



44

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# the Scottish Banner

*A' Bhratach Albannach*

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**the  
Scottish Banner**

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**The Banner Says...**

# For the love of the Games



*by Sean Cairney*

Friendship, music, community, family, dance, clans, entertainment, knowledge, pipe bands, culture, tartan - these are just some of the words that come into my mind when I think of Highland Games. I have been attending Highland Games across the world for many decades, and to say they are a part of my life would be an understatement.

I have memories of travelling across many roads or flights to get to Scottish celebrations somewhere and have made a living out of attending or being associated with Highland Games across the globe. I have friends and neighbours who are often amazed to hear I am off to places they may have never heard of to celebrate Scotland, and this happens across the year, and something that is replicated around the world.

**A proud tradition**

It is said the first Highland Games to happen occurred when King Malcolm III summoned local men to race in Braemar in 1040 to find the quickest royal messengers. Today of course you can find Highland Games all across the world and whilst we are fortunate to have email to get our messages out quickly, the Games today are a proud tradition enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people a year.

Modern day Highland Games still can include sporting feats but also highlight pipe bands, Scottish dance, music, Clans, genealogy and probably most importantly friendship.



Val and Jim Cairney with the first ever edition coming off the press in 1976.

Scotland must be quite unique in the amount of cultural celebrations taking place across the world, celebrating the land of peoples heritage and forebearers. These events are a great platform to not only celebrate all that is great about Scotland, but also a chance for competitions to take place and for many to connect with their 'kith and kin'.

**Honour and celebrate Highland Games**

Sadly, due to Covid-19 large scale events cannot take place just now and this has been devastating to the Highland Games communities across the globe. For some going to a Highland Games each year was their only time to connect to their ancestry or was part of their family's tradition. To not have Highland Games taking place certainly leaves a void for so many facets of the Scottish community.

Some Scottish events are showing incredible resilience by still running some type of program online or finding other ways to connect people as they plan a return in 2021.

So many people have worked countless hours, mainly voluntary, to work on their 2020 event, only to find it has had to be cancelled. It is this work we want to highlight with this issue as we hear from a variety of Games from across the world and honour and celebrate what they do for our community. The Highland Games will be back, and our love of them will continue.

**In this issue**

Regardless of Covid-19 life must carry on. The way many live or work has changed but we continue to function in a new way. This is of course true for those that look after Scotland's historic and heritage properties. Inside and out these national treasures require dedicated staff to keep on maintaining these landmarks, so we can all go back to them when it is safe to do so. Scotland is fortunate to have organisations such as the National Trust for Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland managing properties across the country and safekeeping Scotland's history and heritage.

Speaking of historic properties, I was fortunate to visit Culzean Castle under a blue sunny May sky a few years ago. This allowed me to not only enjoy inside the incredible hilltop castle, but also get around the amazing grounds that surrounds this stunning castle by the edge of the sea. It is certainly one of the treasures of Ayrshire, has featured on the back of a Royal Bank of Scotland five-pound note and is home to Clan Kennedy. The castle has historical importance on both sides of the Atlantic and has been home to clan chiefs and US Presidents.

As Scottish summer is now coming into full swing the cobblestones and closes of the Royal Mile should be filled with tourists and locals enjoying the long Scottish days and preparing for the world to descend for the Edinburgh Festival season. This however is 2020 and nothing is as we knew it before with large events such as the Edinburgh Festival, Tattoo and Fringe all cancelled. However, we will visit again, and we take you to some great places in Edinburgh's actual fringe which you can add to your bucket list the next time you land in the Scottish capital.

This month we also speak to Donald MacLaren of MacLaren. The MacLaren has been a Clan Chief for over 50 years and has an incredible knowledge of not just his clan but also Scotland's clans and history. The MacLaren is the Convener of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and outlines how not all Scottish families are clans, a notion some readers may not be familiar with.

**Celebrating 44 years**

This month is also our birthday! 44 years ago, the very first edition of *the Scottish Banner* rolled off the press. At that time there was nothing like it in the market, and this was long before the internet and social media was used for information. The fact a publication started by my parents all those years ago is still going in 2020, is quite an achievement.

Today's media landscape you could not have even imagined back in the 1970s and readers across several countries was never considered then. So, thank you Val and Jim Cairney for having a vision and making *the Scottish Banner* a reality, one that went beyond what was expected and one I hope honours both of you with each page we print today.

***Do you love attending Highland Games? Or have you any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at: www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner***

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***We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.***



Gracing our front cover:  
*The love of the Highland Games.*  
Photo courtesy of Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games.

# The world's only rotating boat lift gets an MOT



The Falkirk Wheel was drained earlier this year of water as annual maintenance works got underway to ensure the world's only rotating boat lift keeps on turning. The works, which runs at the beginning of each year, saw a Scottish Canals' engineering team carry out a programme of inspections, maintenance and replacements covering everything from the structure's mechanical and electrical systems to its surrounding infrastructure.

## Unique feat of engineering

Richard Millar, Director of Infrastructure at Scottish Canals, said: "The Falkirk Wheel is an incredible and unique feat of engineering as well as one of Scotland's top tourism attractions and it's essential we carry out regular maintenance to ensure it

continues to operate safely for many years to come. Throughout February, our team inspects, repairs and replaces many of the thousands of individual components that make up this amazing fusion of art and engineering, from the tiny nuts and bolts of its electric motors to the gates of its gigantic gondolas. It's an epic undertaking that ensures the world's only rotating boat lift is ready to offer a revolutionary experience to visitors from all over the world come March."

The project involves The Wheel being drained of water in order to replace the major mechanical and hydraulic parts within the gates of its gondolas. The basin and aqueduct were also drained to allow further inspection of the supporting infrastructure, such as the pumps and sluices, and dredging along their length.

## One of Scotland's busiest tourist attractions

Transforming the contaminated site of a former tar works, The Falkirk Wheel opened in 2002 and replaced a flight of 11 locks that once stepped the Union Canal down to the level of the Forth & Clyde, more than 100 feet below. Whereas weary travellers once had a day's heavy work opening and closing 44 lock gates to complete the journey between the two canals, The Falkirk Wheel allows vessels to transit between the two waterways very quickly. When one gondola is lowered, the opposite one rises. The vast, 1800 tonne boat lift moves boats 35 metres into the air in a matter of minutes.

Now one of Scotland's busiest tourist attractions, The Falkirk Wheel attracts around 500,000 visitors each year. The Wheel has transformed Falkirk into a key tourism destination, with visitors traveling from all over the world to marvel at the working sculpture which combines modern engineering and technology with ancient principles set out by Archimedes more than 2000 years ago.

When one of the structure's gondolas is lowered, the opposite one rises, keeping the vast, 1800 tonne boat lift in perfect balance as it carries canal barges 35 metres into the air in a matter of minutes. Incredibly, the structure uses just 1.5kWh – the same power as it would take to boil eight domestic kettles – for each rotation.

**For more information on The Falkirk Wheel see: [www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk](http://www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk)**

## Wallace Monument illuminated in rainbow hues



The National Wallace Monument has been illuminated in the seven colours of the rainbow in a show of solidarity and hope during these dark and difficult days. Standing proud above Stirling, it has taken on this rainbow hue since Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020, joining millions of people who have adopted the rainbow as a symbol of hope and peace during the current pandemic.

The National Wallace Monument commemorates the life and legacy of William Wallace, patriot, martyr and Guardian of Scotland. The attraction, which is managed and operated by Stirling District Tourism Limited, marked its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. The Monument is also offering online educational resources at the moment, with virtual tours, educational videos and an online shop all available to be accessed via the Monument's website: [www.nationalwallacemonument.com](http://www.nationalwallacemonument.com)

# Tartan of the Month

## Skye Terrier Tartan

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).

This tartan (SRT Reference: 12810) was designed to celebrate the history of the Skye Terrier, now a vulnerable breed and one of the oldest terriers in Scotland. Greyfriar's Bobby was a Skye Terrier and was given the freedom of Edinburgh. Colours: black and grey represent the colours of the Skye Terrier and purple, green and orange represents the Isle of Skye. The tartan was designed by Kathleen Smith and registered in April, 2020.



## The Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming

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Zoom Session #2  
July 12-17, 2020

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# 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?

## Robert Burns Statue - Fund Raising Effort



I include an article on an evening held at the Caledonian Ground Dunedin in September 1885 as a fund raiser for the proposed construction of the Robbie Burns Statue. It may be nice for your readers to gain an insight into the fact that people could still enjoy a fun occasion even in those far far distant days. Unfortunately, as a fundraiser the evening proved a total disaster.

The following is an extract from *Cabers and Ceilidhs the 150 Year History of the Caledonian Society of Otago* published in 2012:

In 1879 the idea of a Statue of Robert Burns for Dunedin was first mooted. It was widely expected that the Caledonian Society would take the lead in the movement but no-one approached the Society and the Society didn't volunteer. The Caledonian Ground however was involved with one of the fund raising efforts. This was a Grand Fete by Electric Light which took place in the Evening of Friday September 25<sup>th</sup> 1885.

It turned out to be a total fiasco. For a start the weather was atrocious with a cold wind howling across the ground. Then it was found that the new-fangled Electric Light wasn't the success that had been anticipated. The first item on the

programme was a Highland Fling which, according to the *Otago Daily Times* was not watched with any great amount of interest for the all sufficient reason that it was Danced in the Dark.

Next came a Bicycle Race of which the Spectators saw about as much as they did of the Dancing. After the Race the Light burned brightly for a while and the Footballers who were to play in the Match English vs Scotch entered the arena. The Light then went out. The game itself was shrouded in darkness and the result is shrouded in mystery. The crowd swarmed over the ground and everything was disorder. A number of young folk danced on the green to the inspiring strains of the Bagpipes while other more frolicsome spirits secured a long rope and chased one of our worthy City Fathers in the vain attempt to entangle him in its coils. The rope used for the tug of war was then seized by the crowd but the Committee interfered. After some rough pulling about the Police were called to their assistance and the crowd gradually dispersed.

The Statute Committee later wrote to the Caledonian Society enclosing a statement of the proceeds of the Fete which, in fact, resulted in a loss. The Society gave a 10 Pound donation.

Scottish activities here have ground to a complete halt and when "normal service" will resume is still anyone's guess.

John Stinson

Christchurch, New Zealand

**Ed note:** Thank you for sharing this and what a wonderful city Dunedin is, and wonderful to see Mr Burns still proudly watching over The Octagon.

Cameron Highlanders. If anyone is interested in the history of the regiment they can go to their Facebook page - New York 79<sup>th</sup> Highlanders (Cameron) C o. D.



Jon Evans  
USA



### Support the Scottish Banner

If people who follow *the Scottish Banner* are serious about enjoying all things Scottish and in particular, what is happening in Australia and around the world, please support *the Scottish Banner*. Like all print media, they need our support to get through this difficult period. It is the best Scottish newspaper in the world by a long margin.

Let's keep it this way by becoming a subscriber.

Thank you in advance.  
Frank McGregor  
Hobart, Tasmania  
Australia

**Ed note:** Thank you very much for the kind comment Frank. Times are challenging and a way people can help us is by purchasing their own copy (print or digital) by subscription or at retail points or encouraging friends and family to do so. Following us on social media also is a great help!

### Skye surfing



My friend I have been loving enjoying most single malts for 50 years and I grew up surfing in New Zealand and spending 9 of first 24 years at Waipu and competed at the Highland Games there for 20 years. There is one thing I have never seen that I would like to and that is surfing on the coast of the Isle of Skye. That would really be a great day for surfing.

Friends of mine were surfing ice floes calving off Canada but that is an easy game, off Skye in winter is man's game. Summer is good for the Jessies.

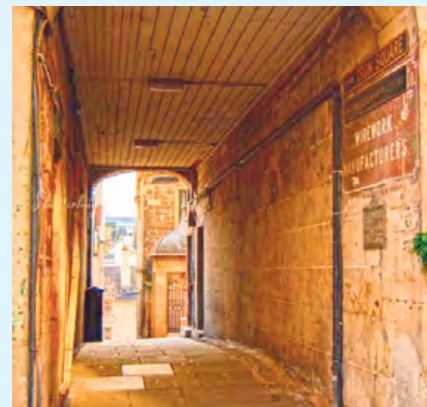
Philip Ballnz  
Auckland, New Zealand

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

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### The Royal Mile



Worth venturing into some of the close's on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh.  
ShutterBug Shots  
Scotland

### Peek a Moo



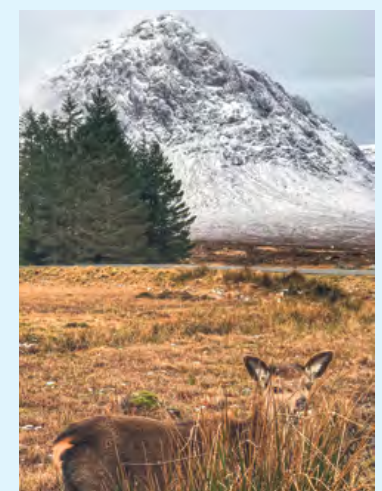
One of my old favourites, Peek a Moo at Stirling Castle.  
Charles McGuigan  
Scotland

### Loch Achray



You do realise, on reflection, that Scotland is utterly beautiful. Protect her.  
Gary Chittick  
Scotland

### Glencoe locals



Hello from Glencoe.  
Robert Gibb  
Scotland

### Loved Scotland

I was so fortunate to spend about two weeks in your beautiful country of Scotland in the 70s. Spent time in Ft. William (could live there), Glen Coe, Inverness, Edinburgh. Absolutely loved it. Wish I could come back, but alas, it probably won't happen!

Mark Tegtman  
Colorado, USA

**Ed note:** Mark as Sean Connery said, never say never!

### Glasgow's Poet Laureate poem for Coronavirus

Glasgow's Poet Laureate has written a new poem for the city, reflecting on the impact of the coronavirus crisis. The Long Bench by Jim Carruth is a quietly evocative exploration of the emotions being felt across the community during these extraordinary times. Partly inspired by the parks for which Glasgow is famous, it touches on the poet's own feelings of temporary exile from the city where he works in the NHS, and on the universal experience of being separated from friends, family and neighbours.

Carruth, who has been Poet Laureate for Glasgow since 2014, wrote the poem while observing social distancing.

### The Long Bench

For the times ahead  
when we will be  
as if at either end  
of the long bench  
where distance kept  
is love's measure  
and death dances  
the space between  
when words alone  
are not enough  
and queued memories  
reach out to touch  
let longing be a store  
of nut and seed  
that grows each day  
in strange hibernation  
readying for its end -  
the sharing of the feast.

Jim Carruth  
Glasgow, Scotland

### The 79<sup>th</sup> Cameron Highlanders

I have a connection to the New York 79<sup>th</sup> Cameron Highlanders an American Civil War Regiment through my great - great uncle General Sherman who was their commanding general. Here I am wearing a replica of the uniform of the New York 79<sup>th</sup>

# Saying it with flowers: Historic Floral Clock's 2020 design pays tribute to NHS and key workers



**W**ork has commenced on this year's Floral Clock - the world's oldest - in Edinburgh's West Princes Street Gardens.

In a change to plans for the clock's 2020 design, the hugely popular landmark will carry a message of thanks from the city to National Health Service (NHS) and key workers and as a tribute to those working so hard through the Covid-19 outbreak. Until April, this year's design was to be a special commemoration of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE). The redesign comes with RBGE's full support and the City of Edinburgh look forward to working with them in the future. The parks team responsible for creating the clock have unveiled their design, which will be a colourful tribute to those who

have kept the city moving as well as their counterparts across the country.

City of Edinburgh Council Leader Adam McVey said: "Our legendary floral clock will be paying tribute to the ongoing hard work of the NHS and key workers who we're so proud of. People love to see the clock every summer and it's undoubtedly one of our Capital's most cherished attractions. My hope is - once it is safe to do so - the clock can be enjoyed by all. Huge thanks to our fantastic parks team who have put together the design and are currently hard at work to realise their vision."

## The oldest of its kind in the world

City of Edinburgh Council Depute Leader Cammy Day added: "The team have excelled themselves once again and I very much looking forward to seeing the final

clock and hope all NHS employees and key workers in Edinburgh will be able to visit and enjoy the floral tribute. We have seen the city working together in many ways and showing great appreciation for NHS and key workers and I would like to thank RBGE for forgoing their celebration this year and look forward to working with them in the future."

The Floral Clock was first created in 1903 by then Edinburgh Parks Superintendent, John McHattie, and is the oldest of its kind in the world. It initially operated with just an hour hand, with a minute hand added in 1904, followed by a cuckoo clock in 1952. Until 1972 the clock was operated mechanically and had to be wound daily. Since 1946 it has been designed in honour of various organisations and individuals, including the Girl Guides Association, Robert Louis Stevenson and the Queen, for her Golden Jubilee. In the clock's centenary year in 2003 it won a Gold medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. It takes the team of three gardeners six weeks to plant the 35,000-plus flowers and plants used to create the clock, which will be in bloom until October. There will be over 20 different plants included in this year's design including numerous Echeverias, Sedums, Saxifrages and Pyrethrum. Unfortunately, this year it will not be a fully functioning floral clock at first as important parts, due to the ongoing pandemic, are not available.

## Did you know?

- The clock was created in 1903 and is the oldest floral clock in the world.
- It is housed in the plinth of the Allan Ramsay Monument at the north-east corner of West Princes Street Gardens.
- Planting begins in May each year.
- Up to 40,000 plants are used in the design each year (compared to 13,000 in the 1930s; 25,000 in the 1950s).
- 1952 - a cuckoo clock was added and still chimes every 15 minutes.
- 1973 - when the clock began being operated electrically.
- In 1946 the clock began celebrating a different event or anniversary each year.
- 2003 - the clock won a Gold medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.
- Clock circumference: 36 ft.
- Clock width: 11 ft 10 ins.
- Weight of large hand (when filled with plants): 80lbs.
- Weight of small hand (when filled with plants): 50lbs.
- Floral clocks are now distributed worldwide and many were made in Edinburgh, where the idea originated.
- They can be found in India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, United States of America, Canada and many other European countries.



- The Glasgow Subway opened in 1896 and took 6 years to build.
- Glasgow's subway consists only of a circular line.
- Glasgow's underground railway system is the only one in Scotland.
- The subway was originally a cable-hauled system propelled by stationary steam engines and was the first of its kind in the world.
- Glasgow Subway is the third oldest subway in the world after London and Budapest, services 15 stations - or 10.4 kilometres - in 24 minutes.
- The Outer Circle, which runs clockwise through each of the fifteen stations and the Inner circle which runs anti-clockwise through each of the fifteen stations.

- In Glasgow it is rarely referred to as "The Underground", locals preferring to call it "The Clockwork Orange", "The Subway" or "The Shooglies". To "shoogle" is to rock from side to side.
- Glasgow sub-crawl is a pub crawl via the city's underground. Doing Glasgow's sub-crawl means a pint near all 15 of the city's metro stations, if you can!



## No Games This Summer!



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# SCOTSPEAK

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

***"As patron of the Scottish Highland Games Association and someone who has had the joy of attending Highland Games and Gatherings since my childhood, it is incredibly sad and frustrating to hear that due to the current health pandemic most, if not all, games will be cancelled this summer. We must do our utmost in this most difficult of times to keep the Games alive in our hearts and spirits."***

Prince Charles has said he is sad and frustrated to learn that most, if not all, of Scotland's traditional Highland Games are to be cancelled for 2020 due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Events across Scotland, including the Braemar Gathering which is traditionally attended by the Royal Family, have joined the list of Scottish events cancelled across Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.



