



# the Scottish Banner



Years Strong - 1976-2022 [www.scottishbanner.com](http://www.scottishbanner.com)

*A' Bhratach Albannach*

Volume 46 Number 6

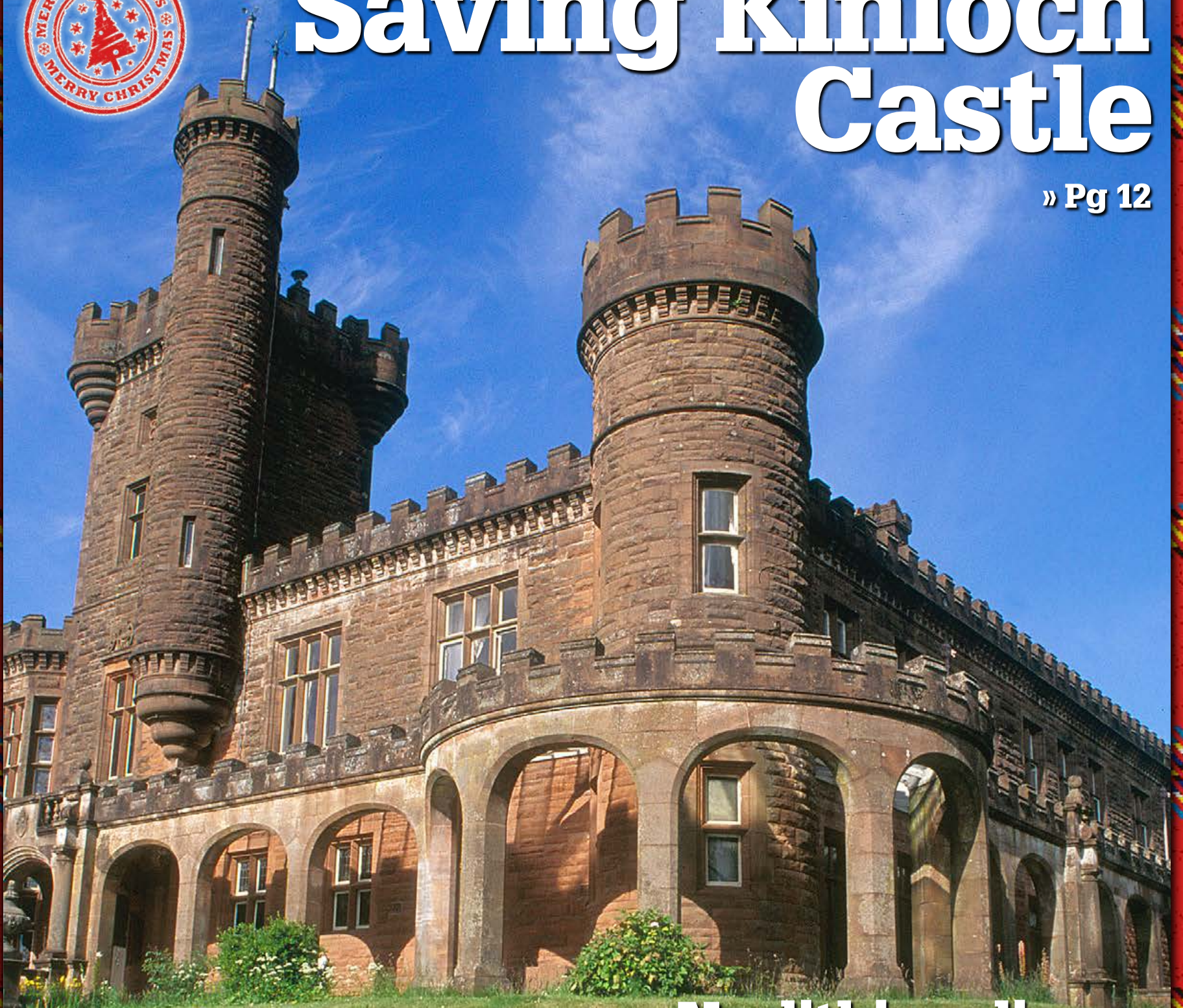
NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS

December 2022



# Saving Kinloch Castle

» Pg 12



## Neolithic culinary traditions uncovered

» Pg 17

## Strathblane *Between the Ranges*

» Pg 23



Tenement Tales ..... » Pg 7

Winner of the Glenfiddich Piping Championships crowned, making history in the process ..... » Pg 7

RRS Discovery Visitor Centre unveils visual and virtual transformation.. » Pg 15



**Publisher**  
Scottish Banner Pty Ltd.

**Editor**  
Sean Cairney

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

**Contact:**  
**The Scottish Banner**  
PO Box 6202  
Marrickville South  
NSW, 2204  
Australia  
Tel: (02) 9559-6348  
info@scottishbanner.com

Follow us on social media



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

**Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806**

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

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

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

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

AUSTRALIA: Wrapaway Distribution 02 9550 1622  
NEW ZEALAND: Are Direct NZ 09 979 3018

**The Scottish Banner**

Uniting Scots Around the World for 46 Years!

**THE SCOTTISH BANNER**

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

**Australia:** Print: 1 Year / \$55.00 AUD  
Digital: 1 Year / \$25.00 AUD

**Canada:** Digital: \$19.95 CDN

**New Zealand:** Print: 1 Year / \$125.00 AUD  
Digital: 1 Year / \$25.00 AUD

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

**Overseas:** Print: 1 Year Air Mail: AU \$150.00

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

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

Subscription are non-refundable.

Cheques, money orders, Visa and MasterCard accepted.

**Scottish Banner Australia/New Zealand:**

PO Box 6202, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204

Digital subscriptions must be requested via our website only.

Name:.....

Address: .....

Post Code:.....

Tel/Email: .....

1 Year  New Subscription  Renewal

Gift Subsc. From .....

Visa/MC.....

Expiry.....

The Banner Says...

# The cancellation of Christmas



by Sean Cairney

When most people receive this month's edition of *the Scottish Banner*, they will no doubt be looking at a busy month ahead with festive events, get-togethers with friends and family and perhaps just spending a little bit too much money on gifts, food and festive cheer. I remember as a child the excitement of going to bed on Christmas Eve and wondering what might be in some of those wrapped packages bearing my name on them. We were lucky to have as part of our family tradition the offer of opening a small gift on Christmas Eve before going to bed and getting some milk, cookies and of course carrots out for Santa and his loyal crew of reindeer.

## Banning Christmas

I am glad those traditions were part of my growing up and cannot imagine not having them as part of my childhood memories. However, for many years Scottish children did not have such traditions as part of their growing up experiences. Some may be surprised to learn that Christmas was actually banned in Scotland for centuries. Christmas had its early origins in Scotland when those fierce Vikings raided the land and made communities in Scotland from the 8<sup>th</sup> century, with them they brought the custom of celebrating the winter solstice in a pagan festival which became known as yule. Yule was a multiday celebration which honoured their ancestors in the darkest time of the year, this eventually became a Christian tradition. During the Reformation years Scottish Protestant kirks broke ties with the Catholic Church and thus began to cut ties with all things Christmas.

Christmas was abolished in 1640 by the Scottish parliament as it was seen as a Roman Catholic tradition and celebrating Christmas became illegal. The law was strictly enforced, and it was even illegal to bake a yule log or sing a Christmas carol. And though you would no longer be thrown into prison for celebrating Christmas, it did become just another working day

for many Scots well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Whilst some of the banned period may feel like part of medieval history it was not in fact until 1958 that Christmas even became a public holiday in Scotland, that is less than 70 years ago. Even more recently, Boxing Day did not become recognised as a holiday in Scotland until 1974. In some parts of the country, December 26<sup>th</sup> was Sweetie Scone Day, when the Lord or Lady of the estate would give cakes made with dried fruit and spices to their workers and the poor (who couldn't afford these luxurious ingredients).

## Christmas was abolished in 1640 by the Scottish parliament as it was seen as a Roman Catholic tradition and celebrating Christmas became illegal.

### In this issue

The iconic Kinloch Castle is located on the Isle of Rum. Built in the late 1800s, the A listed Victorian mansion has quite a history and was once a playground for the rich, privileged and famous of England and Scotland. Sadly, the state of the Kinloch Castle has fallen in such bad shape it needs someone with very deep pockets to get it back on track. The small but passionate local Rum community also have their ideas on how Kinloch should be restored and managed. A buyer is needed who will be both sympathetic to the castle and the community.

Strathblane is in Stirlingshire but just outside of Glasgow making it an ideal commuter town. However, the rolling hills and green spaces that surround the area certainly let you know you are not in Glasgow. Visitors can enjoy walking and cycle trails, and picturesque drives. Not to mention the stunning hill ranges of the Campsies and a great whisky distillery. It is great we can highlight this lovely spot, and one that is quite easy to get to when you are next in Scotland.

### Hogmanay

Scots of course were not completely deprived of fun and cheer during the festive period. They would whole heartedly embrace New Year's Eve, or as we all know it Hogmanay, as back



in the day Scots could not celebrate Christmas itself. Some amazing Scottish customs also have been developed over the years which still take place today. Many Hogmanay celebrations still light up the dark cold night with fire, from torchlight processions to fire ball ceremonies Scotland holds on to these unique celebrations which signify the Winter Solstice, ancestors and the rejuvenating energy of the sun.

Speaking of fire some Scots still practice the tradition of burning a twig from a rowan tree during the festive season. It is believed that burning rowan gets rid of jealousy or mistrust between family, friends and neighbours. Hundreds of years ago it was popular to burn a Yule log and the ashes were considered lucky and would protect the house for the year ahead. From this tradition some Scots today burn a candle in the window as a welcome to family, friends and even strangers.

Of course, Christmas is a joyous time for most of us today, however some will be doing it tough this holiday season. Some will be alone, some sick, some working, or just missing someone special who is not around the table this holiday season and I always think of them at this time of the year. I hope you and yours have a safe, wonderful and happy holiday season. We also thank all our readers, customers, subscribers and advertisers for all their support in 2022. Merry Christmas, or as some may know in Scots Gaelic, Nollaig Chridheil! ❄️

**Do you practice any Scottish Christmas or Hogmanay traditions? Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or: #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner**

**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 of if by print or digital subscription or at a retail outlet. You may also make a donation to the Scottish Banner via our website.**

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



Gracing our front cover: Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum. Photo: Lorne Gill/NatureScot.



Finbar, Finbarr, Finnbar, or Finnbar, in Irish Fionnbarra, is often abbreviated to this island's name.

**H**ow well do you know Scotland? To test your knowledge, we have assembled ten fun questions on its geography, history and culture - but if you get stumped, the solutions can be found underneath. Good luck!

- 1) 1) Where does the River Clyde rise?
- 2) Which country has received the most Scottish immigrants? a) New Zealand, b) Australia or c) Canada?
- 3) Who is the most famous member of the Bachelors' Club in Tarbolton, Ayrshire?
- 4) In which Scottish city's shipyards were the polar exploration ships of both Scott and Shackleton built?
- 5) Which 19<sup>th</sup> century Glasgow merchant controlled one-tenth of the entire world tea trade?
- 6) Bridge of Weir, to the west of Paisley, lies along which river?

- 7) Name the world's best-selling brand of Scotch whisky?
- 8) What is the Scotichronicon?
- 9) In which Scottish town is Robert Burns buried?
- 10) To which Scottish island did the missionary Findbarr of Cork give his name?

**Answers**

- 1) In the Southern Uplands, west of Moffat.
- 2) c) Canada.
- 3) Robert Burns.
- 4) Dundee.
- 5) Thomas Lipton.
- 6) River Gryfe.
- 7) Johnny Walker Red Label.
- 8) A medieval history of Scotland.
- 9) Dumfries.
- 10) Barra.



*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 are courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans (SRT).*

**A** tartan for members of the 'Clan Claus Society' (CCS). The Society registered their first tartan over 10 years ago, Claus of the North Pole (SRT #5816), and they felt it was the right time to design a new one. The Clan Claus Society embodies the desire to preserve and perpetuate the history, ideals, traditions, family values, and heritage of the Scottish Santa Claus persona. This tartan (reference: 13111) was designed by Donald J 'Kona' Gant and registered in April, 2021. *The Scottish Banner* wishes all our readers, advertisers and friends and very happy and safe Christmas!

**Scotland's Trade Fair**  
Spring

Discover it first  
22-24 January 2023 | SEC Glasgow



Home & Gift  
Fashion & Accessories  
Food & Drink  
Craft

Register now at [www.scotlandstradefairs.com](http://www.scotlandstradefairs.com)

# 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?

## Thistles in the Heartland

*Like fugitives do thistles stand  
Outside the law in this fair land  
But purple warriors make their home  
Upon the hillside where I roam*

*The lord of the land would destroy them again  
Yet he sees not what lies beyond his ken  
And where knife and shovel do not go  
There does the outlaw thistle grow*

*The proud flowers thrive where they ought not dare  
And they can be prickly beyond compare  
But so lovely, so in their purple hue*

*I will forgive them the hurt that they do  
And I know if he comes to take them down  
They'll fight like heroes to hold their ground  
For tall and mighty they are today  
Against all odds the other way*

*And will not tell of their camps so near  
Except in these words, which he will not hear  
And a health to the wild barbarian flowers  
That grace this domestic hillside of ours*

*And far afield their seeds are blown  
And purple families find new homes  
God speed them on their windswept way  
May they live to grow another day.*

Maria Anthony  
USA



Which perhaps explains why she was never as popular in Scotland, as she was in England. Unfortunately other countries, which have large populations of the Scottish Diaspora, such as in Australia, New Zealand, USA, and Canada, also mistakenly call and called her Elizabeth 11.

Alexander Sibbald  
Dunedin, New Zealand

### Tales of the Sma' Glen



What a charming story, *Tales of the Sma' Glen*, you had in the October issue of *the Scottish Banner*. I go back to Scotland on a fairly regular basis and am always on the lookout for something different to try when I am there. I love to hire a car and simply end up in all sorts of places, and really do prefer getting off the beaten track. The images in this article certainly make this look like the type of place I would love to see myself in.

The history of this area is also really intriguing, and I must admit I had not heard of this Perthshire gem before. I have friends and family in Scotland who are also unaware of this location and I promised them I will take them when I am next over, sometimes it takes a visiting tourist to get a local to see their very own backyard.

I also really enjoy your *Tartan of the Month* feature, I have learnt about countless tartans from *the Banner* which I had not heard of before, it really is incredible the variety of tartans that have been created over the years and the meaning behind each and every one. I must admit there so far is very few I do not like, must be the Scot in me!

I am a long-time reader of *the Scottish Banner*, there is simply nothing else like it, and for that I thank all involved.

Randy R Young  
Chula Vista, California  
USA

### Scottish LP's

I have some very old Scottish LP's and was wondering if any readers would like to buy them? They have a few scratches, and the jackets are a bit tatty but they play well and still sound great. I remember singing along to Jimmy Shand when I was little and I'm 70 now, still brings a tear to my eyes when I hear *Auld Lang Syne*. I can't play them now as I had to downsize, but would like to see them go to someone who will enjoy them as I did, especially at Hogmanay.

