US Navy had a dry dock in the water and it was busy, it was a day and a sail to remember.

The second sail I remember on the *Waverley* I was sailing with my wife and children on the same sail to the Kyles of Bute in 1985. We had boarded in Largs and my son told me he saw a man wearing a St Francis Xavier University sweater which is in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. I graduated from Xavier in 1958 and I went to see who it was. It was my professor of British philosophy Ed Carty who was from Glasgow and visiting family. What a surprise for both of us.

The third I remember was just a few years ago. We were visiting Scotland with our married daughter and her children. We just boarded in Largs and were crossing to Dunoon and had just sat down when my grandson Theodore who was four picked up a broom and started to sweep the floor. We had a laugh he would put a sailor out of a job.

I have sailed other times too but I remember these three the best. On our first sail there were three musicians, they were blind and played Scottish music and moved

about the ship after collecting money readily given. Perhaps others remember this too? We are looking forward to this summer.

John D Rooney
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: John thanks for taking us down the Clyde with you and your great memories of the mighty Waverley.

Tenterfield St Andrew's Day

Each year, for the last 6 years the Tenterfield Presbyterian Church, in the beautiful New England area of New South Wales, Australia has held a St Andrew's Day service on the nearest Sunday to November 30th. We have pipes and drums playing in the grounds before the service. When the congregation are seated the minister leads the band into the 130 year old church while they play *Amazing Grace*, then march out and the service begins. After the service the congregation is invited to a traditional Scottish luncheon with haggis piped in and an “Address to the Haggis”. This year we also had Scotch eggs and Aberdeen sausage and the hall was decorated with Scottish memorabilia and some people wore their Clan tartans.

This is an invitation to *the Scottish Banner* readers to join us for our St Andrew's Day service this year on December 3rd at 10am at Tenterfield Presbyterian Church, 117 Logan St.

C Bruce
Jennings, NSW
Australia

SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGES

(Send us your photos or letters via social media)

The Museum of Honor Guards



The Museum of Honor Guards is dedicated to preserving and displaying the artefacts and history of Honor guards and Bagpipes & Drums.

The Museum of Honor Guards
Florida, USA

Eilean Donan Castle in spring



This week's crystal blue skies have brought out our bluebells! #Scotland

Eilean Donan Castle
Scotland

KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS

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.



Down in the Valley

At the junction of Cornalee Road and the Barrhead Road where I lived in Pollok was our favourite play area, which we called 'the Valley'. It lay to the south of the summit of the Haugh Hill and was made up of an extensive, undulating landscape of little hillocks and valleys composed of overgrown black and red shale waste. To us, children, it was like the *Badlands of Arizona* that we saw in the cinema. Grass, weed, wild rose, brambles and new growth trees, such as silver birch and rowan, struggled to re-colonise this strange landscape. So the valley was an ideal place for us to play because the hillocks and shrubs made it easy to hide there, to make dens and to lay in wait to ambush and capture people. It was bordered to the west by a hayfield and to the north by a pine plantation.

Coal pits

Although we didn't know it at the time, the red and black shale was the remains of waste from the Haugh coal and lime pits which had been worked there in the 1800's. The houses that we lived in had been built upon the site of these workings. In 1812 the Hawkhead and Hurllet coal seam extended over 500 acres of land on the Hawkhead, Househil and Nether Pollok estates and it was claimed that coal had been wrought at Hawkhead for more than 300 years, with one lease dating back to 1634.

By 1836, the Haugh Pit produced an annual 12,000 tons of coal, 5,000 tons of limestone and 6,000 tons of aluminous schist. After the Mines Act of 1842, the Hurllet and Haugh coal pits and lime works were inspected as part of an official government inquiry into the employment of children in mines. Boys, girls and women were, at that time, employed as 'drawers'. They pulled the coal from the coalface to the shaft, an arduous as well as a dangerous task. At the time coal was hewn by pick axe from seams sometimes only 2 feet high. Greater output was achieved simply by digging deeper, increasing the danger for all involved. There were dangers from firedamp (methane gas) explosion, suffocation, chokedamp (carbon monoxide poisoning), collapsing roofs, flooding and moving trucks.

Patrick Kinnon

Perhaps if we had stopped our boisterous play for a moment, stood quite still and listened to the voices on the wind rustling through the silver birches; we might just have

heard the ghostly voice of Patrick Kinnon, from beneath our feet. He was used to sitting in the pitch black, listening to the scurrying of rats and the settling of rock. Patrick was aged nine, like us, and he would have spoken to Mr. Thomas Tancred, the Commissioner visiting the Haugh pit soon after 1842.

"So, boy, you're a drawer at this pit, is that correct?"

"Aye, Sir; I help ma brither James. We baith work here."

"And what time do you start of a morning, Patrick?"

"Ah go doon at half past five, Sir."

"And what time do you finish?"

"We get up again from the pit between four and five of an efternin, Sir."

"And do you ever go to school, Patrick?"

"Naw, I dinnae go to school, Sir, ma mither says she cannae afford for me tae go."

"How much does school cost, Patrick? Do you know?"

"Aye, Sir. The cost per quarter is three shillings for reading, three and sixpence for reading and writing, and five shillings for the rest."

"And if your mother could afford the school, would you like to go, Patrick?"

"Aye ah wi'd Sir. Ah wi'd need tae go efter work, in the evening, though. Ma mither needs the money that I earn here."

"Where would that be? Where is the evening school?"

"At Nitshill, Sir. Mr. Wilson, the owner o' the pit, rins a night school there for his workers. Ma big brither gangs there."

"And do any of the other drawers go there? To the night School, that is?"

"Naw Sir, ma brither says there are about sixty scholars go a'thegether, a lot of married men, but nae drawers."

"Why do you think that is then, Patrick?"

"Maist of us are too weary when we get hame tae go to night school, Sir."

"Thank you Patrick, you can go now."

Dennis

"And Dennis, you and your brother are also drawers at the pit? How far do you have to travel to get to the pit?" Mr. Tancred went on, after having signalled for another boy to come up to his big desk.

"Aye, Sir. We have tae come from Cross Athurly. Ma Faither tells me that's about three miles from the pit."

"And do others in your family work

at the Haugh Pit, Dennis?"

"Aye, Sir, ma faither is a collier and ma older brither is a labourer. Ma grandfather once worked here but he was killed here in, in the big explosion."

"Thank you Dennis, you can go now. I'm sorry about your grandfather."

"So, is that right Mr. Boag, was the boy's grandfather killed here?"

"Aye, Mr. Tancred, he was that. There were eighteen men and boys killed here that day in 1806. But we've had no recent accidents. They've had some ower in the Househil pit, mind ye. They've had about thirty-three people killed there over the nine years ah've worked at the Haugh pit, and as many others hae been injured in that time. We're so close to that pit now that we can sometimes hear the men working in it when we're down below."

Mr. Boag

Mr. Tancred added quickly to his notes.

"Mr. Boag, what's a collier's 'darg' at the Haugh pit?" He continued.

"It's, sixteen baskets a day, Sir, aboot as many as ony pit in Scotland."

"And what's a man paid for a day's work at the Haugh pit?"

"He's paid three shillings and threepence to three shillings and sixpence a day for hewing and filling. That's twice a labourer's wage, mind ye. But of course, they cannae' work on Sunday, Sir, and they cannae

work for more than five days at a time. It would be too much, too hard, Sir".

"And how long is a day, Mr. Boag?"

"Twelve hours, Sir. Five o'clock in the mornin' until five o'clock at night - although some pits open nine hours on a Saturday, but no' this ane".

"Thank you, Mr. Boag."

The worst accident in Scottish mining history

Nine years after Mr. Tancred's visit, in the early hours of Saturday 1st March 1851 there was an explosion deep in the Victoria pit that shook the village of Old Nitshill and the ground for a mile around. Sixty-one men and boys died more than a thousand feet underground. There were only two survivors. It was at the time the worst accident in Scottish mining history and a company of the 21st infantry was dispatched to assist police to control a massive crowd estimated to be as many as 20,000 people. They gathered at Priesthill, together with the families of the victims, to watch the rescue teams. The teams included experienced colliers from the Haugh and Househil pits.

These dramatic events were unknown to us in the 1950's. We children didn't stop and listen long enough to hear the voices whispering on the wind on the Haugh Hill; to hear the voices of Patrick, Dennis and others like them. They might have told us their tales of what had existed there when they worked the Haugh pit, a hundred years before.

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WHOLESALE AVAILABLE

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Have a name that has you stumped? Scottish Banner readers can send in their name queries direct to Ron via the Scottish Banner by post or email: info@scottishbanner.com. Ron will do his best to help you with your name query and may just add that extra piece to your genealogy puzzle.



Family of Bruce International at the Stone Mountain Highland Games, one of many Clans you can meet at your local Highland Games. Photo: Polly Bruce Tilford.

This month is one of my favourite times of year when the foliage in the fields and along the roads are at their greenest here in North America. Another aspect of the month is looking forward to seeing the blossoms of the garden unfold which reminds me of my childhood garden with marigolds, pansies, roses and sweet William. Speaking of childhood it was time

of year when school was out for the summer. I hope you enjoy your June.

There are many surnames and we all hear strange and new ones every day. Living in a multi-cultural country like Canada we hear different and exotic sounding names all the time from people who have origins in almost every part of the world. However, if you even take a small country like Scotland you still find a diverse number of names that

reflect local history, language groups, occupations and are an indication of the name of one's ancestor.

Rollo

Having written this column for thirty years and with my interest in surnames prior to that there are more than a few names that stand out in my mind. What makes them unique is the sound or possibly their origin and those that appear as if they have no business being a Scottish name. Names that sound more Mediterranean than Scottish include such names as Rollo and Patullo. Rollo, and Rollock is thought to be an adaptation of the personal Rudolph, This name in this form is common in Perthshire and Fife. The oldest Rollo recorded in Scotland was Moray shire in 1373. The similar sounding Rollox is from St. Rollox a 14th century saint. His name is a form of Roch or Rock.

*"The double L and single T
Descend from Minto and Wolflee
The double T and single L
Mark the old race in Stobs that dwell
The single L and single T
The Eliots of St. Germain be
But double TT and double L
Who they are nobody can tell."*

Highland Games

Like most of you I look forward to my monthly edition of *the Scottish Banner*. In the midst of our winters I look enviously at the colourful advertisements for highland games in January in sunny places like Florida and in the height of summer in Australia. It's nice to know that Scottish traditions are being celebrated all year round. In our area, it starts in May and is going strong by June and July will see them peak with a few more in August and September. I have been privileged to be able to attend such a variety of games in my part of the world. They prove to be very interesting in similarities as well as their differences.

I especially like to "people watch". The little toddlers running around in their wee kilts that their Granny bought for them. No matter, all enjoy the pipes and the pandemonium, sometimes having their faces painted with Celtic knots or Scottish flags. The teenage girls are busy checking out the younger male band members parading in their kilts and full regalia. All the kids from six to sixty-six will be dancing up a storm to a Celtic rock group. Seniors love to tap their toes to all their old traditional favourites.

The great Scottish family history

After a day of going around all the events and after having a meat pie and mushy peas or fish & chips it's nice to rest in the beer or tea tent and nod to your neighbour and ask; "Where dae ye come frae?" While at the games if you are interested in Scottish history, do drop by the Clan Societies' tents. These volunteers give of their time to help you understand the great Scottish family history and its impact on Scotland.

Lastly, so many of the games are run by 'not for profit groups' whose only aim to keep the traditions and heritage alive. While there is always a main committee that may have a high profile in directing all aspects of the games, it is the army of volunteers who do many little and not so little things to make the whole event run as smoothly as possible. If you enjoy the games and want to help then approach your local committee, they would love to hear from you.

Also what better way to introduce that next generation their Scottish heritage in a fun way. Check *the Scottish Banner* for an advertisement for a games near you.

Until next time enjoy your month and don't forget we love to hear from you. Send those name inquiries in soon.

If you even take a small country like Scotland you still find a diverse number of names that reflect local history, language groups, occupations and are an indication of the name of one's ancestor.

In Springburn in northeast Glasgow there was a church named St. Roche and in 1856, a locomotive manufacturer set up a factory and named it the St. Rollox Locomotive Works after the church. This works turned out locomotives for at a least century from this area and it supplied units throughout the British Empire and the world.

Patullo or Patillo is again a place name for Pithiloch, there two such places, one in Fife and the other in Perthshire. With someone bearing that name on record as early as 1295.

Another land name is Rintoul found in Kinross shire and was recorded as a surname in 1362.

Elliot

As I research names, I find often that over the centuries there were many spellings of names that seem far removed from what they have become standardised today. One that comes to mind is the surname Elliot. It is a Border family that held sway over more than one area in that region. It is an Old English name originally known as Aelfwald later became Elwold or Elwald and later included antique spellings such as Ellote, Elliyot Elwarths, and Hellwodd etc.

There is an old rhyme that tries explain the various spellings of the name in a humorous way:



next steps and how we will continue to transition to a low carbon economy, with the offshore wind sector to take an increasingly influential role. With 25% of Europe's offshore wind potential, and through development with due regard to our natural environment, Scotland is uniquely and strongly positioned to maximise the economic and environmental benefits that the technology can deliver, which will help us progress towards our carbon emission reduction targets."

Background Kincardine Offshore Windfarm will be located approximately 15 km south-east of the coast of Aberdeen, with a permitted generating capacity up to 50 MW and will be comprised of eight three-bladed horizontal axis Wind Turbine Generators.

Floating offshore windfarm approved

Planning consent for an eight turbine 6MW offshore wind farm around 15 km south-east of Aberdeen has been granted by Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, Paul Wheelhouse, MSP.

The floating development by Kincardine Offshore Windfarm Limited will:

- Support the creation of around 110 jobs during assembly, installation and through ongoing operations and maintenance activities
- Have a generating capacity up to a maximum of 50 MW – enough to power the equivalent of almost 56,000 homes
- Prevent CO2 emissions of more than 94,500 tonnes per year

Mr Wheelhouse said: "Once operational, this pioneering, 50MW Kincardine Offshore Windfarm will create jobs and investment across Scotland through the use of our supply chain. It will also cement our place as one of the world's leading nations in the innovation and deployment of floating offshore wind. If the technology can be demonstrated at scale, it has huge potential to help Scotland meet its energy needs and to develop a supply chain that can service opportunities elsewhere in Europe and in markets such as South East Asia and North America. Our commitment to supporting low carbon energy is outlined in our new draft Energy Strategy which sets out

The Scottish magazine that scandalised society



submissions rejected by the magazine. The *Blackwood* archive is part of the Library's collection and highlights from the archive and printed collections will be used to tell the story of the magazine in a special treasures display. It includes a copy of the first ever issue from 200 years ago. The display also features some unusual items

“From its humble beginnings in Edinburgh 200 years ago, Blackwood’s has left behind a rich legacy as one of the most original and influential periodicals to have been published in Britain.”

such as a 1918 edition which saved the life of a soldier during the First World War by absorbing the impact of a bullet.

The first issue of the magazine appeared on April 1, 1817 and it was designed as a combative Tory counterblast to the existing Whig-supporting *Edinburgh Review*. Its reception was lukewarm, resulting in the publisher William Blackwood firing its founding editors and starting afresh.

The issue which appeared in October that year was not going to be ignored. Blackwood and his new editors – John Gibson Lockhart and John Wilson - decided to stir things up. Controversy was to be courted as a sales tactic.

