



# the Scottish Banner



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*A' Bhratach Albannach*

Volume 46 Number 8 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS February 2023

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**the Scottish Banner**

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The Banner Says...

# Saying 'I Do' to Scotland



by Sean Cairney

If you are like me when I think of Scotland, I think of the incredible amount of natural beauty the country has to offer. It would be very fair to say it is quite a romantic place to visit with incredible vistas, coastlines, history and architecture. Most cannot help but fall in love with the country, even those there on their own. This month the world will be selling just a few more roses when Valentine's Day takes place mid-month. Scotland however has been helping lovers from around the world in its very own way for hundreds of years.

Location played a huge role in allowing the Scottish Borders town of Gretna Green to become Britain's wedding capital, with its romantic history beginning nearly 300 years ago. In 1754, English Parliament passed a law banning people under the age of twenty-one to get married without permission of their parents. However for those who ventured over the Scottish border, the law did not apply. In Scotland, a much more lenient age of sixteen was law and English couples found themselves flocking to the sleepy border town. To this day, and certainly around Valentine's Day, many couples from across the globe travel to Gretna Green for wedding and vow renewal ceremonies.

**Scottish wedding customs**

Thousands of people have also enjoyed taking on some of the unique Scottish wedding customs that have developed over the years. Luckenbooth brooches originated in 16<sup>th</sup> century Edinburgh and were

given by the groom to his bride as a token of both love and luck. The brooch features two hearts entwined together, with a crown on top. The brooches also were said to help ward off witches, and originally were sold in the luckenbooths, a row of tenements near St Giles Cathedral on the Royal Mile. Today you will still find these being sold across the world.

A favourite of children would have to be the wedding scramble. The father of the bride throws a handful of coins for children to collect just as the bride is climbing into the wedding car to make her way to the church. Children would then scramble to get as many coins as possible and create an atmosphere as the bride sets off, it was also thought doing this would bring financial stability to the newlyweds.

Traditionally a Scottish bride is always found to the left of the groom. This started back when the groom may need his right hand free to use his sword to fight off anyone who may have objected of their union, including in-laws!

Another tradition you will still find at weddings today is the quaich ceremony. A quaich (cuach in Gaelic means cup), or also referred to as a loving cup, is a Scottish traditional two handled cup and has been around in some form for centuries. Each person to marry takes a drink from the often silver or pewter quaich, with their favourite whisky or brandy. The sharing of the drink signifies both the union of two people and families.

**In this issue**

Think of a distillery in Scotland and of course most would instantly think of the "water of life", or whisky. However, gin is one of the fastest growing spirits for Scotland and in fact Scotland now produces 70 percent of gin for the UK market. We get a chance to speak this month to one of five women who are behind the Isle of Cumbrae Distillers. Having grown up around many strong women in my life I have no doubt distillers like at Cumbrae will help

lead the way to more women, of more ages, entering the drinks industry and I will very happily drink to that!

Eagle eyed travellers who have been on the Edinburgh to Glasgow train service will no doubt have spotted a unique spire as they pass through Linlithgow. The 'crown of thorns' spire which sits at the top of St Michael's Church had local controversy when it was added to the 15<sup>th</sup> century church in the 1960s. Sadly overtime the modern addition, which has become a symbol for Linlithgow, has fallen victim to the Scottish weather and now needs repair. Perhaps you have caught the spire when in Linlithgow, or just passing on the train, and can help preserve this iconic piece for future generations.

One story that caught my eye this month was Scotland being named 'Best Golf Destination in the World.' I do admit I am not a golfer, much to my father's disappointment, but I was slightly surprised that a country known the world over as the 'Home of Golf' has only won this for the first time. With nearly 600 courses across the country and a history of golf in Scotland going back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the industry is said to be worth nearly £300 million to the Scottish economy. Previous winners were Australia, Vietnam and Portugal, so glad to see Scotland being rightly recognised.

**The romance of Scotland**

Whether or not you are looking for a romantic break with that special someone, maybe getting married or looking to renew your vows, Scotland is certainly a place to consider as celebrating your heritage and the quirky customs which come with it can be a special thing to do. For me however it is simply the romance of Scotland itself that lures me each and every time, the majestic Highlands, Edinburgh's winding streets, the dramatic coastlines and the incredible friendliness of the people. Scotland can be my Valentine anytime! 🍷

**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**

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



The Heart of Midlothian in Edinburgh. Photo: VisitScotland/TravMedia.



Gracing our front cover: The Maura Gin label by artist Hope Blamire. Image courtesy of the Isle of Cumbrae Distillers.

# Scotland named best golf destination in the world



Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club 16th Green. Photo: John Paul Photography.

For the first time in the 9-year history of the World Golf Awards, Scotland has been awarded the ultimate accolade of 'Best Golf Destination in the World.' Around 200 guests from golfing destinations across the globe, attended the prestigious annual World Golf Award gala ceremony in Abu Dhabi in November. The World Golf Awards, which is part of The World Travel Awards, serves to celebrate and reward excellence in golf tourism with winners chosen by tour operators, media and golf fans from across the world. Scotland's first win of the night came during the Best Golf Destination in Europe category followed by the top recognition of Best Golf Destination in the World - a unique double, and a first in the history of the Awards. Both awards acknowledge and celebrate the quality of Scotland as a golfing destination and, as the industry continues

to recover from the pandemic, everything Scotland has to offer to golf fans. Widely regarded as the 'Home of Golf', Scotland has over 550 courses to play, including multiple championship venues and resorts, links courses, parkland courses and 9-hole courses.

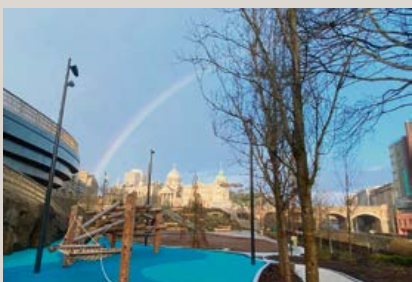
The award wins follow on the back of a momentous last year for the Scottish golf industry which saw a number of the world's biggest and most prestigious golf tournaments return home to Scotland to be played over an action packed five consecutive weeks. Headlined by the historic 150<sup>th</sup> Open at St Andrews, Scotland also provided the perfect stage for The Genesis Scottish Open, The Senior Open Presented by Rolex, Trust Golf Women's Scottish Open, AIG Women's Open and the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship. The jam-packed calendar of tournaments attracted over 421,000 spectators who watched 748 world class players tee off. It is anticipated that the awards will further inspire visitors from around the world to visit Scotland, cementing its position as a world-leader in the sport as sustainability, environmental and community initiatives amongst others, came to the fore throughout the summer period.

## Scotland is a bucket list destination for most golfers around the world

Dermot Synnott, Director of Global Partnerships for the World Golf Awards said: "Scottish golf tourism is thriving, and Scotland is a bucket list destination for most golfers around the world. It offers a vast range of parkland and links options across all its regions, so the travelling golfer really is spoilt for choice. No stranger to hosting landmark events, this award is fitting recognition to a top-quality golf destination that successfully staged The 150<sup>th</sup> Open in St. Andrews."

Pre-covid, the 2020 UK Event Report reported that the UK's events industry was estimated to be worth a direct spend of £70bn in 2019, and it is estimated that over £6bn (9%) of this can be attributed to Scotland. The golf industry in Scotland is worth more than £1.1 billion with golf tourism accounting for approximately £286 million annually, supporting around 4,400 jobs. As well as the tourism boost, the health and well-being aspect of golf was brought into sharp focus during the pandemic as one of the first activities to reopen after lockdown providing exercise and social interaction. Scotland attracts around 220,000 golfing visitors annually, while an estimated 92,000 'regular' visitors to Scotland will also play golf whilst on holiday.