***"We are really excited to be working in Dundee. It is a vibrant city with big ambitions, and we hope to be able to create something that encapsulates its unique appeal. The opening of the city's V&A in 2018 was a bold statement of intent and we want to be part of the next wave, helping establish Dundee as a truly world-class destination. The city was traditionally known for its 'jute, jam and journalism', to which we would hope to add some joy, jubilation and, if not an actual jungle, at least the spirit that enabled us to build one under cover in an abandoned quarry in Cornwall."***

David Harland, Chief Executive of Eden Project International, said the Eden Project is to begin work on a feasibility study for a proposed new project in Dundee. The proposal – provisionally known as Eden Project Scotland – is part of Eden's portfolio of international projects which also includes developments in China, Australia, New Zealand and Costa Rica as well as UK projects. Like every Eden Project around the world, Eden Project Scotland will be transformational and regenerative with an overarching theme of humanity's connection to the natural world.

***"While not medical grade, the masks are ideal for casual use and provide a barrier which brings a real source of comfort for many people worried about contracting coronavirus while out in public. I was keen to produce something to help the deaf community and the designs have been well received."***

Gavin McAdam of Edinburgh based Breathe Easy said as the company launched the world's first face masks for the deaf community which enable sight of mouth for lip-reading. The lip-reading facemask is uniquely designed with a clear plastic covering over the lip area so lip readers can communicate.



***"I can see nothing especially 'new' about this new submission. The previous application was turned down by Highland Council***

***because it wasn't sufficiently sensitive to the surrounding woodland, and undermined the Conservation Area. While the 2020 application appears to suggest additional landscaping, quite frankly I can't otherwise see much difference from the preceding 2018 submission. Our 2018 objection was based on four main issues: protection, conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of the key historic landscape characteristics, particularly in the context of the Conservation Area; the scale of the development and its impact on woodland; the possibility of 'development creep' changing current land use; and, the possible precedent this would set thereby encouraging more developers to try their luck. Nothing in this fresh application alleviates any of these concerns. To be clear, we do not object to every planning application that comes forward around Culloden. Where changes to existing buildings or land do not result in a visual impact, change of use or materially extend the 'footprint', we tend not have concerns. Unfortunately, in this case, from what we have seen, our objection would be fully justified."***

Clea Warner, the National Trust for Scotland's General Manager for the Highlands & Islands said that Scotland's largest conservation charity has signalled its intent to oppose a new attempt to develop TreeTop Stables, Faebue, Culloden Moor as a holiday complex. The Trust owns a key part of the battlefield of Culloden but not the land on which the stables are built. Nevertheless, the charity has raised its voice in the past against developments which threatened the integrity of the wider historic battlefield, which ranged over a large area on 16 April 1746, and its setting. The Battle of Culloden was the final confrontation

of the Jacobite rising of 1745 and the last pitched battle fought on British soil. On 16 April 1746, the Jacobite forces of Prince Charles Edward Stuart were decisively defeated by Government troops on Culloden Moor.

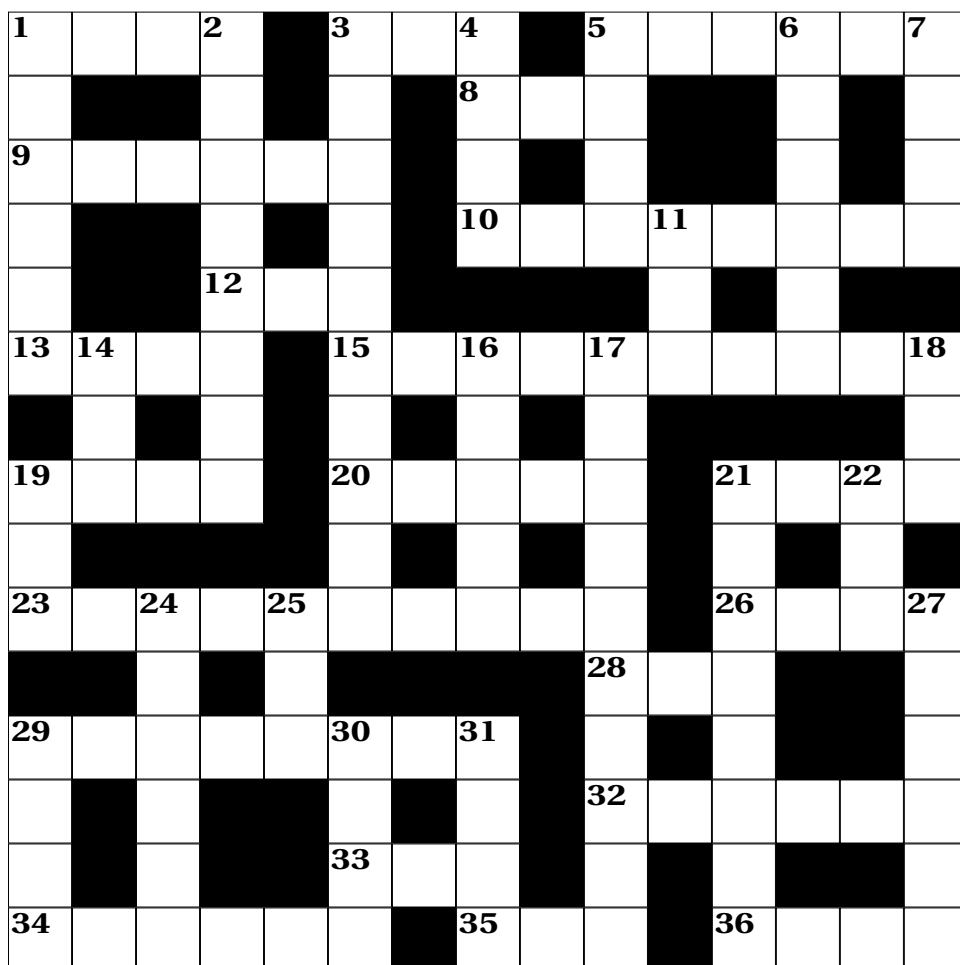


***"We work every night to keep the railway open and running efficiently for key workers and essential journeys. Projects like this will benefit even more passengers when lockdown is lifted and we begin to move towards a new kind of normal. Any project on a historic and iconic structure like the Tay Bridge is always a pleasure, but it presents its own problems due to its unique design and location."***

***Being open to the elements over the Firth of Tay is unpredictable in itself even when the work is during the summer months. Working in a confined location, such as on a bridge, also presents a logistical challenge in normal times but we now have the additional element of ensuring physical distancing, where possible."***

Grant Ritchie, works delivery manager for Network Rail, said as work has begun to replace more than 1200 sleepers on the Tay Bridge. Some of the base-plates date back to the early 1960s and the project will extend the life of the 2 mile long railway track between Dundee and Fife.

## SCOTWORD



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

### CLUES ACROSS:

- 1) Scottish fuel (4).
- 3) A Scots bread roll (3).
- 5) Dark purple plum (6).
- 8) Whichever (3).
- 9) Pertaining to Scotland's "anthem" (6).
- 10) Scotland's top islands (8).
- 12) Distress call (3).
- 13) Over hasty (4).
- 15) A drinking hole! (10).
- 19) Tattie's partner (4).
- 20) A hopeful glow! (5).
- 21) Scotland's fastest river (4).
- 23) Old vessels (10).
- 26) Blairgowrie's berry (4).
- 28) A starter at St Andrews (3).
- 29) Mrs Brown! (8).
- 32) A dram of about a gill (6).
- 33) Always in Scotland (3).
- 34) Annual festival (6).
- 35) Bottom of the class! (3).
- 36) Male red deer (4).

### CLUES DOWN:

- 1) Para Handy's craft (6).
- 2) Village (8).
- 3) January 25th (5,5).
- 4) Scottish conical hills (4).
- 5) Scots stone wall (4).
- 6) Wrench a joint (6).
- 7) Necessity (4).
- 11) Dancers point it (3).
- 14) Loch near Dalmailly (3).
- 16) She's kin (5).
- 17) They give final reports (10).
- 18) Farmer's gathering! (3).
- 19) Scotch measure (3).
- 21) Requirement of a heavy! (8).
- 22) Printer's measures (3).
- 24) Perth's two measures! (6).
- 25) In the past (3).
- 27) Measure of 26 Across (6).
- 29) Scots valley (4).
- 30) At Hampden it's loud! (4).
- 31) Stretch of territory (4).

## Change of instructors for Balmoral online

Due to a troublesome Internet connection, Andrew Carlisle will replace Terry Tully for Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming's 2020 summer school Zoom sessions. All three of our acclaimed instructors have incomparable records of teaching and promoting pipe music around the world. Week #1 will run from July 5-10. Week 2 will run July 12-17.

Originally from Northern Ireland, now a resident of Pittsburgh, Andrew Carlisle has won numerous top awards: A Grade Strathspey and Reel at Oban, the A Grade Piobaireachd & Overall at The Cowal Highland Gathering, US Gold Medals for both Light Music & Piobaireachd, and three All-Ireland titles at Senior level. He's 3-time winner of the Macallan Trophy at Lorient, Brittany, France. Andrew holds the prestigious positions of Professor of Music and Director of Piping at Carnegie Mellon University.

From Hamilton Scotland, Robert Mathieson is a composer of pipe music, as well as an award-winning Pipe Major. He served as pipe major of the Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band of North Lanarkshire, Scotland, from 1986 to 2010. The band won 30 major championships under Mathieson's leadership and was a 5-time winner of the World Pipe Band Championships.

### The Balmoral experience is community

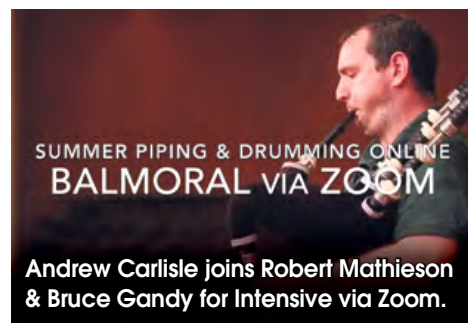
Bruce Gandy was a member of the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band when they were the first non-Scottish pipe band to win the World Pipe Band Championships in 1987. His solo awards include the Canadian Gold Medal, Gold Medal at the

Northern Meeting, Gold Medal at Oban, and Bratach Gorm. He is a 3-time winner of the MacCrimmon Memorial Cairn for Piobaireachd and is a Vancouver Indoor 6-Time Metro Cup Winner.

Summer drumming instructor and head of Balmoral's drumming program, Gordon Bell, a EUSPBA Overall Champion from 1979-1987, has over 30 years experience instructing drummers. Bell is a veteran of many top Grade One Pipe Bands.

In virtual classes of five or fewer, students will receive instruction on the Great Highland pipes, Scottish smallpipes, snare, tenor drum and bass drum. Balmoral will also offer social hours or "mixers" via Zoom, in which students can discuss topics related to piping and drumming, or just get to know each other. A big part of the Balmoral experience is community. Even in our virtual schools, our students will have the opportunity to network, as well as to make friends who share a common interest in piping and drumming. Tech help will be made available for those not familiar with Zoom.

For full details see: [www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org](http://www.balmoralschoolofpiping.org)



## Christie's to offer Mary Queen of Scots' prayer book



The prayer book of Mary Queen of Scots. Estimate: £250,000-£350,000. Photo: Christie's.

Mary Queen of Scots' prayer book will be offered as part of Christie's Classic Week's Old Master Group Evening Sale, being held live in London on July 29 (estimate: £250,000-£350,000). An unpublished witness to the brilliant patronage of a powerful woman in 16<sup>th</sup>-century France, the prayer book is illuminated and decorated with an impressive cycle of 40 miniatures painted with the utmost subtlety by the Master of François de Rohan, one of the most sought-after artists of the court of King Francis I (r. 1515-1547). This sale presents a rare opportunity for collectors to acquire a significant addition in terms of the limited number of illuminated manuscripts that can be directly connected to Mary Stuart.

The manuscript was conceived, written, and lavishly illuminated for Louise de Bourbon-Vendôme, abbess and head of

the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud (1534-1575). Louise entered Fontevraud as a baby and took the robe at the age of 15. In 1521, she became its great prioress and on Oct. 23, 1534, Louise's aunt, Renée de Bourbon, lying on her deathbed, designated her to succeed as abbess.

### One of the most intriguing figures in Scottish and European history

Between 1558 and 1561, the manuscript was given by Louise de Bourbon to her grand-niece Mary Stuart, who left a signed token of their mutual affection on one of the end leaves, along with her monogram and her motto, at a time when the Queen of Scots had already become Queen of France. The inscription in Mary's hand reads: "Puis que voules qu'issi me ramentoive en vos prieres et devotes oraisons / Je vous requiers premier qu'il vous soviene quele part avés en mes affections." She signs it with her anagrammatic motto 'VA TU MERITERAS' and monogram "MΦ" (a variation based on the initial M of Mary and phonetic initial Φ of her husband Francis II).

Eugenio Donadoni, Christie's specialist in medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, London, comments, "This is a fleetingly rare opportunity to acquire a lavishly illustrated royal prayer book that was owned and affectionately inscribed by one of the most intriguing figures in Scottish and European history: Mary Stuart, at a time when the Queen of Scots had already become Queen of France and was soon to meet her tragic fate."

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# The Scottish Banner speaks to Donald MacLaren of MacLaren and Achleskine, Chief of Clan MacLaren



**As the Convenor of the Standing Council of Chiefs, can you tell us what the organisation does and your role in it?**

The Standing Council was originally set up in 1951, it was a very small group of chiefs at the beginning. The role then was just to sort of consider what the chief's position was and how to interact with government, the media, and the

public to exchange opinions about how to develop clan societies. So, from those small beginnings, it has developed to a membership of over 100. It represents quite a wide variety of the heads of both clans and families, because not all Scottish names are clan names, but we come together as chiefs for those who have been recognised by the Lord Lyon. We are at a stage now where we are looking to see if we can become more active in Scottish society because there's so much interest in clans, clan societies, clan activities, and particularly what the clans can do in their local communities.

This is where we are working quite actively with the Scottish Government, who have made available various grants that they call the Scottish Clan Events Fund. Several clans have taken advantage of these funds for events ranging from support for Highland Games, charitable events, support for local schools, community gatherings and that sort of thing. It is a very useful pool, as it actually forces the chiefs and their clan societies to think about what their role is in the wider community and how to take advantage of the interest and support that there is from the Scottish Government.

In the future we are hoping to get involved in more charitable purposes, but for that we need to build up quite a good chunk of capital, so we are looking at ways at which we might do that.

The Standing Council of Chiefs does not have a particularly formal role, but as a forum for such a wide range of chiefs, it is an excellent meeting place. It is also an excellent way in which ideas can be exchanged and how the experiences of the individual clans and family associations can be compared, so that we can continue to be not only visible, which is important to our kindred, but also active. As Convenor, I am trying to channel this activity and these ideas into something that can make an even more dynamic impact on modern Scotland.

**Some people may have an historical image of a Clan chief being a wild Highlander swinging a claymore. What do you feel a role of the clan chief in 21<sup>st</sup> century Scotland is today?**

The first duty is to your kinsmen and to be there. There are clans, societies or family associations who are very proud of their name and of their history, but either don't have a chief that's yet been recognised or they have a chief who is remote, not particularly interested in acting as the father figure, because that's what it is. What a chief is whether it is a family or a clan, is just like the head of the family. It is up to the chief how visible they should be.

It is always a two-way process, just as it was in the past. The chief is there to represent the interests of his or her clansmen, in return for their support and their loyalty. Now, in the old days that came down to blood and guts and the chief was expected with his own family to be in the forefront of battle, but always to have the kindred at his side. Nowadays, there is not physically the battle, but the chief is still expected to be visible if there are clan events, if there are members of the clan coming from overseas to visit the clan lands. It is incumbent on the chief to be there to welcome them to be a visible presence.

It is hard to define it in exact terms, there is no rulebook for chief's, it's very much down to the individual's personality, to their style and how much time they think they can make available. Obviously, you cannot be on duty 24 hours a day. In my case I happen to live in the heartland of the Clan MacLaren in Balquhider in Perthshire. I am very lucky still to be in my own clan territory, as there are not so many chiefs in that position. It does mean that I can be minding my own business at 8:13 morning, munching my toast and having a cup of tea, and then a group of MacLaren's will arrive at the door and say, "Is this where the chief lives?" And I say "Right, time for a dram!"

Ideally the chief should make themselves available to their kindred and another very important thing is for the chiefs to actually know their story. So, if you are the head of a borders' family or a chief of a Highland clan, you should know as much as possible about your

history because you will always be asked questions. People can look at the internet or read books and so on, but to hear the story from the chief themselves makes quite a difference. There are so many different versions of history, it is a mixture of fact and legends and stories retold, there is quite a lot of misinformation out there.

It is important for the chief to separate fact from fiction, where you can. There is nothing wrong with a good story, but some things have been embellished too far.

Coming back to what I mentioned with the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, we should act in a role of guidance. So, it is with the individual chiefs and that they are seen by their kinsmen as indeed the head of the family or the chief, someone they can look up to with a feeling of respect. They are showing respect to their name, they are making the effort to come back to their own clan territory, and it is only right that they should be able to meet their chief. And that completes their story.

**You became chief at the very tender age of 11, can you briefly tell us just what that was like?**

I was made aware that Scotland was important, that the Clan MacLaren was important, and that being a chief was important from a young age. As a child you can just sort of imbibe this stuff. Again, no rules or rulebook on how to do this.

I learnt an awful lot from my parents, and I could see them in action, how they welcomed kinsman, whether from home or overseas. My mother wrote the history of the clan and so I was very fortunate to have that information at my disposal when I was older. The main thing that I learnt was that however I went about being chief after my father died, was that I should never lose sight of how important it was. There is a big responsibility on the chief to inherit these duties and they are invisible, but it is all to do with kinship.

It is a two-way process, the chief is head of the family and he should command the respect of his kinsmen, but he needs to earn that, it is not automatic. In return, there is the support and the loyalty and the enthusiasm of people who in some cases live tens of thousands of miles away. It is not about the individual necessarily, the individual is important, but it is about the bigger clan or family story. This weight of commitment that the kinsman display is built on layers and generations and just because it is the 21<sup>st</sup> century, does not make it less important than when we were all living together in a relatively small glen.

The Scots are very fortunate in this because it is not really replicated in any other part of the world. Of course, there have been tribal systems, clan systems in other countries in Europe and much further afield. In Scotland there has been a natural preservation of the sense of kindred, it is now expressed in terms of clan societies. But an awful lot of attention is being paid to the history, both written and oral. That coupled with pride in the name and identification of the name and territory. This comes together and it



enables the Scots to be able to see through the fog, quite often of a mistaken history, and say right this is where we came from, or this is where my chief still lives. These are the sites of real importance to us. This is the name that I am proud of. These people are complete strangers to me, but until recently I had no idea that they were my cousins. So, it is still a dynamic process as people are making the connections simply because they have that original bond of kinship. And I think that is a fantastic thing. It is certainly the case in Scotland, and I think it is growing in strength.

