

Volume 43 Number 8 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper February 2020

» Pg 16

In the Outlander Kitchen

» Pg 26



The Scottish Snowdrop Festival -Where Snowdrops Shine » Pg 8

Looking for a Valentine? You'll find him in Glasgow» Pg 25

St Margaret-The Pearl

of Scotland.....» Pg 29

The Massacre of Glencoe

» Pg 14

Volume 43 - Number 8

Scottish Banner

Publisher Valerie Cairney

Editor Sean Cairney

EDITORIAL STAFF

Jim Stoddart
The National Piping Centre
David McVey
Lady Fiona MacGregor
Eric Bryan
David C. Weinczok
Judy Vickers
Nick Drainey

Offices of publication Australasian Office:

PO Box 6202 Marrickville South, NSW, 2204 Tel:(02) 9559-6348 info@scottishbanner.com

North American Office: mail@scottishbanner.com

Follow us on social media









Distributed monthly in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. ISSN 2209-8364

Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806

Published monthly by Scottish Banner Publications PO Box 6220, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204, Australia

The publisher reserves the right to reject, discontinue or omit any advertisement or to cancel any advertising contract for reasons satisfactory to the publisher, without notice and without penalty to either party. All advertising and reading matter is subject to Publisher's approval. Right reserved to revise or reject advertising and reading material in accordance with standards acceptable to the Scottish Banner, without notice. The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount of space paid for, whether such errors are due to negligence, copy right or otherwise. The publisher does not endorse the historical accuracy of the editorial stance of materials submitted for publication. The publisher reserves the right edit all submitted material prior to publication.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

Trouble getting *the Scottish Banner* each month? Use the subscription form below to subscribe, or you may contact our distributors for your nearest sales outlet.

AUSTRALIA: Integrated Publication Solutions 1 800 606 477 NEW ZEALAND: Gordon & Gotch 09 979 3018

The Scottish Banner

Uniting Scots Around the World for 43 Years!

THE SCOTTISH BANNER

Subscribe to the worlds largest international Scottish culture newspaper online or use below:

Australia: Print: 1 Year / \$50.00 AUD

Digital: 1 Year / \$25.00 AUD

Canada: Digital: \$19.95 CDN

New Zealand: Print: 1 Year / \$65.00 AUD

Digital: 1 Year / \$25.00 AUD

U.S.A.: Digital: 1 Year / \$19.95 USD

Overseas: Print: 1 Year Air Mail: AU \$ 110.00

Australia/New Zealand: T (+61) 02 9559-6348

www.scottishbanner.com/subscribe

Subscription are non-refundable. Cheques, money orders, Visa and MasterCard accepted.

Scottish Banner Australia/New Zealand:

PO Box 6202, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204

Digital subscriptions must be requested via our website only.

Name:
Address:
Post Code:
Tel/Email:
1 Year New Subscription Renewal
Gift Subsc. From
^o Visa/MC
Expiry

The Banner Says...

Scotland's leap of tradition



by Sean Cairney

he month may be the shortest of the year, but this February does see an extra day as we are in a leap year. Leap Year Day, as it is known, will take place on Saturday February 29th. Just why do we have a leap year you may wonder? Adding one additional day every four years keeps our calendar aligned correctly with the astronomical seasons. Our calendar year is defined as the time it takes for the Earth to orbit around the Sun once. It takes the Earth about 365 days to do this, or more specifically, 365 1/4 days. Our normal calendar allows for just 365 days a year and without this extra day, our calendar and the seasons would gradually get out of sync.

Leap Year Day tradition

In Scotland Leap Year Day has its very own unique traditions. February 29th is the day a woman could propose. The custom is believed to have originated in Ireland and came from a decree from the Scottish born Patron Saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick, and was brought over to Scotland by Irish monks. Apparently, St. Bridget complained to St. Patrick about women who had to wait too long for men to make proposals of marriage.

In 1288 the unmarried Queen Margaret of Scotland passed a law that allowed a woman to propose marriage (often wearing red) to their true love in a leap year, with the law also stating that any man who declined the proposal on this day would have to pay a fine.

Fines could include money, gloves or silk. Gloves were particularly popular as this was a way a woman could hide the embarrassment of not wearing an engagement/wedding ring.

Scottish farmers used to believe leap years are not good for crops or livestock, thanks to the old Scots proverb: "Leap year was ne'er a good sheep year."

In Scotland, it also used to be considered unlucky for someone to be born on leap day, just as Friday 13th is considered an unlucky day by many. However, those Pisceans born on February 29th have unique talents, including high levels of creativity and the ability to give sound advice.

In this issue

This month millions of people around the world will be leaping onto their couches as season five of the hit TV show *Outlander* hits our screens, bringing an end to 'Droughtlander'. We have some great *Outlander* themed content in this issue.

This month millions of people around the world will be leaping onto their couches as season five of the hit TV show Outlander hits our screens, bringing an end to 'Droughtlander'.

And whether you are a fan of the show, the books or not at all (is that possible?), there is no denying what a huge cultural impact the series has had and continues to have on Scotland. The story of Scotland's history is very on trend, for not just Scots but those who love history and drama. Scotland has that in spades and *Outlander* has done wonders for Scottish tourism and the film industry and awoken many Scots to learning more of their past story.

We are also fortunate to have a variety of *Outlander* themed recipes by Theresa Carle-Sanders, author of the *Outlander Kitchen* cookbooks feature in this edition.

One of the darkest moments of Scottish history took place over 300 years ago this month. The Massacre of Glencoe took place on the 13th February 1692, as the Clan MacDonald of Glencoe were slaughtered while they slept by Captain Robert Campbell and his men. This tragic event took place in one of the most beautiful and dramatic places in Scotland and the massacre still is imprinted in the Scottish psyche and story.

One of Scotland's great women of history surly must be Saint Margaret. In 1070 Margaret became Queen having married King Malcolm III. It was Margaret who initiated a ferry crossing on the Firth of Forth and boats sailed the "Queen's Ferry" from the 11th century until the 1960's (this was not needed when the Forth Road Bridge opened in 1964) and where North and South Queensferry take their names from. The oldest surviving building in Edinburgh is St Margaret's Chapel, located within Edinburgh Castle. It was built around 1130 by David I who dedicated it to his mother, who certainly had an impact on Scottish history.

Valentine's Day

This month also see romantics come out the woodwork on Valentine's Day on February 14th. This literally was the case for Mary Queen of Scots as the French poet Pierre de Bocosel de Châtelard hid under the Queen's bed at Rossend Castle in Fife to proclaim his love for her. Mary was not won over at all and had him executed for treason.

A Scottish tradition on Valentine's Day was for young unwed men and women to write their name on pieces of paper, place them in a bonnet and each draw one of them. If one name was read out three times, it meant a marriage would take place. If you do not want to get that deep into commitment however, there is also National Flirting Week, taking place the week of February 9th!

Whilst you may not be writing names on paper or dawning a red outfit and asking your love to marry you (or be one who gets asked) on February 29th, whatever you get up to this month, enjoy the 'extra day' of February as you won't have one again until Thursday, February 29, 2024.

Do you enjoy Outlander? Do you have a leap year or Valentine's Day related story? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



Gracing our front cover: Outlander returns with Caitriona Balfe (Claire Fraser), Sam Heughan (Jamie Fraser). Photo courtesy of Starz.





July 25 & 26, 2020

Kal Tire Place, Vernon B.C.

Tickets Available Now!
Call Ticketseller:
250-549-7469

TOLL FREE: 1-866-311-1011



OKANAGANTATTOO.CA

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?

Don't Quit

I came to Australia from Kilmarnock, Scotland 50 years ago, fit, young and healthy. Now I am 83 years old and like Billy Connolly I have Parkinson's. I have a little verse that hangs on the wall and look at it pretty often, so people like Billy and thousands like us, you might like to read it.

Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will, When the road you're trudging seems all uphill, When the funds are low, and the debts are high, And you want to smile, but have to sigh, When care is pressing you down a bit, Rest if you must, But don't you quit!!!

> Bill Millar Queensland, Australia

Ed note: Thanks for sending Bill and we are glad to see your positive outlook and Scottish strength!

My son, who now lives in Brisbane has just responded to my last email in which I told him that I had been putting pen to paper and writing about what school was like for me in the late 40's and early 50's. I was doing this in the hope that my Grandchildren in years to come might be interested in what school was like in their old Gramp's days.

He told me about your publication and when I looked it up noticed that you had described where the word 'dunce' originated from (Scottish Banner, The Banner Says, November 2019 Vol'43 Number 05). I found this so coincidental, as I for the first time since I can remember, I used this word in my reminiscing. Stuart McKay Scotland

The Scotsman

My mom, who is in her $87^{\mbox{th}}$ year wrote a beautiful poem many years ago after her and my father visited Scotland where her father grew up in Paisley. They toured throughout the country and when in the Highlands my Mom was inspired to put pen to paper. I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I do. Matt Odell

The Scotsman

The Scotsman stood in the heather On the crest of the sunlit hill Gazing at the faraway highlands thinking of times long ago

He thought of the many invasions The Vikings, Romans, and English trying to take Scotland for their own had to fight the tenacious Scots

He thought of the clans that were there the battles that were won and lost he could hear in his mind the battle cries and the sound of the clashing Claymores

He could hear the eerie skirl of the pipes their piercing sound filling the glens and spreading out o'er the moors before all went silent again

The auld land is peaceful now from the highlands to the borders with its many locks and rivers its rugged beauty for all to see

The Scotsman took up his pipes and tucked them beneath his arm then wandered down through the heather slowly wending his way back home.

Duella D Odell Akron, New York USA

Scottish National Party

Holidaying with friends in Adelaide (and escaping part of the Glasgow winter), I bought the January 2020 edition of the Scottish Banner which I enjoyed. Just one correction though. In a piece on the results of the Scottish votes in the recent UK General Election, you mention that the SNP won 48 of Scotland's 59 constituencies -around 80% of seats. You erroneously call the SNP the 'Scottish Nationalist' rather than the 'Scottish National' Party. It is an important distinction given the fact that 'national' implies the party of a nation while 'nationalist' implies a 'me first' ideology which can aptly be applied to the pro-Brexit vote in England but not the overwhelming vote in Scotland to remain in the EU and to welcome more refugees to our

A Happy New Year to everyone. (Dr) Duncan MacLaren Glasgow, Scotland

Ed note: Thanks for catching this Dr MacLaren and hope you have had happy travels.

Dundee Picnic

I hope you can settle an argument for me, many years ago there was an organization that was called the "Dundee Picnic". They organized a picnic and golf tournament for persons of Dundee heritage I'm sure it was in the Toronto area, can anyone remember this?

Thank you Jim Macfarlane E-mail: macfar39@telus.net Canada

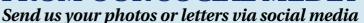
Interesting issue



Hello from Wyndham, Western Australia, what an interesting issue you had in July. The photo of the Bridge of Orchy brings back fond memories as it's so beautiful and I had the most delicious haggis at the hotel. My grandfather's ancestors were supposed to have originated from the area. I left my own "wee monster", a tiny magnetised koala bear, on the back of a signpost. My daughter and I spent a couple of hours wandering around the area. I've enjoyed readingthe Scottish Banner for several years as I love all things Scottish, I've been there four times and would love to return. On our first trip my daughter and I drove from London to Dunblane in a day, much to some people's surprise. As we came to the Welcome to Scotland sign, I felt as though I was coming home. My grandmother was from Glasgow, but she died before I was born so I never really knew any Scots. The icing on the cake is Ian Rankin who is one of my favourite authors, I love the Rebus books and have most of them, I re-read them regularly.

Thanks for a great newspaper, Jocelyn Layton Wyndham, Western Australia

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA





The Hermitage



The Hermitage autumn colours like this are not far off. A View From My Camera Scotland

Stirling Bridge



Stirling Bridge is stunning at this time of the year. GN Photography Scotland

Scottish ice sculptures





Scottish themed ice sculptures in Edinburgh a few years ago, all stunning but my favourite is the Loch Ness Monster. Shutter Bug Shots Scotland

Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Please keep letters under 300 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters can be emailed to info@scottishbsanner.com or online at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us, alternatively you may post your letters to us (items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned). Please ensure you include your full contact details should you require a reply. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part!

New online resource maps the use of Scots across Scotland



ould you say I like they trainers? Have you ever heard anyone say I div like a good story? And might you say You're after locking us out? All these expressions come from dialects of Scots spoken across Scotland, but where exactly can you hear them?

To answer this question, a project team led by the University of Glasgow travelled the length and breadth of Scotland, visiting nearly 150 communities, from Shetland in the north to Stranraer in the south. They were particularly investigating the different ways that sentences are built up — this part of a language is called its syntax, and it's one of the most creative aspects of how people use language. The team recruited a small army of fieldworkers local to the different areas around Scotland who then went into their communities and asked their friends and family what they do and don't say. They also recorded conversations with the people from these areas, where they talked about their lives and their communities.

The syntax of Scots



Their initial findings, on the Scots Syntax Atlas, shows just how rich and diverse the syntax of Scots is. In this Atlas you can hear the fits and fars of north east Scotland, the gonnae no's in Glasgow, and everything in between. You can also find out why youse might be spreading across the country and learn about the forms that we don't even realise are Scots: while someone's ears might prick up when they hear I might can do it, they probably wouldn't bat an eyelid when they hear The car needs washed.

The Scots Syntax Atlas, shows just how rich and diverse the syntax of Scots is.

Professor Jennifer Smith, Professor of Sociolinguistics at the University of Glasgow and the Principal Investigator of the Scots Syntax Atlas, said: "From a linguistic point of view, we wanted to look at the make-up of Scots beyond words and sounds - how sentence structures are the same or different across communities in

Scotland, and how we can explain these differences. Scots can be viewed as an umbrella term for a collection of quite diverse dialects. A look at the history of these different dialects - where they originated and how they subsequently

developed - often provides the key to explaining why they are so diverse. For example, in more rural areas there may be preservation of forms that have long disappeared from elsewhere in Scotland. In more urban areas, on the other hand, social and demographic influences from outside can have a profound effect on language change. Even if you look at Glasgow and Edinburgh - less than an hour from each other – there are many dialect differences as they draw on different influences from the people who have lived in these cities over the years. We also found that spread of language forms isn't necessarily from south of the border, but instead from within Scotland itself, as demonstrated by the spread of youse and gonnae no from likely Glasgow, outwards"

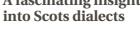
A fascinating insight

Dr E Jamieson, a researcher on the project from the University of Edinburgh,

insight into Scots dialects and how they have changed and adapted over time. But we are only scraping the surface so far. This is a first step that we feel is a good basis to grow this project and database. We hope that the Scottish public can help us for our next stage and we would love people around Scotland to give us their own examples of sayings and sentences that they use in their own community. We hope then we can get a better understanding of Scots today and how it is being used."

You can explore what the team found on the Scots Syntax Atlas website but meanwhile you can test your knowledge of Scots right now: can you identify the areas where you might hear the following expressions? I might can do it if I have time. She doesn't like it, and neither div I. Are you remembering to get the keys? I'm never been there.

Answers are on the new resources launched on the Scots Syntax Atlas: www.scotssyntaxatlas.ac.uk/atlas



said: "This has offered us a fascinating



SCOTSPEAK

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

"The applicant is proud of his ancestry and wears a kilt on special occasions. I find that he has not pointed to any evidence in his testimony to establish that he had the right, protected under the code, to wear a kilt at work or while on duty. I believe that wearing a kilt has a special significance for the applicant and it is important for him to wear a kilt for special occasions. However, the applicant has not established that wearing a kilt, and more specifically wearing a kilt at work, is intricately linked to his ancestry."

Ontario's human rights tribunal Judge Josee Bouchard said during a hearing regarding a Canadian bus driver who was sent home to change out of the kilt he wore to work on a casual Friday was not a victim of anti-Scottish discrimination. Waterloo bus driver Tracy Macdonnell alleged discrimination because of his Scottish ancestry. His employer said kilts are not aligned with the typical bus operator uniform.



"For most passers-by, the scaffolding surrounding North Bridge is the only indication that work is under way, but behind the scenes there is clearly a hive of activity to repair, conserve and replace the historic structures supporting this landmark. Next up, we will see the bridge's striking facade restored to its former glory." Lesley Macinnes, City of Edinburgh Council's transport and environment convener said as the A £22m project to refurbish Edinburgh's North Bridge is to be complete by early 2021. The work, which began in summer 2018, involves a series of structural repairs to help safeguard the long-term use of the Grade A-listed bridge. It was built in 1896 as a city centre link between the Old and New Towns.

"Getting temperatures of 16 or 17 degrees in December isn't all that unusual but it's remarkable that this was during the night."

Alex Burkill, a meteorologist for the Met Office, said as they recorded a new highest-ever UK temperature of 18.7C for December in the Highlands. The highest low was also recorded at 16.8C at Cassley in Sutherland. The 2019 reading beats the former record holder December temperature of 18.3C, which was taken at Achnashellach in the Highlands in 1948.

"2020 sees us celebrate both our 20^{th} anniversary, and Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters, with a transformed visitor and educational experience. Scotland's marine environment is exceptional and diverse. There is a growing awareness of both its importance and the pressures it is under – not least from climate change, invasive species, underwater noise and marine pollution. Our seas provide vital natural services for society including climate regulation, food provision, renewable energy, scientific discovery and education opportunities. It is important that people are aware of its importance and the need to protect it and to use the resources it provides in a sustainable way."

Susan Davies, CEO of the Scottish Seabird Centre, said as one of the UK's leading marine conservation and education charities, the Scottish Seabird Centre, is opening its newly refurbished visitor experience in time for the launch of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters in 2020. The Scottish Seabird Centre's new Discovery Experience will virtually transport visitors of all ages, from the warmth and comfort of the visitor centre, deep into a variety of Scottish marine habitats, reinforcing the charity's role to explore and communicate the wonders of these habitats and the challenges they face, including climate change, invasive non-native species and marine plastics.



"We are delighted to have reached this important milestone in our journey to bring Port Ellen back into production. We are grateful to Argyll & Bute Council and to the local community who have engaged positively with us during the planning process. We are incredibly excited to begin the next phase of the project and to make our long-cherished dream of restoring Port Ellen distillery a reality."

Georgie Crawford, the master distiller leading the Port Ellen project, said as Argyll & Bute Council planners have approved a £35 million application from Diageo to fully restore the buildings of the Port Ellen distillery, which was originally opened in 1824, and construct a new still house containing two pairs of copper pot stills. The historic whisky distillery on the island of Islay was closed in 1983. Port Ellen was established as a malt mill in 1825, and then developed as a distillery under John Ramsay from 1833 to 1892. The warehouses he built still exist and are now listed buildings.

"Scotland is seeing a resurgence in the staycationer. The UK remains Scotland's largest tourism market and it is hugely encouraging to see so many more Scots exploring what is right here on their doorstep. Uncertainty around Brexit and fluctuations in currency have undoubtedly been contributing factors for holidaymakers decided to travel closer to home but it is also an opportunity for tourism businesses to engage with this captive audience to encourage return trips. The impact of tourism goes far beyond the holiday experience. It is vital to the Scottish economy, reaching every corner of the country, creating jobs and bringing economic and social change."

Chris Greenwood of VisitScotland said as both Edinburgh and the Highlands and Islands have been identified as the joint top staycation hotspots in Scotland. In total, there were 5.5 million overnight trips across Scotland from British visitors, including Scots, from January to August 2019, with the domestic stays estimated to have delivered a £1.5 million boom to the Scottish economy.

Vale Alan MacKenzie Clan MacKenzie Society

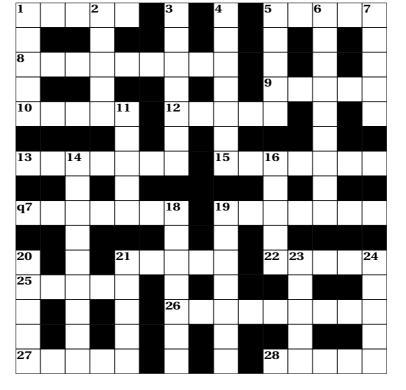
lan McKenzie, FSA Scot, Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh 1936 - 2020 has died peacefully in Oakville, Ontario, aged 83. Alan devoted much time to charitable organizations, particularly ones relating to his Scottish heritage. A former President and



"If there's another world, he lives in bliss; If there is none, he made the best of this."- Robert Burns.

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 24!



CLUES ACROSS:

- 1) Low temperatures in Scotland (5).
- 5) Sir Jimmy (5).
- 8) Peninsula near Inverness (5, 4).
- 9) Endure in Scots (5).
- 10) A bird's resting place! (5).
- 12) Miss Laurie (5).
- 13) North-east stone (7)
- 15) The auld enemy (7).
- 17) Wallace's battle cry (7).
- 19) Old schoolmaster (7).
- 21) Front of kilt (5).
- 22) Ask a Scot (5)
- 25) Old warhorse (5)
- 26) Village south-west of CaBander (9).
- 27) An English provost (5).
- 28) Curling captains (5).

CLUES DOWN:

- 1) Tossed at 16 Down (5).
- 2) Scottish lakes (5).
- 3) Island off Seil (7).
- 4) Rush forward recklessly (7).
- 5) Sudden rise of water (5).
- 6) Instrument of 5 Across (9)
- 7) Scots stone boundary lines (5).
- 11) --- Lanark, old soccer team (5).
- 14) Village near Bridge of Earn (9). 16) Sporting get-togethers (5).
- 18) Water nymph (7).
- 19) Cathedral city on the River Tay (7).
- 20) Kirk hymn (5).
- 21) It'll put the bite on you! (5).
- 23) Scots pimple (5).
- 24) Scots dances (5).

Extra 20,000 trees for Highland nature reserve



n additional 20,000 trees will be planted in and around Beinn Eighe next year as part of work to expand native woodlands on some of Scotland's finest National Nature Reserves (NNRs). Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) made the commitment at the start of Climate Week to build on a long-running tree planting programme at the Wester Ross reserve.