## Union Terrace Gardens re-opens after refurbishment



Aberdeen's Union Terrace Gardens has re-opened after a £28.3million refurbishment which improves wheelchair access and includes new amenities such as a new play area for children, toilets, and cafes while restoring historic features. The Gardens also include extensive seating, new lighting features, refurbishment of the historic arches and Victorian toilets, a new public toilet, new specially-commissioned artworks, new native planting, a net gain in trees, and reinstatement of a planted city crest.

It also has a new water feature, the three statues (William Wallace, Rabbie Burns, and Edward VII) have been cleaned, and the 'grand staircase' down to the lower Gardens has been reinstated. The Union Terrace Gardens improvements are part of the City Centre and Beach Masterplan which is designed to invigorate both areas while respecting and enhancing Aberdeen's unique qualities and characteristics. The Masterplan projects are also aimed at encouraging more walking and wheeling.

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# SCOT POURRI

Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history?

## My Restless Spirit Wanders



My restless spirit wanders  
To another time, another place;  
There's a spot in bonny Scotland  
That any memory can't erase.

I am a child of that landscape  
My heartstrings never will fly free;  
How could I know when I was young  
And the wide world beckoned me.

The rolling hills and Border burns  
Now in memory are unfurled;  
Echoes of my childhood haunts  
Reverberate from that inner world.

My footsteps tread the well-worn paths  
By Buckholm Hill and Torwoodlee;  
With the eternal rhythm of that earth  
I walk in perfect harmony.

In the fields I see my father  
As he plows the rich, dark loam;  
A solitary figure on that landscape  
Tilling the fertile fields of home.

To that farm cottage now I wander  
Bathed in the lamplight's glow;  
My images of the world were formed  
Round that hearth many years ago.

I am a child of that landscape  
My heartstrings never will fly free;  
I left that place to see the world  
But I'm part of it, it's part of me.

*Phyllis Munro Lunn  
Holden, Massachusetts  
USA*

**Ed note: Thank you Phyllis for this lovely submission.**

### Learning about tartan

I just wanted to thank *the Scottish Banner* for putting together your USA links page ([www.scottishbanner.com/weblinks/usa-links](http://www.scottishbanner.com/weblinks/usa-links)). My daughter Cora's Girl Scout troop is currently working on their Family Heritage Fun Patch and your information on tartans helped us a bunch. Cora's troop leader encouraged the parents to work with our girls at home to explore our family's history! She asked the girls to put together a presentation to share with the rest of the troop. My family is originally from Edinburgh, so we've been researching Scottish recipes, traditional Scottish songs and dance and we're just starting our family's tartan. Your page led us to some great websites to check out, so Cora and I wanted to make sure we thanked you.

Know Cora loved learning all about her Scottish heritage and is excited to visit one day!  
*Kelly and Cora Miller  
USA*

**Ed note: Glad our site is a useful tool for you Kelly and Cora, and hope Cora makes it to Scotland one day.**

### Sma Glen



After reading the October issue of *the Scottish Banner* and the "wee Glen" (*Tales of the Sma' Glen, the Scottish Banner*, October, 2022), it reminded me of a lovely glen we passed through in 2010. I called it Glen Dyke, after the River Dyke. I do not know its real name, but it is a very lovely drive. We turned off the road to John O'Groats, near Golspie, travelling

west to Ullapool. The mountains seem to hug you as you travel through. I think the glen starts at Lairg and Loch Shin.

I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and was happy to see different angles of my favourite mountain, Sulven, at the end of the glen.

Thank you for reminding me, a faithful reader of about 30 years.

*Cheryl Bruce  
Jennings, NSW  
Australia*

**Ed note: Thanks Cheryl for sharing your Scottish piece of paradise with us.**

### Stonehaven



Thank you for bringing up some fantastic memories of Stonehaven in your latest issue (*The Tranquillity of Stonehaven, the Scottish Banner*, January, 2023). I have such fond memories of going there with my family growing up in Scotland. The adventure a young child from the city had to experience was incredible. I remember still today the sounds of the many sea birds that glided past and at times tried to steal our lunch! We grew up just outside Glasgow, but my mother was from Aberdeen and this was her favourite place in world. Every time I visit, I of course feel my mother's presence and memories of a wonderful Scottish childhood. About a mile down the road was of the incredible Dunnottar Castle, where I ran

amok and created the most amazing adventures with my wee brother.

They say Stonehaven is one Scotland's most photographed harbours and that would not surprise as it has been postcard perfect for decades. I suppose growing up you can never fully realise how important key childhood memories can be and seeing this month's issue has been an emotional delight for me.

Wishing all the readers and *the Scottish Banner* team a wonderful 2023.  
*Cameron Sinclair  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada*

**Ed note: Thanks Cameron for your note and glad we helped trigger some fantastic childhood memories for you, and wishing you and all our readers a great 2023 ahead.**

Stonehaven was my most favourite destination when growing up In the 50's. The open-air swimming pool was the main attraction even though the water was freezing cold. If an adult wouldn't take us there, we biked all the way from Aberdeen.  
*Fiona Johansson  
Via Facebook*

Stonehaven was also the birthplace of Robert William Thomson (1822-73). Inventor of the Pneumatic Tyre in 1845 (and responsible for many other inventions and innovations too!).  
*RW Thomson Memorial Fellowship  
Stonehaven, Scotland  
Via Facebook*

### Capital Sci-Fi Con



For those visiting Scotland this month Capital Sci-Fi Con is back for its amazing eighth year running! Over the weekend of 11-12 February 2023, we are hoping to make this year at the Edinburgh O2 Academy bigger and better than ever. With film and TV guests, iconic props, as well as incredible trader stalls and fantastic cosplay competitions, there is something for everyone.

Capital Sci-Fi Con is the ultimate not for profit comic con event, with all profits donated to Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS). So far, the event has raised over £337,000 and this year we are hoping to add even more to that total, to ensure that nobody has to face the death of their child alone.

We have an amazing special guest line up from Film and TV for Capital Sci-Fi Con 2023. We also have comic artists/writers, guest panel talks, a cosplay competition, music, competitions, traders of all types and much more. Stay up to date with announcements as we get closer to the event by checking in here regularly, or to see the announcements as they happen, follow us on Facebook: Capital Sci-Fi Con.  
*Mairead Macleod  
Edinburgh, Scotland  
www.capitalscificon.co.uk*

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

### The Great Polish Map of Scotland



The Great Polish Map of Scotland is a large (50 m x 40 m) three-dimensional, outdoor concrete scale model of Scotland. It is also known as the Mapa Scotland (derived from Polish mapa Szkocji) or the Barony Map. The brainchild of Polish war veteran Jan Tomasiak, it was built between 1974 and 1979 and is claimed to be the world's largest terrain relief model. The sculpture is a category B listed building and is being restored by Mapa Scotland.  
*The Kilted Photographer*

### Callanish Standing Stones



Sunset at the Callanish Standing Stones.  
*Mik Coia*

### Edinburgh



The colours of Victoria Street, Edinburgh.  
*Paul Watt Photography*

### Bauchaille Etive Mor



Bauchaille Etive Mor in all its glory.  
*Ronald Stokes*

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# SCOTSPEAK

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



*“Becoming the first city to be named European Capital of Sport for a second time is a historic achievement for Glasgow. The ECOS status reaffirms Glasgow’s credentials as a world-class sporting city, and presents a great opportunity to change more lives for the better through sport – at grassroots level in our communities and schools, and professionally through our elite level clubs and top-class facilities. Earning the title of European Capital of Sport for the second time in two decades demonstrates the part sport has played – and will continue to play – in the city’s progress, which has seen Glasgow become a world leader when it comes to harnessing the power of sport and physical activity to improve lives.”*

Baillie Annette Christie, Chair of Glasgow Life and Convenor for Culture, Sport and International Relations for Glasgow City Council, said as Glasgow is taking on the mantle of European Capital of Sport (ECOS) 2023 – and becomes the first city to hold the title twice, 20 years after first achieving the accolade. Glasgow is a global sporting city and world leader in using sport to change lives, and the first phase of an ECOS Fund has awarded more than

£50,000 to communities across the city to increase opportunities for people to take part in sport and get active.