I have: *Roaming in the Gloaming Favourite Songs* by Sir Harry Lauder, *Jimmy Shand's Party, Scotland on Parade with the Gordon Highlanders*, *Golden Grove Highland Fling*-The Alexander Brothers and *Scottish Sing-Along* by Ivor Raymonde. Heather Masterton  
PO Box 209  
Budgewoi, NSW  
2262  
Australia

### The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



I really enjoyed reading about the Canadian and Australian pipe bands that performed at this years Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (*The Scottish Banner*, October, 2022). I adore the pipes and drums and what a great experience for those band members to be on the world stage at the Tattoo. I know several people in pipe bands and they have commented to me about some of the great experiences and friendships they have had due to being in a pipe band. I would think marching through the gates of Edinburgh Castle onto the Castle Esplanade to the cheering of thousands of people must certainly be a highlight of anyone's pipe band career. These folks must have put a great deal of time, practice and their own money to get there and they must be commended for their dedication and doing their home nations proud.

I really enjoy *the Scottish Banner* each month and always look forward to the next issue.

Janette Anderson  
Brockville, Ontario  
Canada

### Pillar Box War

*The Banner* does a sterling job in reporting on issues of interest in Scotland to its diaspora readership in different parts of the world. For this reason I really enjoy reading *the Scottish Banner* each month. That is until the current October edition, in which I was very disappointed that you, and/or your editorial team, made a major historical error that is offensive to many Scots. I assume that the error was made in ignorance rather than design.

On page 1, and repeated on pages 2 and 3, the paper, in lavishing praise on the recently dead monarch, called her Elizabeth 11 when in fact there never was a Scottish Queen Elizabeth before the Union of the Scottish and English Crowns in 1603.

Only in England and Ireland was there a Queen Elizabeth prior to this time.

There was a precedent when naming the first monarch of the combined crowns. James VI of Scotland, who acceded to the English Crown upon the death of the Virgin Queen Elizabeth I of England in 1603, became King James I of Britain and Ireland. Although there had been six King James of Scotland, there had never been a King James of England.

I am old enough to remember the start of her reign in 1952, when the insignia E11R appeared on Scottish post boxes, vans, and other post office material, and thus began the Pillar Box War, in which post boxes were defaced, and some were blown up in protest at this insult. The designation Queen Elizabeth 11 was challenged in the Scottish Courts and was debated in the British Parliament. It was argued she should be known as Elizabeth 11 and 1, or Elizabeth Regina. Only to be defeated by the ruling that the sovereign was free to adopt any insignia she wanted. And that is what she did for 70 years, in spite of the Scottish opposition to it. Bear in mind that she was descended from the German House of Hanover dynasty, unlike Elizabeth I of England who was an English House of Tudor Queen.

However, the British Government relented to some extent in about 1953, when the insignia E11R was permanently removed from post office boxes and vans in Scotland to be replaced by what they called the Scottish Cypher, the Crown of Scotland. And that continues to be the case today. Indeed in 2018, a post box with the offensive E11R mistakenly appeared on a new post box in Dunoon, which met with much opposition, and was quickly replaced with the Scottish Cypher, plus apologies from the post office.

Seems strange that the late Queen, whom *the Scottish Banner* says loved Scotland and the Scots, continued to use the offensive Elizabeth 11 insignia until she died. The use of Elizabeth 11 was and is seen as disrespectful to Scotland, given that it was a union of the crowns of two independent countries, and not a conquest by England.

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Sent to our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts-send us your photos or letters via social media (#ScottishBanner or #TheBanner):

### Highland Coo



Someone's loving summer in Scotland!  
*The Kilted Photographer*

### Linlithgow Palace



Looking towards the palace from Linlithgow Loch.  
*Paul Watt Photography*

### Aberdeen Harbour



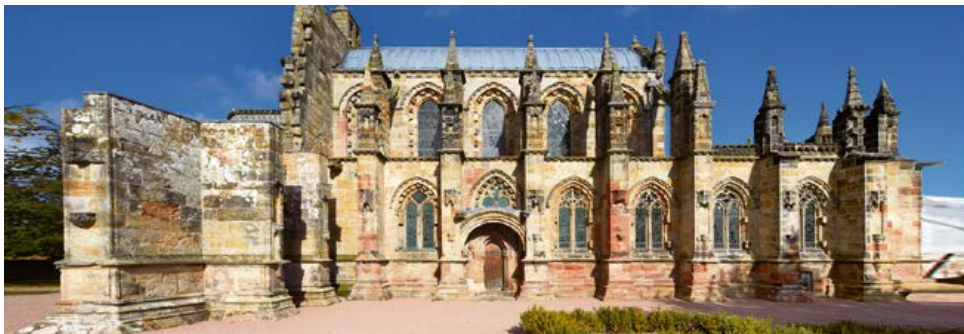
Trip to Aberdeen Harbour.  
*Derek A Grist*

### The Kelpies



Beautiful sky over The Kelpies.  
*Mik Coia*

## Share a Story about Rosslyn Chapel



People around the world are being invited to share a story about Rosslyn Chapel, as part of Scotland's Year of Stories 2022, with the aim of adding a variety of personal reminiscences to the Chapel's archive.

Rosslyn Chapel, which was founded in 1446, has featured in a number of stories, most notably Dan Brown's novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, which led to a large increase in visit to the Midlothian site. The Chapel has, though, attracted visitors for generations, with early visitors recording their stories in travel journals. In one of the earliest, Thomas Kirk describes the story of the Apprentice Pillar in his *Tours in Scotland*, dated 12 August 1677. Now, Rosslyn Chapel Trust is looking to add stories and memories of more recent visits to its archives.

Ian Gardner, Director of Rosslyn Chapel Trust, said: 'We often hear stories and memories about Rosslyn Chapel and now we want to record these for the future as part of our archive. This year, designated Scotland's Year of Stories 2022, provides the perfect opportunity for us to do that. Whether you have visited in the past, or attended an event,

a church service, wedding or concert, please share your story with us so that we can pass it on to future generations.'

Stories can be emailed to [learning@rosslynchapel.com](mailto:learning@rosslynchapel.com) or shared through Rosslyn Chapel Trust's Facebook page. A selection of stories will be published on the Chapel's website.

Rosslyn Chapel was built for Sir William St Clair and was incomplete when he died in 1484. The beauty of its setting and the mysterious symbolism of its ornate stonework have inspired, attracted and intrigued visitors ever since. The Chapel came to worldwide prominence when it featured in the novel *The Da Vinci Code* and the subsequent film. The Chapel is open to visitors daily and tickets can be booked on the Chapel's website [www.rosslynchapel.com](http://www.rosslynchapel.com)

Led by VisitScotland, the Year of Stories 2022 sustains and builds upon the momentum of preceding Themed Years, showcasing a nationwide programme of major events and community celebrations. Scotland's Year of Stories 2022 spotlights, celebrates and promotes the wealth of stories inspired by, written, or created in Scotland.

## Scottish Murders Podcast presents Scottish Collaboration

Podcasts, in 2021 it was reported that there were between 850,000 and 1 million active podcasts, and over 48 million total podcast episodes out there, with the majority of podcasts coming from the United States of America. However, just like with the breath-taking scenery and mouth-watering food, Scotland too boasts some fantastic podcasts and content.

One such podcast is *Scottish Murders*, which is hosted by Scottish sisters Dawn and Cole, and have been releasing regular podcast episodes since July 2021. *Scottish Murders* is a podcast dedicated entirely to murders of Scottish people or murders that have taken place in Scotland. While *Scottish Murders* covers some truly barbaric murders and highlights a darker side to Bonnie Scotland, it also ensures to showcase some good points about the area where a murder took place too.

Dawn, one of the hosts of *Scottish Murders*, had the idea to bring together as many Scottish podcasters as possible and for them to collaborate together, to really showcase some fantastic Scottish podcasts from genres such as comedy, sport, news, society and leisure, television and film, education, arts and of course true crime. The Scottish Collaboration is an online event that has been organised to take place from

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022. However, once Dawn had begun the journey of contacting Scottish podcasters to bring them together for this event, the scope broadened slightly, and now small Scottish businesses and musicians will also be taking part in the event so their products and talents can also be showcased.

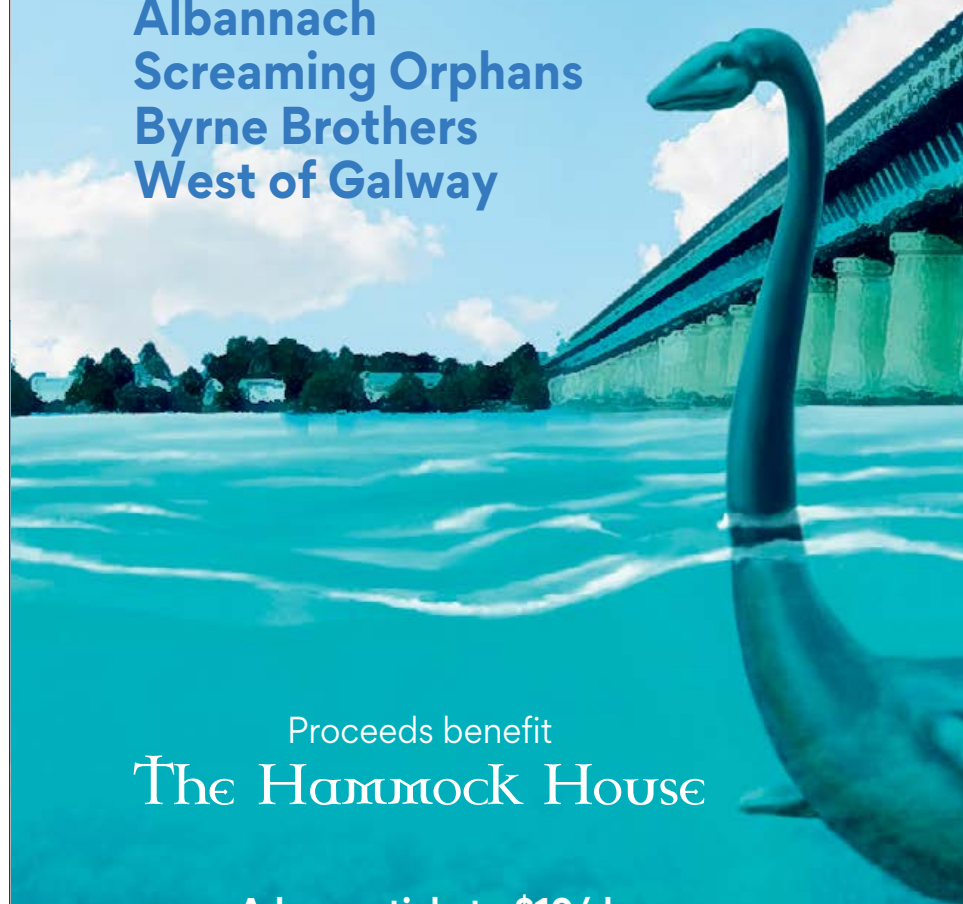
All information about the Scottish Collaboration as well as details of all participants taking part, can be found at [www.scottishmurders.com/collab](http://www.scottishmurders.com/collab) and a full daily schedule of what's happening on each podcast will be available there closer to the event taking place. Follow *Scottish Murders* on social media or check out #scottishcollab to ensure you don't miss a thing.



## FLORIDA KEYS Celtic Festival

January 7 - 8, 2023  
MARATHON COMMUNITY PARK

Albannach  
Screaming Orphans  
Byrne Brothers  
West of Galway



Proceeds benefit  
The Hammock House

Advance tickets \$10/day  
At the gate \$12 /day  
[Keystix.com](http://Keystix.com)  
& St. Columba Episcopal Church

The Florida Keys  
& Key West  
... come as you are®

Please book your Hotel Rooms now  
and join us to  
celebrate Celtic Heritage in  
the beautiful Florida Keys

Celtic Food, Drinks, Vendors,  
Highland competitions,  
Children's Glen

Brought to you by St. Columba Episcopal Church  
305.743.6412 [@FLKeysCelticFest](https://www.facebook.com/FLKeysCelticFest) [@Keyscelticfest](https://www.instagram.com/Keyscelticfest)  
Entertainment Producer: Celtic Heritage Productions

[FloridaKeysCelticFestival.com](http://FloridaKeysCelticFestival.com)

# SCOTSPEAK

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

**“Residents, businesses and everyone who comes to Byres Road will enjoy the benefit of this work, which will significantly improve the public realm there, raising the quality of pavements and public spaces, and making it easier for people using different modes of travel to get around this great Glasgow street.”**

Councillor Susan Aitken, leader of Glasgow City Council and chair of the Glasgow City Region Cabinet, said that a plan to upgrade the quality of the Byres Road streetscape in the city’s west will commence in January. The plans include more pedestrian space, cycleways, environmental improvement to make the road a key retail, food and drink destination. Work is expected to be completed by the summer of 2024.



Photo: VisitScotland.

**“We have been trying hard to find a way to bring the Torchlight Procession into Edinburgh’s Hogmanay celebrations this year, however we are very disappointed to confirm that due to the current economic climate, and the drop in available funding, we are unable to go ahead with this event in 2022. Our full programme of events, including activities for families and children, over the three days of Edinburgh’s Hogmanay will be announced later. We very much hope to bring back the Torchlight Procession to the Edinburgh’s Hogmanay programme in 2023.”**

A statement from event organiser UniqueAssembly said that the Torchlight Procession, one of the headline events in the annual Edinburgh’s Hogmanay celebrations, has been cancelled for this year. The organisers have been trying hard to find a way to bring the Torchlight Procession into Edinburgh’s Hogmanay celebrations this year, however they are very disappointed to confirm that due to the current economic climate, and the drop in available funding, they are unable to go ahead with this event in 2022.

**“It’s a big deal because it’s something I’ve been doing with my dad since I was four. Sometimes when the weather was bad I thought ‘why are we up here?’ I didn’t know if I could stand up but I managed to.”**

10-year-old Quinn Young from Inverness said after she climbed all of Scotland’s 282 Munros with her father. Munros are Scottish peaks of more than 3,000ft (914m). Quinn is one of the youngest people to ever complete the challenge which takes many years to complete.



**“We know that world production of industrial hemp has been on the decline since the 1960s due to an unfavourable**

**political climate regarding the cultivation and use of the crop as well as legislation. However, the hemp plant has the potential to be a cost-effective, carbon neutral, and environmentally friendly crop for farmers. The UK is among the top five countries launching hemp-based products in the world. The majority of the products launched are in the category of snacks, nutritional drinks and beverages, health care, breakfast cereals, and baked goods.”**

Dr Wisdom Dogbe of the Rowett Institute said that hemp has the potential to make Scotland’s agricultural sector carbon neutral as well as providing huge economic benefits. Hemp was once widely grown in Scotland and its cultivation dates back more than 6000 years. It has many uses including offsetting carbon dioxide, as a food, and as an eco-friendly fertiliser and pesticide. It is currently being used in building materials, as a biofuel, textile fabric and even as an alternative to plastic. As a food source it is high in protein, fibre and micronutrients, as well as having an exceptional fatty acid profile.

**“We want to encourage people to walk or cycle more and we hope these trail guides help people to get out there and find out what’s in the city at the same time. We have many green areas and stunning buildings so it’s fantastic these new trail guides have been produced showing even more of our fascinating heritage. We live in a beautiful city with a rich and interesting history so it’s great the trail guides show people what there is, from our stunning and award-winning parks and gardens to quirky little anomalies found all over the city.”**

The Lord Provost of Aberdeen Dr David Cameron said that two new trail guides for Aberdeen have been launched recently, which will help locals and visitors discover places full of history, heritage, and beautiful green spaces. The new trail guides, many routes of which can be cycled, mean there is now a total of 24 in the series covering many historical and natural gems around the city. Items in the new trail guides include a WWII pillbox, a 250-year-old elm tree, a former steam engine which is now a playpark, the oldest and second-

oldest bridges in Scotland, a ‘super scurry (seagull)’ public art mural, the second-largest granite building in the world, and a former fishing village.



