Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for October 30, 2026

Electric Scotland News

I note that the UK is now advising their citizens to stock 3 days of food and water and Germany is advising 10 days. With suggestions on stocking medicines, cash, torch and wind up radios.

The UK Prepping List: Everything Your Household Needs in 2026
A complete, no-nonsense UK prepping list for everyday households. Covers water, food, power, first aid, communications, and documents — with UK prices, UK stockists, and UK-specific emergency risks.

Read more at:
https://readynotrich.com/guides/uk-prepping-list

This November members of the worldwide Currie/Curry/Currey family (anciently MacMhuirich, “MacVurich”) will meet to elect a chief for the first time in their history. Once influential poets and historians to the MacDonald Lord of the Isles and other prominent families and clans, the Learned Kindred of Currie will gather in Scotland for only their second clan convention in modern times.

Learn more at:
https://learnedkindredofcurrie.com/the-family-convention-of-currie/

My Canadian Experience

Continued to add to the October entry with items on Joint Statement by Prime Minister Mark Carney and His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, The Plan for a Stronger Canada, Discussions on a new First Nations Sovereign Wealth Fund, PM Carney makes announcement on AI and digital sovereignty and other matters.

You can read this and view the videos at:
https://www.electriccanadian.com/canada_add38.htm

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...

Conrad Black: Alberta referendum should spur Canada to do better
It was the best result we could have hoped for. Now's the time to put separatism behind us and realize our potential as a nation

Read more at:
https://archive.is/br6CI

Give peas a chance: Chefs lead call to protect humble veg as consumer data reveals consumption down to a 50-year low
Whether blitzed in a soup or rolling around on a plate of fish and chips, peas have been a jewel in the crown of the British dinner plate since the Middle Ages.

Read more at:
https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/give-peas-a-chance-chefs-lead-charge-as-consumption-at-50-year-low/

Don't write off Reform in Scotland
Reform is facing challenges, certainly, but what young party doesn't?

Read more at:
https://thecritic.co.uk/dont-write-off-reform-in-scotland/

France's problems are even worse than they look
A spineless government can neither satisfy the law-abiding nor deter criminals

Read more at:
https://thecritic.co.uk/frances-problems-are-even-worse-than-they-look/

Lula's comeback in Brazil dents Trump's ambitions for Latin America
"Brazil will not accept being anyone's backyard," Brazil's left-wing President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva declared in his election victory speech, a message squarely aimed at Washington.

Read more at:
https://archive.is/d6c48#selection-805.0-805.185

Electric Canadian

Authentic letters from Upper Canada
Including an account of Canadian Field Sports by Thomas William Magrath: The whole edited by The Rev. Thomas Radcliff: Illustrated by Samuel Lover and Introduced by James John Talman (1833) (pdf)

You can read this book at:
https://www.electriccanadian.com/pioneering/authenticletters.pdf

Under the Chinook Arch
This book is dedicated to the people of the Big Prairie. Cremona, Garfield and Water Valley districts. 1880 - Feb. 1979 (pdf)

You can read this book at:
https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/alberta/UndertheChinookArch1979.pdf

The Work of a Few Years among the Indians
Of Manitoba and the North West Territories, Canada, May, 1933 (pdf)

You can read this book at:
https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/manitoba/workoffewyearsam.pdf

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - the 25th day of October 2026 Voting
By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:
https://youtu.be/ZuHWvd7IisY?si=p6MwVZ4ipbVM6K0p

The Beaver Magazine
Added No. 4 Outfit 274 March 1944 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:
https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/thebeavermarch1944.pdf

Electric Scotland

Sermons (posthumous volume). Edinburgh, 1836.
By Rev. Thomas M'Crie (pdf)

You can read this at:
https://electricscotland.com/bible/sermons.pdf

The Story of the Scottish Church
From the Reformation to the disruption by Thomas M'Crie (1875) (pdf)

You can read this book at:
https://electricscotland.com/bible/storyscottishch.pdf

Sketches of Scottish church history
Embracing the period from the Reformation to the Revolution by the Rev. Thomas M'Crie (1846)

You can read this book at:
https://electricscotland.com/bible/Sketches.htm

Green's Encyclopaedia of the Law of Scotland
By John Chisholm (1896 - 1904) in 14 volumes. Got the first 3 volumes up now.