*“The only noted owner is an Alexander Dick in 1790, so there’s more research to be done if we are to chart the book’s journey to Shrewsbury. It’s wonderful that John Murison had the presence of mind to step in and save the book, given that so few of them still exist. It doesn’t go on show very often because of its condition and rarity.”*

Sara Kelly, local studies officer with OnFife, the cultural charity which runs Dunfermline Carnegie Library & Galleries in Fife said as a rare first edition of a book of Robert Burns poems, saved from destruction in a late 19<sup>th</sup> century barber shop, has gone on show for the first time since before lockdown. Burns enthusiast John Murison rescued the book after seeing it in a dilapidated state at a shop in Shrewsbury, England. He bought the copy of *Poems Chiefly In The Scottish Dialect*. Just 612 copies of Burns’s debut collection, also known as the *Kilmarnock Edition*, were printed in 1786 and it is thought that only 84 survive worldwide.

*“New varieties of malting barley are developed regularly to improve processability and agronomic traits, and its not uncommon to find some predominate the industry for a period of time. There’s hope that using these heritage varieties of barley might allow for recovery of favourable aroma characteristics into distillate and some have also displayed potential resilience to stresses that might be expected from in a changing climate.”*

Doctor Calum Holmes from Heriot-Watt University said they are experimenting with eight heritage barley varieties, including a 200-year-old crop, to discover whether ‘distinctive’ new whiskies could be created. The researchers from the university’s International Centre for Brewing and Distilling are working with Edinburgh’s Holyrood Distillery to find out whether old species of barley could produce new whiskies. The 200-year-old Chevallier is one of the varieties they’ll be distilling and testing, which was once popular in Britain until tax rules changed causing it to fall ‘out of favour’.



Photo: VisitScotland/ PRImaging.

*“For our region to be one of just thirty worldwide destinations included in this renowned publication is recognition of the many top class attractions we have here, including those that take visitors on a journey of discovery into our past and our people such as the five-star Great Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels. Of course it is not just about our history though - visitors can learn about the production of lowland malt whisky at The Borders Distillery, or see how world-class cashmere is designed and made in various mills across the Borders, and all the while enjoying the incredible scenery of the Scottish Borders. I have no doubt that this recognition will help drive more tourists to explore the Borders.”*

Councillor Scott Hamilton, Scottish Borders Council’s Executive Member for Community and Business Development, said as the South of Scotland has been named as one of Lonely Planet’s Best in Travel destinations for 2023. The South of Scotland has been named in the Learn category, alongside Manchester, New Mexico, Dresden, El Salvador and Marseille. The region’s history and culture make it the ideal place for delving into the past to learn more about iconic figures such as Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott.

*“The room is 10ft by 15ft and I have cut exactly around the bottle without knowing it was there. I can’t quite believe it. I was moving a radiator and cut a random hole to find pipework and there it was, I don’t know what happened. I took it to the woman downstairs and said ‘Look what I’ve found under your floor!’”*

Edinburgh plumber Peter Allem said as he discovered a Victorian time capsule when he opened up the floor and found a whisky bottle which had been left in a customer’s home 135 years ago. The note read: “James Ritchie and John Grieve laid this floor, but they did not drink the whisky. October 6<sup>th</sup> 1887. Who ever finds this bottle may think our dust is blowing along the road.”



*“The Culloden Memories project is working towards remembering all the beautiful memories over time our generations, here at the battlefield, and how we’ve interacted with it since the time of the battle. The battlefield has gone through tremendous changes. During the Victorian era, there was a forest, a plantation here. At other times there were different visitor centres – the first in Leanach Cottage in the 1960s. Before that, it was lived in until the 1920s. The family that lived there gave tours on the battlefield. We want to know why the battlefield is so important to so many people, for so many different reasons”*

Ellen Fogel Walker, from the Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre, said they were looking for any visitor stories, photographs and home video footage that captured something special at the sacred Highland site of Culloden Battlefield. On April 16, 1746, the Jacobite army of Charles Edward Stuart was decisively defeated by a British government force under Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, on Drummossie Moor. It was the last pitched battle fought on British soil. Anyone wishing to contribute to the National Trust for Scotland project can contact: [culloden300@nts.org.uk](mailto:culloden300@nts.org.uk)



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[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 18.

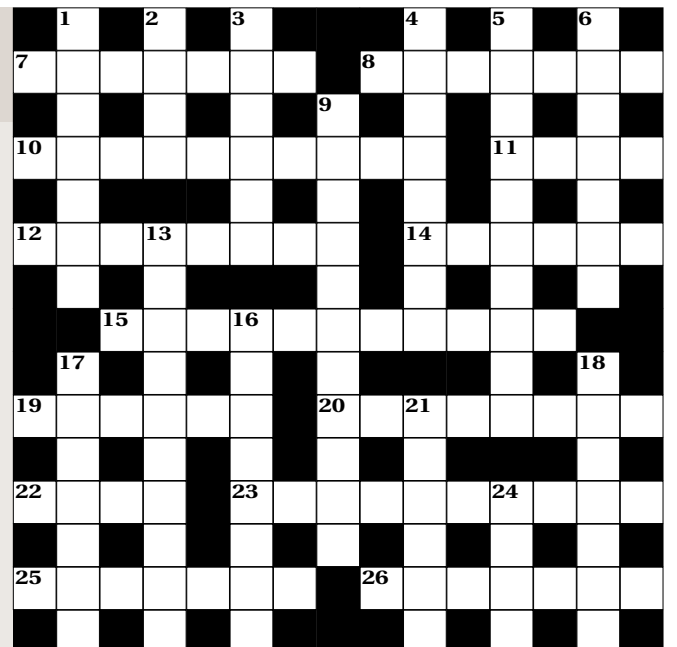
### CLUES ACROSS

- 7 He’s No. 1 with 18 Down (7).
- 8 First page (7).
- 10 Village east of Kinlochewe (10).
- 11 Monster waterway (4).
- 12 Wide US street (8).
- 14 The type to lean (6).
- 15 Village north-west of Pitlochry (5, 6).
- 19 A Scots whim (6).
- 20 Found north of the Border (8).

- 22 An eyesore! (4).
- 23 Not excessive (10).
- 25 Edinburgh is! (7).
- 26 First school stage (7).

### CLUES DOWN

- 1 They add colour to games (7).
- 2 Shock with a blow (4).
- 3 Picture puzzle (6).
- 4 Close family members (8).
- 5 Scotland’s palatial hotel (10).
- 6 Plant with carrot-like root (7).
- 9 January 1st (3, 5, 3).
- 13 Old version of 25 Across! (4, 6).
- 16 In memory of Burns (8).
- 17 Famous Glasgow station (7).
- 18 1 Down’s nautical change (7).
- 21 Fragrances (6).
- 24 Member’s weapons (4).



# Lady MacGregor's Scotland By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

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



A calm River Nith, Dumfries & Galloway, as loved by Robert Burns. Photo: Rosser1954 via Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.

