

Volume 44 - Number 3

Scottish Banner

Publisher Scottish Banner Pty Ltd.

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

Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806

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

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The Banner Says...

Remembering Valerie Cairney



by Sean Cairney

t is with great sadness that I am writing some of the hardest lines of my life, as I slowly come to terms with the fact that the founder and four decade publisher and editor of *the Scottish Banner*, my mother, Valerie Cairney has sadly and unexpectedly passed away.

Valerie's footprint

I know many readers have enjoyed her content over many years or met her at numerous Scottish events around the world. Though *the Scottish Banner* has morphed and changed over time in what we offer, our look and our writers, Valerie's footprint is across each and every page still today.

Valerie's love for this publication and its readers and supporters was infinite. When she, along with my father Jim, came up with the idea of a Scottish publication back in the 1970's it really was a way for her to take on a job that suited her demands of being a mother to three children, and in many ways *the Banner* became her fourth offspring.

My mother would often say she would never have had the life she did if it was not for the Scottish Banner and she loved every minute of it. She met so many people through her career from celebrities to royalty, but it really was the readers she loved to meet and hear from most. For my mother, the relationship with the readers was so special and it was very much a two-way street, she loved them and so many loved her. Our readership became extended family to her and she got to know so many incredible people and I have no doubt had she not been so busy with running the Banner she would have had a very busy life keeping up with all the special people she met along the way. People's positive feedback about our content made all those long hard hours of work so worth it to her.

Valerie especially loved attending Highland Games across the world and connecting with people and enjoying the spectacle of Scottish culture.

The Son

I cannot even begin to tell you how many people whether it has been in person, on the phone or by email have simply asked me "Are you the son?" I am of course so very proud to be one of her boys and it just happens to be I was the one to follow her in her footsteps and take a leap of faith and join *the Banner* many years ago and make a life out of being part of the amazing international Scottish community. Sometimes to my absolute embarrassment, at the time, she talked of me in her articles, those articles I now treasure and have read a few over recently with a big smile, one of the few smiles I have just now, but with each word her love and support came through.

It may be quite rare for a mother and son to work the way we did, but we did form an incredible partnership in both our professional and personal lives. We may have not always seen a page the same way, we did however learn from each other and she always said whilst *the Scottish Banner* is very rewarding it is also a challenging job and if I ever wanted out she understood.

Valerie's love for this publication and its readers and supporters was infinite.

There are few people who understand the challenges of running a business like the Scottish Banner like Val did, at each press time you may feel you can take a breather but in fact the next issue is only a few short weeks away from printing again, there can be a heavy travel schedule as you attend events (either across the country or the world), and of course all the hard work that is not always seen by others. To this day I have known few people that have worked as hard as my mother did for all those years to keep the Scottish Banner not only going, but going from strength to strength for so many

I was of course honoured when she asked me to take over as editor, a job she said I was made for. For me it was all part of my bigger job and that was being her son.

Her legacy

Valerie really was the Scottish Banner, and it was her, her legacy is across each issue still produced today. Since my mother retired four years ago, I have felt simply as the conduit to her vision and passion which never went away. We often discussed so much in each issue, ideas about future issues and our combined hope for the future of the business. I know she was so proud of what she achieved with the Banner and was probably just as surprised as the rest of us it carried her through her life. My mother also made it very clear to me on numerous occasions how proud she was that the Banner continues still today.

This publication is not just our family business, but it is her legacy to both the international Scottish community and to me. I know my mother will rest better knowing how many her work touched and connected across the world.

Valerie passed away in Florida just before this edition went to press. I can already hear her telling me to "get the issue out on time, the readers expect it". She always wanted to know when each issue got off safely to press and as we call it "putting the issue to bed", well now Val too has "gone to bed' and leaves her family not only with a great sense of loss, but one of pride and respect. My mother broke many glass ceilings with the Scottish Banner and her other business ventures, and became an international entrepreneur, a passionate supporter of the global Scottish community and a friend to many. To me she was so much more, my business partner, my friend, my hero, my mentor and most importantly my mother, who can never be replaced.

Now my family and I will come to terms with the finality of this surreal loss, made even more difficult in a Covid world, and remember one incredible lady who gave so much to so many, and one I was simply not yet ready to say goodbye to.

Rest in peace Mum and thank you for everything you have done xoxo.



Do you have 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

Covid-19 is having a major impact on many of our regular advertisers, with events being cancelled and businesses suffering. The Scottish Banner is more reliant than ever on our readers helping us to provide you with our unique content by buying a copy of our publication, regardless if by print or digital subscription or at a retail outlet. We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.



Gracing our front cover: Scottish Banner founder, publisher and editor Valerie Cairney. Photo: Jeff Moore.





reetings from Scotland. A country still somewhat in hibernation, but one that is slowly coming back to life. The chief got the train to Edinburgh this month – the first time he's been on public transport for six months – and I went shopping for something other than food. I was wearing a mask, following great arrows painted on the floor and viewing clothes on racks whilst not allowed to touch them...

It is all very strange. Then you know that already. Being housebound has had its ups and downs. 'Up' has given some folk a chance to get off the treadmill. And sort out all those household jobs we always meant to do.

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

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.

'Down' - well, where do we start with a global pandemic? The MacGregor and I are lucky to be in the countryside and be surrounded by greenery and open spaces. Those living in towns and cities have had a much more difficult time.

Valerie Cairney

What the last few months have done, though, is concentrate the mind on what is important. Which is family, friends and community... And talking of true and good friends, I was terribly sad to hear of the death of the wonderful woman who started this publication. I met Valerie Cairney more than twenty-five years ago at an American Highland Games. A glamorous blonde lady she was bubbling with enthusiasm. She was fiercely proud of her paper - a gifted editor devoted to *the Scottish Banner* and its readers – and dedicated to promoting the land she loved so much.

Val's parents emigrated to Canada in the 1950s and it was whilst working as a journalist in Toronto she went on to marry, Jim Cairney, a former professional footballer who was born in Glasgow.

Together the couple had the idea of setting up a newspaper for those with Scottish roots. So, it was forty-four years ago, the first edition of *the Scottish Banner* appeared in North America – with the paper later covering Australia and New Zealand.

Val was tireless in her mission to bring Scottish news, heritage and culture to a wider audience. *The Banner* as it is affectionately known by ex-pats would become the largest circulation Scottish newspaper outside Scotland.

We first met all those years ago in a tent at Stone Mountain Games. I can remember it so clearly. I had flown across the Atlantic with a selection of the clan videos I was then producing. Val was encouraging and said they would sell - which they did. I then suggested I might write a column for her...

She left her mark

It was a great honour to have my scribblings published in such an impressive paper and news of Val's passing has made me go back into the archives to look at some of those early columns. In 2001, for example, I wrote about plans to safeguard one of Scotland's best loved foods.

I introduced readers to Selkirk – a place where the novelist, Sir Walter Scott, dispensed justice as the local sheriff. A small town in the Scottish Borders where mills turned out wonderful tartans and cashmere – whilst the local butcher produced award-winning haggis.

But this community has another claim to fame. It is the home of the famous 'Selkirk Bannock' and I described how plans were afoot to protect this deliciously moist tea bread. The aim was to stop bakers from making any old fruit loaf and calling it a 'Selkirk Bannock'.

By: Lady Fiona

MacGregor

That month I also told readers about Princess Anne coming to Scotland to officially open a Forest Fest. It was a right old celebration of trees - and we don't have a shortage of those in this country. After doing the honours the princess was presented with a wooden seagull. I wonder if she still has it?!

Anyhow, Val seemed pleased with those early offerings from across the pond. So, it continued, and all these years on I am still writing for this illustrious paper – now run so expertly by Val's son, Sean Cairney.

We met up from time to time. Sometimes for a lunch in Edinburgh if she was over here on business. Other times the MacGregor and I would look for her in her tent if we were at an American Highland Games. She attended our wedding in Scotland and Val – we still have those gorgeous wine glasses with the MacGregor crest on that you so carefully carried across the Atlantic.

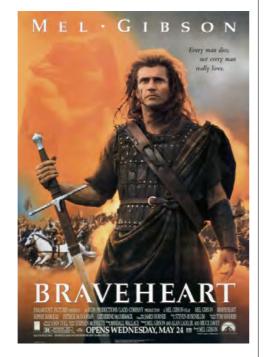
She was beautiful. She was bright and sassy. She was a fine newspaper editor. Her passing is a great loss to her family, and also to readers of this fine newspaper. Val was a lady in every sense of the word. She left her mark in every copy that has been produced – and she is someone to whom Scotland owes a great debt.

'Braveheart Live' virtual panel to mark 25 years since movie premiere

virtual presentation will take place on 3rd September to mark 25 years since the award-winning film Braveheart premiered in Stirling. Braveheart Live 2020 will be hosted by Stirling District Tourism, who operate The National Wallace Monument, and will feature insight from expert speakers. The event will centre on the impact the film has had across Scottish culture and will explore recent discoveries that have shed new light on the historical figure of William Wallace. Participating speakers include Dauvit Braun, Professor of Scottish History at the University of Glasgow, David Martin Jones, Professor of Film Studies at the University of Glasgow, and Julie Tinson, Professor of Marketing at The University of Stirling.

Ken Thomson, Marketing Manager at Stirling District Tourism, said of the event: "We are delighted to be hosting Braveheart Live 2020, bringing together experts from across the fields of history, film studies and marketing to explore the impact this iconic film has had over the last 25 years.





Braveheart made a colossal impact directly following its European premiere in Stirling, and we will be re-visiting the historical facts surrounding William Wallace, the film's effect on Scottish tourism, and the different identities imposed onto Wallace over time."

The event will take place at 7pm (GMT) on 3rd September 2020, and it is free to join. Advanced registration is required – please email katie.sdtourism@btconnect.com to reserve your place. The webinar will be recorded and made accessible for viewing afterwards.



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).

his tartan (SRT Reference: 12894) was designed in support of the National Trust for Scotland's special campaign 'Save Our Scotland', and was designed to support their fundraising cause. The design uses colours to represent future developments and processes associated with textile dyes. The sett of this design has been mirrored from Save Our Scotland - The Hands of the Past tartan. The thread count for this design has been inspired by the date in history this campaign marks, the 31st July 2020. This tartan was designed by Prickly Thistle Scotland Ltd. And registered in July 2020.

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?

Remembering the ceremony at Rob Roys Grave





It was on 8th of August 1890 that the Clan Gregor Society held an Inaugural Ceremony at the Balquhidder Churchyard for the unveiling of the new bronze railing for Rob Roy MacGregors gravesite. It was a large gathering of MacGregor alumni including Lady Helen MacGregor of MacGregor and Clan historian Miss Amelia Murray MacGregor. The bronze railing was generously donated and paid for by London shipowner Mr James M'Gregor.

Rob Roy was one of the most famous people in Scotland, even as late as 1890 so it was surprising that for over a century and a half, his grave remained undistinguished from the neighbouring mounds in the Kirk yard, save for a narrow stone marked with a broadsword where the red MacGregor and his wife and sons lay. The grave of the MacGregors at the time, laid under the shadow of the ivy-grown ruin of the old Parish Church in the centre of the little burying ground. The ceremony took place at 1pm. Many of the ladies who turned up for the ceremony were brilliantly dressed with many adorning

the clan tartan and The men sporting a Scots pine sprig, the official plant of Clan Gregor. The memorial itself was covered with MacGregor tartan before the unveiling.

Other notable people there included the Provost (Mayor) of Crieff who was a MacGregor and the Reverend of Balquhidder Parish at the time was Rev David Cameron. Later that evening, there was a celebration dinner held at the Dreadnought Hotel in Callander. In the late 1960's, the bronze surround was hack sword and stolen by thieves but thankfully, it was generously replaced with a new railing by Lady MacGregor of MacGregor. The headstone that displays "MacGREGOR - DESPITE THEM" was a later addition placed there in 1981 by John MacGregor Blain, a local builder living in Balquhidder.

Today, the gravesite is still a very much sought out destination for Scots and tourists around the world.

Frank McGregor

Ed note: Thank you Frank for sharing this fascinating piece of history with us.

My hame

I went to the newsagent a quite a few times to get my *Scottish Banner* and when I saw the sad look on his face, I knew it was bad news. Finally, one day I went, and he had a smile on his face—yes-- I have missed my paper—not anybody's fault I know. I especially enjoy Jim Stoddart's stories as we were brought in the same era although I lived in Garrowhill, which is east of Glasgow. I love hearing words like "shut your geggie and get lost ye big Jessie"—good memories. I was planning to go to Scotland in May next year with 2 of my daughters (in style) -- my shout.

That's not going to happen now—so who knows when or if, and I am not getting any younger. My grandson, Leigh, sadly passed away in January 2016.
Although he was Australian born and bred, he loved everything Scottish—history, culture and music. When he came up to my place, we had so many conversations about it all. His favourite was Loch Lomond and I promised to take him there for a holiday when he was available but

often he was sadly not around-enough said. Unfortunately, that didn't eventuate. However I decided to have a little gathering there with my girls including my eldest daughter who has lived in the Highlands for over 30 years now—it was supposed to be a 'working holiday', and also my niece Alison from Helensburgh, and scatter some of his ashes. He would love that and sing his heart out –'up there'. However maybe one day it might happen but meanwhile I devour everything I see and hear about 'my hame', nothing like it. *Anne Koomen*

The Patch, Victoria Australia

Ed note: Thanks Anne for your letter and we hope you can get Leigh to Scotland soon so he can be part of the land he loved. We are very sorry for your family's loss.

Connecting me to my ancestors
Thank you *Scottish Banner* for putting
out each issue and connecting me to my
ancestors. We are all having a very strange
and difficult year and as I can no longer
attend Highland Games or visit Scotland,

I have realised just how important *the Scottish Banner* is to not just me, but so many of us who are 'across the miles'. I have no doubt *the Banner* is facing its own unique challenges and I wish everyone involved all the best at this time and join other readers in rallying others to subscribe and get friends and family members to join them. As with anything we won't know what we have lost, until it is gone.

I eagerly await each issue and love also all the great content you have on your Facebook page and wish all the team a very happy 44th birthday!

Carol Johnstone

Cape Coral, Florida

USA

Clan Mackenzie



Hope you are all well and staying Covid free. Thought you might like to see my husband David's face mask that he

commissioned me to make today.

Trudi Mackenzie

Victoria, Australia

Langton Road

The Langton Road article (*Scottish Banner*, July, 2020) from Jim Stoddart brought back many memories as I lived almost opposite in Neilsland Oval. I remember the prisoner war camp at the corner of Langton and Braidcraft Rd which held Italian POW's. *Thanks for the memories*, *Charlie Milligan*

Celebrating the sound of Scotland

How lovely to read about all the great initiatives taking place across the globe with the pipe band community. We are all so aware of Highland Games not happening in 2020 but can forget the pipe band movement is such an important year-round community. They really are there at community events and in moments of celebration and reflection and reach such varied age levels. It was so interesting to read that regardless of where in the world these organisations are, they are all doing some great things to keep the piping community together.