**You know how to play the bagpipes. Can you tell us how you got into piping? Are you still piping? And if you are, do you have a favourite piping tune?**

I started learning when I went away to school when I was 12. I had a very good teacher; he had been one of the Queen's pipers at Balmoral. Unfortunately, his name was MacGregor, but we could not do much about that! He often remarked on the curiosity of how a MacGregor should be teaching in MacLaren how to play the pipes. That is where I learned and played with the school band and then again at university. And since then I have not joined a band, but I do play occasionally on my own.

**I was made aware that Scotland was important, that the Clan MacLaren was important, and that being a chief was important from a young age.**

I have a set of pipes which was presented to me by my clan when I came of age when I was 18, and I am very proud to play them.

My favourite type of pipe music is piobaireachd, and my favourite would be an unusual tune called *The Kings Taxes*. It is not hugely difficult, but it is quite an intricate piobaireachd tune and with a great melody and great variations in it. My favourite March is one I composed; a 6/8 March called *Salute to the Captain of Clan Ranald on the Occasion of his 80th Birthday*. The Captain of Clan Ranald was a great friend of my father and I was invited to come along to his 80<sup>th</sup> celebrations and I thought it was only right that I should compose a tune.

**The Council of Standing Chiefs was instrumental in bringing a Splash of Tartan to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2017 and to Sydney in 2019. How proud were you to be marching with your clan members and other clan members at such a world class event?**

It is a terrific opportunity for all. Congratulations to Brigadier David Allfrey for having the vision to incorporate this aspect. This introduction of the clan element and the march onto the Esplanade just reminds people of where we are from and who we are, and it gives people a chance to rally under their chief's standard.

I am very proud to have led my own kinsmen at the Splash of Tartan in Edinburgh, we had a terrific turnout both from home and overseas. In Sydney we had even more MacLaren's than were in Edinburgh, so I am very pleased about that.

**Scots overseas are strongly linked to their family name. How important is it for the clan to have active chapters internationally?**

It is essential, in the days when the clan lived together in its own territory there was no need for any extra layers. The clan was one big unit, a socio economic and military unit. It had its chieftains and it had its chief. But with emigration, which in our case started in the Middle Ages, our glen was not big enough to sustain the practice of dividing and subdividing the land. Emigration was going on from the thirteen hundred onwards.

In modern times, especially when there are very few of the clan living in their own territory, having a clan society or a family association is essential to ensure that there will be events that are properly organised and that information can be shared. Any chief is very dependent on the activities of that society or association. We depend on the society and the office bearers who give a huge amount of time, and do it purely voluntarily, to make sure that the sense of identity and the communication within the clan remains.

**Some clans, Scottish groups, clubs, societies are seeing a decline in membership. Is there anything that you are doing, you want to be doing or you want to engage to get younger people coming up the ranks to keep Clan membership robust?**

I think it is happening naturally. There is so much interest in Scotland and so much interest in clanship and family identity that I have noticed, even compared to say 20 or 30 years ago, that when I go to Highland Games both in Scotland and overseas, there are more and more younger members of families turning up.

It is not just crusty old gentlemen in their 60s hobbling around on sticks. Whole families turn out with children and they will go to the expense of buying a kilt and getting themselves kitted out. They are very proud of their name and that seeps down increasingly to younger members of society. I think that it is a question of time. I mean, someone who is trying to carve out a career for themselves in their 20s or 30s or early 40s will necessarily find it difficult to go whizzing around and attending Highland Games. They are trying to bring up a young family of their own. And it is not surprising that very often the clan society will draw strength from people who have got past that peak of activities and maybe they are in their 50s or 60s.

As people get older now, they are getting younger anyway, I was just talking to someone recently and said "You know, I am getting pretty old now, I am 65", but I do not feel particularly old. But maybe 30 years ago, a 65-year-old person would be quite old. I think our generation are very lucky because for whatever reason, we're lasting a little longer.

Obviously, it is important for a society to be attractive to young people. It is not so easy in the way we are talking about things that are not exactly computer games

standard history, tales of the past, kinship is a rather abstract concept. But people can be proud of something, whatever age they are. It is incumbent on the parents to tell their children about where they come from, what their identity is, what they are to be proud of. And the children are ready to lap it up, so I am very optimistic about the future. I think as long as there is an active and respectful relationship between chief and kindred and the chief works well with an active and competent clan society, then there's no reason why the name cannot continue getting stronger and stronger, even in completely different circumstances from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and getting stronger down through the ages. So, I am very optimistic.

**Do you have any message for a reader who is not yet part of their clan?**

If you have a name and you think this is of interest, then it's not that difficult to find out who your chief is, and where your clan society is. Just turn out to a Highland Games and see what they are like, if it is of interest, take a bit of literature and then make your own mind up.

But there is a wider message and that is people should not feel they need to rush like lemmings to find a clan home for themselves. There is there is a distinction between clans and families, and not every Scottish name is a clan name. Even if you have a chief, having a chief does not necessarily mean they are chief of a clan. Clan is a Gaelic concept, a Highland concept geographically, and of all the Scottish names it is not a case of the clans being superior and the families

being inferior or not as good. There are more famous, more resonant names in Scottish history that are not clan names. There is something very romantic and brilliant about them and people are very taken with clanship. But there is a mistake being made it is like a new romanticism, people are critical of the 19<sup>th</sup> century romances, we are going through a new wave of it now. And the risk is that people make the mistake that they think 'I must be a member of a clan'. Not at all, you can be just as proud and be belong to just as proud of a kinship, which is a Scottish family. Here is an example, one of the most, perhaps the most resonant names in Scottish history is Bruce. The Bruce's are quite clear they are not a clan, but a family. And the Chief of the Bruce's, Andrew Elgin, the Earl of Elgin, says when he goes to Highland Games and he sees people parading around saying Clan Bruce, he says; "Take that down. We are not a clan. We should be proud to be a family!"

And that that is a very important message I think that people should get. It just so happens to be there is a relatively limited number of clans, Gaelic origin, usually Highlands and islands and who can identify themselves as having been a historic kindred group together as a socio economic and military community independent not just part of another group. So that rather narrows it down, but those are the Highland clans and there are plenty of other Scottish names that are just as proud and for just as good a reason.

**For more details on the Clan MacLaren Society see: [www.clanmaclarensociety.com](http://www.clanmaclarensociety.com) For more details on the Standing Council of Chiefs see: [www.clanchiefs.org.uk](http://www.clanchiefs.org.uk)**

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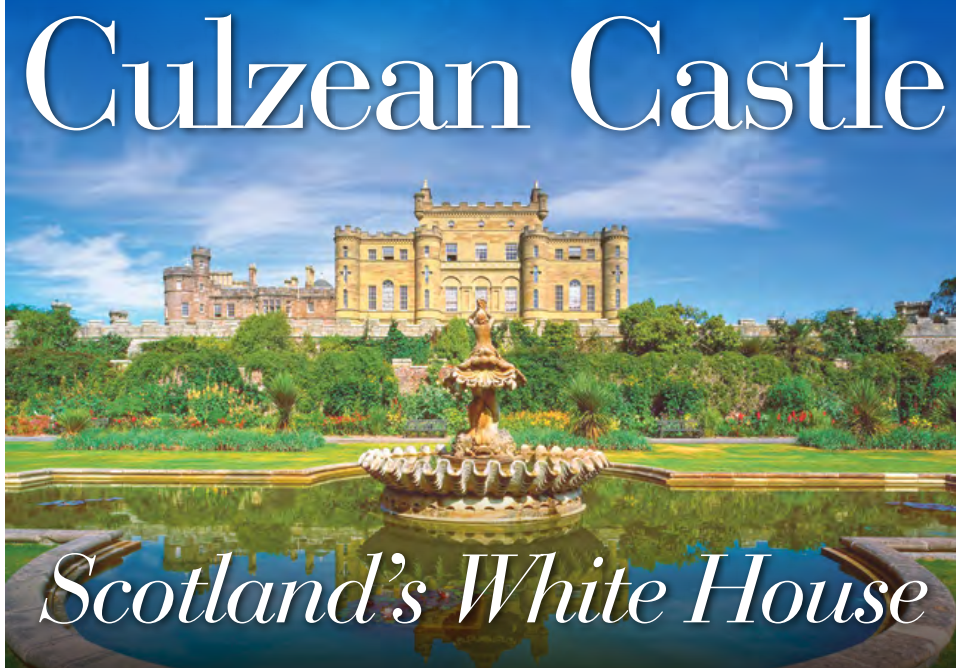
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***Perched on the Ayrshire hillside sits Culzean Castle, home to Clan Kennedy, and surrounded by luscious gardens and water views. Culzean Castle dates back to 1569, and has a rich history which spans the Atlantic as Nick Draine explains.***

It is the White House of Scotland, a stately castle perched on a rugged cliff top which has been home to clan chiefs and US Presidents. This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Culzean Castle being given to the National Trust for Scotland by the Marquess of Ailsa, the chief of Clan Kennedy. But there was one important condition to the deal - that US President Dwight Eisenhower had the use of the top floor suite of rooms. This gesture of Scottish thanks for America's support during World War II still evokes memories of a golden age for Culzean, which is one of the Scotland's best architectural gems as well as once being a home to the great and the good.

#### Scottish hometown

Gareth Clingan, the National Trust for Scotland's Operations Manager at Culzean Castle and Country Park, agreed that "Culzean was effectively the White House in Scotland" for a period of time. He said:



Eisenhower at Culzean.

"It was in 1945 that the Marquess of Ailsa gave Culzean Castle to the National Trust for Scotland. He asked that part of the Castle be offered to General Eisenhower, as a thank you from the Scottish people for his wartime achievements as Supreme Commander of Allied forces in Europe. The General lived at Castle four times from 1946, with the first time as President being in September 1959, bringing a whole panoply of White House staff with him, including officers holding the nuclear codes.

Despite that, the President said that, "This is a place I can relax" and loved playing golf in the nearby courses. Eisenhower made it his business to visit nearby Maybole, a place he referred to as his "Scottish hometown". In October 1946 he was given the Freedom of the Burgh and said he would always consider himself "a true Minnieboler, if not by birth, at least by adoption". He also attended church there and played golf at Turnberry – now part of the Trump empire.

Mr Clingan added: "We are very proud of Culzean's connections with a great soldier and President from the USA and now we are able to offer the Eisenhower Suite as holiday accommodation – and our charity's ability to do that was greatly helped by a generous donation from another American, William Lindsay, who left \$4 million in his will to the Trust for that purpose."



Sunset at Culzean Castle.



Culzean Stairwell.

But that is not the only US connection. The son of a cousin of clan chief Sir Archibald Kennedy, also called Archibald, built a fine house at No.1 Broadway in New York, which later became George Washington's home. Mr Clingan added: "After the War of Independence, in 1792, Archibald succeeded as 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Cassillis after the death of the childless 10<sup>th</sup> Earl, and in turn Archibald's son finally completed the castle and gardens as we see them now."

#### One of Scotland's most popular and spectacular visitor attractions

Mr Clingan believes it is no surprise that Culzean remains one of Scotland's most popular and spectacular visitor attractions. He said: "You would expect me to say this, but I can't think of any other place that combines so much history, architectural significance, natural beauty and an unrivalled setting in one package. All that, and murky origins that lie in smuggling - plus the odd ghost too. Perched on cliffs overlooking where the waters of the Firth of Clyde mingle with the Irish Sea with views to the Isle of Arran, Culzean Castle is said to be Robert Adam's greatest Scottish masterpiece. The castle he designed replaced a fortification with 14<sup>th</sup> century origins associated with the Kennedy family, and was completed in 1792 having taken 15 years to build for his client, David, 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Cassillis.

"It's a great confection of a building, with external castellation that pays tribute to traditional Scottish architecture and an interior which arranges grand rooms around an imposing and deservedly celebrated oval staircase that was at the cutting edge of 18<sup>th</sup> century architecture. Culzean's grounds extend over 600 acres and host conifers and beech trees, miles of sandy coastline dotted with caves, as well as a swan pond, an ice house, flamboyant formal gardens and fruit-filled glasshouses."

Derek Alexander, the National Trust for Scotland's Head of Archaeology, said millions had been invested in the conservation of Culzean and its grounds, and a 2017 project to restore the Fountain

By: Nick Draine

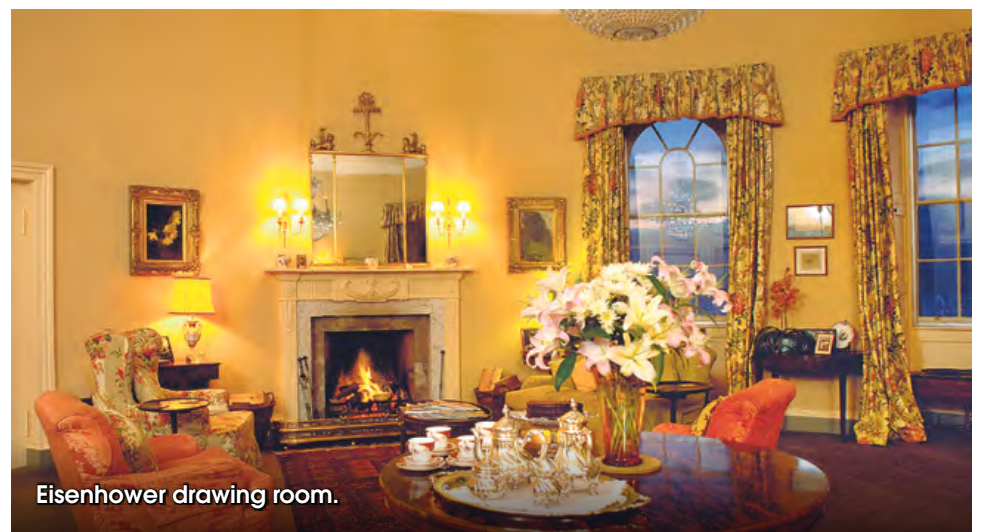


Court, which fronts the castle, gave an opportunity for an extensive dig. He said: "It didn't take us long to discover the walls of an enclosed garden that predated the Adam masterpiece. The walls were the result of a project undertaken by Sir John Kennedy of Culzean, 2nd Baronet, in 1733 where he extended a walled garden at the foot of the terrace walls on the east side of the castle. We think it functioned as an enclosed kitchen garden for the castle with fruit trees lining the south-facing walls of the terraces. It was abandoned in 1782 and the walls were demolished by Robert Adam's workmen as part of the wide range of improvements carried out around the castle, leading to the iconic clifftop structure we see today."

#### Medieval history

Then, in 2018, archaeologists explored the caves at the foot of the cliffs on which the castle sits – the Castle Cave and the Stables Cave. The hope was to find evidence of the nefarious smuggling that the Kennedy family freely admit their fortune was based upon. But the discovery went much further back than that. Mr Alexander said: "What we found were the remains of a medieval doorway. We knew there was a wall and doorway at the mouth of the Castle Cave but there was nothing at the entrance of the Stables Cave. A couple of stones on the surface suggested there might have been a wall. Imagine our surprise when we found two sides of a doorway surviving up to eight courses high buried to a depth of about one metre. The doorway is quite wide, measuring 1.1m across, and could have been secured with a draw bar.

'We've also received a radiocarbon date from a sample which shows that the caves were occupied in the Iron Age. The sample of charcoal from the lowest midden deposit in the upper chamber in Castle Cave was submitted to the SUERC laboratory and produced a date of AD135–325. This is similar to a date from the Gazebo Court on top of the cliff above the cave but it's the earliest dated evidence from the caves. We found lots of modern pottery, glass and some 18<sup>th</sup> century wine bottles plus an iron strip may have been part of the door hinge or fittings. The stone walling that defends both sets of caves belongs to the medieval castle, probably dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century. They were used as cellars for storage before Robert Adam converted the castle to be a picturesque mansion in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. There are many tales associated with the caves, which include ghosts, smugglers and hiding fugitives."



Eisenhower drawing room.



## Behind the scenes in the garden at Holyrood Palace

Kenny at work at Holyrood Palace.

***This month we go behind-the-scenes with Head Gardener Kenny Steven to discover the work that goes into keeping the gardens of Holyrood Palace so special.***

**By: Kenny Steven**

**B**ehind the walls of The Palace of Holyroodhouse sits a 6-acre garden cared for by a team of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) gardeners. It's a beautiful mixed garden with areas of woodland beds, formal bedding, long rockery inspired borders and a substantial range of heated glasshouses. I took over as Head Gardener at Holyrood Palace last September. I'd already been at the palace for three years and served my apprenticeship with HES at Dirlerton Castle, so had a fair idea of the undertaking ahead of me. However, so far, my first year in charge has been anything from usual!

### A garden on hold

Traditionally, the gardeners at Holyrood schedule our year around two annual events at the Palace. For these, we provide large decorative displays of flowering plants on top of preparing the garden. Firstly, in May we have the week of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. As part of that, Holyrood Palace serves as the official residence of the Lord High Commissioner, who acts as Her Majesty's representative as Head of the Church. Secondly, we have the Royal Week at the end of June going into July. This is when the annual garden party takes place.

It's not surprising however that this year, with the ongoing pandemic, that these visits have been cancelled. Further to this, the team of gardeners have been asked to stay home until further notice.

### Unexpected benefits

As anyone with a garden knows, there is never a time of year when there is nothing to do. A blessing and a curse some might say! As far as I know, this might be the first time in living memory that no work has occurred in the garden. To put this in perspective, we normally even have

someone working Christmas Day looking after our tender glasshouse plant stock. We know that during this pandemic we will lose a lot of plants under our care. It's an unavoidable, but also a necessary side effect of protecting staff. As a team though we are looking to this as a positive. One unexpected benefit from this period of isolation is that we are able to reflect on our work and what we would like to accomplish in the coming years without any outstanding tasks occupying our time. We have the opportunity of a somewhat blank (but overgrown!) canvas when we get back, and look forward to the opportunities that this presents. Before we look towards the future, I thought it might be of interest to look at an average year in the life of the garden.

If our season finishes with the Garden Party at the beginning of July, then it starts again almost straight away. Sure, the pressure of events are off us, but this is peak growing weather! The garden needs constant care to keep it at a high level of visual appeal. As bizarre as it may sound, we actually start thinking about our winter/into spring bedding scheme in the middle of summer. We try and grow as much as we can from seed. In the last few years, this scheme has consisted of a mixture of wallflower (*Erysimum*) and *Myosotis*, with Tulips (Single Late or Cottage types) interspersed throughout. It's always the aim that this bedding will last until after the Lord High Commissioners visit. But the plants sometimes disagree with us! The rest of the year is really focused on maintenance and improvements. This is the time we can make large structural changes to the garden and have maximum time for them to settle before any visits the following year.

### Preparing (and begging!)

As mentioned earlier the Lord High Commissioner visit is in May. We'll start sowing seed and taking cuttings in the late Autumn into Winter. Our problem for this first visit is the available light during the day. Even with heated glasshouses, everything just takes that little bit longer to grow to where we would like it.

An example of this problem would be in the growing of decorative sweet peas. We grow them in 10 litre pots with 6-foot cane supports and want them to be in peak flowering just as the visit falls upon us. You can imagine the careful

feeding, encouraging (and to a degree begging) that carries on in the weeks preceding the visit. Unfortunately, even if we follow the timings exactly from the year before, one cold snap or cloudy week can really have a severe impact on the results.