Woodland expansion is part of the solution to the climate emergency, helping to increase biodiversity, conserve Scottish species and help our society and economy adapt to climate change, for example by reducing potential for flooding and reducing the effects of

heatwaves. Beinn Eighe with its stunning ancient Caledonian pine forest was designated as the UK's first NNR in 1951.

Since its establishment, some 800,000 trees have been planted at the reserve. Most have been Scots pine as well as additional broadleaf species such as birch, aspen, holly, rowan and oak.

The tree planting is designed to supplement wider management work to encourage natural regeneration at Beinn Eighe NNR and also at Creag Meagaidh NNR in the Highlands, which allows the woodlands to expand by natural ecological processes in the presence of wild deer. Meanwhile Rum NNR marked one million trees planted back in 1997, with the full

benefit of these trees now beginning to be realised, including the building up of natural seed sources around the reserve.

A nature-rich future for Scotland

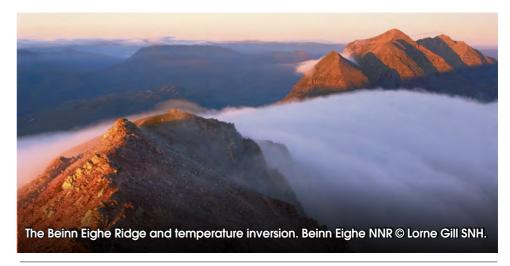
The precious native woodlands in SNH's nature reserves capture more than 30,000 tonnes of 'greenhouse gases' annually in total. This is the equivalent of removing around 10,000 vehicles from the roads every year. The economic value of this carbon sequestration was estimated to be around £2.2 million in 2017.

Stuart MacQuarrie, SNH Head of Nature Reserves, said: "Beinn Eighe is renowned for its beautiful ancient pinewoods and we have long managed the reserve to expand and enhance this special woodland. Planting a further 20,000 native trees will help increase the nature reserve's biodiversity, restore habitats to healthy ecosystems and provide greater resilience against the effects of climate change.



Nature-based solutions such as woodland expansion are a crucial part of the solution to the global climate emergency, and this is another important step towards ensuring a nature-rich future for Scotland."

On other SNH nature reserves tree cover is carefully managed to ensure it is not lost, unless there are good ecological reasons, for example if trees are encroaching on peatland restoration. SNH is also looking to expand native woodland at Invereshie & Inshriach NNR through natural regeneration.



Commander of Clan Baird - Richard Holman-Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood

By: Dr. Debra Baird, FSA Scot President, Clan Baird Society Worldwide, Inc.

lan Baird Society Worldwide welcomes Richard Holman-Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood as our Commander of Clan Baird. The Society could not be happier with the commissioning of Richard by The Honourable Lord Lyon, King of Arms. It is planned to have his U.S. installation ceremony at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, July 9-12, and in the U.K. during the Aboyne Highland Games, Aboyne, Scotland, August 7, 2021. Richard holds many positions with historic/ civic committees and groups throughout Scotland, and as well is a member of the Queen's Archers, guarding the Queen during ceremonies and activities when she is in Scotland. He runs a farm near Stonehaven, south of Aberdeen. It is the last remaining working estate of Bairds in Scotland. The farm is 6000 acres and is stocked with 1,300 breeding Scottish Blackface ewes. In the summer, grassland is let to local cattle farmers who don't have enough grazing themselves.

Supportive of all things Baird

On the farm there is also a horse-riding school and a husky sledging centre, an angling club, a rugby club, and several let cottages, so Richard's family is kept pretty busy in running the various activities.

They live at Rickarton, which has been owned by the Bairds since the 1850s.
Richard and his family are very supportive

of all things Baird and look forward to working with all Bairds to help move us forward, as well as allow us an anchor in Scotland.

The Society is most appreciative of Richard, his wife Polly, his daughters Louise and Amelia,

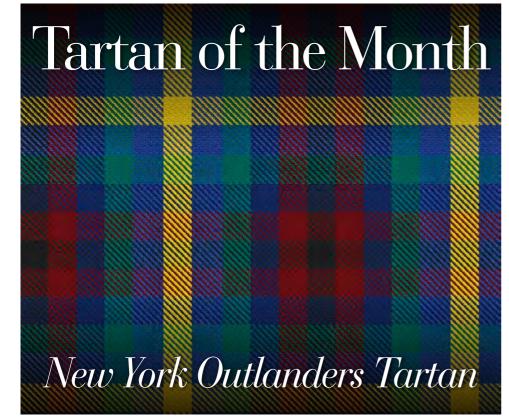


Richard Holman, Commander of Clan Baird.

and his son Angus, for all they have done for the Bairds and the Society over the years. It should also be noted that his mother, Lady Diana Holman, and his uncle, The Honourable A. David Baird, were part of the organization of Clan Baird Society, with their parents, in the early 1960's. We look forward to many more years of working together, with the excellent leadership Richard brings to our clan.

For more details on the Clan Baird Society see: www.clanbairdsociety.com





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 (SRT).

s millions of people will be watching the hit TV show *Outlander* across the world in February, we celebrate with this *Outlander* themed tartan. Created for the New York Outlanders Downstate fan group, this tartan (Ref # 12012) honours their state, their love of Scotland, and the family of one of the main characters of the television series, *Outlander*. The tartan was inspired by the Fraser of Lovat (Ref #1264) and the New York City (Ref #5085) tartans. The New York Outlanders Tartan was designed by Jean M Hurley and registered in December 2017.

The Scottish Snowdrop Festival Where Snowdrops Shine



Each year the Scottish Snowdrop Festival gathers together some of the best gardens and woodlands where you can see swathes of snowdrops, so that you won't miss out on the arrival of these dainty little flowers – one of the most delightful signs that spring is on its way.

rganised by Discover Scottish
Gardens, many of the gardens are
open especially for the festival,
which runs from 25 January – 11
March, and can be entered for a small
ticket price, a donation or for free. There
are around 60 events that are included in
the festival. Perfect for crisp winter walks,
here are just a few of the festival gardens
which are waiting to light up your day with
their dazzling displays of snowdrops.

Abbotsford, Scottish Borders



Head to Abbotsford to see beautiful white snowdrops in full bloom. Although the house is closed until March, you can take a walk in the footsteps of Sir Walter Scott and discover a variety of plant life across the estate. Swathes of snowdrops claim the landscape at this time of year, covering the woodland slopes along the walks and paths by the River Tweed, creating a welcome sight in the still wintry surroundings.

Cringletie House, Scottish Borders

Enjoy a walk around the enchanting grounds of Cringletie House and see if you can spot the fairies hiding amongst the snowdrops. The restaurant offers tempting meals and mouth-watering snowdrop scones for afterwards too. What's more if you find all the fairies in the garden you'll win a free lunch or tea!

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Dawyck Botanic Garden and Logan Botanic Garden



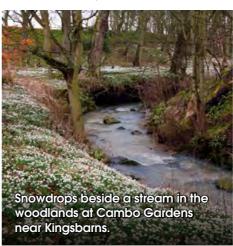
Explore the wonderful collections of specialist snowdrops at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Dawyck Botanic Garden near Peebles and Logan Botanic Garden near Stranraer.

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh boasts plenty of delicate snowdrops to enjoy. Visit and explore the stunning gardens for yourself, or join one of the guided tours on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. In February, take advantage of the 'kids eat free' offer in the Gateway Restaurant.

Dawyck Botanic Garden is a stunning garden in the Scottish Borders, where you'll see gleaming snowdrops set against the enchanting backdrop of the shimmering Scrape Burn. You can also enjoy a guided tour with an expert every Sunday in February and March.

Logan Botanic Garden is situated in the mild surroundings of the Rhins of Galloway in southern Scotland and is renowned as Scotland's most exotic garden, with early flowering rhododendrons and camellias to enjoy, as well as snowdrops.

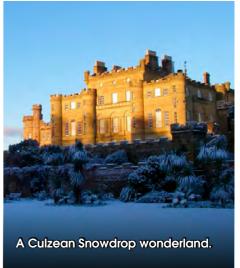
Cambo Estate, Fife



Cambo Estate is a snowdrop wonderland, bursting with swathes of these delicate flowers, including rare blooms. Head to the estate to enjoy a walk out to the sea through the snowdrop woodland, plus guided tours and family activity sessions.

There's likely to be special snowdrop events taking place too, so keep checking the Cambo Estate website. Don't miss the snowdrop themed tearoom and plant shop where you can buy a snowdrop plant to take home.

Culzean Castle and Country Park, South Ayrshire



Discover a snowdrop wonderland across the 600 acres of the Culzean estate. Enjoy walks through the majestic woodland, past secluded ponds and along the clifftop, taking in the stunning Ayrshire views. Not to be missed, of course, is the castle itself, among other attractions including the Walled Garden, Swan Pond, Deer Park and Adventure Cove.

Dunrobin Castle, Golspie



Dunrobin Castle has a little-known place in the history of snowdrops in the UK. In 1879 the Duke of Sutherland's head gardener, David Melville, raised a new snowdrop variety, the Galanthus nivalis 'Melvillei'. Melville distributed bulbs to many gardens and enthusiasts but unfortunately the variety has now died out. The widely grown modern snowdrop variety Galanthus 'Magnet' has Melville's snowdrop as one of its parents. The castle is not open during the festival; visitors are welcome to the garden however.

The Scottish Snowdrop Festival takes place in February and March at locations across Scotland. For more details see: www.discoverscottishgardens.org

Street Smarts

Canadian Brian Diamond has developed a collection of short humorous stories which were written to create a book that he could give to his 13 grandchildren. The stories are 100% true and accurately portray his childhood growing up in a tenement in the industrial suburb of Springburn in Glasgow in the 1940's and 50's.



his story begins in 1948 in the baby class at St Aloysius primary school. In my primary class was an exceptionally large kid named Liam Oxley, he was a whole head bigger than any kid in the class and earned his nick name "The Ox". Liam was never a bully, just a sullen child with a temper who used his height and weight to achieve his goals. Now, one of the positive things about growing up a street urchin in Springburn was that one quickly learned "Street Smarts", and followed the advice in the Kenny Rogers song, you have to know when to hold'em etc, For me, this applied to Liam, I steadfastly stayed well clear of him all through primary and up to pre high school, we barely spoke a word.

Boxing class

Flash forward seven years to about 1955, I am attending an evening's boys club which was held in St Aloysius High School. The club was run by a Mr. Ward and a Mr. Fitzpatrick, two great teachers who were prepared to give up their free time to keep us off the street. We played games, but for me the highlight was a boxing class using small 4 or 6-ounce gloves. This was nothing professional about this, no headgear or gum shield's etc., just an imaginary ring, and a timekeeper and over time I became pretty good at this. Well, on this evening we were almost ready to go home, I was sitting on the benches when a commotion broke out, and there was Liam "The Ox" Oxley hitting a little guy named Thomas Haveron. I should have remembered my father's advice, "keep your nose out of other people's business and you'll come to no harm". Alas that evening I forgot, I simply said "Liam, leave him alone, he is too small for you". The words barely out my mouth and Liam is all over me and we are falling through the benches. Mr. Ward appears

and separates us with the following words of wisdom, "If you two guys feel like that about each other, then get the gloves on and go three two minute rounds", I'm a redhead, my dander is up and forgetting that discretion is the better part of valour I say, "lace me up".

Now if any of our readers have ever boxed, the first lesson is to have a cool, calm, and detached attitude, I knew that, but on this particular evening I forgot all the golden rules and set out to hurt Liam with my 4-6 ounce gloves, all those years of caution in avoiding him thrown to the wind. For the first two rounds I was like Mohammed Ali (my humble opinion of course) I was floating like a butterfly and stinging like a bee, well ahead on points and for any boxer that should have been enough. Alas, for me this was not about winning on points, I wanted to hit him hard, clearly the wrong emotional strategy. In the third and last round, I am counting down the seconds looking for my opening and with just seconds to go, suddenly there it was, he opened up.

Coup De Grace

I confidently, shifted my weight to my left foot and started to deliver my killer right uppercut which would have been a solid blow to his chin. Now while I was busily calculating all this strategy, Liam had started to swing a haymaker right hand punch at me, a blind man would have seen it coming, not me. I think that it travelled all the way from Winnipeg in Canada to Springburn, I never saw it coming until I danced in to deliver my "Coup De Grace" killer right uppercut and his haymaker exploded on my jaw and knocked me cold. When I came to, Liam was long gone and one of my front teeth was broken, my mother will kill me was my first thought, I should have listened to my father. That happened in the last week of the qualifying class before going to high school and I never saw Liam again as we went to different secondary schools.

Flash forward eight years to September 1963 I am getting married to Helen Cox from Barlanark on Sept 28th and we had sent a wedding invitation to Helen's brother John Cox who lived in Detroit USA. John had written back to say that he was unable to attend but one of his close friends from Detroit was coming home from Detroit to Glasgow on vacation and would we mind if he attended in Johns place. On the wedding day, Johns friend turns, and his name is Dick Oxley, he turns out to be the stepbrother of my nemesis Liam from our school days and the reason that I now have a front crown. Dick and his wife Nora were exceptional people, we got on well together, he did tell us that Liam was his stepbrother and that Liam had also immigrated to the USA.

Flash forward yet again 33 years to 1995, 40 years after the eventful but illfated boxing match, my brother in law John Cox is in a bar in Detroit with his friend Dick Oxley, and they are joined by Dick's brother Liam. John is telling Dick about a recent vacation he had in Canada where he was staying with his sister and brother -in- law Helen & Brian Diamond," you remember them Dick", he says,: you were at their wedding". At this point Liam interjects and said to John, "Brian Diamond??, a red headed guy from Springburn"?? "that's him" said John, and Liam replies that he went to school with me. Liam then asks John for my home telephone number and John kindly obliges. Several days later I receive a call from Liam Oxley, I am quite amazed by this, we have a great conversation which ends with me inviting him and his wife Michelle to come and see us in Toronto, a five-hour drive from Michigan. Well the fateful day arrives, and Liam and Michelle arrive at our house for what is the start of a wonderful and surprising weekend.

Everything good comes to he who waits

Firstly, Liam has this incredible Sean Connery thing going for him, he is tall, balding with smouldering brown eyes and cracks a wicked smile. Couple this with a nice disposition, charming wit, a great sense of humour, and the reader can understand that Liam was like the original Bond at the top of his game, a fact that did not go unnoticed by my wife and two daughters who shamelessly stared in awe. Well dear readers, if you have managed to reach this point, you should now be thinking how is this all going to turn out, is there a happy ending here? Yes indeed, there is moral justification to this story, the moral being "everything good comes to he who waits". So, after we have all got to know each other and our guests are settled in, our

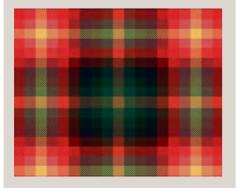
oldest daughter Nikki, says to Liam, "My dad always tells us this story about you and him when you guys were young in Springburn. Liam lets out a great hearty laugh and with his wicked smile says, "I know, I know, he probably tells you about our boxing match and how he knocked my tooth out" GASP. Thinking that Liam was being much to gracious to me in front of my family, I say," Aw come on now Liam, it was me that had his tooth broken". At this, Liam give us that big laugh again and proceeds to tell me what really happened in the grudge boxing match 40 years ago, and I must tell you that it was worth waiting 40 years to hear.

Apparently about one nanosecond

before he knocked me cold, I had managed to deliver my killer right uppercut on the point of his chin and broke his front tooth, but as I was going down for the long count thanks to his haymaker, I never knew that I had hit the mark. Back then, young Liam did not want anyone to know that a smaller kid like me had broken his front tooth, way too much ego damage there, so he left the club that evening in case anyone should find out. I of course was still being revived and he was blissfully gone when I woke up, and neither one of us ever knew that we had each broken each other's tooth until 40 years later. Liam and I looked at each other in amazement, and then we both laughed for so long that our sides ached, it was a great weekend, I brought out old school photographs and we tried to name all 42 of the kids in our class. Liam was a terrific guest and as far away from the sullen boy that I remembered as possible. The point of this story is you should never make assumptions about the canvas until the artist has finished his work, Liam was outstanding company and we all had a great weekend together. To this very year, Liam and I have met for the past 8 years on vacation in Florida, and over a few drinks recall the glory days of Springburn.



World's first Vegan tartan



lasgow based kiltmaker Slanj has designed the world's first vegan tartan. Woven only in animal-free materials, the kilt is designed to celebrate those Scots and tartan enthusiasts from around the world that follow a vegan lifestyle. The company states: "The idea for a vegan kilt was born from the increasing demand for a traditional kilt abstinent from animal product. The vibrant tartan encompasses earthly inspired colours and is unique in that every colour is exactly the same width. This symmetry and the equal representation of colours indicate the importance of balance in life."

The Vegan tartan has been designed to celebrate vegan living. Using earthy colours the symmetry and equal representation indicates the importance of balance in life. Kilts are traditionally made using wool, but Slanj have used polyester viscose to create the tartan. Faux leather is used to make the kilt strap.

Lobster fertility under the microscope in Scotland

Marine scientists in Scotland have successfully trialled a new method for investigating the fertility of the European lobster, one of the country's most valuable catches.

esearchers at Heriot-Watt
University and Orkney Sustainable
Fisheries have proved that their
non-invasive method, adapted
from a technique used on lobsters in
America, allows scientists supporting
fishery management. The scientists can
now monitor lobster egg numbers quickly
while minimising loss. Understanding and
monitoring the lobsters' fertility will help
make the stocks more sustainable, the
Orkney-based scientists say. The European
lobster makes up almost 10 percent of the
value of all shellfish caught in Scotland,
fetching up to £20 per kilogram.

Matthew Coleman, senior marine scientist at Orkney Sustainable Fisheries said: "Until now, we had to remove the lobsters from the water, scrape all the eggs off and count them. This is time consuming, invasive and wastes lobster spawn.

Our method relies on taking three simple measurements of a lobster's egg mass and eggs: the egg mass's overall length, its depth across five points and the size of a small number of eggs, which are carefully removed.

From these measurements, we can accurately estimate the number of eggs the animal is carrying without damaging the lobster.

"We adapted this from the method used for American lobsters - we couldn't just replicate the technique they use over there, as European lobsters produce larger eggs compared to their American cousins.

This small difference, if unaccounted for, would provide inaccurate estimates of egg numbers. This method has already enabled us to find out more about the European lobster's fertility. We found that egg loss from when lobster first start to carry their eggs until the larvae hatch is around 44 percent - before, it was assumed it was close to zero. Now we can calculate lobster fertility and egg production in five minutes instead of 24 hours; that's hugely beneficial to fishery managers."

The importance of monitoring lobsters in Scotland

Dr Michael Bell, a research fellow at Heriot-Watt's International Centre for Island
Technology in Orkney, said: "It's important to understand how lobsters become more productive and how their egg numbers increase as they grow, because it will help us conserve the spawning population.
That's the future of the fishery. Having an easy to replicate, quick method will allow us to monitor any changes in fertility that haven't been noted historically. In the USA they've

already seen a drop in lobster egg numbers related to rising sea temperatures, which highlights the importance of monitoring lobsters here in Scotland and the UK.

"Lobster and other inshore fisheries, while often overlooked at a national scale, are of huge importance in supporting flourishing coastal and island communities in areas like Orkney. They make a vital contribution to supporting traditional ways of life and maintaining local character. Scottish seafood is second to none in quality and freshness, and by providing robust, locally appropriate science, we can help this continue."

The results of the Orkney study and the new method for sampling brooding lobsters were published in the *ICES Journal of Marine Science*.



Support for small bakeries



Independent bakeries are benefitting from £125,000 to help small food retailers face the challenges posed by bigger chains. The Scottish Government funding has been shared among 34 independent and family-run bakers across Scotland. Administered by Scottish Bakers, the grant scheme is helping businesses modernise facilities, improve energy efficiency and reduce waste.

Rural Affairs Minister Mairi
Gougeon said: "Over recent years
small bakeries have faced increasing
pressures, particularly from
competition from bigger chains and
economic uncertainty caused by
Brexit. This support will help bakers
invest in their facilities, reduce waste
and improve energy efficiency within
their businesses. It is wonderful to see
firsthand how this scheme is helping
to ensure the future of independent
and family-run bakeries which play
such a key role in our villages, towns
and cities across Scotland."

Burns violin brings sound of Scotland to US



n historic violin with links to Robert Burns has been taken out on a tour of the US during January, as part of celebrations for the Bard's birthday. The 18th century instrument is part of the National Trust for Scotland's unrivalled Burns collection of more than 5000 artefacts which are protected by the conservation charity at its Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway.

The instrument has been touring the United States as part of a partnership between the Scottish Government, conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland and The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA. Featuring in a series of Burns celebrations across the States, it will be accompanied by acclaimed Scottish violinist Alistair

McCulloch who will perform a programme of Burns and Burns-inspired compositions.

David Hopes, the National Trust for Scotland's head of collections and interiors said: "The violin is one of the jewels of our Burns collection and hearing it being played, as Burns did, is very special. For any Burns fan, and we know there are many in the States, this will make for a very memorable Burns night, and a moving celebration of Scotland's heritage."

Scotland's greatest cultural icon

Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said: "As Scotland's greatest cultural icon, Robert Burns encapsulates our creativity, pride and confidence. His legacy is of immense value to Scotland and is recognised the world over. I am sure the Gregg violin

will bring a certain magic to Burns Night celebrations across the US, and remind those coming together to celebrate our National Bard of the great contribution he made to our shared culture and heritage."

Owned by William Gregg of Tarbolton, Ayrshire, the violin was used to accompany dance lessons at town's Bachelors' Club. The sessions were attended by Robert Burns who wrote that he hoped dancing would "Give my manners a brush." More likely, he realised that dancing lessons were an excellent form of rebellion, as his father frowned upon such sinful behaviour.