I adore pipe band music and cannot wait until I can hear bands, especially massed bands again live.

I wish all bands around the world the very best and thank you *Scottish Banner* for such a thoughtful editorial.

Until then may we all have some Amazing Grace! Bill "Jock" McGraw Toronto, Canada

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA Send us your photos or letters via social media



The Hector



In 1773 the "HECTOR" arrives in Pictou Harbour on Nova Scotia carrying 189 Highlanders, most loaded two months earlier in Ullapool. The Society of John De Graeme Scotland

Gosford Estate



A wander round Gosford Estate. ShutterBugShots @ShotsBug Scotland

Loch Linnhe



Loch Linnhe on a superb day. *Robert Gibb*

The Declaration of Arbroath statue



The Declaration of Arbroath statue I took a couple of years ago.

Martin

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

US President's letter reveals his love of farming

idea more accurate than can be formed from the printed notification might be had but it is not my wish that any man, or set of mer. should engage without fire by themselves or apents, competently que lified & instructed, vaccious, the premises and Judging for themselves. —

I bray your doord his to present the premises and fine in respectful terms, in which he milles instructed, to dady Buchan, and that

e is revered by many as a master politician, now a letter written by US President George Washington has shed light on his home life. Fresh analysis of the handwritten text – sent to a Scottish nobleman to encourage recruitment of skilled workers to Washington's estate – underlines how seriously he took his duties as a landowner and farmer. Close inspection reveals that the letter was written by Washington himself, rather than his Private Secretary. It is an indication of the President's desire to recruit wisely, and a sign of his commitment to his business concerns.

Republic of Letters

The document, written on 20 February 1796, is in the archives of the University of Edinburgh. The three-page letter can

be accessed by anyone who wishes to see the text close up. Experts at Edinburgh will now re-assess further examples of 18th century transatlantic discourse held in the archive. The documents will help researchers build a clearer picture of British-US relations at the time. The letter to Buchan discloses a lot about Washington as a landowner. In 1796, he was seeking to diversify his holdings, focus on growing wheat - rather than tobacco, which he had abandoned in the 1760s - and move from enslaved labour to tenant farmers. It shows a hard-headed businessman, planning for life after his presidency which he would leave the following year. Its phrasing suggests that he still feels a close cultural connection to at least some people in Britain, and to British agriculture. Frank Cogliano,

Professor of American History, said:
"The Enlightenment is often referred to
as a 'Republic of Letters' and exchanges
such as those between Washington and
Buchan were the social networks of
their day – not only swapping ideas but
advertising opportunities. How familiar it
seems to us today."

Fragile relations

Washington is careful in his letter not to upset fragile relations between Britain and America, who would go to war for a second time in 1812 when the US found itself caught between Britain and revolutionary France. He adopts a softly, softly approach with Buchan, gently inquiring if the Scot knows of any farmers who might be thinking of emigrating to America, rather than blatantly advertising any vacancies. His tone is unfailingly polite, almost deferential. The President was aware of the emerging discipline of agricultural science in Scotland - a by-product of Scottish Enlightenment thinking - and he read deeply on the subject.

He contrasts 'slovenly' American agricultural practices with those used in Scotland – not so much a criticism of his compatriots as a reflection of the relative abundance of arable land in the US. Scots could not afford to be as wasteful as their American counterparts – farmers in the US could simply move on to new land when theirs were exhausted. The text helps us understand British-American relations at a time of great tension as the two nations had nearly gone to war just two years previously.

An accord known as the Jay Treaty averted that outcome, but it proved controversial in the US, and engendered considerable of criticism of Washington – for the first time in his political career. The letter is one of many that was donated to the University of Edinburgh's collections by the great Scottish polymath and antiquarian Sir David Lang in the 1870s.

Joint approach

Analysis has been carried out by historians and archivists at the University of Edinburgh and staff based at the Washington Estate at Mount Vernon, Virginia. David Erskine, 11th Earl of Buchan was a Scottish lord, literary patron, and writer. A prominent antiquarian and tireless letter writer, he retired in 1787 to Dryburgh Abbey in the Scottish Borders, which he sought to make a centre of Scottish culture. He corresponded with members of the British royal family, the man of letters Horace Walpole and many others and exchanged at least 18 letters with Washington, who was a distant relative, on matters relating mainly to agriculture. Rachel Hosker, Archives Manager, University of Edinburgh, said: "There is something quite compelling about the tangible nature of the original, created two days prior to Washington's 64th birthday before making its way to Scotland. It enables us to imagine him writing it, and allows us to consider the private individual in context."



- Highland cows are the oldest registered breed of cattle in the world, with the first Highland Cattle Society formed in 1884.
- This iconic breed of lovable 'coos' had their first mention way back in the 6th century.
- Highland cattle were mostly black.
 The Victorians liked the ginger cows, so they selectively bred them to the point that ginger became the standard Highland cow colour known today.
- A group of Highland cattle is not called a herd, but a fold.
- Friendly in nature and a hardy breed they are very distinctive creatures with their large horns and long coats.
- The hair (or bangs) on their forehead, often covering their eyes, is called a dossan.
- Highland cows can live up to 20 years.
- The females average 12 calves in their lifetime, and pregnancy in Highland cows usually lasts up to 290 days.



SCOTSPEAK

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

"I thought T've never seen anything like this before' and felt from the very beginning that this might be something spectacular and I've just discovered a big part of Scottish history. I was over the moon, actually shaking with happiness. Every day there were new objects coming out which changed the context of the find, every day we learned something new."

Metal detector enthusiast Mariusz Stepien said after discovering a hoard of Bronze Age artefacts in the Scottish Borders. The Bronze Age objects buried half a metre underground near Peebles.



"Edinburgh Castle is an internationally renowned symbol of Scotland, and its reopening is an important milestone not only for our organisation, but for the country as a whole as we continue on our journey to recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. It has taken a significant amount of planning to reach this point, and I'm very proud of the efforts of all of our staff who have been instrumental in making these sites ready to safely welcome visitors once again. I'd also like to thank visitors for their patience throughout this period of uncertainty, and offer reassurance that the safety and quality of their visitor experience has been at the forefront of our preparations. The tourism sector will be central to Scotland's national recovery, and our

historic attractions are a key part of that tourism offering. We're also encouraging people across Scotland to visit historic sites in their local area and rediscover the rich history on their doorstep."

Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of Historic Environment Scotland, said as Edinburgh Castle made history in August as the capital's famous fortress welcomed back visitors for the first time since the site closed its doors in March due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Castle's iconic doors were reopened following its longest period of closure since the Second World War. Alongside Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and Urquhart Castle also opened their historic doors.

"Our dream is to grow a self-sustaining population of native oysters in the UK. This funding awarded by Postcode Dream Trust means we now have the potential to release nine billion native oyster larvae into the ocean creating oyster nurseries in UK waters, work with local communities to care for our oceans superheroes and connect people and wildlife."

Senior conservation programme manager at the Zoological Society of London, Alison Debney, said that the Firth of Clyde is one of three British estuaries identified (Also one in Wales and England) to help restore the UK's native wild oyster population. The scheme involves creating and installing oyster nurseries, suspended under marina pontoons, with adult oysters in them that will release their young into the environment.

"Sean Connery has once again proven he's the Bond with the midas touch."

Tim Glanfield, editorial director of RadioTimes.com, said that Scottish actor

Sir Sean Connery has been voted the most popular James Bond actor ever. The Edinburgh edged the competition from stars including Daniel Craig, Roger Moore and Pierce Brosnan.



"To me, that is archaeology at its finest. It is using the object itself to unravel the story. The best thing about this butter dish is that it is so personal and offers us such a complete snapshot of what was happening here. It is not just a piece of wood. You look at it and you start to extrapolate so much. If you start to pull one thread, you look at the tool marks and you see they were using very fine chisels to make this kind of object. They were probably making their own so that gives another aspect as to how life was here."

Rich Hiden, archaeologist at the Scottish Crannog Centre said as Butter dating back 2500 years has been found at the bottom of Loch Tay in Perthshire. Traces of dairy matter were found preserved inside a wooden butter dish, made by an Iron Age community.

"Scottish clan societies are an important way to celebrate a shared culture and a passion for Scotland's history and traditions. While we are unable to meet in person this year, we felt it was important that we find a way to come together for a celebration that will maintain and

strengthen our UK and international clan ties. We have Clan Farquharson societies in the UK, USA, Canada, Jamaica, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand, plus many other individual clan members right across the globe. We are greatly looking forward to connecting with as many of them as possible and to supporting Braemar community in their fundraising appeal to restore the castle."

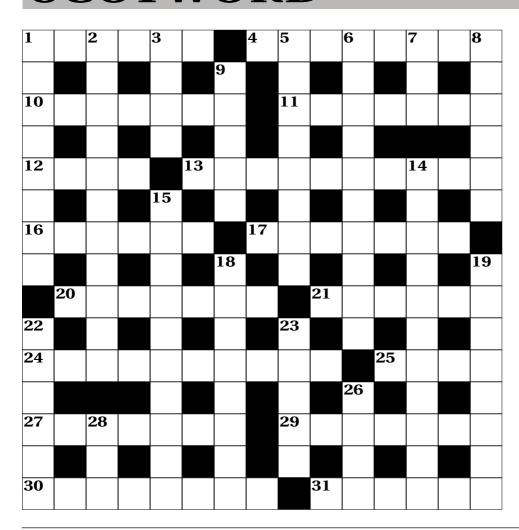
Clan Farquharson UK President Jonathan Findlay said as Clan members gathered digitally for a week-long programme of events to celebrate the Clan's history, heritage and international community. Due to Covid-19 a virtual clan gathering took place for 2020 in place of the traditional in person events.



"The new distillery aims to be a champion of all things Hebridean and Scottish and will provide a huge boost to tourism in the area. We want to produce whisky, rum and gin that will put Benbecula and the Hebrides firmly on the whisky tourist trail, while introducing the products we make to a national and international clientele."

Angus A. McMillan, chairman and chief executive of The Uist Distilling Company, said a new £6.5m distillery will be built on Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides, and include single malt whisky, rum and gin production.

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 9!

CLUES ACROSS:

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

CLUES DOWN:

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

Young Scotsman living with Motor Neurone Disease and his twin brother cycle North Coast 500 for charity



uthor and wine specialist Davy
Zyw, and his twin brother, Tommy
Zyw, director at The Scottish
Gallery, have cycled the North
Coast 500 to raise money for My Name'5
Doddie Foundation which raises funds for
Motor Neurone Disease. Davy is 32 years
old, recently married and was diagnosed
with Motor Neurone Disease in 2018.

This charity cycle will raise vital funds for research into causes and potential cures as well as providing grants to those who live with it to enable as fulfilled a life as possible.

The brothers cycled their 500-mile route in only four days in August, an arduous challenge for anyone. Famed Scottish artist Kate Downie will create a limited-edition work of the Zyw brothers cycling across the Forth Road Bridge to help raise funds. T-shirts designed by London-based artist and interior designer Luke Edward Hall are available and The Scottish Gallery will host a series of online events in aid of the event.

The brothers have already raised more than £62,000 for My Name'5 Doddie Foundation, a charity started by Scottish Rugby legend Doddie Weir who was diagnosed with MND in 2017. MND degenerates muscles, stripping control and mobility. The active mind becomes trapped in a paralysed body. 50% of the people diagnosed with MND sadly die within two years.

A difficult journey

Davy and Tommy have been endorsed by the world record holder for cycling round the world, Mark Beaumont and explorer and former Special Forces Sergeant Jason Fox. Davy has also received a specially signed bike and helmet from cycling legends Mario Cipollini and Alessandro De Marchi. Their route circumnavigates Scotland's remote coastline and climbs the equivalent height of Mount Everest. Navigating from Inverness, through Applecross, Torridon, Ullapool, Durness, Caithness and Dingwall, this physically demanding route is famed for its magnificent views and uncompromising landscape.

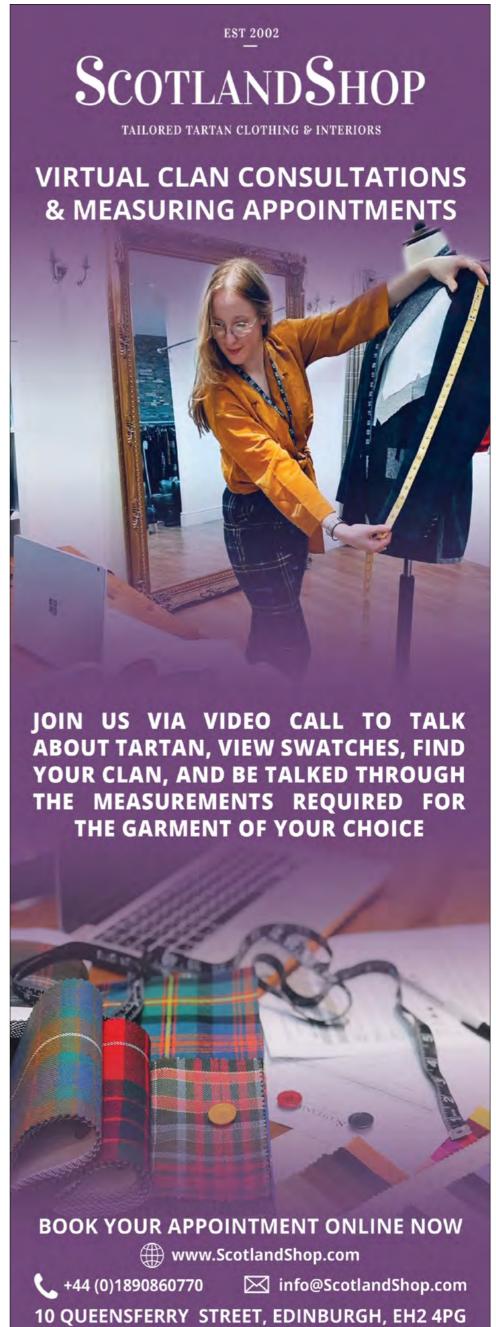
Davy Zyw said: "As we head toward the two-year anniversary since my diagnosis, I want to help drive awareness of this life-shattering disease and do my bit to help find a cure when I still have power in my legs, lead in my pecker and enough grip in my hands to hold my handlebars. It's been a difficult journey to get to today, where I have accepted my lot, and I am ready to share this with you all. Every pound we raise and every pedal we push will go towards finding a cure and raising awareness for people living with the disease. People like me."

The charity ride had been planned for May 2020 but was rescheduled due to the pandemic. Davy and Tommy were accompanied by their younger brother Sorley and four friends, including a Royal Marine Commando. They were also supported on the ride by their parents' camper and a Royal Navy van.