Going into the New Year the pattern remains similar. There is constant work in the glasshouses: sowing seeds, taking cuttings (both for decorations and to infill into the garden) and potting up anything that needs it. Not to mention constant vigilance for any pests or diseases that want to derail the masterplan. In the garden, we will be looking to strip anything remaining that needs to come out and prepare the beds and borders for the year. We like improve the soil by mulching heavily with our own leaf mould. This not only gives the plants a great feed but also dramatically reduces the amount of weeds coming up. This reduces the labour we have to devote to the less-glamorous task of weeding!

### Spring-ing into action

As Spring approached, we started to ramp up. We'll have hanging baskets and troughs planted. The glasshouses and yard will be full to the rafters with a beautiful array of stock ready or nearly ready for display and to be put into the garden. We use potted Japanese Acers as a central focus in our decorations. You might have spotted them in large ceramic pots around the Palace's piazza or on the Great Stairs. It takes constant care to keep this all looking good. When the weather stays nice, we could be watering multiple times a day. Elsewhere the team will be hard at work crafting beautiful borders or staying on top of the vast lawns. For this task, we operate a range of machines, from small electric trimmers all the way up to 36" heavy cylinder mowers.



A gardener works in the shadow of Holyrood Abbey.

There's honestly no need for the gym when you work in a large garden! Our home grown summer bedding of pink *Argyranthemum* interspersed with dark purple and black 'Splendid Noir' Dahlias replaces our now fading Spring scheme. Then before you know it the visits are upon us again...

The visits themselves are over as quick as a flash. We'll put out our displays, and for these couple of weeks Holyrood Palace genuinely couldn't look any better. It's a real privilege to be able to be part of the team making the place so attractive. Those of you who have attended the garden party will know how nice it is to walk around the borders. That's provided you've not had one of the 'damper' parties of late! A border of flowers in the Holyrood Palace garden Then it all begins again. You get a few months to just enjoy the garden, but the work never really stops – and we wouldn't want it to! We believe we truly have one of the most enjoyable roles within HES and can't wait to get back into the garden. So, when Holyrood Palace re-opens, have a look out for the HES gardeners. We'd be more than happy to pause and chat about the work we do.

***Historic Environment Scotland is the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment. For more details see: [www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)***



Holyrood Palace, Holyrood Park and the city of Edinburgh taken by drone.



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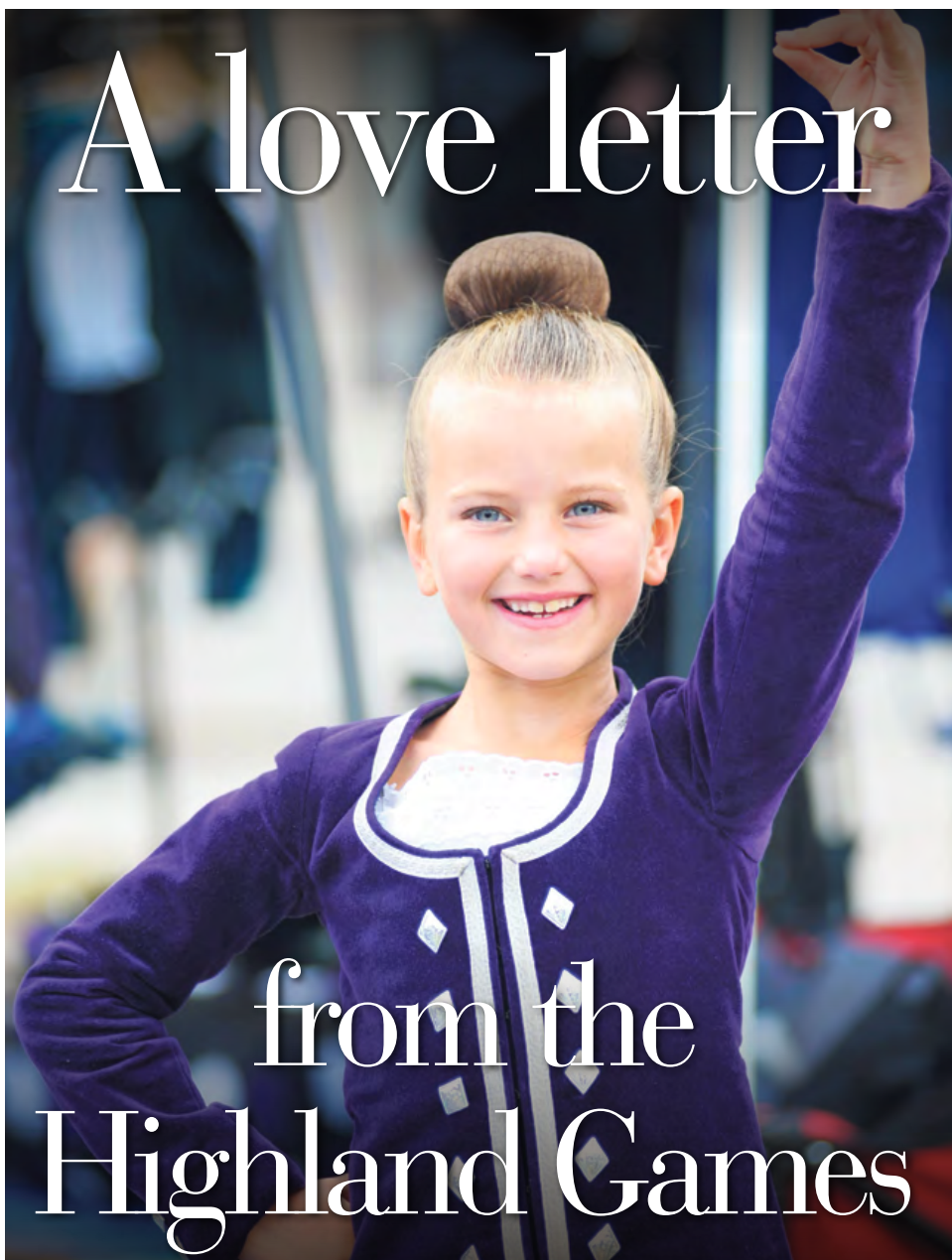
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A view towards Arthur's Seat across the lawn in the Holyrood Palace garden.



***The Scottish community worldwide has severely been impacted with the cancellations of Highland Games/Gatherings and festivals due to Covid-19 and many people will be missing these important parts of our culture. This month we honour these key Scottish celebrations across the world, with an international perspective of how Highland Games are being resilient and looking ahead. These Games offer a global message to our readers of love and support and to the community that each year celebrates with them our shared love of Scotland. We urge our readers and friends to not only support these great events in 2021, but also the hundreds of other Scottish and Celtic events that take place across the world and champion our unique heritage. Please also consider supporting the Scottish businesses and performers who earn a living from these events. Till we meet again!***

#### **Waipu Highland Games- Waipu, New Zealand**

It was with sadness that we had to bite the bullet and cancel our next Highland Games. This was to be our celebrated 150<sup>th</sup> Games and we wanted them to be special. With this in mind, we felt that the pandemic did not allow us to go all out and build a wonderful event. The uncertainty about being able to host large crowds, the difficulty in getting sponsorship at a hard

economic time, closed borders and many other factors everyone has had to face, forced us to come to the difficult decision.

Waipu is a small village steeped in Scottish tradition. The first settlers came out in a migration of five ships from Nova Scotia in the mid-1800s. The town is very proud of its heritage and performs to world standards.

***The Waipu Highland Games will take place on January 1st, 2022. For details: [www.waipuhighlandgames.co.nz](http://www.waipuhighlandgames.co.nz)***



Mary Kiani and the Angry Scots.



NH Highland Games.

#### **Bundanoon Highland Gathering- Bundanoon, New South Wales, Australia**

The Bundanoon Highland Gathering like many other Scottish festivals had to cancel their event for 2020, for the first time in 43 years. However, planning is now well underway to ensure the success for 2021. Our Fiddler's Tent is now well and truly established and with the addition of the Food Court adjacent it makes a wonderful location for our performers to entertain the public who are enjoying the covered shaded area complete with tables and chairs. There will be a variety of about 15 stalls sites bordering the area a great place for families to sit down relax have a meal and listen to some good old-fashioned Scottish music.

Scotland enjoys a long tradition of creating its own style of fiddle music. Variations and unique tunes have evolved regionally, especially in the islands. Now you can tap your toes to bright dance reels or sing along to sweet melodies of love and longing – in the Fiddlers' Tent! We are delighted to welcome the following stalwarts of the Scottish music scene back again to perform in 2021: Bob McInnes (Fiddle) and Jane Ellis (Pianist), Mary Kiani and the Angry Scots and Sally Andrews- Accordionist. Brigadoon would like to welcome a new addition to the Fiddlers Tent, the Sydney Scottish Fiddlers who are a group of keen musicians who meet regularly to play Scottish fiddle tunes under the leadership of James Gastineau Hills. Their gigs include Scottish dances as well as concerts and festivals. They are looking forward to playing at Bundanoon Highland Gathering in April 2021. Lively dance sets will be interspersed with haunting Scottish airs and some graceful Strathspey melodies which will surely get your toes tapping. Confirmed for 2021 is the Kilted Warriors (Tartan Warriors) under the leadership of Dr. Lance Holland-Keen and Aaron Monks.

The warriors will be competing in the Australian Highland Heavy Weight Championships (5 events= One Champion) and the highly competitive Bundanoon Stones. Full details of competitors later in the year. The Bundanoon Highland Gathering is always on the lookout for new volunteers to join their committee, so if you're interested then please don't hesitate to contact: 02 4883 7471 or [publicity.brigadoon@gmail.com](mailto:publicity.brigadoon@gmail.com)

***Bundanoon Is Brigadoon takes place on Saturday 17th April 2021. For details see: [www.brigadoon.org.au](http://www.brigadoon.org.au)***

#### **San Diego Scottish Highland Games - San Diego, California, USA**

Hello Clansmen, friends and those that hold Scotland dear and dear to their hearts,

This year in San Diego there was to be a change in the events organization we were really looking forward to a few firsts and a few continuations of the event under slightly different leadership, at this point I would like to thank the SDSHG board, committees and volunteers who put in many hours of their time to plan and organize these events. I would also like to thank competitors, judges and instructors for their time and efforts, many of our activities are social and you are in close contact with each other as soon as social distancing guidelines were released it was not going to be practical to hold the events until we were given the all clear.

It is said that you can find a Games or Gathering on the calendar most weekends of the year, where some regions have a high season it appears that in Southern California we like most of our events in the first six months of the year. We successfully held our Burns Supper at a new location in Rancho Santa Fe, the same venue has been booked for 2021. One of the firsts for 2020 was to re-establish "San Diego Tartan Day" we had a great venue and lots of lively entertainment booked unfortunately that was one of the first events to be cancelled. We have set the date of March 27<sup>th</sup> as the date for San Diego Tartan Day 2021 at the Waterfront Park, San Diego County Buildings, down by the harbor and maritime museum. We will have various information booths with Scottish connections, bands, food, dancing, pipes and drums, vendors.

The Scottish Heritage Day at the Padres was to be June 14<sup>th</sup> we will reschedule with the Padres for a new date.

The residential Rob McLintock California School of Piping and Drumming has been cancelled for this year, some of the instructors are organizing a three-day workshop for June 26<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. The workshop will be conducted via Zoom at [www.bagpipesummerschool.com](http://www.bagpipesummerschool.com). We are planning on being back at the Academy in Carlsbad the week before the Games next year. A big thank you to our instructors for putting on this online workshop.

We waited as long as we could before cancelling the "Games" and we will be back in 2021 at Brengle Terrace Park the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in June 2021. The Games prides themselves in having the largest sheep dog trialling events in the North America. Our Annual Kirkin of the Tartan is scheduled for Reformation Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup> at Grace Presbyterian Church, 1450 E Vista Way, Vista.

The new event that is in the planning stage is a Social Event of dancing, food and entertainment to celebrate St. Andrews Day this is a come as you are event where we will be teaching or calling out the traditional social dances, please watch the website and Facebook for more information.

Please keep your enquiries, questions or comments coming either through the contact links on the website [www.sdhhighlandgames.org](http://www.sdhhighlandgames.org) or on Facebook. Tickets and registration for our events are also available at [www.sdhhighlandgames.org](http://www.sdhhighlandgames.org).

Whilst you may not have had the opportunity to support the vendors,



Pipers play at Fergus.

pipe and drum bands or the wide variety of entertainers at this year's events, please continue to support them and make purchases through their websites or telephone orders.

May we all come through this pandemic stronger and more thoughtful to each other.

*Stephen Lundie*

*Chieftain*

*San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering of Clans Inc.*

**The San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering of the Clans will take place at Brengle Terrace Park in June, 2021.**

**For details see: [www.sdhhighlandgames.org](http://www.sdhhighlandgames.org)**

### The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games- Fergus, Ontario, Canada

In March we made the heartbreaking decision to cancel the 2020 Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games and postpone our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations until 2021. Since then we have received an outpouring of support from you, our patrons. As a thank-you for all your well-wishes we are pleased to #TartanUp and offer you a "Wee Digital Ceilidh" on the weekend of August 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>.

Log on to our website at [www.fergusscottishfestival.com](http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com) that weekend to find content from some of our regular musicians as well as original and never seen before presentations from Highland Dance, Clans, Heavy Athletics and Pipes and Drums. Expect the unexpected as we bring you greetings from across the Fergus Scottish Festival community and plenty of fun "wee surprise cameos" from the performers and participants you look forward to seeing every year.

Watch for pictures and videos on social media as Fergus "paints the town tartan" with visual displays and the stirring sounds of pipes and drums. Speaking of social media, make sure you tune into our Facebook page @FergusScottishFestival, and Twitter @FergusScotFest as we bring you lots of fun content in the lead-up to our Wee Digital Ceilidh including a super-fun online "Ultimate Scot" competition. Like and follow us for more details as we remain true to our commitment to bringing you "Scotland... without the airfare" this year as always. *Slainte!*

**The 75th Anniversary Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games takes place August 13 – 15th, 2021. For details see: [www.fergusscottishfestival.com](http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com)**

### Braemar Highland Gathering- Braemar, Scotland

As a result of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, Braemar Royal Highland Charity and the organising committee of the Braemar Gathering have decided to take the difficult but necessary decision to cancel this year's event. Whilst we know the decision will be disappointing for many, we feel it is the right one to protect the safety of the local community, competitors, spectators and officials many of whom travel from around the world to Braemar.

David Geddes President of the Braemar Royal Highland Society said 'It's been a very difficult decision to make, and to cancel a gathering is something which I had hoped I would never have to do in my time as president, however the uncertainty and continued spread of the outbreak, which threatens the wellbeing of our community, visitors and volunteers has meant we have put safety at the forefront of our considerations for this year's gathering. Being one of the last events of the Highland games year we had hoped that we might still be able to run the gathering as normal and have been working towards that, however the recent updates on the continued spread of COVID-19, travel restrictions and instructions from the Scottish and UK Governments have shown that this will not now be possible without putting folk at risk. We know the Gathering is a highlight in many people's year and an event which many make plans well in advance for. We share your disappointment and offer our hope and thoughts that you stay well and keep safe in the days ahead. Like the hills around Braemar, the Gathering will be here next year, and we look forward to happier times and to welcoming you here in 2021.'

If you have already bought a ticket for this year's Gathering these will be honoured and valid for 2021, if anyone has any questions, they should contact the Gathering organisers at [secretary@braemargathering.org](mailto:secretary@braemargathering.org)

**The 2021 Braemar Highland Gathering will take place on Saturday 4th of September, 2021. For details see: [www.braemargathering.org](http://www.braemargathering.org)**

### Canmore Highland Games, Canmore, Alberta, Canada

As you know, we have been carefully monitoring the ever evolving global impact of COVID 19 to inform us about best practices with regards to hosting the 2020 Canmore Highland Games. It is with deep regret that we have decided to cancel this year's Games.



Bundanoon Highland Gathering.



The Royal Family at Braemar.

Our opportunity at this time is to support our community by encouraging everyone stay safe at home. Now is a time for solidarity and determination to do the hard things that are necessary to ensure the best outcome for everyone in the face of very challenging times.

We are calling Mulligan! This is a golf term, which some of you may know is a Scottish game. It means do over. Sometimes the fates intervene in what was the most well lined up shot. It is in the failed attempts and the learning from them that we grow the most.

In 2021 we intend to host our best festival ever, as fitting the historic 30th anniversary of Canmore Highland Games. We look forward to raising a glass with you at that time. Until then, keep hope. It's gaein be awricht ance the pain has gane awa. Translation: it's a difficult time, but we will get through it and everything is going to be fine.

*Sandy Bunch*

*President, Canmore Highland Games*

**The 2021 Canmore Highland Games will take place on 4-5 September, 2021. For details see: [www.canmorehighlandgames.ca](http://www.canmorehighlandgames.ca)**

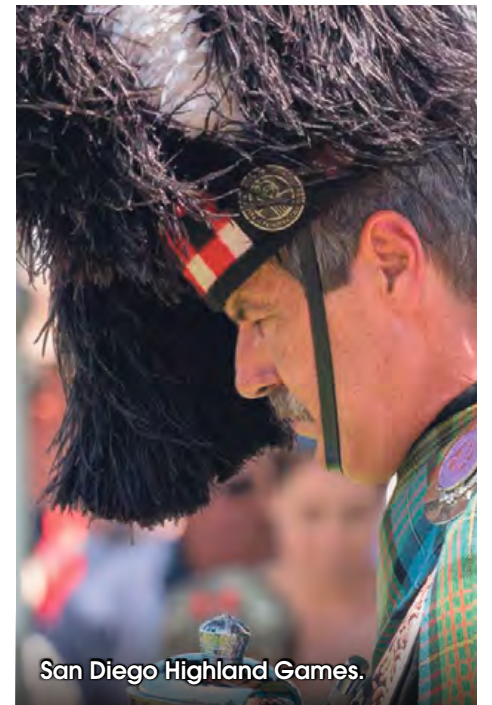
### New Hampshire Highland Games- Lincoln, New Hampshire, USA

NHSCOT is always looking for new ways to keep our Scottish community vibrant and engaged, as now more than ever we continue to strive to preserve and promote Scottish culture for future generations. When faced with the difficult decision to cancel the 45<sup>th</sup> NH Highland Games and Festival, we knew we had to remain spirited and strong.

We have had ongoing, virtual events/ seminars highlighting many topics and activities that attendees of the Games look forward to – cooking demonstrations, whisky tastings, genealogy, and heavy athletics to name a few. We are continuing to add new events to our calendar each week. Also, at the beginning of 2020, NHSCOT became the sole purveyor of New Hampshire's official state tartan, a colorful representation of NH's natural beauty and



Dancers at Fergus.



San Diego Highland Games.



The Clans at San Diego.



Massed bands at Braemar.

# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

*Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past*

**1** - The reconvened Scottish Parliament was officially opened. After a devolution referendum showed resounding support for the reconvening of the Scottish parliament, plans were put into motion for the creation of such a body. The parliament would sit in the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall in Edinburgh. Elections were held on May 1, 1999 and the first sitting of the body took place on May 12 of that year. The official opening on July 1 saw the Queen transfer full constitutional powers to Edinburgh. **1999**



**1** - Seal granted by Edinburgh Town Council to the Incorporation of Barbers and Surgeons to practise their craft. The organisation is now known as the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. **1505**

**1** - Proscription Act Repealed, thus allowing again the wearing of tartan and the carrying of weapons (banned as a result of the 1745 Uprising in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie). **1782**

**2** - Treaty of Perth, Norway renounces claim on the Hebrides. **1266**

**2** - Dumfries reached a temperature of 32.8C (91F), the highest recorded. **1908**

**2** - Scottish architect Sir John Burnet died. His most famous commissions include the Royal Institute of Fine Arts; the Alhambra, and the Athenaeum, all in Glasgow, and the North front of the British Museum, the Institute of Chemistry, and the extension to Selfridges, all in London. **1938**

**3** - John Logie Baird transmitted first colour television. **1928**

**3** - Robert Adam, the Scottish architect, furniture and interior designer, was born. Adam is regarded as a leading exponent of the neoclassical revival in the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. **1728**

**3** - The Clyde shipyards suffered their worst accident when the SS *Daphne* capsized at her launch. The packet steamer had been built by the Linthouse yard of Alexander Stephen and Sons and immediately sank into the River Clyde, taking the lives of the 195 workmen on board. It was later discovered that the 460-ton ship had little stability when it was launched, and rolled over forty-five degrees, taking huge amounts of water through a large deck opening. **1883**

**4** - Lanarkshire-born James Keir Hardie became the first socialist to win a seat in the UK Parliament. **1892**

**5** - Final run of the Edinburgh to London mail coach (a route which was taken over by rail). **1847**

**5** - Border reiver, John Armstrong of Gilnockie, and 50 of his men were hanged for blackmail by James V. Armstrong was a well-known laird in the Borders area, and although a frequent marauder in England, he is not known to have attacked in Scotland. However, his wealth and power in a troublesome region brought the resentment of James V. Armstrong was tricked into attending a royal hunt only to be seized on his arrival. He faced the king, and volubly remonstrated with him that he had "asked grace at a graceless face". Legend has it that the trees at Carnlanrig, where Armstrong and his followers were hanged, withered, and none have grown there since. **1530**



**5** - UNESCO gives World Heritage status to the Forth Bridge, one of Scotland's best-known structures. It stretches 2.5 kilometres between the villages of South Queensferry and North Queensferry, and was opened on 4th March 1890 by Edward, Prince of Wales. **2015**

**6** - John Paul Jones, hero of the US Navy, born Kirkbean, Dumfries. **1747**

**6** - The Piper Alpha oil platform in the North Sea was rocked by a huge explosion. Blasts continued on the platform throughout that night, and by morning 167 men had died. **1988**

**7** - John Knox became the first Protestant minister appointed in Edinburgh. **1559**



**7** - The Antonine Wall, part of the ancient Roman limes, is designated as a World Heritage Site. Known to the Romans as Vallum Antonini, was a turf fortification on stone foundations, built by the Romans across what is now the Central Belt of Scotland, between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde. **2008**

**7** - The novel *Waverley*, by Sir Walter Scott, was published. *Waverley* was Scott's first novel, and written mainly as a way of proving himself a superior literary talent to Byron. Although it was published anonymously as a safety net against its failure, it was an open secret who the author was. Scott needn't have worried: the book was a runaway success and Scott became regarded as the leading author in Europe. **1814**

**8** - King Alexander II died on Isle of Kerrara, Oban Bay. **1249**

**9** - Queen's Park Football Club, first senior football (soccer) club in Scotland formed. **1867**

**9** - Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the Chief of Clan Fraser, Scottish aristocrat and soldier was born. Fraser, a Second World War hero, played a key role in the development of the commandos and was actively involved in both the Dieppe Raid, 1942, and D-Day landings, 1944. **1911**

**10** - King James III born at Stirling. **1451**

**10** - Glasgow Rangers signed Maurice Johnston. One of the last bastions of Scottish Protestant sectarianism, Rangers shocked many of its supporters when the club, under manager Graeme Souness, signed Maurice Johnston from the French club, Nantes, for £1.5m. Johnston had not only played for arch-rivals Celtic, but was the first well-known Roman Catholic player to sign for Rangers in modern times. **1989**

**11** - Robert the Bruce born at Turnberry Castle, Ayrshire. After the death of William Wallace, Bruce led the campaign to regain Scottish independence, culminating in his stunning victory at the Battle of Bannockburn in June 1314. **1274**

**12** - Darien expedition left Leith for Panama. **1698**

**13** - King Alexander III crowned at Scone. **1249**



**14** - Scottish National War Memorial opened. The National War Memorial for Scotland was established by Royal Charter to commemorate the sacrifice of Scots in the Great War, Second World War and subsequent conflicts. The Memorial within Edinburgh Castle houses and displays the Rolls of Honour of Scots servicemen and women from all the Armed Services, the Dominions, Merchant Navy, Women's Services, Nursing Services and civilian casualties of all wars from 1914 to date. **1927**

**14** - Cavalry units from the Scottish Engager army clashed with Lambert's Parliamentarian cavalry at Penrith. The Engager forces were commanded by the Duke of Hamilton, who made several mistakes in planning and executing his advance south, and quickly made themselves unpopular with the local population for their plundering and excesses. **1648**



**14** - Eriskay is linked to South Uist by causeway. **2001**

**15** - National Portrait Gallery for Scotland opened in Edinburgh. **1889**

**16** - David II, son of Robert I (the Bruce) married Joan, sister of Edward III (he was 4, she was 7). **1328**

**16** - 13<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Games opened in Edinburgh. **1970**

**16** - A Shetland fishing tragedy occurred leaving 105 fishermen dead as their boats got lost at sea. 31 Shetland sixern boats perished leaving devastation to the island community. **1832**

**17** - Bank of Scotland, first bank to be established by an Act of the Scottish Parliament, opened. **1695**

**18** - John Paul Jones, naval hero of the American Revolution, died; he was born in Kircudbrightshire in 1747. **1792**

**18** - Birth of Jim Watt, Scottish boxer. After a successful amateur career, Watt turned professional in 1968 and quickly rose to the top of the lightweight division before adding British and European titles to his collection during the 1970s. **1948**

**19** - Battle of Halidon Hill in which Sir Archibald Douglas (guardian of David II) routed by Edward Balliol and Edward III. Scots losses were nearly 600, English losses 14. **1333**

**19** - A.J. Cronin, the Scottish novelist, was born. Cronin is most fondly remembered as the creator of the hugely popular character, Dr. Finlay. **1896**

**20** - Battle of Inverkeithing. Royalist force supporting Charles II failed to halt advance of army of Oliver Cromwell heading for Perth. **1651**



**21** - Robert Burns dies in Dumfries, aged 37. The cause of death appears to have been heart failure, probably brought on by the hard physical work done in his youth. His widow, Jean Armour, gave birth to a son on the day of her husband's funeral. However, Maxwell, named after Burns's doctor, died in infancy. **1796**

**22** - The army of the English King Edward I, using longbows for the first time, defeated the Scots led by Sir William Wallace at Battle of Falkirk. **1298**

**22** - Oliver Cromwell invades Scotland and proceeds to the eastern edge of Edinburgh. The Scots form a defensive line within the city. **1650**

**23** - Charles Edward Stuart landed on Eriskay at the start of the 1745 campaign. **1745**

**24** - Mary Queen of Scots abdicated and the young James VI acceded to Scottish throne. The Earl of Mar was appointed regent. **1567**

**24** - The Princess Royal formally opened the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Scotland's first national park. **2002**

**June 24** - The Battle of Harlaw took place at Inverurie. Nearly 2000 Highland and Crown soldiers fought over an area of land called the Earldom of Ross. **1411**

**25** - King James I born. **1394**

**25** - Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991, which gives full legal capacity to those aged over sixteen, receives the Royal Assent. **1991**

**25** - Charles Macintosh, inventor of the plastic mac, died. Macintosh discovered the first rainproof cloth in 1818, by joining two sheets of fabric together with dissolved indiarubber. Although Macintosh is best known for his eponymously titled coats, he made significant advances in many fields of chemistry. As well as inventing a revolutionary bleaching powder with Charles Tennant, he also discovered a fast method of using carbon gases to convert iron to steel, and devised a hot-blast process which produced high quality cast iron. **1843**

**26** - James IV responded to pleas for assistance from France and declared war on England. Aside from assisting the French, who had been invaded by an English army, James was also aggrieved at England's seizing of two Scottish ships and the non-payment of part of the dowry for his wife, Margaret Tudor. **1513**



**27** - The Forth and Clyde Canal was opened from the Firth of Forth to the Firth of Clyde, with the first boat navigating its channel in August of that year. The length of the Canal from eastern sea lock to the western sea lock was 35 miles. **1790**

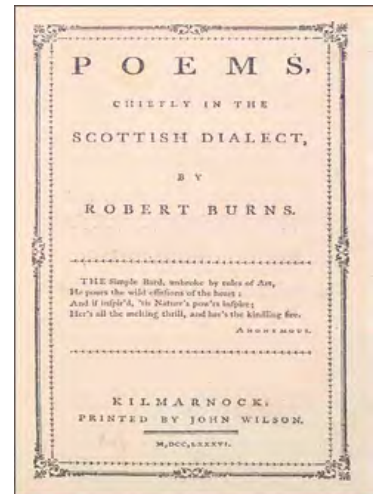
**27** - Battle of Killiecrankie in which Graham of Claverhouse (Bonnie Dundee) leading an army of Highlanders in support of the Jacobite cause, defeated King William's army under General Hugh Mackay. **1689**

**28** - The Royalist Marquess of Montrose beat General Baillie in a skirmish which was part of the English Civil War at Dunkeld, Perthshire. For a war of positions the Highlanders had neither aptitude nor inclination, and at Dunkeld the greater part of them went home. **1645**



**29** - Mary, Queen of Scots, married Lord Darnley, in a Catholic wedding. **1565**

**29** - King James VI (aged 13 months) crowned at the Church of the Holy Rude, beside Stirling Castle, following the abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots, five days earlier. **1567**



**30** - First edition of the long-running *Beano* comic was published. **1938**

**30** - The beginning of the work-in at John Brown's Clydebank Shipbuilding Yard, organised by stalwart Socialist, Jimmy Reid. This was in response to the Ted Heath Tory government's plans to liquidate the yard - Reid exposed these as unethical. **1971**

**31** - Cigarette advertising banned on television in Britain. **1965**

**31** - The first edition of Robert Burns' poems, *The Kilmarnock Edition*, was published by John Wilson of Kilmarnock, under the title of *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*. It cost three shillings and the entire print run of 612 copies sold out within a month. **1780**

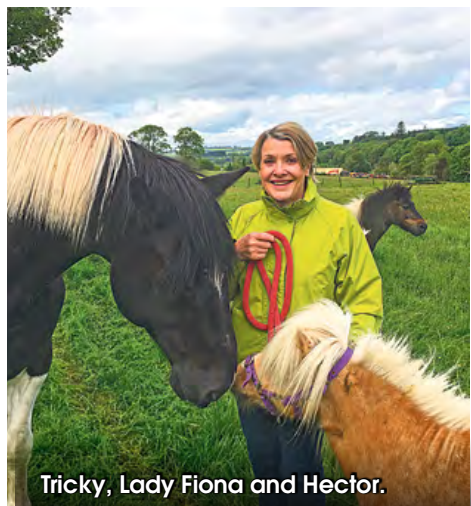
**31** - French naval forces in support of the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots bombard St Andrews Castle and capture the Protestant rebels. These include Protestant John Knox, who is sent to become a galley-slave. **1547**

# 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.



Tricky, Lady Fiona and Hector.

Greetings from Scotland where we are still in a fairly tight lockdown. It is stricter than the one that's in place in England, but at least I can now go and see my mother. Mum lives a quarter of an hour away in a bungalow overlooking a loch. It is a glorious spot and this year the swans have nine signets swimming after them. Anyhow, today we sit outside in the sun and the chief makes her a cocktail. Which is becoming a ritual. One time a Dubonnet and soda. This week a Grey Goose vodka and tonic. I suppose I should worry that she might be getting a taste for it, but, frankly, at her age, who's caring?

## Dirty MacGregor

And talking of things alcoholic. You will no doubt have heard of a 'Manhattan' (whisky, sweet vermouth and bitters). You may have tried a 'Rob Roy' or two (similar but made with scotch). Or even a 'Black Scot', which comes with honey and cream. What you will probably not have encountered, however, is a 'Dirty MacGregor'. And that's because this is a new cocktail. It is one that's just been invented by the chief and it involved blended whisky, bitters – and a drink called King's Ginger. The name 'Dirty MacGregor' is apt. Because in days of old our clansmen were not noted for clean-living. They didn't wash much, and, let's face it, they were probably not the most honest folk in the world.

## What if each clan was to invent its own cocktail?

Yes, your ancient Scot was always fighting over something. Take the MacLean's of Mull, who fell out with the MacGregors of Argyll. Anyway, the MacLean's decided they did not like the MacGregors one bit. So, when a gale

force wind came off the Atlantic, bringing driving rain and battering the west coast island, they decided to name it the 'Dirty MacGregor'. This storm packed a punch. Apparently just like the new drink. I say apparently, because, unlike my mother, my cocktail years are long gone. Yet, it got us thinking. What if each clan was to invent its own cocktail?

Just think about it. The MacDonald's (motto: by sea and land) might opt for something salty. The Scott's (motto: I love) could have something girly, perhaps with a cherry or two. The Campbells, meanwhile, (motto: do not forget) could well stick with something non-alcoholic; in case they do forget the next morning. It is all a bit of fun. Let us know your clan drink ideas...

## Tricky

Meanwhile, a neighbour sends a text. Can she please put her horse in one of our fields for a few weeks? Usually we would have to say no. Most of the year the paddocks have sheep in them. But at the moment, one is free. And so Tricky arrives - and I do not know if he is Tricky because he is a handful. Or if he is Tricky because he does tricks. Whatever his nature, he is a big boy: black and white with a swishing tail and an imperious expression on his face. As he enters his new playground I watch from the window.

Yes, Tricky and I start off by doing our own bit for social distancing.

The thing is, I have never been that good with horses. It is something to do with the way they look at you. As if to say, 'I know you don't trust me - and I don't really like you.' And it stems back to childhood. When I was an eight year old, I started riding lessons. The pony bolted and there I was, hanging from the saddle as the thing careered along. And so, it continued. There was the sharp kick from behind when we were filming Scotland's riding clans. There was the Clydesdale that stood on my foot when I presented prizes at a local agricultural show. And there was the creature that snorted all over my suit at another official opening...

It is my fault, of course. Not theirs. Wrong time, wrong place, wrong attitude. But horses from afar? Yes, lovely to look at. The chief and I spend a pleasant ten minutes watching our four-legged visitor gallop around the grass. Then on day three Hector arrives. He is Tricky's little friend and is much more my sort of thing. Hector is some sort of miniature Shetland pony. He is cute and cuddly, and, importantly, he is smaller than I am.

Here is a picture of our two canine friends – and yes, aren't I brave to stand so close to them...? Until the next time, stay safe...

# Flowers of the Forest - William Foote "Bill" Thoms

It is with heavy hearts that we acknowledge the passing of one of the stalwarts of the Fergus Scottish Festival. William Foote "Bill" Thoms passed away on Saturday, May 16, 2020. Bill had been involved with the Festival, which takes place in Fergus, Ontario, since 1967. He served as Chairman in 1968, and also served as Treasurer. He was the long time chairman of concessions, bringing in and working with many fine vendors. Bill was a constant presence at the Festival for over 50 years.

Even in recent years, although failing in health, Bill made sure to make an appearance and incite the troops. Bill was also a great supporter of *the Scottish Banner* which had its first public launch at the Festival 44 years ago. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Maureen

and children Fiona, Maureen, Rob and Megan and their families, all who have followed in Bill's footsteps and volunteered with the Festival.

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





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## IN SCOTLAND TODAY



## Scottish pipers called on to memorialise 'The forgotten Dunkirk'

Pipers across Scotland have been invited to join a poignant tribute to thousands of Scots who were killed or captured during "the forgotten Dunkirk" 80 years ago. The lesser-known battle of Saint-Valéry-en-Caux is being memorialised by three leading Scottish Armed Forces charities, and pipers were asked to play a leading role. On the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1940, just days after the successful mass-evacuations at Dunkirk, thousands of British troops remained on continental Europe under French command. Largely comprised of men from the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division, they fought almost continuously for ten days against overwhelming odds until eventually surrounded at St Valéry.

However, a combination of fog and the proximity of German artillery above the town prevented the awaiting flotilla of ships from reaching shore. Those who were not killed in the fierce fighting, or fell to their deaths from the cliffs trying to escape, were captured and marched hundreds of miles to Prisoner of War camps in Eastern Europe, where they endured appalling conditions for five long years. At 10am on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020, pipers up and down Scotland took to their doorsteps and played the haunting pipers march, *Heroes of St Valéry*.

The first piper to sign up was Pipe Major Ben J Duncan, from The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Pipes & Drums, who previewed the *Heroes of St Valéry* from the doorstep of Edinburgh Castle, which, like other public buildings across the country, is currently closed due to the lockdown. Ben, who is based at Leuchars and lives in Edinburgh, said: "As soon as I heard about the plans to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Valéry I wanted to get involved. While the country may still be in lockdown, this is a great way for such a significant but little-remembered event in our history to be properly commemorated,

while still staying safe at home. Piping is something that brings people across the world together, and while we aren't able to do that in person at the moment, it's wonderful to think that we can all be part of this important tribute virtually."

### ScotRail unveils active travel carriage design



ScotRail has unveiled the livery design for its first active travel carriage, designated for carrying bikes and large sporting equipment on one of Scotland's most scenic routes. Designed by Scottish artist, Peter McDermott, the eye-catching livery depicts typical Highland scenery along with some of the best-known visible landmarks along the West Highland Line, including the Glenfinnan monument and viaduct, Skye Cuillin mountain range, Ben Lomond, and the castle on Loch Awe. Five Class 153 trains are being transformed to carry up to 20 bikes to enhance existing ScotRail services on the West Highland Line initially, providing custom designed racks to accommodate bikes, sporting equipment and large items of luggage as well as more seats for customers.

The trains will also support winter sports in Scotland during the winter months, accommodating large bulky items such as ski bags and rucksacks, and undergoing a full interior and exterior refresh including installation of free WiFi, at seat power sockets and a refurbished toilet with controlled emission toilet (CET) tank.

The first carriage is due for completion later this year when the refurbishment programme can fully resume following the current Coronavirus pandemic, and will enter service once staff can be safely trained on the carriages.

Peter McDermott, artist and designer of ScotRail's Class 153 livery, said: "It was a great pleasure to have been asked to produce this illustration. Particularly as my own illustrative style is directly inspired by such artists as Norman Wilkinson and Tom Purvis, who among others, were responsible for the much-loved railway art of the 1930s and 40s. Their work was confined to train compartments and poster hoardings, but fortunately for me I've had the unique opportunity to work on a much larger canvas, which now allows this iconic illustrative style to travel through, and contribute to the very landscape we've all sought to interpret. I hope they would be as delighted as I am with the end result."