**H**ow the weather changes here! Greetings from Scotland, by the way. If you have already visited us, you are indeed a lucky person. If you have not, why, then that is a great treat in store...

But back to the weather. It is always so variable. Which is why it tends to be the main subject of conversation at this time of year. One day it is broillies at the ready as the heavens open. The next, we are graced with a watery sun and a hint of snow. A crisp frosty morning can be invigorating. But the rain is a challenge, and a recent downpour brought some of the most extreme flooding on record. Up in the Central Belt, travel was severely disrupted as areas around Glasgow were drenched. But the worst was here in the Borderlands where the lovely Queen of the South found herself under water.

## River Nith

That is the name given to Dumfries. And the culprit was the river that winds its way through the red-sandstone town. The River Nith has much to answer for. Yet when flowing calmly it is a magnificent waterway, and one that was praised by Scotland's Bard. Indeed, Robert Burns lived on its banks - and there at Ellisland Farm, he found inspiration for a poem. 'The Thames flows proudly to the sea, Where royal cities stately stand; But sweeter flows the Nith, to me, Where Cummins ance had high command: When shall I see that honor'd land, That winding Stream I love so dear! Must wayward Fortune's adverse hand For ever, ever keep me here...'

Global warming is blamed for increasingly wetter, wilder weather. However, Scotland has seen it before. Two hundred years ago, a violent thunderstorm broke over the Cairngorm mountains. The rain lashed down, the rivers swelled, and a 'muckle spate' hit parts of Moray in north-east of Scotland. This 'great flood', one described as being of biblical proportions, is said to have been Scotland's worst; houses, bridges, trees and livestock all swept away. Remarkably, just eight people died. They make them hardy in the Highlands.

But you cannot let the weather clip your wings, and the day-to-day work goes on. As a broadcaster, at this time of

year, I like to find films that that can be made inside. Or at least under some sort of cover. And so how comfortable – and interesting - to film inside an art studio. Linda Hadfield is an expert in stained glass production has been plying her craft for forty years. She lives in the south, on the Solway coast, where the sea and light are inspiration for some stunning creations. Stained glass is thousands of years old. It was made by the Egyptians and Romans and in medieval times it began to appear in places of worship. Here in Scotland, it can be seen in almost every cathedral and church. It is magnificent, but can it survive as an artistic medium? Working with glass and lead is not easy, and Linda is finding herself one of the few remaining traditionalists. Hers is an exclusive club. Material and energy costs, and safety issues mean it is increasingly difficult to produce.

## Greyfriars Bobby

There will be more films that can be made inside. This year the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society will be 100 years old, and we may put on our dancing shoes to cover that story. Whether we will follow the tale of Greyfriars Bobby whose remains have just been discovered in an unmarked grave... Now, his is the faithful little

dog who, back in Victorian times, kept watch at his master's grave in Edinburgh. Indeed, after his owner's death the wee terrier visited the grave at Greyfriars Kirk every day for fourteen years. Bobby became a cherished canine face – and when he finally died, he was remembered with a bronze statue. There is more: a Disney film would later be made about his life. Bobby was eventually buried in the Scottish Borders. But his gravestone disappeared and although it was known roughly where he lay, no-one could pinpoint the exact spot.

Now, after nearly four years of research and digging, it has been found. Bobby's remains can be re-sited elsewhere. Hopefully back in Edinburgh next to his beloved master. Watch this Scottish space. Because there is always something going on. In the meantime, as the country prepares to remember a great man, I leave you with a few more lines with Robert Burns extolling the Dumfries river he loves...

'How lovely, Nith, thy fruitful vales, Where bounding hawthorns gaily bloom; And sweetly spread thy sloping dales, Where lambkins wanton through the broom. Tho' wandering now must be my doom, Far from thy bonie banks and braes, May there my latest hours consume, Among the friends of early days!'

## Iconic Loch Ness attraction undergoes £1.5 million investment



**C**ontinuum Attractions has now signed a long-term lease to take over one of Scotland's most famous visitor attractions, The Loch Ness Centre & Exhibition in the Highlands of Scotland, near Inverness. Work will be carried out which will cost £1.5 million in transforming the attraction into a world-class visitor attraction, ready to re-open in Spring 2023, as the new 'The Loch Ness Centre'.

The transformation will engage, entertain and inform guests, focusing on telling the globally renowned story behind the legend of Loch Ness, exploring the myths, alongside the scientific research, that has turned Nessie into one of Scotland's most famous icons. The first Loch Ness exhibition was founded in May 1980 by Ronnie Bremner and designer Tony Hamsworth. The following winter, in conjunction with naturalist Adrian Shine, leader of the Loch Ness Project a lifelong partnership was formed between the Loch Ness Centre and the Loch Ness

Project which continues to this day with the Projects laboratory and research centre on site. Continuum's investment in a new five-star attraction will further unlock the mysteries and history of the world-famous destination and its many year-round activities and attractions.

Chris Taylor, VisitScotland Regional Leadership Director, said: "Loch Ness is renowned the world over for its most elusive resident, Nessie, and indeed the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition has and will continue to attract visitors from around the world each year. This investment will mean that even more people will have the chance to learn all about Nessie – the subject of so many myths, tales and stories over the years.

Tourism is a force for good. It creates jobs, sustains communities and contributes significantly to the economy. The impact of tourism spreads far beyond the industry itself – it benefits our economy, our community and our wellbeing."

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# The 58th anniversary of the Phoenix Scottish Games



## Scottish heritage

If you are curious about your heritage, join us in the Clan and Genealogy area. Arizona has over 175,000 Scots. You could be one of them! Everywhere you look you can see deep ties between Arizona and Scotland. Douglas, Arizona was named for a Canadian-Scotsman, and the Rose Tree Museum in Tombstone Arizona features a rose tree grown from a cutting shipped to a young Scottish bride from her family in Scotland in 1885. Even if you don't have any ties to Scotland, you will enjoy yourself at 58<sup>th</sup> annual Phoenix Scottish Games. All ages will have fun in the Celtic Village, featuring a variety of Celtic merchants with clothing, music instruments, jewelry, baked goods and other traditional culinary delights that you won't find at any other festival - traditional shortbread cookies, highland beef dishes and more. There will be Scotch Whisky Tasting where you can enjoy a dram and hear about the whisky making process of each expression. Car lovers don't forget to vote for your favorite vintage vehicle at the British Car Display and show.

As long as you relish good music, food, and fun, you'll have a great time! The Phoenix Scottish Games are produced by the Caledonian Society of Arizona, the largest Celtic organization in the state, promoting Scottish culture through art, education and athletics. Funds raised at the event supports scholarships to aspiring and professional Highland athletes, musicians, and dancers and/or other individuals or organizations whose mission, project or program promotes Scottish heritage.

**The Phoenix Scottish Games take place on Friday March 3, 2023, from 5pm to 900pm, Saturday March 4, 2023, from 9am to 630pm and Sunday March 5, 2023, from 9 am to 5pm. Single day tickets can be purchased at the gate for \$25 or \$40 for weekend ticket. Purchase in advance at [www.phoenixscottishgames.com](http://www.phoenixscottishgames.com). Discounted pricing is available for members of the military and children. See the website for detailed pricing information. Free parking is available at the park, check the website for parking details.**



Direct from Scotland, the Isle of Skye Pipe Band.

Craic in the Stone - They've taken the Celtic Folk'n Rock world by storm by bringing traditional songs to the present while pushing the envelope with their traditional yet unique sound and style when covering songs by the Cranberries, Pogues, Dropkick Murphys, U2, Beatles, and even Led Zep. Their unique sound features two talented ladies up front singing the stories, backed by a group of multi-talented musicians that rock the house.