To support this great cause see: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mnd500 Or visit: www.rideformnd.uk

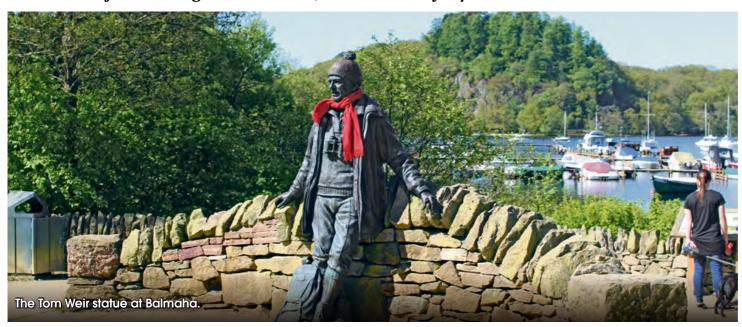






The Forty Year Hike

The West Highland Way stretches 96 miles (154 Km) from Milngavie to Fort William, and offers up some of Scotland's most stunning landscapes. This year it celebrates forty years as one of the world's most famous long-distance trails, as David McVey explains.



here is a fortieth birthday being celebrated in Scotland this year (in an understated way, thanks to Covid-19) but it is not the birthday of a person or a building or even a place. Rather, it is the fortieth anniversary of a line on the map - the now-famous West Highland Way.

In the 1970s, Scotland had none of the official Long Distance Footpaths that were proving popular in England and Wales. Most famously, the Pennine Way had opened fully in 1965. It was the brainchild of an English rambler called Tom Stephenson and took many years of persuasion and planning. Many felt that Scotland did not need these projects, given our liberal access laws backed up by a network of rights-of-way. Of course, for its last few northern miles, the Pennine Way crosses into Scotland, ending at Kirk Yetholm in the Borders.

The Way

For some years, the northern tip of the Pennine Way was the only Scottish long-distance route. And then a report was submitted to the Secretary of State for Scotland in 1973, recommending the creation of a walking trail from Milngavie, just north of Glasgow, to Fort William in the Highlands. Many in Scotland's outdoor community had mixed feelings about this new arrival, while some were downright hostile; there were of course, natural concerns from landowning and farming interests.

In any case, the route was negotiated and confirmed, and the 95-mile trail, the West Highland Way, opened in 1980. Forty years on, I have read that perhaps 50,000 complete the Way each year though actual numbers are, of course, hard to estimate. It has been joined by many other 'ways', many of them now gathered under the 'Scotland's Great Trails' brand. For example, if you arrive in Fort William and still feel quite fresh, you can continue on to Inverness on the Great Glen Way. It is only another 75 miles or so.

In the early days, when the first walkers flocked to the new route, some stretches quickly became beaten and muddy. I remember hauling up a ten-foot-wide swathe of well-trodden peat near Loch Lomond in about 1981; it was like hiking through chocolate fudge cake. Over the years, though, the surface has been improved throughout, and while it may get stony or wet underfoot, you should not have to plough through deep mud.

Many attractions

The West Highland Way has many attractions, not least its convenience; it starts a short walk from Milngavie Railway Station and finishes in Fort William; so walkers arrive tired but with multiple accommodation options and buses and trains to whisk them home. Compare that with tired Pennine Way completers who have to get away from tiny Kirk Yetholm; it is not easy.

But perhaps the great pleasure of the West Highland Way is that it is not just for those who want to complete the 95 miles in seven days or five or three. Short walks anywhere on the route are a pleasure, none better perhaps than the first few miles which run through lowland hills and

The West Highland
Way has many attractions, not
least its convenience; it starts
a short walk from Milngavie
Railway Station and finishes
in Fort William.

woods from Milngavie to Carbeth, past the famous 'huts', basic holiday chalets built as weekend escapes for Glaswegians in the 1930s. After Carbeth, walkers follow the Tinker's Loan path that ends with a spectacular view northwards along the beautiful valley of Strath Blane, with the Campsie Fells to the east and greater hills, including Ben Lomond, in the distance.

On they go, along Strath Blane, with perhaps an overnight stop in Drymen, before the first real hard climb of the walk up to the shoulder of Conic Hill, with an even steeper descent to Balmaha. From here, the West Highland Way runs alongside the entire length of Loch Lomond before climbing Glen Falloch to Crianlarich, Tyndrum and Bridge of Orchy.

Many gentler souls enjoy shorter walks between these villages, using bus or train to return to their starting point.

From Bridge of Orchy, the way largely follows the route of the Old Military Road along the fringe of Rannoch Moor. From Kingshouse, at the eastern end of Glencoe, the route continues along the Military Road, on the brutal climb of the Devil's Staircase, so-named by the exhausted, midge-tormented soldiers who built it. It leads to the 1800ft highest point of the Way. After Kinlochleven, the last great haul crosses the shoulder of the Mamore hills to enter Glen Nevis, in the shadow of Scotland's greatest peak, and relaxation in Fort William.

A tremendous addition to Scotland's outdoor attractions

It sounds tough described like that and I confess I have never walked the entire length in one go. But I have covered most of the route, often in just getting from A to B or as the walk-in or walk-out from a hill-walk. But anyone who drives or takes the bus to Balmaha, say, and who strolls into the forest, or on the lochside path, for just a few minutes, has trod part of the West Highland Way. It can be a lifetime goal, a place for a gentle post-lunch stroll, or anything in between.

As I pointed out earlier, the West Highland Way now has many peers, among them the Speyside Way and the Southern Upland Way. The John Muir Way runs from Helensburgh to Dunbar, commemorating the great naturalist, and runs close to where I live; the same path also hosts, for a few miles, The Thomas Muir Trail, commemorating the 1790s political reformer. Make sure you follow the correct Muir...

Despite initial reservations, the consensus seems to be that the West Highland Way is a tremendous addition to Scotland's outdoor attractions. Tom Weir, Scotland's legendary outdoor guru, was at first sceptical about the Way, but became one of its great champions. Fittingly, all Way walkers can pay homage to the great man at his statue in Balmaha. Certainly, post-Covid-19, rural businesses in Milngavie, Drymen, Balmaha, Crianlarich, Tyndrum, Kinlochleven and Fort William will be hoping walkers flock back to the Way. And whether your own engagement with the West Highland Way is to haul yourself along the entire 95 miles or just to stroll a mile or two with the grandchildren, its fortieth birthday is something to celebrate.





Research reveals secret of who owned the Galloway Hoard



irst research into the Galloway Hoard has uncovered the name of one of the famous treasure's original owners. Examination of Anglo-Saxon runic inscriptions on the Hoard's silver arm-rings have revealed the name "Ecgbeorht" or, in its more modern form, Egbert. Dr Adrian Maldonado, Glenmorangie Research Fellow at National Museums Scotland, said: "It's really exciting to be able to reveal the first major research finding from the conservation of the Galloway Hoard, a message left by one of the individuals who deposited the hoard 1100 years ago. We don't know any more about Egbert than his name right now but there's something really tantalising about connecting the Galloway Hoard with a named person. Egbert is a common Anglo-Saxon name, and with more research on the rest of the contents of the hoard, we will be able to narrow down its dating and suggest some candidates from the historical record. If the hoard belonged to a person or group of Anglo-Saxon speakers, does it mean they were out raiding with other Vikings? Or that these Viking hoards were not always the product of Scandinavian raiders? There are other explanations, but either way this transforms our thinking on the 'Viking Age' in Scotland. These inscriptions are evidence that identity was complex in the past, just as it can be today. In Early Medieval Scotland, we have inscriptions in five different scripts (Latin, ogham, Pictish symbols, Scandinavian and Anglian runes) making it a diverse and multilingual era. Place-names in British, Gaelic, Norse and Old English were being coined in South West Scotland around the time of the Galloway Hoard. The sea was more like a motorway, allowing people to communicate across linguistic boundaries, exchanging ideas and objects. This is just a glimpse of how the Galloway Hoard will continue to challenge our thinking as

Scottish history

conservation continues."

The runes were read by Dr David Parsons of the University of Wales. He said: "Five of the silver arm-rings

have runic inscriptions scratched into them which may have functioned as labels identifying distinct portions of the hoard, perhaps recording the names of the people who owned and buried them. Arm-rings of this sort are most commonly associated with Viking discoveries around the Irish Sea coastlands. Yet these runes are not of the familiar Scandinavian variety common around this date on the nearby Isle of Man, but of a distinctively Anglo-Saxon type. And while several of the texts are abbreviated and uncertain, one is splendidly clear: it reads Ecgbeorht, Egbert, a common and thoroughly Anglo-Saxon man's name. There is some reason, therefore, to suspect that the Galloway 'Viking' Hoard may have been deposited by a people who, to judge by name and choice of script, may have considered themselves part of the English-speaking world. It is even possible that these were locals: Galloway had been part of Anglo-Saxon Northumbria since the early eighth century, and was referred to as the 'Saxon coast' in the Irish chronicles as late as the tenth century."

The Galloway Hoard brings together the richest collection of rare and unique Viking-age objects ever found in Britain or Ireland.

As well as the arm-ring with the full name of Egbert, four others have runic inscriptions. Three appear to be abbreviated names, probably also Old English, whilst the fifth has still to be deciphered, but all are in Anglo-Saxon runes. The Galloway Hoard brings together the richest collection of rare and unique Viking-age objects ever found in Britain or Ireland.

It is of international significance and will transform our understanding of this period of Scottish history. Buried at the beginning of the tenth century, it comprises in excess of 100 gold, silver and other items, some of which are unique. The Hoard was discovered in 2014. Following its acquisition by National Museums Scotland in 2017, the Hoard is currently being conserved and researched at the National Museums Collection Centre in Edinburgh.

A rich Viking-age hoard

An exhibition of the Galloway Hoard will be displayed at the National Museum of Scotland in May, and will tour thereafter to Kirkcudbright Galleries, The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum and Aberdeen Art Gallery thanks to funding from the Scottish Government. Following the tour part of the Galloway Hoard will be on long-term display at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh with a significant and representative portion of the Hoard also displayed long-term at Kirkcudbright Galleries.

The Galloway Hoard brings together the richest collection of rare and unique Viking-age objects ever found in Britain or Ireland. It is of international significance

Scotword answers from page 6

Down: **Across:** 1 Wigeon 1 Wash tubs 2 Grandfather 4 Milk Maid 3 Owns 10 Spanner 5 Inventor 11 Valleys 6 Kilmarnock 12 Tide 7 Awe 13 Gleneagles 8 Desist 16 Beadle 9 Drill 17 Dornoch 14 Loch 20 Chanter Cluanie 21 Icicle 15 Glenrothes 24 Portobello 18 Beheaded 25 Mull 19 Ceilidhs 27 Ditched 22 Spider 29 Clanned 23 Flock 30 Ringside 26 Gael 31 Elders 28 Tun

and will transform our understanding of this period of Scottish history. The Galloway Hoard comprises in excess of 100 gold, silver and other items from the Viking Age. It was buried at the beginning of the tenth century, although some of the items within the Hoard date from an earlier period.

The bulk of the find is a rich Viking-age hoard of silver jewellery and ingots. However, it also contains an outstanding range of exceptional precious metal and jewelled items including a rare gold ingot, a gold bird-shaped pin and a decorated silver-gilt cup of Continental or Byzantine origin. The Galloway Hoard is unique in bringing together a remarkable variety of objects in one discovery, hinting at hitherto unknown connections between people across Europe and beyond.

Galloway Hoard exhibition tour dates: National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, to November 2020

Kirkcudbright Galleries, Kirkcudbright, December 2020 – September 2021

Aberdeen Art Gallery, October 2021 – January 2022

The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum, February – late August 2022

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Virtual "time travel" recreates 16th century church



Scottish church, which played a central role in the Scottish Reformation, has been virtually reconstructed as it may have appeared more than five centuries ago by researchers at the University of St Andrews.

Holy Trinity Church in St Andrews was regarded as one of Scotland's most important parish churches in the Middle Ages and was where the famous Protestant leader John Knox first preached in public during the siege of St Andrews Castle in 1547.

It was also where in 1559 Knox delivered his famous sermon urging the town to reject Catholicism, resulting in attacks on St Andrews Cathedral, and the change of faith of St Andrews which was then Scotland's religious capital.

Now academics at the University of St Andrews have combined historical research with computer technology to create a virtual reconstruction of how the original church looked just before the Reformation of 1559.

A virtual reality version of the reconstruction can be experienced as part of the *Divine and Human* exhibition at Holy Trinity Church in St Andrews which is now on. The exhibition also has key historic objects from the Middle Ages onward on display.

Central to Scottish history

Although the origins of Holy Trinity go back to at least the 12th century, it was built on its current location on South Street in 1410, and over succeeding centuries has been repeatedly redesigned, including being stripped of its images and altars during the Reformation. The majority of the building was demolished in 1907 to be replaced by the current Gothic structure.

With the exception of the medieval tower, little remains to remind people of its original medieval design.

Dr Bess Rhodes of the Schools of History and Computer Science worked with doctoral students from the School of History, Peryn Westerhof Nyman and Chelsea Reutcke, using historic documents and images to reveal the church's 16th century appearance. The reconstruction was then created by Sarah Kennedy of the School of Computer Science, with support from members of the Open Virtual Worlds team, led by Dr Alan Miller of the School of Computer Science.

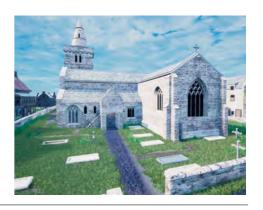
From its origins as a Celtic monastic centre, St Andrews grew to become the religious capital of medieval Scotland.

Dr Bess Rhodes said: "Holy Trinity is central to Scottish history. Events here in the summer of 1559 transformed the religious future of this country. The Reformers' success was by no means assured, and the decision of the congregation of Holy Trinity to back John Knox and the Protestant cause was a key turning point in Scotland's Reformation. Yet Holy Trinity also has this remarkable Catholic past – which subsequent generations sought to – quite literally – whitewash away. This project has tried to recapture the character of Holy Trinity as it was on the eve of the momentous changes of 1559."

Dr Alan Miller said: "Through interdisciplinary collaboration we have created a Virtual Reality Exhibit that enables visitors to experience the reconstruction of the Church and its surrounding buildings. Through combining historic research, digital modelling and virtual reality systems we have created a virtual time travel exhibit, which both stimulates interest in and fosters understanding of the past."

From its origins as a Celtic monastic centre, St Andrews grew to become the religious capital of medieval Scotland. By the late Middle Ages, this Fife community was home to Scotland's largest cathedral, and was a centre of Catholic pilgrimage, learning and power.

Divine and Human: An Exhibition on the History of Religion in St Andrews is supported by the Holy Trinity Action Group, Smart History and the University of St Andrews, is free and runs in Holy Trinity Church, South Street, St Andrews KY16 9NL until the end of October.