### Non-British population of Scotland increased over most recent year



National Records of Scotland have recently published figures which show that in 2019, 388,000 non-British nationals or 502,000 non-UK born people lived in Scotland. The number of non-British nationals living in Scotland increased by 36,000 (from 352,000 in 2018) over the latest year, driven mainly by an increase in non-EU nationals. Of all non-British nationals living in Scotland, 3 in 5 were EU nationals (234,000) and 2 in 5 were non-EU nationals (154,000). Most EU nationals were from EU8 countries (134,000), and Polish remained the most common non-British nationality, accounting for almost one quarter (23%) of all non-British nationals living in Scotland in 2019. Overall, 7% of Scotland's population were non-British nationals. This varied across councils with cities having the largest proportion of non-British residents – highest in Aberdeen City (18%), City of Edinburgh (16%) and Glasgow City (14%).

### The world's first lorne sausage flavoured crisps launched



Scottish food classic lorne sausage has been recreated in a crisp flavour, as Perth company Mackie's has launched Lorne Sausage and Brown Sauce flavour. Lorne sausage and brown sauce has become the latest special launch from Mackie's Crisps, following on from Mackie's previous special flavour and world-first, "haggis, neeps and tatties" launched last December and which was a best seller. James Taylor,

from the Perthshire based family business, said: "We trialled quite a few different concepts, but the lorne sausage and brown sauce combination became an instant hit with all of our team. It really does taste just like the real thing – regardless whether you call it lorne or square. The addition of brown sauce gives it a really savoury and complex flavour profile – and one we hope crisp and sausage fans will love in equal measure. We're quickly becoming synonymous for our patriotic limited flavours, but with good reason too. As Scots, we're too quick to put down our traditional foods, but in reality we have amazing produce and dishes we should be fiercely proud of."

Mackie's also produce popular Scottish flavours such as, haggis & cracked black pepper, whisky and haggis and Aberdeen Angus.

### Hawick Common Riding goes online



Despite Scotland's lockdown, due to Covid-19, a historic Scottish Borders event has found a way to take place in lockdown. Streamed versions of some of the historic festival's most prominent events and also concerts were made available online for viewers to enjoy from the comfort of their home for the first time.

Ex-cornet John Hogg said: "Nothing can replace our common riding celebrations, but the Common Riding committee felt compelled to mark our common riding nonetheless in a safe and appropriate manner. As part of our programme of events over the coming weeks, we have organised three virtual concerts. These will be held on what would be chase night, the overseas night and the colour bussing. You'll hear songs from the wealth of talent we are so lucky to call our own, both young and not so young alike. There will also be guest appearances from local dignitaries and a host of other events."

The last time the ridings were cancelled was 2001 due to the foot and mouth outbreak, prior to that the Ridings have taken place since the Second World War. Councillor Stuart Marshall, of Hawick and Denholm, said: "Common riding is a huge, huge part of our fabric of Hawick, it brings so many people into the town, it's very historical, we live and breathe the common riding all year round and it's come through many adverse times. It's stood the test of time and I've no doubt we will be back proper next year and welcoming people from all over the world."

Hawick Common Riding is the first of the Border Festivals, and takes place annually in early June. It celebrates two important events in the history of the town – the capture of an English flag in 1514 by the young men of Hawick at Hornshole, about a mile and a half from the town, and the ancient tradition of riding the boundaries of Hawick Common. See: [www.hawickcommonriding.co.uk](http://www.hawickcommonriding.co.uk)

# KINGS CASTLES AND “DURTY” WEE RASCALS

Australian Jim Stoddart was born in a Glasgow Tenement and raised in a Glasgow Housing Scheme 1943-1965. Jim will be taking readers on a trip down memory lane, of a time and place that will never be the same again, and hopes even if only a few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.



## Langton Road Primary School

*If ye go tae school dinners,  
ye better leave them aside,*

*A lot of kids didnae  
and a lot of kids died.*

*The meat's made of iron,  
the tatties ur made of steel,*

*And if that disnae get ye,  
then the the breid puddin' wull.*

A Glasgow children's rhyme from the 1960s.

I began my twelve years of schooling at Langton Road Primary School in Pollok, Glasgow. It was a temporary pre-fabricated school nestling below the slopes of a hill with the exciting name of Warlock Hill. Built immediately before the war, it had to extend its life to fulfill post-war demand, and Education Minister, Rab Butler's task, to put 'bums on seats' when many schools had been damaged or destroyed by bombing. Some extra classrooms had been added to the pre-war build. I have little memory of my first day at school, but I do remember the first few weeks. During that time my mother took me to school and then went for a cup of tea across the road at my Auntie Margaret's. Margaret Macmillan was not a real aunt but was a childhood friend of my mum. She lived opposite the school and much to my later shame I had special permission in those first weeks to go to the toilet at Auntie Margaret's house, especially if I needed a 'number two'.

That was because I didn't like going to the outside toilets at the school as they were cold and smelly. After a few weeks of tolerance by my infant's teacher, Miss Munro, I was happy enough to go to the school toilets like everyone else. I was now a big schoolboy and expected to handle the rigours of the outside toilet block. Thankfully, that didn't stop my mother from coming to the school fence at morning playtime with thick slices of hot toast smothered in butter, compliments of my Auntie Margaret. That's what my father called a 'chittering bite'.

## The smells of Langton Road Primary School

The distinctive smells of school permeated our infant's classroom, the smell of the bright, new brown jotters with special pages used for tracing the letters of the alphabet. This mixed with the smells of the red pencils and the fresh rubber of the new erasers. There was the smell of poster paint, of ink, the smell of fresh wood shavings from sharpened pencils

and the smell of chalk dust on the big blackboard. From the heavy wooden desks came the familiar odours from orange peel and banana skins drying quietly inside and the smell of buttered toast wrapped in greaseproof paper tempting us to eat secretly before playtime. From across the playground wafted the smells of our school dinners, mince and potatoes, cabbage and sprouts, prunes and custard, semolina and jam.

In the late afternoon in summer these fragrances blended with the pungency of our perspiration and in winter were added to the smell of our drying clothes which were carefully laid beside the pot belly stoves when we were caught in the rain on our way to school. These were the smells of Langton Road Primary School and even if we children had been blindfolded we would have known exactly where we were. The physical conditions were simple, but I always felt secure and warm there in my first years of schooling.

## A quaint stone bridge

It was a long walk from my house to my school and that provided me over the years with lots of opportunity for adventure along the way. That part of Pollok where I lived was built on what had until then been agricultural land and it still contained remnants of its rural history. There were abandoned farmhouses to be explored and shamefully vandalized. Today they would be quite properly heritage listed and converted into high quality units and sold to yuppies. In 1947 they were left for us to play in in the years to come and there was one conveniently left for us on the hill above Langton Crescent, on Warlock Hill, only one hefty stone throw from the school. We were able to go there at lunchtimes and learn about traditional building methods as we poked and tore at the walls and ceilings of this old plaster and lathe farm building.

Crossing the Brock Burn from Waterfoot Avenue to Southfield Crescent on my route to school was a quaint stone bridge built in the age of horses and carts. It now served as a pedestrian bridge and became the starting point for exploration of the Brock Burn and the Lavern Water. It was a flash point for rival groups of children to come upon one another on their way to their respective schools. The bridge became, on occasions, a gauntlet to be run through by the victims of schoolboy bullying.

"Where do you lot think you're goin'?" would shout one of the bigger boys with an arrogant grin as his eyes swept around to his pals, seeking their attention and respect. "To school, where, do ye think?" would reply one of the bravest in our little group. "Any obs?"

"Aye, ah do have some objections, ye' cheeky wee nyaff." You're no' comin' ower this bridge wi' your scabby wee feet. Your no' going to durty up this nice clean bridge of ours", he retorted, leaning his back and elbows against the old stone parapet. "Shut your geggie and get lost, ye big Jessie", would shout Jim Main or another friend as we all started to run forward in a bunch to get past them.

As we scrambled through, there was a bit of pushing and shoving, a few glancing blows from fists and some sneaky kicks but neither side gave any real commitment to the affray. We were quickly through and running as fast as we could toward our school, glancing and throwing back a smattering of insults, "Baldy bane, stick yer nose in an aeroplane-and stick yer arse in a frying pan."

## A pirate's eye

Of course, we didn't need to use this little bridge at Waterfoot Avenue. We could have chosen to go further up the burn, toward Crookston Castle, to a modern tubular pedestrian bridge that joined Liverside Avenue to Liverside Road but that took longer. Or we could have walked down to Househillwood Roundabout and crossed the little burn on a road bridge and then have gone up Braidcraft Road. We sometimes did that but then again we stubbornly asked ourselves, why should we? This was our bridge just as much as theirs, besides it started off the morning with a bit of an adrenaline rush.

When we played down at the burn, this favourite little bridge assumed the status

of Stirling Bridge and we emulated William Wallace's famous battle against the English within sight of our own medieval castle standing majestically in the far distance. Unfortunately, that historic stimulation could also cause clashes between the 'Catholic cats' and the 'Proddy dogs' as we made our way to our respective Catholic and non-denominational schools. More often than not these fights entailed name calling rather than physical assault, but they could end up with us throwing stones at each other and it wasn't unusual to see children at school with an eye patch covering an injured eye. We all knew that it was highly dangerous and very painful to get hit by a stone in the eye but we did it just the same because, of course, it was always the other side who threw them first.

I thankfully had to go only twice to the doctor for an eye injury in those days but, regretfully, there was some kudos in sporting a pirate's eye patch next day at school. On the brighter side, there was in place an unwritten rule that you didn't throw stones that were really big. You didn't want to kill somebody and for that flimsy reason eye injuries were far more common than serious head wounds. And of course, not that we believed our teachers would have necessarily ignored our complaints of bullying on the bridge or anywhere else for that matter, it just wasn't the done thing. We didn't make a fuss about it with our parents either, we simply accepted that this was just part of life on the way to and from school. Crazy? I know!



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# Calling the Clans

Welcome to our "Classified" 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 numbers are located on page 2. If you are contacting your Clan be sure to tell them you saw them in *the Scottish Banner* and 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 clansmen members may query the Society genealogist. **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



## Clan Cumming Society of the United States

[www.clancumming.us](http://www.clancumming.us)  
[info@clancumming.us](mailto: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

## Clan Fraser Society of Australia



Invites all Frasers and Fraser septs to join our clan society.

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"  
Membership enquiries to Don Chitts  
Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com  
Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/482236358590288>



## CLAN BELL

Invites membership inquiries from persons named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Various resources available for genealogical research. Quarterly newsletter. Tents hosted at major Scottish games nationwide.

Website: [www.ClanBell.org](http://www.ClanBell.org)  
Online membership: <https://clanbell.org/membership.html>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell>  
Email: [President@clanbell.org](mailto:President@clanbell.org)  
Clan Bell North America  
5284 Cross Creek Court  
Acworth, GA 30102



## Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

CHIEF: Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing one of these Names: Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day; Dye; Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dee; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dhair; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny; MacDhai; McKeddie. In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson. Applications may be made online: [clandavidsonaus@gmail.com](mailto:clandavidsonaus@gmail.com) or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P. P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 [dhill11@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dhill11@bigpond.net.au) 0431 527 662

## CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

**UK:** London & Southern Counties \* Rannoch & Highlands  
**Canada:** Ontario \* Western Canada  
**Australia:** New South Wales \* Victoria \* Queensland \* Western Australia  
**New Zealand:** New Zealand  
**Europe:** Spain  
**Africa:** South 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



Visit our website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, our History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you.  
<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>  
Facebook: [The Clan Donnachaidh Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheClanDonnachaidhSociety)  
Email: [ivc@donnachaidh.com](mailto:ivc@donnachaidh.com)



## Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

[www.clangalbraith.org](http://www.clangalbraith.org)



## Family of Bruce International, Inc.

Family of Bruce International, Inc., the only such organization recognized by the hereditary 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 descent, or by recognized septs: Carlisle, Carruthers, Crosby, Randolph and Stenhouse.

**Membership inquiries should be directed to:**

Donald E. Bruce	Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary
President	5561 Earl Young Road
1051 Eagle Ridge Trail	Bloomington, IN 47408
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082	<a href="http://www.familyofbruceinternational.org">www.familyofbruceinternational.org</a>

## Clan Donald Australia



*"under the patronage of the High Council of the Chiefs of Clan Donald"*

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

[secretary.clandonaldaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.clandonaldaustralia@gmail.com)  
**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](mailto:m.edmiston@bigpond.com)

## Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland  
Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor  
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balgihadder,  
24th Chief of Clan Gregor



Great Lakes,  
New England,  
Pacific North West,  
Western U.S.  
and Southeast Chapters  
[www.clangregor.com](http://www.clangregor.com)

For membership contact Keith MacGregor  
P.O. Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876  
[kmac1@optonline.net](mailto:kmac1@optonline.net)

Peter Lawrie, Secretary  
6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland



## Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

President: Alistair Cameron

[cameron490@ozemail.com.au](mailto:cameron490@ozemail.com.au)

Secretary: Terry Cameron

[secretaryclancameronnsw@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryclancameronnsw@gmail.com)

[www.clan-cameron.org.au](http://www.clan-cameron.org.au)



## Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald

Ph: 0412 090990

Email: [clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au](mailto:clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au)

Web: [www.clandonaldqld.org](http://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**



## 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: [elliottcommia@gmail.com](mailto:elliottcommia@gmail.com)

Website: [www.elliotclan-usa.com](http://www.elliotclan-usa.com)



## Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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: [clangregoraustalia@gmail.com](mailto:clangregoraustalia@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.clangregor.com](http://www.clangregor.com)  
**"Royal is my Race"**



All Campbells or descendants of Campbells and members of Clan Septs are welcome to join the Society.

For State Branches contact the National Secretary Margaret Vallance  
Email: [libertyv93@gmail.com](mailto:libertyv93@gmail.com)  
[www.clan-campbell.org.au](http://www.clan-campbell.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](mailto:bill-mcdaniel@att.net)



## Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

Membership inquiries are invited from descendants of Farquharson 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](mailto:finlaysb@bigpond.com)



## 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](http://www.clanhamilton.org)



## CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-

**HEREDITARY CHIEF AND SOCIETY PATRON**  
**Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains**  
Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers

Cordially invites all Carruthers and their descendants to join **us** in preserving our Clan and Family heritage.

**Clan Carruthers Society - International**  
officially representing Carruthers worldwide  
[www.clancarrutherssociety.org](http://www.clancarrutherssociety.org)  
[clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com](mailto:clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com)

## CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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.clandonaldivic@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.clandonaldivic@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](mailto: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.



## FORBES

WEB [WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG](http://WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG)

[@CLANFORBESSOCIETY](https://www.facebook.com/CLANFORBESSOCIETY)

[@CLANFORBESSOCIETY](https://www.instagram.com/CLANFORBESSOCIETY)

[@CLANFORBES1](https://twitter.com/CLANFORBES1)

#CLANFORBES #CLANFORBESSOCIETY  
#GRACEMEGUIDE #LONACH

CONTACT: [MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG)



## Clan Hay

April Rich  
28 Oxbow Drive  
Willimantic, CT 06226  
[clanhaymembership@hotmail.com](mailto:clanhaymembership@hotmail.com)

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

[www.clanhay.com](http://www.clanhay.com)

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


## Clan Henderson Society

**Purposes of the Society**

- Foster Scottish culture and activities
- Promote Scottish festivals and games
- Assist in genealogical research
- Foster fellowship among kith and kin
- Promote the history of Scotland
- Promote charitable and educational activities via a scholarship fund
- Gather the Clan, as directed by our Chief, **Alistair of Fordell**

Contact: Jeff Henderson  
jeffh@bigpond.com  
0439 330 012

[www.clanhendersonsociety.com](http://www.clanhendersonsociety.com)



## 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*

**www.clanmacinnes.org**

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



## Clan MacLeod

### Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling), and descendants. **Recognised Septs:**

Askey MacAndie MacClure  
Beaton MacAskill MacCorkill MacWilliam  
Bethune MacAulay MacCrimmon Norie  
Caskie MacCabe MacGillechallum Norman  
Harold MacCaig MacHaigh Tolmie  
Lewis MacCaskey MacRaild Williamson

- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
- South Australia - Rachel Hopkins 0433 184 375
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334
- Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au



## Clan Macpherson Association

Clan Macpherson welcomes enquiries from Macphersons and members of our Associated families. For information about local activities visit our web site [www.clan-macpherson.org/branches](http://www.clan-macpherson.org/branches), or see our 'Official Clan Macpherson Association' Facebook page.

**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 Tullin  
Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +31 655 774 425

**Scotland & Northern Ireland:** Rory Macpherson  
SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +44 7525 763 765

**Australia:** John L Macpherson  
Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +61 409 122 141

**England & Wales:** William Macpherson  
EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +44 7877 363 507

**New Zealand:** Tony McPherson  
NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +64 274 587 813

**USA:** Xerxes Herrington  
UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
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.



## Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

### INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA

**President & Commissioner:**  
Stephen Hope  
president@clanhope.org  
commissioner@clanhopeaustralia.org  
[www.clanhopeaustralia.org](http://www.clanhopeaustralia.org)

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**High Commissioner:**  
Richard Rex Hope  
highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org

**Membership Chair:**  
Janet Hope Highton  
membership@clanhope.org  
[www.clanhope.org](http://www.clanhope.org)

**CANADA**  
**Commissioner:**  
Scott Hale  
commissioner@clanhope.ca  
[www.clanhope.ca](http://www.clanhope.ca)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClanHopeofCraighall>



## 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**






## THE MACLEODS

### RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS

FOR INFORMATION:  
**WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG**

A.L. MACLEOD  
3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B  
WEST VALLEY CITY, UT  
84120-6880

## 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 Irwin Association

### Clan Irwin Association Patron

Alexander Irvine of Drum  
27<sup>th</sup> Baron of Drum & Chief of the Name.  
Contact: Barbara Edelman, Chairman  
65 Colonial Drive, Telford, PA 18969  
215-721-3955 chairman@clanirwin.org  
IRWIN • IRVIN • IRVINE • IRVING • ERWIN • ERVIN  
Over 270 ways the name has been spelled since 325 A.D.  
**www.clanirwin.org**




## Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada

We invite you – whether you are a clansperson 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

Website: **www.clanmackenziecanada.ca**




## Clan Macnaghtan Association Worldwide

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

**Chairman - Peter McNaughton - 360-686-8451**  
+61 7 3266 2047 bruce@brucemcnaught.com

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 MacNaughton  
250-999-9636 milesclanmac@aol.com

**New Zealand** - Regional Commissioner - John Macnaughtan  
+64 9 441 4984 macnaughtan@xtra.co.nz

**USA** - Membership Secretary - Mary Nivison Burton  
541-401-2613 membersec@clanmacnaughton.net  
**WWW.CLANMACNAUGHTON.NET**



## 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  
brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com



## 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: +61 418 986 876  
malncol@icr.com.au [www.clanleslie.org](http://www.clanleslie.org)



## Clan MacLaren Clan Labhran

Clan MacLaren Society of Australia (includes New Zealand members)

**www.clanmaclarenau.org**  
clanmaclarenau@gmail.com  
0422 223 161



## 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 Maitland Society

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

**North America:** Rosemary Maitland Thorn  
rthornmvpdrcan@aol.com [www.clanmaitlandna.org](http://www.clanmaitlandna.org)

**Australia:** Carole Maitland carole\_maitland@yahoo.com.au  
4230 Colac- Lavers Hill RoadWeeaprouniah. 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**



## Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.