The violin's American tour began in New York City. From there it traveled to Chicago for a collaboration with internationally-renowned violinist Rachel Barton Pine before moving on to Boston for a series of Burns Night events. It then visited the west coast for an event hosted by BAFTA LA. The final stops Washington DC, and then back to Chicago where the violin will be performed in front of the residents of the Caledonian Home.

The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA's Boston-based Executive Director Kirstin Bridier said: "For more than two decades, NTSUSA has helped Americans from across the country to preserve Robert Burns' legacy in Scotland. We are delighted to bring this violin – once part of the poet's daily life – to the US as a tangible reminder of what has been accomplished and the strong connection between our two countries."

KINGS CASTLES AND

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 "DURTY" WEE RASCALS few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.





An Angel in **Plantation**

Down in the dungeons seven feet deep, Where old Hitler lies asleep, German boys can tickle his feet, And all the wee miceys too.

A wartime rhyme for children to skip to. The Govan Angel.

lantation might be difficult for the reader to find on a modern Glasgow map for it was an old district within the ancient Burgh of Govan. But if you go to the old Paisley Road Toll, then look up skyward, you will find the Golden Angel statue high up on what was once Ogg's building. The tollway lay at the fork in the roadways taking people from Glasgow to either Paisley or Renfrew and had existed from time immemorial for Kinning Park and Govan were still suburban burghs in their own right and only annexed to the City of Glasgow as late as 1905.

The Golden Angel statue stands, looking towards the city, with the Plantation District stretching out behind her, wedge-shaped, like a big piece of cheese and toward Govan proper. It seemed to me later as a child that her shoulders and wings had shielded and protected those of us who were lucky enough to have lived behind her and safely in her shadow, for even Hitler hadn't been able to harm her.

A place of commerce and industry

Plantation had for a long time been a busy hub of activity, a place of commerce and industry, yet only as far back as the youthful years of my Great Grandparents the lands of Plantation and its environs were still mainly open fields and hedgerows, dotted with the mansions and estates of rich Glasgow merchants. Contemporary writers in the 19th century described a rural and picturesque landscape, with the old Plantation House mansion embowered in ash, elm and oak forming a charming centrepiece to idyllic country scenes as people set out for a Sunday afternoon stroll between the City, Plantation and old Govan. The village of Govan, itself, even as late as 1850 was still being described as a straggling congregation of thatched

houses surrounded by elegant villas with cosy garden plots, screened by hedge-rows and trees, inhabited "by well-to-do citizens who could afford to combine the pleasures and profits of the city with the charms of rural retirement".

Twenty years later, things had changed dramatically, and writers were speaking of the march of commerce and the speculative builder having "swept away the handiwork of nature leaving a sorry substitute," that is of industry and grey tenements. It was into this version of Plantation that my relatives were born, raised and married in the latter part of the 19th century and during the first half of the next. Rich men and their dynasties were the owners of the estates and lands of Plantation. My relatives only rented their tenement homes there but with so many of them having lived their lives there, it was the blood, sweat and tears of families like mine that were to give industrial Govan its soul. The centre of Glasgow reflected the wealth that industrialization had created, the well paved roads, the fine statues financed by public subscription gave evidence of that but away from the main streets were the blackened factories, the slag heaps, the cramped streets and closes and the overcrowded tenements of the city.

Family bible

My maternal grandmother inherited her parents' family bible. It was destined to become an important source of the dates of family births and deaths for me and provides us with a humbling insight into tenement life in Victorian Glasgow. For some families, like mine, life was a risky business, fraught with uncertainty and tragedy. My maternal great grandfather, Robert Robertson, a steamship fireman and his wife Elizabeth Robertson (née Kerr) had five children and their simple record of births and deaths in their family bible quietly tells something of working class life. It gently tells of untold tragedy as the record of the short lives of three of those five children indicates. As the family bible records, Janet, (Jennet) my grandmother's, younger sister, was her only sibling to survive beyond infancy and into adulthood.

I know very little about my maternal great grandparents and can only muse upon how they coped with these multiple tragedies, but I did know my grandmother.

Plantation might be difficult for the reader to find on a modern Glasgow map for it was an old district within the ancient Burgh of Govan.

She was a gentle, religious and caring woman until her own death, in 1958, aged 80, in the end having out-lived her younger sister. I didn't appreciate then what she must have had to bear in her own childhood and youth seeing her little brother and sisters taken to untimely deaths in Victorian Glasgow, or for that matter the tragedies she had to bear in the future as a mother herself. The echoes of some of her sibling's names and her own deceased children's names were passed down through the family in the years to come. Perhaps these names given to her descendants helped a little to console her.

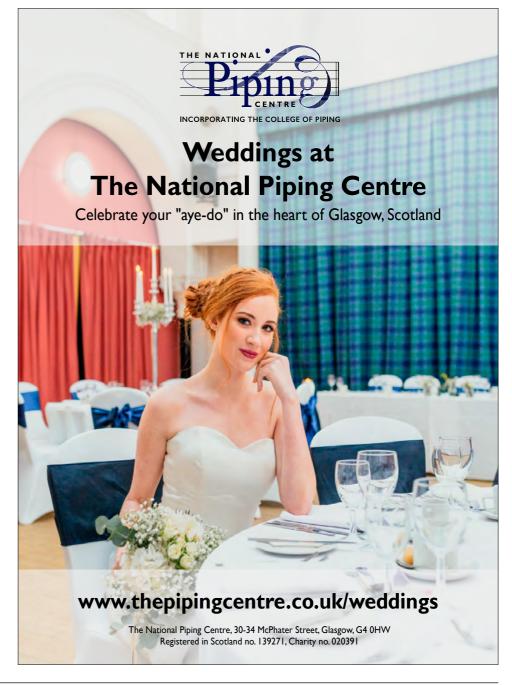
The Golden Angel

My parents and my uncles and aunts always talked about having come from Plantation, rather than Govan proper. The very name Plantation suggested something quite different from the tenement streetscape, familiar to me in the 1940's.

I became intrigued by the name as a child. It conjured up images of cotton fields from the 'Song of the South' with Brer' Rabbit in the briar patch, Ol' Brer' Fox chasing him, and Uncle Remus with his bluebirds and zippity - do - das, and even Tom Sawyer lazily sailing an old raft down the Mississippi River. As it turns out I was not entirely wrong, but the plantations that gave rise to the name lay in the West Indies and not in the deep south of the United States.

Today, the Golden Angel at Paisley Road Toll still watches purposely over the people living in present day Plantation. She was never shot out of the sky by Goering's Luftwaffe, although she was brought down by a crane a few years ago to receive a new pair of wings in my cousin, Robert Pollok's, workshop in Govan. She now sports a pair of fibreglass wings that replaced the pre-war concrete aggregate wings that finally became the worse for wear.

She looks over a quite different ethnic mix of people, the monoculture of my childhood long gone. Bollywood has replaced Hollywood at the cinema on Lorne Street and in the end the population wasn't decimated by bombing but by the purposeful and planned demolition of the four storey tenements that once seethed with people. There is very little that the little angel would recognise from times past when most of my family lived in her shadow.





reetings from Scotland where it is wild and windy at the moment.
We can blame Storm Brendan which is coming over from
Ireland. But, fingers crossed, it won't be that bad and initial reports suggest the

I suppose we should be grateful that it isn't worse. As yet, there has been no heavy snow here in the Scottish Borderlands. Unlike the Highlands which are seeing their usual share of the white stuff.

squalls are moving quickly through...

Scotland's winter sports

Yes, the country's ski resorts are preparing to do good business – and they need it.

Last season visitor numbers fell dramatically at Scotland's winter sports centres.

The reason was simple: a lack of snow.

Skiers have been tackling runs on Highland peaks for over a hundred years. The Scotsman newspaper tells me that as far as anyone knows, the sport began in the hills above Glasgow in the 1890s when an intrepid mountaineer carried two wooden boards and a pole up into the peaks, later coming slowly down on them.

William Wilson Naismith was the man in question. Addicted to heights by the age of nine he was already

Lady MacGregor's Scotland By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

Lady MacGregor of MacGregor – otherwise known as British writer and broadcaster Fiona Armstrong - works for ITV news and current affairs. Fiona's husband is the Chief of Clan Gregor, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor. She is an active member of Clan Armstrong, so their lives are interwoven with all things tartan. The couple live in the Scottish Borderlands, although filming and writing takes Fiona all over Scotland.



climbing major mountain. So, for him, attempting to ski down a slippery slope was probably child's play.

If he was a leader in this field, the sport soon began to take off. The Scottish Ski Club was founded in 1907, with snow sports enthusiasts flocking to the hills in search of adventure. The first official ski centre later opened at Glencoe. That was in 1956 and others followed.

Yes, fans can feast on a wealth of Burns history in Dumfries.

Yes, on a good (snowy) day Scotland's ski resorts can compete with the best in the world. And research shows that they can bring tens of millions of pounds to the country's economy.

The chief is a reasonable skier. He did quite a bit of it in the army and can regale me with details of the black runs he could once tackle.

But I am not a sporty person. I would no doubt enjoy the 'apres-ski' - all that mulled wine and the social scene. Plus, we do have two sets of skis in the barn. But for me, taking to the slopes is a work in progress.

Sometimes I think, 'oh let's just have a go'. Then I stop because I know I will be the one who falls and breaks something.

Armstrong MacGregor Towers

And talking of things breaking. Doesn't it always happen at once?! Here at Armstrong MacGregor Towers the dishwasher has given up the ghost. The hoover has gone on strike – and now smoke has started coming out of the hairdryer.

There must be a life expectancy for these things. But I am sure they lasted longer in the old days. A friend of ours relates how he bought his elderly mother a state-of-the-art TV for Christmas – despite her objecting that there was nothing wrong with the old one.

No matter. That veteran box (some twenty years old) was unplugged, wheeled out and dumped in the yard. Meanwhile, the all-singing, all-dancing widescreen offering was given pride of place in the sitting room.

Half an hour later and the thing just packed up. So, they pushed it to the end of the room and staggered back in with the old TV. Which, despite standing in the rain for an hour, still worked wonderfully.

Robert Burns

The old ones are the best ones. And in January I was attending a celebration to mark the 200th anniversary of the Dumfries Burns Club. Because Dumfries can lay great claim to the great man.

Born in Ayrshire, Robert Burns was 29 when he came south to run a farm, before moving to Dumfries from where he would work as an excise, or tax officer.

The town is rightly proud of its poetic connections. Here you'll find the Robert Burns centre, a converted watermill that tells the story of Rabbie's life. You can tour the house where he and his wife, Jean, and their children lived.

You'll see the marble statue that was erected to the poet in 1882. Then there are the inns where he used to drink. Among them the Globe Tavern which was Burns' 'howff', or special haunt.

Sadly, Dumfries also hosts Robert Burns final resting place. After he died aged just 37 his body was placed in a simple grave in the kirkyard of St Michael's Church. But the growing number of fans that visited decided that a literary icon needed something better. Money was raised worldwide, and an impressive mausoleum was built.

Yes, fans can feast on a wealth of Burns history in Dumfries. And I am expecting that the celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the local Burns club will be highly memorable. A Burns Supper can make for an unforgettable night. I hope that wherever you celebrated yours, it was a good one, too...

Did you know? Outlander

- Outlander features the story of Claire Randall, a Second World War combat nurse, who finds herself thrown back in time to the Jacobite Rising in 1743.
- The Outlander TV show is based on a series of eight novels by Diana Gabaldon which have sold more than 25 million copies worldwide.
- The *Outlander* novels have been published in 27 countries and 24 languages, so far.
- Diana Gabaldon was inspired to create *Outlander* by an episode of *Dr Who*.

- Author Diana Gabaldon had never visited Scotland before writing *Outlander*.
- Outlander was recently named the world's 'most bingeworthy' TV show at a LA awards show.
- It has been reported that the Scottish actors do not wear anything underneath their kilts, in true Scottish fashion.
- The show has sparked a Scots tourism boom with visits to historical sites topping over five million visitors.
- *Outlander* is filmed in Scotland, primarily at the Wardpark Studios at Cumbernaud near Glasgow.

Award winning Scottish mental health programme travels half way round the world

n award winning Forestry and Land Scotland Woodland Activity Programme for people living with dementia has attracted the attention of the policy and research team at Alzheimers New Zealand.

The Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) programme gives people living with early-stage dementia opportunities to take part in an innovative and fun programme of woodland activities ranging from woodland walks to bushcraft skills, and from woodland cooking to environmental art.

After picking up news of the award online, the Policy and Research team within Alzheimers New Zealand got in touch with the FLS team to learn more about the programme. The FLS initiative will be highlighted in Alzheimers NZ's newsletter targeting the dementia care sector.

Reconnecting with nature

Gordon Harper, Community Ranger for the FLS central region team that runs the programme, said; "Everyone who comes along – including carers and support workers – tell us that being in the woods works wonders. The complete sensory experience of just being in a woodland and reconnecting with nature is a powerful way of giving people living with dementia access to early memories, giving them confidence in their ability to take on new experiences and boosting their selfesteem. The programme has won high praise from participants and their support

workers, and has received accolades from mental- health practitioners but to have caught the attention of health professionals on the other side of the world is quite a testament to the programme's efficacy and success. New Zealand isn't exactly short on forests so hopefully our programme will find a new home."

People enrolled on the FLS programme take part in a three-hour stint of woodland-based activity every week for ten weeks (Jun -Sept) at locations across central and south Scotland. Group focused activities within the programme help participants develop social skills and creates a sense of camaraderie that has positive effects on their physical health, and also boosts their self-esteem, confidence and sense of well-being. Successfully trying a new skill or activity can also give a sense of pride and achievement and meeting new people offers the chance to share experiences, share stories and to support each other.



University of Glasgow to host major Outlander conference

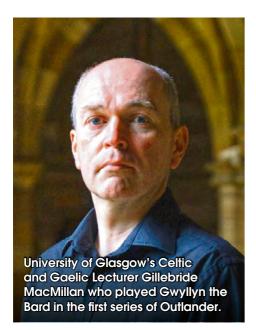


t has been a worldwide TV phenomenon – a tale of love and historical time travel which has brought the landscape and scenery of Scotland to a new worldwide audience. Now academics at the University of Glasgow will host a major conference this year to look at the history, customs, politics, culture, clothes and music featured in the *Outlander* TV series. And the event has been given a seal of approval by the American author of the books which the series is based – Diana Gabaldon – who has also agreed to give a keynote speech at the four-day conference in June 2020.

To complement the academic programme, the University is working with partners to plan a programme of events to take place throughout the four days, events that will be open to the general public. It promises to be an exciting, vibrant and highly popular conference which will see Glasgow being taken over by *Outlander* fever.

Remarkable phenomenon

Professor Willy Maley, Professor of Renaissance Studies (English Literature) at the University of Glasgow, said: "The globally successful *Outlander* series has triggered more interest in Scotland and its history than any other cultural artefact in recent years. Interest continues to grow as *Outlander* moves into its fifth season.



While hundreds of fan-based gatherings and interest groups around the world promote and encourage *Outlander* fandom, and thousands of media articles ponder its reach and appeal, there has not yet been an event which takes an academic approach to the series and brings together the multiple areas of expertise involved in its creation. The University of Glasgow plans to do just this: hosting a major international Outlander conference in 2020 will offer the chance to debate, discuss and dissect the elements that make up this remarkable phenomenon."

The globally successful

Outlander series has triggered

more interest in Scotland

and its history than any other

cultural artefact in recent years.

The Outlander TV series features English nurse Claire Randall (played by Caitriona Balfe) who falls two hundred years through time to the eve of Culloden, where she meets the Scottish Highlander Jamie Fraser (Sam Heughan, recent University of Glasgow honorary graduate). With Scotland and its history, the main focus, the series has led to a massive influx of tourists wanting to visit locations featured, including a number of sites in the city of Glasgow and the University of Glasgow, which doubled as Harvard in the third series. Several academics at the University, from a range of disciplines, have been directly involved in the production and have played key roles as researchers, advisors and even cast members.

Scottish culture and heritage

This has included Celtic and Gaelic Lecturer Gillebride MacMillan who played Gwyllyn the Bard. In Season 1, Gwyllyn (MacMillan) regales TV viewers with traditional Gaelic songs and tales. He also sang a song specially written by Outlander's music composer Bear McCreary. Mr MacMillan, who will take part in the University's Outlander conference, said: "It has been an amazing journey since I was first cast as Gwyllyn the Bard in Outlander. It has opened huge opportunities for me, and I just love that through Outlander I have been able to bring new songs and the Gaelic language to a whole new and worldwide audience. I am looking forward to the conference, which will bring all the many disciplines at the University of Glasgow together to look at Outlander from an educational and academic perspective. I am also looking forward to welcoming the author of the Outlander book series Diana Gabaldon to the University."

Also taking part in the event will be charity the Clanranald Trust for Scotland, an educational organisation established in 1995. The members of the trust are dedicated to promoting increased awareness of Scottish culture and heritage through interactive education and entertainment. Members of the trust have appeared and acted as advisers on *Outlander*.

The Outlander Conference will take place at the University of Glasgow from 2 to 6 June 2020. More details on the Outlander Conference at: www.outlanderconferenceglasgow.com







The Massacre of Glencoe

By: David C Weinczok

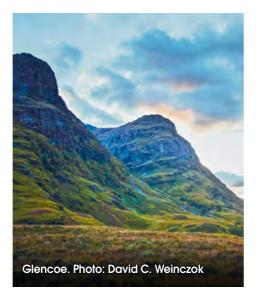


The Massacre of Glencoe took place 328 years ago this month, on 13 February 1692. David C. Weinczok takes a look at historical consequences and significance of one of the most infamous massacres in Scottish history.

n the long and often sorrow-stained history of the Highlands, nowhere does the echo of tragedy resound so clearly as in Glencoe. For those who know what happened here, merely evoking its name brings a heaviness to the heart; to enter the glen with this knowledge is altogether more moving. In the frigid dark of the morning of 13 February 1692, a wound was struck here whose scars remain tender over three centuries later. By the time the winter sun rose on the glen, some thirty-eight men, women and children lay dead, with a further unknown number succumbing to the cold in their attempt to flee. This month, we remember the Massacre of Glencoe.

Heartland of Jacobite support

In 1688 William of Orange, the Protestant champion of the Dutch Republic, crossed the English Channel with some 30,000 men and ousted King James VII of the Stewart dynasty – henceforth known by his supporters as the 'king over the water' – from the throne. After defeating the first Jacobite Rising of 1688-89, William sought to consolidate his deeply fractured domain. He issued an ultimatum to the chieftains of the Highlands, the heartland of Jacobite support, that if they did not swear their allegiance to him by 1 January 1692 they would be declared outlaws and enemies of the state.



Oaths came pouring in for fear of the wrath of the crown, yet some in William's upper echelons openly expressed their desire to make a brutal example of the clans as a deterrent against future resistance. The opportunity to do so landed in their laps in the form of MacIain, chieftain of the MacDonalds of Glencoe. In the midst of a harsh winter which plugged the Highland passes with snow, MacIain set out to give his oath to royal representatives.

Arriving in Fort William, he was informed that the necessary official was in fact in Inveraray, some sixty miles to the south, and that his oath could not be

accepted in their absence. Desperately he raced towards Inveraray only to be arrested for twenty-four hours en route. He arrived five days after King William's deadline, sealing his clan's fate.

On 1 February 1692 some 130 soldiers marched into Glencoe and dispersed amongst the communities of Invercoe, Inveriggan and Achnacon. Seven hundred more were meant to join them, but like MacIain they were held up by the wintery conditions and would not arrive until the deed was already underway. Obligated to respect the ancient Highland custom of guest rite, the civilians of Clan MacDonald gave food, drink and shelter to the soldiers for eleven nights, with uncertainty and unease about their purpose simmering all the while. Their future murderers made themselves at home, playing cards with their hosts and undoubtedly sharing many small, human moments with them throughout the long dark of the early February days.

Longstanding blood feud between clans MacDonald and Campbell

The killing began at five o'clock in the morning on 13 February, while the MacDonalds lay sleeping in their beds. Awoken by a clamour, MacIain arose and was shot in the back at close range. His elderly wife clung to his body in grief, only to be stripped by the redcoats who, it is said, pried the rings from her fingers with their teeth. As the men, women and children of Glencoe fled their homes in little but their night clothes many were caught, bound, and systematically executed. One account relays how one of the soldiers, who was born and raised near Glencoe, refused to carry out a killing upon hearing a mother sing a familiar Gaelic lullaby to her baby. A Lieutenant Farquhar and Lieutenant Kennedy are named as having broken their swords rather than partake, and for this act they were arrested and imprisoned. Others who hesitated were reassured with what we now call the Nuremberg Defence: "All the blame be on such as gave the Orders; we are free, being bound to obey our Officers."

If most people know one thing about the Massacre of Glencoe, it is that it was a flashpoint in the longstanding blood feud between clans MacDonald and Campbell. Indeed, there were plenty of causes for animosity between the two, as the growth of the opportunistic Clan Campbell came at the explicit expense of clans including the MacDonalds and many others. There is a good reason why the Clachaig Inn in Glencoe bears a sign to this day that they permit "no hawkers or Campbells", to be taken in jest only at the risk of great offense. And yet the narrative wound around the Massacre that it was merely the most egregious example of the interminable warring of Highland clans serves a purpose – to conceal the true, bejewelled hands behind it.

Leading the soldiers who perpetrated the Massacre was Robert Campbell of Glenlyon, an ageing drunkard with plenty of personal animosity towards the

MacDonalds and specifically MacIain. A useful scapegoat, he descended upon the glen on the explicit written order of none other than King William himself, stoked further by bloody-minded words from some of the highest authorities in the land. John Dalrymple, Lord Advocate of Scotland and an ardent agent of the king, mused for instance "that this [the dead of winter] is the proper season to maul them in the cold long nights", and furthermore that it would be a "great work of charity to be exact in rooting out that damnable sect ... God knows whether the 12,000 [pounds] sterling had been better employed to settle the Highlands or to ravage them."