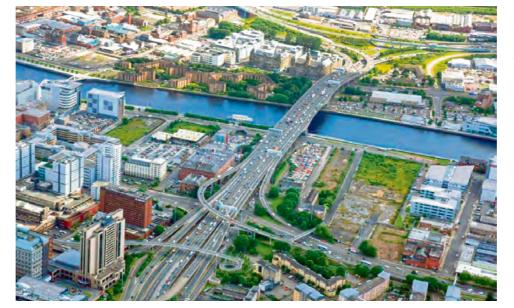
Highland seaweed firm embarks on expansion



he Scottish seaweed company SHORE has expanded in product range with a unique range of healthy option snacks. The company has launched a new range of plant-based snacks. Keith Paterson, joint-managing director, SHORE, said: "At SHORE our mission is to create an edible seaweed industry of scale in Scotland that is one hundred per cent sustainable, good for the coastal environment and beneficial for our local rural communities Our success is based on creating tasty plant-based seaweed snacks and foods that appeal to the growing number of mainstream health-conscious consumers who are increasingly seeking sustainably sourced foods."

SHORE uses sustainably harvested seaweed, grown on the shores of Scotland, to manufacture plant-based snacks and foods. It launched its first range of snacks in late 2018 and has built up a network of more than 500 stockists already.

50 years of the Kingston Bridge



he 50th anniversary of the Kingston Bridge is being celebrated with a bid to give the iconic structure listed as a structure of historic and architectural interest. The famous Glasgow landmark was opened on the 26th June 1970 by the Queen Mother following just over three years of construction at a cost of £11m, which is the equivalent of £180m today. The Kingston Bridge is 270m long, over 40m wide and crosses the River Clyde at a maximum height of almost 20m.

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Michael Matheson said: "The Kingston Bridge has become an iconic landmark in Glasgow over the half century it's been in operation. The crossing played its part in taking a significant amount of traffic off the city centre streets and paved the way for the pedestrianisation of Sauchiehall Street, Buchanan Street and Argyle Street. There is no doubt it continues to play a vital role, carrying around 155,000 vehicles a day. The work that's been carried out to ensure it continues to do this job in the future has also won civil engineering awards, so applying to have the Kingston Bridge listed seems a fitting way to mark its impact over the past 50 years."

The Glasgow Motorway Archive in collaboration with Transport Scotland, is also releasing a number of previously unseen photos of the Kingston Bridge from the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Unique engineering and architectural features

Stuart Baird from the Glasgow Motorway Archive said: "The Kingston Bridge was recognised as one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects ever undertaken in Scotland at the time, and it's had a huge impact in shaping the city over the last five decades. Listing the bridge doesn't simply acknowledge its unique engineering and architectural features, it also recognises the work of the people that designed, built and maintained it over its first half-century of service. The Glasgow Motorway Archive's volunteers have really enjoyed this project, and look forward to sharing some brand new material on our social media channels, but we're always keen to speak to people who worked on the bridge or other large roads projects across Scotland."

Transport Scotland has applied to Historic Environment Scotland to have the Kingston Bridge listed as a structure of historic and architectural interest. Elizabeth McCrone, Head of Designations at Historic Environment Scotland said: "The Kingston Bridge is a key part of Scotland's first motorway and is one of the busiest road bridges in Europe. Scotland has a strong heritage of engineering achievements and the Kingston Bridge was designed by W. A. Fairhurst & Partners, one of the leading civil engineering firms of the period. We'd love to hear what the people of Scotland think about the proposal to recognise the Kingston Bridge as a listed



he Battle of Stirling Bridge, fought on 11 September 1297, has become synonymous with defiance against tyranny. Yet only one year earlier the idea that a Scottish army would stand at all, never mind triumphantly, against the English war machine would have seemed like a rebel's pipe dream.

On 27 April 1296 the Scots were utterly defeated at the Battle of Dunbar, the nobility forced to bend the knee to Edward I, 'Hammer of the Scots', and sign the humiliating Ragman Rolls pledging their fealty to him. Every castle across the realm fell into English hands, and Scotland bore the yoke of military occupation. The fight had, it seemed, been entirely knocked out of them. Under John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, and treasurer Hugh de Cressingham, English law, customs, and taxes became a weight under which the people of Scotland strained to breaking point.

Fight to avenge

Then, at the nadir of hope, whispers began spreading. A man named William Wallace had killed the Sheriff of Lanark and set fire to the English garrison at Ayr. Others joined him, and his roving band grew and grew until some began to call it an army. John de Warenne must have been irritated at this nuisance, for he was back in England claiming that the northern weather was bad for his health. Then another, Andrew Moray, brought fire and sword to English forces in the north. When Wallace and Moray seemed bound to join forces, Warenne could sit idle no more. He mustered more than 7,000 men, many mounted on great warhorses and armed to the finest standard in Europe, and set out to vanquish this flock of rebels.

From the heights of the Abbey Craig where the Wallace Monument now stands proud, the Scots - several thousand strong - watched the morning light glimmer off the steel of their foes. The English held Stirling Castle, and under its protective



shadow they confidently arrayed their forces. There were negotiations, but they were half-hearted at best. The English chronicler Walter of Guisborough wrote that Wallace implored the Scots to "fight to avenge ourselves and to free our country", a goal which - following the depredations of the past year - words were ill suited to accomplish.

Wallace and Moray, like all great commanders, knew that their greatest ally was the land itself. To reach them, the English would have no choice but to cross the narrow timber bridge spanning the River Forth, which cuts the land at Stirling in two even today. It led to a horseshoeshaped loop of soggy ground, pleasant for none but especially poor for heavy cavalry. A shallow ford existed some two miles upriver, but Warenne had no time for such indirect methods and did not think such ploys necessary to vanquish the Scots.

The English army began to cross and then, in what was surely a baffling sight for all concerned, pulled back across the bridge. Warenne had overslept, and his army had to adjust to his schedule. After knighting a few young men amongst the ranks in a typical pre-battle display of valour, the mounted vanguard advanced across Stirling Bridge confident of victory.

The Wallace of the north

Like the skilled hunter that he was, Wallace waited to for the English to walk into his trap. Once enough had crossed representing a significant portion of the English army but not so many that victory would be impossible - the Scots advanced and plugged the neck of the loop with their schiltrons. What's a schiltron? Imagine a multi-tiered wall of men with spears twelve to fifteen feet long bristling out like the quills of a hedgehog. Cavalry stand no chance against it head-on, and many highborn knights fell to Scottish spears that day.

The toll rose on both sides. Andrew Moray himself (the Wallace of the north, if you will) was mortally wounded, a tremendous blow to Scotland's cause. As the Scots spears pushed forward and the press became intolerable, the English ranks broke and the bridge itself gave way. Many drowned in the river below, and by the day's end it is reckoned that some 5,000 English soldiers had fallen. Grim trophies were taken by the Scots in their lust for vengeance - it is said that the hated treasurer, Hugh de Cressingham, was flayed with pieces of his skin distributed amongst the victors.

The Battle of Stirling Bridge was not the end of the Wars of Independence but merely its first act, with Wallace being defeated by Edward I at Falkirk in 1298. A long, hard road remained ahead, with veterans of Stirling Bridge entering the fray at the battles of Roslin (1303), Loudon Hill (1307), Bannockburn (1314) and beyond until the Treaty of Edinburgh secured a very temporary peace between Scotland and England in 1328. At each of those battles, fought against often overwhelming odds, the lessons of Stirling Bridge would have steadied the hands of the Scots front lines: that while the English army was bigger, wealthier, and stronger, it met its match in cunning men fighting for a cause greater than themselves.

Did you know?



- The iconic stone bridge that spans
 the River Forth today is not the same
 bridge from the battle. It was built in the
 fifteenth or early sixteenth century, while
 timber posts from the original bridge
 can be seen when the water level is low
 about one hundred yards upstream.
- One English knight from Yorkshire bore the eccentric name Marmaduke Tweng and had his armour emblazoned with three parrots, but he was nothing to laugh at! Tweng fought his way across the bridge to safety single-handedly and would later face off against Robert Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn.
- The battle wasn't nearly as numerically uneven as depicted in Braveheart (mind they also omitted the bridge, so big pinch of salt all around).

 The English numbered a little over 7,000 while the Scots had around 6,000.

 The presence of heavy cavalry in the English ranks, as well as their superior arms and armour, did however make it an asymmetric fight that only clever tactics and true grit could overcome.





Sept 21st is the 275th anniversary of the Battle of Prestonpans, where Hanovarians were defeated in 10 minutes at the start of the second Jacobite rebellion by the army of Prince Charles Edward Stuart. This unique event has left a legacy that includes events from this month to celebrate a battle which continues to fascinate people today, as Nick Drainey explains.

By: Nick Drainey



t was a decisive Jacobite victory that made the British Government think again. And although the '45 Rising ultimately ended in defeat, the Battle of Prestonpans saw a huge boost for the strength of the Stuarts in Scotland. Now, 275 years since the East Lothian countryside saw Sir John Cope's forces routed in less than 30 minutes, it will be commemorated by those who live around the battlefield. Despite the coronavirus

restrictions a programme of events has been designed to make sure the momentous event is not forgotten.

A hugely significant moment for the Jacobite cause

Dr Arran Johnston of the Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust is in no doubt of the significance of the victory: "This was a real game-changing moment. The Jacobites had waited a long time for a victory and so it was a hugely significant moment for the Jacobite cause." The battle saw the Jacobite army loyal to the men they saw as rightful king, James Francis Edward Stuart, and led by his son Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) achieve a dramatic victory over the Redcoat army loyal to the Hanoverian king, George II. It took place in fields between Prestonpans, Tranent, Cockenzie and Port Seton in East Lothian. Many songs and poems were written including the famous Hey, Johnnie Cope, Are Ye Waking Yet? which pokes fun at the British Army.

Dr Johnston says "Prestonpans has this amazing cultural legacy. There is lots of Jacobite music and song - a lot of it is reflective and done with doomed heroism whereas the ones that relate to Prestonpans are of a very different tone; there is a sense of optimism and hope." Also, in the aftermath, the British national anthem was heard in London theatres in what Dr Johnston says was almost a "plea" for God to "Save Great George Our King".



"It is a great resounding Jacobite victory in a war which they ultimately lose (at Culloden). This is not only the first battle of the conflict but it is one that changes its nature. Something that the government thought was relatively localised went to really represent a challenge to the Georgian state. The stakes are massively raised after the Jacobites' success at Prestonpans. It suddenly looked like Scotland was being wellmanaged by the Jacobites from Holyrood and (Bonnie) Prince Charlie suddenly looked like a credible contender."

A genuine Gaelic-speaking Highland Army

The nature of the conflict changed afterwards, according to Dr Johnston. He said: "This is the only battle during that conflict where you can definitively say this is a genuine Gaelicspeaking Highland Army. It is probably the moment in the war when the Jacobite Army is closest to how most people imagine it to be. It changes afterwards ... the Highlanders probably ended up being a minority in the army because the biggest base of support for the Jacobites turned out to be the east coast areas where the Episcopalian tradition was strong. Our perceptions are distorted because the Jacobites were well aware that the Highlanders struck fear into the hearts of the enemy. So, to create an identity for the army they actively dressed Lowlanders as Highlanders."



Dr Johnston believes that ever since the battle, local people have preserved its story and cultural legacy. "From that day on the community here has been the guardian of those memories"

The cultural legacy began immediately after the battle and then saw a resurgence in the 19th century when it was written about by Sir Walter Scott in his famous novel *Waverley*. In recent years Dr Johnston says more interest has grown in the identity of the area as much of the heavy industry of the area closed down.

It is probably the moment in the war when the Jacobite Army is closest to how most people imagine it to be.

This has included creating The Prestonpans 1745 Tapestry ten years ago. Measuring 104m it depicts the stages before, during and after the battle and has been displayed across Scotland. The planned programme to mark the 275th anniversary has been adjusted to ensure that it will meet social distancing guidelines and will be amended as public health rules change. Some aspects of the anniversary year will now take place in 2021. The centrepiece this year will be an Anniversary Weekend from 19 to 21 September. Events for the weekend include an evening of music and

storytelling called "Beneath the Thorntree" which was originally planned to take place at the Parish Church. However, this had to be altered due to coronavirus restrictions and instead the 40 participants were filmed around the battlefield which will be streamed online as a "watch-party" event. Based on writings of the time, the performance will also bring to life some of the stories about how local life was interrupted by this unexpected battle.

Bring the heritage to life

There is also a "Clans & Regiments Exhibition" at Prestonpans Town Hall revealing details of those who fought at the battle in 1745. One of the highlights of the exhibition will be a paper replica of the battle with 5,000 handmade figures representing every soldier who took part. There is also a "Family Activity Day" at Prestonpans Town Hall. A "Battlefield Commemoration" to remember those who fell in battle on both sides, featuring a display of replica banners, readings, and a wreathlaying will be held on the battlefield itself. The commemoration will also be live-streamed. Finally, family-friendly guided tours of the battlefield will help visitors understand how the battle played out over the landscape.



There will also be actors playing the part of characters from the skirmishes.

In addition, a three-month exhibition will run at Haddington's John Gray Centre from October 2020 until January 2021, exploring the way the story of the battle has been told in art and literature over the past 275 years. A series of talks and events to complement this will run alongside it.

Other aspects of the anniversary year will now take place in 2021. These will include a tour of the tapestry, that will start with three-month exhibition at the Garioch Centre near the 1745 battlefield of Inverurie in Spring 2021. This will be accompanied by a series of talks and events.

Eighteen months of activity will then climax with a major re-enactment of the Battle of Prestonpans in September 2021.

This large-scale living history event will bring the heritage to life for the widest possible live audience. The event will provide the opportunity for visitors to come face to face with re-enactors in full character and period dress, and even try hands-on period activities.

Find out more about the Prestonpans 275 programme at: www.prestonpans275.org





A many-sided tale

Dundee based writer Charlie Mill provided stories for the Scottish Banner for many years, touching on Scottish history, lifestyle and some of Scotland's truly unique characters. We recently opened the vault of Charlie's great work to share a collection of some of his favourites with readers today.

and's End to John O'Groats, it's a phrase that everyone recognises and identifies, taking in the mighty sweep of land which reaches over the entire length of England and Scotland. The reason behind the name Land's End is glaringly obvious for all to see, lying as it does on the most south-western tip of the English mainland, but just how did the name John O'Groats arise? Behind its origin lies a most interesting tale. Round about the early part of the 16th century three Dutch brothers, Malcolm, Gavin and John de Groot, arrived in Caithness from the south of Scotland.