Valerie McDougall  
VP Membership  
505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON  
N5Z 3B2

Email: [info@macdougall.org](mailto:info@macdougall.org) Home page: [www.macdougall.org](http://www.macdougall.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall](http://www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall)

**Names Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyll and Clan MacDowall of Galloway**

Coul	MacCoul	MacDoual
Conacher	MacConacher	MacDoual
Coyle	MacCoyle	MacDoual
Dole	MacDole	MacDoual
Doual	MacDoual	MacDoual
Dougall	MacDougall	MacDougall
Dougle	MacDougle	MacDougall
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDougall
Dowall	MacDowall	MacDougall
MacDowell	MacDowell	MacDougall
Lullich	MacLullich	MacDougall
MacCulloch	MacCulloch	MacDougall
MacClintock	MacClintock	MacDougall
MacHale	MacHale	MacDougall
MacHowell	MacHowell	MacDougall
MacKichan	MacKichan	MacDougall
MacLucas	MacLucas	MacDougall

*Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc*

## 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 MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, to join us in celebrating our heritage!

website: [ClanMacNeilUSA.us](http://ClanMacNeilUSA.us)  
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram  
@ClanMacNeilUSA




## Clan Munro Association, U.S.A

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

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



## INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC

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 - President  
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

**MACFARLANE.ORG**



## Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.  
Treasurer  
383 Ash Brook Lane  
Sunnyvale, TX  
75182-3250

Email: [treasurer@clanmaclellan.net](mailto: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.

Visit our website: [www.clanmaclellan.net](http://www.clanmaclellan.net)



## Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail  
of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac


Contact Ross Nicolson  
10/377 North Rocks Rd.,  
Carlingford NSW 2118  
**www.clanmacnicol.org**



## Clan Pollock

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

**A. D. Pollock, Jr.**  
PO Box 404  
Greenville, KY 42345  
e-mail: [apollockis@comcast.net](mailto:apollockis@comcast.net)





## Clan Ross in Australia

for information contact Commander Des Ross  
(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowan)

We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest.

Contact: Commander Des Ross at  
lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853  
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](http://www.stewartsociety.org)



## Australian Scottish Community (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 Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcomed from all Australians of Scottish descent.

For information please contact  
The Hon Secretary SAHC, Susan Cooke  
Ph: 0411097724  
Email: alfredhcooke@gmail.com



[www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au)

## Clan Ross America

Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.



Paul D Ross, President  
Virg Bumann, VP Membership  
1015 Archer St, San Diego, CA, 92109  
membership@clanross.org  
info@clanross.org  
[www.clanross.org](http://www.clanross.org)



## 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 Astràilia

(The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a nonprofit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels.  
Ruairaidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor)  
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org  
Web: [www.ozgaelic.org](http://www.ozgaelic.org)  
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

## Scottish Gaelic Language Classes:



Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
during school terms  
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>



## Clan Ross of The United States

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 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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/)



## Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

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

## Còisir Ghàidhlig Bhiocòirìa

### Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria

[www.facebook.com/ScottishGaelicChoirVictoria](http://www.facebook.com/ScottishGaelicChoirVictoria)  
Do you live in Melbourne? Are you interested in Gaelic and its music, or do you simply enjoy singing? Why not join us?

**Rehearsal times:**  
Thursday 7-9pm during school terms,  
Term 1 2020 beginning 6<sup>th</sup> February  
at The Kildara Centre, rear of  
39 Stanhope Street, Malvern.

**Contact** Raghnaid NicGaraidh  
rachel.hay@iinet.net.au



## 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: clanscottaustaliagroup.moonfruit.com**



## Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

Worldwide organization for all Wardlaws or related families. We invite you to join us.

**Email: clanwardlaw@yahoo.com**

**'Wardlaw ivermair!'**

[www.clanwardlaw.com](http://www.clanwardlaw.com)  
**Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books**



## 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**



The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited

ABN 30 093 578 860

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association  
The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC,  
[www.standrewsociety.com](http://www.standrewsociety.com)



## 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**

## Scottish Associations and Societies

## 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**

## Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria  
**Scottish Resource Centre**  
Level 1, 420 – 424 William St.  
West Melbourne VIC 3003

E-mail: [resource\\_centre@scotsofaus.org.au](mailto:resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au)  
Website: <https://scotsofaus.org.au>  
Facebook: [facebook.com/ScotsVictoria](https://facebook.com/ScotsVictoria)



## 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](mailto:clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com)  
**www.clansinclairaustralia.com**



THE AMERICAN-SCOTTISH FOUNDATION INC.

Through our platform of projects and events ASF helps share and strengthen the heritage and cultural message of Scotland's past and future. A bridge between the United States and Scotland.

**www.americanscottishfoundation.org**



The American-Scottish Foundation

## 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: shusa457@gmail.com**  
**(910) 295-4448**

## Victorian Scottish Union Inc

Established 1905

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

Ballarat Highland Dancing  
Balmoral Highland Dancing Society  
Begnion City Highland Dancing Society  
Brunswick Scottish Society  
Clan Donald Victoria  
Clan Grant  
Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc  
Clan Mackenzie of Australia  
Clan Maclean Australia  
Clan Sinclair Association  
Clan Sutherland Australia  
Geelong Scottish Dance  
Glenbrae Celtic Dancers  
Kilmore Celtic Festival  
Maryborough Highland Society  
Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society  
Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society  
The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne  
Robert Burns Club of Camperdown  
Warrnambool & District Caledonian Society  
Warrnambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society

Chief: Ms Ceilidh McKinna Robertson  
President: Mr Douglas Pearce  
Secretary: Mrs Jan Macdonald  
**T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930**  
**E: [secretary@victorianscottishunion.com](mailto:secretary@victorianscottishunion.com)**  
**www.victorianscottishunion.com**

## IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



# Tattie Scones

### Ingredients:

500 g/1lb. potatoes (cooked and mashed)  
30 g/1 oz. butter (melted plus extra for greasing)  
½ tsp. salt  
1 medium egg  
125 g/4 oz. flour (plus a little extra for rolling out)  
1 tsp. baking powder.

### Method:

Preheat the oven to 395 F/200 C/Gas 6. Place the mashed potato in a large baking bowl and add all the other ingredients to form a sticky dough. Roll out the dough on a floured surface to approximately 1/2-inch thickness.

Cut into saucer sized rounds then score a cross into the dough to mark 4 equal wedges. Grease a baking sheet with butter and bake the scones for 15 minutes until golden brown and risen. The scones can also be cooked on the stove top on a griddle or heavy-based frying pan. Cook the scones 5 minutes on either side until golden and risen.

## Highland Salad

### Ingredients:

1 x 300g/10½oz. sirloin or fillet steak salt and freshly ground black pepper  
25ml/1fl oz. rapeseed oil  
1 red chilli, finely chopped  
1 tbsp. palm sugar  
2 garlic cloves, sliced  
2 tbsp. fresh coriander, plus extra for the salad  
2 tbsp. fresh mint  
1 tsp. fish sauce  
1 tbsp. soy sauce  
1 lime, juice and zest  
1 round lettuce  
50g/1¾oz. sugar-snap peas, halved  
6 radishes, sliced

### Method:

Preheat a barbecue or griddle pan to hot. Season the steak with lots of black pepper, drizzle with oil and place onto a hot barbecue or griddle pan for five minutes, turning half-way through. To make the dressing, put the chilli, palm sugar, garlic and a teaspoon of salt into a pestle and mortar. Grind for 1-2 minutes, then

add the coriander and mint and grind for another minute. Mix in the fish sauce, soy sauce, lime juice and zest.

Cut the lettuce into six wedges and place in a bowl. Top with the sugar-snap peas, radishes and a few coriander leaves. Pour the dressing over the salad and toss to coat. Slice the beef and lay it on top of the salad.

## Burns Cottage pie



### Ingredients:

1 tbsp. olive oil  
1 large onion, chopped  
2 carrots, chopped  
560g/1¼lb. beef mince  
400g can of tomatoes  
290ml/10fl oz. beef stock  
1 bay leaf  
1 sprig fresh thyme, leaves stripped  
2 tbsp. tomato purée  
salt and freshly ground black pepper

### For the topping

750g/1½ lb. potatoes, peeled and chopped  
225g/8oz. parsnips, peeled and chopped  
2 tsp creamed horseradish  
75g/2½oz. butter  
55ml/2fl oz. milk

### Method:

Preheat the oven to 190C/170C Fan/Gas 5. Heat the oil in a large pan. Add the onion and carrot and cook over a medium heat for 5 minutes, or until soft. Add the minced beef and cook for 3 minutes, to brown. Add the tomatoes, purée, beef stock, bay leaf and thyme. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Season. Meanwhile, to make the topping, boil the potatoes and parsnips in water until soft. Drain and mash with the butter and milk. Stir in the horseradish and season with salt and pepper. Spoon the meat into an ovenproof dish. Top with the mash and bake for 30 minutes, or until golden brown.

## Oatcakes



### Ingredients:

110g/4oz. medium oatmeal, plus more for dusting  
110g/4oz. plain flour  
55g/2oz. lard, dripping or poultry fat  
1 level tsp salt  
cold water  
For the glaze  
1 egg  
1 tbsp. milk  
1 tsp. sugar

### Method:

Mix the oatmeal and flour in a bowl. Rub in the fat, add the salt and mix in just enough cold to form a soft but not tacky dough. Roll out the dough on an oatmeal-strewn board. Cut out circles with a scone cutter. Alternatively, cut out a dinner-plate round, and quarter it. Mix together the egg, milk and sugar to form a glaze. Cook the oatcakes on an ungreased medium-hot griddle, without turning them. The moment the first batch are in place, brush them over with glaze - it will turn to a shiny coating as they cook. When fully cooked, remove. Store in an airtight box.

## Scottish Summer Dessert

### Ingredients:

Slices of medium or thin white bread with the all the crusts removed. Use a light, airy variety if possible.  
500g/1lb. of fresh soft fruit (strawberries, raspberries, cherries, brambles). There are no fixed proportions, but it works best if half of the fruit consists of strawberries.  
30ml/1 fl oz. water  
150g/5oz. or ¾ cup of caster (or fine granulated) sugar

### Method:

Line the base and the sides of a 1½ pint or 900ml. pudding basin with a layer of bread. Wash and trim the fruit (removing any stones or stalks) and cut strawberries in half. Put the water and sugar in a pan and bring to the boil. Add the fruit with the softest (raspberries/brambles) last. Cook only briefly - the fruit should still retain its shape. Drain off the syrup and retain for later. Spoon the fruit into the bowl which has been lined with bread. Add a little of the retained syrup. Place more bread to cover the top of the bowl. Place a saucer on top and apply pressure. Keep the bowl and the juice in a refrigerator overnight. Loosen with a palette knife and turn out onto a large bowl. Pour the rest of the syrup over it. Cut into wedges and serve with lightly whipped double cream/whipping cream.

*Depending where you are, July is either midsummer or midwinter, so spoil yourself with these tasting treats.*

## Birthday celebration chocolate cake



*Celebrate the Scottish Banner's 44th birthday with this great cake!*

### Ingredients:

190g/6½oz. self-raising flour  
150g/5oz. caster sugar  
2 level tbsp. cocoa powder  
1 level tsp. bicarbonate of soda  
1 level tsp. baking powder  
2 tbsp. golden syrup  
2 free-range eggs  
150ml/¼ pint sunflower oil  
150ml/¼ pint milk  
For the icing:  
200g/7oz. white chocolate  
150ml/¼ pint double cream  
1 x 125g/4½oz. tub full-fat cream cheese

### Method:

Heat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4 and grease and line with greased greaseproof paper the bases of two 20cm/8in straight-sided loose bottomed sandwich tins. Sift the dry ingredients into a large bowl and make a well in the centre. Add the syrup, eggs, oil and milk, mix with an electric hand whisk and pour into the tins. Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes, or until the cakes springs back when lightly pressed with your fingertips. Turn out on a wire rack, remove the paper and leave to cool. For the icing, break the white chocolate into a bowl. Heat the double cream in a pan, until very hot but not boiling and pour the hot cream over the white chocolate to melt it. Stir until melted and set aside to cool. Spoon the cream cheese into a bowl then gradually add the white chocolate mixture and stir until combined. Set aside to cool a little, until thick enough to ice. Spread half of the icing on one cake, sit the other cake on top and spread the remaining icing on top to give a pretty finish.

## Sporran breeze

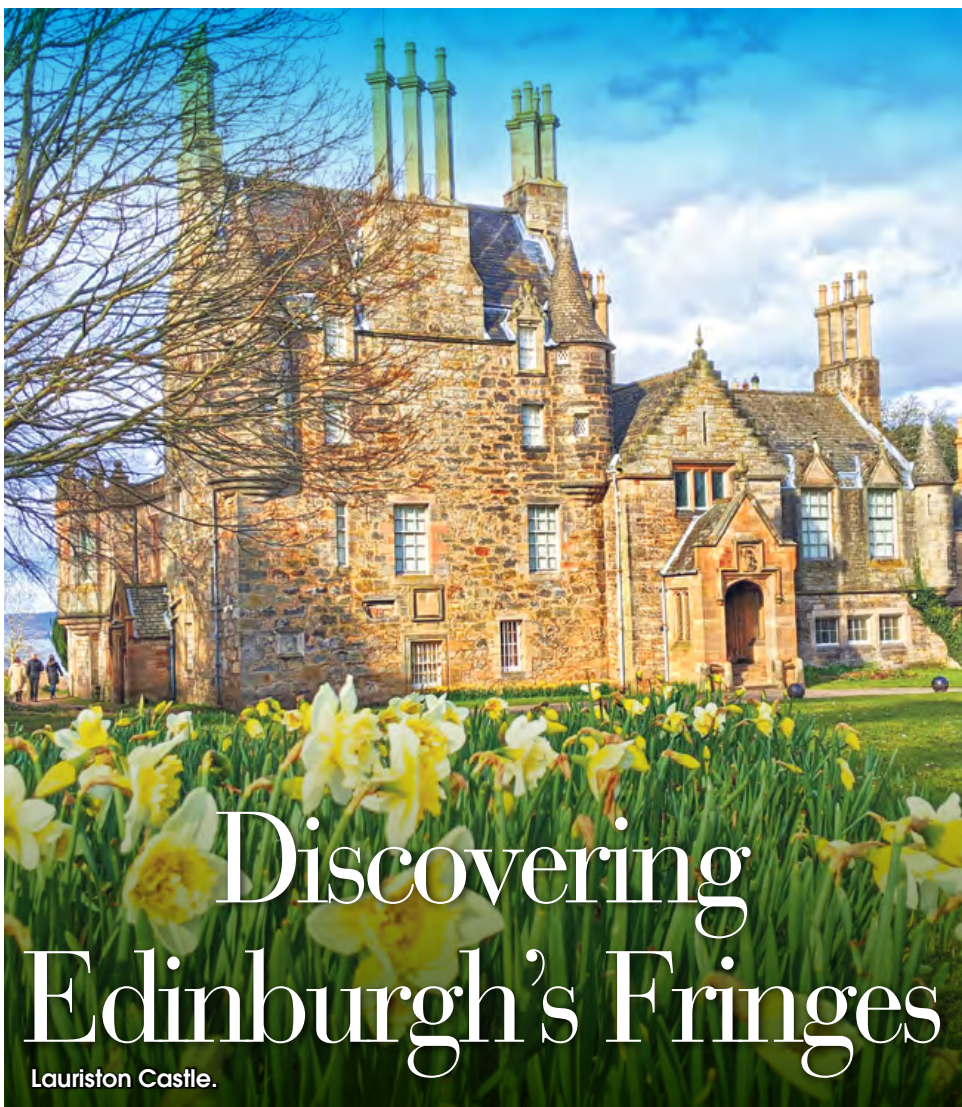
### Ingredients:

1 orange wedge  
50ml single-malt whisky  
2 tsp passion fruit syrup  
25ml/1fl oz. fresh apple juice  
25ml/1fl oz. cranberry juice  
¼ apple, to garnish

### Method:

Put the orange wedge, whisky, passion fruit syrup, apple juice and cranberry juice into a cocktail shaker. Add a handful of crushed ice and shake hard. To serve, strain the cocktail into a highball glass fill with crushed ice. Garnish with the apple.

All images courtesy of David C. Weinczok.



# Discovering Edinburgh's Fringes

Lauriston Castle.

**Edinburgh is Scotland's beautiful capital city with major attraction such as Edinburgh Castle, The Royal Mile, the Old and New Town's, just to name a few. It is also home to many hidden gems sitting outside the city centre, just waiting to be discovered when we can next visit, as David C. Weinczok explains.**

By: David C Weinczok



We are all having to adapt to finding the little wonders and curiosities much closer to home than usual. At what would typically be nearly the height of the tourist and travelling season, Scots are having to make do with venturing out into a drastically shortened radius.

A silver lining of this is that, as a resident of Edinburgh, it has brought to light just how much there truly is in and immediately around the nation's capital to discover.

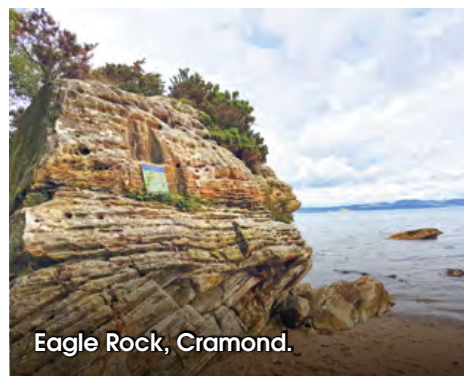
When normal operations resume and visitors once again revel in all that Edinburgh has to offer, my hope is that they as well as residents take the time to follow the local roads less travelled. Yes, visit Edinburgh Castle, have a drink in the Grassmarket and meander through the twists and turns of the labyrinthine Old Town. But once that's said and done, there are innumerable lesser-known corners where you can make some surprising discoveries, including some that most guides would insist you travel much further afield to find.



Cammo Estate ruinous house.



Tormain Hill Cup & Ring Marked Rock.



Eagle Rock, Cramond.

## A journey through more than 5,000 years of history

In that spirit, allow me to take you on a journey through more than 5,000 years of history starting just over ten miles from Edinburgh's city centre. It begins at Kirknewton, which is serviced by a train station but for the avid cyclist is also conveniently near the pleasant path that follows the Union Canal.

A quiet road leads northwards from the village to Tormain Hill, taking in glimpses of the nearby Forth Bridges and hills of Fife along the way. This rather unassuming ridge is home to one of the most remarkable examples of prehistoric rock art in central Scotland, and to view them at their best it is ideal to visit as near to sunrise or sunset as possible. A short dirt trail culminates at a small rocky outcrop, where some 5,000 years ago a hand – or, more likely, many hands over many years – etched cup and ring markings into the stones.

The meaning of these markings has been lost to time. They are most prolific in Argyll, yet the carvings at Tormain, a fifteen-minute train ride plus twenty-minute cycle from central Edinburgh, are just as beautiful if less numerous as their better known west coast cousins. Yet an even more impressive prehistoric remnant awaits just a few miles away in Newbridge

Set between motorways and flanked by car dealerships is Huly Hill Cairn. I would be amazed if one in a hundred Edinburgh residents had any idea it existed. Though its modern setting leaves something to be desired, Huly Hill is a wonder to rival the world famous Maes Howe in Orkney – though unlike that iconic monument, there is no interior access.

The cairn itself is massive, a three metre-high mound thirty metres in diameter, and was used by the prehistoric inhabitants of the Lothians as a sacred burial place. Three great standing stones surround it, all that now remain of two separate stone circles whose other stones were lost to agriculture and industry. This now unassuming commercial quarter was clearly once a place of tremendous importance.