You can read these three volumes at:
https://electricscotland.com/history/law/lawofscotland.htm

Two discourses on the unity of the Church, her divisions and their removal
To which is subjoined, a short view pf the plan of Religious Reformation originally adopted in the session by Thomas M'Crie, D. D. (1821) (pdf)

You can read this at:
https://electricscotland.com/bible/twodiscourseson.pdf

Revised Odd-fellowship Illustrated
The Complete Revised Ritual of the Lodge, Encampment by Jonathan Blanchard (1891) (pdf)

You can read this at:
https://electricscotland.com/history/articles/revisedoddfellow.pdf

Story

The Final days of the Old Scottish Regiments

Silent watch at regiments' last post
ALISON CHIESA - The Herald - March 29 2006

In the end, the only sound that could be heard was the cawing of crows circling overhead.

Below, the massed ranks of Black Watch veterans, their heads bowed in red hackle bonnets, stood in silent commemoration as one of Britain's most famous fighting regiments passed into the history books.

After nearly 300 years, the final act of several hundred former soldiers at a rain-soaked Balhousie Castle, the regiment's Perthshire home, marked an end to a valiant era.

The famous infantry unit now joins The Royal Regiment of Scotland, based at Edinburgh Castle, and will be known as the 3rd Battalion.

As such, it has effectively lost its historic insignia – the red hackle – which can now only be worn when the men are in combat kit.

Yesterday a palpable anger ran through the veterans, politicians and public paying their final respects.

Among those heralded into the event by Pipe Sergeant Jimmy Doig, who later performed his own composition – The Vile Plot – was a father and son whose connections to the Black Watch span five generations.

Warrant Officer Bob Scott, 63, who served under the regiment for nearly 25 years, said: "This occasion is beyond sad. I cannot understand how history can just be taken away like this. The people who make these decisions do not understand how unique the regiments are and what they mean to people.

"There are our families and then there is the Black Watch."

Gesturing to the hackle on his bonnet, he added: "This is such a powerful symbol. It has always been the case that when a soldier felt the need for extra support, he would touch the hackle and say 'Black Watch'.

Warrant Officer Scott vowed: "I myself will wear this hackle until the day they put me in a wooden box."

His son, Sergeant Hamilton Scott, 40, is due to be discharged from service tomorrow after more than 22 years.

Sergeant Scott – whose son Charles, 20, is serving in Northern Ireland – said: "I wanted to commemorate the regiment today because it is no longer going to be the regiment I grew up with. It is a sad day and it is wrong.

"Some changes could have been made to the Army without destroying the whole system. The people who have done this really haven't got a clue."

Decorated veterans fought back tears during a ceremony which included a service of remembrance, as well as

biting criticism of government ministers.

Major Ronnie Proctor, of the Angus Black Watch Association, which hosted the event, said: "The purpose of this ceremony is to remember all those who served in the Black Watch over the regiment's existence since 1739.

"There are also a lot of members who are not happy about the amalgamation, and although serving soldiers cannot protest, we can."

Politicians who addressed the event included Murdo Fraser, the Scots Tory deputy leader.

Mr Fraser, Conservative MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife, questioned the removal of individual regimental identities at a time of increased military commitments.

He said: "In Iraq, the Black Watch returned home after serving with the highest dignity, bravery and honour.

"They had carried out a tremendous job and for Labour to pat them on the back for serving them in Iraq and to then stab them in the back the next moment with amalgamation is disgusting."

Roseanna Cunningham the SNP MSP for Perth, paid tribute to those involved in the campaign to save the Black Watch. "I am sorry the government has no time for history," she said.

Regimental Sergeant Major Bob Ritchie, who served in the Black Watch for four decades, asked veterans to remove their hackle bonnets before cheering the regiment and association.

He said: "This is the last time you will be asked to remove your blue bonnets. Continue to wear them with pride."

‘God’s tears’ bless Black Watch
By Dave Lord - The Courier - March 29, 2006

THE RED of the world-famous trademark hackle contrasted sharply with overcast skies as around 200 veterans bade a final farewell to the historic Black Watch regiment at a ceremony in Perth yesterday.

Referring to steady drizzle falling on those who had come to pay tribute, one veteran said the regiment was being blessed by “God’s tears.”