**“Perth Museum will be one of Scotland’s leading tourist attractions and together with the redeveloped Art Gallery, will bring thousands of people to Perth and will also be two amazing venues our residents can enjoy all year round. There was great enthusiasm from the public in naming the new museum, which will be home to the Stone of Destiny, and Perth Museum was clearly the favourite choice. The transformation of the former City Hall is now well underway and choosing the name is a significant step towards 2024, when Perth Museum will open its doors to the public for the first time. We already have a thriving cultural sector and Perth Museum and the revamped Art Gallery will add to that, making Perth an even better place to live, work and visit.”**

Perth & Kinross Council leader Councillor Grant Laing said that a public search to name the new museum being developed in Perth City Hall has concluded, with more than 60% of the respondents voting for a name that encapsulates the stories and the history of the building and the name will be simply Perth Museum. Alongside this change, the existing much-loved Perth Museum and Art Gallery on George Street will be rebranded as Perth Art Gallery. The two institutions will complement each other to enable a richer and more inclusive exploration of the region’s past, present, and future. Perth Museum will tell the story of Perth & Kinross’ ancient roots through social and natural history with the iconic Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone, at its heart. Perth Art Gallery will focus on modern Scots through the development of art and design in the region up to the present day.



Visit *the Scottish Banner* online for up to date events, or to subscribe.

Our new look site now features online articles and news, with new content added weekly.  
[www.scottishbanner.com](http://www.scottishbanner.com)

## SCOTWORD

Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try! If you’re stuck, answers can be found on page 22.

### CLUES ACROSS

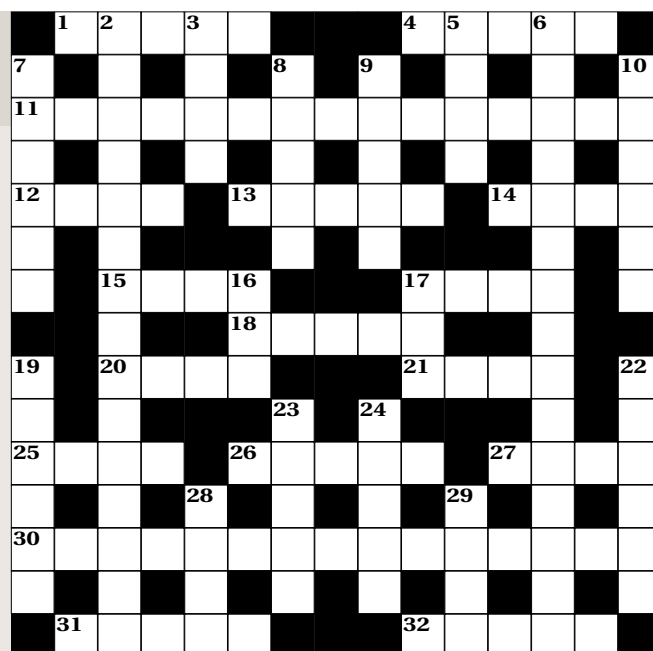
- 1) A Scots tell-tale(5).
- 4) Land by a riverbank (5).
- 11) Kintyre waterway (11, 4).
- 12) Accompanies haggis (4).
- 13) Underground basics! (5).
- 14) Bounce a ball in Scotland (4).
- 15) Its chief town is Tobermory (4).
- 17) Porridge essentials (4).
- 18) Grampian cathedral town (5).
- 20) Columba’s isle (4).
- 21) A pass between hills (4).

- 25) A reverberation! (4).
- 26) A top cape! (5).
- 27) Goes with a hoop! (4).
- 30) Ruined Grampian fortress (9, 6).
- 31) A Scots piedish (5).
- 32) Town on Largo Bay (5).

### CLUES DOWN

- 2) Lothian heights (10, 5).
- 3) Taverns (4).
- 5) The Princess Royal (4).
- 6) National emblem (8, 7).
- 7) They’re baked on girdles (6).

- 8) Town on north side of River Forth (5).
- 9) East coast river-mouth (5).
- 10) Location near Wishaw (6).
- 16) Meadow land (3).
- 17) A choice to a Scot (3).
- 19) A Scotsman’s trousers (6).
- 22) For a Scot’s rubbish (6).
- 23) Scotch measures (5).
- 24) Scots supports! (5).
- 28) A Scots gradient (4).
- 29) Vegetable soup (4).



TENEMENT TALES

By: Brian Diamond

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

# Places to Play and the Teflon Kid



Sight Hill Cemetery.  
Photo: Lairich Rig. (CC BY-SA 2.0).

As an adventurous child growing up in Springburn, the school summer holidays, eight whole weeks with no school was the highlight of our young lives. Our parents never seemed to worry too much about us as there was always a neighbour on hand to monitor the back yard and make sure that all was well. Now after a while the back yard got boring and so we had to look elsewhere for adventure, looking back at some of the things that I did, God alone knows how I am still around to pen these stories.

I lived on Keppochhill Road just past the big iron gates leading into Sight Hill Cemetery, and for a child, this was positively the most magic place in the world to play games, with just a little imagination you could turn this sombre setting into anything that caught your fancy. Boys played cowboys & Indian's, hide & seek, cops & robbers, while the

girls tidied up the graves, had tea parties and rearranged the flowers, all of this with respect and never a thought of vandalism on our mind.

### Forbidden place of wonder

Upon crossing the vast graveyard following the railway line, one emerged to a grass field often referred to the Rushy Park, a fascinating place to play as there was a swamp at the base of the hill. The swamp was high in reeds and bull rushes hence its name, and no matter how many time my parents warned me not to, I always had to try and cross the swamp wearing my white summer sandals, which inevitably got horribly stained, requiring a creative story to cover up, I guess that the devil made me do it. Beyond the swamp was a massive hill (a mountain to us kids) comprised of chemical waste from the nearby ICI Chemical plant, it was referred to as Jack's Mountain, or The Salt Waste.

It was another forbidden place of wonder for a nomadic kid like me, I climbed that mountain from every angle, made caves in the mountain and fearlessly slid down it sitting on pieces of cardboard and getting the chemical waste firmly lodged in my pants and shoes. Knowing that this was a definite "NO NO" I would make my way to Pinkston Power Station for a quick clean up visit to The Steamy Canal.

The water in this canal always had a mist hovering over it as it came from cooling the generators in the power plant, it was remarkably clear, lukewarm, and not at all deep, a perfect place to wash my shoes and clean my pants before heading home.

### For a child this was positively the most magic place in the world to play games.

To go home I had to pass yet another place of wonder, the slaughterhouse, a must-see stopover for an adventurous kid. The smell from the place was overpowering, and the building was so old and dilapidated that one could quite easily see through the broken windows to where the animals were shot, our own local version of *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*.

Quite often, as the trucks rolled in the animals seemed to sense that this would be their last ride into the sunset and they became quite skittish., I often witnessed horses, bulls and cows make their last bid from freedom by shaking off their handlers and running for the salt mountain slopes with my best wishes that they would escape. On the other side of the mountain was another death-defying piece of the local

scenery, The Stinky Ocean, this was a large body of water which drained off the mountain to form a pond which reeked of sulphur, better known as a rotten egg smell. This pond was rather deep and could support a raft made from oil cans and wood all strapped together with wire and rope, and once you got over the smell was a great place to play.

### Nomadic urchins

Now as I recite all of this, I start to wonder, what on earth was in that chemical dump? Why did my sandals rot away and the soles fall off so quickly? And what caused the backside of my pants to disintegrate earning me a thick ear for lying about where I had been. Was there ever such a thing as The EPA, also known as the Environmental Protection Agency back then?

What kind of chemical junk was I playing in? Perhaps I should have listened to my parents. Back in those days, apart from a few special local friends, nomadic urchins like me made friends with whomever they came across at whatever the activity of the day was, so against this backdrop, let me introduce Mr Clean, or as he would for sure be known today as The Teflon Kid, as nothing ever stuck to him. This is a true story which reflects fate, coincidence, the value of social networking, and the size of the world we live in.

## Winner of the Glenfiddich Piping Championships crowned, making history in the process

The overall champion of the prestigious Glenfiddich Piping Championship has been named as Willie McCallum. The win marks a record ninth win for Willie, extending his record of having the most overall wins ever. Willie McCallum, from Campbeltown, went up against nine of the world's greatest solo players at the renowned 49th annual competition at Blair Castle to claim the title. Callum Beaumont was crowned runner-up and Fred Morrison was third overall.

Callum Beaumont was named the Piobaireachd winner, and the March, Strathspey and Reel (MSR) competition was also won by Willie McCallum. The 2022 Balvenie Medal Winner was Tom Brown. Tom was an inspirational piping tutor for generations of young people at Lochgelly High School. The Balvenie Medal was introduced the Glenfiddich Piping Championship in 1985 and is awarded for "Services to Piping".

### Pinnacle of solo piping competition

The competition played out in front of a live audience in Blair Castle's Victorian ballroom and hundreds from around the world who watched the spectacle online. Overall winner Willie McCallum said: "It's such an honour to be taking home the Glenfiddich trophy. It was a fierce competition and everyone played their absolute best so it means a lot to have been named as the overall winner."

The National Piping Centre's Director of Piping, Finlay MacDonald, said: "It's fantastic to be back at Blair Castle

for the 49th annual Glenfiddich Championship. This is the pinnacle of solo piping competitions and all of this year's competitors upheld their reputations as the best in the world. They all should all be extremely proud of themselves, it was incredible to watch them all perform in this magnificent venue." Competitors travelled from near and far to take part, including 2021 champion Jack Lee from British Columbia, Canada, Jamie Forrester from London, the USA's Nick Hudson, Connor Sinclair from Crieff, and Fred Morrison from Renfrewshire.

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship was established in 1974 to inspire the world's finest exponents of Ceòl Mòr or Piobaireachd (the great music) and Ceòl Beag or light music (the little music). Run by The National Piping Centre, the world centre for excellence in bagpipe music, and funded through the William Grant Foundation, the event is held annually at Blair Castle in Blair Atholl, Perthshire.



Callum Beaumont and Willie McCallum.

*Scottish Creations*  
Scotland by Design

*The very best of Scottish gifts...*  
Free shipping\*







Representing the very best designs and gifts from Scotland.  
[www.scottishcreations.com](http://www.scottishcreations.com)

\*USA only.

# New green recovery trails in the home of the UK's first ever Mission Blue Hope Spot



**F**ive exclusive new Scottish nature-based trails, featuring insider tips from the local community, have been launched to help visitors 'slow down', travel responsibly and find some unique natural discoveries at sea and in the sky along the Argyll and the Isles coast in the west of Scotland - home to the UK's first ever Mission Blue Hope Spot and four internationally recognised dark sky sites.

Part of an innovative pilot green recovery Slow Tourism initiative, the self-led Above and Below touring routes, revealed earlier this month, showcase the most unique and idyllic coastal locations in Argyll and the Isles (Scotland's Adventure Coast). The trails are designed for those who love adventure or simply want to escape the hustle and bustle of

everyday life, and feature key sites for wild swimming, snorkelling, beach hunts, sunsets and some of the darkest skies in Europe.

### Natural world above and below the land

Argyll and the Isles is a unique area to explore above and below, and soak in the wonders of the sea and the stars. The region's Hope Spot, encompassing the Sound of Jura, Firth of Lorn, Sound of Mull, Loch Sunart and Loch Linnhe, has been scientifically identified as critical to the health of the ocean. Following a proposal by the local Coastal Communities Network (Scotland), Mission Blue (a global marine protection network) selected the region for its "intricate coastline of sea lochs,

peninsulas, deep water sounds, narrows and islands, encompassing existing Marine Protected Areas, Special Areas for Conservation and a host of Priority Marine Features." In addition to this, four sites in the region have been recognised as being among the best places in the world for stargazing free from light pollution – there are three Dark Sky Discovery Sites in Argyll, and the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) has officially designated the Isle of Coll as an International Dark Sky Place.

Launching the new Above and Below guides, Cathy Craig, CEO at the Argyll and Isles Tourism Cooperative said: "Located on the west coast of Scotland, warmed by the gulf stream, Argyll and the Isles is known globally for its stunning idyllic scenery, great outdoor adventure, and rare and endangered wildlife. Often referred to as Scotland's Adventure Coast, there is so much to discover here, with a wide range of experiences to suit almost every interest. Our marine environment is internationally significant, and our night skies are some of the darkest in the world. It's the perfect place to really slow down and immerse yourself in authentic local experiences and the wonders of our natural world above and below the land. With some fantastic insider tips shared by experts in our community, our Above and Below guides are designed to do just that. By following these guides and taking the time to explore the area in these ways, visitors will make a

positive impact on our local environment and gain a better understanding of how they can continue to do so elsewhere. We're delighted to have been involved in such an innovative green recovery project."

The trails were produced in collaboration with the local community, who shared insider information about the coastal sites they treasure and tales of the marine wildlife, sunsets and dark sky experiences on offer.

**An interactive map and downloadable guide with more information can be found at [wildaboutargyll.co.uk/see-do/nature-and-wildlife/above-and-below](http://wildaboutargyll.co.uk/see-do/nature-and-wildlife/above-and-below).**



## The Scottish Banner, a perfect gift for your favourite Scot!!



What do you get someone who has everything?  
Why not a gift that gives throughout the year, 12 times to be exact! Subscribe for your favourite Scot (which could be you!) to the Scottish Banner to receive our digital download copy each month.

Each issue is full of stories from Scotland rich past and exciting future, news from the international Scottish community, events, genealogy, recipes, crosswords and much more.



**Never miss an issue and subscribe direct at: [www.scottishbanner.com/subscribe](http://www.scottishbanner.com/subscribe)**





# The Florida Keys Celtic Festival is back in celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year



Albannach.

Tickets are available for \$10 per day at [www.KeysTix.com](http://www.KeysTix.com) if purchased in advance and \$12 at the gate.

You can get further information by going to their website: [www.floridakeyscelticfestival.com](http://www.floridakeyscelticfestival.com), email: [theo@theoandaproconcierge.com](mailto:theo@theoandaproconcierge.com), or contact St Columba Episcopal Church at 305 743-6412. Keep up to date on their Facebook page, Florida Keys Celtic Festival.



The Police Pipe and Drum Corps of Florida.

Highlights of the two-day event include: vendors with Celtic themes, Irish dancing, a parade, a fabulous children's Glen, sheep dog herding and Women's Highland Athletic Competition.

### Perfect for the whole family

This festival is perfect for the whole family and supports the Hammock House, a free after school educational and nutritional program.



Gathering of the Clans.

January 7 and 8, 2023 the Keys kick off one of the most anticipated events of the year, The Florida Keys Celtic Festival. Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the festival is bringing back some of the favorite bands, including, Screaming Orphans, Albannach, West of Galway, The Byrne Brothers and the Police Pipe and Drum Corps of Florida. There will be plenty of Celtic food with a variety of teas and ales.

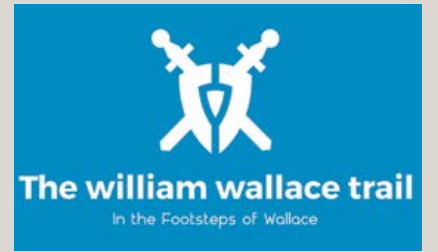


On The Byrne Brothers.



West of Galway.