Lasting legacy

The formal order to carry out the Massacre read as follows:

"You are hereby ordered to fall upon the rebels, the McDonalds of Glencoe, and put all to the sword under seventy. You are to have special care that the old Fox [MacIain] and his sons do upon no account escape your hands, you are to secure all the avenues that no man may escape. This you are to put in execution at five o'clock precisely ... This is by the King's special command, for the good & safety of the Country, that these miscreants be cut off root and branch."

For their Majesties' service [signed] Robert Duncanson To Capt. Robert Campbell of Glenlyon

After the Massacre, Robert Campbell could be found in the ale houses of Edinburgh loudly showing off a copy of these orders, straight from King William, to any who wished to see them. His command may have directly ended the lives of the people of Glencoe on that bitter February morning, yet it was the stroke of the king's pen that bade him to give it.

The Massacre of Glencoe left a lasting legacy in politics, art, and popular culture. A desire to avenge the fallen inspired many to take up arms as Jacobites in the Risings of 1715, 1719, and most famously 1745-46 which ended with that other infamous day, the Battle of Culloden. Both events were taken by factions opposed to the total political union between Scotland and England of 1707 as a dire warning of things to come, while Victorian artists such as James Hamilton painted heart-wrenching, if dramatized, scenes from the Massacre which fostered widespread sympathy and collective guilt in the public imagination. Most recently, George R. R. Martin used the Massacre of Glencoe as the basis for the Red Wedding in Game of Thrones.

Visitor numbers at Glencoe, which is now cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, are at an all-time high, though many come for the scenery unaware of what transpired here. Regardless, the Massacre of Glencoe immediately and enduringly made a mark upon the story and psyche of Scotland to a nearly singular extent. It is our duty to remember it, and to part convenient myths from unsettling truths when recalling how it came to pass.

Outlander Kitchen: To the New World and Back Again

Theresa Carle-Sanders Foreword by Diana Gabaldon Coming June 2, 2020 from Delacorte Press

Sink your teeth into over 100 new easy-to-prepare recipes inspired by Diana Gabaldon's beloved *Outlander* and Lord John Grey series, as well as the hit Starz original show—in the second official cookbook from OutlanderKitchen.com founder Theresa Carle-Sanders.

With the discovery of a New World comes an explosion of culinary possibilities. The later novels in Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* series and Lord John Grey series have Jamie, Claire, Lord John, and friends embark on their revolutionary adventures across the Atlantic and back again—and with their voyages come hundreds of new mouth watering flavors to entice the taste buds of even the most discerning palates.

Hallmark cookbook

Professional chef and founder of OutlanderKitchen.com, Theresa Carle-Sanders returns with another hallmark cookbook—one that dextrously adapts traditional recipes for hungry, modern appetites.



With vivid, full-color photographs and a plethora of extras—including preserves, condiments, cocktails, and pantry basics—*Outlander Kitchen:*To the New World and Back Again in the highly anticipated follow-up to the immersive culinary experience that inspired thousands of *Outlander* fans to discover and embrace their inner chefs.

Interpreted with a spirit of generous humor and joyous adventure, the recipes are a mixture of authentic old-world recipes from Scottish settlers, new-world adaptions inspired by the cuisine of indigenous peoples, and humorously delicious characterinspired dishes—all created to satisfy your hunger and insatiable craving for everything *Outlander* and with the modern kitchen in mind.

Ith gu leòir! (Eat plenty).

Airborne laser scan reveals unknown ancient sites Ground-breaking project sheds new light on Arran's ancient past



cutting-edge archaeological project using innovative technology has revealed around 1,000 previously unknown archaeological sites on the Isle of Arran. The project, undertaken by archaeologists at Historic Environment Scotland (HES), used airborne laser scanning, also known as lidar, to document the land surface in 3D. The survey is the largest of its type so far in Scotland and has detected the remains of ancient monuments on the island.

Previously unknown ancient archaeological sites which have been discovered include prehistoric settlements and medieval farmsteads, as well as a Neolithic cursus monument - an exceptionally rare find on the west coast of Scotland.

Dave Cowley, Rapid Archaeological Mapping Manager at HES, said: "This survey has shown us that there are double the number of ancient monuments on Arran than we previously knew about. This new 3D technology has allowed us to undertake a rapid archaeological survey, over weeks rather than months or years, and allowed us to discover sites that might even have been impossible to find otherwise. We have been able to see how densely settled parts of Arran were, and the medieval and post-medieval shieling sites that were discovered have told us how upland areas were used by shepherds."

Archaeological mapping

Cowley continued: "This is an exciting time to be involved in the development of remote sensing and archaeological mapping. We are exploring the benefits of new technology and new datasets to record Scotland's historic environment and inform our knowledge of the past. As a result, we are enriching the information through which we tell Scotland's story. And Arran is just a first step. As this technology become more widely available, we expect to find tens of thousands more ancient sites across the rest of Scotland – working at a pace that was unimaginable a few years ago."

The lidar data is available from the Scottish Government Remote Sensing Portal. Shona Nicol, Head of the Geographical Information Science and Analysis team said: "It is great to see HES making such exciting use of the increasing amount of remote sensing data becoming available which will help to play a part in keeping Scotland at the forefront in this field."

The survey results are available to view at: https://canmore.org.uk/project/1036806

Scotch Beef back on the menu



cotch Beef is being sold in Canada for the first time in 24 years following a campaign supported by the Scottish Government. Aberdeen Angus is on the menu at steakhouse Jacob's & Co in Toronto, Ontario, making it the first Canadian restaurant to sell Scotch Beef since a ban on UK beef imports was introduced in 1996. Specialty grocer Denninger's has also reintroduced Scotch Beef to its fresh meat counters across its five stores in Ontario, supplied by West Lothian-based processor AK Stoddarts.

A growing appetite for premium produce

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus
Ewing said: "I'm delighted that, after 24
years, Scotch Beef is now available in a
Canadian restaurant and can be bought
in stores alongside some of the finest
global produce. Since Canada reopened
its market, we have been committed to
connecting key buyers and retailers with
Scotch Beef farmers. This is the result
of significant work by many to support

Scottish producers and engage potential Canadian buyers, including Quality Meat Scotland and our dedicated food and drink in-market specialist who took businesses out to meet farmers and producers. There is a growing appetite for premium produce with a strong sense of Scottish provenance which we should capitalise on. Scotch Beef exports are currently worth £46.4m to our economy and we will work closely with partner agencies and businesses to help this grow."

Quality and standards

Danny McCallum, Executive Chef at Jacob's & Co, said: "I travel the world to source the very best products for our guests. I was impressed by the quality and standards of the beef industry in Scotland, and excited that we are the first restaurant in Canada to have Scotch Beef on the menu."

The worldwide export of British beef was banned in 1996 due to fears over Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Canada lifted its ban on UK beef exports in November 2015. Before Scotch Beef could be exported to Canada it was compulsory to undergo a lengthy process including inspections and approvals of Scottish production facilities undertaken by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. A market entry strategy to support the sale of Scotch Beef in Canada was then undertaken by Scottish Development International and Quality Meat Scotland, with the support of the Scottish Government, engaging producers and suppliers and assisting companies with navigating Canadian import regulations.





From right: Sophie Skellon (Britanna Fraser), Califriona Baille (Claire Fraser), Sam Heughan (Jamie Fraser).

utlander explores the story of time-travelling 1960's doctor Claire Fraser and her 18th century Highlander husband Jamie Fraser as they try to make a home for themselves in the rough and dangerous 'New World' of colonial America.

Meanwhile, in the 20th century, Claire and Jamie's daughter Brianna Randall and historian Roger Wakefield search for proof that her parents found each other in the past.

As always, adversity, mystery, and adventure await them on the path to reunion. And the question remains: When they find each other, will they be the same people who parted at the standing stones, all those years ago?



Page 16 • The Scottish Banner • February 2020



Season Five

Season Five of *Outlander* finds the Frasers fighting for their family and the home they have forged on Fraser's Ridge. Jamie must find a way to defend all that he has created in America, and to protect those who look to him for leadership and protection – while hiding his personal relationship with Murtagh Fitzgibbons, the man whom Governor William Tryon has ordered him to hunt down and kill. With her family together at last, Claire Fraser must use her modern medical knowledge and foresight to prevent them from being ripped apart once again.



However, while focusing on protecting others, she risks losing sight of what it means to protect herself. Meanwhile, Brianna Fraser and Roger MacKenzie have been reunited, but the spectre of Stephen Bonnet still haunts them. Roger strives to find his place – as well as Jamie's respect – in this new and dangerous time. The Frasers must come together, navigating the many perils that they foresee – and those they can't.

Worldwide success

The fifth season will play out over 12 episodes and is based on material from Diana Gabaldon's international best-selling *Outlander* series.

The Outlander television series, executive produced by Ronald D. Moore, Maril Davis, Matthew B. Roberts, Toni Graphia and Andy Harries is inspired by Gabaldon's *Outlander* series that has sold an estimated 30 million copies worldwide, with all the books having graced the *New York Times* best-sellers list. The *Outlander* television series has become a worldwide success with audiences, spanning the genres of history, science fiction, romance and adventure in one amazing tale.

Adapted from Diana Gabaldon's international best-selling books, seasons five and six will each play out over 12 episodes respectively and will be based on material from the fifth book in the Outlander series, entitled *The Fiery Cross*, as well as the sixth book in the series, *A Breath of Snow and Ashes*.

Outlander Season Five premieres on Sunday, February 16 on STARZ.





IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Electric buses for Glasgow

First Glasgow will roll out two all-electric buses as it becomes the city's first commercial bus operator to introduce state-of-the-art fully-electric vehicles onto a commercial bus route since the 1960s, following funding from electricity distributor SP Energy Networks. The new buses are a statement of intent for the city's transport, as they look to join the electric revolution to help meet their bold target of net zero emissions by 2030. The launch of these vehicles means the city has now come full circle back to fully electric transport on commercial routes for the first time since the electric trolley buses were decommissioned by the Glasgow Corporation in May 1967.

The new single decker buses were built by Alexander Dennis at their Falkirk factory, have the latest mirrorless smart vision technology, which removes the need for wing mirrors, helps reduce blind spots for drivers and even helps to reduce the effects of bad weather on their vision via the state-of-the-art CCTV system. The new vehicles will also have USB charging points, on-board audio-visual next stop announcements and free Wi-Fi to provide a better customer experience.

Tourists to Glasgow may be asked to 'spend a penny' to stay in a toilet



Plans have been drawn up to transform public toilets in Glasgow into tourist accommodation. The Cathedral Square proposals, which have been submitted to the city council, would see a "distinctive" two-bedroom property created.

Permission had already been granted to turn the toilets into a cafe but developers have altered their plans due to "a changing business model and a revision of the local market". Glasgow Boys Corporation Ltd now wants to provide "short-term rental, self-catering tourism accommodation". "The former public convenience on Cathedral Square has been leased from Glasgow City Council on a 25-year lease," a planning report said. "It is proposed that it could be converted into a distinctive and highly individual short-term holiday let that would easily fit into the applicant's developing network of sites that are being developed across the country."

Glasgow Boys Corporation Ltd plans to advertise the accommodation as a "unique location" within close walking distance of the city centre and all major transport hubs.

Skeletal reconstructions reveal faces of Edinburgh's past



Facial reconstruction of some of Edinburgh's first residents have been revealed. 111 skeletons were unearthed beneath St. Giles' Cathedral on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh in the 1980s and have been kept in Edinburgh City Council's official archives since. The remains found date from the 12th to the 16th century. John Lawson, Edinburgh City Council's archaeologist, said: "We are revisiting a lot of old cases like this one as we are very keen to put human faces on a lot

of the human remains we have in our collections. These were really important excavations when they were carried out as some of the remains date back to when Edinburgh became a royal burgh at the start of the 12thcentury, when St Giles' was first constructed. But the church you see today was a lot bigger than what was originally on the site. We've got five very distinct graveyards, each covering about 100 years, with the earliest dating from the very foundation of Edinburgh as we know it today. They were its first official inhabitants."

The images have been created under a joint project between the City of Edinburgh Council and the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification at Dundee University.

Jack and Olivia are Scotland's top baby names



Jack and Olivia were the most popular first forenames for babies whose births were registered in 2019, National Records of Scotland (NRS). Jack has been the most popular boys' name for twelve years running; Olivia was the top girls' name for a fourth consecutive year. Oliver remained the second most popular names for boys. James stayed in third place, Charlie climbed seven places to fourth, Harris rose three places to fifth, Noah was up three places at sixth, Lewis was down one place at seventh, Leo dropped three places to eighth, Rory rose one place to ninth and Alfie was up six places at tenth.

Charlie and Alfie were the only entrants to the boys' Top Ten, while Alexander (which fell four places to eleventh) and Logan (down nine places to thirteenth) dropped out of it. There were two entrants to the boys' Top Twenty: Theo (which climbed eleven places to sixteenth) and Brodie (up seven places to eighteenth).

Emily was again the second most popular name for girls. Isla and Sophie remained third and fourth respectively, Ella rose one place to fifth, Amelia (down one place) and Ava (up one place) were joint sixth, Grace remained eighth, Freya climbed four places to ninth and Charlotte was up one place at tenth.

Freya and Charlotte were the only entrants to the girls' Top Ten; Aria (down three places to twelfth) and Jessica (which slipped three places to thirteenth) dropped out of it. There were two entrants to the girls' Top Twenty: Rosie (which rose seven places to nineteenth) and Millie (up one place to twentieth).

NRS registered the births of 23,955 boys and 22,568 girls in the period covered by these figures. Parents chose 3,370 different first forenames for boys and 4,095 different first forenames for girls. In total, 2,138 boys and 2,668 girls were given first forenames that were unique. Per 100 babies, the numbers of different names and of unique names were well above the levels of 10 and, much more so, 40 years ago. For example, the percentage of boys with unique first forenames was greater this year (8.9%, in the period covered by these figures) than in the whole of 2009 (6.7%) and 1979 (2.3%).

Entertainer Tom Alexander dies



Scottish entertainer Tom Alexander, one half of the folk music duo Alexander Brothers, has died aged 85. Accordion player Tom toured the world in a career spanning five decades, alongside his brother Jack Alexander, who died in 2013 aged 77. The brothers had international hits with songs such as These are my Mountains and Nobody's Child and had their own television show in the 1960's and 70's. The Alexander Brothers toured both the UK and internationally, including at concerts presented by the Scottish Banner in Canada. The brothers, from Wishaw, North Lanarkshire, were both awarded MBEs for their services to entertainment.

World's first online whisky cask auction



Acask whisky dealer is set to launch what is considered to be the world's first live online whisky auction dedicated exclusively to casks. Two dozen barrels will go under the hammer from distilleries including Springbank, Bruichladdich and Glenloth's. The sale comes as the market for rare and collectable whisky hits new heights, with a Sotheby's auction in London last October of 'The Ultimate Whisky Collection' fetching a total of $\mathfrak{L}7.6$ m, including a record-breaking bottle of Macallan 1926 60-year-old single malt, which sold for $\mathfrak{L}1.5$ m.

The online sale is hosted by Cask Trade at auctionyourcask.com until February 2nd.

Kilt Skate Comes to Dublin

t began in Ottawa as a private house party. In 2015, with the help of the Scottish Society of Ottawa, it spread to cities across Canada. Last year it became part of the winter festivities in New York City. And now the tradition of celebrating Scottish heritage with bare knees and ice is coming to Ireland.

The first-ever "Tartan Kilt Skate – Dublin" took place at South Dublin on Ice, Tallaght Stadium, on Saturday, January 11th. The date was significant, says Canadian organizer Don Cummer. "It's the 205th birthday of Sir John A. Macdonald, the architect of Canada's Confederation and our first Prime Minister. Years ago, we began celebrating his birthday at my home in Ottawa by skating on the Rideau Canal. Now the kilt skate has gone international."

In cities across Canada, scores of people take to the skating rinks each year in their kilts, tartans and other Scottish paraphernalia. Cummer, who is married to a Dublin woman and spends much of the year here, was joined in Dublin by family and friends, and anyone else looking for a fun evening. "You don't have to wear a kilt to kilt skate," he says. "You don't have to be Scottish. Wear something tartan and come join your friends on the ice."

An incredibly imaginative bonding experience

Some friends came from far away to participate. "I attended the early kilt skates in Ottawa," says Iain G. Mitchell, QC, an Edinburgh-based barrister. "We never thought then that these house parties would morph into a Canadian phenomenon."

This year, kilt skates are being held in Montreal, Ottawa, Glengarry (winner of last year's title of "Kilt Skate Capital"), Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Calgary—

as well as New York City and Dublin.

Cummer's wife, proud Dubliner Paula McCann, has attended past kilt skates in Montreal and Toronto. "I think it's an incredibly imaginative bonding experience. All Canadian cities should have a kilt skate. It's great fun and we're delighted to bring it to Dublin."

In Canada, kilt skates are usually held outdoors and the temperatures have been as low as minus-40. What's it like skating in a kilt under those conditions? Cummer replies, "I don't want to bare any secrets about Scottish culture, but your cheeks get cold, and your other cheeks get cold, and you just get used to it."

During late January Kilt Skate events continue across Canada and in February more events are taking place in New York and Canada. For more information and many photos of past events see: www.kiltskate.com



Coulter's Candy brought to life in Galashiels



he story of the Galashiels sweet seller who penned a world-famous lullaby has been brought to life as part of the regeneration works in the town. Weaver Robert Coltart put together the Scots lullaby Coulter's Candy – also known as Ali Bali Bee - to aid his sweet sales in the 19th century, which is now recognised across the world. A monument to Coltart has now been erected in the Market Square to mark his achievement, as part of a new town trail supported by the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund. Sculptor Angela Hunter, who is based in Innerleithen but hails from Galashiels, was commissioned to produce the statue with the help of local historians Mary Craig and Graeme McIver and local Councillor Sandy Aitchison, who have all championed Coltart's story alongside Energise Galashiels Trust.

Scotland's best known and loved children's song

Graeme McIver, local historian said, "Coulter's Candy is arguably Scotland's best known and loved children's song and

it is fantastic that at long last there will be a permanent reminder. To coin a phrase we used during our research, 'Ali Bali is actually from Guid Auld Galae.' The town has faced challenges in attracting new visitors and this statue, along with the other proposed regeneration works, will I'm sure provide a much-needed boost for Galashiels. Angela Hunter's work is fantastic, and it has been a pleasure looking at her ideas for how the finished statue will look. I am sure it will become a much-loved local attraction and will rekindle interest in the story of Robert Coltart and the song."

McIvor continued' "I am delighted that after a lot of hard work by a number of people and organisations that we are now ready to unveil a permanent tribute to one of Galashiels' most flamboyant characters. "Robert Coltart moved to Galashiels as a young man and sold his boiled sweets around the town and across the Scottish Borders at fairs and festivals. He lived with his wife and children in various locations within the town, including a flat in Overhaugh Street which is include in the new town trail. He would dress in a variety of colourful clothes, and sang his much loved lullaby song to help advertise his wares. We hope this tribute will help promote Galashiels to visitors and increase the awareness and pride amongst local people in the Coulter's Candy story."

The finished piece has been installed in the Market Square in Galashiels, as part of a new town trail project.



Welcome to our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our office for full details. Our address and phone Welcome to our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our office for rail details. Our data please support these great community organisations.

Welcome to our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our office for rail details. Our data please support these great community organisations.

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



Membership is open to those descended from Baird, Barde, Bard, Beard, Beaird, Brd. Bayard, Bardt, Barth and Biard or varied spellings of the name of Scottish origin

In addition to the Society newsletter and the opportunity to associate with fellow clansman members may query the Society geneologist. For information write:

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President 3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565 Email: djbaird4@gmail.com

Regional Directors for Australia

David and Patricia Benfell Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



Cordially invites membership inquiries from persons Named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Computerized Genealogical data base available to help members in their research. Quarterly newsletter published. Tents hosted at major Scottish games from coast to coast

Your Bell ancestry is important!

Visit our web site: www.clanbell.org Contact our Membership Chairperson: Pauline Bell 1513 Anterra Drive, Wake Forest, NC 27587 Email: debellinnc@reagan.com

Clan Donald

"under the patronage of the High



Council of the Chiefs of Clan Donald **High Commissioner** Mr A. Neil Macdonald

State Commissioners NSW Qld

Mr A. Neil Macdonald Ms Therese McCutcheon Mr Norman A Macdonald Ms Pamela McDonald

Mr John Currie

Clan Davidson

Australia Inc.

Society in

membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can

trace their descent from an ancestor bearing one of these Names:

MacDhai; McKeddie. In addition we welcome into membership all

Applications may be made online: clandavidsonaus@gmail.com

Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P, P.O. Box 519

Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day;

Dye; Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees

Dee; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dhai; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade;

MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny;

who have a family association with the Clan Davidson.

CHIEF: Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to

secretary.clandonaldaustralia@gmail.com There is no joy without Clan Donald

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

Membership invited to all who share the Sept names: Duncan, Robertson, Reid, etc.

London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands Canada: New South Wales * Victoria * Queensland * Western Australia: New Zealand: New Zealand

Spain South Africa Africa:

USA: Arizona * Carolinas * Florida * Gulf Coast * Mid-Atlantic * New Mexico * Mid-West * Northeast * Northern California * Pacific Northwest * Rocky Mountains * South * Southern California * Texas * Upper Mid-West



http://www.donnachaldh.com/ Facebook: The Clan Donnachaidh Society

Clan Dunbar of

Gospatric the Earl

The House of

Eligible blood or marriage, all descendants of

Strickland, Washington, Wedderburn and all

Chieftain David C. Dunbar

16419 Carlton Vale Ct.

Tomball, TX 77377-8488

spelling variations of each name. Also all other

families who were associated with The Gospatric

The Gospatric: Dunbar, Clugston, Corbett, Dundas,

Edgar, Grey, Heryng, Home, Knox, Nisbett, Peddie,

Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/ Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/ 482236358590288 **Clan Galbraith**

Clan Fraser Society

of Australia

and Fraser septs

to join our clan society.