The Black Watch is now part of the Royal Regiment of Scotland (RRS) and its red hackle will only be worn as part of combat uniform.

The controversial merger may have caused massive divisions but veterans, politicians and Perth residents stood united at the ceremony which marked 266 years of distinguished service.

Held at Balhousie Castle—the regiment’s historic headquarters—the sombre event included a short service of commemoration and speeches by dignitaries and MSPs.

Amid emotionally-charged scenes, The Black Watch was described as “one of the best fighting units in the world today.”

A strong sense of pride was clear for all to see, with politicians insisting the regiment must never be regarded as a “relic of the past.”

In fact some spoke of their continued opposition to the merger and insisted they would fight for a reversal of the

controversial decision.

It was almost 50 years ago that Brigadier Garry Barnett enlisted with The Black Watch and he welcomed veterans to yesterday's ceremony.

"I have mixed feelings today," he said. "I would like to express thanks to all those who have campaigned tirelessly for our regiment.

"Today we think of the regiment and remember all that it means to us."

However, he said it was time to look forward as well as back.

"We must admit our campaign to save The Black Watch has not succeeded," he added.

"We must recognise that The Black Watch as we have known it is no more.

"The regiment has served the Crown loyally and without question—we can all be immensely proud of our regiment."

Retired major Colin Innes gave a brief history of the regiment and the Rev Alex Forsyth of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department led a religious service of commemoration.

A loan piper played Lochaber No More before silence fell over Balhousie Castle.

The ceremony ended with veterans giving a spirited and emotional three cheers for The Black Watch.

Politicians were then given their chance to address those assembled in Balhousie Castle's Wavell Gardens.

They struck a defiant note, with Perth and North Perthshire MP Pete Wishart saying those behind the amalgamation should be "ashamed of themselves."

"The fight goes on comrades," he said. "We must ensure The Black Watch can keep its identity within the new Royal Regiment of Scotland."

Perth MSP Roseanna Cunningham paid tribute to all those involved in campaigning to save The Black Watch.

"I am sorry the Government has no time for history, no time for tradition," she said.

"Recruitment figures are falling and the Government may come to regret the day it came to this decision."

The Black Watch has fought in some of the world's most famous battles, as Mid Scotland and Fife MSP Murdo Fraser recalled.

"This is the end of a regiment that has fought across the globe with the highest of dignity and has battled in some of the most ferocious battles in history," he said.

Mr Fraser added, "They have fought in North America against native tribes during the seven years' war. They have defeated George Washington in the Battle of Long Island. They have fought in the Boer War. They fought at Waterloo, the Somme and Ypres.

"Black Watch soldiers were among the first forward in some of the most intense fighting of world war two in Normandy after the D-Day landings.

“The 1st Battalion of The Black Watch became the first British unit to enter German territory in world war two.”

Mr Fraser fears the “honourable traditions” of The Black Watch may well be lost forever—harming recruitment in the process.

“Our local area and The Black Watch are intertwined with one another and it will be a severe loss for the communities that have had long standing ties with the regiment,” he said.

“This strong bond with the local area undoubtedly aids recruiting, as we see different generations from the same family joining their local regiment.

“This will be lost and I fear recruitment for our regiments will fall.”

He added, “After so many battles and victories this is a sad end for The Black Watch.

“Do not forget The Black Watch.” Mr Fraser added.

Politicians of several parties attended yesterday’s event, along with association branch members in Dundee, Perth, Fife, Newcastle, Chorley, Stoke and London.

The other five regiments becoming battalions of the super regiment are the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Royal Scots, Royal Highland Fusiliers, King’s Own Scottish Borderers and the Highlanders.

As well as the Perth event there were special parades in parts of the world where Scottish soldiers are based, including the Royal Scots in Iraq and the Royal Highland Fusiliers in Cyprus.

* Soldiers from The Black Watch’s Territorial Army unit were presented with their new Royal Regiment of Scotland cap badges by Perth Provost Bob Scott last night.

The presentation took place at Queen’s Barracks on Dunkeld Road in Perth.

This story comes from the page at:
https://electricscotland.com/history/scotreg/400years.htm

END.

Weekend is almost here and hope it's a good one for you. Hope folks in Canada and the USA get out to vote and you might want to watch the homily by the Rev. Nola Crewe which is about the importance of voting which you can get to in our Canadian section above.

Alastair