Chief of the clan

Among their possessions they had a letter from King James IV, recommending them to his subjects in Caithness. The three brothers either bought or obtained by Royal Charter the lands of Wares and Duncansby, in the parish of Canisbay, on the shores of the Pentland Firth. Each brother owned an equal share of the land and, as time passed, the Groots or Groats, as they were called by the locals, increased in number until there were eight families of that name living in the district.

Every year a reunion celebration was held to mark the arrival of the three original brothers. On one such occasion a heated argument arose as to who should have the honour of sitting at the head of the banqueting table.

The head of each of the eight families claimed precedence over the others and thought himself to be the chief of the clan! Recognising that matters were rapidly getting out of control, John de Groot, an aged relative, intervened. John ran the ferry between Caithness and Orkney and was reputed to have great knowledge and judgment. He firstly managed to calm everyone's tempers down and then persuaded them all to go home in peace — promising that before the next meeting he would have discovered a suitable and acceptable solution to the problem.

Head of the table

John's plan was both simple and effective. A mile to the west of Duncansby Head he started to construct a house, the like of which had never been seen before. It had eight sides, eight doors and eight windows, while inside there was an oak table also with eight sides. When time came for the next anniversary feast, he invited each member of the family to enter from his own door and sit at the "head of the table." In this way each one found that he was sitting at the top, and harmony was once more restored to the Groat family.

From that day on the house was called John O'Groat's House. Today no vestige of it remains, and all that marks the spot are a mound and a flagstaff!

In 1790, while minister of Canisbay, the Rev. John Morrison, author of the 35th Paraphrase, was told the story by a man whose father had actually seen the letter written by James IV. Also, several of the minister's elderly parishioners had actually cut their names on the renowned table!

Groatie buckies

The countryside around where John O'Groats is situated is windswept and lonely, but for all that it has many attractions. For almost two miles its beach of nearly pure white sand and shells stretches along the coast. Here can be found the beautiful little courie shells known as groatie buckies, which are greatly prized by tourists as souvenirs of their visit. Another enticement is the majestic rock scenery, as the coast is lined with massive cliffs of interesting shapes and formations. Between them lie sandy inlets and rock







pools rich in a variety of seaweeds, anemones and wonderfully coloured shells.

But the foremost features of this region are the superb views it commands across the Pentland Firth. And of all the vantage points, it is from Duncansby Head that the best vistas can be seen. From here one can look out over the firth to the green islands of the Orkneys and to the Pentland Skerries an entire panorama of grandeur and loveliness. Duncansby Head is situated in the extreme north east corner of Scotland and here a lighthouse has been built. A short distance to the south of the cape are the Stacks of Duncansby, whose rock formations stand out in the sea like proud spires, while beyond them the sandstone cliffs are separated by great gashes. In all, it is an area of wilderness and splendour with an attraction that is quite overpowering.



THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Death of St Giles, patron saint of Edinburgh (and Elgin). 714
- $\begin{array}{c} 1\text{-} \text{ The sole remaining gas street lamp in} \\ \text{Glasgow was lit for the last time.} \end{array}$



- 1 Cairngorms National Park created, Scotland's second national park after Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, created in 2002. 2003
- 2 Death of engineer, road, bridge and canal builder Thomas Telford. He was buried in Westminster Abbey. 1834
- 2 Bill Shankly, arguably the greatest football manager ever, was born in Glenbuck, Ayrshire. His early career saw him winning seven caps for Scotland as a professional footballer. At the age of 33, Shankly was approaching the end of his playing days, so when the 1946-47 season brought professional football back post-war, Shankly embarked on a new career as a manager, he was appointed chairman of Liverpool in 1959. At this time Liverpool was languishing in the Second Division. Shankly turned this situation around and elevated Liverpool to the top of the league, the envy of all other clubs. Shankly died of a heart attack in 1981. 1913
- $\begin{array}{l} 3 \text{ Prince Charles Edward Stuart} \\ \text{proclaimed his father as King James} \\ \text{VIII of Scotland at Perth. } 1745 \end{array}$
- 3 -Rioting on the streets of Glasgow, as weavers expressed their anger at wage cuts. Workers burned their looms in the streets, and bricks were thrown at magistrates and soldiers, in protest at the city manufacturers' proposal to reduce the scale of wages. The disorder resulted in soldiers opening fire on the insurgents and six people were killed. 1797
- 4 The last of the famous green and yellow tramcars ran in Glasgow. The final scheduled tram ran from Dalmuir to Auchenshuggle in the city's East End, and marked the demise of a transportation system dating from August 1872. More than 200,000 Glaswegians turned out to bid a poignant farewell to the trams. 1962
- 4 -The Forth Road Bridge was opened to the public. Construction had begun in 1958, and at 6,156 feet long, with a centre span of 3300 feet, the suspension bridge spanning the River Forth at South Queensferry outside Edinburgh was the longest in Europe at that time. 1964



- 4 The Queen has officially opened the Queensferry Crossing. She was accompanied by Prince Philip as she cut the ribbon on the £1.35bn road bridge exactly 53 years after she opened the Forth Road Bridge. The 1.7 miles (2.7km) structure is the longest three-tower, cable-stayed bridge in the world. $2017\,$
- 4-5 Margaret Thatcher becomes the first serving Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to visit Shetland. 1980
- **5** John Home, the Scottish playwright, historian and minister, died. Home outraged the Church when his verse tragedy, Douglas, enjoyed a successful run in Edinburgh after its first performance in 1757. **1808**

- 6 The Earl of Mar unfurled the standard of the "Old Pretender" in Braemar at the start of the first Jacobite Uprising. 1715
- 7 Sir Simon Fraser, the "Scottish Patriot", who fought alongside Wallace and Robert the Bruce, was executed by the English and his head displayed in London alongside that of Wallace. 1306
- 7 -The birth of Henry Campbell Bannerman, the British Prime Minister. Born in Glasgow and educated at Glasgow and Cambridge, Bannerman became the Liberal MP for Stirling in 1868, a position he held until his death. He climbed the parliamentary ranks, before becoming leader of the Liberal Party in 1899. Bannerman became Prime Minister in 1905 following Balfour's resignation, and led his party to a landslide victory in the 1906 general election. 1836
- 8 The hanging and beheading of John Baird and Andrew Hardie in Stirling, following the Battle of Bonnymuir in April. The Radicals, who were on strike from the weaving communities in outrage at decreased wages, had marched from Glasgow towards the Carron Iron Works in Falkirk. 1820
- 9 James IV and the flower of Scotland's nobility were killed in battle at Flodden Field, near Branxton, in the English county of Northumberland. 1513
- 9 Mary Queen of Scots was crowned in the security of Stirling Castle. Although only six days old at the time, Mary's coronation took place in the castle chapel following the death of her father, James V. 1543
- **9** MS Norsea launched at Govan, the largest passenger ship built on the Clyde and last large passenger ship built in the UK. **1986**
- 10 The Scots were defeated by the English at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh, or Falside, near Edinburgh. The battle was sparked by the "Rough Wooing"; the English demands that the ten-year-old Edward VI should marry Mary Queen of Scots, aged five. The military campaign by Henry VIII on the Borders followed the reneged agreement by the Scots Parliament that the two crowns would be united by marriage. The battle was fought at Pinkie Cleugh (cleugh meaning narrow glen in Gaelic) outside Musselburgh and can be regarded as the first "modern" battle on British soil. 1547



- 10 HRH Duke of York opened the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow. 1897
- 11 Battle of Stirling Bridge, Wallace (as famously portrayed by Mel Gibson in Braveheart) and Andrew de Moray led Scotland to victory against the forces of England's King Edward I. 1297
- 11 The Referendum on Devolution in Scotland which approved the creation of a new Scottish Parliament. In the 1990s, the Labour Party had revived the idea of devolution and, on their return to power in 1997, the first moves were made. The referendum received an overwhelming "Yes" vote in favour of establishing a Scottish assembly with taxraising powers, with 74.3 per cent voting for a Scottish parliament and 63.5 per cent in favour of it having tax-raising powers. The Scottish Parliament was formally opened by the Queen on 1 July 1999, with Labour politician Donald Dewar invested as the first minister, at the helm of a Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition government. 1997
- 12 Jacobites defeated government forces at Battle of Sheriffmuir. 1715



- 12 The death of William McNab, the curator of the Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden. McNab was one of the greatest of 19th century Scottish gardeners, responsible for reviving the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh, elevating it from a state of neglect into one of the world's great plant collections. 1848
- 13 Battle of Aberdeen, in which the Marquis of Montrose captured the city. 1644
- 14 Bonnie Prince Charlie, Charles Edward Stuart, occupied Edinburgh. 1745
- 15 The Hector from Loch Broom, near Ullapool, arrives at Pictou, Nova Scotia, carrying emigrants escaping from the Clearances. It is estimated that today there are more than 140,000 descendants of these emigrants living in Canada and the United States. 1773
- 16 Scottish explorer David Livingstone discovered Lake Nyasa, Africa. 1859
- 16 Jacobite forces routed Hanoverian dragoons on the outskirts of Edinburgh in what was known as the Canter of Coltbrig. At the beginning of September Charles had entered Perth. He had then crossed the Forth unopposed at the Fords of Frew and, after passing through Stirling and Linlithgow, he arrived within a few miles of Edinburgh. 1745
- 17 David Dunbar Buick was born in Arbroath. Buick emigrated to the USA with his parents at the age of two and founded the Buick Manufacturing Company which later became General Motors. 1854
- 18 Theatre Royal, Glasgow, became the first theatre in Britain to be lit by gas. The Queen Street Theatre's consent to be "illuminated with sparkling gas" in the presence of a large and fashionable audience was a significant advance. 1818



- 18 Scotland holds a Referendum on independence. More than 3.6m people turned out to answer the referendum question: 'Should Scotland be an independent country?' 55.3% voted no and 44.7% voted yes. 2014
- 18 The Clyde Arc, a pedestrian/ cycle bridge over the River Clyde at Finnieston, is officially opened. 2006
- 19 The Great North of Scotland Railway opened, running from Aberdeen to Huntly. 1854
- 20 Liner Queen Elizabeth II launched at John Brown's shipyard at Clydebank. The ship was not named after the Queen, but rather was the second ship to bear that name. This is why the Arabic '2' is used in the name rather than the Roman numerals used by the Queen. The ship made its maiden voyage in 1969. 1967
- 21 King James V crowned at Stirling Castle. 1513
- 21 Prince Charles Edward Stuart emerged victorious at the Battle of Prestonpans. The Jacobite army of just over 3,000 under Bonnie Prince Charlie heavily defeated the English Royal forces led by Sir John Cope. 1745

- 22 Alex Salmond defeated Margaret Ewing by 486 votes to 186 to become National Convenor of the Scottish National Party (SNP). Salmond is credited with improving the credibility of the SNP by projecting a moderate image and presenting the party as a realistic alternative to the Labour Party. He would go on to become First Minister of Scotland. 1990
- 23 The Earl of Mar was commissioned to raise a regiment nicknamed "Earl of Mar's Gray Breeks" which later became the Royal Scots Fusiliers. 1678
- 24 Edward Balliol, son of John Balliol, crowned at Scone. He was deposed by supporters of David II in December 1332, restored in 1333, deposed again in 1334, restored in 1335 and finally deposed in 1341. 1332
- 25 The last steam locomotive built in Scotland, by Andrew Barclay Sons & Co. of Kilmarnock, is despatched to its customer in Sumatra. 1962
- 25 The first telephone cable connecting the UK and North America "went live". 2,240 miles long, the cable ran from Gallanach Bay, near Oban in Argyll and Bute, to Clarenville, Canada. 1956
- 26 Queen Margaret, Maid of Norway ("Eiriksdotter") died, en route from Norway to Scotland. 1290
- 27 The 80,000-ton liner Queen Elizabeth, then the largest passenger ship ever built, launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank. $1938\,$
- 27- Scotland's first passenger railway, between Glasgow and Garnkirk, opened. The formation of the Glasgow to Garnkirk line stemmed from that need for transporting industrial goods. However, the success of the line was due to its having been specially constructed to also carry passenger traffic. 1831
- 27 The first episode of the sitcom Rab C. Nesbitt starring Gregor Fisher in the title role, is broadcast on BBC Two. The programme would run until 1999. 1990
- 28 "Battle of the Clans" between clans Chattan and Kay on the North Inch, Perth, in front of King Robert III. Clan Chattan was declared victorious. 1396
- 29 Charter granted to Sir William Alexander of Menstrie to colonise the "Baronetcy of Nova Scotia". 1621
- 29 John Cobb made an attempt at the world water-speed record on Loch Ness which ended in tragedy as the boat crashed and Cobb was killed. Cobb was a racing driver who had broken the land speed record in 1938, 1939, and 1947, when he became the first man ever to attain a speed of 400 miles per hour on land. In 1952 he made an attempt on the water speed record. On his first run, he became the first person to break the 200 miles per hour barrier, but his boat crashed shortly afterwards and he was killed. 1952
- 30 Announcement of the discovery of penicillin by Ayrshire-born Sir Alexander Fleming. 1928



30 - John Rae, explorer and surveyor of Canada's northern coastline was born in Orkney. Several Orkney born explorers worked in the Canadian Arctic in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, but Rae was the most outstanding. Rae was recently granted a posthumous Freedom of Orkney from the local officials. 1813

Southern Scotland's biggest community land buyout launches crowdfunding campaign to create vast new nature reserve



n initiative to create a vast new nature reserve in Dumfries and Galloway through southern Scotland's largest community land buyout has been launched, with a £3 million crowdfunding campaign to help purchase 10,500 acres of Langholm Moor. The ambitious plan by charity The Langholm Initiative to create the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, by purchasing wildlife-rich and culturally important land from Buccleuch Estates, has received a huge boost as the John Muir Trust announced it is donating £100,000 to

kickstart the appeal. The project has received widespread support due to its positive goals of tackling climate change, boosting nature restoration and supporting community regeneration.

The crowdfunder on Go Fund Me at www.gofundme.com/langholm-moor-buyout aims to raise just over half of the £6m valuation on the land.

Kevin Cumming, the Langholm Initiative's project leader, said: "Our community plans here have international significance. At a time of climate emergency, we are committing to undertake direct climate action – including restoration of globally precious peatlands and ancient woodlands, alongside the creation of new native woodlands.

Langholm moor is home to a host of iconic wildlife such as black grouse, Short-eared owls and merlin, and is a stronghold for hen harriers – the most persecuted bird of prey in the UK. At this critical stage we are asking for the help of the public.

We know it's a big ask at a time like this – but if people can support us by donating to this project we will be ensuring a more positive future for our children."

Once in a lifetime opportunity

Langholm, a once thriving textile centre, has seen this industry decline in recent years. The people of this small town, nestled in the beautiful and dramatic Southern Uplands, have a deep connection to the land, which has never been sold before. The community wants to seize this once in a lifetime opportunity to have control over their own future.