All members receive a copy of our quarterly

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts

Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com

Website: http://clanfraseraustralia.org

newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"

Includes name variations such as Galbreath, Culbreath, Gilbraith etc.

Society

DNA testing project, members only databases, Biennial gatherings, blog, Quarterly journal.

www.clangalbraith.org

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

Family of Bruce International, Inc., the only such organization recognized by the heredity chief of the Name of Bruce, The Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, is a non-profit organization established to create kinship amongst its family members and promote interest in the Family of Bruce and its history. Membership is open to persons who qualify by surname, by decent, or by recognized septs: Carlisle Carruthers, Crosby, Randolph and Stenhouse.

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce 1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary 5561 Earl Young Road Bloomington, IN 47408

www.familyofbruceinternational.org



Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald Ph: 0412 090990 Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au Web: www.clandonaldqld.org ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.

There is no joy without Clan Donald



Edmonstone Clan Society

Invites membership to anyone of the surname or variations:- Edmiston/e, Edmondston, Edmanson, Edmeston, Edmonson, Edmundson, etc. Chieftain Sir Archibald **Edmonstone Bt of Duntreath**

> **Contact: Mal Edmiston** 3 Laguna Ave Kirwan, Qld, 4817 61 (0)7 4755 4370 m.edmiston@bigpond.com



Great Lakes, New England, Pacific North West. Western U.S. and Southeast Chapters

www.clangregor.com

or membership contact Keith MacGregor P.O. Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876 kmac1@opt

6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland



Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

President: Alistair Cameron cameron490@ozemail.com.au Secretary: Terry Cameron secretaryclancameronnsw@gmail.com

www.clan-cameron.org.au



Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

Membership is open only to persons of the blood of Macdonald, however spelled or of the blood of a recognized associate family or is related by marriage or legal adoption to either of these write for more info and a complete Sept list.

William H. McDaniel **High Commissioner, CDUSA** bill-mcdaniel@att.net



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

Bill Elliott-Clan President welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family.

Direct inquires to: Jim Dougherty Treasurer/Membership Chair Email: elliotcommia@gmail.com

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com



Clan Gregor **Society**

All MacGregors and Septs of our Clan are invited to join one of the oldest Clan Societies in Scotland Est 1822. If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative in Australia;

Frank McGregor - Clan Gregor Society PO Box 14 North Hobart TAS 7002 Email: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com Web. www.clangregor.com

"Royal is my Race"

The Clan Campbell Society Of Australia

The Society exists for the benefit of all its members. All Campbells or descendants of Campbells and members of Clan Septs are most welcome to join the Society. For information on State Branches contact the National Secretary, Margaret Vallance Email: libertyv93@gmail.com www.clan-campbell.org.au



Proudly affiliated with Clan Donald Australia, Victorian Scottish Union and Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group. Represented at all major Highland gatherings in Victoria

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com

Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mrs Christina Milne Wilson Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

A hereditary clan society formed by the children of Norman Hume Macdonald

and Johan McKenzie Macdonald (nee Munro) who departed Scotland in 1854



Clan Farquharson Association Australia

Clan Chief: Captain A.A.C. Farguharson, MC of Invercauld

Membership inquiries are invited from descendants of Farguharson and descendants of Sept family names. Please contact the association by mail to:

> The Secretary: Clan Farquharson **Association Australia**

PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777 or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com



American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909

Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

Gregor Grier MacAdams MacNish Magruder McGehee Gregory King Peter Fletcher Gregg Lecky Black and many others

Contacting our registrar, Jeanne P. Lehr 11 Ballas Crt. St. Louis, MO 63131-3038

Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org website: www.acgsus.org



Clan Cumming Society of the **United States**

www.clancumming.us info@clancumming.us

c/o G. Allen Cummings PO Box 6888 Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469-6888



Clan Donnachaidh **Society of New South** Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid

People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh "The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.

For information and membership application, contact Gordon Robertson 58/157 Marconi Rd. Bonnells Bay NSW 2264



@CLANFORBESSOCIETY



#CLANFORBES

#CLANFORBESSOCIETY

CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG



Clan Hamilton **Society**

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society. Inquiries to be sent to: Sheri Lambert, Treasurer P.O. Box 5399 Vernon Hills, IL 60061

> visit our website: www.clanhamilton.org



April Rich 28 Oxbow Drive Willimantic CT 06226 clanhaymembership@hotmail.com

The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Haye(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Armll; Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgatie; D' Ay(e); Dellah'aY; Errol(I); Garrad; Garrow; Gifford; Hawson; Haygood; Hayter; Hayward; Haywood; Haynie; Hayden; Hayfield; Hayne(s); Leask(e); Leith; Lester; MacGaradh; Peebles; Peeples; Peoples; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester

www.clanhay.com

The MacEanruigs, the proud sons of Henry, invite you to join the

Clan Henderson Society

charitable and educational activities via a scholarship fund as directed by our Chief, Alistair of Fordell



www.clanhendersonsociety.org

Clan Hope of Craighall Society

INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA President & Commission president@clanhope.org commissioner@clanhopeaustralia.org www.clanhopeaustralia.org

UNITED STATES of AMERICA High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope highcommissionerusa@

Membership Chair: Janet Hope Higton membership@clanho www.clanhope.org

CANADA Scott Hale

sioner@clanhope.ca

1 https://www.facebook.co

Clan MacInnes International Association of

Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

All spelling variants of MacInnes are welcome worldwide: (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Ninch, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Masters. (Mc)Innes. (Mac)Masters

MACFARLANE.ORG

www.clanmacinnes.org

Eric Perry, Director-Member Services 14 Jakes Lane Dexter, ME 04930; eric@macinnes.org

Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.

> Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies

of all spellings and Septs

Contact: N Dennis, 61 Alma Street,

East Malvern 3145 Ph 03 9569 5716

Visit our website

Check out your Tartan and Sept

www.clanmackenzie.org.au

Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada

We invite you - whether you are a clansperson

Website: www.clanmackenziecanada.ca

a member of one of our septs, a highlander.

a Scot, or just an history enthusiast – to join

the Society and participate in many activities



Clan Irwin Association **Chief and Patron**

Alexander H. R. Irvine, 27th Baron of Drum - Laird of Drum Chief of the Name and Arms of Irvine of Drum. Contact: Barbara Edelman, Chairman 65 Colonial Drive, Telford, PA 18969 215-721-3955 barb3.edelman@gmail.com IRWIN • RVIN • IRVINE • IRVING • ERWIN • ERVIN

Over 270 ways the name has been spelled since 325 A.D.

www.clanirwin.org



CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY

of Australia and New Zealand

Clan Chief: Hon Alexander John Leslie Enquiries invited from Leslies around the world. as well as the Septs of Clan Leslie: Abernethy, Bartholomew, Cairney, Lang, Moore etc in all their spellings

Contact: Malcolm W. Leslie D.Ua. 117/303 Spring Street. Kearney's Spring, Qld, 4350, Australia. Phone: +61 7 4635 8358

malncol@icr.com.au www.clanleslie.org



Society

Livingston, TX 77399-10020 USA Earl Dale McAlpine - President



Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc. Valerie McDougal

N5Z 3B2

Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyl

The OFFICIAL Clan MacFarlane Society

Founded 1911 - Glasgow & London

Re-established- 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC

Loch Sloy! We welcome all descendants of

Clan MacFarlane from around the world!

Michael R. MacFarlane. FSA Scot - Presiden

Brian J.W. MacFarlane - Vice President Richard G. Kilby, FSA Scot - Treasurer

John K. Manchester - Secretary

International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.

PO Box 398 Glenora, CA 91740 USA info@macfarlane.org

INTERNATIONAL

CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC

Macoual

Clan MacLaren

MacLaren MacLaurin Lawrence Lawson Low[e] Low[e]ry Law[e] Patterson MacPatrick MacRory

Mark A. McLaren, President 611 Indian Home Rd. Danville, CA 94526 (925) 838-8175 boarsrock@earthlink.net



Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr. Treasurer 6409 Knollwood Drive McKinney, TX 75070-6032

Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of surname spelling to join in preserving our heritage. Various family names are MacLellan(d), McClellan(d), McLellan(d) and Gilliland.

MacCorkill

NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161

Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384

South Australia - Rachel Hopkins 0433 184 375

Western Australia - Buth MacLeod 08 9364 6334

• Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

MacWilliam

Williamson

Norie

MacGillechallum Norman

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan MacLeod

Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods

and Septs (of any variant spelling),

and descendants. Recognised Septs Askey MacAndie MacClure

Bethune MacAulay MacCrimmon

Harold MacCaig MacHaigh

Lewis MacCaskey MacRaild

Beaton MacAskill

Caskie MacCabe



Clan MacNeil Association of America

Invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, some of which are listed: McNeill MacNeil MacNeal MacNiel, McNeely, Neal, Neilson and O'neill to join us in preserving our heritage.

Contact: Rhonwyn Darby

McNeill VP, Membership, PO. Box 230093, Montgomery AL 36123-0693. (334) 834-0612 Email rdmatmgm@aol.com



Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

> **Contact Ross Nicolson** 10/377 North Rocks Rd.. Carlingford NSW 2118

www.clanmacnicol.org



Clan MacNicol of North America

Chief John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

Clan MacNicol is a small but vibrant clan active in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Scotland and the USA. From the misty Isle of Skye, the Hebrides and the Northwest Highlands, the sons and daughters of MacNicol, Nicol, Nicolson (and of other spelling variations) have spread to six continents. Nearly two centuries ago, the Chiefly line emigrated to Australia where it thrives to this day.

Membership is open to all who acknowledge the Clan Chief as its leader and wish to join the Society. New members will receive a copy of the Clan history book and two issues of the Clan Journal Scorrybreac during the year.

For more information and to join visit www.clanmacnicol.org

In the United States Contact
Society President
Jeremy Nicholson
Jacques McNicoll
Email: presidentma@clanmacnicol.org
Postal Address:
PO Box 501166
Atlanta, GA 31150-1166
USA
USA
In Canada Contact
Canadian Membership Secretary
Jecures McNicoll
Email: mcnicollclan@videotron.qc.ca
Postal Address:
Po Box 501166
USA
Canada
Cana

RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS

FOR INFORMATION:

A.L. MACLEOD 3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B



WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84120-6880

Clan Macnachtan

Sir Malcolm F. Macnaghten of Macnaghten, Bart - Chief of Clan

Chairman - Peter McNaughton - 360-686-8451

We welcome membership from all Scots named MacNaughton

or any of the Septs on our Website: Contact the Membership Secretary, Vice-Chairman or Regional Commissioners in:

Australia - Regional Commissioner - Bruce McNaught

+61 7 3266 2047 bruce@brucemcnaught.com

W. Canada - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughtor

250-999-9636 milescammac@aol.com New Zealand - Regional Commissioner - John Macnaughtar +64 9 441 4984 macnaughtan@xtra.co.nz

USA - Membership Secretary - Mary Nivison Burton 541-401-2613 membersec@clanmacnaughton net

WWW.CLANMACNAUGHTON.NET

Association Worldwide



Clan Macpherson

Africa. Derek Macpherson African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +265 999 512 620 Canada, Ed Smith

Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 519 802 8821 Europe. Will Tulling

phone +31 655 774 425

phone +44 7525 763 765

Australian.Chairman@clan-macphe phone +61 409 122 141 England & Wales. William Macphers EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson. EandW.Chairman@clan-macp phone +44 7877 363 507

New Zealand. Tony McPherson phone +64 274 587 813

USA. Xerxes Herrington UnitedStates.Chairman@cl phone +1 703 341 9588 The Clan Macpherson Museum is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150, and is open from 1st April to 31st October Ph + 44 1540 673 332. See http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/ for more details.



The Clan MacRae **Society of Australia** and New Zealand

If your surname is MacRae,

or you are descended from a person having the surname MacRae (any spelling) or that of a Sept of the Clan then you are eligible to join our Society.

Australian Contact:

Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: learn@vsr.com.au NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: sue.treg1@gmail.com



Clan MacAlpine

102 Rainbow Drive #48 Email: earlmcalpine@yahoo.com



Clan Mackenzie Society in the **United States**

All Mackenzies and septs, their descendants and friends are invited to join this charitable membership association.

Barbara MacKenzie, Treasurer PO Box 20454 Cheyenne, WY 82003-7011 Phone: 307-214-4817 Email: cmustreas@gmail.com Website: www.clanmackenzie.com



Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: John McNeil

21 Laurel Avenue, Linden Park, SA 5065 Email kisimul@chariot.net.au



Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

We invite MacRaes of all spelling variations and their descendants to join our Clan MacRae Society. Learn your Scottish MacRae history and family lineage!

www.macrae.org

Need more info? Contact: Bruce McRae, President 303-670-9611 bruce waynem crae@gmail.com



Clan Maitland Society

Chief: Ian Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale! We are all related! Contact your local society

North America: Rosemary Maitland Thorn rthomnvprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org Australia: Carole Maitland carole_maitland@yahoo.com.au 4230 Colac- Lavers Hill RoadWeeaproinah. VIC. 3237

New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz 33 Disley Street, High bury, Wellington 6012. NZ We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at: www.clanmaitland.org.uk



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 Lloydrownn Road Mebane, NC 27302



Murray Clan Society

1001 Cordero Crescent

In the U.S. contact: Robert W. Murray

2000 Cambridge Ave #329



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



(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowan)

with Ross Clan heritage and interest.

lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853



Paul D Ross, President Virg Bumann, VP Membership 1015 Archer St, San Diego, CA, 92109 membership@clanross.org info@clanross.org www.clanross.org



David Ross of Ross, Baron Balnagowan, Chief of the Clan invites all Ross', septs and their descendants toto join in preserving our heritage.

www.theclanross.com

clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com

Contact L. Q. Ross 105 S. Graham Ave, Orlando, Fl 32803



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.

Email: Secretary@ClanSutherland.org Website: www.ClanSutherland.org



Caledonian Society

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia For further details contact John: 0427 990 754 Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com

www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com



Clan Scott Australia Group

Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch KT, 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: clanscottaustraliagroup.moonfruit.com

Clan Young Australia



Ian J Young AM Convenor

Membership inquiries: Clan Young Australia 10 Cedric Street Parkdale VIC 3195

membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au

www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in Newcastle. Hunter Valley and surrounding areas. Members and interested people are welcome to attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night, St Andrew's Day, and other social functions

Web: hvscots.org Email: hunterscots@gmail.com

P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289



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, Smail, Smale, Small, Smeal, and Spalding.

In Canada contact: William J.M. Murray

Campbell River, BC V9H OC3

Wyomissing, PA 19610-2738



Clan Shaw Society

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

> Secretary: Mike Shaw 2403 West Cranford Denison, TX 75020



Clan Sinclair Australia

Membership and inquiries from all Sinclairs, Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants.

For further info contact President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174 Secretary: Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263 E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com

www.clansinclairaustralia.com



Clan Wardlaw Association

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

'Wardlaw ivermair!'

www.clanwardlaw.com Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

Scottish Associations and Societies



Australian Scottish **Communtiy (Qld) Inc.**

Promoter of International Tartan Day, Brisbane, Queensland PO Box 3188, South Brisbane 4101 Bi-Monthly Newsletter, All things Scottish All persons of Scottish Descent welcome. www.aussie-scots.org.au Ph 07 3359 8195 Email: secretary@aussie-scots.org.au,

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

- > Promotes interest in the works. life and milieu of the Scottish Poet Robert Burns
- > Celebrates Scottish Culture
- > Conducts Annual Burn Supper, Poetry Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

For Membership Information contact: Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973 Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457 Pinehurst, NC 28370

Welcomes membership of anyone interested in the exchange of people and ideas between Scotland and the United States.

Write or phone for our free brochure. www.scottishheritageusa.org email: shusa@embarqmail.com (910) 295-4448



for information contact Commander Des Ross

We would be pleased to hear from anyone

Contact: Commander Des Ross at Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0409 322 374



The Stewart Society

Welcomes Stewarts, however spelt, 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.stewartsociety.org



Chicago Scots

Established in 1845, the Chicago Scots (aka Illinois Saint Andrew Society) is the oldest 501c3 in Illinois, The Chicago Scots organise programs and events to educate, entertain and nourish Scottish identity. The Chicago Scots operate Caledonia Senior Living, a unique retirement community located in the forest preserve a few miles west of downtown Chicago

> Tel: 708-447-5092 W: www.chicagoscots.org

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 6355 4158 Email: alfredhcooke@gmail.com

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Clan Ross America





Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated Contact: M Hodgkinson

212 MacKenzie Street Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559) william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus

Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



Comunn Gàidhlig

(The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a nonprofit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels Ruaraidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor) Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org Web: www.ozgaelic.org

Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

Scottish Gaelic Language Classes:



420-424 William Street, West Melbourne. Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277 Email:scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

Founded in 1905 https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com

Peebles Hydro turns water into gin



eebles Hydro, nestled in the heart of the Scottish Borders, has turned distiller as it launches a new gin, distillery and school, using water from its own hillside spring water. The 1881 gin, named after the year in which the iconic hotel opened, uses the same water from the rolling Borders hills behind the hotel, known as Shieldgreen, which has been supplying the hotel for almost 140 years. At the peak of the hydropathic movement, it was this water which drew people in from all over the UK for its healing properties.

There are four 1881 gins available including London Dry, Pavilion Pink and Subtly Smoked. The fourth gin, Navy Strength at 57% ABV is stronger than the others at 40%, and is named after the Dutch sailors of the 18th century who were known to drink gin for 'Dutch courage' before going into battle. The launch of the gin school and distillery, on the site of what was the hotel's original swimming pool, makes Peebles Hydro the largest residential gin school in the UK. The school features 26

individual copper stills and glass jars full of botanicals, including those sourced within the grounds of the hotel itself.

Felicity

A tour can be taken around the distillery, in which visitors can learn all about the history of Peebles Hydro, all things gin and can get up close to the school's copper still which makes up to 220 bottles of 1881 gin every day. Following the tradition of naming the gin still after the distiller's daughter, Peebles Hydro 1881 gin still is named 'Felicity' after the daughter of Peebles Hydro general manager, Patrick Diack.

Budding distillers can also indulge in their own unique gin distiller experience, in which they can enjoy a distilling class, creating and crafting their very own gin. The experience doesn't stop there as the school will keep each person's unique recipe on file – meaning they can reorder their very own gin as birthday presents, wedding favours or for special occasions.

Stephen Leckie, Chairman and CEO of Crieff Hydro Family of Hotels commented: "We're delighted that our dream of creating a gin school and distillery at Peebles Hydro has finally been realised. We've gathered an extremely talented team of experts to make the 1881 gin a reality and I am very proud of the final product. Whilst gin is soaring in popularity and distilleries are opening all over the country, what makes our gin unique is that it uses the same source of water from the rolling hills behind Peebles Hydro that made the hotel such a draw for people all over the UK nearly 140 years ago when the hotel first opened."

House of Dun set for £700,000 restoration



he National Trust for Scotland has unveiled plans to invest more than £700,000 to repurpose a historic House of Dun as a historical park for Angus. The House of Dun is an A-listed Georgian mansion designed by William Adam and completed in 1743 for the Erskine family. Its collections and interior décor include coded features which express the family's Jacobite sympathies. Bequeathed to the National Trust for Scotland in 1980 along with extensive grounds, it has been open to the public since 1989. The estate includes Dun's Dish, Montrose Basin, Old Dun Kirk, Erskine Mausoleum and a stretch of the South Esk river. The focal point will be the redevelopment of the stables and courtyard area to house multi-sensory interpretation and costumed story-telling.

300 years of history

It will also provide a permanent home for the collection of the Angus Folk Museum, assembled by Lady Maitland of Burnside, which includes objects depicting over 300 years of history about the people and their relationship with the land. The collection was previously housed in Glamis but had to be removed to safe storage in 2014 due to the deterioration of the building it was displayed in.

Chief executive, Simon Skinner, explained the importance of this project: "This is a transformational investment that will offer a rich experience for people of all ages. The combination, of house, landscape and artefacts allows us to show how Angus, its people and the land shaped modern Scotland, providing fascinating snapshots of life as it was for our forebears. Our aim is to not just make history relevant but to have it come to life for visitors, from the archaeological evidence of pre-history right through to recent times. It combines both a natural setting and a human landscape that will be inspirational."

MUSIC FOOD FUN

SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

AND HIGHLAND GAMES



SATURDAY, MARCH 7 9AM - 7PM

LIVE MUSIC FEATURING: MUDMEN | CITY OF DUNEDIN PIPE BAND PIPER JONES BAND | MCLANZON LASSIES

Pipe Bands | Heavy Athletics | Dancing | Clans & Societies Fiddling & Singing | Living History | Children's Games Sheep Dog Demonstrations | Food, Drink, & Merchandise Piping & Drumming Competition

TICKETS:

Advance \$15 | Event Day \$20 Kids 6-14 - \$3 | Under 6 Free Rain or Shine | Entry & Parking included NO PETS OR COOLERS

PLANTATION HERITAGE PARK

1100 S. Fig Tree Lane | Plantation, FL 33324 West of Fort Lauderdale | North of I-595 on Peters Rd. between 441 and University Drive





WWW.SASSF.ORG | (954) 460-5000

Funding for this project is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

Having a Clan event? Know of a Highland Games? Know where the pipes will be playing? Let Scottish Banner readers know of Scottish events both near and far with the Scottish Banner events page. Send us your community event, concert, meeting or anything with a Scottish twist! Please submit events either online at www.scottishbanner.com/events or email info@scottishbanner.com. Please ensure you submit your event in the exact format we use below, events not submitted in this way cannot be guaranteed to be printed. Events will run both in print and online and is a free service.