This year's event is featuring the Isle of Skye Pipe Band, for the first time in Arizona a visiting pipe band from Scotland. Audience members will be treated to a display of Scottish arts spanning the globe with performers from Canada, Scotland, and the United States. The acts above will be joined by The Alma College Kiltie Dancers, Arizona Academy of Highland Dance, The Jason Cartmell Rockstrosity, The Mesa Caledonian Pipe Band, champion flourishing drum majors, color guards, military bands, rifle teams, and more.

Enjoy the sights and sounds of Scotland with this outdoor concert under the stars! The military tattoo tradition evolved from 17<sup>th</sup> century Europe when a drummer or bugler would sound a call through the village, signalling the soldiers' return to barracks. Today, military tattoo's celebrate with marching, music, dancing, and more.

rooted in Scotland. Watch in awe as highland athletes make it look easy to throw a log bigger than a telephone pole or toss a hammer farther than you can throw a ball! Events include the Caber Toss, Sheaf Toss, Hammer Throw and "Putting the Stone" with male and female competitors of all ages from across North America.

## Scotland underneath the Arizona desert sky

Returning this year will be the twilight tattoo Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Those in attendance can enjoy an amphitheater concert showcasing the sights and sounds of Scotland underneath the Arizona desert sky. Performers will include Celtic music, a military band, Scottish dancers, traditional pageantry and of course pipes and drums.

Acts include: Marine SandPiper- Hailing from the greater metropolitan area of Twentynine Palms, CA, MarineSandpiper is the Southern California High Desert's only Rock & Roll bagpiper. With over 21 years of bagpipe experience, MarineSandpiper can cover everything from traditional bagpipe music to classic rock and pop music.



Heavy events.

Scotland returns to the Desert Southwest during the weekend of March 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with the 58<sup>th</sup> annual Phoenix Scottish Games to be held at new Gilbert Regional Park in Gilbert, Arizona. You don't need to be Scottish to enjoy the games featuring full highland pageantry with Pipes & Drums, Highland dancers, athletics, Celtic bands, and Gathering of the Clans. As you move from area to area within the festival, you'll be treated to a variety of live entertainment, interactive displays, and athletic events. The event hosts championships for Highland dance and pipe bands. In addition to those competitions, you won't want to miss numerous performers of traditional folk, bluegrass and Rock music their sound



Scottish dancers on display.



The sound of the pipes and drums.



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.

# Green Knitted Swimming Pants



The Kay Street Baths. Photo: Public Domain/Wikipedia.

Everyone in Springburn went to Kay Street Baths whether to swim, bathe, or wash clothes. My association with the pool began at a very early age and as I now reflect on events in my youth, I am amazed that my parents would let me go to a public pool without any kind of life preserver or rubber ring knowing that I could not swim, did they really love me I wonder?? I presently live in Canada and I enjoy taking my grandchildren to the local community pool, and as I sit there watching them go through their swimming lessons with an instructor, using every floatation device known to man, I wonder how I ever survived to become a grandfather. Their swimming learning experience is a far cry from the Kay Street pool of 1950 as it is so well managed and organised. When their lessons are finished, I join them in the pool for some fun as I still enjoy the relaxation that being in the water brings. When I am watching my grandchildren with their instructors, I run my youthful past experience at Kay Street back in my mind, and there always seems to be something missing, it dawned on me the other week that what was missing was noise!

The sound of children screaming, laughing, shouting and the pool attendants whistling as they held some embarrassing article of your clothing, or a slightly less than white threadbare towel over the pond to make sure that you exited on time. I have a clear recollection of big George McKay or wee Johnny Duncan shouting "box numbers 32 to 64, (referring to your dressing stall) "yer times up, get oot now" and threatening to ban you from the pool if you failed to obey. I learned to swim by myself and over time cultivated a relationship with the attendants, they allowed me to earn my keep by shovelling coal into the furnace to heat the pool. I spent whole days in the building doing odd jobs and earning a free pass to get into the pool or have a hot bath any time that I wanted, an entrepreneur even at that early age.

## A yarn of green wool

How many of our male readers remember lining up at the exit door of the pool to put a penny in the Brylcreem machine.

No self-respecting cool young man would be seen dead walking down Springburn Rd without the required D.A ( if you have to ask, what this means, your too young ), and Brylcreem was the magic glue to achieve one. Alas, I was one of the few kids that could not have a D.A as my bright red hair in today's terms was really a white man's afro, it was so curly, really a mother's dream, and yes, I would kill to have it back today. One summer day my younger brother Thomas wanted to come to the swimming baths with me, he was four years younger and would have cramped my style and carried stories home, so I was not in favour of this. I told him that he could not go as he was too young, and he had no swimming trunks, so off crying to mother he goes. Mother says to me, "if he can't go with you, then you don't get to go either," but mammy" I say, "he dis'nae have any swimming pants, so he can't come". With this sound logic it would appear that I had won the debate and carried the day, not the case, "Don't worry Thomas" says mother, "I'll knit you a pair", and with that she whips out her knitting needles, a yarn of green wool, and abracadabra, 45 minutes later a pair of bright green hand knitted swimming pants have materialised.

They were so ugly that I was embarrassed to be seen with my brother wearing them, but without them there was no swimming for me, so I had to give in. "So now Brian", my mother says, "take your brother to the baths and be sure to look after him (who looked after me I wonder), be sure that nothing happens to him", these are the last words that I hear exiting the house none too happy at having to drag my sibling along. When we get to the pond, I put him in the dressing stall next to me and tell him to change into his new swimming trunks, "wait here, and don't move until I come and get you" I say, as I go next door to put on my super slick red saateen swimming trunks, weeks of whining and saving to get these beauties.

## Bright green pants

I come out of my box, open his door and he is gone. Where did he go? Our changing boxes were under the diving board at the six-foot-deep end of the pool. I look around frantically, and there below the water I can see him in his

bright green pants. I dive in and manage to get him to the surface, I grab the rail and hold on for dear life with my mother's last words "be sure that nothing happens to him" ringing in my ears. I manage to get him out the pool and ask him how on earth did he get in there in the first place, "well all the other boys just opened their doors and jumped in, so I did the same" he says, so much for personal hygiene in those days.

As I stand there talking to him with my heart going at 400 miles per hour, I notice that the green wet woollen trunks have now taken on a life of their own and are stretching almost all the way to the floor. I can't be seen with him like this, so I take him, both of us still in a traumatised state of shock to the hot tubs, sit him in one with instructions not to move until I come to get him. At the end of the session, I collect my brother and take him to the dressing stall, I tell him to wait here until I get dressed first and then I will help him. When I am dressed, I open his stall door and am really quite impressed to find that for a wee lad he has already changed, all of his clothes are on, and his shoes are on the right feet. I pick up his towel and ask, "where are your swimming trunks?", "I hung them over the door he says, just like everyone else" "well they are not there now" I reply, "someone must have stolen them" he said.

Hand knitted bright green woollen swimming trunks, I'm thinking, who would be seen dead in them, let alone steal them,

and then I remember how close my brother nearly came to being seen dead in them. I give him a big hug and promise to buy him chips and candy on the way home and I will tell our mother that his new bright green knitted woollen trunks were indeed stolen, whomever the guy was he has done us both a big favour. Now if you are a regular reader of my stories you will know by now that there is usually an ironic twist at the end that always prevents me from receiving my well-earned redemption and the status of a GOOD WEE BOY, and this one's no different.