Notable public figures, among them the magazine's original editors, were lampooned in one article about the ancient Chaldee manuscript that professed to be the discovery of an ancient biblical text. It was the shape of things to come. Readers were both scandalised and captivated by the satirical attacks on prominent figures and the harsh reviews handed out, particularly to certain members of the London literati.

Rich legacy

It resulted in several lawsuits being brought against the magazine. One quarrel in 1821 regarding an attack on the ‘Cockney school’ of poetry ended in a pistol duel being fought in London which resulted in the death of the editor of the *London Magazine*, John Scott.

Meanwhile, *Blackwood's* went from strength to strength, publishing the work of a succession of literary talent including the Ettrick Shepherd James Hogg, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Galt, Margaret Oliphant and a great many others.

Although the magazine continued into the 20th century, its best days were behind it. It lost readers to new journals that made greater use of illustrations and employed fresh attention-grabbing tactics, similar to those that had helped to establish *Blackwood's* name. It finally ceased publication in 1980.

“From its humble beginnings in Edinburgh 200 years ago, *Blackwood's* has left behind a rich legacy as one of the

most original and influential periodicals to have been published in Britain,” said Manuscripts Curator Dr Ralph McLean who has put the display together.

“It may have been built on controversy but it came to provide a platform for some of the finest writing in the English language.”

The National Library of Scotland is a major European research library and one of the world's leading centres for the study of Scotland and the Scots - an information treasure trove for Scotland's knowledge, history and culture. Laws were made to be broken: Blackwood's Magazine at 200 runs until July 2 at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. Entry is free. Further information is available at www.nls.uk



A magazine founded in Edinburgh 200 years ago which grew to be one of the most influential of the Victorian age is being celebrated at the National Library of Scotland. One of the strengths of *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* was in publishing new fiction. A number of literary classics, including Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, George Eliot's *Middlemarch* and John Buchan's *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, made their first appearance in print in the magazine.

Scandalised and captivated

Competition to appear in *Blackwood's* was fierce and other great writers including Arthur Conan Doyle and Robert Louis Stevenson were among those who had

NECO Announces the 2017 Ellis Island Medals of Honor Recipients

The National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), has announced recipients for the 2017 Ellis Island Medals of Honor. Board Director and Secretary of Save Ellis Island Robert Currie, former astronaut Buzz Aldrin, CEO of PepsiCo Indra Nooyi, TV host and journalist Fareed Zakaria, CEO of HSN Mindy Grossman, former actress and film studio executive Sherry Lansing, chef and restaurateur Thomas Keller, are amongst the one-hundred outstanding Americans in business, government, medicine, art and education, will receive the 2017 medal.

Promoting Scottish history and culture

Robert ‘Bob’ Currie is a respected leader in the Scottish-American community. He has dedicated the last 30 years of his life to preserving and promoting Scottish history and culture. He created and produces two of the nation's signature Scottish-American heritage events: Tartan Day on Ellis Island, and The Pipes of Christmas concerts. Some of the concert's beneficiaries have included the British Soldiers Fund, the USO and the SHIP food kitchen program.

Based on the concert's success, and in response to Hurricane Katrina,



Currie produced “No One is Alone: A Concert for Hope,” which raised funds to support emergency relief efforts in the Gulf Coast. In 1992, Currie took over the Clan Currie Society; a family heritage organization founded in Glasgow, Scotland in 1959. Under his leadership, membership has grown from 200 to approximately 4 thousand members worldwide and has raised thousands of dollars in scholarships in the US, Canada and Scotland.

The nation's most renowned awards

Robert was appointed by Governor Whitman to the NJ Advisory Committee on the Preservation and Use of Ellis Island. Previously, he served as Chairman of the Ethnic Advisory Council of the State of

New Jersey. In 2000, the committee's work developed into the Save Ellis Island Foundation where Mr. Currie currently serves as Director and Secretary. He holds a BS and MS degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University and an Honorary Doctorate in the Arts from Edinburgh Napier University.

In its 31st year, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor ceremony takes place on Ellis Island, in the historic Great Hall, the original registry room and gateway for 12 million immigrants to the US.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor ranks among the nation's most renowned awards. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have officially recognized the Ellis Island Medals of Honor, and each year the recipients are listed in the Congressional Record.

To see the full list of 2017 recipients, please visit: www.neco.org.



Scottish cyclist set to smash records with 80 days world cycle



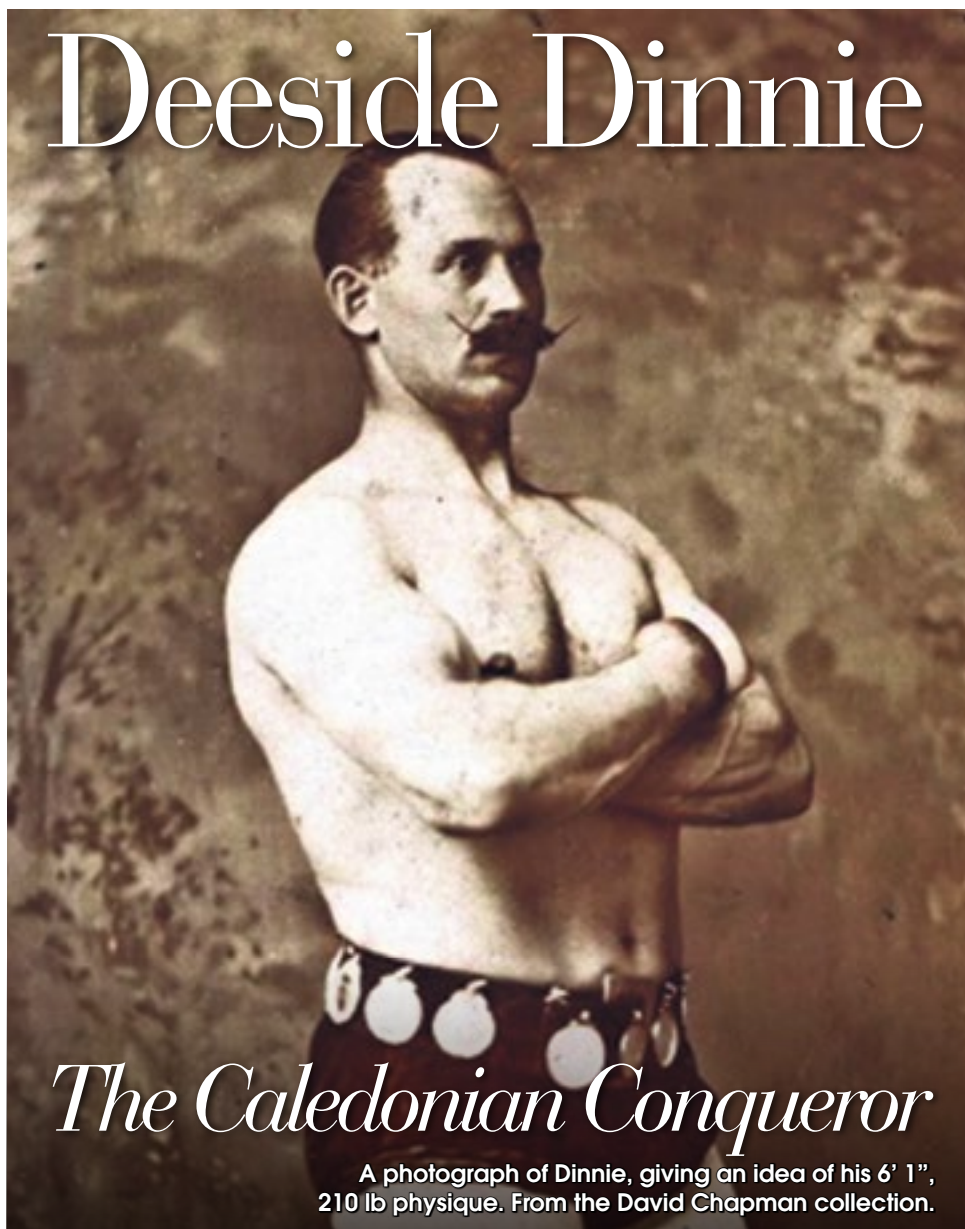
Mark Beaumont at Edinburgh Airport.

Scottish cycling star Mark Beaumont, best known for cycling around the world in 194 days in 2008, will take ultra-endurance to another level by circumnavigating the globe in less than half that time. Beaumont

will be attempting to travel 18,000 miles around the world, starting from Paris on Sunday 2 July. Beaumont will leave Paris and cycle to Beijing via Poland, Lithuania, Russia, and Mongolia. He will then cycle between Perth and Brisbane in Australia, and between Invercargill and Auckland in New Zealand. The fourth leg of his challenge is between Anchorage in the United States and Halifax in Canada, and he will complete his journey by cycling from Lisbon to Paris. As a warm up to the Artemis World Cycle, Mark has recently been cycling around the coastline of Britain, on a 15-day training ride, for 16 hours and 240 miles per day.

As part of his mission to travel around the world in 80 days, breaking the current world record of 123 days, set by New Zealand's Andrew Nicholson, the Scottish adventurer is raising funds for Orkidstudio, which works to benefit communities worldwide through innovative architecture and construction. The journey will also be tracked through Twinkl, a global educational platform for primary schools. “This is the culmination of the past two decades, since I was a 12-year-old boy cycling across Scotland,” says Beaumont. “I would love for this journey to give people the confidence to take on what they are capable of, for young people in particular to stop and to think ‘what's my 80 days?’”

Deeside Dinnie



The Caledonian Conqueror

A photograph of Dinnie, giving an idea of his 6' 1", 210 lb physique. From the David Chapman collection.

Donald Dinnie (1837–1916) was a Scottish strongman and regarded as one of Scotland's greatest athletes. Dinnie was Scotland's first sporting superstar and an all-round athlete who excelled in a variety of disciplines and enjoyed sporting success into his seventies, broke records and created Scottish sporting history as Eric Bryan explains.

There are two boulders, which for many years were housed at the Potarch Hotel, near Banchory, Royal Deeside, Aberdeenshire. In 1860, a stonemason used them as anchors while repairing the Bridge of Potarch, which spans the River Dee. The boulders each had an iron ring affixed to its top, to which the mason would tie ropes that ran over the side of the bridge, to support scaffolding. One market day, the stonemason's 23-year-old son Donald Dinnie lifted the massive rocks simultaneously by grasping the two rings, one in each hand, and with one stone fore and one aft, carried them some five yards or more on the bridge.



Scotland's 'First Sporting Superstar'. A coloured photo of Dinnie, by CJ Beattie. From the National Galleries of Scotland collection.

One of the greatest feats of human strength

Author David Webster weighed the stones in 1956 at 340 and 435 lbs, 775 lbs total. However, in his 1959 book *Scottish Highland Games*, Webster reported that the total weight lifted and carried by Dinnie was in excess of 785 lbs. Over the last century-and-a-half, the stones seem to have lost weight due to use and perhaps vandalism. Dinnie's descendant, Gordon Dinnie, weighed the boulders in 1998 to 321 and 413 lbs, 734 lbs total. This records a decrease of 41 lbs since 1956—the stanes hae been slimming! It's safe to assume that Dinnie lifted and carried for distance something near to 800 lbs, almost a hundred years before the prevalent use of steroids in sport began. This remains one of the greatest feats of human strength in recorded history.

Born at Balnacraig, Birse, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire on 8 July 1837, Donald Dinnie was one of 10 children, having four sisters and five brothers. He was a good student, being especially proficient in Latin. Working as assistant to his stonemason father, he left school at age 15, and felt drawn to athletics. At 16, Dinnie won £1 by defeating Deeside champion David Forbes in a wrestling match, instigating Dinnie's career as a professional athlete. However, he continued to work in masonry until 1867 when, at age 30, he became a fulltime athlete.

As a Highland Games competitor, Dinnie's typical events were throwing the 16 and 22 lb stones and hammers, throwing the 28 and 56 lb weights for distance, throwing the 56 lb weight for height, the high jump, long jump, triple jump, pole vault, sprint, and caber-toss. Dinnie often competed in two events at once, such as jumping and throwing, rushing back and forth between them.

Scottish Champion

Dinnie played for prize money; he didn't always intend to set a record. His aim was to collect the winnings, so unless he faced serious competition, he often worked well within his limits, doing just enough to be victorious. For instance, he might only throw once, and leave it at that if no one could exceed his mark. This tactic could also conserve energy, for Dinnie seemed to enter practically every event in every game going, performing day after day. Dinnie was Scottish Champion from 1856 to 1876.

In the 1870s, Dinnie toured North America, entering Scottish Games competitions as a celebrity athlete. Dinnie's presence regularly drew crowds of a few thousand people, and sometimes over 10,000. He earned at least £25, and occasionally up to £220, per day—fantastic amounts for the time.

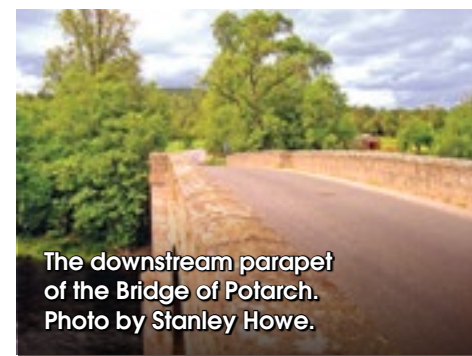
Dinnie's athletic achievements read like those of a Scottish hero of Celtic legend: He was the victor in over 10,000 competitions in many different events on several continents, an all-round athlete who seemed to do it all. But lest you think Dinnie was an impervious winner who went from height to height, oftentimes a win went personally unfulfilled because of a stroke of bad luck. One such horror occurred while touring the US, when the news reached him from Aberdeen of his wife's death. Losing impetus to return home, Dinnie went on tour in Canada, and then to Australia. Perhaps the real prize, like the Holy Grail, was always just out of Dinnie's reach.

Dinnie's tours of Australia and New Zealand in the 1880s had him collecting wins and records along the way. He conquered the Maori wrestling champion, who'd held the title for 15 years, and he faced Australian Greco-Roman wrestling champ Professor William Miller. After the 6' 1", 210 lb Dinnie threw the 238 lb Miller to the ground, breaking his leg, the remorseful Scot refused the purse. Dinnie remarried in Australia in 1885, and lived for a time in Melbourne.

Dinnie also gave exhibitions, where he performed strength feats such as heavy dumbbell lifts, and holding out a weight at arm's length. Dinnie used 56 lbs for this event, and in Australia in 1888, he held the weight in position for 45 seconds. David Webster noted that this was one of Dinnie's greatest accomplishments.

A regular strongman

Dinnie continued to tour New Zealand, Australia, and also South Africa, as a professional athlete, even to the age of 60. He returned to Scotland in 1898. When famed French-Canadian strongman Louis Cyr came to Scotland to test himself in traditional strength feats, Dinnie gave a demonstration by lifting one of the Dinnie Stones and carrying it for an impressive distance. He then challenged Cyr to have a try. According to Webster's *Scottish Highland Games*, when Cyr lifted and



The downstream parapet of the Bridge of Potarch. Photo by Stanley Howe.

carried the stone an even greater distance than Dinnie had, the latter remarked, "Man, ye should hae been a Scot." But which was the greater achievement in that impromptu contest? Take into account that Cyr outweighed Dinnie by 100 lbs (while being three inches shorter), and that Cyr was at the time about 36 years old, whilst Dinnie was 63. Scotland Forever!