CANADA

FEBRUARY

01 - Calgary, AB - Robbie Burns Dinner, Dance and Fundraiser

Alberta Rocky Mountain Highland Dancers invite you the 2020 Robbie Burns Dinner, Dance and Fundraiser. Traditional Roast Beef Dinner with all the trimmings and Haggis and Highland Dance performances at Varsity Community Center, 4303 Varsity Drive NW. Info: Phone: 403-998-1057or alan.dancing.dad@gmail.com

01 - Montreal, QC - RCMP C-Division Pipes & Drums Annual Cèilidh

Come out to support your community and enjoy an amazing evening of good food, good company, amazing music by Squidjigger - an incredible Celtic band, and a special performance by your very own local RCMP Pipes & Drums at Lachine Legion, 3015 Rue Henri Dunant. Info: www.eventbrite.ca/e/rcmp-c-divisionpipes-drums-annual-ceilidh-tickets-77156275497

01 - Lethbridge, AB - The Great Canadian Kilt Skate With bagpiping provided by the Bridgecity Highlanders at ATB Centre, 74 Mauretania Road West, Info: www.kiltskate.com

01 - Ottawa, ON - Sons of Scotland Pipe Band Burns Night Ceilidh

The 129th annual Burns Ceilidh hosted by the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band of Ottawa. Our evening will have the pipes and drums, dancing and a big catered buffet, silent auction and cash bar - all in support of Robert Burns and the traditions of the dinner, the Montgomery Legion, and the pipe band. Tickets are on sale at: www. tickettailor.com/events/thesonsofscotlandpipeband

08 - Toronto, ON - Great Canadian Kilt Skate

Join the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada, St. Andrew's Society of Toronto and Toronto Marlies for a kilt skate and, later in the afternoon, enjoy a hockey game as the Toronto Marlies play the Rochester Americans. (Hockey game begins at 4 p.m.) at Coca Cola Coliseum. Info: www.kiltskate.com

08 - Saskatoon, SK - The Great Canadian Kilt Skate Get your kilt and skates on at The Great Canadian Kilt Skate. Info: www.kiltskate.com

08 - Ottawa, ON - The Ardbrae Ball

The Ardbrae Scottish Country Dancers of Ottawa invite you to their Catered Buffet and Ball at the Glebe Community Centre. We shall dance to the music of Torridon Scottish Country Dance Band. Info: www.ardbrae.org

08 - Alliston, ON - South Simcoe's Valentine Workshop & Tea Dance

Enjoy a full day of Scottish country dance and sustenance; refreshments, 2 workshop sessions, lunch, tea dance & treats at Lower Level, Knox Church, 160 King Street South. Info: SCDAlliston@gmail.com

08 – Regina, SK, Regina Mid-Winter Celtic Festival Wendy and Mac perform around the world solo, with their band Beòlach and they're coming to the MWCF to bring a bit of Cape Breton to the prairies! Info: www.crpb.org/mwcf

08 - Toronto, ON - Songs From A Celtic Heart The Amadeus Choir's annual fundraiser. The choir will perform well-loved pieces from the Celtic Isles and Canada's East Coast. Two shows (2 pm and 7 pm) at Jubilee United Church, 40 Underhill Dr. Info: www.amadeuschoir.com or 416 446-0188

09 - Calgary, AB - The Great Canadian Kilt Skate Get your kilt and skates on at Calgary Olympic Plaza. Hosted by the St Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary. Info: David Aftergood: da@ nahi.ca, 403-975-8902 or www.kiltskate.com

from page 6

Across:

5 Shand

9 Thole

10 Roost

12 Annie

13 Granite

15 English

17 Freedom

19 Dominie

26 Aberfoyle

21 Apron

22 Speir

25 Steed

27 Mayor

28 Skips

8 Black Isle

Scotword answers

Down:

2 Lochs

5 Spate

7 Dykes

11 Ťhird

16 Games

3 Easdale

4 Breenge

6 Accordion

14 Abernethy

18 Mermaid

19 Dunkeld

20 Psalm

21 Adder

23 Plook

24 Reels

11 - 12 - Victoria, BC - Victoria Highland **Games Highland Dance Competition**

A weekend of Highland Dance in Victoria. The Victoria Highland Games Association and the Victoria Highland Dancing Association are offering two competitions over the BC Family Day long weekend. Info: www.victoriahighlandgames.com

14 – 16 – Edmonton, AB - Edmonton Caledonian's 50th Workshop and Ball

Scottish country dance events at Chateau Lacombe Hotel. Info: www.rscdsedmonton. com/annual-workshop-ball.html

 $15-Toronto, ON-The\,57^{\mbox{th}}\,\mbox{Tartan Ball}$ Presented by the RSCDS Toronto Association in the gorgeous Brûlé Ballrooms of The Old Mill, 21 $\,$ Old Mill Rd. Scottish dancing, music and food. Info: www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan_Ball.html

16 - Fergus, ON - The Great Canadian Kilt Skate Get your kilt and skates on at The Great Canadian Kilt Skate at Centre Wellington Sportsplex, 550 Belsyde Ave E. Info: www.kiltskate.com

27 - Montreal, QC - WhiskyFête 2020

An evening of unique and rare whiskies in aid of the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital at The Mount Royal Club, 1175 Sherbrooke Street W. Info: www.whiskyfete.org

MARCH

06 - 08 - Belleville, ON - RSCDS Belleville SCD Weekend Scottish country dance events and classes

at the Masonic Temple. Info: Bill and Jan Cunningham drbill210@hotmail.com

10 - Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day Every March 10th you are invited to go out and play your pipes - anywhere, anyhow to anyone. Or you can simply listen to the pipes and enjoy the sound of Scotland!

13 - Vancouver, BC - CelticFest Vancouver Ceilidh 2020 The beating heart of CelticFest Vancouver featuring some of Vancouver's finest Celtic performers at Hellenic Community of Vancouver . Info: www. facebook.com/events/432334594373925/

21 - Winnipeg, MB, Winnipeg Scottish Festival At the University of Winnipeg, pipe band events at Eckhardt Gramatte Hall with solo events taking place in adjacent classrooms and lecture halls. Info: www.facebook.com/winnipegscottishfestival

21 - 22 - Vancouver, BC - Heather Ball Weekend RSCDS Vancouver is pleased to present two great events for your dancing and listening pleasure. Only \$95 for both (\$105 for non RSCDS members) Saturday: Heather Ball at Scottish Cultural Centre - 8886 Hudson St. Sunday: Afternoon Concert with Colin Dewar and Alasdair Macleod - Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 1440 West 12th Ave. Info: www.rscdsvancouver.org

21 - Toronto, ON - March Beginners' Night Dance Scottish country dance event at Crescent School. 2365 Bayview Ave. Info: www.dancescottish.ca

for centuries. Info: www.internationalwhiskyday.org

27 - Nationwide - International Whisky Day The annual celebration of whisky- raise a dram - wherever in the world to honour the many unsung heroes of the past and present, who have been crafting the King o'Drinks

USA

FEBRUARY

01 - Cumberland, MD - Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew 13th Annual Burns Supper

Celebrating the life and poetry of Robert "Rabbie" Burns. The Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew will host their annual Burns Supper at the Cumberland Masonic Temple, 15 Greene St. Info: Tom Paxton 301-876-0806.

courses, traditional Scottish entertainment, rare and unique silent auction items, good whiskey, good cheer and of course poetry! Info: Gary Pennington at (469) 273-0654 or GaryP23@outlook.com 01 - Los Angeles, CA - Robert Burns Supper Celebrate the bard with music, poetry and food at the Los Angeles Athletic Club. Presented by the Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles. Info: www.saintandrewsla.org

01 - Dallas, TX - Robert Burns Fundraising Dinner

Celebrate the life and works of Scotland's mos

Hospital for Children, featuring three elegant

beloved poet and support the Dallas Scottish Rite

01 - New York, NY - 2nd Annual Kiltskate NYC Come join the Scottish American Foundation at Bryant Park as together as they bring Scotland to the ice for Kiltskate NYC Pipers piping and skating, Shot of Scotch dancing - bring your skates - wrap some

tartan around you, no charge to skate, or rent skates

for \$20. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.org

01 - Sarasota, FL - 26th Sarasota **Highland Games & Celtic Festival**

The sound of the pipes, the beating of drums, Food Vendors, Merchandise Vendors, Dancing and Athletic events reminds all Scots of our ancient and glorious heritage at 3000 Ringling Blvd. Info: www.sarasotahighlandgames.com

01 - Sarasota, FL - 3rd Annual Kilt Night Please join New World Celts - Sarasota for a Kilt Night at The Shamrock Pub in Sarasota. You will enjoy Celtic music, food truck and a great selection of beer & wine. Raffle prizes too. Info: www.newworldceltssarasota.com

07 - 08 - Brookesville, FL - 8th Annual Celtic Family Jamboree FamJam!

Family friendly, leashed dogs OK, RV & Tent camping on site. Ongoing Highland athletics and sheepdog herding demos. A labyrinth of Celtic merchandise & jewelry for sale. Info: www.celticheritageproductions.com

14-16-Honolulu, HI-Aloha Winter WeekendScottish Country Dance weekend with classes and a Ceilidh featuring Humuhumunukunukapua'a and Strathspey Society Band. Info: www.rscdshawaii.org

14 - 16 Newark, NJ - The Metro Cup 2020 The Metro Branch of the EUSPBA will host the annual Metro Cup Solo Piping & Drumming Competitions. Info: www.themetrocup.com

15 - Fletcher, NC - The Asheville Celtic Festival A winter indoor Celtic festival bringing the Celtic spirit of the Seven Nations to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina at Western North Carolina Agricultural Center - Davis Event Center, 761 Boylston Highway. Info: www.ashevillecelticfest.com

15 - 16 - Long Beach, CA - Queen Mary ScotsFestival & International Highland Games

Experience the rich culture and history of Scotland first hand through an array of authentic activities, athletics, dancing, entertainment, and cuisine, paying homage to the Queen Mary's Scottish legacy. Info: www.queenmary.com

22 - Davison, MI - Flint Scottish Pipe Band 104th Anniversary Ceilidh Experience a true Ceilidh with audience

participation, dancing and singing at the Knights of Columbus Hall located, 8428 Davison Rd. This year's Ceilidh will have non-stop entertainment: Bagpipe Bands, Irish Dancing, Highland dancing and more! Info: Tom Dillard 989 928-4687.

 $28 - Oranage\ Park, FL-Whisky\ Tasting$ With Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games & Festival at The Hill Top Restaurant, 2030 Wells Rd. Info: www.neflgames.com/events

29 - Green Cove Springs, FL -Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games & Festival Bringing a "Wee Bit o' Scotland" to the Northeast

Florida area with athletics, music, food and fun of the games, at Clay County Fairgrounds, 2497 State Road 16 West. Info: www.neflgames.com

The Scottish Banner has one

of North America's most

comprehensive Scottish

events listings available! With

hundreds of Scottish events

listed from around the world

and updated weekly. See our

most up to date listings and

add your event anytime at:

www.scottishbanner.com/events

29 - Chicago, IL - Chicago Party in Plaid 2020 Get a LEAP on St. Patrick's Day with the City of Chicago Pipe Band's third annual Party in Plaid! Both Grade 3 and Grade 4 bands will be performing along with other entertainment. Info: www.chicagopipeband.com/pip

07 - Long Beach, CA - The Scotsman's Ball XIII The premier annual Scottish event of Southern California with Scottish food, music and dance at The Long Beach Grand. Info: www.scotsmansball.org

07 - Plantation, FL - 37th Southeast Florida Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Celebrates Scottish culture and heritage with a day full of activities & events for all ages at Plantation Heritage Park. Info: www.sassf.org/Festival

07 - 08 - Phoenix, AZ - The Phoenix Scottish Games Join the Caledonian Society of Arizona in celebrating the Phoenix Scottish Games 56th year! Enjoy food, fun, and entertainment while exploring the history, flavors and culture of Scotland. Scotland in the desert at Steele Indian

School Park. Info: www.phoenixscottishgames.com ${\bf 10}$ - Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day Every March ${\bf 10}^{\hbox{th}}$ you are invited to go out and play your pipes - anywhere, anyhow to anyone. Or you can simply listen to the pipes and enjoy the sound of Scotland!

14 - 15 - St Augustine, Florida. - St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival

Celebrate St. Augustine's Celtic heritage in America's oldest Celtic city. Saturate your senses in the sights, sounds, and tastes of Celtic history at Francis Field, 29 W Castillo Dr. St. Info: www.celticstaugustine.com

21 - 22 - Sherman, TX - 4th Annual Sherman Celtic Festival & Highland Games

Celebrating various cultural and historical connections which link the United States to the Celtic people at 2190 Fallon Dr. Info: www.shermancelticfest.com

27 - Pickerington, OH - Capital City Pipes Drums, and Highland Dancers Ceilidh 2020

A memorable evening of family, friends, and Scottish heritage, including the music and dance of the Scottish Highlands at Combustion Brewery & Taproom, 80 West Church St. Info: www. facebook.com/capitalcitypipesanddrums

27 - Nationwide - International Whisky Day

The annual celebration of whisky- raise a dram - wherever in the world to honour the many unsung heroes of the past and present, who have been crafting the King o'Drinks for centuries. Info: www.internationalwhiskyday.org

28 - 29 - Honolulu, HI - Hawaiian Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Features Highland games and athletics, men's and women's competition prizes, Highland Dance competition. Entertainment including piping, music, song and dance, A gathering of Clans from around Hawaii, as well as from the mainland, at Kapiolani Park. Info: www.hawaiianscottishassociation.org

SCOTLAND

FEBRUARY

03 - 08 - Ayr - Oor Wullie

Jings, Crivvens, Help Ma Boab! Scotland's cheekiest, spikyhaired scamp is back! Only question is; where's his bucket?! Join Wullie, Fat Boab, Soapy Soutar, Wee Eck, and the rest of the Sunday Post gang, in a brand new musical adventure celebrating their 80th anniversary as Scotland's most beloved comic strip. Info: www.thegaiety.co.uk/oor-wullie 07 - 22 - Stornoway Isle of Lewis - The

Hebridean Dark Skies Festival Two weeks of arts and astronomy events to the Isle

of Lewis, with an ambitious and exciting programme spanning theatre, live music, film, visual art, food, astronomy talks, and stargazing. Info: www. lanntair.com/creative-programme/darkskies 08 - Edinburgh - Decade from The National

Youth Pipe Band of Scotland Join the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland for their

next concert "Decade", will see the band perform a fantastic mixture of traditional and contemporary music infused with the ever so popular NYPBoS twist at play/national-youth-pipe-band-of-scotland/events

13 - 16 - Aberdeen - SPECTRA 2020

SPECTRA will once again light up the winter nights in Aberdeen encouraging audiences to get out and experience the city looking its best using interactive light sculptures, architectural projections and film to create new ways of exploring the city. Info: www.spectrafestival.co.uk

19 - 23 - Fort William - The Fort William Mountain Festival An annual festival of mountain culture with great speakers films, exhibitions, workshops, book festival fringe events and more. Info: www.mountainfestival.co.uk

20 - Dundee - Winkie's Return

Following 2018's excellent talk by Guy Puzey we have invited Guy back to give his talk on our WWII heroine Winkie the pigeon alongside a special guest Winkie herself! Hear how Winkie was responsible for saving the lives of a crew on board a Beaufort Fighter Plane in 1942 at Broughty Castle Museum. Info: broughty@leisureandculturedundee.com

Scottish Genealogical Research

Let us build your Scottish Family Tree!

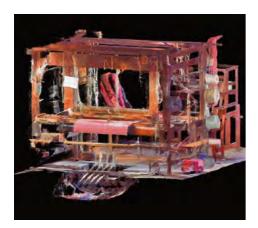


Ron Dempsey General Delivery Udora, Ontario LOC 1L0, Canada

For details email: dempseyrand@gmail.com

Unpicking the Weaver's Cottage





rchaeologists working for conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland have produced a detailed model of an 18th century Weaver's Cottage, as they dig for more evidence of the lives lived in the historic building. For the first time, a fully accurate record of the 1723 building based on photography and drawings has been completed and this will inform the digging of test pits.

Compilation of the record was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Ltd, which used a laser scanner to obtain both external and internal elevations and plans of the entire building. This has allowed detailed cross-sections of the irregular structure to be captured. A full Historic Building Survey has been completed and can be viewed by the public when visiting the Cottage.

Derek Alexander, the National Trust for Scotland's Head of Archaeology said: "As the Weaver's Cottage is such a complicated little building, split over different levels, and was probably home at one stage to four different families, I have always wanted a detailed record of it. The work has helped us to understand how the building changed and developed over time and will help inform our future management of it".

Laser scanning was also used to capture a full accurate model of the historic handloom within the cottage, complete with a pit below within which pedals are positioned.

The pride of Scotland's weaving industry

The Weaver's Cottage (The Cross, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire) is a survivor from a time when hand-woven textiles were the pride of Scotland's weaving industry before large-scale mills came to dominate. The cottage vividly re-creates the living and working conditions of a typical handloom weaver. With low ceiling beams and period furniture, it helps give an insight into life before the Industrial Revolution.

The property has an attractive garden, where traditional dye plants including woad and madder are grown, along with a wide range of cottage garden plants.

Derek Alexander added: "We've undertaken excavations at the Weaver's Cottage before and, while most artefacts date to the 18th or 19th centuries, we have also previously found a medieval human skull and a Neolithic stone axe!"





Looking for a Valentine? You'll find him in Glasgow

Scotland is a passionate country; passionate about sport, music, politics, and love and romance – and Glasgow holds a romantic secret!

rom the Old Forge at Gretna Green, in the Scottish Borders, where hundreds of thousands of marriages have been celebrated over the local blacksmith's iron anvil, to the love poetry of Robert Burns, which has melted hearts from Manhattan to Moscow, Scotland, like the rest of the world, loves a good love story.

At this time of year, when the postal service, the Twittersphere, and almost all online and print media is filled with St Valentine's Day stories and messages, it might surprise you to learn that a relic of the saint - allegedly a bone from one of his forearms - lies in the Blessed John Duns Scotus Church in the Gorbals area of Glasgow.

There, behind a pane of protective glass, you will find a wooden reliquary, inscribed in brass with the Latin phrase 'Corpus Valentini Martyris', meaning 'the body of Saint Valentine'.

Quite how such a precious holy relic travelled from third century Rome to 19th century Glasgow is a story worthy of any St Valentine's Day.

Who Was St Valentine?

Truth be told, religious historians can't quite agree on which Valentine the festival is named after; there are two good claimants, and an outside bet.

One was a Roman priest, martyred on the Flaminian Way; the other a bishop of Terni, martyred in Rome. There was also a third Valentine, who was killed in the Roman province of Africa on the same day,



February 14, but little is known about him. For argument's sake, our money is on the ancient relic belonging to either the priest or the bishop.

The reliquary, and its precious contents, arrived in Glasgow in 1868, when a wealthy French family sent the relic to the Franciscan monks of the then new St Francis' Church in the Gorbals for safe-keeping. There, stored in its wooden chest, in a side aisle of the church, the relic lay almost forgotten for more than a century.

It was only when the Franciscans moved with the relic to the Blessed John Duns Scotus Church in Ballater Street in 1999 that the existence of the remains became widely known. Following extensive publicity, Glasgow proclaimed itself the 'City of Love' and in February 2002 launched the City of Love Festival, an event which has been repeated in subsequent years.

Now, every year in the run up to St Valentine's Day, a statuette of the saint is placed beside the reliquery and decorated with red roses, and the friars say prayers for those around the world in love, and those still seeking love. Since the reliquary's 'rediscovery', the church has become a favourite spot of pilgrimage for young lovers, to propose marriage or solemnise their engagement.

Love runs deep

The original Saint Valentine would probably be very surprised to find his name associated with love and romance. The modern festival's roots lie deep in pagan, rather than Christian history; the romanticism of Medieval Europe, and the sentimentality of Victorian Britain.

In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius I established 14 February as the Feast of Saint Valentine. However, there was already a pagan festival - Lupercalia - on this date, when young unmarried men would make whips from the skins, and strike young women with them, as it was believed this would make them fertile. Not something we would advise you doing to your sweetheart today!

Changing face of the festival

Many of the traditions we associate with St Valentine began in the 14th century, and were popularised by *Canterbury Tales* author Geoffrey Chaucer, who made the first recorded reference to February 14 as the day when wild birds choose their mates.

Two hundred years later, William Shakespeare gave a line about St Valentine's Day to Ophelia, a character in Hamlet, showing that the romantic view of the feast day had stuck. By the 18th century, lovers were exchanging notes on Valentine's day, often decorated with lace. In the Victorian era, mass production became possible, thanks to new technologies, and Valentine's cards were made in vast quantities.

Glasgow isn't alone in laying claim to a relic of St Valentine, bits of the poor man are to be found across Europe. While Rome claims to have his skull, other 'bits' can be found at Whitefriars Street Carmelite Church in Dublin, Ireland, and at the Birmingham Oratory. France, Malta and the Czech Republic also reportedly own reliquaries of St Valentine.

Today, Scotland still welcomes lovers, and cherishes love. With everything from fairy-tale castles to dramatic mountains, beautiful beaches to buzzing cities, it's the perfect place for a romantic break, or even a proposal. Who knows, a short visit might be the start of a lifelong love affair. If, during your visit, you have some spare time, why not pop into the Blessed John Duns Scotus Church, and say 'hello' to the man who inspired the idea of St Valentine's Day.





Simon Fraser's Grits with Honey

Corn was introduced to the first colonists at the time of their earliest arrival by natives all down the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Virginia, and Deleware. The new inhabitants, and generations to come after, enjoyed stone-ground corn cooked up into creamy, rib-sticking fare. It's an easy feat to conjure an image of the Brigadier general, a Scot, happily digging into his corn porridge smothered in butter and honey, an echo of the oat parritch in his Highland home of Balnain.