That evening, as my mother is getting my brother ready for bed, she takes off his outdoor short pants, and there beneath his under pants, he is wearing the now infamous knitted woollen swimming trunks, he has had them on all day. Once again, I received an ear ringing jolt for my lack of attention to detail and not looking after my wee brother, I couldn't tell her that I had saved his life that very day as that could have been much worse. The next day my brother developed pneumonia and was quite sick for about a week, now it just may have been coincidence, but I blame it all on the bright Green hand knitted woollen swimming trunks, if only they had really been stolen, but alas, there was nobody that dim in Springburn.

So as much as I accidentally traumatised my brother, I also traumatised myself to the point where I can't look at green bathing trunks today without thinking of that day and how close to disaster we had been.

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# Start learning Scottish Gaelic!



## 25% increase in Gaelic Duolingo learners in a year

Duolingo has released new data revealing that 1.5 million people have started learning Scottish Gaelic on the App since the course launched just over 3 years ago on St Andrew's Day (November 30<sup>th</sup>) 2019. The free Duolingo course has seen a 25% increase in daily learners since St Andrew's Day 2021. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, and Duolingo officially joined forces to deliver the popular Scottish Gaelic language course in 2022, which currently has 450,000 active Scottish Gaelic learners. The primary motivation for learning the language is recorded as culture, with many looking to reconnect with their heritage.

Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, said: "There has always been an interest in Scotland's Gaelic language and culture, especially with such a vast Scottish diaspora, but learning apps like Duolingo and the growth of Gaelic Medium Education in schools have made the language so much more accessible to a larger audience. Gaelic on Duolingo has played a big part in the expansion of learning resources and opportunities across the board, including the multimedia platform SpeakGaelic. At Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, we have had students come to us via Duolingo, starting with our An Cùrsa Inntrigidh or An Cùrsa Comais immersion courses and going on to study on our degree courses. Long may this growth continue."

Colin Watkins, Duolingo's UK Country Manager said: "We're delighted Scots Gaelic has reached 1.5 million learners on the app, which I challenge to reach 2 million by this time next year. It's great to see so many people cite culture as their reason to learn, showing the role language plays in all our lives, something we are proud to celebrate this St Andrew's Day. Our mission at Duolingo is to make education accessible, which is why our Scots Gaelic, French, Latin, and other courses in 39 other languages are free to all."

### Historical Fife castle with links to Robert the Bruce goes on the market



Photo: Savills.

One of the best kept 16<sup>th</sup> century houses in Scotland has been listed for sale, with an asking price of £8m. Earlshall Castle, in Leuchars, Fife, features ten bedrooms, eight reception rooms, a five-car garage, beautiful world-famous walled gardens restored by renowned architect Sir Robert Lorimer and 53 acres of land. Earlshall takes its name from the hunting lodge of 'The Erlishall' owned by the Earls of Fife, relatives of King Robert de Bruce. Sir William Bruce began building the castle in 1546. The castle was built with large windows rather than narrow slit windows used for defence. Musket loops and smaller windows were provided in strategic places as an insurance against armed incursion. Sir William Bruce received Mary Queen of Scots at Earlshall in 1561. Later James VI of Scotland who became James I of England also visited. Both monarchs would have ridden from the royal palace of Falkland to hunt at Earlshall. Alexander Bruce had his marriage commemorated on the granite fireplace in the Great Hall. William, and Agnes Lindsay were responsible for the painted ceiling in the Long Gallery. Painted the full length of the 50-foot-long roof are the coats of arms of European royalty, Scottish noble families and imaginary nobles. The Baron would sit directly beneath the royal coat of arms when holding his Courts of Barony - signifying that his powers of justice came directly from the King. Sir Andrew the Bloody Bruce was the most notorious Baron

of Earlshall. An officer of Claverhouse's dragoons he won the Battle of Killecrackie and earned his name in his brutal putting down of the Covenanters. His footsteps are said to be heard on the spiral stairs of Earlshall to this day. The line of Bruce's died out in 1708. The castle was inherited by Henderson of Fordell. His family sold the castle in 1824. No maintenance was carried out and it gradually slipped into a state of dereliction. Robert Mackenzie from Perth, purchased the castle in 1890 and employed a young Robert Lorimer to carry out its restoration. Lorimer was later considered Scotland's greatest architect. Earlshall was one of his finest works. Earlshall is closest to the 'Z' plan principle, having a central block with off-set towers and a romantic and pleasing aspect from the gardens.

The castle was built in two parts with Dummy Daws forming a separate building. It is approached through the arched Gate House. There is a gateway to a Courtyard which gives entrance to the castle.

### Dumbarton Castle set to reopen to the public



Visitors will soon be able to visit the 800-year-old stronghold that sheltered Mary Queen of Scots in 1548. Dumbarton Castle is set to reopen by early spring following the completion of high-level masonry inspections, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has announced. Access restrictions were put in place at the start of last year, as a safety precaution while HES, who manages the site, introduced new measures to manage the impact of climate change on its heritage assets, an issue which is affecting heritage owners globally.

The High-Level Masonry Programme, which is the result of ongoing risk assessment and sample surveys, assesses the impact of climate change on sites as well as the scale of deterioration caused by a number of other factors, including the materials used in the building's construction, its age and physical location. Whilst this is not an issue unique to Scotland, HES is believed to be amongst the first heritage managers to approach it in this way, with the results shared with peer organisations. Work is taking place at a number of sites across Scotland as HES has completed detailed, tactile inspections at 25 sites across the country since May, with a further 13 due for completion by Spring 2023.

Work at sites can take over a month, due to the scope of the task and the different characteristics of the buildings, many of which date back several hundred years, and were constructed according to the conventions and materials of the time. The tactile inspection of Dumbarton Castle, which took 20 working days, was completed late last year. Some necessary repairs and checks will

now be carried out before the site reopens by March. Once it has reopened, visitors will be able to explore the majority of the 800-year-old site including The Governor's House, the Guard House and Portcullis Arch, the remains of the White Tower which are on top of the highest point of the site, the French Prison, Wallace Tower, the Magazine and Crane Bastion.

Dumbarton Castle will be the latest site to reopen as part of the prioritised programme of inspections, following sites such as Doune Castle, Burleigh Castle, Dundonald Castle and St Andrews Castle which reopened after their surveys were carried out. More than 30 sites currently have increased access since inspections began in May last year.

Craig Mearns, Director of Operations at HES, said: "I am delighted to announce that we will soon be reopening Dumbarton Castle to visitors. We are working as quickly as we can to reopen our historic sites, and we appreciate the public's patience while we undertake these necessary inspections and subsequent repairs. Dumbarton Castle is one of Scotland's most important strongholds and climate change is another part of its long and varied history. We look forward to welcoming visitors back to the iconic site as soon as we have carried out the final checks and implemented any additional safety measures."

### New App helps people to travel across East Lothian



Whether you live in or visit East Lothian a new app allows you to plan your door-to-door journey around East Lothian (and beyond) and gives you the various sustainable travel choices available, showing how long each one takes, the likely cost, and even the predicted CO2 emissions. The project is aiming to contribute to the research and knowledge about how to improve the integration and reliability of transport, especially in rural areas. Cabinet Member for Environment, Economic Development and Tourism, John McMillan said: "People can simply tap in their desired destination and planned travel time into the app and then receive not just travel times but also costs comparison and the ability to purchase tickets directly. It also calculates the carbon footprint of your selected journey and can offer active travel suggestions such as walking or cycling routes. I'm sure this will appeal not just to residents of East Lothian but also to visitors keen to explore the county and plan their journey."

The App is available on Google Play and Apple App Store and the developers would appreciate customer feedback to allow them to further improve the customer experience (see under the 'more' link in bottom of the app homepage).