In his commercial endeavours, Dinnie dealt in horses, ran a hotel and a carriage-for-hire service, and worked as an undertaker. But Dinnie's business acumen wasn't as sharp as his sporting skills, and none of the ventures panned out very successfully. However, his athletic prize winnings amounted to approximately £25,000 (nearly a few million pounds in today's money), and Dinnie earned income from endorsements, such as for Iron Brew (Irn-Bru) soft drink. Dinnie's likeness adorned the bottles' labels, accompanied by his supposed quoted testimonial.

The Scotsman's fortunes eventually dwindled, requiring him to continue with strongman performances. As late as 1910 at age 73, Dinnie was winning prizes at the Nairn Highland Games. Dinnie also had a regular strongman act in London. At 75 years old, he could still hold out the 56 lb weight. In 1912, fearing the veteran athlete would eventually injure himself, the London County Councillors forced his retirement. Dinnie died in London in 1916, aged 78.

The indomitable Dinnie



The hulking Dinnie Stones, outside the Potarch Hotel. Photo courtesy of Iain Cameron.

Dinnie's name lives on in the stones, which are currently in the care of the Aboyne Highland Games Committee. People travel from distant lands to test themselves against the boulders. But despite the advantages available to modern lifters, as of writing, no one has equalled Dinnie's 1860 lift-and-carry exploit.

In 1973, at 5' 10", 161 lbs, 38-year-old Jack Shanks of Belfast lifted and carried the stones the 'Dinnie distance'. However, this entailed setting them down 15 times. Also in 1973, Jim Splaine of Aberdeen, at 5' 11" and 144 lbs, aged 27, lifted the stones. If they weighed 775 lbs at the time, Splaine lifted more than five times his bodyweight, a mind-boggling accomplishment. Neither men used lifting straps (grip aids).

Moray landmark dig will form part of Piping At Forres attractions



A Moray landmark is to become the centre of an archaeological dig which will tie in with Moray's biggest one day event later this month. Cluny Hill in Forres, which is topped by the famous Nelson's Tower, has recently been confirmed as the site of a much older historical monument. Dr Leif Isaksen, who grew up in Forres and is now

a Senior Lecturer at Lancaster University, is returning to his hometown as part of a community excavation to learn more about what may be an Iron Age hill-fort.

The dig brings together local and international archaeologists, along with a large team of volunteers, and will be open to the public as part of Piping At Forres, the European Pipe Band Championships. Leif said: "We are very excited to be carrying out a community research project at Cluny Hill. It is a wonderful place to be working, with beautiful views across the Moray Firth. If size is anything to go by it could be one of the most significant hilltop sites in the northern Scotland."

He added: "Dramatic changes to the landscape over the past two centuries meant that the earliest traces of human activity on Cluny Hill have all but faded from view. We very much hope that this project will inspire people to learn more about Forres and its fascinating history. The excavation has been timed to fit in with Piping At Forres and it's a huge pleasure to be involved."

Ancient history

Leif and his colleagues will form part of "Have A Go Row" which is made up of around 10 different interactive stalls. The archaeologists will be using the latest 3D and laser-scanning technologies to reveal the hill's secrets to the public, and will run guided tours around the hill during the day.

Leif said: "We are still finalising our

programme of activities at Piping At Forres, but we are certain that visitors will have their eyes opened to the ancient history beneath their feet."

Joanna Taylor, one of the directors of Forres Event Ltd which organises Piping At Forres said: "I am delighted that Leif's plans for an excavation on Cluny Hill are going ahead, and that his team have decided to coincide the dig with Piping At Forres. This is a welcome addition for us and will provide another fascinating element to the event, particularly as Piping At Forres is part of Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017."

Now in its fifth year, Piping At Forres not only includes world class piping and

drumming, Highland dancing and the World Tattie Scone Championships but also includes a food and drink village, a craft and retail village, bars and family attractions such as funfairs.

Visitors can even try their hand at the pipes and drums themselves. New attractions at this year's event will include an interactive science tent and reenactors to tell visitors more about the history and heritage of Forres and the surrounding area.

Piping At Forres, the European Pipe Band Championships 2017, takes place in the stunning setting of Grant Park, Forres on 24 June. For further details and tickets see: www.pipingatforres.com



Photo: Chit Chat PR & Digital.

Fine and Dandie-Celebrating 175 years of "Old Ginger"



Kelly Ward from Selkirk and twelve Dandie Dinmont Terriers get set to honour the 175th birthday of the breed's founding father 'Old Ginger'.
Photo: Kevin Greenfield/VisitScotland.

Over one hundred and fifty Dandie Dinmont Terrier owner and enthusiasts from across fourteen countries including USA, Canada, Scandinavia and Europe are gearing up to visit the Scottish Borders in honour of the 175th birthday of the breed's founding father 'Old Ginger', born at The Haining in Selkirk on 4 June 1842. The anniversary celebrations, which form part of Scotland's 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, will take place across three days (2 - 4 June) enabling both locals and visitors to step back in time and explore the ancestry of the breed named after a character from Sir Walter Scott's 1815 novel *Guy Mannering*.

Activities across the weekend include a 'Barking Plaid' Tartan Fashion Show at Dryburgh Abbey Hotel which will see items exclusively styled in the historic Walter Scott black and white tartan fabric

for both dogs and owners and a 'Meet the Dandies' public event at Bowhill House and Country Estate. A street parade of Dandie Dinmont Terriers through Selkirk will kick-off the birthday party proceedings followed by the opening of the Dandie Dinmont Discovery Centre, the Dandie Dinmont Derby and the unveiling of the 'Old Ginger' bronze statue by the Queen's sculptor for Scotland, Alexander Stoddart, all due to take place at The Haining - recognised as being the home of the Dandie Dinmont terrier.

Scotland's forgotten dog breed

Popular locations such as Abbotsford House, Lochcarron of Scotland and Dryburgh Abbey will also be explored by enthusiasts and their dogs throughout the weekend. Among the rarest dogs on earth and the only breed to have its own tartan bestowed by a Clan Chief the event is also aiming to highlight the plight of the endangered canine which saw only 316 puppies born worldwide last year. Paul Keevil, UK Coordinator of the event said: "The Dandie Dinmont Terrier is Scotland's forgotten dog breed with a dedicated and passionate following of enthusiasts from around the world. The first weekend in June will see the largest ever informal gathering of the breed as we celebrate the 175th birthday of the father of the breed "Old Ginger".

The Dandie Dinmont terrier are a breed of terrier developed in the border country of England and Scotland and was first noted as a breed in 1700.



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Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

Lady MacGregor of MacGregor – otherwise known as British broadcaster Fiona Armstrong. Fiona is currently news reading for the BBC. But she also leaves the studio from time to time to report on matters Scottish. She lives in Scotland with her husband, the MacGregor clan chief. Sir Malcolm is Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, and Fiona is an active member of Clan Armstrong, so their lives are interwoven with all things tartan. The couple have moved from the borderlands to the lowlands, home is now a white tower house between Perth and Dundee, although filming and writing takes Fiona all over Scotland.



Buchanans and the Hannays. If you are in Edinburgh this August, come and join us, although you will need a ticket...

I love the Tattoo. It is arguably the most famous piping event in the world and what a hair-tingling moment it is when those massed bands start to march. This year the MacGregors have an Australian piper joining us. She is called Mish - and there will be more about her in a future edition of *the Scottish Banner*. It is good to see more women playing the bagpipes. Did you know that the world's first female pipe band started back in 1930? And that it was not actually formed in Scotland, but in Essex, in south-east England. That in itself tells a story, because you don't get more English than Dagenham, Essex...

The Sword in the Story

I, meanwhile, have been finding out more about 'The Sword in the Story'. It is a new exhibition at Dumfries Museum and is inspired by a sixteenth-century sword that has recently been recovered from the cellars of a council building. This ancient weapon is creating interest because it may have belonged to the legendary Kinmont Willie Armstrong. Kinmont Willie was an infamous border reiver.

Notorious for bloodthirsty raids in the Scottish borderlands in a turbulent time, he was what you would call a "wanted" man. In 1596 this freebooter was captured by the English on a day of truce and he is best known through the Walter Scott ballad that describes his daring release from Carlisle Castle. Other weapons on display in the new exhibition include a Scottish bronze age dagger and a sword that belonged to Robert Burns. And on the subject of the Bard.

Ayrshire

I have just been to Ayr, which is near Burns' birthplace at Alloway. It is not a good route across country to get there. Potholes are impossible and speed limits frustrate those in a hurry. But if you have time, what a beautiful journey it is: travelling past lush green fields filled with Scotland's famous Ayrshire cows. The breed was first recorded in the 1870's and the Ayrshire Cattle Society Herd Book was started in 1877. This beast is typically red or brown with some white – and is described as 'alert and vigorous but easy to handle. The Ayrshire is a fabulous dairy cow. It lives for a long time and has good temperament and health, which is why today it is found all over the world,

especially as it can stand heat as well as cold... As you continue westwards there are rolling hills with clear streams of water cascading off them. Old stone churches are found in small villages and some of the parish records will be in Latin.

When you reach the coast beaches are sandy and uncrowded. There are dozens of golf courses in this part of the world – and lots of delicious food, including the must-have mince and Ayrshire tatties. The town of Ayr itself is undergoing a renaissance. Unsightly buildings are to be knocked down to open up access to the river. This water is dramatic, wide and rushing, and deserves to be better seen. Festivals and outdoor events will all help to put this place on the map. Ayr is racing towards greatness. And why not? It has a racecourse.

On my return the chief tells me that his old regiment, the Scots Guards, was once given the Freedom of Ayr. Whether that means he can walk down the streets of the town with his sheep, I do not know. But I would love to take a picture if he does and I hope he wears his kilt...

Follow the MacGregor clan chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, on twitter.com/theclanchiefs

Greetings from Scotland where we have had the hottest weather: folk sunbathing on beaches, people with a spring in their stride... And all this in what can be a chilly Scottish May. It makes me fear for June, when it will no doubt rain all month! However, we must enjoy it whilst it's here. Blue skies, pheasants strutting on the lawn, gorse and azaleas a brilliant yellow. I have not seen such a beautiful spring for many years.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Of course, all this heat makes it rather difficult to wear a kilt. And the poor old MacGregor had had to don his to attend a press launch for the forthcoming Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. This year the clans are heavily involved in the piping and dancing jamboree. It is called 'A Splash of Tartan' and each night a different Scottish name will march proudly onto the castle esplanade. The MacNabs and Hays will be wowing the crowds at the first event and the MacGregor's moment of glory is in week three. We will be in good company, with the



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St Andrew's Old Course.

St Andrews, Royal Troon and Cruden Bay make the cut in poll of Scotland's best golf holes

Scotland is the Home of Golf, a place of pilgrimage for the true golfer. Scotland is also home to over 550 courses – from championship courses to hidden gems and Scots golfers have recently highlighted the best the country has to offer.

The closing hole at St Andrews Old Course has been voted as the best golf hole in Scotland, after a poll of 3,000 golfers chose it ahead of a formidable selection from the country's world-class courses. The poll, undertaken by VisitScotland, set out to discover which golf holes in Scotland exhibited #ScotSpirit – a feature of the national tourism organisation's Spirit of Scotland campaign. It asked golfers to vote for the best opening and closing holes, a best Par 3, 4 and 5, as well as a best view and a best overall hole from a selection of shortlisted holes across the country.

Tom Morris, St Andrews' iconic final hole and home to the Valley of Sin, took the award for the best hole and best

closing hole, while its neighbouring 17th hole was voted the best Par 4 in Scotland. The 9th hole at Cruden Bay Golf Club on the Aberdeenshire coast claimed the award for best view. The course, which boasts stirring views across the Bay of Cruden and Slains Castle, beat out competition from the Castle Course at St Andrews, Machrihanish Dunes and Gullane Golf Club. The category included nominations for more than 300 individual holes, testament to the wealth of stunning views across Scotland's courses.

Essential golfing destination

Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland, said: "We're thrilled that the golfing public have taken the time to

put their support behind their favourite courses in Scotland, from local favourites to the home of golf itself, St Andrews. Every club plays its part in making Scotland the essential golfing destination, so we're proud to honour such a diverse range of our spectacular courses."

The Machrihanish Golf Club confirmed its status as the owners of the best opening hole in the world. The Battery, whose tee box already features a plaque to that effect, received over 1,000 votes as the best opening hole in Scotland. Machrihanish and Cruden Bay weren't the only local courses to perform better in the poll than some of their more well-known compatriots. Moray Golf Club's closing hole, overlooking the Moray Firth, came

second in its category, ahead of both Carnoustie and Turnberry. The 12th hole at neighbouring Hopeman Golf Club, received more than 120 votes for the best view, despite not being shortlisted. The Postage Stamp (8th) at Troon was voted the best par 3 in Scotland, while the 12th hole at Kingsbarns Golf Club on the Fife Coast was voted the best Par 5. The neighbour of St Andrews finished ahead of holes from Castle Stuart (18th), 2014 Ryder Cup venue Gleneagles (16th) and the recently redesigned Ailsa course at Trump Turnberry (10th).

For more information on the poll and the breadth of courses Scotland has to offer, visit www.visitscotland.com/blog/golf/best-golf-holes

The final results of the poll were as follows:

- Best Hole – Tom Morris, 18th at the Old Course, St Andrews (799 votes, 27% share)
- Best Opening Hole – The Battery, 1st at Machrihanish Golf Club (1025 votes, 30% share)
- Best Closing Hole - Tom Morris, 18th at the Old Course, St Andrews (825 votes, 24% share)

- Best Par 3 – The Postage Stamp, 8th at Royal Troon (891 votes, 26% share)
- Best Par 4 – Road, 17th at the Old Course, St Andrews (1176 votes, 36% share)
- Best Par 5 – Orrdeal, 12th at Kingsbarns Golf Club (654 votes, 19% share)
- Best View – 9th at Championship Course, Cruden Bay Golf Club (662 votes, 20% share)

Did you know?

- The course at Cruden Bay was completed in 1899 to complement one of the original railway hotels, Cruden Bay Hotel, during the ascent of train travel.
- Golfers on Whalsay Golf Course in the Shetland Islands shouldn't worry if they can't sleep at night – they can just strap the clubs on their back and head off for a round of golf. You see, midnight golf is possible at the UK's most northerly course during the height of summer. And the views are spectacular.
- There are 17 islands in Scotland which are home to golf courses.



Golfers at the Isle of Harris Golf Club, Outer Hebrides. Photo: Paul Tomkins/VisitScotland.

- Hags Castle Golf Course was formed in 1910, it takes its name from the castle – one of Glasgow's oldest buildings – built in 1585 by Sir John Stirling Maxwell of Pollok. The course sits next to the world-famous Burrell Collection and within Pollok Country Park – the only Country Park within Glasgow.
- The British Golf Museum in St Andrews is the world's premiere heritage centre for golf is located just 67 yards from the Old Course at St Andrews. The collection tells the story of British golf, through material dating from the 17th Century to the present day. It is the most comprehensive golf collection in Britain, and one of the finest worldwide, celebrating golf from grass roots to international level.
- One of the earliest members of the Dunfermline Golf Club was Robert Lockhart who, with John Reid, introduced golf to the United States through the formation of the St Andrew's Golf Club in New York.
- The earliest records of golf being played was at Leith Links in Edinburgh to 1522.



