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## Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for January 28th, 2022

For the latest news from Scotland see our ScotNews feed at:

<https://electricscotland.com/scotnews.htm>

## Electric Scotland News

It's worth noting the UK's decision not to approve a new undersea power cable to France. Given persistent French threats to cut power supplies to the Channel Islands over fishing licenses, it is wise not to increase the UK's energy dependency on Macron's France. Though some commentators continue to offer special pleading in Macron's defence, France's aggression in this and other areas does it no credit.

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Some 60% of gas supplies to the EU are dependent on Russia with Germany being the largest user and how this will affect the Ukraine situation will be interesting to watch.

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Boris Johnson is under heavy pressure to resign due to attending parties at No. 10 which was against his own Governments rules on Covid. We should see what comes of this in the coming week.

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I believe Scotland is being affected on UK decisions as the UK is concerned about Scottish Independence. Like I note a multi-billion project on Hydrogen development has not gone to Scotland and I put that down to the UK not wanting to spend that money and then losing it if Scotland leaves the UK. When I read about this I started thinking about other decisions on Scottish investment.

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers

Note that this is a selection and more can be read in our ScotNews feed on our index page where we list news from the past 1-2 weeks. I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland and world news stories that can affect Scotland and as all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on Google and other search engines it becomes a good resource. I might also add that in a number of newspapers you will find many comments which can be just as interesting as the news story itself and of course you can also add your own comments if you wish which I do myself from time to time.

Why should Britain join CPTPP?

Why is a rainy island in north-west Europe trying to join a trade bloc centred on the Pacific? At first glance, the UK's application to the CPTPP seems highly counter-intuitive but as our guests on this week's CapX Podcast explain there's every reason this could be a big deal for Britain.

Read more at:

<https://capx.co/pacific-vim-why-should-britain-join-cptpp/>

Germany Has a Russia Problem

Russian President Vladimir Putin is seeking to shift the balance of power in Europe and is even threatening war. So far, the German government hasn't provided a clear answer to that threat. The problem is primarily a product of the

party of Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Read more at:

<https://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/faltering-foreign-policy-germany-has-a-russia-problem-a-613608d1-1222-48fa-91ca-25be2b2d664b>

Watchdog hits out at handling of workplace skills

Scotland's spending watchdog has published a damning assessment of the Scottish government's handling of skills and training - among the most important priorities for the economy. Ministers have been slated for lack of leadership, for lack of clarity of what they want, or of direction to their own agencies.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-60069009>

Deeply worrying economic divergence

The key committee on Holyrood's budget has joined those raising alarm at evidence of Scotland's under-performance.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-60090797>

Driving Canada's toughest road

The Dempster Highway is one of Canada's ultimate road trips - but anyone who drives it needs to be prepared for misadventure.

Read more at:

<https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20220124-driving-canadas-toughest-road>

The birdman of Edinburgh

How Scottish visit helped fine feather artist create world's most famous (and coveted) book of ornithology

Read more at:

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/birds-of-america-exhibition/>

Robot tractors sent into forests to help protect Scotland's most threatened bird

A large-scale trial is taking place at the RSPB's Abernethy Nature Reserve, in the Cairngorms National Park, using the small remote-controlled flail tractors to improve the diversity of habitat for the threatened birds.

Read more at:

<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/robot-tractors-sent-into-forests-to-help-protect-scotlands-most-threatened-bird/>

Media

Partygate scandal, Women in Journalism, local news provision, and more

Read more at:

<https://www.scottishreview.net/HamishMackay601a.html>

The West must speak with one clear voice

The situation in the Ukraine is a high-level international crisis. It has not come out of the blue but been slowly escalating for years; Putin's long track record of threats and aggression towards neighbours of Russia have been well-documented.

Read more at:

<https://www.scottishreview.net/GerryHassan601a.html>

Politics: Leadership: the Rees-Mogg scale

By Andrew Seaton in the Scottish Review

Read more at:

<https://www.scottishreview.net/AnthonySeaton601a.html>

Cheaper fish and chips could be coming to Britons due to new Brexit agreement  
BRITONS could be tucking into cheaper fish and chips thanks to a post-Brexit trade tie-up with Greenland.