# Boxfuls of rare documents lift lid on town's intriguing past



**R**are archive material documenting more than 500 years of a Fife town's fascinating history is being made widely accessible for the first time. People can gain intriguing insights into Kinghorn's eventful past now that archivists have catalogued two boxfuls of artefacts collected by a local dignitary.

The collection, which belonged to local history enthusiast Jimmie Edmiston, spans from 1478, when a royal decree established a hospital in the town, to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Included in the archive is a copy of a charter, signed by James III in 1611, confirming Kinghorn's royal burgh

status, and a duplicate of the earliest town plan drawn up in 1828.

As well as collecting artefacts, Mr Edmiston, who died in 2017 aged 95, kept pages of handwritten notes, gathered over a lifetime of local history research and giving talks. The former councillor's collection also features photographs of local people and landmarks – among them one that captures the unveiling of the monument to Alexander III in 1887. Archivists from the cultural charity OnFife have been working with Kinghorn Historical Society chairperson Ginny Reid to preserve the collection and help

place its contents in their wider context. Local history enthusiasts can gain insights into key events such as the coming of the railway, the loss of Kinghorn's ferries and the fortification of Inchkeith, begun in 1878. There are details too of the town's vanished industries, including its tannery, bottle works, golf club making factory and, on the eastern fringes of the parish, Inveriel brick works. Major construction projects are recorded as well, with references to the demolition

the Children's Gala. There are also insights into the formation of the Kinghorn Lifeboat service in 1965 and the creation of one of Scotland's first caravan sites, which began life as a camping ground in the 1930s.

OnFife Collections archivist Andrew Dowsey says the archive illustrates how diverse the history of small towns can be: "We get a real sense of how towns and burghs such as Kinghorn, although outward looking, were much more the centre of their own worlds than they are today."

The archive has been donated to OnFife by Ross Brown of Glenrothes, who is a grandson of Mr Edmiston. Also instrumental in transferring the collection to the OnFife archives was Kinghorn resident Roy Mackie. Mr Edmiston, who was born and raised in the town, was awarded an MBE in 1999 for his services to the local community.

**More than 500 years of a Fife town's fascinating history is being made widely accessible for the first time.**

and rebuilding of South Overgate in the 1960s and the arrival of new homes at Pettycur harbour in the 1990s.

## Historical curiosities abound

Among the collection is a transcript of hearth taxes imposed on local homes in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and valuation rolls from the 1920s, 30s and 60s. The archive mixes business with pleasure. Mundane accounts of drainage, sewage and rights of way contrast with exhilarating glimpses of musical shows, a pro-golf tournament and



## 2022 warmest year on record for Scotland



**2022** will see the highest annual average temperature across the UK, exceeding the previous record set in 2014 when the average was 9.88C. Since 1884, all the ten years recording the highest annual temperature have occurred from 2003. Dr Mark McCarthy is the head of the Met Office's National Climate Information Centre and said: "2022 is going to be the warmest year on record for the UK. While many will remember the summer's extreme heat, what has been noteworthy this year has been the relatively consistent heat through the year, with every month except December being warmer than average." In July Scotland recorded a new record of 34.8C whilst Scotland's annual mean temperature for 2022 was 8.50C, surpassing the previous record of 8.43C set in 2014.



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# Isle of Cumbrae Distillers



The team at Millport's Crocodile Rock.

**The Isle of Cumbrae Distillers is quite unique, being one of the few all-female owned distilleries in Scotland. How do you see women taking on a greater role in what is a male dominated drinks industry? Also do you think a female led business can offer something unique to the industry?**

We came into this business as one of the very few women owned distilleries. There are already quite a few women in the industry, but not necessarily owners. We all came in with a bit of age, except for one member of the team, we are all in our 50s and 60s and with no prior experience in the drinks industry. We come from quite diverse backgrounds and with a great deal of life and business experience but none in the gin industry.

There are a few exceptional women in the gin industry such as Hendrick's Gin Master Distiller Lesley Gracie. There is also a group of women in the Isle of Jura, which is certainly much more remote than Cumbrae, and there are three younger women running that distillery. We also represent the gin drinkers, if you look at the persona of a gin drinker it is mainly women who are 45-65, and we fit perfectly into that. I am not sure if I would say we are trailblazers because we are women in the industry, but we certainly are due to our age. At the end of the day, it does not matter if you are a man or a woman, in this industry you must have an angle to your enterprise in order to be successful.

Now we are also looking at a USA expansion and partnering with a US distillery to have our product available to the US market.

## The Female Scottish Gin Makers

**On Scotland's Ayrshire coast lies the Isle of Cumbrae, just a short ferry trip from Largs. A group of five international women have come together to create the islands first gin distillery called Isle of Cumbrae Distillers. Bronwyn Jenkins-Deas from the team spoke to the Scottish Banner on building a new business during the pandemic, how a women led business is contributing to the community and just why visitors to Scotland should be adding Cumbrae to their travel plans.**

**Think distilling in Scotland and most will think of whisky, however Scotland boasts around 100 gin distilleries and produces 70% of the UK's gin. What is it about this industry that excites you and what would you say sets Scottish gin apart from others?**

The industry in Scotland is very strong, I think the last take was about 106 gin distilleries in Scotland itself. There are benefits to being a gin distiller in Scotland rather than in other markets. For example, if we were distilling in British Columbia in Canada you could not operate a distillery unless you were actually fermenting the alcohol and there is a huge complex process that goes on to do that. The Scots look at things more efficiently and the vast majority of gin distillers in Scotland do not make their own alcohol and most use a central hub in England where they ferment alcohol and bring that fermented alcohol to Scotland.

Around 95% of Scottish gin makers are bringing in the fermented alcohol and then using their own botanicals and distilling in Scotland. The gin industry is very creative in Scotland, and we get to concentrate on that specifically. The industry is also quite wonderful in terms of supportiveness. We felt at the beginning we may be laughed off as frauds, but the exact opposite has happened, people have really supported us. People have loved our story and feel it is unique.

**The team behind the gin is quite international hailing from the UK, Canada and the USA. Can you tell us how all your roads collided to meet on Cumbrae?**

We all met at a bar and began chatting about having a distillery on the island. As the night went on the five of us were all excited about the prospect of the island having its very own distillery. We thought well it can't be that difficult and we have the time, let's do it! We then did a business plan, and each invested into the idea and began to move forward. Looking back, it was probably all a bit naïve because had we known what we were getting into we may not have kept pushing ahead.

**The idea of launching a gin brand grew from the need of Millport Town Hall being in desperate need of repair. The Isle of Cumbrae Distillers intends to give back to and support the local Millport community. Can you tell us more?**

What we are doing for our community is really what drives us. The Isle of Cumbrae may be Scotland's most accessible island but it is on the deprivation list, meaning it is so small that it cannot sustain industry. It relies 100% on tourism as it has so few businesses and having the distillery there has been a boom for the island.

The Town Hall in Millport was built in the 1800s but had closed in 2015. It has become derelict and repair costs need £3.2 million to restore. The distillery started as a way to help raise funds to support the campaign to save the historic building.



The Maura Gin label by artist Hope Blamire.



Millport.



Beautiful Cumbrae.

When we launched Restoration Gin, it was to celebrate the restoration of the Town Hall. A portion of all sales of restoration Gin goes back to supporting the Town Hall.

I am hoping we entice other businesses to come to the island and make a go of it and help build the islands economy and community.

**We came into this business as one of the very few women owned distilleries in Scotland.**

**You launched your first gin in 2020 while the world was grappling with the pandemic. Was the timing of the launch good or a challenge for the business?** We incorporated the business in October 2019 with all the best of intentions and then of course March 2020 changed the world. What was interesting about that however was it did work out to our benefit. It gave us time to learn the distilling process, how to run a business and learn about a very complex sales and marketing side that comes with the drinks industry. We were able to concentrate on how to start this business up. We did a great deal of work but also surrounded ourselves with people who could help us get it done.