## An abandoned historical theme park

It was at Huly Hill that I experienced an unforgettable moment of reflection that will forever stay with me. The cairn, built at a time when the only machinery was rudimentary levers powered by human muscle, now lies directly under the flight path of airplanes taking off from Edinburgh Airport. As I sat at the foot of one of the stones a procession of planes hurtled not far overhead, almost directly over the cairn. Imagine resurrecting one of the cairn's builders and asking them what they imagined it looking like in five millennia – and now, apply the same to us and our neighbourhoods five millennia

from now. I am certain that we would be equally bewildered at the results.

After an admittedly unpleasant stretch alongside the M8 motorway passing by the airport you come to Maybury Road, which traces the fringes of the Cammo Estate. The estate is something of an oasis which, like Huly Hill Cairn, many locals could go their whole lives without ever setting foot at. Walking or cycling its paths feels a little like visiting an abandoned historical theme park. A stately home, an 18<sup>th</sup> century walled garden, a ruinous estate built as a mock castle, a four-storey water tower from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and a solitary standing stone all await within. The estate became something of a tourist destination after Robert Louis Stevenson drew inspiration from it to create the House of Shaws in his novel *Kidnapped*, a work whose trail we will pick up again shortly.

From Cammo it is a short downhill trek to Cramond. If you're feeling especially adventurous I recommend making a detour of a few miles along the west bank of the River Almond through the Dalmeny Estate to the shores of the Firth of Forth, where a sharp-eyed explorer can find Eagle Rock. Some 2,000 years ago Roman legionaries had their base at what is now Cramond Kirk on the other side of the river, with the stone foundations of their fort still visible there. Whether out of pride or sheer boredom, several of them took it upon themselves to carve an eagle, the symbol of imperial Rome, in the rock here. It makes an excellent setting for a picnic before heading back to Cramond itself.

Long a favourite spot for family day trips, Cramond boasts a waterside promenade, quaint architecture, a woodland walk and a tidal causeway leading out to Cramond Island where defences were built during the First and Second World Wars. Cramond Kirk has stood for over 700 years, and its grounds contain not just the remains of the Roman fort but also a number of fascinating Early Modern gravestones carved with motifs including the Tree of Life and deep-socketed skulls. Along with the ice cream trucks that roam the shoreline and ample beaches, Cramond on those rare warm and sunny days is hard to beat.

## West of Edinburgh

By now we have travelled a little under ten miles, but there are still two places in the west of Edinburgh that must not be missed. The first is Lauriston Castle, a splendid tower and chateau set within sprawling grounds that include a blissful Japanese garden. The original tower was destroyed during the Rough Wooing, when Henry VIII's armies ravaged the Lothians in an attempt to intimidate Scotland into giving up the infant Mary, Queen of Scots for marriage to his son. The rebuilt tower was the home of the Napier family, whose line included John



Cramond Kirk.



Cammo Estate water tower.



Corstorphine Hill Tower.

Napier, inventor of logarithms, whose own castle of Merchiston Tower can be found in the Edinburgh neighbourhood of Bruntsfield. When open, a tour of Lauriston Castle and its many treasures is a true delight though the grounds alone, replete with classically-inspired statues, gardens, and stunning views over the Firth of Forth are well worth seeing in their own right.

The final haul is up Corstorphine Hill, one of the 'Seven Hill's of Edinburgh but one which gets far less fanfare than better known counterparts like Blackford Hill or Calton Hill. It is adjacent to Edinburgh Zoo, and I underestimated just how close the two are until the moment when I saw a zebra standing not thirty yards away from me on the other side of a high fence! Not something you expect on your average jaunt around Edinburgh, to be sure.

At the height of the hill is Corstorphine Hill Tower, a serene and solitary monument dedicated to Sir Walter Scott.

You can climb to the top on one of the annual Doors Open Days arranged by the Friends of Corstorphine Hill, and look down from on high upon an Edinburgh that has both radically changed and in some ways stood still since Scott's death in 1832. On the south eastern flank of the hill is a little spot called 'Rest and Be Thankful', a viewpoint affording sweeping vistas of the city where travellers coming from the west, as we have, would gain their first view of it. It is also the place where Alan Breck Stuart and David Balfour parted ways in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*, one of many inspirations behind Edinburgh's well-earned title as the world's first UNESCO City of Literature. From here the city centre is again well within reach, and you can look back on your journey knowing that you have seen a side of Edinburgh and its surrounds hidden to most in plain sight.

## Scone Palace lights up blue for the NHS



**S**cone Palace has been lighting in up blue to express its thanks to those on the front line fighting the coronavirus pandemic, becoming the first stately home in the UK to adopt the initiative which has been picked up globally.

The palace, which can be seen for miles around Perthshire, has been floodlit from 6.30pm until 10.30pm, the same time as the UK observes its weekly "Clap for Carers" moment which takes place at 8pm every Thursday night.

It will join the hundreds of buildings around the world, from entertainment venues to national landmarks, that are already been illuminated in the NHS blue, expressing the world's gratitude for their tireless hard work fighting on the front line of this pandemic.

The #LightItBlue initiative originated in the United Kingdom and has now spread globally with structures around the world now joining in including the Tower of London, Disney World in Florida and Niagara Falls in Canada.

## KEEP UP TO DATE

*Keep up to date with all latest events that are going ahead, postponed or cancelled at:*

[www.scottishbanner.com/events](http://www.scottishbanner.com/events)

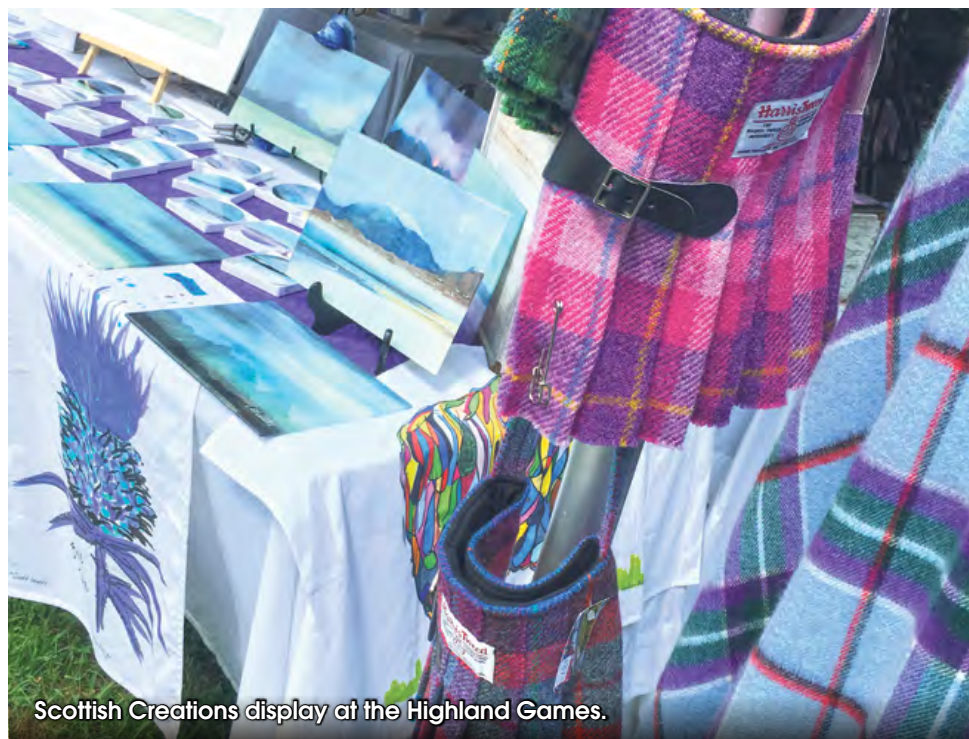
Event organisers please send amendments to:  
[events@scottishbanner.com](mailto:events@scottishbanner.com)

### Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
1 Peat	1 Puffer
3 Bap	2 Township
5 Damson	3 Burns Night
8 Any	4 Paps
9 Flower	5 Dyke
10 Shetland	6 Sprain
12 SOS	7 Need
13 Rash	11 Toe
15 Nineteenth	14 Awe
19 Neep	16 Niece
20 Gleam	17 Tombstones
21 Spey	18 Hay
23 Privateers	19 Nip
26 Rasp	21 Strength
28 Tee	22 Ems
29 Victoria	24 Inches
32 Noggin	25 Ago
33 Aye	27 Punnet
34 Easter	29 Vale
35 Ass	30 Roar
36 Hart	31 Area

# Scots-Working Together and Helping Each Other

By: Hilary Creighton



Scottish Creations display at the Highland Games.

**T**he pandemic has turned our world upside down. It is, of course, first and foremost a human tragedy and our hearts and thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones. They are feeling the full force of this terrible virus.

Scottish Creations is a small family business. Although we are primarily an online store, we also travel to many of the Highland Games in the USA, where we have met many of you over the years. One of our favorite times of the year, the games have become a huge part of

what makes Scottish Creations such an exciting venture. We will miss meeting all our customers, many who have become friends, hearing about their visits to Scotland and how much they love the country, even when it rained!

The games themselves are wonderful events where many of us have shared an experience like no other and have memories that will last a lifetime. Sadly, nearly all the highland games and festivals have been cancelled this year.

Our mission at Scottish Creations has always been to bring you unique and fun creations from our country into your homes. To do this we only work with small independent, mostly family run businesses. From father-daughter glass blowers to the creative mums at home making beautiful tiles and art to take you to places in Scotland you may have visited or perhaps dream of visiting one day.

We love being able to showcase their creations and to share insights into how they are made and where they are from. Without the ability to chat with you at the games about our suppliers and their products, our year looks very different.

### Helping each other

Many organizations and societies are working to make all the events we enjoy possible and many are run entirely by volunteers. Who hasn't enjoyed a Burns Night, a St Andrews Day Celebration, or the thought of a Tartan Day Parade? And these are only a few of the many events that are organized across the country. It is because of the year-round hard work and the fundraising efforts of these organizations and societies that we all get to enjoy the larger outdoor games and festivals. However, the pandemic has changed the way we live and social distancing is now an integral part of our lives. Sadly, many of these crucially important fund-raising events will not be happening this year.

We believe that the only way many of us can hope to continue beyond the pandemic is by being creative and helping each other. With that in mind – and to help in our own small way – we have launched a program which we are calling 'Scots - Working Together and Helping Each Other'. Our program offers two benefits to the Members and Friends of the various organizations, societies, and highland games. Members & Friends will receive a discount on all purchases from our website. Scottish Creations will then match that discount in the form of a donation to the organization from the member.

Although we cannot be physically together this year, doing what we love to do, we believe we can still help each other. Working together in whatever way we can, is one way to ensure that we will all be able to gather together again to celebrate when the challenges of 2020 are behind us.

**For further details please see:**  
[www.scottishcreations.com](http://www.scottishcreations.com)

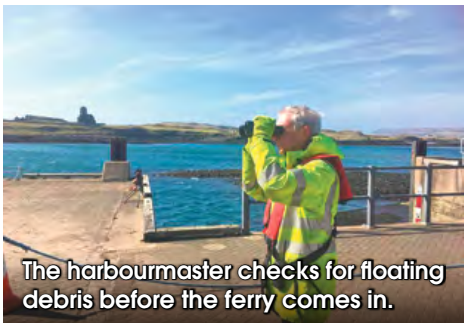


# Looking after Scotland under lockdown

*The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) properties may not have been open to visitors, but their vital work has continued through the coronavirus crisis.*



Brodie Castle.



The harbourmaster checks for floating debris before the ferry comes in.

**Y**ou might have thought that tiny Fair Isle, sitting between Orkney and Shetland, would be too far away to feel the effects of the coronavirus emergency. The most remote community in the UK, after all, can only be reached by boat or plane, and it could be said that self-isolation is not exactly a new concept for those who live there. But, as the lockdown came into force, it quickly became a priority to ensure the supply of food to the 55-strong population. And, as Fair Isle is one of the 11 populated islands in NTS care, the National Trust for Scotland was immediately involved.

"We are responsible for the airstrip and aerodrome on Fair Isle," explains Clea Warner, the Trust's General Manager for the Highlands and Islands. "With the island quarantined and no one going in or out unless absolutely necessary, we've had to do our bit to help keep these lifeline services going, as they're the only way of getting food and supplies in."

It's a similar situation in the Inner Hebrides, where Canna, to the south-west of Skye, is also looked after by the Trust. The NTS are responsible for the harbour there (they employ the harbour master), and maintaining supplies for the small community of 16 people has been vital work.

## New skills



Daffodils in full bloom at Brodie Castle.

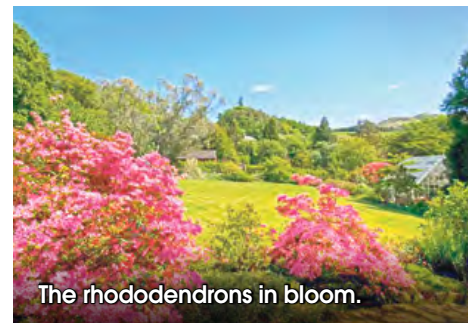
When the country went into lockdown in March, the decision was made to close all NTS properties to protect visitors, staff and volunteers. At many places, pressing pause meant planned activities had to be put on hold.

At others, though, simply shutting up shop wasn't an option. The doors might be closed, but an extraordinary amount of work has been going on behind the scenes – and, with a large number of Trust staff furloughed, managers have had to develop new skills.

Iconic Highland sites such as Culloden, Glenfinnan Monument and Glencoe usually attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, and so Clea knows how important these new skills are. "We're doing all kinds of weird and wonderful things," she says. "At Culloden, the Operations Manager and the Engagement Manager have been making sure the property's Highland and Shetland cows are being fed and watered. Looking after our heritage has to continue during the lockdown, and our conservation grazing heroes are getting stuck into the new birch and willow growth. Our property manager at Kintail, meanwhile, has been out exercising the retired stalking ponies who live there."

One of the biggest attractions in the grounds at Brodie Castle is the annual blooming of the National Daffodil Collection. But just because there are no visitors doesn't mean the flowers have been forgotten: Clea's team are busy looking after the sunburst of yellow blooms, and gardeners have turned into photographers, capturing images of the carpet of spring flowers to share on social media.

## Keeping gardens beautiful



The rhododendrons in bloom.

With a large number of formal gardens under his remit, Ian McLelland, General Manager for the South and West, has also been keeping the Trust's gardeners busy. "If you have a woodland garden, it doesn't matter if you leave it for a while – it can get away with being a bit wilder. But if you have manicured lawns and greenhouses, you have to keep on top of them," he explains. "They'd be spoiled for years if our gardeners didn't keep on working."

The rhododendron collections at Arduaine, Brodick and Crarae go back more than a century and are among the region's most prized plants. They need tending, as do the glasshouses at Culzean where fruit is grown.

Over on Arran at Brodick Castle are tender plants such as *Echium candicans* from Madeira, as well as specimens of *Rhododendron giganteum* collected by the celebrated Scottish botanist George Forrest and *Rhododendron magnificum* collected by Frank Kingdon-Ward. Greenbank Garden, in Glasgow, meanwhile, is home to a Plant Heritage National Collection of bergenias.

## On hold



Work is nearly complete on rethatching the roof of Burns Cottage.

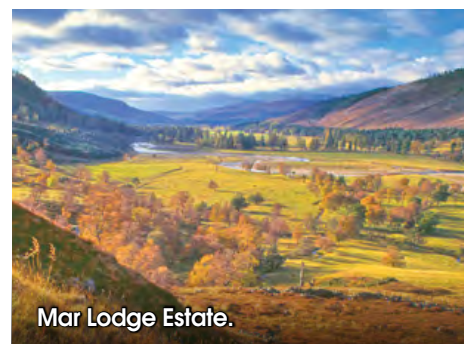
It's not just gardens that have been affected by the closures. Work to rethatch the roof of Burns Cottage, where the poet was born in 1759, was within a week of being finished when the contractors had to down tools. "I saw the roof just before the shutdown," recalls Ian. "It was looking fabulous, but everyone had to leave the site."

On the other side of the country, Stuart Maxwell, General Manager for Edinburgh and East, usually has 174 staff working for him. Now, there are just 10 people covering properties all the way from Killiecrankie to St Abbs – and that means they've had to learn to multi-task. Stuart himself has been on gardening duty and doing jobs the facilities team would normally have done, such as testing alarm systems. And that's not all, he said: "There was one day I was at the Newhailes community garden, pulling up rhubarb and leaving it out for local people to take. Then I went to Inveresk to water the plants. I also had to make a stop at the Georgian House – the moisture levels and temperature have to be monitored to keep its collections safe. There's a problem room there, and I had to turn on a radiator to get the heat up."

Thanks to a long spell of dry weather this spring, watering plants has been a key task for Stuart and his team. He's grateful that Jim Jermyn, Head Gardener and Property Manager at Perth's Branklyn Garden, lives on site and has been able to look after the place as well as share pictures of it on social media.

Keeping properties safe while taking the time to prepare for when the doors finally reopen has also been occupying Iain Hawkins, General Manager for the North-East. He has gardening teams hard at work across the various estates. Regular alarm and security checks are carried out by a skeleton staff. "A lot of our properties have a designed landscape – they're deliberately made to feel natural – but they still need looking after," says Iain. "The gardening team have these grounds to care for as well as the plants in the walled gardens and the glasshouses. They really have their hands full at the moment."

## Nature conservation



Mar Lodge Estate.

Occupying 50% of the Trust's entire land holdings, and encompassing 15 Munros, heathered moorland, wetlands and Caledonian pine forest, Mar Lodge Estate is one of the most important nature conservation landscapes in Britain. The wilderness is home to rare wildlife and there is an extensive ongoing programme of conservation work.

What concerns Operations Manager David Frew is the work that has been put on hold during lockdown. "Deer management, to allow the pinewood regeneration, is our single biggest task, and it goes on all year round," he says. "At the moment we can't send our workers out; that's because, no matter how careful we are, there's always a risk when anyone goes on to the mountains. It's about protecting the emergency services and not placing undue stress on them."

The estate's wildlife is unperturbed by the lack of visitors. "There are species that we know are around because we monitor them," he says. "But we're noticing them much more at the moment. We have otters in all of the rivers here, for example. We had a major project last year to replace a large bridge on the estate. It's near my house, and I was out for a walk one morning when I noticed otter spraint (dung) on the bridge."

## An uncertain future

The money raised from Trust membership is crucial to help fund conservation work across the country. Regional managers are in no doubt that the support of members will ensure that work continues – that footpaths are mended, and buildings and their contents are looked after for future generations to enjoy. But undoubtedly the biggest long-term risk, apart from damage to habitats, is the financial one. At a local level, Mar Lodge Estate depends on money generated through weddings and holiday lets to fund regeneration and conservation projects. More widely, the huge drop in income from months without visitors will be felt across everything the NTS do.

Stuart Maxwell believes some of his sites in the east of Scotland might struggle to reopen after the lockdown is lifted, or may have to look at running with more volunteers. "Some don't get a huge number of visitors, so even just a slight fall has an impact on money coming in. Working together to protect our national treasures, it is clear, has never mattered more," he says.

*Text and images are courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland.*

*For more information on the Trust or to help them protect Scotland's heritage see: [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)*