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Scotland's Clans welcomed at Edinburgh Castle's Great Hall for the first time in history

Gathering celebrates Scottish Diaspora community in the modern age ahead of this year's The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

More than 30 clansmen and clanswomen marched to the Great Hall at Edinburgh Castle in May to mark a hugely momentous occasion in Scotland's history books. This is the first time that Scotland's clans have been welcomed into the Castle since the Highland Clans marched to the City of Edinburgh to lay siege to the Castle during the Jacobite uprisings in 1745. The gathering was organised by The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo which is celebrating its own ties with the Scottish Diaspora this year.

The gathering of Scotland's diaspora community is believed to be the only time that clans have been openly welcomed to one of Scotland's oldest fortresses. Clan members were treated to a guided tour of the medieval surroundings of the Great Hall where their ancestors once attempted to gain entry to, courtesy of Edinburgh Castle's Governor, Major General Mike Riddell-Webster, and hosted by The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The event is being heralded by historians as the latest iconic tale from the colourful history of Scotland's clans folk. The gathering was an indication of the strength of the clan involvement which still survives in Scotland, with more than 350 clans in existence.



In September 1745 more than 900 of the Highland clansmen marched to the City of Edinburgh to lay siege to the Castle. Although they managed to capture Edinburgh and Holyrood, in a hugely symbolic move, they were never successful in capturing the

The event is being heralded by historians as the latest iconic tale from the colourful history of Scotland's clans folk. The gathering was an indication of the strength of the clan involvement which still survives in Scotland, with more than 350 clans in existence.

Castle as General Guest, Governor at the time, would not surrender the Castle to Bonnie Prince Charlie and his men.

Splash of Tartan

During the Tattoo's August extravaganza, the military showcase will champion the theme *Splash of Tartan*, a series of events that will encourage people living in Scotland and those with a link to Scotland to explore their ancestral connections with the country. In the opening ceremony of each evening, Clan Chiefs will lead their clan folk on to the Esplanade to the awaiting Tattoo crowd. Everyone across the city is being encouraged to dress up in finest tartan accoutrements.

The timely link up between the Tattoo and Scottish Diaspora, which falls during VisitScotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, will be reinforced through a range of separate partnerships and initiatives, including a tie up with The National Museum of Scotland, The National Trust of Scotland and Historic

Environment Scotland who have collaborated to create a new trail of 25 properties and attractions throughout the country whose history is intertwined with Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites.

Sir Malcolm MacGregor, convener of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, said: "It is a great honour for 57 clans and chiefs to be taking part in such a prestigious event as The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo this year. There will be clan representatives from around the world, in keeping with the high international profile of the Tattoo, and the global nature of today's clan network. For the participating clans, it will be a dream come true to march onto the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, a location that has, over the centuries, been central to the clan story. Tartan will be to the fore with the clans kitted out in the 'Garb of Old Gaul'. The great cloth, that has been worn by the Clans and Scottish Regiments since the Jacobite

period of the 1700s, will be on full display and worn with great pride."

History and heritage

Brigadier David Allfrey, Chief Executive and Producer of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, said: "I am delighted that we will be hosting the Clan Chiefs and their clans folk in the Great Hall this August - 57 clans will be represented in all! I am so grateful for the encouragement of the Governor of Edinburgh Castle, Scottish Ministers, Historic Environment Scotland and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. Everyone has been hugely supportive of this initiative which, I believe, offers a wonderful opportunity to reinforce the connections between the great Scottish families and their kith and kin around the world. Edinburgh Castle has been at the centre of so many extraordinary events over the years and it is tremendous that we will see another story playing out this summer. I wonder what the forebears of the Clan Chiefs and the leaders



of the Families would be thinking if they could witness so many of their descendants being entertained in the Great Hall?"

"As well as looking to our history and heritage, I hope the Tattoo's 'Splash of Tartan' will serve to stimulate anyone with a little Scottish blood in their veins to visit and enjoy our hospitality and everything that is remarkable about modern Scotland. We are looking forward very much to playing our part. Let us all splash the tartan this August!"

Major General Mike Riddell-Webster, Governor of Edinburgh Castle, added: "History relates that a Royal Castle has stood on the Castle Rock since the 12th century with a Captain or a Governor in place since Bartolf in the late 11th Century. I am hugely honoured to be Her Majesty's appointed guardian of this ancient fortress and am delighted to have the opportunity to host the clans in the Great Hall. Each evening during the Tattoo we will welcome nearly 200 clansmen and women into the Castle. I believe the Castle has been besieged 23 times in its long history and claims to be 'the most besieged place in Great Britain and one of the most attacked in the world'. This time though I hope everything will be peaceful."

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo returns to the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle between 4-26 August, offering a thrilling mix of entertainment and pageantry from cultures around the world to an audience of 8,800 each evening, and a further 1 million through televised broadcasts globally.

Did you know?

- The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo first performed in 1950 and is 67 years-old. The event has sold out for the last 18 consecutive years.
- The Tattoo is performed to a live audience of 220,000 annually on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle with a further global TV audience of +100 million.
- Performers from 48 countries have taken part.
- In 2010, the event was renamed The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo after Her Majesty The Queen bestowed the Royal title in honour of its 60th birthday.
- HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, is the Patron of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.
- The Tattoo has donated over £10M to Services and Arts organisations since 1950 through its Charitable Parent Company.
- The Tattoo generates £77M annually for the Scottish economy with a further £30M in full-time employment equivalent.
- The Tattoo has performed overseas on four occasions, most recently Australia and New Zealand in February 2016. Over 240,000 tickets were sold and the shows delivered a combined estimate of £50M gross economic impact to the cities of Melbourne and Wellington



The Return to the Ridings Celebrating a Border tradition

An' year after year, as June days draw nigh, A horseman stands guard wi' flag tae the sky.

The Return to the Ridings is a celebration of the riding of the boundaries that has taken place for centuries with 11 towns in the Scottish Borders using horses for the traditional ride out. The festivals surrounding these ride outs are steeped in tradition and celebrate borders history, music and song, parades and concerts culminating in the whole town celebrating the 'Riding'. In 2014, the 11 towns collaborated to jointly promote their events to domestic and international visitors. As well as inviting visitors to experience these unique events, the towns hosted exile nights to welcome visitors and make them feel a part of the community.

Border badlands

Common Ridings can be traced back to the 13th and 14th centuries when the border badlands were in constant upheaval during the long wars with England and because of the tribal custom of plunder and cattle thieving, known as reiving (the ancient word for robbing) that was commonplace amongst the major Borders families. Perhaps your ancestors were reivers who terrorised the border between England and Scotland? Armstrong, Elliot, Graham, Irvine, Johnstone, Kerr, Maxwell, Nixon and Scott were among the families who rode, feuded, fought and plundered over the border area for 350 years. In such lawless



times, townspeople would ride their boundaries, or 'marches', to protect their common lands and prevent encroachment by neighbouring landlords. For more than a century the hoof-beats of countless raiding parties drummed over the border. From Dumfriesshire to the high wastes of East Cumbria, from Roxburghshire to Redesdale, from the lonely valley of Liddesdale to the fortress city of Carlisle,

Common Ridings can be traced back to the 13th and 14th centuries when the border badlands were in constant upheaval during the long wars with England and because of the tribal custom of plunder and cattle thieving, known as reiving (the ancient word for robbing) that was commonplace amongst the major Borders families.

swords and spears spoke while the law remained silent. Fierce family loyalty counted for everything while the rules of nationality counted for nothing. Long after they ceased to be essential, the ridings continued in commemoration of local legend, history and tradition.

Ancient custom

The Hawick Common-Riding is the first of the Border festivals and celebrates both the capture of an English Flag in 1514 by the youth of Hawick at a place called Hornshole and the ancient custom of riding the marches or boundaries of the common land. There are 11 border towns who share an ancient tradition known as riding the bounds with horses - and plenty of debate as to whose is the oldest and Hawick and Selkirk are among the biggest. Riding the Marches flourished in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Stirling, Dundee, Inverness and Arbroath between the 16th and 18th centuries too, but they endured in the Borders long after they ceased to be essential.

Until August hundreds of riders will saddle up for their respective territorial trots led by a standard bearer, usually elected by his local community. Depending on where you are in the border region the standard bearer is known as the Laddie, Cornet, Coldstreamer, Bari Gadgi and Callant among other colourful descriptions. Today the ridings form the centrepiece of civic week celebrations and attract visitors from all over the world. The events are friendly, colourful, heart-stirring and steeped in local border history. Visitors are always made welcome and will soon find themselves joining in - whether it's linking arms as the procession moves through the town or cheering the stunning displays of horsemanship as the riders gallop back into the town. However today's colourful event involves extravagant convoys of horse riders following the town flag or standard as it's taken on a well-worn route and we are all invited to celebrate this unique Scottish Border tradition with a warm welcome to match.

Photos: Taken from Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert's *Unsullied And Untarnished* - A photographic portrait of the people of the towns of the Scottish Borders who each year undertake the maintaining of tradition, commemorating their local history and strengthening the bonds of their communities, during the annual Common Riding festivals of the summer months.

Dates for Common Ridings & Festivals 2017

- 4th - 11th June Hawick Common Riding
- 2nd - 10th June West Linton Whipman
- 12th - 16th June Selkirk Common Riding
- 18th - 24th June Peebles Beltane
- 18th - 24th June Melrose Festival
- 23rd June - 2nd July Galashiels Braw Lads Gathering
- 2nd - 8th July Duns Summer Festival
- 16th - 22nd July Kelso Civic Week
- 30th July - 5th August Lauder Common Riding
- 6th - 12th August Coldstream Civic Week

Other Common Ridings & Festivals

- 11th - 17th June Yetholm Festival Week
- 22nd - 30th July Musselburgh Festival
- 25th - 30th July Langholm Common Riding
- 24th - 26th March Hawick Reivers Festival

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Aurora detector for Shetland

AuroraWatch UK, the organisation that issues alerts when the northern lights might be visible in the UK, is looking to install a detector in Shetland. AuroraWatch UK measures interactions between solar wind which escapes from the sun and the Earth's magnetic field and atmosphere and issues alerts to subscribers when the Northern Lights may be visible. AuroraWatch UK's Dr. Nathan Case said; "If located in Shetland, this new magnetometer would be the most northerly instrument in the AuroraWatch UK alert system. In fact, it would be over 200 miles north of our current most northerly magnetometer at Crooktree, Aberdeen. This should allow us to detect even the weakest of auroral activity, and may allow us to detect auroral activity slightly earlier on than we do now." Shetland is known for great sightings of the Aurora Borealis, which is also known as the Northern Lights or the Mirrie Dancers locally. Other Scottish centres that have great viewings are in the Highlands, Aberdeenshire and East Lothian.

Beaver reintroduction opportunity for Scotland



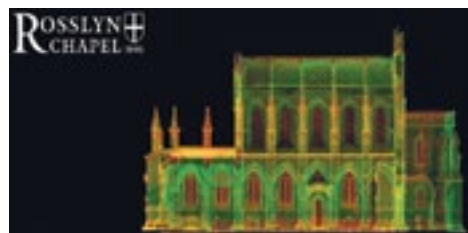
Trees for Life, the Scottish conservation charity, wants to reintroduce beavers to the northwest Highlands. Beavers play a crucial ecological role and provide a range of important benefits for other species. They coppice and fell trees – letting light into the forest, enabling other species to grow and stimulating new growth of the trees themselves. By damming watercourses they create wetland areas – providing habitats for amphibians, invertebrates and fish, which in turn attract birds and otters.

"Allowing this native species to return would offer Scotland huge benefits. Beavers are superb ecosystem engineers and could transform and greatly improve the health of our rivers and forest ecosystems, help restore our depleted wetlands and reduce flooding – while substantially boosting wildlife tourism," said Alan Watson Featherstone, Trees for Life's Founder. "We also have an ethical responsibility to allow the beaver to return at last, having caused its extinction in Scotland. The government has the opportunity now to take a far-sighted positive decision that will benefit

our communities and landscapes, and will lead the way in the UK, at a time when England and Wales are also considering the possible reintroduction of beavers."

Scotland also has more than 250 wild beavers estimated to be in the River Tay catchment, following breeding by beavers that escaped captivity. Trees for Life is urging the government to allow the natural expansion of beavers from both Argyll and Tayside, and to authorise further licensed reintroductions in appropriate areas, accompanied by carefully considered management and monitoring, including to secure the genetic health and long-term viability of these colonies.

Cutting-edge technology takes medieval Rosslyn Chapel around the world



A new mobile app, launched in May at the Rosslyn Chapel, will let members of the public see the Chapel's renowned stonework. Wherever they are in the world Rosslyn Chapel's stonework can now be appreciated more easily all over the world thanks to a new app launched at the Chapel. Since 2008, the interior and exterior of the Chapel and its grounds have been digitally documented using laser scanning technology and the results have been used to create unique features in the app such as animations showing how the medieval Chapel was constructed, a virtual tour and a 360-degree panoramic tour. Ian Gardner, Director of Rosslyn Chapel Trust said, "Rosslyn Chapel is known throughout the world for its unique architecture and ornate stonework and we hope that this app will introduce the Chapel to new audiences in an innovative way and inspire future generations of visitors."

The new app is available to download from the App Store.

3-D technology to help Pictish stones

A project has recently started to clean and protect ancient Pictish stones at the Old Church of Inverurie, using 3-D scanning to help maintain and protect the stones. Clara Molina Sanchez, director of Edinburgh's Spectrum Heritage, said: "The 3D recording is going to help the conservation process. We'll be removing the biological growth that's growing on the

surface of the stones and consolidating all the areas that are a little bit fragile." Exposure to nature has caused the stones need repair and they may soon suffer erosion if no action is taken.

As one of the heartlands of the Pictish community, Aberdeenshire is home to a large number of the elaborately decorated Symbol Stones for which the Picts are famed – around 20% of all Pictish stones recorded in Scotland can be found in Aberdeenshire.

The stones, incised or carved in relief, are decorated with a variety of symbols, ranging from geometric shapes and patterns, to animals (real and mythical), human figures, objects, and Christian motifs. Some earlier Pictish stones are also incised with a script known as Ogham, which comprises a pattern of short linear strokes crossing a vertical line. Said to have originated around the 4th Century AD, it is an early form of the Irish language. The origin of the Picts can be found in the tribal society of the Iron Age. Their society was hierarchical, with a warrior elite and a lower farming class. They lived in Scotland, North of the Forth and Clyde rivers, between the 4th and 9th Centuries AD, with a particularly strong presence in what is now Aberdeenshire.

Gordon Highlanders Museum under threat



Aberdeen's Gordon Highlander Museum has launched a fundraising initiative to save the museum from closing its doors. The museum offers visitors the chance to explore the dramatic 200-year history of the Regiment from the Napoleonic Wars, India, Afghanistan and South Africa, through to both World Wars and the Cold War. The Gordon Highlanders Museum holds an extensive collection related to the former regiment, which includes uniforms, silver, weapons, textiles, art and a vast archive of papers, diaries and documents, as well as over 4,000 medals and 11 Victoria Crosses. Interactive maps, original film footage, scale reproductions, life-size models, touch screens, regimental colours, uniforms, medals and weapons are all featured to bring the unique history of The Gordon Highlanders to life. Whilst visitor numbers to the 5 star attraction have been up, corporate events have fallen in recent years and this has hit the home of the North-east regiment hard and they are now looking to raise £300,000 in three years. The Gordon Highlanders existed from 1831 to 1994, at which time it was joined with the Queen's Own Highlanders to form the Highlanders.

