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Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for August 14, 2026

Electric Scotland News

Got a visit from Amanda of the Chatham-Kent Family Health Team in which she told me that it will likely take between 4 and 6 months before I'm walking properly again. I had been told just 2 months so was a touch concerned I wasn't making enough progress.

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers and other media

I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland and world news stories that can affect Scotland and as all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on search engines it becomes a good resource. I might also add that in a number of newspapers you will find many comments which can be just as interesting as the news story itself and of course you can also add your own comments if you wish which I do myself from time to time.

Here is what caught my eye this week...

Does the US Really Hold the Reins in Venezuela?

Shortly before the earthquakes, DER SPIEGEL traveled to Venezuela to explore the question: Who is really in charge in the country?

Read more at:

<https://www.spiegel.de/international/world/in-trumps-colony-does-the-us-really-hold-the-reins-in-venezuela-a-858ba1f1-8b06-48c2-a2bf-340abe876f18>

Boogie goes on: US army band performing at Edinburgh Tattoo tell of the impact Scotland fans made at World Cup

Scotland came home from the World Cup with little to show for their efforts this summer. But the Tartan Army did rather better, and their invasion of US cities – complete with kilts, bagpipes and traffic cones strategically balanced on statues from Boston to Miami – seemed to win over American hearts and minds.

Read more at:

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/us-band-performing-at-edinburgh-tattoo-tell-of-tartan-army-impact/>

How Black Pudding Throwing championships became the latest front in culture wars - Brian Monteith

It is just another manufactured cultural clash aimed at catching the eye of newsroom editors

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/MUAsN#selection-547.0-547.92>

GERS 2025/26

Everything you need to know about today's GERS figures, plus the context and history for all the moving parts. Kevin Hague introduces the GERS Explorer.

Read more at:

https://www.these-islands.co.uk/publications/i416/gers_202526.aspx

Conditions on US aircraft carrier at sea for more than 250 days raise alarms

Concern about living conditions on a US aircraft carrier that has been deployed in the Middle East for more than 250 days is leading a US senator to demand answers from the military about the vessel and putting more pressure on the Trump administration over the Iran war.

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/8g8k8#selection-823.0-823.271>

Electric Canadian

Indian Horrors

Or, Massacres by the Red Men by Henry Davenport Northrop, D. D. (1891) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/Indian-Horrors.pdf>

The Prairie Farmer's Vegetable Garden

By W. C. McKillican, B.S.A. and J. H. Cooper (1927)

You can read this book at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/agriculture/prairiefarmers.pdf>

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - the 9th day of August 2026 Potential

By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

https://youtu.be/XbKG_SSk3tg?si=9HxafvFS5eIFX4mf

My Canadian Experience

Continued the August entry.

You can read this at:

https://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add36.htm

The Beaver Magazine

Added No. 1 Outfit 272 June 1941 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/thebeaverjune1941.pdf>

Electric Scotland

Màiri Mhòr nan Òran

Scottish Gaelic poet (pdf)

You can read about her at:

https://electricScotland.com/poetry/Mairi_Mhor_nan_Oran.pdf

The Scots Revised Reports

Morison's Dictionary 1 to 9424 (1908) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/records/scotsrevisedrep.pdf>

Scottish Food, Traditions and Customs

Highlighting this section as you may have missed it as it's under our Culture page. Lots of great recipes and wee stories to go with them.

You can read this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/culture/features/food/index.htm>

The Sunday Home Service

By the Reverend Donald MacLeod, D.D.

You can read this sermon at:

<https://electricScotland.com/bible/homeservice.htm>

History of the Destitution in Sutherlandshire

Being a series of letters published in the Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle, in the years 1840 & 1841 with an appendix containing some additional information by Donald M'Leod (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/clearances/destitution.pdf>

American Clan Lockhart Society

Added their Jun - Sep 2026 newsletter which celebrates the 250th anniversary of the USA which

you can read at:

<https://electricScotland.com/familytree/newsletters/lockhart>

Scottish Language goes all 'Digital Native'

A book by Bill Magee

You can read this book, which will be added to in the future, at:

<https://electricScotland.com/magee/scottish-language.htm>

The Tower of Craigietocher

You can now book a B & B stay at this property where we documented it's build over many years.