£10,000 needed to establish the Falkirk Wallace trail to tell the story of Sir William Wallace in Falkirk



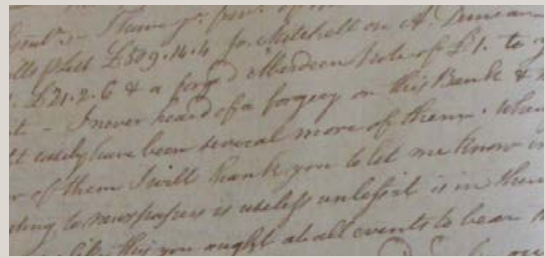
Falkirk plays a huge part in the Wallace story, from his mother's Connection to Grangemouth to his uncle preaching at Dunnipace as well as his closest friend hailing from the area. The Battle of Falkirk itself played a huge role in Falkirk's history. While Wallace would ultimately lose at Falkirk this would set up Wallace future and is grisly murder

The Wallace Trail wants to bring the multitude of stories that weave the fabric that is not only history of Falkirk but also Scotland itself. From the 600 men of Bute to the heroism of Macduff of Fife, Graeme and Stewart to the theory of betrayal. The project aims to bring schools and community groups into creating a Wallace trail that will not only bring history to life but also encourage the community to contribute and get involved on its creation.

If you can help bring history to life see: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thewallacetrail](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thewallacetrail)

Photo: University of Glasgow.

## Long lost letters highlight life in the Scottish Borders in the 1800s



A collection of letters from a prominent lawyer which were first discovered in 2015, with a further discovery in 2019, will soon be published in a new book. George Craig (1783-1843), baron bailie of Galashiels, was a law agent, banker, insurance agent and factor. His clients included both Sir Walter Scott and James Hogg. The rediscovery of some Craig's letter books sheds new light on his own and other communities across the Scottish Borders in the period between 1821 and 1840. The letters are considered of historical importance due to the details and insight of border life and society in the 1800s.

Approximately 3,000 letters have been discovered which include people of all walks of life with correspondence from across Scotland, the UK and further afield to places like America, Australia and the Caribbean. John Finlay, Professor of Scots Law at the University of Glasgow, presents a series of online pages looking at different aspects of that world through a selection of Craig's letters. It is part of a project, in conjunction with Scottish Borders Archives, to make Craig a better-known figure and to recognise his formative influence on the area. The letter books form the basis of a new book, expected to be published in 2023.

If you have any information about George Craig, you can contact Professor John Finlay via email at: [john.finlay@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:john.finlay@glasgow.ac.uk)



ANCESTRAL  
NAME

## DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF YOUR SURNAME

1.2m European names available - find yours at [ancestralname.com](http://ancestralname.com)



Use code SB15 for 15% off!

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



## New 250-mile Coast to Coast cycle route gets green light

An exciting new 250 mile on-road cycle route covering the length of the South of Scotland has received the green light to progress to delivery stage. The Coast to Coast route will run from Stranraer to Eyemouth, making it one of the longest in the UK and a new challenge for experienced cyclists. Walking and cycling routes can deliver significant economic, environmental and community benefits, and early projections are that the new South of Scotland Coast to Coast route could attract up to 175,000 new visitors to the region, with a direct spend of £13.7million per year. The project is aiming to be delivered in time for the 2023 UCI World Championships in Glasgow and across Scotland. Three of the 13 Championships are taking place in the South of Scotland in August next year, allowing visitors to the South to try the new route during or after the Championships.

Riders who want to test themselves can tackle the Coast to Coast Challenge route over four days but are highly recommended to slow down, immerse themselves and enjoy more of what the South of Scotland has to offer by completing the Explorer route over eight days or more. The Coast to Coast announcement follows the launch of the first ever South of Scotland Cycling Partnership Strategy in September, which aims to ensure cycling becomes the most popular choice for shorter, everyday journeys by 2032. The Strategy also has a vision for the region to be recognised as Scotland's leading cycling destination and a world-class cycling destination of excellence. Councillor Scott Hamilton, Scottish Borders Council's Executive Member for Community and Business Development, said: "The development of this route could deliver very significant benefits to communities all the way from Eyemouth to Stranraer and we continue to work closely with the partners involved to bring it to fruition. It is through initiatives such as this that we can really build upon the region's cycling heritage and already significant reputation for cycling and truly make the South of Scotland the 'Home of the Bike.'" Tourism Minister Ivan McKee added: "The South of Scotland is already recognised as a destination that offers a wide range of experiences and activities for visitors including walking and cycling. The creation of the Coast to Coast cycling route will support the Scottish Government's ambition of delivering economic, environmental and community

benefits to our regions through sustainable tourism. The route is part of the momentum building towards the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships in August, which is bringing three of the 13 Championships to the South of Scotland and encouraging participation in cycling across the region."

### Edinburgh Film Festival ceases trading



The Edinburgh International Film Festival, alongside its sister organisations - Filmhouse Cinema and Café Bar in Edinburgh and Belmont Filmhouse in Aberdeen - and parent charity, Centre for the Moving Image (CMI), have all ceased trading with the loss of over 100 jobs. CMI is facing a perfect storm of sharply rising costs, in particular energy costs, alongside reduced trade due to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. The combination and scale of these challenges is unprecedented and means that there was no option but to take immediate action.

The Edinburgh International Film Festival was founded in 1947 by the Edinburgh Film Guild film society and bills itself as the world's oldest continually running film festival, with 2022 marking its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The board of the CMI has issued the following statement: "We have been proud to have led the CMI through incredibly challenging times, and in particular during the worst days of the pandemic. Unfortunately, the combination of sharply increasing energy and other costs, together with both the lasting impacts of the pandemic and the rapidly emerging cost of living crisis affecting cinema attendances, means that we have had no other option but to appoint administrators at this time. We would like to put on record our immense gratitude to the entire staff team whose passion for film as an artform and for the audiences and communities we work with and serve has remained undented by the challenges of recent years. We're fully aware that this will be an exceptionally stressful time for them."

### Archaeologists' collaborative excavations find evidence of human habitation 10,000 years ago in Scottish Highlands



Archaeologists who have carried out excavations in the Scottish Highlands have found the earliest evidence of human habitation in the area as far back as 8,100 BC. The experts working on the project have also discovered that hunter-gatherers lived in this remote part of Britain during a period of abrupt climate change around 8,000 years ago. Excavations at sites on the Mar Lodge Estate, deep in the Cairngorms National Park in north Scotland, have yielded radiocarbon dates that have established that there was a human presence in the area around 8,100 BC. A partnership between archaeologists and environmental scientists from University College Dublin (UCD), University of Aberdeen, University of Stirling, University of Durham and the National Trust for Scotland established the Upper Dee Tributaries Project in 2013 to develop understanding of the estate's prehistory. The partnership also contributes to the management of these fragile and little understood archaeological sites.

As part of the project, a team of archaeologists from UCD, led by Dr Graeme Warren, who is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Archaeology, University College Dublin, have excavated a remote site in Glen Geldie - a broad upland valley flanked by snow-covered mountains in the area. The archaeologists excavating the site have found stone tools manufactured from flint and evidence of a fire. Radiocarbon dates from the tools show human occupation of the site at around 6,200-6,100 BC. The finds are fascinating because they coincide with the most dramatic climatic deterioration since the last ice age.

Dr Warren, who is the excavation director, said: "One of the really striking things is that the site (Glen Geldie) that the UCD team is on is very remote. From what we know during that period 8,200 years ago there was a major climate change event where the average annual temperature fell by one to three degrees. Now that might not sound like much, but three degrees is a very significant fall in annual average temperatures, especially up here in the mountains."

The National Trust for Scotland said the excavations have revealed a complex pattern of settlement, showing that people gathered by the riverside in the area thousands of years ago, possibly only a few hundred years after communities began to move back into Scotland when the ice retreated. Dr Warren said stone tools made of flint found in the Geldie Burn area nearby have also provided archaeologists with fascinating clues as to where the early inhabitants in the area originally came from and what activities they undertook. "We found a scatter of flint stone tools - they are the remains of toolkits for a variety of different uses - hunting, fishing or

maybe even drilling wood," he continued. "Flint isn't found in the Cairngorms and was probably carried with people as they moved into the mountains. The chances are that people were moving through here because it was a major communication route, or that it was used for hunting for things like red deer, and these are also some of the best rivers for salmon fishing in Scotland."

"We also have a scatter of stone tools across a hillside at Geldie Burn and within that we have a smaller cluster of around 100 artefacts scattered around a fire, including tools, broken tools and waste from making tools," he added. A high proportion of these stone tools from the Mesolithic period, which are known as microliths, often suggests a specialised function for the site, and a common interpretation of upland sites is that they are hunting locations.

### £21.6million impact of 'Gaelic Economy' in Glasgow outlined in new report



A new report shows the impact of the 'Gaelic Economy' in Glasgow, bringing in £21.6million to the city, as well as supporting 700 jobs. The council - supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig - commissioned a research study into the value of the 'Gaelic Economy' in Glasgow. The aim of the study was to demonstrate the value, growth, and impact of Gaelic in Glasgow. The study considered the economic value of Gaelic, the growth in its use, and how the language and culture impacted on the wellbeing of Glasgow. The vast majority of this impact was made in three sectors: Creative Industries; Education and Learning; and Tourism, Hospitality and Events. Of the 700 'Gaelic Economy' jobs supported in the city, 58% of these are in the education and learning sector, with 23% in the creative industries, and 16% in tourism, hospitality and events.

These jobs contribute £21.6million to Glasgow's economy every year. The study examined the economic impact of festivals and events where Gaelic plays a key role (including Celtic Connections, Piping Live!, the World Pipe Band Championships, and the Scottish Gaelic Awards) and found that the overall annual economic impact of these festivals and events that can be attributed to Gaelic is estimated to be £7.2million.

The use of Gaelic was also found to contribute positively to wellbeing in a number of ways, including a greater range of job opportunities, increased engagement in physical activity, the development of local and national pride, a sense of identity, and improved mental health and happiness. Shona MacLennan, CEO of Bòrd na Gàidhlig said: "We are delighted to read the findings of this report which strengthen the fact that the Gaelic language and its culture generate opportunities across many sectors of the Scottish economy. This is of course in addition to its benefits to people's wellbeing in everyday life. As we move forward to the next national plan for Gaelic, the messages are stronger and clearer than ever - the language and the economy benefit each other."

45<sup>th</sup> CENTRAL FLORIDA

# Scottish Highland Games

January  
14-15, 2023

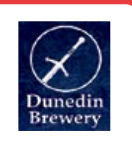
CENTRAL WINDS PARK  
WINTER SPRINGS  
FLORIDA

SATURDAY  
8:00 AM-9:00 PM

SUNDAY  
8:45 AM-5:00 PM



The largest and most dynamic Scottish highland games and festival in Florida!



# Saving Kinloch Castle

*Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum is an ornate castle which was built by George Bullough, son of a rich industrialist and friend of the Japanese emperor in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was once a place where the fashionable set of the day, including aristocrats and actors, would visit. Now frozen in time but slowly crumbling despite all sorts of plans over the years, including intervention by the then Prince Charles, the castle is looking for help to secure its future as a key part of the small island community as Judy Vickers explains.*



Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum. Photo: Lorne Gill/NatureScot.



Interior of Kinloch Castle. Photo: Lorne Gill/NatureScot.

and game birds, and when his son George inherited it in 1891 he built perhaps the most ostentatious shooting lodge ever – Kinloch Castle.

The castle took three years to build, from 1897 to 1900, with pink sandstone imported from the island of Arran and 250,000 tons of soil for the gardens. It was state-of-the-Edwardian-art with a hydro-electric scheme, one of the first at a private residence in Scotland, allowing electric lights and air conditioning – there was also double glazing and an inter-room telephone system, as well as a lavish interior décor with mahogany panelling, stags' heads, tiger skins and Eastern exotic treasures, many gifts from the Emperor of Japan, whom George had struck up a friendship with while sailing the world on his 221-ft yacht the Rhouma.

## Its opulent Edwardian interiors frozen in time, waiting for a knight with deep pockets to stop their slow decay.

A special German-built orchestration, an elaborate electric pipe organ designed to simulate the sound of an entire orchestra, had originally been ordered by Queen Victoria, destined for Balmoral Castle, but her death saw it diverted to join the other extravagances at Kinloch. Outside, a domed glasshouse – which later blew down in a storm – was full of hummingbirds, turtles and alligators (the latter in heated tanks), while the walled garden was lined



Interior of Kinloch Castle. Photo: Lorne Gill/NatureScot.

In fairy tales when a knight in shining armour arrives at a castle for a rescue, it's generally a princess locked up inside who needs his assistance.

In real life, however, on the Hebridean island of Rum, it's the castle itself which needs help – and the knight in shining armour isn't being welcomed by everyone.

The castle in question is next to the island's tiny village of Kinloch. It is a pink-stoned turn-of-the-century crumbling pile owned by NatureScot, Scotland's government-owned nature agency which has been trying to find a buyer and secure a viable future for it for years. The knight is multi-millionaire businessman Jeremy Hosking, who is said to be willing to buy it, stump up the millions to restore it and put it into a trust in order to open it to the public.

The news of Mr Hosking's involvement earlier this year was welcomed by

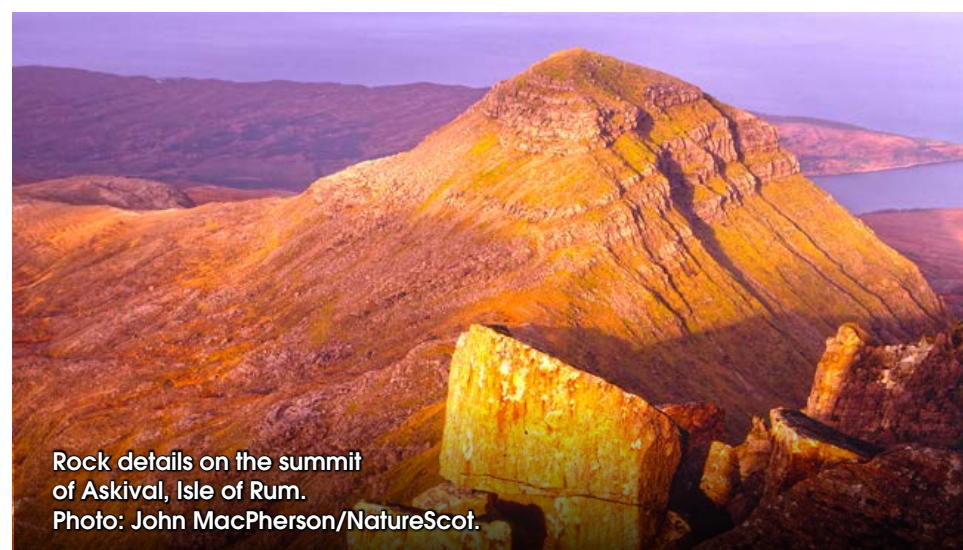
politicians, heritage experts and the campaign group Friends of Kinloch Castle. But some of those living in Kinloch aren't so keen on the prospective new owner and have convinced a government minister to put a hold on the sale.

It's just the latest twist in the tale of the castle which was once a playground for the rich with Gaiety Girls allegedly dancing on the grand piano and hummingbirds filling the conservatory but which is now more of a castle under a spell, its opulent Edwardian interiors frozen in time, waiting for a knight with deep pockets to stop their slow decay.