For more details on how you can help see: www.gordonhighlanders.com

Inverness Castle Viewpoint opens



Inverness Castle Viewpoint.
Photo: The Highland Council.

Inverness Castle Viewpoint, the newest visitor attraction in the Highland Capital, has opened its doors for the first time on the north tower of Inverness Castle and is ready to welcome visitors over the summer. The tower's interior has been completely refurbished and a rooftop viewing platform installed as part of the £1.4m project. Key Inverness landmarks are visible from the top of the 360 degree Castle Viewpoint and are explained on the interpretation giving visitors unique insights into local legends related to the City as they make their way to the viewing platform.

The Viewpoint is housed over three floors and on your climb to the top you can enjoy a taste of the most famous myths associated with the City. The Brahan Seer, the legendary 17th Century highland mystic, many of whose prophecies actually came true. Also learn how St Columba met and banished the monster from the River Ness thus beginning the legend of Nessie. The tower will be open seven days a week until October, with extended hours in July and August

Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland 2017 awards



The Waverley Arches project has been shortlisted in the Regeneration category.

The Culardoeh Sheiling in the Cairngorms, Waverley Arches in Edinburgh and Campus Future's Project – Glasgow Caledonian University are just some of the projects going head to head as the Scottish shortlist for the RICS Awards 2017 is announced. The awards showcase the most inspirational regional initiatives and developments in land, property, construction and the environment, celebrating the achievements of professionals working in both the built and natural environment. One shortlisted entry will also receive the coveted Project of the Year, Scotland award. The winners from all categories will then be invited to represent Scotland and compete against projects from across the UK at the RICS Awards Grand Final in London in October. Gail Hunter, director RICS in Scotland, said: "There are some great projects shortlisted for the RICS Awards 2017, which demonstrate the quality of new and regenerated developments of all sizes across Scotland, and I am sure it will be a tough judging process. Throughout the last few years Scottish winners have also had great success at the Award finals in London, gaining UK-wide recognition for the quality of work taking place in the Scottish built environment."

By: Judy Vickers



The Highland Challenge

Mastering Celtic combat

This month some seriously physical Scots will be descending on the ancient lands of Moidart to learn Jacobite Celtic combat and weaponry at the Highland Challenge which provides one of the most historic, inspiring and challenging training grounds in Scotland as Judy Vickers explains.

In the shadow of the Glenfinnan Monument, erected to mark the place where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard and began the 1745 Rising, two very 21st century combatants raise their ancient weapons. But this isn't filming for the latest episode of *Outlander* or another historical Scottish epic. This is the Highland Challenge, a week-long immersion in the techniques of martial combat from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, taught by one of Europe's leading master-at-arms and which attracts participants from all over the world. Every June, Paul Macdonald, a sword-maker and expert in historical combat, takes a group up to the remote Moidart district for an intense seven days learning physically – and mentally – how to handle ancient weapons from the basket-hilt broadswords of the Jacobite's to the hand-to-hand combat of Second World War Commandos.

Moidart

The location is no accident. Paul, who now runs Macdonald Armouries in Edinburgh, where he has a five-year waiting list for one of his hand-made swords, was born and brought up in Moidart, a remote area in the West Highlands of Scotland. "It's an area that I'm very familiar with as I grew up there but there is also a concentration of history in that area and it's an ideal training ground," he says.

The area was already rich in history, from Viking raids to the arrival of St

Finan, when it became home to the powerful Clanranald dynasty from the mid-14th century. The clan was staunch supporters of the Jacobite cause – no coincidence that the Charles Stuart landed in Moidart to begin his ill-fated campaign to reclaim the throne for his father, the son of the deposed James VII. The rugged and mountainous region also saw more than its fair share of the Clearances, when landlords cleared the land of people to make way for the more profitable business of farming sheep.

Shaped Highlanders throughout history

And the same remote and hostile terrain made it the perfect training ground for Second World War Prime Minister Winston Churchill special operations training – the forerunners of Commandos worldwide.

"The surroundings are central to the Challenge. It is the land which has shaped Highlanders throughout history. Summer sunshine brings out the full glory of the landscapes and inclement weathers only deepen dramatic character. Everyone takes away great memories of the land, and always want to return," says Paul.

Participants are tested to their limits each day, with a different challenge each morning and afternoon, some individual and some meaning the group has to work together. Weapons

can include the quarterstaff, possibly one of the most ancient weapons in the world. "The quarterstaff is basically a big stick and for as long as we have been able to cut them down from trees, it's been a weapon," explains tutor Paul Macdonald. "Worldwide all cultures have some form of quarterstaff and Europe is no different."

Jacobite

It was often seen as the weapon of the lower sections of society but by no means always, as the tale of Charles Stewart of Ardshiel, later a Jacobite commander, shows. Sent away by his father with some money to get an education, he returned still unable to read or write. His father, unsurprisingly, wasn't best pleased to find his money had been wasted, and the young Charles – later the Commander of the Stewarts of Appin through the 1715 and 1745 Risings – ran off and hid. When his father caught up with him, though, he ran him up against a wall, and showed exactly what sort of education he'd acquired – with a quarterstaff.

This is the Highland Challenge, a week-long immersion in the techniques of martial combat from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, taught by one of Europe's leading master-at-arms and which attracts participants from all over the world.

"Quarterstaff is a very physical weapon form. It uses the entire body for manipulation against an opponent and is capable of devastating blows. As one of the simplest weapon forms, the staff (usually around 7 foot in length) requires great dexterity and is remarkably effective in close combat" says Paul.

Participants also try their hand at the basket-hilt broadsword or backsword. "It's a development from the Medieval broadsword and it was used in the frontline in all the Jacobite conflicts of the 17th and

18th centuries. They are surprisingly light, no more than two and a half pounds. It was a single edge with a thick spine and it's the precursor to the sabre," says Paul. They also work with a dirk, a Scottish dagger with a 12-inch blade, and the close combat techniques developed at places such as Lochailort House and Inverailort Castle in the region between 1940 and 1942, when the elite Commando training system was developed.

Strong urge for people to connect

This will be the ninth year of the Highland Challenge and it remains as popular as ever. "We usually get quite an international mix, we've had folk from the US, Canada, Norway, Spain and Italy. A lot are interested in history, some more in the martial side of the training. And the *Outlander* effect has been noticeable," says Paul, who also runs the Macdonald Academy of Arms in Edinburgh.

And why do people want to learn long obsolete martial techniques? Paul says: "There is a very strong urge for people to connect with the martial culture where they come from. It's very engaging. It tests everything of you, your mind, body and soul. You are training internally as much as learning external techniques."

And as for himself he the importance of history: "I actually see the mid-17th to mid-18th century as the peak of European civilisation. We'd moved away from the medieval feudal system but we were not yet in the era of industrial mass market. Honour and respect were more than concepts and I have a healthy respect for that."



Paul Macdonald.



Sword fighting training.



Quarterstaff practice at the Glenfinnan Monument.

The Battle of Bannockburn



A king defeated by terrain

This month is the 703rd anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, a medieval battle that saw two kings meet in battle and change the history of Scotland forever. Over two days on a boggy floodplain in Stirling, King Edward's army was outmanoeuvred by Robert Bruce, King of Scots fierce fighters who used the landscape to form a key moment in the Scottish wars of independence as David C. Weinczok explains.

Amongst the spears, the swords, the press and the panic, the land itself proved the deadliest force of all at the Battle of Bannockburn. Fought on the 23rd and 24th of June 1314, the battle will forever be remembered as Robert the Bruce's, and perhaps even Scotland's, greatest battlefield victory. Around 7,000 Scots ensnared and destroyed a better-equipped army of up to 20,000 under the English king Edward II. To understand how such a thing was possible, we have to look at a map.

The centre of Scotland

Bruce could not have chosen a more effective ground than the boggy morass surrounding medieval Stirling. Famously known as the 'brooch that clasps the Highlands and Lowlands together', Stirling and its castle were the key to Scotland. The River Forth, mightier in those days, cut off all routes to the east. Bog and hills made passage to the west



Stirling Castle.

of the castle impractical for all but the most lightly armed and dexterous travellers. It's quite simple: if you wanted to get your army from the south of Scotland to the north, or vice versa, you had to pass through Stirling.

Matthew Paris, an English Benedictine monk, produced a map of Britain around the year 1250. At a glance the landmass he drew is almost unrecognizable, but look closely. At its northern extreme two great waterways surge into the centre of Scotland, crossable only at a single point – Stirling Bridge. It doesn't matter that the Clyde never connected with the Forth in such a way; Matthew Paris' geography may not have been precise, but from a tactical perspective he got it spot on. Romans, Edward I, William Wallace, Cromwell, the Jacobite's, all were forced to abide by this destiny-making (and destiny-breaking) lay of the land.

Guerrilla warfare

Robert Bruce knew this. If he met the English army in the open field it would be a slaughter, his troops pierced by a rain of arrows and crushed under the hooves of heavy warhorses like Wallace's men were at Falkirk. He would risk no such thing; for six years Bruce had been perfecting the art of guerrilla warfare, taking his enemies' castles one by one and using hit-and-run tactics to exhaust English supply lines. It worked. By 1314 only Stirling Castle, Dunbar Castle and Bothwell Castle remained in English hands. Led by Bruce's brother the Scots besieged Stirling Castle, prompting Edward to raise an army and march north to relieve it.

It was time for Bruce to apply all of the hard lessons of his guerrilla campaign



Bruce statue.

to a pitched battle against Edward's army. He seized every advantage that the land offered him. Camped at the site of the modern, iconic Bruce statue, Bruce could watch the English approach while protected by the Bannockburn itself to the south, the Pelstream burn to the north, the steep ridge of Balquhiderock to the east, and bog to the west – a natural fortress. Meanwhile his men had dug pits and filled them with wooden spikes where the ancient Roman road forded the Bannockburn. Think of these not as a weapon per se, but rather as a medieval minefield meant to force the English away from the road and eastwards into the boggy Carse of Stirling. There cavalry would flounder in the muck, rendering Edward's deadliest weapon useless.

After two skirmishes and an improvised crossing of the Bannockburn on the first day, Edward and his 20,000 were forced to spend the night in an area that even now is a drenched, pool-ridden floodplain. There was plenty of water for the horses, but few other comforts. The mass of men camped uneasily between the Bannockburn and the Pelstream, within sight of Stirling Castle to the north. The Scots camped on higher ground atop a wooded ridge, comfortable and confident.

United Scotland

At first light, which in late June comes as early as three o'clock, the Scots advanced down the ridge and emerged in full view of Edward's host. They were arranged in schiltrons, vast blocks of men wielding 15-foot-long pikes capable of steamrolling any foe they faced head-on. With the English stuck between two rivers and with clear escape route, all the Scots had to do was push. Here it didn't matter how many men Edward brought; only a tiny fraction of his army at the front could fight at any given time as the claustrophobic crush built and built behind them.

The end was too bloody to recall here, with thousands drowning in the shallow waters of the Bannockburn and being trampled by their own in the panic.

By: David C. Weinczok



Edward's army was destroyed, with some 8,000 killed and thousands more captured. The precise numbers will probably never be known, but the Scots likely lost around 500. Stirling Castle surrendered to the Scots, and Robert Bruce ruled over a united Scotland until his death in 1329.

Every great commander throughout history, from Alexander the Great to Caesar and beyond, has based their greatest victories on two principles: take the fight to the enemy rather than giving them the initiative, and use the land itself as if it were your most valued weapon. Bruce's every action at Bannockburn did precisely that. While he and his lieutenants did many things right at the battle, it is his use of the very land of Stirling itself, the crucible of Scotland, which raises Robert Bruce into the echelon of the greats.

David C Weinczok is a heritage professional, presenter and adoptive Scot based in Edinburgh. Twitter: @TheCastleHunter

Mythbusting Bannockburn

Didn't a group of Knights Templar arrive and save the day for the Scots?

As a colleague at the Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre told me, "If Knights Templar were at Bannockburn then so were Indiana Jones and Luke Skywalker." No respectable Scottish historian today supports this theory, and in fact there's ample evidence against it. The myth comes from Victorian-era Templars and Freemasons who made up the idea to boost their street cred in Scotland. Besides, the Order had been dissolved by the time of Bannockburn and if anything the story only undermines the achievement of Bruce and the Scots over those two extraordinary days.

What about the famous charge of the 'small folk' with their impromptu banners?

Tradition tells that in the battle's final hour a group of 'small folk', meaning the camp followers and non-combatants attending Bruce's army, charged in causing the English to flee at the sight of a 'second army'. It's a story I'm somewhat loathe to debunk, but there are two main issues. First, Gillies Hill, the supposed site of the small folks' camp, is over two miles away from the actual battlefield – they certainly could not observe the battle itself from that position, and an impulsive charge from over two miles away is unlikely in the extreme. More significantly, Bruce turned away many hardened warriors from his battle lines in the days before the battle as he didn't have time to train them to be a part of his highly disciplined schiltrons. That he would then let the discipline slide by allowing his utterly untrained camp followers to join the battle is incorrect. They did, however, raid the battlefield afterwards to the tune of millions of pounds.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Dr Henry Faulds, who established the uniqueness of fingerprints, born in Beith, Ayrshire. **1843**

1 - First Tay rail bridge opens. It was to collapse 18 months later in the Tay Bridge Disaster. **1878**

2 - Prince Henry St Clair (Sinclair) reputed to have landed in Nova Scotia, having sailed from Orkney. **1398**

2 - James Douglas, 4th Earl of Morton, beheaded in Edinburgh Grassmarket, accused of the murder of Lord Darnley. **1581**

2 - Clothes rationing introduced as a war-time measure. It was not lifted until 1949. **1941**

3 - James Hutton, founder of modern geology, born. **1726**

3 - Poet Robert Tannahill born in Paisley. **1774**

3 - The company formed by John Logie Baird televised the Epsom Derby which was then transmitted by the BBC. **1931**

4 - First recorded inter-club golf match - between Edinburgh Burgess Golfing Society and Bruntsfield Links Golf Club. **1818**

4 - London's Wembley Stadium was vandalised by jubilant Scottish fans after a thrilling 2-1 victory over the Auld Enemy. Following the match, Scottish supporters invaded the pitch and caused an estimated £15,000 worth of damage. **1977**

5 - An Act of the Scottish Parliament came into force "concerning the Office of Lyon King of Arms and his brether Heraldis" creating the best regulated system of armorial bearings in Europe. **1592**

5 - Adam Smith, author of *The Wealth of Nations* born Kirkcaldy. **1723**

5 - Referendum held on British Membership of the European Community. In Scotland the vote was "Yes" 1,332,286; "No" 948,039. Turnout was 61%. Only Shetland and Western Isles had majorities against. **1975**

6 - Thomas Blake Glover, founding father of Japan's industrialisation (including Mitsubishi) and Japanese Navy, born Fraserburgh. **1838**



6 - Sir John A MacDonald, the Scottish-born Canadian statesman, died. MacDonald was considered to be the architect of the Confederation of Canada and served twice as the first Prime Minister of the unified Dominion, between 1867-73 and 1878-91. **1891**