Inspired by *An Echo in the Bone*. Recipe from *Outlander Kitchen: To the New World and Back Again*. Serves 4

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons/30 g butter 1 cup/160 g stone-ground grits or hominy grits 1 cup/240 ml whole milk Kosher salt to taste Honey, for serving

Method:

In a medium saucepan, bring 3 cups/720 ml water and 1 tablespoon/15 g of butter to a boil over high heat. Gradually whisk in the grits in a steady stream. Reduce to medium-low and simmer gently, stirring often, until the water is absorbed and the grits are thickened, about 15 minutes. Stir in ½ cup/120 ml of the milk and simmer, partially covered and stirring occasionally to keep the grits from sticking, 10 minutes. Stir in the remaining ½ cup/120 ml milk and simmer, partially covered and stirring occasionally, until the liquid is absorbed and the grits are thick and tender, 30 to 35 minutes more. Stir in the remaining tablespoon butter and season to taste with salt.

Serve hot, passing the honey at the table. If you prefer a savory breakfast, top your grits with a knob of butter and serve with bacon and eggs.

Notes

White grits are made from white corn, while yellow grits are made from yellow corn. Hominy grits are made from corn that has been treated in a lye or other alkali solution to soften and remove the outer hull. Any of the three can be used in this recipe.

Scotch Broth at Cranesmuir

Recipes for Scotch broth appeared in cookbooks for the first time in the latter part of the eighteenth century, though variations of this thick, hearty, stew-like soup had been cooking in cast-iron kettles across the Highlands for hundreds of years before that. If you prefer to use beef, which will result in a milder tasting soup, choose a similar tough cut.

Inspired by Written in My Own Heart's Blood. Recipe from Outlander Kitchen: To the New World and Back Again. Serves 6 to 8

Ingredients:

2 large leeks (white and light green parts only)
2 pounds/900 grams lamb
flank, breast, or shank
½ cup/100 g split peas
½ cup/20 g barley
2 medium carrots, shredded
1 cup/300 grams diced turnip or rutabaga
2 cups/250 g finely shredded
kale or savoy cabbage
2 teaspoons/10 ml kosher salt, plus additional
Fresh chopped parsley, for garnish

Method:

Thinly slice the leeks on a diagonal and rinse them thoroughly in a bowl of cold water. Scoop out the leeks with your hands or a slotted spoon, leaving the grit behind. Shake dry in a clean dishcloth or salad spinner.

In a large pot, cover the lamb with 2 quarts/2 liters cold water and bring to a boil over high heat. Allow to boil 1 minute, then skim the scum from the surface.

Reduce the heat to medium-low and add the split peas, barley, half the leeks, and half the carrots. Simmer until the peas and barley are tender, about 1 hour.

Add the remaining leeks and carrots, as well as the turnip and 2 cups/500 ml hot water. Simmer until the turnip is tender, about 30 minutes.

Remove the lamb, discard any bones and gristle, shred the meat, and return it to the pot. Stir in the kale and salt. Taste, and adjust with more salt as needed. Garnish with the parsley and serve hot.

Notes

If you prefer to use beef, choose a similar tough cut, such as flank, shin, shank, or blade. Beef will result in a milder tasting soup.

Roast Beef for a Wedding Feast

Most modern wedding receptions involve some clinking cutlery, a toast from the best man, and a cheesy cover band - the buffet is usually a little more generous as well - but if you were hurled back 200 years in time, forced to marry a virtual stranger, hungover, in someone else's strong-smelling dress, all on no more than a couple of glasses of port for breakfast, I'm willing to bet you'd accept roast beef, bread and wine with a little more grace than your average bridezilla.

A top-round makes for an economical and delicious roast for a Sunday or special occasion dinner. It cooks in under an hour to leave plenty of time for visiting with guests and family.

Inspired by *Outlander*. Recipe from *Outlander Kitchen: The Official Outlander Companion Cookbook*. Serves 6

Ingredients:

3 to 4 pounds/1.3 to 1.8 kg top-round beef roast 1 tablespoon/15 ml olive oil 6 cloves garlic, minced or grated 2 teaspoons/10 ml kosher salt 1 teaspoon/5 ml freshly ground black pepper 1 teaspoon/5 ml minced fresh rosemary





Method:

Mix together the olive oil, garlic, salt, pepper, and rosemary in a small bowl. Smear the paste all over the roast, lightly rubbing it into the meat. Set the roast on a rack in a roasting pan and cover loosely with plastic. Rest on the counter for an hour to marinate and take the chill off the meat.

Move the rack to the middle position and heat the oven to 350°F/175°C.

Roast the meat for 28-31 minutes per pound/450 g for medium rare ($145^{\circ}F/63^{\circ}C$) on an instant-read thermometer), 30-34 for medium ($160^{\circ}F/71^{\circ}C$) and 40-45 ($170^{\circ}F/77^{\circ}C$) for well done. Rare is not recommended for this cut of meat.

Lightly tent the cooked roast with foil and allow it to rest for 15 minutes. Use the pan juices to make gravy, or skim the surface of fat, strain, season, and serve the jus alongside the roast.

Slice and serve hot with your favourite sides, or recreate Jamie and Claire's wedding feast with a loaf of fresh bread and copious amounts of wine to wash it all down.

Notes

Rest the roast after you remove it from the oven and before you carve it to ensure the juices are reabsorbed into the centre of the meat. During the resting period, a roast's internal temperature will continue to rise by a few degrees. Always remove a roast from the oven a few minutes before it reaches the desired temperature.

Mrs. Bug's Buttermilk Drop Biscuits

Tender, Southern-style biscuits ready in a flash; no kneading or rolling required.

Inspired by the *The Fiery Cross*. Recipe from *Outlander Kitchen: The Official Outlander Companion Cookbook*Makes 1 dozen

Ingredients

½ cup/120 g butter, plus additional 1 cup/240 ml buttermilk, cold 2 teaspoons/10 ml honey 1 cup/120 g all-purpose flour 1 tablespoon/15 ml cornstarch 1 tablespoon/15 ml baking powder 1 teaspoon/5 ml kosher salt ¼ teaspoon/2 ml baking soda



Method:

Move the rack to the upper-middle position and heat the oven to 450°F/230°C.

Heat the butter over medium until just melted. Pour into the cold buttermilk with the honey and stir until well combined.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, cornstarch, baking powder, salt, and baking soda for one minute to ensure everything is evenly combined.

Add the lumpy buttermilk mixture to the dry ingredients and stir until just mixed, and the batter pulls away from the side of the bowl. Use a lightly greased ¼ cup/60 ml measure to scoop out level portions and drop onto an ungreased 9 or 10 inch/23 to 25 cm cast iron pan or cake pan - arrange 3 biscuits in the middle of the pan and 9 biscuits around the outside.

Bake until the tops are golden, 15 to 17 minutes. Meanwhile, melt 2 tablespoons of butter. Brush the tops of the biscuits with the additional melted butter immediately out of the oven. Cool at least 5 minutes on wire rack before serving. Serve warm, drizzled with honey and even more butter if your hips can handle it.

Black Jack Randall's Dark Chocolate Lavender Fudge



Easy, dark-chocolate, cheater fudge made with condensed milk and lightly scented with lavender. Inspired by Outlander. Recipe from Outlander Kitchen: The Official Outlander Companion Cookbook. Makes one 8 or 9 inch/20 or 23 cm pan

Ingredients:

14 oz (396 gram) can sweetened condensed milk ½ teaspoon baking soda ¼ teaspoon kosher salt 1 pound (450 grams) bittersweet or semi-sweet chocolate, chopped 1 tablespoon edible lavender blossoms, plus additional

Method:

Line an 8 or 9 inch/20 or 23 cm pan with wax paper or parchment.

Stir together the baking soda, salt, and sweetened condensed milk in a heavy saucepan. Add the chocolate and melt over medium-low, stirring occasionally to start, then more frequently as it melts. When melted and smooth, remove from the heat and stir in the lavender, crushing the buds between your fingertips as you drop them into the pot. Stir to combine, and pour into the prepared pan and spread evenly.

Chill in the refrigerator until firm, about 2 hours. Remove from the fudge from the pan, peel off the paper and cut into 1 inch/2.5 cm squares.

To serve, garnish with additional lavender flowers. Perfect as an afternoon pick-me-up with coffee or tea. Wrap and store in the fridge for up to 1 week.

Notes

The better the quality of chocolate you start with, the richer and more decadent your fudge will be. Similarly, choose English lavender over French. While the latter is great for sachets, the former is the only choice for culinary projects.

Whisky and Coconut Milk



This exotic and creamy whisky punch offers a unique way to cool down from the heat summer.

Inspired by Lord John and the Private Matter. Recipe from *Outlander Kitchen: To the New World and Back Again*. Serves 4

Ingredients:

1 cup/200 g granulated sugar 2 chai tea bags, or 2 teaspoons loose chai in a tea ball 1 cup/240 ml coconut milk 8 ounces/240 ml whisky Crushed ice (optional) Lime twists, for garnish

Method:

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine the sugar with 1 cup/240 ml water. Heat gently until the sugar has dissolved, then increase the heat to high and bring it to a boil. Maintain a low boil for 1 minute, remove from the heat, and add the tea to the pan. Steep until completely cool. Discard the tea, cover, and chill the syrup.

In a small bowl, blend the coconut milk and the chai syrup with an immersion blender or whisk until smooth. Slowly add the whisky, stirring continuously until combined. Pour it into a pitcher, cover, and chill in the refrigerator for at least an hour before serving.

Stir to recombine and pour into glasses over crushed ice, if desired. Garnish with a twist of lime..

Notes

Choose a non-peaty single malt whisky for this recipe, such as Glenmorangie and The Macallan, or a blended whisky, such as Chivas Regal and Johnnie Walker.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Alexander Selkirk, a sailor from Lower Largo, Fife, rescued after four years on the island of Juan Fernandez, 400 miles off the coast of Chile; his story inspired Daniel Defoe to write *Robinson Crusoe*. 1708
- 1 Author Muriel Spark born. She is most well known as the author of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, written in 1961, a touching and funny portrait of an individual and eccentric Edinburgh teacher during the inter-war period, and the effect she has on her pupils. 1918
- 2 Feast and legal Quarter Day of Candlemass.
- 2 James I married Lady Jane Beaufort, daughter of the Earl of Somerset, in London. $1424\,$
- 2 Battle of Inverlochy, one of the Duke of Montrose's victories over the Covenanters, killing 1,300. 1645
- 2 Birth of James Chalmers in Arbroath he devised the adhesive postage stamp. 1782
- 2 Novelist Alistair Maclean died. His books The Guns of Navarone, Ice Station Zebra and Where Eagles Dare were made into films. 1987
- 3 General Monck's regiment entered London, having marched from Coldstream in the borders. The regiment kept order during the period of the restoration of Charles II. It continued as a standing regiment of the British Army, becoming known as the Coldstream Guards. 1660
- 4 Charles II proclaimed king in Edinburgh but not in England. 1649
- 4 Prince James Francis Stuart, the Old Pretender, left Scotland after a stay of only three weeks, effectively bringing the first Jacobite Uprising to an end. $1716\,$
- 4 Honours of Scotland put on display in Edinburgh Castle after being rediscovered by Sir Walter Scott. The jewels consist of a sword, crown and sceptre. The three items were first used together during the coronation of Mary, Queen of Scots and last used for the coronation of Charles II in 1651. During the Second World War, they were hidden in different parts of Edinburgh Castle in case of German invasion. 1818



- 5 SS Politician ran aground on Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides during gale worse winds, creating the basis for Sir Compton MacKenzie's novel Whisky Galore. 1941
- 5 John Witherspoon, clergyman, writer, President of Princeton University 1768-94, signatory to American Declaration of Independence 1776, born in Gifford, East Lothian. 1723
- $\bf 5$ John Boyd Dunlop, who patented the first practical pneumatic tyre, born Ayrshire. $\bf 1846$
- $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{5} \text{ Writer and historian Thomas} \\ \text{Carlyle died in London. } \textbf{1881} \end{array}$
- **6** Queen Anne, last of the Stuart monarchs, born. **1665**
- **6** King Charles II, the "merry monarch" died. His last words to his brother James were "Don't let poor Nellie starve" a reference to his favourite mistress, Nell Gwynne. **1685**
- **6** Representation of the people Act received Royal assent, granting votes to women over the age of 30. **1918**
- **6** King George VI dies and Queen Elizabeth II becomes monarch. **1952**
- 7 Battle at Glenfruin when the MacGregors slaughtered a number of Colquhouns the origins of the banning of the MacGregor name. $1603\,$

- 7 12,000 players and spectators descended on the frozen Lake of Menteith for Scotland's only outdoor curling tournament, known as the Bonspiel or the Grand Match. 1979
- 7- The Old Pretender's Jacobite army disbanded at Aberdeen, ending the 1715 uprising. Thirty years later his son, Charles, would try again to recapture the throne for the Stuarts. 1716
- 8 Mary Queen of Scots beheaded at Fotheringay Castle after nearly 20 years of imprisonment. At the time of her death, Mary was 44 and had outlived three husbands. 1587
- 8 A contingent of a thousand Scots, commanded by the brothers John and William Stuart, headed to the relief of the beleagured French garrison at Orleans. The expedition ended in disaster when the force was defeated by the English at Rouvray Saint Denis and both Stuarts were killed. 1429



- **9** John Noble, co-founder of Loch Fyne Oysters and Loch Fyne Restaurants died. It began as an umbrella and a trestle table and then transferred to a cowshed. Soon the venture became a restaurant, and then evolved into a chain of oyster bars. **2002**
- 10 Robert the Bruce murdered John 'Red' Comyn in Dumfries. Bruce met Red Comyn at the old Greyfriars Church and killed him at the high altar and Bruce began his bid for the throne. 1306
- 10 Lord Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, assassinated. 1567
- 10 Death of Lord Joseph Lister, pioneer of surgery and antiseptic at the University of Glasgow and Glasgow and Edinburgh Royal Infirmaries. 1912
- 11 Tolls are removed from the Erskine Bridge, the Tay Road Bridge, and the Forth Road Bridge. These bridges were the last three remaining toll bridges in Scotland. 2008
- 11 Coldest temperature ever recorded in Scotland, -27.2 (-16.96F) at Braemar. 1895
- 11 Author and politician John Buchan died in Canada. 1940
- 12 Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the world-wide savings bank movement, died near Ruthwell. 1846
- 12 George Heriot, goldsmith to King James VI and founder of Heriot's School, died. The school was originally founded as Heriot's Hospital, Edinburgh. He is thought to be the inspiration for the character, Georgie Heriot, in Sir Walter Scott's novel, Fortunes of Nigel. 1624
- 13 Kenneth MacAlpin, King of Dalriada and the Picts, died at Forteviot. 858
- 13 Massacre of 38 of the Clan Macdonald by government order at Glencoe. $1692\,$



13 - Scottish Youth Hostel Association formed, 1931

- $14 \hbox{-Mary Queen of Scots meets} \\ \text{Lord Darnley for the first time.} \\ \text{They married in July 1565.} \ 1565$
- 14 Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone (Patent 174461). Two hours after it was lodged, his rival, Elisha Gray, applied for a similar patent. Bell's was granted. 1876
- 15 Decimal currency introduced, abandoning 12 pennies to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound. 1971
- 15 The Caledonian Railway company opened. The Caledonian Railway ran trains from London to Glasgow and was in fierce competition with the Edinburgh based North British Railway. 1848
- $16 \hbox{ Government forces under Lord Louden} \\ attempted to capture Prince Charles \\ Edward Stewart at Moy Hall. 1746$
- 16 Scottish crime and science fiction writer Iain Banks was born in Dunfermline, Fife. He was named one of The 50 greatest British writers since 1945 and sadly Banks died from cancer on June 9, 2013. 1954



- 16 Scottish actor, author and artist John Cairney was born in Glasgow. Best known for his one-man shows on Robert Burns, Cairney also starred in BBC's *This Man Craig* and films *A Night to Remember, Cleopatra* and *Jason and the Argonauts*. 1930
- 17 King James V passed a law which recognised Scotland's gipsies. $1540\,$
- $17 \hbox{ James Renwick, last Covenanter} \\ to be executed. \ 1688$



- 18 Glasgow's Queen Street train station opened. Originally called Glasgow Dundas Street the station was built by Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway to link the thriving city of Glasgow to the nation's capital. The station and line took four years to build. Currently a redevelopment of Glasgow Queen Street is underway and is expected to last until Autumn 2020. 1842
- 19 James Douglas retook Roxburgh Castle and razed it to the ground. The Black Douglas, as he was known, and sixty men gained access to the castle by climbing the castle walls using hooked scaling ladders. 1314
- $20\,\text{-}$ King James I murdered in Perth by a group led by Sir Robert Graham. $1437\,$
- 20 Orkney and Shetland annexed from Norway. 1472
- 20 Gordon Brown, former UK Prime Minister (2007–2010), born in Giffnock, Renfrewshire. 1951
- 21 Intercity railway between Glasgow and Edinburgh opened by Queen Victoria. 1842

- 21 Eric Liddell, *Chariots of Fire* athlete, winner of 1924 Olympics 400 metres, died in Japanese internment camp in China. 1945
- 22 David II died at Edinburgh Castle. 1371
- 22 King Robert II crowned. 1371
- 23 Battle of Roslin in which a Scots army of 8,000, led by Sir Simon Fraser, Sinclair of Rosslyn and the Red Comyn, surprised an English army of 30,000 led by Sir John Seagrave and defeated them. 1303
- 23 James Herriot (pen name of James Alfred Wight), author of *All Creatures Great and Small*, died aged 78. 1995



- 24 Steam train, the *Flying Scotsman* went into service with London and North Eastern Railway (LNER), on the London (King's Cross) to Edinburgh route. The train was the first to reach speeds of 100 mph. 1923
- 24 Footballer Denis Law who played for Manchester United and Scotland, born. 1940
- 25 Bishop Henry Wardlaw established St Andrews as a university although it was not officially inaugurated until 4 February 1414 when a Bull of Foundation was promulgated by Pope Benedict XIII. 1412
- 26 Philip van der Straten, a Fleming, was granted Scots naturalisation and set up a factory in Kelso, thus starting the Border woollen industry. 1672
- 26 Robert Watson Watt demonstrated radar for the first time. 1935
- 26 Entertainer and singer/song writer Sir Harry Lauder died. Lauder had become the highest-paid performer in the world, and was the first British artist to sell a million records. 1950
- 27 Battle of Ancrum Moor in which Scottish forces, led by Earl of Douglas, defeated an English army twice their size. $1545\,$
- 28 Second National Covenant signed in Greyfriars Churchyard. The document was a direct response to Charles I's attempts to introduce a Book of Common Prayer across the whole of Britain, as Presbyterians were incensed that the General Assembly had not been consulted. 1638



- 29 The famous Glasgow theatre, The Pavilion, celebrated its opening performance. $1904\,$
- 29 Patrick Hamilton was burned at St Andrews for the crime of heresy. Hamilton is regarded as the first Protestant martyr in Scotland. After studying in Europe, where he came into contact with the ideas of Martin Luther, Hamilton began to preach Protestant ideas in Scotland, leading to his arrest. Hamilton was sentenced to be burned at the stake but, horrifically, his inexperienced executioners underestimated how much kindling would be needed, and the fire petered out with Hamilton badly burned but alive. In all it took six hours for the flames to consume Hamilton. 1528

By: Judy Vickers

St Margaret-The Pearl of Scotland

2020 marks the 450th anniversary of the marriage of the Scottish King Malcolm Canmore to St Margaret in 1070. Margaret was a Wessex princess, born in exile in Hungary – her family returned to Britain to try to reclaim the throne of England but didn't have a lot of success. Their ship was blown off course, they landed at Dunfermline, where she met Malcolm for the second time – a year later they married. Margaret was hugely significant and hugely overlooked in the history of Scotland and was revered as a saint as Judy Vickers explains.



he bride was a beautiful, devout and sophisticated princess, the last of an ancient high-born line, ship-wrecked on to a foreign shore as she attempted to flee into exile. The groom was a tough seasoned warrior, 15 years her senior, forced to fight and kill to reclaim his kingdom but said to be so smitten at first sight by his future wife that he immediately offered her his protection.

Little wonder that the Victorians created romantic portraits of their alleged first meeting on the banks of the Forth at a place later named St Margaret's Hope. Of course, the marriage between Malcolm III of Scotland and Margaret of Wessex, grand-daughter of the English king Edmund Ironside, also happened to be politically expedient.

Anglo-Saxon princess

When the wedding took place 950 years ago in Dunfermline in Fife, the new English king William the Conqueror was consolidating his hold south of the border. The Norman had invaded England in 1066, putting an end to the Anglo-Saxon Wessex line which had ruled the country for hundreds of years. Margaret's brother, Edgar, however, was the last male of that ancient line, a direct descendant of Alfred the Great and regarded by many as the rightful English king. In 1068, when William's England became too dangerous for the princess, her brother and mother Agatha, they boarded a ship with the intent of fleeing to Hungary.

Fate intervened and the ship was blown off course, ending up near what is now North Queensferry in Fife. Whether Malcolm actually did meet and fall in love with Margaret as she stepped ashore onto his lands is disputed.

A marriage into the family with the best rival claim to the English throne was an astute move for Malcolm and a way of gaining Margaret a powerful protector for her family. But what is not in doubt is the couple's devotion to each other and the fact that this Anglo-Saxon princess, who became known as the Pearl of Scotland, changed the course of Scottish history. Margaret was born in Hungary in 1045 where her father Prince Edward "the Outlaw". Atheling was exiled after the conquest of England by the Danish King Canute. She was brought up at the pious court of the Hungarian king St Stephen, returning with her family to England when she was 12 after her great-uncle, King Edward the Confessor, had restored the Wessex line to the throne.