### The most ostentatious shooting lodge ever

Kinloch is now the only inhabited settlement on the island of Rum (sometimes written Rhum or Rùm). The diamond-shaped island is one of the four main Small Isles of the Inner

Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland. The others are Eigg, famous for its community buyout 25 years ago; Canna, owned by the National Trust for Scotland; and Muck, privately owned by the MacLean family – Lawrence MacLean, who died in May, was known as the Prince of Muck. Rum has always been at the whim of its wealthy owners. When the kelp industry – used to make soda ash for explosives – dried up after the Napoleonic Wars, the island was given over to sheep farming and within less than 40 years a population of more than 400 had been cleared by the owners, the Macleans. It was then owned by a succession of wealthy landowners, when it became known as the Forbidden Island as uninvited island visitors were discouraged – there was no ferry service in those days. In 1884, John Bullough, a mill owner from Lancashire in England, became the latest of those rich landlords. He bought the castle to create a shooting pleasure park, introducing deer



Rock details on the summit of Askival, Isle of Rum. Photo: John MacPherson/NatureScot.



Loch Scresort and Kinloch in autumn light.  
Photo: John MacPherson/NatureScot.



Kilmory bothy from the sea.  
Photo: JLaure Campbell/NatureScot.

with hothouses containing peach and fig trees. While the scratches on the grand piano were actually made when a brass incense burner was knocked over rather than the heels of dancing London chorus girls, the castle's heyday did see parties full of bright young things fill the ballroom, billiard room, galleried hall, dining room, drawing room, morning room, squash court, bowling green or small golf course – and of course out on the hills shooting for the fashionable “Highland season”.

**Opulent grandeur has been quietly decaying**

It was a brief moment in the sun, however. There was little time, money or manpower for such frivolities in the aftermath of the First World War. George – Sir George from

1901 when he was knighted for turning his beloved yacht into a hospital ship during the Second Boer War – died in 1939. His widow, Lady Monica Bullough, sold the island to the Nature Conservancy Council, a forerunner of NatureScot, in 1957 “to be used as a nature reserve in perpetuity and Kinloch Castle maintained as far as may be practical” and Rum became a National Nature Reserve the same year. Only the family's mausoleum remains in their ownership. The island's natural assets have since thrived – sheep and cattle were taken off the island and the natural woodland scrub allowed to return. The island's famous red deer now form part of an internationally important study and eagles, both white-tailed and golden, as well as otters, dolphins and basking sharks are among the wildlife frequently spotted on land, sea and air.

The introduction of the Small Isles ferry in 2004, complete with a new pier on Rum at Kinloch, means the once forbidden isle is now popular with tourists keen to hillwalk the Rum Cuillin, wildlife spot or enjoy its quiet beaches.

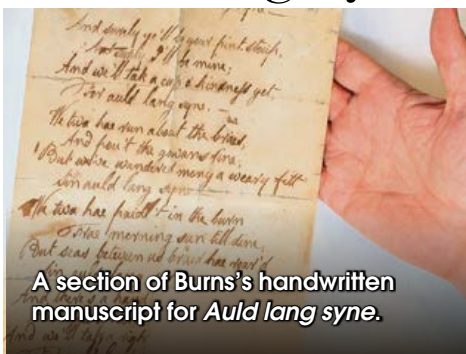
Even the population, which dwindled from 100 in 1900 to 28 in 1951 and remained at just over 20 for many years, has seen an increase in recent years. The Isle of Rum Community Trust has seen some of village transferred to community ownership and has built new homes, successfully attracting new families in 2020 and boosting the population to around 40.

But the last half a century has not been so kind to the castle and, despite some restoration by NatureScot, its opulent grandeur has been quietly decaying.

The servants' quarters were used as a hostel up until 2015 but now even that is closed and leaks, with dry rot and woodworm having taken hold. The castle's appearance on the 2003 TV programme *Restoration* highlighted its plight and there were various schemes proposed including one from The Prince of Wales's Regeneration Trust. But all have come to nothing so far. NatureScot has warned the public purse cannot afford its upkeep and a solution must be found soon. So will Mr Hosking, a noted railway enthusiast who has funded many steam heritage projects, be the saviour this sleeping beauty castle has been searching for, with the islanders' fears over access roads and energy supplies overcome? Only time will tell.

Text and image courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland. For more information on the Trust or to help them protect Scotland's heritage see: [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

**Auld lang syne**



A section of Burns's handwritten manuscript for Auld lang syne.

Perhaps Burns's most famous song, these lines are sung across the world on Hogmanay. However, this is not Burns's original work. It was one of the traditional ballads he heard as he travelled around Scotland, and he wrote it down (with the music) in 1788. Burns reworked the piece (quite how much is unknown) and sent it to George Thomson in 1793 to be published in *A Select Collection of Original Scottish Airs for the Voice*. In a letter to Thomson, Burns described ‘the old song of the olden times, & which has never been in print, nor even in manuscript, until I took it down from an old man's singing.’ An earlier version of the song also appeared in Jame Johnson's Scots Musical Museum. One of Burns's greatest legacies (in addition to his own works) was this transcription of hundreds of traditional ballads, which may otherwise have been lost. *Auld lang syne* roughly translates as ‘for old time's sake’, a fitting song to be sung at the end of the year and other big occasions such as Scottish ceilidhs, weddings and, of course, Burns Suppers.

It has become traditional in Scotland to hold hands in a large circle for the first five verses and then, at the end of the fifth verse, singers cross their arms (still holding their neighbours' hands!) and run into the middle of the circle.

**Auld lang syne**

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And auld lang syne?*

**Chorus:**

*For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne.  
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne!*

*And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp!  
And surely I'll be mine,  
And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne!*

**Chorus**

*We twa hae run about the braes,  
And pou'd the gowans fine;  
But we've wander'd mony a weary fit,  
Sin' auld lang syne.*

**Chorus**

*We twa hae paid'd in the burn,  
Frae morning sun till dine;  
But seas between us braid hae roar'd  
Sin' auld lang syne.*

**Chorus**

*And there's a hand, my trusty fere!  
And gie's a hand o' thine!  
And we'll tak a right gude-willie waught,  
For auld lang syne.*

**Chorus**

Handy glossary: pint-stowp = tankard of ale; pou'd = pulled; gowans = daisies; braid = broad; fere = companion; gude-willie waught = good hearty swig.

**CLANSMAN'S CREST BADGE T-SHIRTS  
STERLING JEWELRY & MORE**

Clan MacFarlane, Clan MacGregor, Clan Craigh

**OVER 200 CLAN DESIGNS**

**The most complete line of clan crest t-shirts on the market today!**

**STERLING SILVER JEWELRY**  
Hand-crafted .925 sterling silver

Military Badges, Clan Badges, Kilt-Pins & Jewelry

**CELTIC JACKALOPE.COM**  
A DIVISION OF ROYAL PUBLISHING, INC.  
PO Box 398 GLENDORA, CA 91740  
PHONE: 626-335-8069 • FAX: 626-335-6127  
INFO@CELTICJACKALOPE.COM

**WHOLESALE AVAILABLE**

# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

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

1 - The first volume of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was published in Edinburgh, edited by William Smellie. **1768**

1 - First lighthouse in Scotland opened (at Kinnaird Head, Fraserburgh). It was built by Thomas Smith and Robert Stevenson. **1787**

1 - English writer Jo (JK) Rowling moves to Edinburgh where she works on her first *Harry Potter* novel. **1993**

1 - Report of discovery of fossilised dinosaur footprints on the Isle of Skye. **2015**

2 - Mary Slessor, West African missionary, born in Aberdeen. Slessor was adopted by an African tribe, who called her "ma". **1848**



3 - Robert Louis Stevenson died in Samoa. The Edinburgh born author penned classics such as *Treasure Island* (1883), *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886) and *Kidnapped* (1886). **1894**

3 - His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen opened and soon became the city's leading centre of entertainment. **1906**

4 - King William I (Lion) died at Stirling and was succeeded by his son Alexander II. **1214**

4 - Treaty of London, releasing James I from his 18 years captivity in England. **1423**

4 - Essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle, best known for his *History of the French Revolution* born in Ecclefechan. **1795**

4 - Cartoon character Desperate Dan first appeared in the *Dandy* comic. **1937**

5 - King Francis II of France, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, died. **1560**

5 - Death of Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the Brechin-born inventor of radar. **1973**

6 - King Alexander II crowned at Scone. **1214**

6 - The Battle of Dryfe Sands took place near Lockerbie, Scottish Borders, resulting in many casualties, it was a battle between the clans of Clan Maxwell and Clan Johnstone. Many were wounded by downward sword strokes known as "Lockerbie Licks". **1593**

6 - Charles Edward Stewart's entry into Derby. A reluctant Charles and his Jacobite army was forced to withdraw from Derby only two days later. **1745**



6 - The last 12 permanent residents leave the Island of Stroma. **1962**

7 - The birth of Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, the Anglo-Scottish aristocrat and second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary married Henry, her first cousin, on the 29 July 1565, to be the uncrowned "King Henry". Darnley was the second husband of Mary and father of King James VI of Scotland and James I of England. He was assassinated in February 1567 by person unknown, although Mary's third husband James, Lord Bothwell, was seriously implicated in the murder. **1545**

8 - Mary, Queen of Scots, born Linlithgow Palace. The only surviving child of James V and Mary of Guise, Mary ascended to the Scottish throne following her father's death when she was only six days old. Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England for her complicity in a plot to murder Queen Elizabeth I at the age of 44 years. **1542**

9 - King Malcolm IV, King of Scotland, died at Jedburgh Castle. **1165**

10 - The death of Duncan Forbes of Culloden, the Lord President of the Court of Session. As a prominent Whig, like many Scots Forbes supported the Hanoverian cause and used his influence to dissuade a number of clans from joining the Jacobites. **1747**

10 - 1928 - Designer and architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. Known for his 'Glasgow style' with works such as the House for an Art Lover, the Scotland Street School, and the Glasgow School of Art. **1928**

10 - King Edward VIII abdicated and King George VI acceded to the throne. **1936**

11 - David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope born. **1781**

11 - Architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. **1928**

12 - Anne of Denmark, wife of King James VI, born. **1574**

13 - William Drummond, poet, born. Drummond was one of the first notable Scots poets to write exclusively in English after the Union of the Crowns in 1603. **1585**

13 - The death of Thomas Glover, an industrial pioneer in Japan. Born in Fraserburgh, he is considered a national hero in Japan. Fraser brought the first steam train to Japan, and created the shipyard in Nagasaki which would eventually form the Mitsubishi Corporation. **1911**

13 - New Lanark is designated as a World Heritage Site. The New Lanark cotton mills opened in 1786 and are one of six UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Scotland. **2001**

14 - James V died at Falkland Palace. Mary Queen of Scots succeeded him. **1542**



14 - Glasgow District Underground opened, powered by electricity. **1896**

14 - Will Fyfe, comedian, died. **1947**

14 - University of Stirling instituted by Royal charter. **1967**

15 - The Zoological Society of Glasgow was founded on this day. **1936**

16 - Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland. Cromwell was the only invader of Scotland to conquer the whole country. **1653**

16 - Thomas Blake Glover, founding father of Japan's industrialisation (including Mitsubishi) and Japanese Navy, born Fraserburgh. **1838**



16 - Scotland's largest airline, Flyglobespan, goes into administration. The airline flew routes from Scotland to Europe and North America. **2009**

17 - Marriage contract between James IV and Margaret Tudor signed by King James. **1502**

17 - Lord Kelvin, scientist and inventor, died. **1907**

17 - Petrol rationing was imposed following the Suez crisis and the closure of the canal. **1956**

18 - Many Scottish historical records were lost when the ship *Elizabeth of Burntisland* sank off the English coast. The records had been taken to London by Oliver Cromwell and were being returned to Edinburgh. **1661**

18 - Society of Antiquaries founded and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1783, the Society's purpose is "to investigate both antiquities and natural and civil history in general, with the intention that the talents of humanity should be cultivated and that the study of natural and useful sciences should be promoted". **1780**

18 - Death penalty for murder was formally abolished in Britain. **1969**

18 - Inverness was awarded city status. It was one of three regions in the UK to become a city marking the new millennium and the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Prior to Inverness Dundee was the last Scottish town to receive the distinction in 1889. **2000**

19 - *The Scotsman* newspaper moves to new offices at North Bridge in Edinburgh, remaining there until 1999. **1904**

20 - First General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. **1560**

20 - Entertainer Andy Stewart was born in Glasgow. Stewart is perhaps best known for his STV show, *The White Heather Club*, which began in 1960, and his songs *Ye Canna Shuv Yer Granny Off A Bus* and *Donald Where's Yer Troosers*. He died in 1993. **1933**

20 - Aberdeen beat European Cup Winners Hamburg 2-0 to become the first Scottish club to win the UEFA Super Cup. **1983**

21 - Robert Liston, who was born in Linlithgow in 1794, performed the first operation in a British hospital using anaesthetic (ether). **1846**

21 - A Pan Am 747 blew up and crashed at Lockerbie, Dumfries, killing 243 passengers, 16 crew and 11 Lockerbie residents. The Pan American jumbo jet bound for New York was blown out of the sky by a terrorist bomb and crashes onto the Scottish town of Lockerbie killing all 259 passengers and 11 people on the ground. **1988**

22 - James Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, son of James II, the deposed Catholic King of England, arrived at Peterhead in north-east Scotland to lead a Jacobite rebellion. **1715**

22 - Pop star Madonna married movie-producer Guy Ritchie at Skibo Castle, putting Dornoch into the media spotlight. The couple has since divorced but helped create a Scottish wedding boom. **2000**

23 - Major outbreak of cholera in Scotland. **1831**

23 - Fife born accordionist Jimmy Shand died. Shand's recordings are famous throughout the world due to his distinctive playing style on the button accordion, and later on the BBC with *The White Heather Club*. **2000**

24 - King William I (Lion) crowned at Scone. **1165**

24 - Edinburgh Castle surrendered to Oliver Cromwell. **1650**

24 - General George Wade was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British army in Scotland after he had reported on the need for military roads in the country. **1724**

25 - Stone of Destiny removed from Westminster Abbey. Used as the coronation stone of the Scottish kings from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the stone was removed by four Scottish university students whose story became a book and movie. The ringleader Ian Hamilton is a former contributor to *the Scottish Banner*. **1950**



25 - Christmas Day becomes a public holiday in Scotland. It was abolished in 1640. **1958**

25 - The Jacobite army reached Glasgow. The military campaign to return a Catholic Stewart king to the throne in place of the Hanoverian Protestant King William III. **1745**

26 - Alexander III, the King of Scots, was married to Margaret, the daughter of Henry III, King of England, in York. **1251**

27 - King Charles I, imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle, reached an agreement with the Scots who offered military aid in exchange for a promise to establish Presbyterianism in England (but only for three years). **1647**

27 - Premiere of J M Barrie's play *Peter Pan* at the Duke of York Theatre, London. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir in 1860. **1904**

28 - James IV who liked to gamble played 'bylils' (similar to billiards) with a man described in records as "John Anderson that wantis the feit and handies". There's also a note mentioning that the king gave Anderson 14 shilling. **1501**

28 - Scotland's famous outlaw, Rob "Roy" MacGregor, died. He was immortalised in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Rob Roy*. **1734**

28 - The Tay Bridge disaster occurred. 75 passengers were killed when the structure collapsed under a train during a storm. **1879**

29 - Charles Macintosh, who patented waterproof fabric, born in Glasgow. **1766**

29 - William Ewart Gladstone, UK Prime Minister on four occasions, born 1809. **1809**

30 - Rangers' first match at their new Ibrox Stadium, with capacity of 75,000. It was a 3-1 victory over Hearts in the Inter-City League. **1899**

30 - The Albion Motor Company was established. At first the firm made motor cars and commercial vehicles, but from 1913 concentrated on the latter. **1899**

31 - Prince Charles Edward Stewart, The Young Pretender, was born in Rome. Known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie", after the Gaelic pronunciation of his name, he led the 1745 Jacobite attempt to overthrow the Hanoverian monarchy. Bonnie Prince Charlie or the Young Pretender, was the son of James, the Old Pretender. **1720**

31 - 72 killed at Glen Cinema Fire, Paisley. **1929**



31 - The farthing coin (a quarter of an old penny) ceased to be legal tender. **1960**

# RRS Discovery Visitor Centre unveils visual and virtual transformation



Dundee Heritage Trust has reopened the doors unveiling a dramatic upgrade to the gallery and previously inaccessible dome area of the iconic Riverside exhibition. The space now includes a highly visual and virtual experience, the Discovery Dome, transporting visitors through historic Dundee, with Alan Cumming's recognisable voice narrating the journey. Renovations began in Summer 2021, transforming the layout of the gallery space within the visitor centre. A well-known silhouette on the Dundee cityscape, the vaulted dome area, inaccessible until now, has had a suspended floor, elevator, staircase and impactful art installation, Gaia, installed in the upper cupola of the Discovery Point building. The investment creates a new public gallery with a 360° panoramic view over the city and the River Tay.