7 - Robert the Bruce died, at Cardross Castle, Dumbarton, aged 54. Bruce's heart was then taken to Melrose Abbey, with his body having earlier being buried at Dunfermline Abbey. **1329**

7 - Sir James Young Simpson, pioneer of anaesthetics and chloroform, born. **1811**

7 - Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the celebrated architect, painter and designer, was born. Regarded as one of the foremost British figures in the art nouveau movement, and as the principal exponent of the "Glasgow Style", Mackintosh was born in the Townhead area of the city. **1868**

8 - Robert Stevenson, engineer, who constructed 18 lighthouses around Scotland, born Glasgow. **1772**

8 - The Earl of Seaforth raised a regiment for the American War from the MacKenzies and MacRaes of Ross-shire and Sutherland. **1778**

9 - St Columba died on Iona. Columba founded a monastery on Iona which was to become one of the leading centres of Christianity in Western Europe, and the base from which Columba launched his successful mission to convert the Pictish nation. **597**

9 - First US troops (over 10,000 men) disembark from *Queen Mary* on the River Clyde. **1942**

10 - James Francis Stuart born. In honour of the "Old Pretender", this is known as "White Rose Day" in Jacobite circles. **1688**

10 - Battle of Glenshiel, Jacobites with Spanish assistance, and government forces clashed. **1719**

10 - Death of King George I and accession of George II. **1727**

10 - Construction of the Forth and Clyde canal started. It was to take 22 years to complete. **1768**



10 - The floral clock in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, began operation - initially driven by clockwork and with only an hour hand. But it was the first of its kind in the world. **1903**

10 - Sir Jackie Stewart, three-times world motor racing champion, born in Dunbartonshire. **1939**

11 - Marie of Guise, widow of King James V and Queen Regent of Scotland, died. **1560**

11 - Battle of Sauchieburn during which King James III died attempting to subdue a group of rebel barons. **1488**

11 - First oil pumped ashore from British oilfields in the North Sea. **1975**

12 - Sir David Gill, Scottish astronomer, was born. Gill was noted for his measurements of solar and stellar parallaxes, which accurately revealed the distances of the Sun and other stars to Earth. He was also a pioneer in the use of photography to map the heavens. **1843**

13 - Birth of James Clerk Maxwell, first Professor of Experimental Physics at Cambridge University. He created the electromagnetic theory of light. **1831**

13 - Rate of price inflation reached 25% in the UK. **1975**

14 - *Queen Mary, Aquitania, Empress of Canada*, and *Empress of Britain* arrive in the River Clyde with the first contingent of Australian and New Zealand troops. **1940**

14 - John Logie Baird, inventor of the first television, died. **1946**

15 - *Queen Mary* leaves Greenock, taking nearly 15,000 GI's home to US. **1945**

16 - Siege of Dunbar Castle by the English was raised. **1338**

16 - Henry McLeish, Scottish Labour politician, was born. McLeish began his working life as a footballer for East Fife, but soon entered the political arena, serving from 1987 as MP for Central Fife. His career reached its zenith with his appointment as First Minister of the Scottish Executive, succeeding Donald Dewar. **1948**

16 - 'Old Tom Morris', one of golf's first professional players and 4 time Open Champion, was born in St Andrews. **1821**



17 - Wolf of Badenoch burns Elgin Cathedral. **1390**

17 - Charles Macintosh patented the waterproof cloth he was using to make raincoats. **1823**

18 - Pacification of Berwick, Charles I forced to withdraw from Scotland and recognise an independent Scottish Parliament. **1639**

18 - Flora MacDonald met Prince Charles Edward Stuart and persuaded him to wear women's clothes as part of the escape plan from the Outer Hebrides to Skye. **1746**

19 - Mary Queen of Scots gives birth to the future King James VI of Scotland and I of England. **1566**

19 - Coronation of King Charles I at Holyrood. **1633**

19 - "Day of Public Thanksgiving" on Restoration of Charles II as king. **1660**

19 - Earl Haig, Commander in Chief of British forces 1915-18, founder of British Legion, born. **1861**

19 - Sir J M Barrie, author of *Peter Pan* died. **1937**

20 - Adam Ferguson, philosopher, historian, "Father of Sociology" born Logierait, Perthshire. **1723**

20 - New Tay rail bridge opened, the longest in Britain. **1887**

20 - First announcement of the discovery of high-grade crude oil in the North Sea. **1969**

21 - Robert Napier, regarded as the "father of Clyde shipbuilding" was born. He died on 23 June, 1876. **1791**

21 - Scottish explorer Mungo Park reached the source of the river Niger in Africa. **1796**

22 - Malt Riots, Glasgow - against higher taxes imposed on Scottish malt. **1725**

22 - At the Battle of Bothwell, the Covenanters were defeated by royal troops led by the Duke of Monmouth near Glasgow. Ideological differences among the Covenanters factionalised them, and the resulting disorganisation contributed to the ease of the Royalists' victory. Although deaths on the field were few, 200 were killed later. Of the 1400 captured or surrendered, another 258 were shipwrecked while being transported in The Crown of London. The battle features in fictional form in Sir Walter Scott's novel *Old Mortality*. **1679**

23 - Charles II sailed into the estuary of the river Spey and signed the Covenant before going ashore. **1650**

23 - Singer Kenneth McKellar born. McKellar died of pancreatic cancer, at the age of 82 in 2010. **1927**

24 - The birth of Admiral Sir John Ross, Scottish Polar explorer. In 1818 he went in search of the Northwest Passage but turned back after exploring Baffin Bay. **1777**

24 - Robert the Bruce defeated Edward II at Battle of Bannockburn. **1314**

25 - David Douglas, explorer and botanist, born at Scone, Perthshire. In addition to the Douglas Fir, he brought back to Europe lupins, phlox, penstemmon, sunflowers, clarkia, Californian poppy, mimulus, flowering currant, rose of sharon and mahonia. **1799**

25 - Wallace statue unveiled at the Wallace National Monument, Stirling. **1887**

25 - Lord Boyd Orr, biologist and Nobel Prize Winner, died. **1971**

25 - Seven Scots, including John Stuart Forbes, were in the US 7th Cavalry with General Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. **1876**

25 - The first Sherlock Holmes story by Edinburgh-born author Arthur Conan Doyle was published in the *Strand* magazine. **1891**

26 - James IV crowned king at the age of 15 at Scone. He reigned until 1513 when he fell with the flower of Scotland's nobility at the Battle of Flodden Field. **1488**

26 - Darien Company formed to set up a Scottish colony in Panama. **1695**

26 - King George IV died, aged 67 (and William IV ascended the throne). George IV is reckoned to be Britain's fattest king. His favourite breakfast was two roast pigeons, three beefsteaks, a bottle of white wine, a glass of champagne, two of port and one brandy. **1830**

27 - King James VI (aged 8) escaped from Castle Ruthven. **1583**

27 - Robin Hall, Scottish folk singer and musician, was born. Hall achieved national fame in partnership with fellow Scot, Jimmie MacGregor, on the BBC TV show, *Tonight*. His hits included *The Mingulay Boat Song* and *Ye Cannae Shove Yer Grannie Aff a Bus*. **1937**

28 - Queen Victoria crowned at Westminster Abbey. **1838**

28 - Flora MacDonald and Bonnie Prince Charlie set sail from Benbecula to Skye. After Culloden, the Prince had a high price on his head. He came to Benbecula, and Flora helped him escape to Skye by disguising him as her Irish maid, Betty Burke. **1746**



28-29 - Bannockburn Live celebrated in Stirling. Commemorating the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn and celebrating the best of Scottish folk music, food and drink attracted visitors from around the world and a key event of Homecoming 2014. **2014**

29 - Scottish actor Ian Bannen, was born. Bannen appeared in more than 60 British and American films. These include *The Flight of the Phoenix* (1965) for which he received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor. He died in 1999, aged 71. **1928**

30 - Start of trial for murder of Madeleine Smith who was eventually found "Not Proven". The daughter of a Glasgow architect, James Smith, this most eligible of society ladies was accused in 1857 of murdering her alleged former lover, Emile L'Angelier. **1857**

30 - James Loughran, Scottish conductor, was born in Glasgow. Loughran first came to notice when he won the Philharmonia Orchestra's Conducting Competition in 1961, and soon became principal conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. **1931**



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Membership cordially invited from those who are connected with this great Clan, i.e., Morrison, Morison, Gilmour, Gilmer, Gilmore, Murrison or descendants of eligible name.



Clan Scott Society

Membership is invited from all descendants of the surname Scott, associated families Balwearie, Bucklew, Geddes, Harden, Laidlaw, and Langlands (however spelled); as well as those who have an interest in the heritage of the Middle March of the Borders of Scotland.

Clan Scott Society
PO Box 13021
Austin, TX 78711-3021
USA
Info@ClanScottSociety.org • www.ClanScottSociety.org



Clan WARDLAW Association
Founded 2004

Worldwide organization for all Wardlawes or related families. We invite you to join us. Email: clanwardlaw@yahoo.com

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Clan Munro Association, U.S.A.

We are the only national organization of Munro in the U.S.A. affiliated with the Clan Munro (Association) of Scotland.

COME JOIN US!
Web site: www.Clanmunrousa.org
Write: Heather Munro Daniel
4600 Lloydrown Road
Mebane, NC 27302

CLAN SCOTT AUSTRALIA GROUP

Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch K.B.E
Commissioner: Heather de Sylva

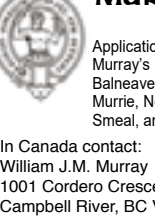
Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs: Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.
Info: Secretary, PO Box 320, Maclean, NSW, 2463
E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com
W: clanscottastraliagroup.moonfruit.com

Scottish Associations and Societies



The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

Founded at a meeting held in Sydney 18 June 1981
Welcomes membership from all Australians of Scottish descent.
Applications for membership can be obtained from:
The Hon Secretary, SAHC
Susan Cooke tel: 02 6255 6117
Email: alfredhcooke@gmail.com
www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au




Murray Clan Society of North America

Applications for membership are invited from Murray's and the following allied families: Balneaves, Dinsmore, Dunsmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrie, Neaves, Piper, Pyper, Small, Smale, Small, Smeal, and Spalding.

In Canada contact: William J.M. Murray
1001 Cordero Crescent
Campbell River, BC V9H 0C3

In the U.S. contact: Kathy Wolf
11186 Coal Ridge St.
Firestone, CO 80504-5789



Clan Shaw Society

Invites membership or inquires from all: Shaw, Ayson, Adamson, Esson, MacAy, MacHay, Shiach, Sheach, Sheath, Seith, Seth, Skaith, Scath and Shay.

Mike Shaw
Secretary
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020



Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

Promoter of International Tartan Day, Brisbane, Queensland
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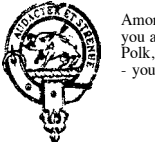
Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org
Founded in 1905

Scottish Gaelic Choir:
Wednesdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm during school terms at The Kildara Centre, rear of 39 Stanhope Street, Malvern.

Language Class: Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:30 pm during school terms at the Celtic Club, Cnr Queen and Latrobe Streets, Melbourne.

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



Clan Pollock

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

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



Clan Sinclair Australia

Membership and enquiries from all Sinclairs, Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants

For further info contact
President: Wayne Sinclair 0417 146 174
Secretary: Liane Sinclair (03) 9348 2663
E: clansinclairaustalia@hotmail.com



Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia (The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a non-profit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels.


Ruaraidh MacAonghais, Neach Cathrach (Convenor)
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fos@orgaelic.org
Web: www.orgaelic.org
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235



The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited
ABN 30 093 578 860

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association.


The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC, QLD, 4101, Australia. www.standrewsociety.com



Clan Pringle Association (North America)

Membership cordially invited from Pringle/Prindale decedents and other interested parties.
www.clanpringle.org.uk


William L. Pringle, III
e-mail: williampringle3@gmail.com
Clan Pringle Assoc. (North America)
6538 140th Ave., Holland, MI 49423



Clan Skene Association, Inc.

Invites membership from Skene and septs Cariston, Carney/Carnie, Currehill, Dyas, Dyce, Dyer, Hall, Halyard/Hallyard, MacGalliard, Rennie, and Skains.


Al McGalliard
Secretary
273 Amy Clegg Drive
Gray, GA, 31032
Email: alrx95@gmail.com



CALEDONIAN CLUB OF FLORIDA WEST (SARASOTA, FL)

2017 Spring Schedule:
Feb. 4: Scottish Games
Mar. 25: Thistle Ball
Apr. 2: Kirkin' O' Tartans
May 6: Annual General Luncheon
Summer Socials: TBA

Contact: Robert Howard, President 941-376-5514
Email: roberthoward200@gmail.com
Web site: www.caledonianclub.org



St. Andrew's Society of Vermont

P.O. Box 484
Essex Junction, VT 05453

Invites membership inquiries.
David Campbell - President (802) 878-8663



Ross Clan in Australia

The clan is active again 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



The Stewart Society

Welcomes Stewarts, however spelled, by name, birth, or descent, from all over the world. Annual Gathering in historic, Stewart-related properties in Scotland. Newsletter. Annual magazine.

Please inquire:
The Secretary
53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT,
Tel/Fax 0131 220 4512 www.stewartscociety.org

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A 100 plus year old fraternal order for women of Scottish birth or descent or married to men of Scottish birth or descent whose purpose is to keep alive our Scottish heritage and customs.
For membership information contact:

Ms. Cynthia Ridings
Grand Recording Secretary
2566 Galloway Road
Blue Ridge, GA 30513
706-632-8510
cynthiar5@yahoo.com <http://www.daughtersofscotia.org>


Victorian Scottish Union
Established 1905

Umbrella group representing the interest of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria.

Affiliated Clans & Societies for 2013-2014:

Balarat Highland Dancing	Geelong Highland Gathering Association
Balmoral Highland Dancing Society	Geelong Scottish Dance
Begonia City Highland Dancing Society	Glenbrae Celtic Dancers
Brunswick Scottish Society	Horsham & District Highland Dancing Club
Clan Cameron	Kilmore Celtic Festival
Clan Donald Victoria	Maryborough Highland Society
Clan Grant	Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society
Clan Lamont Australia	Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc	St Andrews First Aid
Clan Mackenzie of Australia	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Clan Maclean Australia	The Royal Caledonian Society
Clan Sinclair Association	Warrambool & District Caledonian Society
Glenmaggie Scottish Folk Festival	Warrambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society


Jan Macdonald: Secretary
Victorian Scottish Union
T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930
E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
www.victorianscottishunion.com



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Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary
crmembership@sbcglobal.net
PO Box 6341
River Forest, IL 60305
www.clanross.org



Clan Sutherland Society of North America, Inc.

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

Richard Langford
1106 Horseshoe Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24060
e-mail: richard@langfordmail.net



Clan Sutherland Society of Australia

The Society welcomes membership of all bearers of the Sutherland name and any of their septs- (Cheyne, Duffus, Frederith, Mowat (or any variation of the spelling)).
Marie Hodgkinson
212 MacKenzie Street
Toowoomba, 4350
Queensland, Australia
e-mail: william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au
<http://goldenvale.wix.com/clansutherlandaus>



Illinois Saint Andrew Society

Illinois' oldest, largest Scottish organization and owner of The Scottish Home. A unique "assisted living" facility located in a beautiful wooded setting.