It is hoped that through community land ownership and the creation of a nature reserve, a foundation can be laid for local regeneration, supporting ecotourism and bringing visitors to the area. Much of the support for this project has centred on the ambition of a community to place the environment at the heart of its regeneration.

Kevin Cumming said: "The community's regeneration is a vital part of this process.

The land holds huge cultural value to local people, many of whom are excited about the possible community ownership of it." A number of other national organisations have offered support to the project. With the land jointly valued at just over £6m, The Langholm Initiative has also applied to the Scottish Land Fund for £3m towards the purchase, with the other half of the purchase price to be generated through the crowdfunding appeal. Buccleuch Estates announced its decision to sell about 25,000 acres of its Borders Estate last year.

The Langholm Initiative was formed in 1994, as one of south Scotland's earliest development trusts. The charity facilitates projects that make a real, lasting difference to the local area and the lives of the people that live there.

A summary of the Langholm Initiative's business plan or to support the appeal, visit: www.langholminitiative.org.uk



Cut down to scythe: Using traditional skill to maintain Stirling landmark

s historic sites across Scotland welcome visitors once again as COVID-19 restrictions ease, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has turned to the traditional skill of scything to help ready the local Stirling landmark of the King's Knot for reopening. The long grass at the King's Knot, a result of the suspension of regular maintenance work such a grass cutting due to COVID-19 restrictions, has provided an opportunity to trial an innovative approach to manage the historic landscape.

Scything, a traditional method of grass cutting using a curved blade which dates back to ancient times, offers a way to carefully manage the unique historic environment of the King's Knot. The area formed part of the royal gardens associated with Stirling Castle from the early 17th century, and is now protected as a Scheduled Monument.

Contribute to biodiversity

Scything also presents a greener alternative to mechanical methods of grass cutting, and can contribute to biodiversity as it is less disruptive and damaging to wildlife.

Sarah Franklin, Landscape Manager at HES, said: "Since the launch of our new Climate Action Plan earlier this year, we have been keen to explore ways in which we can better manage our historic landscapes. Landscape management at these historic sites must



carefully balance the protection of their cultural and archaeological significance with our responsibility to promote biodiversity and recognise these sites as a habitat for many important species of plants and wildlife.

As many of our staff and contractors have been unable to get into sites during the lockdown period, the easing of restrictions has presented as with the opportunity to trial scything as a way of tackling the overgrown grass at the King's Knot and ensuring that the distinctive land formations of the Knot are maintained.

We hope that this work at the King's Knot will be a useful exercise to help us determine how these alternative methods of landscape management can fit within our wider programme of maintenance moving forward."



IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Plans to transform Glasgow landmark

A £7million transformation of one of Glasgow's iconic landmarks, the Finnieston Crane, have been announced. The plans for the 89-year-old structure, known affectionately by generations of locals as the Cran', have been put together by Big Cran' Co and include a visitor centre, museum and restaurant on the banks of the River Clyde.

Big Cran' Co chairman Allan Wilson said: "We believe this plan would have enormous benefit to the local community and would preserve a unique and iconic part of Scotland's heritage. The crane played an important part in Glasgow's industrial past and we want to make sure it remains relevant. It would be great for future generations to understand its story. The project can also provide hope as we emerge from lockdown and give a significant economic boost to the area."

The 174 ft high cantilever crane was built in the 1920s, and it began operating in 1932, and was one of last giant cantilevers built on the Clyde and was used to load heavy cargo such as locomotives on to ships for worldwide export.

Excavation of medieval graveyard begins in Edinburgh



The excavation of human remains which could date back as far as 1300 has begun on Edinburgh's Constitution Street, as part of the Trams to Newhaven project. Archaeologists are on-site outside South Leith Parish Church, where previous investigations have shown that in the medieval period the church's graveyard extended across the road with graves surviving beneath the current road surface.

The team are removing any human remains that are likely to be affected by the tram works, and have so far exhumed more than ten bodies, dating from between 1300 and 1650, as well as finding the apparent remnants of the original medieval graveyard wall. After the excavation the

remains will be subject to examination and analysis that will reveal information on the origins, health, diseases and diet of the people of medieval Leith.

Edinburgh Council Archaeologist John Lawson said: "The historic port and town of Leith is one of the Scotland's most significant urban archaeological sites with evidence of occupation going back over 900 years. Although only just started, the excavations by our team from GUARD have already provided important new evidence regarding the history of the graveyard and earlier town with the discovery of what we believe are the remains of its original medieval graveyard wall. It is hoped that further new discoveries will be made and that we will learn important new evidence for the lives of Leith's medieval inhabitants so that we can tell their story to modern Leithers." In July, archaeologists from GUARD Archaeology Ltd, shared images of discoveries made during initial investigations on Constitution Street. These include rare whalebones, a cannonball thought to date back to the 17th century and historic drainage.

Archaeological work began on
Constitution Street in November 2019
and the team took down part of a
wall surrounding Constitution Street
Graveyard, dating back to 1790, ahead
of excavation of the historic graveyard.
Preparatory work led archaeologists to
discover what appears to be a large charnel
pit which may contain the remains of
some burials recovered from the laying
of 19th century services in Constitution
Street

Coastal Picts did not eat fish, research shows



A large-scale isotopic analysis of skeletons from the Scottish Highlands has provided evidence for the first time about the diet of the Picts, showing that these legendary people avoided eating fish despite their coastal proximity. This Highland Pictish community had a noticeable lack of fish in their diet even though the Picts are known to have been seafarers. Dr Shirley Curtis-Summers, Lecturer in Archaeological and Forensic Sciences at the University of Bradford, studied 137 skeletons buried under the old Tarbat Parish Church in Portmahomack, Easter Ross. They span hundreds of years of Highland history, including two periods of Pictish life: from the 6th century when the land was used by a farming community, and subsequently, as a Pictish monastery. By analysing the bones for stable carbon and nitrogen isotope ratios and combining this with evidence and analysis of the animal bones found on the site, she has been able to reconstruct the diets of these communities. The Picts were one of Scotland's earliest civilisations, skilled in farming and with a sophisticated culture, but until now little has been known about what they ate, hence this research offers a rare insight into Pictish subsistence.

The skeletal analysis showed that a small Pictish community (c550-c700) ate a healthy diet of plants such as barley, with some animal protein such as beef, lamb and pork, from both farming and small-scale hunting. It appears that the Pictish males ate more animal meat than females, possibly because they needed more sustenance to hunt. But there is no evidence that this group ate any marine or freshwater fish, despite its availability as a food source to these coastal inhabitants.

Dr Curtis-Summers said: "Pictish sea power is evident from archaeological remains of naval bases, as at Burghead, and references to their ships in contemporary annals, so we know they were familiar with the sea and would surely have been able to fish. We also know from Pictish stone carvings that salmon was a very important symbol for them, possibly derived from earlier superstitious and folklore beliefs that include stories about magical fish, such as the 'salmon of knowledge', believed to have contained all the wisdom in the world. It's likely that fish were considered so special by the Picts that consumption was deliberately avoided. The Picts are commonly associated with being war-like savages who fought off the Romans, but there was so much

more to these people and echoes of their civilisation is etched in their artwork and sculpture. Sadly, there are almost no direct historical records on the Picts, so this skeletal collection is a real golden chalice. Finding out about the health and diet of the Pictish and medieval people at Portmahomack has been a privilege and has opened a door into the lives they led."

Drone survey maps potential site of William Wallace fort



An unusual archaeological survey by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) has added a new chapter to an old story - of a hidden fort built by William Wallace. The Dumfriesshire site is recorded in *The New* Statistical Account of Scotland (published 1834-1845) as the location of a small fort occupied by Sir William Wallace - a hidden stronghold from which Wallace and his 16 men-at-arms would 'sally forth to annoy the English'. Under the direction of FLS archaeologist, Matt Ritchie, the fort was surveyed by Skyscape Survey, flying a drone over its massive earthen rampart and the promontory formed above the confluence of the Black Linn and the Tor Linn.

Matt said: "In recent years we have been working with Skyscape Survey to develop the methodology of drone-generated photogrammetric survey, combining accurate survey methods with innovative visualisation techniques. Hundreds of photographs taken from the air by remotecontrolled drone are stitched together using point-matching software to create a 3D terrain model, stripping away scrub and ground vegetation. Height detail is refined by adding close contours and orthographic colour. It's a fascinating and revealing technique that really begins to open up the landscape and this seemed like an ideal site to investigate. There isn't much evidence on the surface, but the rampart and topography matches the historic description very well."

Matt added: "The new contour model adds to a history of cartographic work that began with the Ordnance Survey in 1857. Our new 3D model enables the massive rampart of the fort to really stand out, and the deep gullies of the two linns to be appreciated. It must have been the 'strong place of defence' described by the Account, the rampart topped with a timber palisade and enclosing timber buildings built to house the soldiers and their horses. But could the fort really have been built by William Wallace and his men? I'd like to think so – and, either way, the survey has added a new chapter to an old story!"

The glens around the site still contain ancient semi-natural woodlands that form a key part of an important habitat network. Rich in biodiversity with mature native Oak, Ash, Birch, Rowan, Alder, Willows and all the associated flora and fauna, FLS is working to restore the site to a native condition.

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.





An NHS Dentist

Oor wee Jeanie's lookin' affa thin, A rickle o bains covered ower wi' skin, Noo she's gettin' a wee double chin, wi' sookin' Coulter's candy.

Chorus Ally bally, ally bally bee, Sittin' on yer mammy's knee, Greetin for a wee bawbee,

Tae buy some Coulter's candy.

Originally a 19th century advertising jingle for Robert Coultard's sweeties, the undoubted cause of many a child's dental problems. was lucky, or maybe unlucky enough, to have a dental surgery right at the bottom of my street. It was a temporary arrangement where the surgery was located in the end house on Cornalee road and next to the entrance to the Valley, our play area, and until a purpose built one could be constructed next door on what was previously spare ground. The dentist in residence was strictly from the 'laughing gas and extract them quick' mould.

Put under

I don't know whether dentists working for the newly created National Health Service (NHS) got more money for pulling them out rather than for trying to save them. All I know is that the idea of using cocaine injections and amalgam fillings seemed quite foreign to my childhood dentist. My mother would take me down there and he would put a clumsy, thick rubber mask over my mouth and nose. This was attached to a length of tube which had at its other end something that looked like a football bladder. The hard rubber tube in my mouth made me want to gag and there was that all-pervading smell of the anaesthetic to cope with as well.

Without so much as an explanation about what he was up to I was 'put under', all the while fighting vigorously with every nerve in my body against the gas and against allowing myself to lose consciousness. I desperately wanted a doctor, not a dentist, simply because I knew that I was going to die. Nevertheless I would later awake wide-eyed and puggled with an exaggerated hole in my mouth which my tongue would probe endlessly for the rest of that day, and the next, hoping that the tooth had not really gone and that it had all been a bad dream.

Scottish diet

Eventually my brain accepted that my precious tooth had gone forever but that I might be lucky enough to get a replacement second tooth. I also began to learn that this was my punishment for eating too much tablet, too many butternuts and McCowans Highland Toffee bars, too many French cakes and all the other delights of my Scottish diet that was

now becoming free from the post-war restrictions of sugar rationing. Through most of my early childhood sugar and therefore sweets remained rationed for it was one of the last commodities to be released from those restrictions. As rationing began to ease shops occasionally were able to get hold of extra supplies of confectionery. That brought about a queue of both adults and children, all with a sweet tooth, in a desperate attempt to satisfy their high sugar-craving diets with 'sweeties'.

Meantime, I staggered up the hill on Cornalee Road to my house from the dentist with my mother's arm around my shoulders. I felt like a zombie, one of the living dead. I was in a daze with the light of day feeling strange and foreign, a bit like what it was like when coming out of a picture house in Shawlands. Even everyday sounds seemed weird and the world totally alien for there was something new about the smells, the clarity of the air and just about everything else in the once healthy environment of my bright new housing scheme.



Google honours Scots scientist Mary Somerville



oogle's Doodle recently honoured the legacy of ground-breaking Scottish scientist Mary Somerville. In 1826, one of Somerville's experimental physics papers was read by the Royal Society of London, the UK's National Science Academy. It became the first paper by a female author to be published in the prestigious Philosophical Transactions, the world's oldest science publication, which is still active today.

Born in Jedburgh, Scotland, on 26th December, 1790, into a distinguished family of humble means, Sommerville spent her early years helping her mother with chores around the house and enjoying nature in the family garden. At the age of 10, her father returned from overseas and decided to send her to a boarding school for a proper education. It was at boarding school that her art teacher explained how the fundamentals

of painting could be traced back to Euclid's *Elements of Geometry*. After acquiring a copy of the classic book, Somerville delved into teaching herself astronomy and mathematics. Following years of independent learning and research, she went on to publish her own scientific papers and books.

In 1831, Somerville's *The Mechanism* of the Heavens revolutionized the existing understanding of the solar system. This highly-praised essay laid the groundwork for her breakthrough book, *The Connection* of the Physical Sciences (1834), which became among the best-selling science books of the 19thcentury. Its third edition in 1836 provided the clues astronomer John Couch Adams needed to discover Neptune.

Somerville was also a vocal advocate for equal rights and the first person to sign the 1866 women's suffrage petition and was chosen recently to appear on a Royal Bank of Scotland £10 note.



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In Canada: Theresa Mackay theresamackay@canadian.scot

Calling the ClansWelcome to our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our omice for full details. Our contacts 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. Welcome to our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our office for full details. Our contacts are

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

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

Regional Directors for Australia

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



Clan Cumming Society of the **United States**

www.clancumming.us info@clancumming.us

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



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

Duncan Robertson Reid

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

For information and membership application, contact Gordon Robertson

58/157 Marconi Rd. Bonnells Bay NSW 2264

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

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



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 Online membership: https://clanbell.org/membership.html Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell Email: President@clanbell.org Clan Bell North America 5284 Cross Creek Court



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; Dhai; 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: clandavi or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P, P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bignond.net.au 0431 527 662

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands Canada: Ontario * Western Canada

Australia: New South Wales * Victoria * Queensland * Western Australia New Zealand: New Zealand

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



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



Acworth, GA 30102

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 decent, or by recognized septs: Carlisle Carruthers, Crosby, Randolph and Stenhouse.

Membership inquiries should be directed to: Donald E. Bruce

1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Stillwater, Minnesota 55082

Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary 5561 Farl Young Boad Bloomington, IN 47408 www.familyofbruceinternational.org



Council of the Chiefs of Clan Donald

High Commissioner State Commissioners

Qld SA Vic

Mr A. Neil Macdonald

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

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



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



7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balqhidder 24th Chief of Clan Gregor Great Lakes, New England, Pacific North West, Western U.S.

and Southeast Chapters www.clangregor.com

membership contact Keith MacGregor P.O Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876

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



Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

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

www.clan-cameron.org.au

Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald Ph: 0412 090990 Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au

Web: www.clandonaldqld.org ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage. There is no joy without Clan Donald



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

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

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com



Clan Gregor Society

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

> Frank McGregor - Clan Gregor Society PO Box 14 North Hobart TAS 7002 Email: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com Web. www.clangregor.com "Royal is my Race"

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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 www.clan-campbell.org.au



Clan Donald

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



Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

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

The Secretary: Clan Farquharson **Association Australia**

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



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

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

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

tary clan society formed by the children of Norman Hume Macdonald an Johan McKenzie Macdonald (nee Munro) who departed Scotland in 1854.