Read more at:

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1556900/Greenland-brexit-deal-fish-tariffs>

## Electric Canadian

Ray Mears Northern Wilderness

A documentary on Northern Canada. I added the first video in the series about the Boreal forest and you can view this at: <http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/index.htm>

The Grain Growers Guide

Livestock & Building Number February 25, 1920 (pdf)

You can read this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/agriculture/GrainGrowersGuide.pdf>

Canadian Highlanders

A Scottish Lament, the words by Lillie A. Brooks, the music by Ernest R. Bowles (pdf)

You can get to this at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/lifestyle/music/CanadianHighlanders.pdf>

THOUGHTS on a SUNDAY MORNING - the 23rd of January 2022 - DIVISIONS

By the Rev. Nola Crewe

You can view this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/forum/communities/rev-nola-crewe/26148-thoughts-on-a-sunday-morning-the-23rd-of-january-2022-divisions>

## Electric Scotland

Beth's Video Talks

January 26th 2022 - American Presidents who were Mayflower descendants

You can view this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/bnft/index.htm>

Burns, Hamish and Song

Articles from the Scottish Review by Fred Freeman

You can read these at:

[https://electricscotland.com/burns/burns\\_hamish.htm](https://electricscotland.com/burns/burns_hamish.htm)

Future of the ocean interview with Stan Bruce

Added a link to Stan's page about Aberdeen Shipbuilding to an interview with him.

You can read this most interesting interview at:

<https://futureoftheocean.com/stan-bruce>

John Rae

Working on finding the below material I came across 2 other small accounts of two other John Rae's in Australia so added them to the page at: [https://www.electricscotland.com/history/australia/rae\\_john.htm](https://www.electricscotland.com/history/australia/rae_john.htm)

John Rae, Arctic Explorer

As the videos on this page are no longer available have added two others to replace them and also added a text file about one of his expeditions.

You can get to this at:

[https://electricscotland.com/history/other/rae\\_john.htm](https://electricscotland.com/history/other/rae_john.htm)

A Tribute to the most famous farmer that ever lived - Robert Burns Tam o' Shanter. Embedded this video onto our index page for Robert Burns at:

<https://electricscotland.com/burns/index.html>

Ian MacLaren, The Life of the Rev. John Watson, D.D.

By W. Robertson Nicoll (1909) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/bible/ianmaclaren.pdf>

Opinions Concerning Jesus Christ

By Peter Davidson, D.D. (United Presbyterian Divine and Author. Born in Dundee in 1803, he studied for the United Presbyterian ministry, and was ordained to the charge of Erskine Church, Arbroath, in 1831. Called to Stockbridge, now Eyre Place Church, in Edinburgh, he was inducted to the charge of that congregation in 1836. Here he continued till 1861, when he moved with his congregation to the Synod Hall in Queen Street. In 1858 he published his excellent book, "Opinions Concerning Jesus Christ," and in 1861 he received the degree of D.D. from St Andrews University. At the time of the Atonement controversy in his Church, he issued a striking pamphlet entitled, "The Two Gospels," in which he powerfully advocated the views of Dr John Brown. In addition to the publications already named, Dr Davidson joined issue in 1863 with Dr Colvin in a volume entitled "The Pentateuch Vindicated." He was also from the first a stalwart voluntary, advocating his views resolutely both in the press and in Church courts. He died in 1881.

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/bible/opinionsconcern00davigoog.pdf>

How Britain Stopped the Japanese Invasion of India in World War Two

This is the truly epic tale of Britain's greatest battle.

You can get to this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/history/india/indiajapan.htm>

Gatherings at Haddo House August 1919

From the Aberdeen Free Press, August 4, 1919. Farewell to Tenants. Notable Gathering. 50 Years a Proprietor. (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://www.electricscotland.com/history/gazetteer/gatheringsathaddohouse.pdf>

Story

Robert Wallace of Kelly

Mr Robert Wallace of Kelly, well known over all the north, died universally regretted, he was thirteen years in Parliament as member for Greenock, and his former constituents have erected a handsome monument to his memory. This consists of a Gothic temple built of granite, and is 23 feet high. On a slab of red polished granite is the

following inscription: —

Here repose, side by side the remains of Robert Wallace, late of Kelly, who died on the 1st of April, 1855, in the 81st year of his age, and of his beloved wife, Margaret Forbes, who died on the 7th of December, 1846, aged 62. Robert Wallace was the descendent and representative of the renowned champion of Scottish Independence, and inherited no small portion of the patriotic spirit and indomitable energy of his ancestor. He sat in Parliament as member for Greenock from 1832 to 1845, being returned four times in succession, free of expense; and by his successful labours in the cause of legal and post office reform, he not only justified the choice of the electors, but established a title to the lasting gratitude of his countrymen. His casting vote, as chairman of the Committee of the House of Commons, secured to the nation the benefit of penny postage. Margaret Forbes was a daughter of the ancient house of Craigievar, in Aberdeenshire, and admirable alike in her accomplishments as a woman and her virtues as a wife. This monument is designed to commemorate his political connection with the town of Greenock, and his ardent devotion to the interests of its inhabitants.—“Aberdeen Journal,” December 2, 1857.

You can read more about him in the short book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/articles/robertwallacejam00chaluoft.pdf>

END.

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

Alastair

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