Embarking on an inclusive, educational experience, voiced by Scottish actor Alan Cumming, visitors are transported back to 1901, exploring Dundee's rich industrial history and recognisable landmarks through visual CGI technology. Over two million visitors have visited the Dundee landmark, the *Royal Research Ship Discovery* and the gallery's Recognised Collection of National Significance of over 150 objects since its launch in 1993.

The new Discovery Dome is expected to attract a significant increase in footfall, contributing to the city's latest tourism focus. Adding to the visual experience, one of renowned British artist Luke Jerram's famous Gaia designs, which typically tours around the UK, will be permanently housed in the dome, set to wow visitors for decades to come.

The National Fund for Acquisitions and Art Fund supported the Trust with the acquisition of Gaia, a 3D Globelike artwork measuring 3.75 metres in diameter and created from 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface. The artwork provides the opportunity to see the glowing planet floating in three dimensions, allowing guests to clearly visualise Antarctica and the distance of the expeditions *Discovery* made.

## The first ship specifically designed for scientific research

Ali Gellatly, Operations Manager at Dundee Heritage Trust, said: "The Discovery Dome sessions are also a unique opportunity to take in panoramic views across the city, never seen before. Dome sessions last 30 minutes, and only 12 guests are permitted per session, adding to the experience, as it allows the opportunity to take in the views from all angles with an exclusive setting."

The launch of the new and improved attraction coincided with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dry docking of the vessel when the ship was moved from the Tay into the purpose-built dry dock, where it remains on display today. Built in Dundee in 1900, the *RRS Discovery* was the first ship specifically designed for scientific research in Antarctic regions and was first launched from Dundee a year later in the first of three major scientific expeditions. Caroline Warburton, VisitScotland Regional Leadership Director, said: "It's fantastic to see further investment being made to support Dundee's vital tourism industry. *RRS Discovery* is one of the city's most popular attractions, bringing to life an important part of our history. This new upgrade will enhance Dundee's outstanding offering and adds a truly unique element to the entire experience. I am sure it will be enjoyed by visitors from across the region and beyond."

**Discovery Dome sessions start at 10:15, showing 12 times per day, accommodating 12 people at a time, with the last showing at 17:15. Tickets can be booked online at: <https://accessvam.accesscloud.com/DundeeHeritageTrustBookings>**



Photo: John Pow.



## Did you know?

### Hogmanay traditions

- **First footing** - The 'first foot' in the house after midnight is still very common in Scotland. To ensure good luck, a first footer should be a dark-haired man. Fair-haired first footers were not particularly welcome after the Viking invasions of ancient times. Traditional gifts include a lump of coal to lovingly place on the host's fire, along with shortbread, a black bun and whisky to toast to a Happy New Year. These days shortbread and whisky will suffice. Showing up empty handed is not only very rude but also bad luck!
- **Redding the house** - Rather than a Spring clean, the Scots have a New Year's clean to welcome in the New Year. Starting the New Year with a dirty house is bad luck. When open fires were common, people would clear the ashes and lay a new fire for the New Year. Cleaning one's house also extends to clearing one's debts. An old Scottish superstition states that you should try to clear all your debts before the stroke of midnight.
- **Bonfires and Fire Festivals** - Scotland's fire festivals at Hogmanay and later in January may have pagan or Viking origins. The use of fire to purify and drive away evil spirits is an ancient idea. Fire is at the centre of Hogmanay celebrations in Stonehaven, Comrie and Biggar and has recently become an element in Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebration.
- **The singing of Auld Lang Syne all over the world** - People sing Robert Burns' version of this traditional Scottish air. How it became the New Year's song is something of a mystery. At Edinburgh's Hogmanay, people join hands for what is reputed to be the world's biggest *Auld Lang Syne*.
- **The Saining of the House** - This is a very old rural tradition that involved blessing the house and livestock with holy water from a local stream. Although it had nearly died out, in recent years it has experienced a revival. After the blessing with water, the woman of the house was supposed to go from room to room with a smouldering juniper branch, filling the house with purifying smoke.

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



# Glazed Christmas ham

### Ingredients

#### For cooking the gammon

2-4kg/4lb 8oz.-9lb unsmoked boneless gammon joint, tied  
2 onions, halved  
2 carrots, unpeeled, cut into 5cm/2in pieces  
2 celery stalks, cut into 5cm/2in pieces  
4 bay leaves

12 black peppercorns  
small handful cloves

#### For the glaze

4 tbsp. runny honey  
4 tbsp. English mustard

### Method:

Place the gammon joint into a large, lidded saucepan, cover with cold water and bring to the boil over a high heat. Drain the water from the saucepan, add fresh cold water, add the onions, carrots, celery, bay leaves and peppercorns and bring to the boil once more. Reduce the heat, cover with a lid and simmer the gammon and vegetables gently for 20 minutes per 500g/1lb 2oz. (If your pan is not quite large enough to cover the joint completely, turn the gammon over halfway through the cooking time.)

Remove the gammon from the water and set aside to cool for fifteen minutes. (The cooking liquid can be strained and reserved for making soup for another time.)

Pre-heat the oven to 200C/400F/ Gas 6 and line a large roasting tin with aluminum foil.

Use a small knife to remove the rind from the gammon joint, leaving as much of the fat intact as possible. Score the fat in a diamond pattern and push a clove into the centre of each 'X'.

Place the gammon into the foil-lined roasting tray, ensuring that the sides of the foil come halfway up the joint to contain any roasting juices.

For the glaze, mix the honey and mustard together and brush half of it evenly over the gammon, including one side of the joint. Roast in the centre of the oven for ten minutes, then take the joint out and brush the top and remaining side with the rest of the glaze. Return the gammon to the oven for a further 10-15

minutes, rotating the roasting tin so that the opposite side of the gammon faces the back of the oven.

The gammon is ready when the fat on top is glossy and golden brown. Cover loosely with foil if the top begins to look too brown. Remove the gammon from the oven and set aside to rest for 15 minutes before carving.

Pour any juices that have collected in the aluminum foil into a small pan, and warm through gently.

Carve the gammon, serve on a large platter and spoon over the warmed juices.

## Festive roast potatoes



### Ingredients:

10 large King Edward potatoes, peeled, cut into large chunks  
50g/1¾oz. lard, dripping or vegetable oil  
2 pinches sea salt

### Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.

Simmer the potatoes in a large pan of salted boiling water for 4-5 minutes, or until the outside of the potatoes are beginning to soften.

Thoroughly drain the potatoes and briefly shake them around in the colander or pan to roughen up the edges.

Melt the lard in a deep flameproof roasting tray on a high heat and fry the potatoes on each side until they begin to brown.

Sprinkle with salt, to taste, and roast for 30 minutes, or until starting to colour.

Turn the potatoes and return to the oven for a further 20-30 minutes, or until golden-brown and crisp

## Christmas carrots

### Ingredients:

9 medium carrots, peeled, topped and tailed  
250g/9oz. butter  
150g/5½oz. sugar  
3 tsp salt  
4 star anise

### Method:

Use a clean scourer to smooth the carrots and remove any peel marks (optional).

In a pan combine 400ml/14fl oz. of water, the butter, sugar, salt and star anise. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat to a gentle simmer and add the carrots. Cook until the carrots are tender (approximately 45 minutes) and the volume of liquid has reduced by half.

Serve the carrots as a side dish with the reduced cooking liquid poured over.

## Sherry trifle



### Ingredients:

1 packet trifle sponges, broken into 5cm/2in pieces  
½ packet of amaretti biscuits or 150g/5oz macarons or ratafias  
150ml/5fl oz. sweet sherry  
1 tbsp cognac  
4 tbsp blackberry or raspberry jam  
450g/1 lb. fresh blackberries  
450g/1 lb. fresh raspberries  
85g/3oz toasted flaked almonds  
600ml/1 pint ready-made custard

### For the syllabub topping

125ml/4fl oz. sherry  
2 tbsp brandy  
1 lemon, juice only  
55g/2oz. caster sugar  
425ml/15fl oz. double cream  
freshly grated nutmeg

### To garnish

2 oranges, grated zest only  
85g/3oz. flaked almonds

### Method:

Lay the sponge pieces and biscuits in the base of a deep glass dish. Spoon over the sherry and cognac and leave to soak in for a few minutes.

Warm the jam until it is runny then pour over the soaked sponge and biscuits. Sprinkle the fruit and flaked almonds on top then pour over the custard.

To make the syllabub topping, place the sherry, brandy and lemon juice into a bowl and stir in the sugar until it dissolves.

Pour in the cream with a pinch of nutmeg. Whisk together using a wire balloon whisk until it holds its shape. Don't over-whisk, or whisk too vigorously, as the cream may split.

Spoon the syllabub over the trifle and chill, preferably overnight.

Just before serving, scatter with the grated orange rind and/or flaked toasted almonds.

## Black Bun

### Ingredients:

**For the pastry:**  
300g/10½oz. plain flour  
75g/3oz. lard, cubed  
75g/3oz. butter, cubed  
pinch salt  
½ tsp baking powder  
1 free-range egg, beaten, for glazing  
**For the filling:**  
200g/7oz. plain flour  
300g/10½oz. raisins  
300g/10½oz. currants



*This month gather friends and family around and eat perhaps a bit more than you should and celebrate Christmas and Hogmanay with a great range of food and drink. From our table to yours-Happy Holidays!*

½ tsp. ground ginger  
½ tsp. ground cinnamon  
½ tsp. ground allspice  
½ tsp. mixed spice  
¼ tsp. ground black pepper  
100g/3½oz. dark muscovado sugar  
100g/3½oz. mixed peel, chopped  
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda  
2 tbsp. whisky  
1 free-range egg  
3 tbsp buttermilk

### Method:

For the pastry, sift the flour into a bowl and rub in the lard and butter until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the salt, baking powder and four tablespoons of cold water and mix to a soft dough. Turn out and knead into a ball. Wrap in cling film and leave to chill in the fridge while you make the filling.

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4 (fan 160C).

For the filling, mix all the ingredients together in a large bowl.

Line a 900g/2lb loaf tin with baking parchment. On a lightly floured surface, roll out two thirds of the pastry to a rectangle large enough to line the tin. Drape into the tin and press up against the sides. Spoon the filling into the tin, pressing down to compress.

Roll out three quarters of the remaining pastry to a rectangle large enough to cover the tin. Dampen the edges of the pastry with water and press the pastry lid on top to seal. Trim the edges and crimp using the tines of a fork. Roll out the remaining pastry, along with any trimmings, and use to make a bow to decorate the top, then attach with a little water.

Glaze with beaten egg and bake for two hours. Remove from the oven and leave to cool in the tin before turning out.

## Spiced mulled wine

### Ingredients:

½ bottle red wine  
1 cinnamon stick  
2 star anise  
2 cloves  
1 orange, sliced  
1 lemon, sliced  
50g/1¾oz. brown sugar

### Method:

Place all of the ingredients into a saucepan and simmer gently for 6-8 minutes, without boiling. Alternatively, place the ingredients in your slow cooker and cook on low until warm (1-2 hours, depending on your slow cooker).

To serve, pour the mulled wine into heatproof glasses.



# Neolithic culinary traditions uncovered



One of the first pots to be discovered, an Unstan Bowl from Loch Arnish. Photo: Chris Murray.

A team of scientists, led by the University of Bristol, has uncovered intriguing new insights into the diet of people living in Neolithic Britain and found evidence that cereals, including wheat, were cooked in pots. Using chemical analysis of ancient, and incredibly well-preserved pottery found in the waters surrounding small artificial islands called crannogs in Scotland, the team were able to discern that cereals were cooked in pots and mixed with dairy products and occasionally meat, probably to create early forms of gruel and stew. They also discovered that the people visiting these crannogs used smaller pots to cook cereals with milk and larger pots for meat-based dishes.

## Cereal cultivation

Cereal cultivation in Britain dates back to around 4000 BCE and was probably introduced by migrant farmers from continental Europe. This is evidenced by some, often sparse and sporadic, recovery of preserved cereal grains and other debris found at Neolithic sites. At this time pottery was also introduced into Britain and there is widespread evidence for domesticated products like milk products in molecular lipid fingerprints extracted from the fabric of these pots. However, with exception for millet, it has not yet been possible to detect molecular traces of accompanying cereals in these lipid signatures, although these went on to become a major staple that dominates the global subsistence economy today.

Previously published analysis of Roman pottery from Vindolanda (Hadrian's Wall) demonstrated that specific lipid markers for cereals can survive absorbed in archaeological pottery preserved in waterlogged conditions and be detectable through a high-sensitivity approach but, importantly this was 'only' 2,000 years old and from contexts where cereals were well-known to have been present. The new findings reported now show that cereal biomarkers can be preserved for thousands of years longer under favourable conditions. Another fascinating element of this research was the fact that many of the pots analysed were intact and decorated which could suggest they may have had some sort of ceremonial purpose. Since the actual function of the crannogs themselves is also not fully understood yet (with some being far too small for permanent occupation) the research provides new insights into possible ways these constructions were used.

## Culinary traditions of early farmers

During analysis, cereal biomarkers were widely detected (one third of pots), providing the earliest biomolecular evidence for cereals in absorbed pottery residues in this region. The findings indicate that wheat was being cooked in pots, despite the fact that the limited evidence from charred plant parts in this region of Atlantic Scotland points mainly to barley. This could be because wheat is under-represented in charred plant remains as it can be prepared differently (e.g., boiled as part of stews), so not as regularly charred or because of more unusual cooking practices. Cereal markers were strongly

associated with lipid residues for dairy products in pots, suggesting they may have been cooked together as a milk-based gruel.

The research was led by Drs Simon Hammann and Lucy Cramp at the University of Bristol's Department of Anthropology and Archaeology. Dr Hammann said: "It's very exciting to see that cereal biomarkers in pots can actually survive under favourable conditions in samples from the time when cereals (and pottery) were introduced in Britain.

Our lipid-based molecular method can complement archaeobotanical methods to investigate the introduction and spread of cereal agriculture." Dr Cramp added: "This research gives us a window into the culinary traditions of early farmers living at the north-western edge of Europe, whose lifeways are little understood. It gives us the first glimpse of the sorts of practices that were associated with these enigmatic islet locations."