You can learn of its history at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/articles/Craigietocher.htm>

Specimens of Bushman folklore

By Wilhelm Heinrich Immanuel Bleek, Ph.D, and L.C. Lloyd (1911) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/africa/specimensofbush.pdf>

Story

SCOTTISH LANGUAGE GOES ALL 'DIGITAL NATIVE'

By Bill Magee

The Scottish language is under threat. According to UNESCO half the planet's several thousand languages, dialects and creoles will all but disappear by 2050. Yet an unlikely saviour towards preserving the Scottish spoken and written word has emerged. Also other languages when, unfortunately, too many to number will fall by the digital wayside.

Coming to the rescue is a nascent artificial intelligence. Despite the Information Age being viewed as a key contributory factor leading to a global linguistic culling. Novel research carried out by me over a matter of months reveals the Scottish language is set fair to actually strengthen its position as the century evolves in tandem with digital's still relatively new cousin AI.

I have since 6th Form schooling had an ever-developing concern for the future of language, linguistics, syntax, grammar, phonetics. Fortunately, Scottish is endowed with an enviable versatility.

Embracing innumerable inflections and cadences takes in the Gaelic, Highland, Doric, Borders, Celtic, Ulster Scots and English influences. Add the Auld Alliance and other standout universal strengths heightened by Scotland's global influence through the Age of Enlightenment (1687-1789).

Fast forward two centuries and frontrunners of the information age are "Digital Natives" - born since 1980-81 - whip-cybersmart Millennials and Generation Z and Alphas. I was surprised to discover, they number at least TWO MILLION in Scotland alone who are making the language their own. Multiple that globally!!

With Gen Beta, born between 2025-2039 expected to be fully AI integrated and instrumental in further linguistically shaping the mid-21st century onwards.

Reddit's online forum notes a significant move by the Oxford English Dictionary lately giving Scottish language-flavoured internet and social media words a wider platform: "not necessarily listing new words but old words".

"Millennials, Gen Z & Alpha are programmed - and want to keep up with - rapidly changing technologies like AI", reported Mark Plensky, late Harvard professor and creator of the term "Digital Native", who included Scotland in his exhaustively-researched seminal global essay.

There's no stopping such cyber savvy individuals with online activity centred on software applications (apps) continuing to grow exponentially, as they juggle an ever-increasing number of acronyms and abbreviated terms.

Endlessly microblogging, texting and sharing photos on social media platforms like TikTok, Instagram, Reddit and X (formerly Twitter) and innumerable other connected channels.

Digital Natives are increasingly taking on board Scottish expressions, terms and idioms once regularly found in playground slang and beyond applying social forms and acronyms.

Significantly they're also being re-applied formally by the global technology sector to explain out often highly-complex online practices and tools, software apps, and IT solutions.

A wee cluster highlighted below is representative of scores-upon-scores of other examples aplenty I have unearthed:

Doot - dictionary.com 2025 word of the year prominent in general internet culture

Ussy - American Dialect Society word of the year 2022

Tattie Bogle - Refers to old, obsolete technology

Hi Heid Yin - Metaphor applied to tech leadership

Totie - TikTok term for texting byte-sized shorthand meanings

Curling - Refers to creating computer text curved or shaped used in digital designs, printables, word art in common programs Word, Photoshop, Canva laden with built-in effects from sites like Etsy

Loch - Computer science key concept prevents simultaneous, often damaging, access to data by multiple threads of execution

Haar - Digital signal processing and computer vision specifically related to mathematical algorithms

Polis - Open-source software and realtime AI-powered systems analysing public opinion
Tioraidh - From the Gaelic for goodbye pronounced cheery, Digital Native parlance as in "Ta-Ra Bro" and "Cheery-Bye, Dude"

It's clear that the sheer vernacular power of Scotland's spoken and written word continues on the rise in computational linguistics and language in terms of application of syntax, grammar and phonetics...

Best Wishes,

Bill from Bonnie Scotland.

See his book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/magee/scottish-language.htm>

END.

Weekend is almost here and hope it's a good one for you.

Alastair