Malcolm III, nicknamed Canmore or Great Chief, was the son of Duncan I, killed in 1040 by Macbeth, the Scottish king later immortalised by Shakespeare. Malcolm was around nine at the time of his father's death and also grew up in exile, possibly in Orkney, then not part of Scotland. He returned as an adult, killing Macbeth in 1957 and becoming king in 1058. By the time he married Margaret, he was already a widower with two sons.

The couple made an unlikely pair. "He was a big, ugly, hairy Gaelic-speaking Viking warrior. She was this beautiful, sophisticated princess," says Fife County archaeologist Douglas Speirs. "In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if the writers of the film Shrek had Malcolm and Margaret in mind when they created Shrek and Fiona. She was noted for her piety and her interest in the Church but because of her background in Europe, she was aligned to Rome and the Roman Catholic Church."

European sphere

Scotland, however, adhered to the Celtic Church. Mass was celebrated in the range of Gaelic dialects spoken in the country, Easter was on a different day and there were non-Roman customs, such as open air worship and ordinary folk working on Sundays.

Margaret set to work changing these practises and bringing in Latin as a common language for the clergy. She brought Benedictine monks from England to found religious houses, including at Dunfermline, and endowed churches and monasteries, including re-founding the monastery on Iona. To help pilgrims reach the shrine of St Andrews in Fife, she began a ferry service across the Forth, the names of its crossing points remaining to this day North and South Queensferry. Undoubtedly this Romanising of the Celtic Church would have caused friction, according to Douglas. "She was this new foreign second wife, coming in with all these ideas, there must have been a lot of resentment. But she won the day, she must have been a formidable individual."

This was no Royal wife kept in a cage, fit only for producing heirs.

She had a strong ally in her husband who, it seems, could refuse her nothing. Turgot, Bishop of St Andrews, who knew her personally and wrote a history of her life shortly after her death, wrote: "He readily obeyed her wishes and prudent counsels in all things. Whatever she refused, he refused also, whatever pleased her, he also loved for the love of her."

And while the bishop's devoted account, written for Margaret's daughter, must be taken with a pinch of salt, Douglas says the sheer fact that she was allowed such influence points to a happy marriage with a husband who respected and encouraged her. "This was no Royal wife kept in a cage, fit only for producing heirs."

Introducing Latin gave the country a common language with Europe, allowing her to forge trading links - she was reputed to have been the first to introduce tartan to the country - and her introduction of the manners, culture and habits of European courts made Scotland a more international

and outward-looking nation. "She brought Scotland much more into the European sphere of politics and economics, rather than a marginalised country on the periphery," says Douglas.

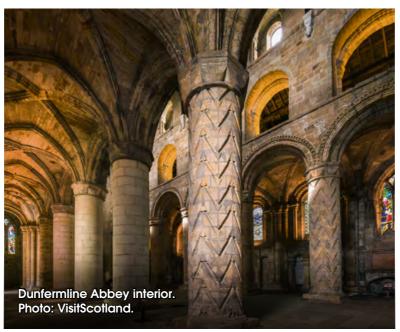
Her piety was renowned, from generous alms-giving to severe personal abstemiousness. Turgot wrote of her: "When she went out of doors, either on foot or on horseback, crowds of poor people, orphans and widows flocked to her, as they would have done to a most loving mother, and none of them left her without being comforted."

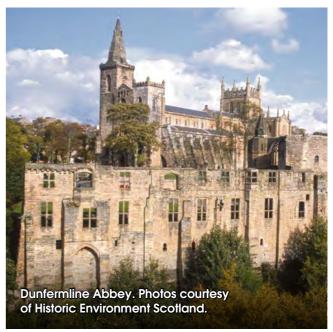
Legacy

Her privations in the name of her religion frequently left her weak and unwell, and she was on her deathbed in 1093 when news was brought to her that her husband had been slain in a battle at Alnwick in England, where her eldest son Edward was also fatally wounded. She died nine days later, aged around 48. A chapel in her name was built in the precincts of Edinburgh Castle, on the spot where she passed away. It still stands and is the oldest existing church in Scotland.

Her legacy lived on, not least through her children who were all said to be devoted to her and brought up to believe in her ideals and values. The couple had six sons and two daughters; three of their sons would be kings of Scotland and their daughter Matilda would marry King Henry I of England. Their youngest son, David I, continued his mother's religious and administrative reforms, as well as founding Dunfermline Abbey on the site of the small church where his parents were married and buried. "Dunfermline Abbey is a monument to the love of her son King David I for his mother. It's a Scottish equivalent of the Taj Mahal! Dunfermline Abbey is a devoted son's monumental mausoleum to his saintly mother," says Douglas.

Her holy reputation was made official in 1250 when she was canonised by Pope Innocent IV, the only Scottish saint ever to be given such papal approval.





The Women of Celtic St. Augustine



Thether you come to hear the great line-up of Celtic bands, to meet the award-winning authors of Celtic NOIR!, to watch the athletes of the Highland Games, to shop with the many Celtic artisans, or to just enjoy the immersive atmosphere of Celtic culture and scrumptious food, you can thank several talented Celtic women for organizing "The Finest Celtic Music Festival in the United States".

Pat Syeles, Lisa Mack, Amy Galbreath and Erin Bradshaw Rodriguez pull it all together each year.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary on March 14 & 15, 2020, the award-winning St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival is recognized by audiences, bands, athletes, clans, and vendors, for its uniqueness and superior quality as one of the best in the U.S.

And in 2020, it will present a special new feature called "Celtic NOIR! Mystery & Crime Authors", with award-winning Celtic authors such as Liz Nugent, Jane Casey, Gerard Brennan and Arlene Hunt, and offering panel discussions and Q&A sessions curated by Elizabeth Mannion (aka Sarah Jane McKenna).

Dedicated and talented women

So, you may well ask, who is responsible for putting together this amazing event, which has been praised as one of the most organized festivals in the country? You may or may not be surprised to learn that is run primarily by a group of dedicated and talented women.

Festival Director Pat Syeles, who proudly proclaims that she is 97% Scottish, Irish and English and descended from the Cunninghams and Kennedys, took over the leadership role four years ago, but has been with the Festival since its beginning. She manages all aspects of planning and finance for the Festival from recruiting vendors to renting equipment, managing online ticket sales and ordering supplies. According to Pat, "My most important responsibility was to find the right people for the right jobs.

We are extremely fortunate to have such an outstanding team of talented, dedicated women who handle every detail of the operation of the Festival."

Foremost among them, she cites Lisa Mack (aka Lisa McPhillips), also in her 10th year with the Festival, whose role is that of Entertainment Director and Production Manager. Lisa, whose ancestors hailed from, England, Ireland and Alsace Lorraine, became a "Mc" by marriage to a fine Scot.

The St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival is run primarily by a group of dedicated and talented women.

She explains that her two roles are very different jobs that carry parallel but related responsibilities. "As Entertainment Director, I am building the show that festivalgoers see, selecting the performers, creating the continuous flow of entertainment that stays on time and on budget, and making sure the needs of our performers are met. As Production Manager, my attention turns to all the behind-the-scenes parts of making a show happen. Technical items such as sound reinforcement, lighting design, engineering staff, stage plotting, etc., all fall into this category."

Respect for the Celtic culture

Another talented woman, Amy Galbreath, serves as Field Team Leader and Site Planner. Amy is of Scottish descent, with the family clan name of Galbraith, which is of Gaelic origin in the Highland and Lowland border of Scotland. Later generations of Galbraiths fled Scotland into Ireland in the 17th century and her ancestry shows many Irish ancestors (Greene & McFarland).

Amy said: "The production team has the utmost respect for the Celtic culture and really brings an authentic experience to the festival goers. I spend a lot of time on planning the festival site – infrastructure, equipment, logistics, electricity", continues Amy. I coordinate the load-in and load-out of every entity on the site for seven straight days. My team and I are responsible for making sure every piece of equipment is working throughout the event and that we don't run out of supplies or resources. I found that my engineering and project management background was a perfect fit for this role."

Amy's second-in-command is Erin Bradshaw Rodriguez, claims to be mix of a lot of different things, but most of all Scottish, Irish and English. My family is part of the MacPhearson and Chatten Clans. Says Erin, "As Asst. Field Manager, I am basically Amy's right hand, sometimes her left, and sometimes both. I manage most of the logistics of getting the field infrastructure set up and supplies delivered and assist with all other miscellaneous tasks. Amy is so great at what she does, she manages like no other and has an amazing spirit for this work. And Pat puts so much work into every detail. I don't think I have ever seen someone so detail oriented. I feel fortunate to be a part of something so meaningful to the creators. I have always loved this festival. There is something magical about the setting, in old St. Augustine, that gives this event a great Celtic vibe."

Pat adds that the team is rounded out by Sherri and Mary as Gate Managers, Tiffany and Kayla as Vendor Managers, and Shelley as Volunteer Manager. And for 2020, the Curator for our new authors' feature is yet another woman, Beth Mannion. "But yes," she says, "there are some men amongst us, including the Director of Advertising, Beverage Managers, and Highland Games Athletic Director."

The St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival is produced by Romanza – St. Augustine, Inc. and is funded in part by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural, Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and by Visit Florida. More information at CelticStAugustine.com





Entertainment Director Lisa Mack.



Medieval home of Lords of the Isles reconstructed



he lost medieval home of the Lords of the Isles has been reconstructed virtually by experts at the University of St Andrews. Major archaeological work by the National Museum of Scotland has enabled the University of St Andrews' Open Virtual Worlds Team, and spinout company Smart History, to digitally recreate Finlaggan. In collaboration with the Finlaggan Trust, the reconstruction is based on discoveries made by the Finlaggan Archaeological Project, led by archaeologist Dr David Caldwell (formerly of the National Museum of Scotland), who provided advice to the St Andrews team. Documentary research and comparison with other late medieval sites has been used to ensure the reconstruction is as accurate as possible.

The digital research in St Andrews was led by Dr Alan Miller of the School of Computer Science, while digital modelling was undertaken by Sarah Kennedy of the School of Computer Science, with additional historical research by Dr Bess Rhodes of the School of History and the School of Computer Science.

Lordship of the Isles

The reconstruction represents Finlaggan in the early fifteenth century – a time when it was the administrative and ceremonial centre of the Lordship of the Isles. During the Middle Ages the Lords of the Isles ruled the Hebrides and parts of mainland Scotland and Ulster. Traditionally the Lordship was held by the MacDonald family.

However, following disputes in the fifteenth century the Scottish kings sought to curtail the MacDonalds' influence, and in the 1490s James IV sent a military expedition to sack Finlaggan. Many of the buildings at Finlaggan were destroyed at this time, and over the centuries that followed the site sank into relative obscurity. The reconstruction shows what

Finlaggan may have looked like in its glory days when it was the seat of the Council of the Lords of the Isles, and the scene of inauguration ceremonies for the Lords.

It depicts the twin islands of Eilean Mor (or Large Isle) and Eilean na Comhairle (or Council Isle), and their surroundings on Loch Finlaggan. Interestingly, by the late Middle Ages, the Lords of the Isles' residence at Finlaggan had little in the way of defensive structures – possibly indicating how secure the MacDonalds felt in the heart of their powerbase on Islay.

Shaping of Scottish culture

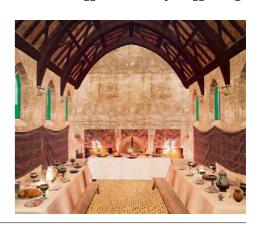
Dr Bess Rhodes, of the University, said: "Finlaggan was an amazing place to recreate digitally. Even today the islands of Eilean Mor and Eilean na Comhairle are beautiful places, and in the Middle Ages they were the site of a remarkable complex of buildings which blended local traditions with wider European trends. The work by Dr David Caldwell and the Finlaggan

Archaeological Project has transformed our understanding of this site – giving us a glimpse of the relative comfort in which the Lords of the Isles and their followers lived, pampering their dogs with decorative collars, and enjoying music, imported wine and board games."

Dr Ray Lafferty, Secretary of the Finlaggan Trust, said: "Despite its impact on the shaping of Scottish culture, Finlaggan and the Lordship remains little known to many. With this virtual reality reconstruction, we hope to give some sense of the site at the zenith of its power, when MacDonald rule stretched from the Glens of Antrim in Ireland to Buchan in the northeast of Scotland."

The reconstruction is available as an interactive virtual reality experience at the Finlaggan Trust's visitor centre on Islay. There is also a virtual reality app and an online video which can be viewed at: www.vimeo.com/337511074

To discover more about the Trust and how to visit Finlaggan see: www.finlaggan.org



Declaration of Arbroath to go on public display for the first time in 15 years at the National Museum of Scotland

ational Museums Scotland and National Records of Scotland have announced that the Declaration of Arbroath will be displayed at the National Museum of Scotland this year to mark 700 years since its creation. The document will be displayed within the Scotland galleries of the National Museum of Scotland from 27 March to 26 April 2020.

The document has not been on public display for 15 years, when it was last displayed at the Scottish Parliament. The iconic and fragile 700-year-old document, which is cared for and preserved for future generations by National Records of Scotland, can only be occasionally displayed in order to ensure its long-term preservation.

One of Scotland's most important historical documents

The Declaration of Arbroath is one of Scotland's most important historical documents, capturing a powerful call for the recognition of the Kingdom of Scotland's sovereign independence.

The Declaration is a letter dated 6 April 1320, written by the barons and freeholders of Scotland, on behalf of the Kingdom of Scotland, to Pope John XXII asking him to recognise Scotland's independence and acknowledge Robert the Bruce as the country's lawful king.

The letter also asks the Pontiff to persuade King Edward II of England to end

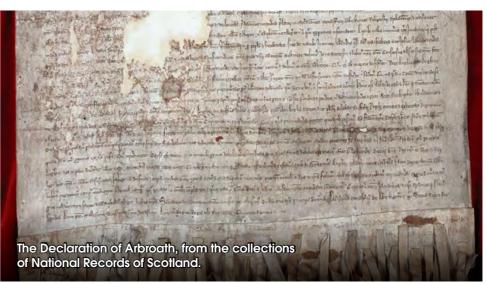
hostilities against the Scots, so that their energy may be better used to secure the frontiers of Christendom.

The Declaration was probably drawn up in the scriptorium of Arbroath Abbey. Written in Latin, it was sealed by eight earls and about forty barons. It was authenticated by seals, as documents at that time were not signed. Only 19 seals now remain.

Alice Blackwell, Curator of Medieval Archaeology and History at National Museums Scotland said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to display the Declaration of Arbroath here at the National Museum of Scotland. It is a hugely significant document and a vital piece of Scotland's history. We look forward to welcoming many visitors to enjoy the rare opportunity of seeing this iconic document close up."

Iconic document of historic and cultural value

Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for people from around the world to mark the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath. Not only is this iconic document of historic and cultural value to Scots and those of Scottish descent, but its influence spreads far and wide and we are ready to welcome visitors from across the globe to join anniversary celebrations in Edinburgh, Arbroath and across Scotland."



Paul Lowe, Chief Executive of National Records of Scotland, said, "National Records of Scotland is delighted to help display this famous and fragile document for Scots and for visitors from further afield. The Declaration of Arbroath is a key treasure in our extensive collections and we're very proud of the role we play in conserving this hugely significant historical artefact for future generations."

The Declaration was written during the long Wars of Independence with England when, despite the Scots' success at the Battle of Bannockburn, Robert I had not been recognised as king by either Edward II or by the Pope, and had been excommunicated by the latter. At this time, the Pope desired peace between England

and Scotland, so both could help in a crusade to the Holy Land. The Declaration sought to influence him by offering the possibility of support from the Scots for his long-desired crusade if they no longer had to fear English invasion.

After receiving the Declaration, the Pope urged reconciliation between the warring sides and a truce was agreed in 1323. A peace treaty was signed between England and Scotland in March 1328 and the following year the Pope issued a papal bull permitting the anointing and crowning of a King of Scots.

The Declaration of Arbroath will be on display in Edinburgh from Friday March 27 to Sunday 26 April 2020. For further details see:www.nms.ac.uk/declaration

37th Annual Southeast Florida Sassif President Scottish Festival and Highland Games



he Scottish American Society of South Florida [SASSF] will sponsor the 37thAnnual Southeast Florida Scottish Festival and Highland Games on March 7th, 2020 at Plantation Heritage Park. 1100 S Fig Tree Lane, Plantation, FL. The Festival runs from 9am - 6pm with Main Stage entertainment to 7 pm. The Scottish Festival is an annual educational event, including a wide variety of Scottish cultural activities. This is coupled with a Highland Games, which comprises competitions in bagpiping, drumming, and Scottish athletics with participation by people of all ages, ethnicities and sexes and is not restricted to those of Scottish heritage.

Plantation Heritage Park, centrally located for residents of Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties, will be transformed into an exciting exhibition of Scottish culture with Pipe Band and Heavy Athletics competition, Scottish Country Dancing, Highland Dancing, Scottish rock and folk singing, fiddling, craft demonstrations, sheep dog trials, military re-enactments, and Clan & Society heritage displays.

Great entertainment

The Scottish Festival provides two performance stages, as well as featuring pipe band performances on the Main Field. The Main Stage, hosts our headlining contemporary Celtic-Rock acts featuring traditional instruments such as the bagpipe, fiddle, and bodhran. The internationally recognized Celtic Rock band from Canada, The MudMen, will return as headliner for the 2020 Festival.

The Piper Jones Band, a high-energy trio with bagpipe, bouzouki, and drums, perform both traditional songs and tunes from Scotland, Ireland, and Appalachia. They will also give presentation/demonstrations on the history of the bagpipe and Scottish step-dancing. The City of Dunedin Pipe Band, 2018 winner of the World Pipe Band Championship Grade Two Pipe Band and subsequently elevated in rank to the United States' *only* Grade One Pipe Band, will also return as the host pipe band.

The Heritage Stage offers performance of traditional Scottish songs and fiddle tunes by the MacLanzon Lassies, a local fiddle ensemble of sisters, as well as historical presentations by . Our Dance Pavilion will showcase Highland dances accompanied by bagpipe. Scottish Country Dance demonstrations will also take place in the Dance Pavilion with members from the local Scottish Country Dance Group. We will again have a "massed" ceilidh/ party dance on the Main Field - inviting all to come onto the field to dance. We hope to top previous years' participation of over 120 people dancing a simple Scottish circle dance of welcome.

Pipe & Drum competitions and performances take place throughout the Festival day with individuals competing in piping and drumming events, as well as pipe band competitions. A highlight of every Festival is the thrilling exhibition of massed pipe bands moving and performing in formation at the Welcome & Closing Ceremonies. In 2019 we had 11 pipe bands on the Main Field



accompanied by members of over 24 Clans and Societies, making for an unforgettable spectacle. Four of the participating pipe bands are from the immediate South Florida area, with two based in Ft. Lauderdale, the Fort Lauderdale Highlanders and the Police Pipe & Drum Corps of Florida.

A wee taste of Scotland

Storytelling comes alive in the Heritage tent and nearby historical encampments. Festival favorite Trixie Billings shares Scottish and Celtic myths, fairytales and history through vivid storytelling. A Living History encampment, featuring the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment re- enactment group, portrays the Regiment as it would have appeared in the 1760s-1790s. Our Clan 'Village' hosts Scottish-American representatives of various Scottish Clans displaying artifacts, books, posters, etc. on their respective Clan histories, while dressed in traditional Clan garb. Many clans offer assistance to those seeking to research their family history and potential connections to Scottish Clans.

Professionally trained Scottish Border Collie sheep [and duck!] herding demonstrations, provided by the Craigmalloch Border Collies are a perennial crowd favorite. Scottish food, drink and merchandise will be on sale.



An area of Children's activities immerses them in Scottish culture through dress up, coloring, child appropriate athletics and a passport game that guides them around the heritage displays. Come on out for a wee taste of Scotland – without the jetlag. Be sure to bring your own 'clan' of family & friends! This is a rain or shine event.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the gate. Children 6-14 are \$3. Tickets include parking and park entry free. Advanced tickets available online at: www.sassf.org

70 years of record collecting donated to the nation

he National Library of Scotland has received the final tranche of a collection of more than 10,000 sound recordings from music enthusiast, William Dean-Myatt. A record collector based in the West Midlands, Mr Dean-Myatt amassed his collection over a 70-year period. From an initial interest in jazz, his special interest in 78s of Scottish music stemmed from the music played by his relatives in Scotland. His research resulted in his book, The Scottish Vernacular Discography 1888-1960.

Mr Dean-Myatt said: "I have always been bemused as to why Scotland did not have a sound archive that recorded the commercial vernacular music of Scotland, rather than high art music. I want the collection to be heard and used by people in Scotland to listen and learn about historic Scotlish music. By donating my collection to the National Library of Scotland, I am hoping it will be the foundation for something bigger and better."

Scottish music

The Library's Sound Collections Curator, Alistair Bell said: "Most of our collection of 78s comes from the Dean-Myatt Collection. What we have so far has been catalogued, and we're digitising the recordings at the moment with a view to making them available online. Soon everyone will be able to access the fruits of Mr Dean-Myatt's lifetime hobby."



The final instalment of the donation is approximately 7,500 shellac discs, adding to the 3,000 sound recordings already at the Library – mostly made up of shellac records, but also including vinyl, cassette tapes and a small number of wax cylinders. The majority of the shellac records are mass-produced commercial copies, but the collection also includes a number of rare and unique items. It includes Scottish music of various genres: Gaelic songs, recordings of the Scottish music hall, Border songs, fiddle and bagpipe music and dialect sketches. Artists represented in the collection include

Jimmy Shand, James Scott Skinner, Harry Gordon, Harry Lauder, Bob Smith, Tony Capaldi, Willie Kemp, Peter Wyper and Heloise Russell-Ferguson.



Images: Richard Booth