For more information on Society membership and programs or The Scottish Home, contact
Gus Noble, President
708-447-5092 or www.chicago-scots.org

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Aberdeen Butteries

Ingredients:

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

Method:

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

Stuffed lamb cutlets

Ingredients:

16 lamb cutlets, 140g/5-6oz. each, trimmed salt and freshly ground black pepper
 75g/2½oz. Fontina or gruyere cheese, cut into slivers
 16 large fresh sage leaves
 16 slices Parma ham
 2 free-range eggs, beaten with a pinch of salt
 300g/10½oz. fine dried breadcrumbs
 olive oil, for shallow frying

For the salad:

250g/8¾oz. mixed salad leaves - rocket, watercress, Little Gem lettuce
 3 spring onions, finely sliced
 handful fresh mint leaves
 2 sticks celery, finely sliced

For the dressing:

3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
 1 tbsp. white wine vinegar

Method:

Cut open the centre of the meat of each cutlet until almost through and open out. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper, then place a sliver of Fontina or Gruyere cheese on one side of the meat followed by a sage leaf and a little Parma ham. Fold over the other side of the meat. Dip the cutlets in egg and breadcrumbs to completely coat the meat. Press the cutlets together to seal and slightly flatten the meat. Shallow fry in moderately hot oil until golden on both sides, for about eight minutes on each side, or until cooked through. Meanwhile, toss the salad ingredients together. Drizzle in the olive oil and vinegar, and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Serve with the lamb cutlets.

Beef and onion pie with cheese crust



Ingredients:

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

For the filling:

1-2 tbsp. vegetable oil
 250g/9oz. beef mince

1 onion, peeled, chopped
 1 carrot, peeled, finely chopped
 1 celery stalk, trimmed, finely chopped
 1 tbsp. tomato purée
 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
 splash bitter ale
 1 free-range egg, beaten

To serve:

mashed potatoes
 brown sauce

Method:

For the pastry, blend the flour, butter cubes and salt in a food processor until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the cheese, water and egg yolk and continue to blend until the mixture comes together as a dough. Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knead lightly for 3-4 minutes, or until smooth and elastic. Wrap the dough in cling film and chill in the fridge for at least one hour. Meanwhile, for the filling, heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the beef mince, in batches if necessary, and fry for 6-8 minutes, turning once, or until browned all over. Remove from the pan and set aside (keep warm). Repeat the process with the remaining batches of beef mince.

Add the onion, carrot and celery to the pan used to fry the mince. Fry for 3-4 minutes, stirring well, until softened.

Return the mince to the pan and stir in the tomato purée, Worcestershire sauce and bitter ale. Bring the mixture to a simmer and cook, stirring regularly, for 8-10 minutes, or until the majority of the liquid has evaporated. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Grease a 20cm-25cm/8-10in pie plate with butter. When the dough has chilled, divide it in half. Roll out one half onto a lightly floured work surface until slightly larger than the pie plate. Carefully line the pie plate with the pastry, pressing it into the edges of the plate.

Spoon the filling into the pie case. Roll the remaining dough out onto a lightly floured work surface until it is slightly larger than the pie dish. Brush the rim of the pie case with a little of the egg wash.

Place the pastry disc on top of the pie and press the edges together. Brush the pie lid all over with the remaining beaten egg. Prick the pastry all over several times with a fork. Bake the pie in the oven for 35-40 minutes, or until the pastry is crisp and pale golden-brown. Serve with mashed potatoes and brown sauce.

Dundee Cake



Ingredients:

175g/6oz. softened butter, plus extra for greasing
 175g/6oz. soft light brown sugar
 3 tbsp. orange marmalade
 3 free-range eggs, beaten
 225g/8oz. self-raising flour
 25g/oz. ground almonds
 1 heaped tsp ground mixed spice
 400g/14oz. mixed dried fruit
 75g/3oz. glace cherries, halved
 2 tbsp. whisky or milk
 40g/1½oz. blanched almonds to decorate
 1 tsp granulated or caster sugar, to decorate (optional)

Method:

Preheat the oven to 150C/300F/Gas 2. Grease and double-line a 20cm/8in loose-based deep cake tin with greaseproof paper. Beat the butter and sugar in a food processor for 3-4 minutes, or until very light and fluffy. Add the marmalade and mix for a few seconds more. Slowly add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the flour, almonds and spices to the batter. Mix slowly until well combined, then stir in the mixed dried fruit and cherries with a large metal spoon. Add the whisky or milk and mix until well combined. Spoon the mixture into the cake tin, smooth the surface and carefully arrange the blanched almonds in circles on top. Bake for 1½-2 hours, or until well risen, firm and golden-brown. (Test the cake by inserting a skewer into the centre. If the skewer comes out clean, the cake is done.) Leave the cake to cool for 10 minutes then remove from the tin, peel off the lining paper and set aside to cool on a wire rack. Sprinkle with granulated sugar. Store in a cake tin and eat within 4-5 days.

Flora Macdonald

Ingredients:

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

Method:

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

By: Nick Drainey



Scots pines at Glenmore, Cairngorms



Bringing the wild back to Scotland

Scotland has vast open space for nature to flourish year round and the nation is considered steps ahead of many when it comes to conservation and sustainability. However the concept of “rewilding” the country with some of natural apex predators to improve biodiversity and create valuable habitats has been a difficult sell to farmers, community groups and government as Nick Drainey explains.

High in the Cairngorms, the old gnarled Scots pines we see now were once saplings, growing while shepherds stood guarding their lambs from packs of wolves. For award-winning TV presenter and cameraman Simon King that scene, dating back more than three centuries, should once again become a feature of the Scottish countryside – one he claims will benefit the communities who live in the Highlands. “If we are talking about reintroducing apex predators such as wolves and lynx, yes, good plan because we killed them in the first place and it wasn’t that long ago,” says King, who is a

well-known face on the BBC’s *Springwatch*, *Big Cat Diary* and *Planet Earth*.

Tourism benefits

It is widely thought Sir Ewen Cameron shot the last wolf in Scotland at Killiecrankie in 1680 although some reports suggest the animal was still surviving a century later. While predatory animals need to be respected, fears over damage to farm animals are overblown, King says.

“What we did was upset the apple cart monstrously by eradicating wild boar and beaver, which have started to make a comeback, and by eradicating all apex predators – they haven’t made a comeback because we are so phobic about losing a single lamb. Shepherds are so-called because they used to sit on the hill protecting sheep against just such predations. But we have lost the idea of living in harmony with everything about us – I am not being romantic about this, I have spent plenty of time in communities which do have depredations from lions and tigers and leopards.”

King says the tourism benefits would also help rural economies. He says: “You would have the most magnificent experience as a visitor. If there is the opportunity to walk in a landscape where you stand a chance of seeing a wolf on the hillside, albeit a kilometre away chasing a herd of deer, yes you are

going to go and see it, the best show on earth. There are Scots pines that had wolves brushing along their flanks when they were saplings still standing now and when you realise that and touch the trees you realise how wrong it was to take this balancing of the natural world out of the equation.”

Where our food comes

In 2003, Paul Lister, bought the 23,000 acre Alladale Wilderness Reserve estate near Bonar Bridge in Sutherland with aim of turning it into a wilderness reserve. Although he has introduced boars and elk, his idea of wolves has stalled amid strong opposition to the requirement for a fence to be built around the land. But calls for re-wilding, or returning land to its natural state, have become louder in Scotland in recent years, but King says that as well as allowing wild animals to thrive, we also need to change our own habits to help the environment. That can be something as simple as questioning where our food comes from and working out the “true cost” of what we eat.

King says food and growth are the biggest challenges to the planet. “As we consume, not just food but resources in other ways, it affects the face of the land very dramatically. We have lost the connection with what it takes to create something that gives us energy. A simple example is if you go in a roadside café and buy a bacon sarnie, it is very tempting, they smell good. But where did the bread come from, how was the wheat grown and how much grain did it take to feed the pig and indeed how did that pig live – would you eat it if you saw how much antibiotic had been put into it?”

Harmony

King says while governments could be tougher on industrial practices in farming or manufacturing there needs to be a “paradigm shift” in our own everyday habits where “stuff” can dominate people’s lives. But he admits it is hard. “We are where we are today ... it is too easy to make bad decisions. There is not a single industry or farm that doesn’t depend on a customer, so relinquish responsibility and point at politicians and systems and say ‘get it right’? No, get it right with what you buy.”

King has travelled the world filming wildlife for major TV series but Scotland is somewhere he loves above all and this year he appeared at the Wild Film Festival Scotland in Dumfries. The first event of its kind in the UK, it celebrated the natural world through film, photography and discussion, and bring together internationally renowned photographers and film makers.

King says: “When I am asked, I say my favourite place on earth is Scotland by quite a margin. My mother was born in Glasgow so the sound of Scotland rings true to me in terms of the human language and the sense that there can be wilderness in such a small isle. There are tracts of Scotland which still have an edge of wilderness about them – I am not saying there are places where no man has ever trod but in most of the rest of the British Isles there is a constant suppression and sense of dominion. Wherever you turn it has been tweaked or cut, or sprayed or trimmed and I find that obscene, an abuse of the most precious resource we have which is the earth beneath our feet. In Scotland, I can feel as though there is a balance and a harmony and that makes me feel good.”



Wolf at Palacerigg Country Park in Cumbernauld.



Simon King.

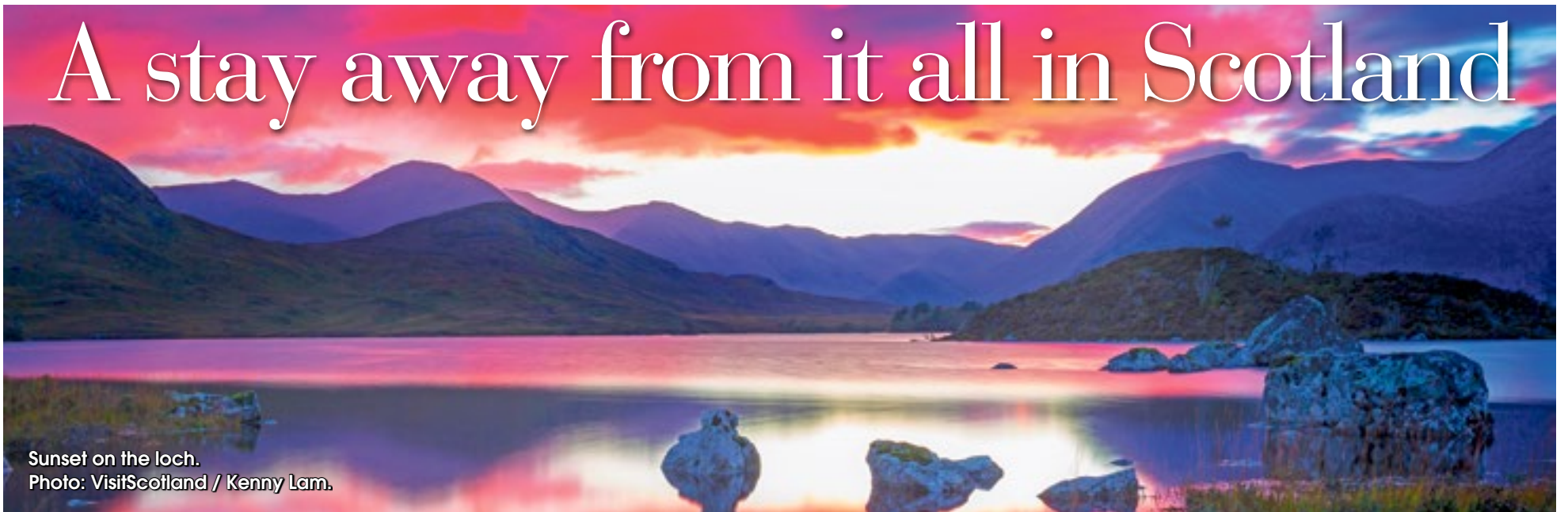


Scots pines at Loch an Eilein, Cairngorms.

Did you know?

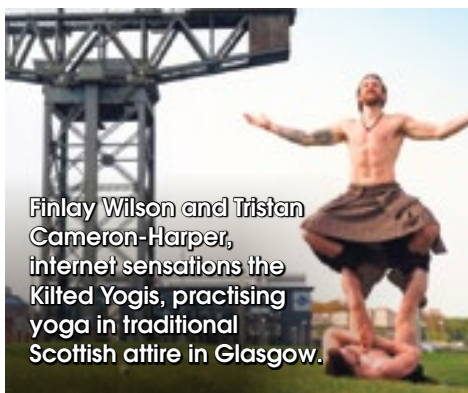
- It is thought the lynx became extinct in the UK in the medieval period, caused by hunting and loss of habitat due to the intensification of farming practices.
- The main objection to reintroducing lynx, or other big predators, is that it could affect farmers’ livestock and livelihoods.
- Reintroducing the wolf to the Scottish Highlands was first proposed in the late 1960s, but the idea only started to gain wider publicity and support following the reintroductions of the red wolf to the south-eastern United States in 1989, and the grey wolf to Yellowstone National Park in 1995.
- Bringing back the missing big mammals means habitats and species can be managed in a way people cannot afford to and also over an area man could not cover.
- Compared to other European countries, the UK has been slow to reintroduce its indigenous species, despite European legislation encouraging it.

A stay away from it all in Scotland



Sunset on the loch.
Photo: VisitScotland / Kenny Lam.

With nearly a quarter of visitors holidaying in Scotland to ‘get away from it all’, Scotland is the perfect place to relax, stop and smell the heather, and take in the stunning landscape and natural assets which can be found across the land. From climbing munros to island hopping and spectacular landscapes Scotland is a place where you can, if you want, really get away from it all.



Finlay Wilson and Tristan Cameron-Harper, internet sensations the Kilted Yogis, practising yoga in traditional Scottish attire in Glasgow.

As one of the quietest destinations in Europe, Scotland is the perfect place to enjoy some peace and calm. In fact, the recent Scotland Visitor Survey, commissioned by VisitScotland, revealed that almost a quarter of visitors’ holiday in Scotland to ‘get away from it all.’ A growing interest in our physical and mental health has led to increased interest in wellbeing tourism as holidaymakers embrace the chance to take a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Scenery and landscape

In a recent VisitScotland survey nearly a quarter (23%) of the 12,000 visitors polled said ‘getting away from it all’ was one of the main reasons they enjoyed holidaying in Scotland. This figure rose to 29% among those living here. Unsurprisingly, the scenery and landscape was the most popular reason to visit, with 50% of those polled citing Scotland’s vistas. History and culture (33%) was second on the list, while a desire to return after previously visiting Scotland (24%) was third.

Popular culture continues to inspire visitors, with 1 in 10 indicating they were prompted to book a trip to Scotland by a film or television show. *Outlander* was both the stand-out book and television show inspiring visitors, particularly among North Americans, who were more than twice as likely as those from any other country to cite the Diana Gabaldon-penned phenomenon as a reason for coming to Scotland.

So, whether it’s a desire to de-stress or a craving for calm, Scotland’s stunning vistas, wild open mountains and hushed hideaways make it the ideal location to unwind in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Here are just a few suggestions:

De-stressing destinations



The Galloway Forest Park.
Photo: VisitScotland.