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clanhaymembership@hotmail.con The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Haye(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; ArmII; 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; MacGaradh; Peebles;

Peeples; Peoples; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester www.clanhav.com



Purposes of the Society

- 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 Chie

Alistair of Fordell Contact

Jeff Henderson jeffh@bigpond.com 0439 330 012



www.clanhendersonsociety.com





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



MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacInnes

Int'l Assn. of Clan MacInnes

(Aonghais)

Worldwide, we welcome descendants

of all spelling variations, including

(Mc)Angus, (Mc)Canse, Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Guenis,

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Scott Mcinnis, Member Services: scott@macinnes.org

or visit www.macinnes.org



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South Australia - Rachel Hopkins 0433 184 375 Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334

• Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au



TRADITIONS FOR INFORMATION:

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



Africa. Derek Macpherson African.Chairman@clan-ma

African.Chairman@clan-m phone +265 999 512 620

Canada. Ed Smith

Europe. Will Tulling Europe.Chairman@o

phone +1 519 802 882

phone +31 655 774 425

Scotland & Northern Ireland. Rory Macph

ıvı.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org e +44 7525 763 765

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

Clan Macpherson

Australia, John L Macpherson Australian

England & Wales. William Macpherson EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.ord

EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7877 363 507

Chairman@clan-macpher phone +61 409 122 141

New Zealand. Tony McPhers

phone +64 274 587 813

USA. Robert T McPherson

If your surname is MacRae,

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 Octobe

Ph + 44 1540 673 332. See http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/

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 27th 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 in Australia Inc.



Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

Contact: N Dennis, 61 Alma Street, East Malvern 3145 Ph 03 9569 5716

Visit our website **Check out your Tartan and Sept** www.clanmackenzie.org.au



Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide

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

Chairman - Peter McNaughton - 360-686-8451

We welcome membership from all Scots named MacNaughton or any of the Septs on our Website: Contact the Membership Secretary, Vice-Chairman or Regional Commissioners in Australia - Regional Commissioner - Bruce McNaught +61 7 3266 2047 bruce@brucemcnaught.com W. Canada - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughton

250-999-9636 milescammac@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

bruce waynem crae@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

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 Coopers Avenue

Leabrook, South Australia 5068 Phone: 08 833 33990 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

rthomnvprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org Australia: Carole Maitland carole_maitland@yahoo.com.au

4230 Colac- Lavers Hill RoadWeeaproinah. VIC. 3237 New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz 33 Disley Street, High bury, Wellington 6012. NZ

We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at: www.clanmaitland.org.uk

Association, U.S.A



Clan MacAlpine Society

102 Rainbow Drive #48 Livingston, TX 77399-10020 USA Earl Dale McAlpine - President Email: earlmcalpine@yahoo.com



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 Find us on Facebook, Twiter, & Instagram

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Clan Munro

Web site: www.Clanmunrousa.org Write: Heather Munro Daniel 4600 Lloydrownn Road Mebane, NC 27302

We are the only national organization of

Munro in the U.S .A. affiliated with the

Clan Munro (Association) of Scotland.



Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON N5Z 3B2

Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyl and Clan MacDowall of Galloway

Clan MacLellan

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



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



Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

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

www.clanmacnicol.org



OLIPHANT CLAN & FAMILY ASSOCIATION of North America

The <u>only</u> home for all Clan Oliphant in the Americas. - Olyphant - Oliphint Olifant -Olifent

ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org



descendant of Pollock, Pollok, Pook, Polk, Polke, Paulk, Poalke, Poulk, Poolke, Poque - you are cordially invited to contact:

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



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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

www.clansinclairaustralia.com

Scottish Associations and Societies



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

The Scottish Australian **Heritage Council**

from all Australians of Scottish descent.

For information please contact The Hon Secretary SAHC, Susan Cooke Ph: 0411097724

Facebook Email: alfredhcooke@gmail.com

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



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



Comunn Gàidhlig

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

Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

Scottish Gaelic Language Classes:

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 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



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



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.caledoniansocietvofwainc.com



www.facebook.com/ScottishGaelicChoirofVictoria 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 6th February at The Kildara Centre, rear of 39 Stanhope Street, Malvern.

Contact Raghnaid NicGaraidh rachel.hav@iinet.net.au



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

www.theclanross.com

clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com

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



Clan Sutherland **Society of North** America Inc.

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

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



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.standrewsocietv.com



Clan Scott Australia Group Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch KT, K.B.E

Commissioner: Heather de Sylva Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs:

Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands, Info: Secretary, PO Box 320, Maclean, NSW, 2463

E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com W: clanscottaustraliagroup.moonfruit.com





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/





- > 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



Community in Victoria cottish Resource Centre Level 1, 420 – 424 William St. West Melbourne VIC 3003

E-mail: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au Website: https//scotsofaus.org.au

Facebook: facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria

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

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Clan Maclean Australia
Clan Sinclair Association
Clan Sutherland Australia

Gelong 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 Melbourne
Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Warmambool & District Caledonian Society
Warmambool Caledonian Highland Dancing S

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 www.victorianscottishunion.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

Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

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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

How to experience Scotland from home

Tou don't need to leave the house to experience Scotland – oh no! You can celebrate all things Scottish from the comfort of your own home – our music, history, food and drink, dance and most importantly, a bit of fun. None of these things are cancelled. There are still *loads* of ways to enjoy ourselves at home – in true Scottish style!

Step back in time with virtual tours of some of our favourite historic attractions, learn a spot of Gaelic, or why not enjoy a night at the ballet, a ceilidh or at a hilarious comedy show? With these experiences, you can still enjoy some of the thrills that Scotland has to offer, and the good news is – we're not going anywhere.

Explore inside Scotland's top attractions



Some of the Scotland's most renowned cultural landmarks are offering online visitors virtual access to their spectacular spaces and treasures. Check out the Google Arts and Culture app which enable users to take 360° tours of select area of the National Museum of Scotland, the National Library of Scotland, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle and check out Roslin Chapel's amazing virtual tour. Get a taste of what it's like to be a tourist in Scotland with the fantastic Augmented Reality (AR) app – Portal AR.

Listen to trad music melodies



Few things stir the soul like the beautiful sound of traditional Scottish music, and there are plenty of ways you can enjoy live performances real-time throughout this period. Tune in to Scotland's Big Session ceilidh hosted virtually each day #LiveatFive by MacGregor's bar in Inverness and join in the toe-tapping fun with trad music lovers from around the world. For more live-streamed ceilidh events, search #COVIDCeilidh on social media and enjoy fantastic performances from artists such as fiddler Duncan Chisholm and many others. You can also enjoy solo performances from the talented students and staff of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland as part of its #RCSatHome sessions.

Have your own virtual festival experience



We'll have to wait another year for the Edinburgh Summer Festivals – the world's largest arts festival held in Scotland's capital each month during August. Fortunately, many Scottish arts companies, venues and performers have announced their intention to live-stream performances, events and other interactive activities, allowing viewers a taste of the world-leading and richly diverse culture that can be experienced year-round. A night at the theatre? Yes please!

Here are some ways you can stay connected to Scotland's arts and culture:

- Catch some of the best comedians in the business during the Gilded Balloon's Sofa Set List – a weekly online variety show.
- Purchase a piece of beautiful artwork from a Scottish gallery or artist.
- Gather around the virtual 'campfire'
 with Marjolein Robertson, a comedian,
 storyteller and Edinburgh Festival veteran.
 Join her each evening as she live streams
 a Shetland folktale and shares hilarious
 stories about her experiences performing.
- Tune in to YouTube and witness the musical mastery of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra as its members perform in isolation.
- Join with the Pitlochry Festival Theatre's online series featuring poetry, storytelling, music and children's workshops.
- You don't have to miss out on exciting theatre performances while at home. The National Theatre of Scotland is bringing you three spectacular events and online workshops to explore and get involved in: - Scenes for Survival; a new season of over 40 digital artworks created in response to the current Covid-19 outbreak. This fun and interactive digital programme of workshops and activities from some of Scotland's leading artists and practitioners is the perfect solution for keeping the little ones entertained. -Makar to Maker; every Thursday at 7pm until 3 September. Join in a new series of live streamed conversation, spoken word, poetry and music gigs from Jackie Kay, showcasing literary talent from Scotland and around the world.

If that wasn't enough to satisfy your culture enthusiasm, some of Scotland's most popular and exciting events have joined in the fun to host their very own virtual festival experience.

- Wigtown Book Festival this event is every book enthusiast's dream, with hundreds of like-minded people, as well as authors, poets, literary geniuses and more, flocking to the pretty Dumfries & Galloway town each year. Delve into capturing audio and pre-recorded live events and let your imagination run wild.
- Nevis Ensemble calling all musicians!
 The incredible Nevis Ensemble is putting together Musical Postcards which will consist of 2 minute long works for solo instruments that are inspired and influenced by photography of Scotland's coasts and waters sent in by you!
- The Tartan Noir Show get sucked into the world of crime writing with Theresa Talbot in these gripping and intense weekly podcasts. Exploring the very best of the genre, the podcasts will feature some incredible works from a variety of renowned names, such as Val McDermid, Denise Mina, Ian Rankin and many more.

Stream Scotland to your living room



One of the best ways to experience Scotland is through the magic of cinema and television. Thanks to the availability of streaming platforms including Disney+, Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and BBC iPlayer, it's never been easier to transport yourself to a Scottish world via your TV, smartphone or tablet. Whether you're a fan of musical sing-a-longs like *Sunshine on Leith* or the brilliant comedy drama *Local Hero*, light-hearted escapism like *Monarch of the Glen* or heartwarming animations such as *Brave*, there's a huge catalogue of series and movies to choose from.

Learn Gaelic and Old Scots

Start learning Scottish Gaelic!



Join more than 125,000 people who have already signed up to learn Gaelic – Scotland's indigenous language – via the hugely popular free language-learning app, Duolingo. One of the platform's fastest-ever-growing courses, it's a great way to get to grips with this uniquely poetic language which features occasionally in the blockbuster series *Outlander*, and has been experiencing a gradual revival in Scotland.

The Open University also offers a free course that teaches the Old Scots language and culture, which was spoken by Robert Burns. You can even immerse yourself in the Shetlandic dialect spoken by native Shetlanders which you can hear spoken by Shetland poet Christine De Luca.

Create your very own cocktail hour using Scottish gin products



It might not be as glamorous as sitting on the beach or at a fancy restaurant with a cocktail in hand but that shouldn't stop you from making the most out of your night indoors. Have fun and create your very own concoction with a range of Scottish craft gins to choose from.

Edinburgh Gin have even put together a list of cocktail recipes for you to try out, will it be a Raspberry Gin Fizz or a Bramble Spritz that takes your fancy? Whether you decide to dress up for a quarantine cocktail party with friends over video chat or perhaps take part in an online pub quiz, sipping on one of your own creations is a great alternative until we can head out again.

Get up close to wildlife

Our wildlife doesn't believe in social distancing, and still wants to come out and say hello this spring – so don't miss out! Gain a newfound understanding and appreciation of Scotland's natural world Speyside Wildlife. Join their new wildlife identification course to learn about the sheer diversity of Scottish wildlife which inhabits this stunning area located between the Highlands and Aberdeenshire. Tune in via their Facebook page to hear the live-streamed chorus of local birds at dawn and dusk and choose from an everexpanded series of mini-masterclasses on various bird species and other creatures. Share your sounds using #dailybirdsong.

Take a whistle-stop tour around Scotland's whisky distilleries



Although a trip to Scotland may not be on the cards just yet, there is nothing stopping you from taking a virtual tour around some of the country's wellknown distilleries with The Glenturret, Talisker and Laphroaig offering 360° tours online. The Scotch Malt Whisky Society have even launched their own Online Member's Room providing a virtual space for the global whisky community to come together and enjoy all things whisky, from home tastings to online masterclasses. A festival with a twist, enjoy the world's first ever Lockdown Whisky Festival with an array of whisky brands including Glen Moray, Arran and BenRiach. The full three-hour livestream of the event can now be viewed on the Tomatin Distillery YouTube channel.

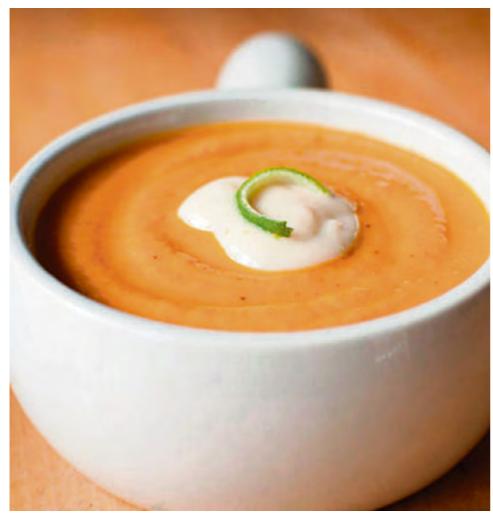
Immerse yourself in Scotland with VisitScotland's visual experiences



Whether you'd like to climb a mountain, visit a castle, go to a ceilidh or simply unwind to the sounds of the Scottish landscape, you can still have these experiences and they're just a few clicks away.

Courtesy of VisitScotland

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Sweet potato soup

Ingredients:

1 tbsp olive oil 1 onion, roughly chopped 2 large carrots, peeled and roughly chopped 4cm/11/2 inches fresh root ginger, finely chopped 1 garlic clove, crushed ½ tsp dried red chilli flakes 700g/1lb 10oz. sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed 1.2 litres/2 pints vegetable stock salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Heat the oil in a large, lidded saucepan over a medium-high heat. Add the onion and carrots and cook until softened. Stir in the ginger, garlic and chilli flakes and fry for 2-3 minutes, or until fragrant.

Stir in the sweet potatoes and stock. Turn up the heat and bring the pan to the boil. Reduce the heat to low and simmer with the lid on for 15 minutes, or until the sweet potato is tender.

Remove the pan from the heat and blend the soup, using a stick blender, until smooth. Alternatively, tip it into a food processor and blend. Season to taste and serve.

Tuna and bean salad

Ingredients:

80g/3oz. green beans, halved 160g tin tuna in water, drained 50g/1¾oz. red pepper, cut into dice 1 tbsp. fat-free dressing

Method:

Cook the beans in a saucepan of boiling water for 5 minutes, or until tender. Drain and place in a bowl of cold water. When they are cool, drain off the cold water and mix the beans with the tuna, pepper and dressing in a bowl. Serve.