Crannog sites in the Outer Hebrides are currently the focus of the four-year Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded 'Islands of Stone' project, directed by two of the papers' authors (Duncan Garrow from the University of Reading and Fraser Sturt from the University of Southampton) along with Angela Gannon, Historic Environment Scotland. The next stage of the research at the University of Bristol is an exploration of the relationship between these islets and other Neolithic occupation sites in the Hebridean region and beyond as well as more extensive comparative study of the use of different vessel forms through surviving lipid residues.



Photo reconstruction of a pot from Loch Langabhat. Photo: Mike Copper.



Aerial view of the crannog at Loch Langabhat. Photo: Fraser Sturt.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

FROM

**CLAN FRASER RESERVE**

**BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY**

Order online at  
[www.clanfraserreserve.com](http://www.clanfraserreserve.com)

Use discount code **HOLIDAY15**  
 for 15% discount

**Please Drink Responsibly**

Imported from Scotland by  
 Locoworks LLC Pueblo West, Colorado

# Calling the Clans

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 located on page 2. If you are contacting your Clan be sure to tell them you saw them in *the Scottish Banner* and please support these great community organisations.

## Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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

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

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

**Regional Directors for Australia**  
David and Patricia Benfell  
Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com  
website: www.clanbairdsociety.com

## CHISHOLM

**Clan Chisholm Society of Australia Inc**

Membership is invited from Clan Chisholm descendants of all spellings of the name (Chisholm, Chisolm, Chism, Chisum, Chisam, etc)  
Contact: Kim Polley OAM  
PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301  
**Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com**  
**www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/AUSmembership.php**

## 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: Mr Lindsay McDonald  
Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

*A hereditary clan society formed by the children of Norman Hume Macdonald and Johan McKenzie Macdonald (nee Munro) who departed Scotland in 1854.*

## FORBES

**WEB** [WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG](http://WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG)  
**f** @CLANFORBESSOCIETY  
**i** @CLANFORBESSOCIETY  
**t** @CLANFORBES1

#CLANFORBES #GRACEMEGUIDE #CLANFORBESSOCIETY #LONACH

**CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG**

## CLAN BELL

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

Website: [www.ClanBell.org](http://www.ClanBell.org)  
Online membership: <https://clanbell.org/membership.html>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell>  
Email: [President@clanbell.org](mailto:President@clanbell.org)  
Clan Bell North America  
4676 Emerald Willow Drive  
Acworth, GA 30101

## Clan Cumming Society of the United States

Website: [www.clancumming.us](http://www.clancumming.us)  
Email us: [info@clancumming.us](mailto:info@clancumming.us)  
See us on Facebook

## 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 Richard Harvey, Secretary**  
**Email: c2100575@uon.edu.au**

## Clan Fraser Society of Australia

Invites all Frasers and Fraser sept 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

## Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

**Membership inquiries should be directed to:**

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

## Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

CHIEF: Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing one of these Names: Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day; Dye; Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dee; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dhal; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny; MacDhai; McKeedie. In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson.

Applications may be made online: [clandavidsonaus@gmail.com](mailto:clandavidsonaus@gmail.com) or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P. P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

## CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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

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

Visit our website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, our History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you.

<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>  
Facebook: [The Clan Donnachaidh Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheClanDonnachaighSociety)  
Email: [ivc@donnachaighd.com](mailto:ivc@donnachaighd.com)

## Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

**www.clangalbraith.org**

## National Clan Cameron Australia Inc.

Celebrates those who trace their ancestry to Clan Cameron or are connected to the Clan through marriage or partnership or are from families acknowledged as Septs of Clan Cameron.

**President:** Alistair Cameron  
**Secretary:** Terry Cameron  
[secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com](mailto:secy.nationalclancameronaus@gmail.com)  
[www.clan-cameron.org.au](http://www.clan-cameron.org.au)

## Clan Donald Australia

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

**High Commissioner** Mr A. Neil Macdonald  
**State Commissioners**

NSW	Mr John Currie
Qld	Mr A. Neil Macdonald
SA	Mr Michael Murphy
Vic	Mr Norman A Macdonald
WA	Ms Pamela McDonald

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

## Edmonstone Clan Society

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

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

## Clan Gregor Society

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

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

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

For membership contact Keith MacGregor  
PO Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876  
[kmac1@optonline.net](mailto:kmac1@optonline.net)  
Peter Lawrie, Secretary  
6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland

## THE CLAN CAMPBELL 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](mailto:libertyv93@gmail.com)  
[www.clan-campbell.org.au](http://www.clan-campbell.org.au)

## Clan Donald Queensland

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

**There is no joy without Clan Donald**

## Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

Direct inquires to: Jim Dougherty  
Treasurer/Membership Chair  
Email: [elliottcommia@gmail.com](mailto:elliottcommia@gmail.com)  
**Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com**

## Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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

Frank McGregor  
PO Box 14 NORTH HOBART TAS 7002  
**Email: clangregoraustalia@gmail.com**  
**Web: www.clangregor.com**  
**"Royal is our Race"**

## CLAN CARRUTHERS SOCIETY -INTERNATIONAL-

**Clan Chief Peter Carruthers of Holmains**  
(Honorary Society President)

Bi-Annual Journal, Weekly Blog, Clan Merchandise, DNA/Genealogy project etc.

[www.clancarrutherssociety.org](http://www.clancarrutherssociety.org)  
[clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com](mailto:clancarrutherssociety@gmail.com)

## Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

Clan Donald USA is a nationwide organization of over 2,000 families who trace their ancestry to any of the branches of Clann Domhnaill. We embrace all the MacDonalds and other surnames that are recognized as branches or adherents of the greatest of the Highland clans.

**www.clandonaldusa.org**

## Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

**The Secretary: Clan Farquharson Association Australia**  
PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777  
or by Email to: [finlaysb@bigpond.com](mailto:finlaysb@bigpond.com)  
**www.clanfarquharsonaus.weebly.com**

## American Clan Gregor Society

**Est 1909** Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

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

Contact our registrar: **Jeanne P. Lehr**  
11 Ballas Crt.  
St. Louis, MO 63131-3038  
Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org  
website: [www.acgsus.org](http://www.acgsus.org)



## Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society. Inquiries to be sent to: Sheri Lambert, Treasurer P.O. Box 5399 Vernon Hills, IL 60061 visit our website: [www.clanhamilton.org](http://www.clanhamilton.org)



## CLAN LAMONT SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

invites membership from Sept names refer to Web Site [www.clanlamontaustralia.com](http://www.clanlamontaustralia.com)

Clan Chief Peter Lamont of that Ilk resides in Sydney Australia.

For all enquires about the Clan and Membership contact :-  
President Ian McLucas.  
Email [ianandbevmclucas@bigpond.com](mailto:ianandbevmclucas@bigpond.com)  
mobile 0448 778 799



## 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](http://www.clanmackenzie.org.au)



## THE MACLEODS

RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS

FOR INFORMATION:  
[WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG](http://WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG)

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



## Clan Hay Australia

A' Hay A' Hay  
A callout to all Hay's and our name variants, descendants, and supporters. Clan Hay looking for new members to join our illustrious Clan. All descendants and supporter's welcome.

Alderston; Ayer; Bagra; Beagrie; Conn (Aberdeenshire only); Constable; Delahaye; Delgaty; Du Plessis; Dupplin; Errol; Garrow; Geary; Gifford; Hayden; Haye; Hayes; Hayler; Haynes; Hays; Hayton; Hayward; Hey; Hye; Kinnou; Laxfirth; Leask\*; Leith; Locherworth; Logie; Macara; MacGaradh; McKester; Peebles; Phillips (Aberdeenshire only); Slains; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester; Zester

For more information, please contact:  
Australian Clan Hay convenor, Chris Hay McMor Fairbank  
PO Box 70, Darrinallum, Victoria, 3325, Australia  
E: [clanhayaustralia@outlook.com](mailto:clanhayaustralia@outlook.com)  
[clanHayAustralia@Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/clanHayAustralia)



## Clan Little Society, Inc.

Welcoming Little/Lyttle/Lytle and the like.

- Promoting our Scottish heritage
- Hosting tents at Scottish games
- Connecting our families
- Maintaining our genealogy and DNA

[www.clanlittlesociety.org](http://www.clanlittlesociety.org)  
Registered in the State of Georgia, USA  
Proud Member of COSCA



## MacLaren

Clan Labhran

Clan MacLaren Society of Australia

Information about the Clan and application for CMSA membership is available on the website or via the email address below.  
Membership is open to MacLarens (all spellings), Septs, individuals and families with an association to the Clan.

<https://clanmaclarenau.org/>  
[clanmaclarenau@gmail.com](mailto:clanmaclarenau@gmail.com)



## Clan Macnachten Association Worldwide

Descendants and Septs of the CLAN MACNAUGHTON are invited to join our Worldwide Association to learn and share our MacNaughton and Scottish heritage. For more info go to: [clanmacnaughton.net](http://clanmacnaughton.net) or contact Mary Nivison Burton, Membership Secretary at: [membersec@clanmacnaughton.net](mailto:membersec@clanmacnaughton.net)

New Second Edition!  
**A History of the Clan Macnachten**  
Paperback available through Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk, Amazon.ca



## Clan Hay

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

The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Hays(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Arml; Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgaty; D' Ay(e); Della'h'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.clanhay.com](http://www.clanhay.com)




## McAlpin/e

and variant spellings

Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

DISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE!

Contact: [membership.macalpein@gmail.com](mailto:membership.macalpein@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://macalpein.com/>



## Clan MacLaren

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

Mark A. McLaren, President  
[President@clanmaclarenna.org](mailto:President@clanmaclarenna.org)



## 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](mailto:kisimul@chariot.net.au)



## Clan Henderson Society

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

Purposes of the Society

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

Contact: Jeff Henderson  
[jeffh@bigpond.com](mailto:jeffh@bigpond.com)  
0439 330 012

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



## Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

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

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

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

Coul	MacCoul	Macoual
Conacher	MacConacher	
Coyle	MacCoyle	MacDill
Dole	MacDole	MacDougal
Doual	MacDoual	MacDougal
Dougal	MacDougal	MacDougal
Dougle	MacDougle	MacDougal
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDougal
Dowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
MacDowell	MacDowell	MacDowell
Lutlich	MacLutlich	MacCullach
MacCulloch	MacCulloch	MacCullagh
MacClintock	MacClintock	McLintock
MacHale	MacHoul	MacHeul
MacHowell	MacHowan	MacCowan
MacKichan	M'Gowall	MacNameil
MacLucas	MacLugash	MacLuke

Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc



## Clan MacLennan worldwide

- Newsletters
- Gatherings
- Highland Games
- DNA Project
- Extensive Clan Genealogy & books collection
- Videoed talks - linked from Genealogy page
- Research assistance

[www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com](http://www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com)



## CLAN MACNEIL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

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



## Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

INTERNATIONAL & AUSTRALIA  
President & Commissioner: Stephen J. Hope  
[president@clanhope.org](mailto:president@clanhope.org)  
[www.clanhopeaustralia.org](http://www.clanhopeaustralia.org)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
High Commissioner: Richard Rex Hope  
[highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org](mailto:highcommissionerusa@clanhope.org)  
Membership Chair: Cynthia Hope Henderson  
[membership@clanhope.org](mailto:membership@clanhope.org)  
[www.clanhope.org](http://www.clanhope.org)

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

SCOTLAND  
Commissioner: Colin Douglas Hope  
[commissionerscotland@clanhope.org](mailto:commissionerscotland@clanhope.org)  
[www.clanhope.org](http://www.clanhope.org)

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



## INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC.

The OFFICIAL Clan MacFarlane Society  
Founded 1911 - Glasgow & London  
Re-established - 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC

Lugh Slay! We welcome all descendants of Clan MacFarlane from around the world!

Michael R. MacFarlane, FSA Scot - President  
Richard G. Kilby, FSA Scot - Treasurer  
John K. Manchester - Secretary

International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.  
PO Box 359 Eldersburg, CA 91740 USA  
[info@macfarlane.org](mailto:info@macfarlane.org)

Arms of the International Clan MacFarlane Society granted by Lord Lyon, King of Arms, 16 February, 2000

[MACFARLANE.ORG](http://MACFARLANE.ORG)



## Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.  
Treasurer  
383 Ash Brook Lane  
Sunnyvale, TX  
75182-3250  
Email: [treasurer@clanmaclellan.net](mailto:treasurer@clanmaclellan.net)

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


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



## Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail  
of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson  
PO Box 243  
GYMEA NSW 2227  
[www.clanmacnicol.org](http://www.clanmacnicol.org)



## Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron  
Alexander H.R. Irvine of Drum,  
27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name  
Contact: Susan Irvine McRae, Chair  
5607 Bryar Rose Drive, Ooltewah, TN 37363  
[susan.mcrae@clanirwin.org](mailto:susan.mcrae@clanirwin.org)  
[www.clanirwin.org](http://www.clanirwin.org)  
IRWIN • IRVINE • IRVIN • IRVING • ERWIN  
And the many other spellings of the Name



## 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, (Mc)Inch, (Mc)Innes, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Ninch, and more.

Scott McInnis, Member Services: [scott@macinnes.org](mailto:scott@macinnes.org)  
or visit [www.macinnes.org](http://www.macinnes.org)



## Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

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

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

- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
- South Australia - Alex McLeod 08 8327 0925
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334

Email: [peter.macleod@exemail.com.au](mailto:peter.macleod@exemail.com.au)



## Clan Macpherson Association

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

Africa: Derek Macpherson  
African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +265 999 512 620

Canada: Denise Lagundzin  
Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +1 519 507 4465

Europe: Will Tulling  
Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +31 655 774 425

Scotland & Northern Ireland: Annie Le Roy-Lewis  
SandN.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +44 7793 317 387

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

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

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

USA: Robert T. McPherson  
UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org  
phone +1 360 701 8133

The Clan Macpherson Museum is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October.  
Ph +44 1540 673 332. See <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/>



## The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

### Australian Contact:

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



## Clan Ross in Australia

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

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

Contact: Commander Des Ross at  
lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853  
Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0409 322 374



## Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

Email: [Secretary@ClanSutherland.org](mailto:Secretary@ClanSutherland.org)  
Website: [www.ClanSutherland.org](http://www.ClanSutherland.org)

## The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.



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

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



## Clan MacRae Society of North America

*Granted Arms in 2008*

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

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

Need more info? Contact:  
Bruce McRae, President  
303-670-9611  
[brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com](mailto:brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com)

## Clan Ross America

*Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.*



Michael Ross, President  
Nancy Ross-Anderson, VP Membership  
15244 El Centro St., Hesperia, CA 92345  
[membership@clanross.org](mailto:membership@clanross.org)  
[info@clanross.org](mailto:info@clanross.org)

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



## YOUNG

### Clan Young Australia

Invites membership from all those with the surname Young or with ancestral ties or connection to the surname.