Galloway Forest Park: Britain’s largest forest park might regularly attract lots of visitors during the day but it is well worth a visiting at night too, as Galloway Forest Park is the UK’s first Dark Sky Park and one of the best places to stargaze in Europe. With over 7000 stars and planets visible each night, every visit is a different experience.

Kinloch Rannoch: Nestled in the shadow of Schiehallion, on the banks of the River Tummel, lies the pretty village of Kinloch Rannoch. This idyllic getaway may be just a few hours away from the central belt but it’s a world away from the hurly burly of Scotland’s cities. As well as a great base for exploring the Perthshire countryside, the area is fantastic for walks and even has its own Clan Trail. A short distance from the village, you’ll find the lovely Rannoch Station Tearoom situated on the platform of one of Britain’s most remote train stations.

Glen Coe: The deep valley and towering mountains of Glen Coe were carved out centuries ago by icy glaciers and volcanic explosions. Glencoe village is picturesquely located between the banks of Loch Leven and the mouth of the famous glen. The Lost Valley Glen Coe is one of the most beautiful and other-worldly places in Scotland. It’s even featured in films such as James Bond’s *Skyfall* and several Harry Potter movies.

Sandwood Bay: Dubbed one of the most unspoilt beaches in Great Britain, the pink sands of Sandwood Bay in Kinlochbervie are a secluded paradise. Facing straight into the teeth of the North Atlantic, the beach is flanked by cliffs and to the south stands the impressive sea stack of Am Buachaille. The peaceful bay can only be accessed by a 4 mile path but the journey is more than worth it.

Scott’s View: The beauty of the Scottish Borders has long cast a spell on not just visitors but also those who live there. As one of Scotland’s most celebrated writers, Sir Walter Scott often enjoyed escaping into the Borders countryside to reflect. You can follow in his footsteps to his reputed favourite place, known now as Scott’s View, the stunning vantage point near Melrose overlooks the River Tweed and Eildon Hills.

Small Isles (Eigg, Rum, Muck, Canna): Full of wonderful wildlife and stunning scenery, Scotland’s Small Isles in the Inner Hebrides provide a peaceful escape from the mainland. With little to no traffic and few people it’s a unique chance to get back to nature. The largest island, Rum is home to formidable volcanic peaks, the incredible Kinloch Castle, the Kilmory Bay Red Deer and the UK’s biggest bird of prey, sea eagles, while the nearby Isle of Eigg is this year celebrating 20 years of being fully sustainable. The smaller isles of Muck and Canna each possess their own special treasures. Whether it’s the sandy beaches, rocky shores and breathtaking panoramic views on Muck or the high basalt cliffs of Canna, this tiny corner of the country is ideal for walks, watching birds and simply basking in the beauty of your surroundings.

Holy Isle: Just off the Isle of Arran in the Firth of Clyde lies Holy Isle, an ancient spiritual heritage dating back to the 6th century. This sacred site is dedicated to peace and wellbeing, its unspoiled beauty is also a haven for wildlife. On the north of the island visitors are welcome to stay at the Centre of World Peace and Health which regularly hosts courses and retreat programmes, while the south is a closed Buddhist retreat.



The sands of Breckon, on the island of Yell, Shetland.
Photo: Paul Tomkins/VisitScotland.

Shetland: With its pristine beaches, crystal clear waters, heather-clad moorlands and fascinating rock formations, the Shetland

isles are unlike anywhere else in the world. Made up of more than 100 islands, 15 of which are inhabited, the archipelago has its own unique culture, rich history and breath-taking beauty. From Iron Age brochs and Pictish wheelhouses to the spectacular Up Helly Aa Festival, which takes place each January, and distinct culinary delights, the Shetland Isles offers a winning blend of Scottish and Scandinavian delights.

Clackmannanshire: Scotland’s smallest county has a big offering to make to those looking to get away from it all. What it lacks in size it makes up for in stunning landscapes, medieval castles, historic tower houses and a growing art scene. Found between the majestic Ochil Hills and the banks of the River Forth, and just a short journey from the central belt, Clackmannanshire is perfectly located for those looking to unwind for the day. Enjoy a scenic walk or cycle in the striking Ochil Hills and discover Clackmannanshire’s exciting tourism treasures

Hidden hideaways to help you get away from it all

Croft 103: You’ll find these unique eco-art cottages on the shores of Loch Eriboll. With wood stoves, feather topped beds and outside solar tubs, it is the perfect romantic Highlands hideaway. These stunning low impact buildings benefit from the very best in traditional craftsmanship and cutting-edge contemporary design. Croft 103 is the ultimate escape for couples who want to be a world away from it all – together



The High Sea Hobbits in Aberdeenshire.

High Sea Hobbits: These unique little hideaways are a great reason to escape to the country. Hidden inside their unusual exterior you’ll find all your usual home comforts from comfy beds to cooking equipment. Set in their own field on a

small family run farm on the North East Coast of Aberdeenshire, the Hobbits, which sleep up to 4 people, combine the fun of glamping, the peace of the countryside and the adventure of farm life to create an unforgettable family experience.

The Old Pine Yurt: Ancient Scots pine trees provide a magical backdrop for your stay at The Old Pine Yurt. Located on the secluded foothills of the spectacular Cairngorms Mountains, with just surrounding nature for company, this is a camping experience like no other. The handcrafted yurt is equipped with all the usual home comforts including a cosy double bed, solar lighting, a wood burning stove and a dram to welcome you. Nearby you'll find the 'Hut' with kitchen and toilet facilities as well as an eco-shower.

Food for the soul

The Body Toolkit: The peace and natural beauty of the Scottish Highlands is a huge part of the appeal of The Body Toolkit, an award winning, first-of-its-kind health retreat based in the West Coast Highlands. The all-inclusive, 7-day programmes teach a variety of simple techniques that empower people to experience a new level of wellbeing and improved quality of life.

Paddle Board Yoga: Swap your mat for a stand up paddle board and try your hand at one of the country's hottest yoga trends. Paddle Board Yoga blends traditional stretches with stunningly tranquil Scottish locations. So take your sun salutations out of the studio and head to the water as SUP Yoga sweeps the nation.

Kagyü Samye Ling: Situated in the quiet Dumfries & Galloway countryside, this Tibetan Buddhist temple and monastic community offers a programme of weekend courses and teachings in Buddhist philosophy

and meditation with accommodation available in a peaceful and tranquil setting.



The Findhorn Foundation.

Findhorn Foundation: From massage training to meditation classes, the Findhorn Foundation is a spiritual community, ecovillage and international centre for holistic education. Based mainly at The Park in Findhorn and at Cluny Hill in Forres, the non-profit Foundation provides a broad range of holistic workshops and events, giving visitors practical experience of how to apply spiritual values in their daily lives.

Slow Adventure: Known as the Outdoor Capital of the UK, Lochaber may be a magnet for adrenaline junkies but it also caters for those who prefer their outdoor experiences to be more immersive and meaningful. So instead of just taking a scenic cruise, try the same journey by canoe with a spot of line-fishing or looking for extraordinary marine life. Or try wild yoga, sea kayaking, foraging and bushcraft in some of Europe's most beautiful and serene scenery.

Have you been to any of these great relaxing parts of Scotland? Tell us at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us or email/post us and share your story.

For more inspiration on how to get away from it all see: www.visitscotland.com

Warrant to be issued to The US Marshal's Pipe Band

By: Marsha Richardson, Griffin Newsletter Editor



The official Warrant presented to the U.S. Marshal's Pipes and Drums.

In honor of Robert Forsyth, the first U.S. Marshal killed in the line of Duty, the U.S. Marshal's Pipes and Drums asked Chief Alistair Forsyth of that Ilk for permission to wear the Forsyth Tartan. They also performed for the first time in the Forsyth Tartan in May. Warren Mays, Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal, Retired, shares with us the following information about the band.

Ceremonial unit

Mr Mays said; "The formation of the USMS Band began in late 2009, but first played publicly in 2010 at several USMS and Interpol ceremonies in Washington, D.C. There is no specific location for the band. As a Federal Law Enforcement Agency members of the band serve throughout the United States, its territories and commonwealths. The majority of the band members come from states in the eastern

part of the US, but there are members in Puerto Rico (a Commonwealth of the US) and Saipan (a territory in the Pacific). Including myself, there are three retired Deputy U.S. Marshals that are also members of the band. The band is a ceremonial unit and because of our large geographic separation does not compete; so we don't carry a formal grade.

"Being associated personally with the competitive pipe band world in the US, I would equate our band to a typical Grade V band in most any of the competitive associations in the US. As a ceremonial unit, the band doesn't give regularly scheduled public performances except during the week surrounding May 15th each year in Washington, D.C. May 15th is National Law Enforcement Memorial Day in the US where officers that have died in the line of duty are honored. Annually, during the surrounding week of this memorial day, numerous ceremonies are held through the capitol city where the band (along with many other law enforcement pipe bands) plays."

Normally the band will play at events such as The Candlelight Vigil at the National Law Enforcement Memorial, The Emerald Society Parade and Memorial at the Law Enforcement Memorial and The National Law Enforcement Memorial Service in the US capitol.

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Rollermania - The Scottish Banner speaks to singer Les McKeown of the Bay City Rollers



Les McKeown (centre) with his band enjoy performing hits such as Shang-A-Lang, Bye, Bye Baby, Saturday Night and more.

In the 1970's the Bay City Rollers were five young lads from Edinburgh who were on the brink of global superstardom. The band became the most successful chart act in the UK, selling tens of millions of albums, had a unique look and sound, and they became the biggest global band since the Beatles. Front man Les McKeown spoke to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on what it was like to reach such super stardom, Rollermania and just how it felt to turn the whole world tartan.

SC: Les thanks for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can you start by telling us about how great it is for you to still be able to play Bay City Rollers music today and how it feels to see the Rollers on such a great roll once more?

LM: We love keeping the music of the Bay City Rollers alive for the older fans and of course reaching new fans we play to on the road. Just to clarify, we are called Les McKeown's legendary Bay City Rollers, which is the band I have been with for the past 27 years. I have actually been touring all over the world, each year I have been touring places like Canada, Japan, UK, Europe and now Australia has been added to my list which is brilliant!

SC: The band has its origins in working class Edinburgh. Can you briefly tell us how the band went from the gigs in the Scottish capital to becoming international tartan teen sensations and selling tens of millions of albums worldwide?

LM: Yeah I don't know how that happened exactly but the band started in 1967 and at that time were called The Saxons. In 1971 the band a hit in the UK with a song called *Keep on Dancing*, which made it into the top 10 charts. Then there was quite a bit of disappointment after that with singles that were not making the charts. The previous singer left the band and in November 1973 I was already in a band which were very popular around Edinburgh and across Scotland. The management of the Rollers were looking for a young popular singer at that time and I was asked to join the band and within 3 months we were at the top of the charts again in the UK and this started the "tartan typhoon" that soon began with what became known as Rollermania.

SC: Les I understand a map of the USA helped create the band's unique name, can you tell us how the name the Bay City Rollers came about?

LM: The guys wanted to have a different name for the band and had this cute idea of trying to find an American sounding name for the band and the idea of the Rollers was born. What happened was they literally threw some darts at a map of America and one of the darts landed on Bay City in Michigan. So they added Bay City to what they already had and became the Bay City Rollers.

SC: Rollermania still takes place around the world, can you tell us what audiences can expect from your shows?

LM: What I do now with the tour which seems to be really well received is reproduce the original songs as they sounded on the records, like make sure we have the best harmonies and the guitar solos are all correct as we played them all that time ago.

I have a great band of quality musicians and over here in the UK people have adopted them as "surrogate" Bay City Rollers if you know what I mean. Me and my band tour heavily in the UK doing at least 100 gigs a year, but last year we did 170. As I said also we tour Japan each February, the Japanese have been very loyal to me and the history of the Bay City Rollers and they are keen on the music and the tartan. This year we add Australia to our tour and our band also tour annually to places like Canada as well as Germany, Sweden and around Europe. The audience can expect a trip down memory lane with tartan and our iconic shirts. We play the songs the audiences expect to hear and do it all I hope with a bit of panache.

SC: The Bay City Rollers are still today considered as one of Scotland's greatest musical exports, with a look and sound like no one else, the band also became a "boy band" well before the term existed. How did you handle such a great level of success at such a young age?

LM: We were so young and it was all such a big adventure for us. We were happy to be working so hard and travelling all over the world. It really was so unbelievable and nothing really could prepare us for the level of success and fame that was about to hit us, it truly was phenomenal.

What happened was they literally threw some darts at a map of America and one of the darts landed on Bay City in Michigan. So they added Bay City to what they already had and became the Bay City Rollers.

You could say that some kind of reaction was expected if we were successful. I had been to David Bowie and Led Zeppelin concerts and I could see how audiences could react to famous people. When we got famous we expected some reaction, but the reaction that happened to us was way over the top and more like a super reaction. We enjoyed and it was great while it lasted, but of course there was a downside to that after it finished. For me I went on to record albums and continued to write music after the Bay City Rollers and for quite some time it never really stopped for me.

Until 1985 when I moved from London back to Edinburgh and got married and had a child and thought of retirement. Though the money from the record company started to slow so I came up with some new projects as I knew I had to start working again and began to form my own Bay City Rollers again and go out on the road and reproduce the band's song, songs that I had made a hit with. I have been building on that ever since and

we even went on to do a musical called *Rollermania* which was successful in the theatres around the UK.

In 1999 we did a Millennium concert at Edinburgh Castle for Hogmanay with all the original band excluding the drummer. It was Eric, Alan, Nobby and myself and the concert was to launch a Rollers get together reunion but unfortunately Alan fell ill and the tour was cancelled but we did manage to do that Edinburgh show which was a huge success.

SC: Fans old and new will love the classic hits of the Bay City Rollers, however you also want to incorporate some "tartanmania" in your shows. Can you tell us more and how important it has been for the band to include the fabric of Scotland in their identity?

LM: Well it's in my bones isn't it? Tartan is part of every Scotsman's history and we are very proud of it. It was a big part of the Bay City Roller's image and was very iconic for what we wore. We had it in our shirts and tartan down the side of our trousers and we wore lots of tartan scarves. When you think of Bay City Rollers you think tartan and you think Scotland. We keep that going and I think that is a really good thing.

SC: And finally Les you enjoying the release of your new album, *Les McKeown... The Lost Songs*, can you tell us about the album and have you ever been influenced by any Scottish acts yourself and if so who?

LM: Yes these are songs that were considered lost or forgotten that I had written when I was in the Bay City Rollers back in 1975-77, songs that I had hoped would have made it on a Rollers record but the powers that be discouraged me from that.

These songs were shelved and sidelined until about 2015 when I met a Scottish producer called John McLaughlin who has had great international success and he asked me if I had any songs from that period. Me and my wife went into our attic and found the old recordings I made back in the 70's on an old micro cassette recorder. When we found it we cleaned up the tape and listened to this voice from 40 years ago which was amazing. John really liked the sound and we not only have this new album but there was enough to do a second album which we are also planning.

My oldest brother was a DJ in the 60's and 70's and I would end up hearing all this music from him, there were times I would literally go to sleep listening to his music and wake up in the morning with it still on. I was pretty well indoctrinated by music at that time. He would play everything that was around at that time from Motown to chart music. I can't really pinpoint any acts, Scottish or not that influenced me, as I had musical influences from around the world including from our own Celtic culture. Music really has been with me my whole life and I am so glad I can continue to keep doing it today.