Arran fish pie



Ingredients:

For the flaky pastry:

250g/9oz strong white bread flour pinch salt 50g/13/4oz. lard or vegetable shortening 1 tbsp. lemon juice 100ml/31/2fl oz. chilled water 150g/5½ oz. butter

For the filling:

8 quails' eggs 600ml/20fl oz. milk pinch saffron 2 bay leaves 6 black peppercorns pinch salt 200g/7oz. salmon 200g/7oz. smoked haddock 200g/7oz. cod 70g/21/2oz. sunflower margarine 70g/21/2oz. flour salt and freshly ground white pepper small bunch chives, chopped small bunch flat leaf parsley, chopped 125g/4½oz. jumbo king prawns, cooked and peeled 1 free-range egg, beaten

1 tbsp. sesame seeds

Method:

To make the pastry, mix the flour with the salt and rub in the lard or vegetable shortening until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the lemon juice and water to form a dough and knead until smooth. Roll out the pastry on a floured work surface to form a rectangle and dot two thirds of the rectangle with one third of the butter. Fold the unbuttered end of the rectangle over the middle third, fold again and seal the open ends by gently pressing them together. Cover with cling film and chill for 15 minutes. Roll out the pastry again and repeat the process with another third of the butter, then repeat again with the remaining butter. Roll out the pastry to a rectangle once more, fold it in thirds then wrap in cling film and return it to the fridge. To make the filling, cook the quails' eggs in a pan of boiling water for two minutes then plunge into cold water and set aside to cool. Warm the milk in a wide saucepan with the saffron, bay leaves, peppercorns and salt. Bring to a gentle simmer then poach the salmon. haddock and cod in the milk until just cooked through. Remove the fish, break it into flakes then set it aside and strain the milk through a sieve into a clean bowl.

Melt the margarine in a clean saucepan then add the flour, stir to form a roux and cook gently for two minutes. Add the strained milk and bring the sauce to a simmer, stirring all the time, then season with salt and freshly ground white pepper. Add the chopped chives and parsley to the sauce, gently fold in the fish and transfer the mixture to an ovenproof dish. Preheat the oven to 180C350F/Gas 4. Peel the quails' eggs and add them to the pie filling with the prawns. Roll out the pastry and cover the filling, sealing the edges of the pastry to the dish with a little water. Roll out the off-cuts of pastry and use to decorate the top of the pie. Brush the pie with the beaten egg, scatter over the sesame seeds and bake for 25 minutes.

Scottish scones



Inaredients:

450g/1lb. self-raising flour 2 level tsp. baking powder 50g/1¾oz.caster sugar 100g/3½oz. butter, softened, cut into pieces 2 free-range eggs a little milk handful sultanas (optional)

To serve

strawberry jam clotted cream

Method:

Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/ Gas 7. Lightly grease two baking trays.

Put the flour, baking powder and sugar in a large bowl. Add the butter and rub in with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Crack the eggs into a measuring jug, then add enough milk to make the total liquid 300ml/10fl oz. Stir the egg and milk into the flour - you may not need it all - and mix to a soft, sticky dough.

Turn out onto a lightly floured work surface, knead lightly and work in the sultanas, if using. Roll out to a rectangle about 2cm/3/in thick.

Cut into as many rounds as possible with a fluted 5cm/2in cutter and place them on the prepared baking trays. Brush the tops of the scones with a little extra milk, or any egg and milk left in the jug.

Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until the scones are well risen and a pale, golden-brown colour. Lift onto a wire rack to cool. Eat as fresh as possible.

To serve, split the scones and serve with strawberry jam on the plain scones along with a good dollop of clotted cream.

Orange and almond cake **Ingredients:**

2 large oranges butter, for greasing plain flour (or gluten-free flour, if required), for dusting 6 free-range eggs 250g/9oz. ground almonds 250g/9oz. caster sugar 1 tbsp baking powder (glutenfree, if required)

Method:

Wash the oranges thoroughly. Bring them to the boil in a large saucepan of water and gently cook for two hours.

Preheat the oven to 175C/325F/Gas 3 and butter and flour a 23cm/9in cake tin.

Leave the oranges to cool, before slicing in quarters and removing the pips.

Pulp the oranges in a food processor.

Beat the eggs and gradually stir in all the remaining ingredients, including the orange pulp. Pour into the cake tin and cook for about an hour, until the cake is golden in colour and has risen.

Transfer to a wire cooling rack, keeping the cake in the tin. When the cake has cooled, carefully remove from the tin and serve cut into slices.

Ginger alert

Ingredients:

40ml/1½fl oz. whisky 2 tsp clear apple juice 1 tsp clear pear juice 20ml/1/2fl oz. fresh lemon juice 2.5cm/lin piece fresh ginger, peeled ginger ale, to top up apple slice, to garnish

Method:

Pour the whisky, apple juice, pear juice, and lemon juice into a cocktail shaker with a handful of ice. Grate the ginger into the shaker, then shake well. Strain into a highball glass filled with ice cubes. Top up with ginger ale and garnish with an apple wedge.

Gilnockie Tower- The Ancestral Home of the Armstrong Clan on the Anglo-Scottish Border

Built in the heart of the lawless 'Debateable Lands' within the Anglo-Scottish countryside for one of the area's most notorious Reiving families, Gilnockie Tower, has had a hard life during the last 500 years. Somehow it has survived and following a privately funded repair it has a new lease of life as a visitor attraction and Clan Armstrong Centre.



he 'Debateable Lands' is an area measuring approximately 40 square miles, that straddles the Anglo-Scottish Border, 80 miles south of the Scottish capital city of Edinburgh and 10 miles north of the English city of Carlisle.

Clan Armstrong

Today it is an area of outstanding beauty, peace and tranquility. It has however not always been like this. In the late 15th and early 16th century it was an area occupied by the 'Border Reivers' – a gathering of individual families who would live in harmony most of the time but would also plunder, rob and sometimes murder in order that they could obtain the goods and animals that they required for their families to survive. There were many prominent families in the area at this time and none more so that the Armstrong's.

George MacDonald Fraser in his book *The Steel Bonnets* describes the Armstrong's as "the most feared and dangerous riding clan on the whole frontier" who, in Johnnie Armstrong's day, could put hundreds of men in the saddle and "probably did more damage by foray than any other two families combined".

Their reputation for ferocity grew over the centuries, due in part to the constant need to defend their territory. Clan Armstrong came to be of great importance to the Royal House of Stuart, as Scotland didn't have a regular standing army – it was wiped out at the Battle of Flodden Moor in 1513, and often relied on the border clans for military aid.

Survived the passage of time

James V inherited his throne in 1513, at the tender age of 17 months, after his father was killed at the Battle of Flodden Field. The country was ruled by regents until 1524 until he dismissed them, and began to rule outright as a boy king. With the feuds raging in the marches, and his uncle Henry VIII of England criticising his failure to stop them, James V needed to take decisive action. Hence, the Armstrong clan was an obvious target to set up as an example.

In 1530 James V invited Johnny Armstrong of Gilnockie to have talks with him. They were to meet the Royal hunting party at Caerlanrig, a hamlet 20 miles to the north of Gilnockie. Johnny and his men, not sensing any danger, went out from Gilnockie Tower unarmed and dressed themselves in their best finery, befitting a meeting with a monarch. What the king didn't tell them was that there was an army of 10,000 men waiting to ambush them. On seeing Johnny and his men finely dressed, the teenage king was alleged to utter with great indignance 'what wants this knave that a king should have?' meaning, why are these men dressed like kings? He immediately ordered their execution.

Built in the heart of the lawless 'Debateable Lands' within the Anglo-Scottish countryside for one of the area's most notorious Reiving families, Gilnockie Tower, has had a hard life during the last 500 years

He'd had no intention of talking to them. He considered them traitors. Armstrong and his men were hanged. Johnny Armstrong, horrified at this betrayal of trust said before he died, that he had been a fool to 'seek grace' in a 'graceless face'. The Armstrongs clan may have been guilty of many things, but to their proud minds, duplicity, was repugnant.

Following the Union of the Crowns in 1603, the new king of Great Britain, King James I of England and VI of Scotland, ordered fortified houses along the Anglo-Scottish border to be demolished.

Gilnockie was one of the few which survived. The current condition and how it has survived the passage of time is amazing.

The finest example of a 16th century Scottish Tower House anywhere in Scotland

After these turbulent early years
Gilnockie Tower lay empty for more
than three centuries before it was
purchased and renovated in the mid
1970's by a local businessman and
made it into a private home for him
and his family. In 1995 it was purchased
by businessman Colin Armstrong,
a former British Consular based in
South America but who returns to the
United Kingdom several times per year.
Gilnockie Tower is still in his family
ownership today.

In 2016 he decided that he wanted the tower to be opened to visitors and he engaged the services of a local retired engineer and historian to oversee any repairs that might be necessary before the door could be opened to the public. That task took much longer than anticipated and it was not until April 2018 that the door was opened to the public.

The building has been completely and sympathetically repaired and now, Gilnockie Tower is the finest example of a 16th century Scottish Tower House anywhere in Scotland. So much so that it has been graded as a 4 star attraction by Visit Scotland.

Neil Alden Armstrong

One member of the family who is more familiar in modern times is Neil Alden Armstrongthe first man to step onto the moon. Neil and his wife Janet visited the nearby town of Langholm on 11 March 1972. Neil was made a "Freeman of the Burgh". A prized accolade that is very rarely given. Neil remains the only person to have received it from Langholm. He visited Gilnockie Tower during that memorable day and he stood on the outside walkway, a place from which his fighting forebears might have viewed the moon before departing on one of their many raids. Today, many items and photographs relating to Neil Armstrong's journey to the moon are on display in a specially designed cabinet. The most eye-catching is the impression of his moon boot.



From the walkway on the roof of the tower, a 360 degree panorama of the surrounding area gives views that are breathtaking. The English Lake District which is approximately 30 miles away can be seen on a clear day. Many Armstrong's from around the world make a visit to the ancestral home a must on their bucket list. It is where their family line began and is without doubt the 'Ancestral Home of the Armstrong Family'.

In July 2019, a celebratory weekend was held to recognize and celebrate the 500 years that the tower had been standing and also the 50th anniversary celebration of Neil Armstrong's moon landing.

Over 700 visitors attended, many from Australia, Canada and the United States of America.

The Armstrong clan motto *Invictus maneo* – I remain unvanquished – is a remarkable fitting for a remarkable building in the Anglo-Scottish borderland.

For full details of this iconic building visit: www.gilnockietower.co.uk





Opening up Aberdeen's 'jewel in the crown' to the world



berdeen's earliest medieval Burgh Records have long been regarded as a jewel in the city's crown earning UNESCO status for their historical significance - but they will now be opened to the world after researchers painstakingly transcribed more than 1.5 million words contained within their volumes. Researchers in a project based at the University of Aberdeen have worked with archivists at Aberdeen City Council, where the records are held, to decipher the complex Scots and Latin text which constitutes one of the great reservoirs of historical information on urban life anywhere in northern Europe.

A great insight into Scottish history and language

The resulting digital transcription, together with the original images of the pages from eight volumes covering a period from 1398 to 1511, have been made accessible online - meaning they can now be viewed from anywhere in the world. It has taken researchers three years to unpick the complex hand-written entries which contain details of everyday life in the reigns of Robert III, James I, James II, James III, and James IV, and run to more words than the complete works of Shakespeare. The project was led by Dr Jackson Armstrong, a senior lecturer in history at the University of Aberdeen, and was funded by the Leverhulme Trust, Aberdeen City Council and the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies.

Dr Armstrong said: "The early council registers are an important cultural asset providing a great insight into Scottish history and language. They are so significant that in 2013 they were recognised by the UK national commission for UNESCO, a body of the United Nations

responsible for the protection of the world's cultural heritage. This important corpus of material will now be much more accessible to others investigating medieval and renaissance life." He added.

It has taken researchers three years to unpick the complex hand-written entries which contain details of everyday life in the reigns of Robert III, James I, James II, James III, and James IV, and run to more words than the complete works of Shakespeare.

"The registers are a local archive but they stand for all of Scotland in this period. What survives from Aberdeen alone before 1500 comprises more than that of all other Scottish towns combined."

Many fascinating insights

The Burgh Records offer historians a precious glimpse into medieval life and have already offered up many fascinating insights including a letter written by King James V which shows he stepped into a dispute on piracy and details of the first ever recorded ship to sail from Scotland to the New World. They also give clues about the region's response to outbreaks of plague, in one entry from 1499 detailing the setting up of two lines or quarantine first around the town and then in the hinterland stretching

from the river Dee on the southern edge of Aberdeen, out to St Ternan's (modernday Banchory) in the west, and from there up through Monymusk to Strathbogie (modern-day Huntly).

As editorial research fellow Dr Edda Frankot coordinated the transcription of the material. She said that the need for researchers to spend hours - and sometimes days - deciphering just a few paragraphs of text had now been removed, meaning greater focus can be placed on unlocking the historical secrets they contain. Frankot said: "Getting to grips with the information contained within more than 5,000 pages is no easy task, not least because of the mix of Latin and Scots and the particularities of the handwriting of the period. Some of the pages presented a challenge because they have suffered from damage over the centuries, while others remain in pristine condition. It meant progress on some days

was faster than on others but in just over two years we had successfully transcribed every word contained within the volumes. After three years we had completed the detailed checking, editing and processing of the digital transcription. It has been a challenging project and, when the team started, deciphering just a couple dense pages could take most of the day. But as we became more and more familiar with recurring letter forms and sentence structure the speed increased and by the end together we could transcribe nearly seventy pages a week."

One of the 'great towns' of Scotland

The team has not translated the Latin or Scots text into modern English - that was never the intention of the project. Translation would create an additional layer of interpretation, and raises the challenge of what sort of translation is desirable: a word-for-word translation is not necessarily the best way to capture meaning. However, Dr Armstrong said there are a number of possible and creative ways to interpret the material in the future, with a view of making it accessible to wider audiences. He said: "We have made huge progress in understanding the Burgh Records but this is far from the end of the story. It will be fascinating to see how others beyond Aberdeen are able to work with this wonderful resource."

The Aberdeen Burgh Records are the earliest and most complete body of surviving records of any Scottish town. They contain court documents from as early as 1317, during the reign of King Robert the Bruce, and are then a complete record from 1398 to the present day with the exception of one missing volume. They are considered a unique asset providing a great insight into medieval life in Scotland and particularly in Aberdeen. They show that the city 'outperformed' on the European stage in terms of its size and that it was recognised by Bruges - one of northern Europe's foremost medieval cities – not only as a significant trading hub but as one of the 'great towns' of Scotland.