Convenor: Ian J Young AM FSAScot

10 Cedric Street, Parkdale VIC 3195  
E: [membership@clayoungaustralia.com.au](mailto:membership@clayoungaustralia.com.au)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/)

## 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](http://www.scottishheritageusa.org)  
email: [shusa457@gmail.com](mailto:shusa457@gmail.com)  
(910) 295-4448



## Clan Maitland Society

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

North America: Rosemary Maitland Thom  
[rthomnvpdcan@aol.com](mailto:rthomnvpdcan@aol.com) [www.clanmaitlandna.org](http://www.clanmaitlandna.org)

Australia: Amanda Maitland [clanmaitland@yahoo.com.au](mailto:clanmaitland@yahoo.com.au)  
6/1 Hinemoa Ave. Normanhurst, NSW, 2076

New Zealand: Judette Maitland [judette@xtra.co.nz](mailto:judette@xtra.co.nz)  
33 Disley Street, Highbury, 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](http://www.clanmaitland.org.uk)



## 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.

E: [heatherdesylva@bigpond.com](mailto:heatherdesylva@bigpond.com)



## Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

Email: [clanwardlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:clanwardlaw@yahoo.com)

'Wardlaw ivermair!'

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

Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

## The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

For information please contact  
[members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](mailto:members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au)

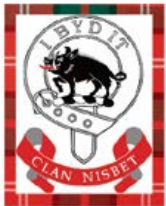


[www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au)

## NESBITT - NISBET SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Clan Nisbet, a Borders family, welcomes new members worldwide. Whether you're a Nesbit, Nisbet, or one of the many other spelling variations, we encourage you to inquire.

Head to our official website to learn about our proud heritage. Our must-read section, "Notable Nisbets" chronicles Alexander Nisbet, Scotland's famous author of heraldry and other renowned ancestors.



[WWW.ISBYDEIT.ORG](http://WWW.ISBYDEIT.ORG)

[ENISBET@ISBYDEIT.ORG](mailto:ENISBET@ISBYDEIT.ORG)



## Clan Sinclair Australia

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

For further info contact

President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174  
Secretary : Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263  
E: [clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com](mailto:clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com)  
[www.clansinclairaustralia.com](http://www.clansinclairaustralia.com)

## OLIPHANT CLAN & FAMILY ASSOCIATION of North America



The only home for all Clan Oliphant in the Americas.

Olipfant - Olyphant - Oliphint  
Olifant - Olifent  
and all descended

[ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com](mailto:ClanOliphantMembership@gmail.com)  
[www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org](http://www.OliphantOfNorthAmerica.org)



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



## Clan Pollock

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

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



## Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary  
PO Box 1166  
Park Ridge QLD 4125  
[genealogist\\_clan\\_sutherland\\_australia@hotmail.com](mailto:genealogist_clan_sutherland_australia@hotmail.com)  
<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus>  
Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



## 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](http://hvscots.org) Email: [hunterscots@gmail.com](mailto:hunterscots@gmail.com)  
P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289

## Victorian Scottish Union Inc

Established 1905  
Umbrella group representing the interest of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria.

Affiliated Clans & Societies  
Brunswick Scottish Society  
Clan Donald Victoria  
Clan Grant  
Clan Hay  
Clan Macdonald of Yarraville  
Clan Sinclair  
Geelong Scottish Dance  
Glenbrae Celtic Dancers  
Maryborough Highland Society  
Scottish Country Dance Society of Victoria  
Robert Burns Scottish Festival Camperdown  
The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne  
Warrambool & District Caledonian Society  
Warrambool Highland Dance

Chief : Mr Grant McKinna  
President Norman Macdonald  
Secretary Jan Macdonald

Contact details:  
Email: [secretary@victorianscottishunion.com](mailto:secretary@victorianscottishunion.com)  
Mobile 0438 584 930  
Address: PO Box 116, Cobden, Victoria 3266  
[www.victorianscottishunion.com](http://www.victorianscottishunion.com)

## Highland Games in heart of Scotland to showcase the future of 5G TV production

**A** Highland Games in the heart of Scotland is at the forefront of a pioneering project trialling future television production in remote locations using 5G and involving world-leading broadcasters. While this year's Pitlochry Highland Games in Perthshire took place in September, some of the action was transmitted live using a local private shared spectrum 5G network to the International Broadcasting Conference (IBC) in Amsterdam – where an estimated 40,000 dedicated technologists and engineers from the worldwide media community attended the show.

The breakthrough project aims to demonstrate just how portable and flexible a private 5G 'Network in a Box' can be for live television production use cases, by taking it to some truly remote global locations, as well as to the IBC show itself. The project is trialling production over 5G for broadcasters, including BBC Research & Development, BT Sport, BT Media & Broadcast, TV2, Paramount, Olympic Broadcasting Services and RTÉ. The private 5G stand-alone network has been designed and engineered and integrated by local technology spin-out, Neutral Wireless Ltd, working alongside the University of Strathclyde's Software Defined Radio (StrathSDR) engineering team and the Scotland 5G Centre rural testbed project.

### Celebration of Scottish identity

The technology will be housed in an unassuming box with antenna, situated in a corner of the balcony at the main event



A hammer thrower at the Highland Games.

pavilion. As dancers perform to bagpipes and cabers fly through the air, the games will be provided with a dedicated bandwidth using shared spectrum, with no interference or capacity issues affecting the quality of transmission - even in big crowds where many consumers and visitors are using their mobile phones and the local WiFi.

Paul Coffey, CEO of The Scotland 5G Centre said: "It is great to see that 5G capability can communicate the celebration of Scottish identity at the Pitlochry Highland Games to our broadcast colleagues in Amsterdam. This is a significant use case from our partners at the University of Strathclyde as it demonstrates the portability of a private 5G standalone 'network-in-a-box' and opens up numerous possibilities for future use of 5G technology in live television broadcasts."

Mark Smith, Head of the IBC Accelerator Media Innovation Programme, added: "Pitlochry will help us show that 5G remote production can happen anywhere. We are trialling in four remote areas of the world, in Ireland, in Kenya, New Zealand, as well as Pitlochry, which provides the perfect opportunity to focus on a private 5G network, relaying the learnings to the worldwide media & entertainment technology community."

## New survey to map island connections

**H**ow do islanders maintain connections to their communities when they are living elsewhere? This is one of the questions being asked by University of Aberdeen/James Hutton Institute researcher Kirsten Gow as she explores how those with island connections could play a part in the future of island life, including through return migration. Kirsten, who is based on the Isle of Jura, is keen to hear from people who have lived on a Scottish island in the past, or who have strong links to a Scottish island but who don't live on one at the moment. As part of her research she has set up a short survey to learn more about how people stay connected to island life and whether or not they would consider living on an island in the future.

"I know from personal experience that you don't necessarily stop being part of an island community just because you move away," explained Kirsten. "I believe that it's important to pay attention to the strong connections people have with Scottish islands even when they are living elsewhere. It potentially tells us a great deal about island culture and identity, but it also might help us understand how we can make the most of these continued links to build sustainable futures for our islands."

### Ongoing connection people have to islands

Kirsten's research started with looking at strategic objective one of the National Islands Plan - addressing population decline and ensuring a healthy, balanced population profile in Scotland's islands. The 2019 plan noted that the global trend for urbanisation has led to long-term depopulation and a shrinking working age populations in many island areas, highlighting that 'depopulation has an adverse

effect on community confidence and service sustainability, increasing the vulnerability of communities already experiencing higher costs of service provision and market access'. In addition, some have pointed to the cultural impact of depopulation, with the loss of Gaelic language and local knowledge threatening unique ways of life in the islands.

"Research already tells us that, if we want to make sure our islands have a sustainable future, many of them will need to maintain or increase their populations by encouraging more people to move there," explained Kirsten. "But it's not just about numbers. Return migration – people with connections to an island moving 'back' to the island – can potentially help tackle depopulation while also helping us retain the cultural and local knowledge which is a key part of building resilient and sustainable communities." In the first stage of her research Kirsten's survey is designed to help her understand the ongoing connection people have to islands, even while living elsewhere. In later stages she intends to speak to those who are actively interested in moving back to an island, and those who have already made the move, in order to understand the aspirations and realities of return.

**Further information on Kirsten's research and a link to the survey can be found at <https://islandsresearcher.uk/take-part/>**



Beach life on the Isle of Harris. Photo: Pearse O'Halloran on Unsplash.

## Castle of Light returns to the capital this winter with all new illuminated trail



**E**dinburgh Castle will transform into a 'Kingdom of Colours' this winter as the capital's most iconic landmark is illuminated with state-of-the-art projections to highlight stories from Scotland's history. Guests can expect a truly immersive experience as Edinburgh Castle is brought to life once again through spectacular light and sound displays to brighten up the darker months. Bursting with colour and spectacular illuminations, the Kingdom of Colours theme promises to offer visitors the chance to see the castle in a whole new light this winter. Set to showcase the castle's stories as 'defender of the nation', the historic moments dating back 800 years will be displayed through many thematic zones.

Drawing inspiration from kaleidoscope patterns, this year's projections include a mix of geometric designs depicting stories from Scotland's past, transforming the castle with light, sound and wonder like never before. Stephen Duncan, Director of Marketing

and Engagement at Historic Environment Scotland, which operates Edinburgh Castle, said: "We're excited to be back for another year but this time we're bringing together even more storytelling, music and extraordinary displays to build our biggest show to date. We felt it was important that we continued to bring light and joy to the capital during the darker months. We hope that much of the community and visitors to the city are able to experience the wonder of Castle of Light in 2022."

**Castle of Light is now on until Friday 30 December 2022. For more information visit: [www.castleoflight.scot](http://www.castleoflight.scot).**



We're back!  
Answer the call of the pipes and drums

# THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PRODUCTION

SATURDAY  
**December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
2PM & 7PM  
Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church  
921 Madison Avenue,  
New York City

SUNDAY  
**December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
2PM & 7PM  
Central Presbyterian Church  
70 Maple Street  
Summit, NJ

Full details at [pipesofchristmas.com](http://pipesofchristmas.com)

This annual concert is a special fundraising event that supports our cultural outreach and scholarship programs.

Brought to you by the Learned Kindred of Currie



# Strathblane-Between the Ranges

Words and images by: David McVey



Glengoyne Distillery.

## Feels remote, even though it is not

The Pipe Track begins as a quiet suburban drive, climbing steeply from Strathblane's War Memorial. A couple of hours on the track, with spectacular views ahead to the hills around Loch Lomond, will take you to the village of Killearn, from where you can take a bus back to Strathblane. But on the walk you will notice some odd stone towers and bridges. These are associated with the Loch Katrine Aqueduct which takes sweet fresh water from the Trossachs to reservoirs at Milngavie. This astonishing civil engineering project was carried out in the 1850s with the intention of providing Glasgow with clean water. Today, with an extension dating from the 1870s, it still does. The Pipe Track was originally a service road for the building of the aqueduct.

The farm of Blairquhosh, just beyond Blanefield, was famous in the early days of Scottish tourism for its Muckle Tree - sadly no longer with us except as a sad roadside stump. Further on is a current tourist draw, the Glengoyne Distillery, famous for its single malts. It is a picturesque facility with the peak of Dumgoyne towering above. Many visitors must think they are in the Highlands. The B10 bus serves Glengoyne from Glasgow and Strathblane and you can walk there using either the West Highland Way or the Pipe Track.

Returning to Strathblane's War Memorial, just across the road are some rows of cottages that were built for people who worked in a massive now vanished calico works that once dominated the area. In 1941, during the Second World War, two landmines fell on the village. The Clydeside Blitz was raging, and it is probable that the German bombers were simply shedding their loads before heading for home. One of the landmines landed just across the road from the war memorial and destroyed a block called 'Sunnyside'. Four people were killed, including a mother and her two children who had been evacuated from Clydebank to avoid air raids. A plaque near the parish church commemorates the tragedy.

The Campsies are the dominating feature of Strathblane, with the pointy green alp of Dumgoyne and the mighty crags of Slackdhu. If Slackdhu seems familiar, it may be because you are a Monty Python fan. They stood in for South Africa in the Zulu sequence of *Monty Python's Meaning of Life*. You would not ever really mistake Strathblane for the veldt. Yet it feels remote, even though it is not.



Slackdhu, the Monty Python hill.

though its gardens are sometimes open to the public. In 1909 crowds flocked to Blanefield Station when King Edward VII arrived there for a visit to Duntreath. He was greeted by Sir Archibald Edmonstone of Duntreath and the Duke of Montrose. Crowds also turned out to see the King when he attended Strathblane Parish Church on the Sunday. Edward had visited Duntreath before, when he was Prince of Wales. There's speculation that he may have made other, more clandestine visits; Mrs Alice Keppel, with whom he had a long affair, was Sir Archibald's sister. Duntreath had its own small railway siding, and it has been suggested that Edward travelled on ordinary service trains and had them stop here so that he could make secret visits to Mrs Keppel at her birthplace. I am sceptical about this; the king, travelling on a humble local train that stops unexpectedly in the middle of nowhere so that he can hurry away? That would surely attract attention, not avoid it?

Nowadays the trackbed of the railway east of the village is a walking and cycle path that runs all the way to Kirkintilloch while the West Highland Way also follows the railway north-west through Strath Blane. The John Muir Way uses the path from Kirkintilloch to Strathblane and then climbs up to Mugdock before continuing through the Kilpatrick Hills. These routes all help to make Strathblane an outdoor paradise. Mugdock is also home to a much-loved country park. And then there's The Pipe Track.

I grew up in Kirkintilloch. Until the 1980s the town had a two-hourly bus service to Strathblane. In half-an-hour it swept us from our declining post-industrial hometown, westwards along the wooded lower slopes of the Campsie Fells, to a prosperous rural village squeezed between two hill ranges. To the west were the Kilpatricks, to the east, perhaps the most impressive face of the Campsies. In every direction there was promise for outdoor enthusiasts. I was a regular on the Strathblane bus. It was my escape to adventure.

In 1933, the prolific travel writer Ian C Lees wrote that 'The rich valley of the Blane... is the finest place for trampers within easy reach of Glasgow.' It was true then; it was true in the 1980s and it is true now. And I wish we still used the word 'tramper'. Today, though, it is perhaps easier to find peace and quiet there

than in the 1930s, as the real enthusiasts hurtle north in their cars to Glencoe, the Trossachs or Arrochar.

A word about names. Blanefield (the ultimate destination of that bus from Kirkintilloch) and Strathblane are conjoined villages that straddle the A81 between Aberfoyle and Glasgow. Strathblane is the village; the valley is Strath Blane, drained by the Blane Water, a river that finally runs via the Endrick into Loch Lomond.

## An outdoor paradise

At the heart of Strathblane, where the A891 joins the A81, is the Kirkhouse Inn. It is said to date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and happily has survived Covid. When the Kirkhouse was new, Strathblane, protected by a belt of high ground to the south, must have felt especially remote. However, in the 1860s the arrival of the railway brought the village into the Glasgow commuter belt. Owing to that high ground to the south, the trains arrived circuitously, via Kirkintilloch and Lennoxton, and the line eventually extended to Balfron and Aberfoyle. The railway lost its passenger service in 1951 and was closed completely in 1959 (our bus from Kirkintilloch, now also gone, originated as its partial replacement). But, as we will see, it's still an important travel route today.

Just north of Strathblane/Blanefield is Duntreath Castle, the home of the Edmonstone family who remain significant landowners here. The castle is private



The Pipe Track.



Looking across Strath Blane to the Campsie Fells.

EST 2002

# SCOTLANDSHOP

TAILORED TARTAN CLOTHING & INTERIORS



TARTAN CHRISTMAS **STOCKINGS**  
MADE IN SCOTLAND IN OVER **500** CLAN & FAMILY TARTANS

678 LOUDON ROAD, LATHAM, NY 12110  
10 QUEENSFERRY STREET, EDINBURGH, EH2 4PG

WWW.SCOTLANDSHOP.COM | +441890860770 | INFO@SCOTLANDSHOP.COM | 1-(833)-612-0064