For us, launching the business during the pandemic was not a bad thing. We even did a crowdfunding campaign which was pivotal for us and helped raise £25,000 and had it not been for the pandemic we would have not raised that money.

**Running a business on a Scottish island must be so very important for the local economy but also have its own unique set of challenges. Can you tell us what you and the team have had to overcome and learn about in becoming an island-based business?**

There are many challenges, but we are most dependant on the weather for the ferries. For example, our spirit can only go on one ferry a week that handles dangerous goods. Couriers can take days to collect something from us. Getting things such as bottles you pay a premium to get it and the logistics can be also quite complicated.

If you live on a small Scottish island there will always be 50% for you and 50% against you, and people were hedging bets if we were actually going to be successful. However, a few days before our launch virtually the entire island got behind us with all the pubs selling our gin. However, at our opening the island ran out of tonic!

The island really is now wholly behind us as they can see the value of the distillery. It has brought more visitors to the island and our goal is to help increased tourism. We are in an enviable position as most of us have retired and we are doing things a bit different than if we were just starting out. We want to create a legacy more than anything and creating employment for young islanders, because most leave as soon as they finish high school. So, we are trying to create new employment and skills opportunities. We want to make a significant contribution to the island, and I think we can do that.

**Along with the gin you have launched your very own tartans, what was that process like and how important is it for your brand to have a tartan?**

Of the five of us none of us are Scottish, but our husbands are. When we looked at the brand we did so with outside eyes. We thought what would we want to see, and we immediately felt tartan represented Scotland. We developed a tartan online and worked with an Edinburgh based company to get it print ready. We then reached out to the Scottish Register of Tartans and registered the Nostalgin and Maura tartans and will be registering our other tartans soon.

**The Isle of Cumbrae is regarded as Scotland's most accessible island to visit. Can you tell us what you love about the island and any suggestions for those who have yet to visit?**

Millport is a small place, and the entire island has a population of about 1,200 people. It really is Scotland's most accessible island; it is only 8 minutes by ferry from Largs. You do not even need a car to come here. The island is about 10 miles around so you can walk or cycle it with ease.

I can absolutely say for Americans and Canadians it is an easy place to visit as they are used to driving on the other side of the road. You can come here quite easily by public transportation and not need to worry about driving. From Glasgow it is only 45 minutes to Largs so makes for a really easy day trip.

Cumbrae is called the island of a thousand bicycles because the island is so flat, and we have bike hire facilities. It takes around 2 hours to cycle around the island.



**Artist Hope Blamire**

**M**eeet Hope Blamire, the Maura Gin label artist, a celebrated Scottish painter (and self-described gin enthusiast!), whose vibrant artwork captures the coastal landscapes and glistening waters of the West Coast of Scotland. Her artwork is featured in galleries and shops across the UK, and in homes throughout the world. Born in Ayrshire, Hope studied Illustration and Printmaking at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee. She lived in France, Canada, Egypt, and Malawi, where she taught art before returning the UK. Hope now lives in Bath with her husband and sons, but her 'spiritual' home will always be the West Coast of Scotland. She is a highly regarded and exceptionally talented artist, a passionate campaigner for responsible tourism and a champion fund-raiser for several important causes.

*Learn more at: [www.hopeblamire.com](http://www.hopeblamire.com)*

We have beautiful bays and lovely beaches around the island and on a nice day it offers great views of the Isle of Arran and Bute. We also have the smallest cathedral in the UK, the Cathedral of the Isles is in Millport and was built in the 1800s by the Earl of Glasgow and is absolutely beautiful.

*For more information about the Isle of Cumbrae Distillers visit: [www.isleofcumbrae-distillers.com](http://www.isleofcumbrae-distillers.com)*



Championing traditional distillation methods.

# Stella – A Scottish Cinderella takes international best drama film award



Photos: Innerwell Media.

were no glass slippers or fairy godmother. Jessica said: "I never liked the story of *Cinderella* - her fairy godmother, the glass slippers or the fuss of the ball - until I heard the older folk versions. In these stories, *Cinderella* has no magical transformation. Instead, she flees her kingdom to find safety in another. She takes on a new name and identity. As a grandchild of holocaust survivors, who had to flee their homes, find new identities and keep only what they could carry, this *Cinderella* resonated. She wasn't the fairy tale archetype, an epitome of goodness waiting to be rescued; she was a refugee, a survivor, heroic. This *Cinderella*, her story, was one I wanted to tell and one that is relevant to so many people forced to flee their homes today."

Originally from the USA where her career included being a storyteller for NASA, Jessica moved to south-west Scotland where she has found success in TV, theatre, film and literature – her book *Three Things You Need to Know About Rockets* is being developed as a TV series by Endeavor Content. With *Stella* she wanted not only to create a compelling film blending historical reality with an ancient folk tale, but to celebrate the wealth of talent that exists in Scotland and Galloway.

Other members of the cast have praised the film and the story it tells. Susan Vidler, who plays Lady Rig, said: "This is a wonderful new take on the *Cinderella* story and I'm delighted to have been involved in a project that celebrates a young woman's resilience and the power of love in the face of the evil that was overwhelming Europe and threatened the world. We need stories of this kind right now - perhaps more than at any time since the Second World War. It was also a real privilege to be part of the remarkable community which came together to create this film."

The project was led by an entirely female production team and was also certified as a green production.

**No international film release information is yet available. You can follow Stella on Twitter and Instagram @stellathemovie or see: [www.stellathemovie.com](http://www.stellathemovie.com).**



Jessica Fox.

and the fascists and she must subvert her true identity in order to survive. At the same time, she befriends a young poet, Will, who is trespassing on the Rig's land for the summer, living in a hut near Rig Bay.

They form an immediate, deep romance. Will is determined to marry her, but when the Rig's host a party to celebrate Oswald Mosley's arrival, their eldest son returns home for the occasion ... it turns out to be Will. Stella's true identity is discovered, and she has to choose between her old life or her new one. Gary Lewis, who lives in the region and whose credits include playing Colum MacKenzie in *Outlander*, said: "It was a joy to be a part of this film – the story is great, the location is stunning and everything else, from the camera work to the music, was excellent. *Stella* tells the story of a young German woman stranded in Scotland as the Nazis rise to power in Germany. The difficulties she faces echo those of desperate people today; refugees and asylum seekers trying to escape many horrors. Isolated and terrified for the fate of her family, she then encounters supporters of the Nazi's racist ideology."

The beautiful period drama, in which Edinburgh actor Oli Fyne plays Stella Deutch and Louis Hall is Will (the young man she falls in love with) is as relevant for today's world as it is to the 1930s and 1940s. Oli said: "I was drawn to the character of Stella immediately. It's still rare to have a strong female protagonist in a period drama, and that really excited me.

Stella is strong in the authentic sense of the word, inherently flawed and brave in the face of struggle. Stella's struggles with her mental health resonate deeply with me, as well as her fears of coming of age in a world that feels constantly insecure and unstable. I also share her love and passion for music, nature, and family. Embodying Stella and working with Jessica was a dream come true. It's such fantastic and poignant project and I am thrilled to have been a part of it."

## Cinderella without the glass slippers

Writer and director Jessica Fox, who lives in Wigtown and is the granddaughter of holocaust survivors, said: "To have been named Best Drama at the international film festival where *Stella* had its world premiere was beyond our wildest dreams. And now we've been nominated for Montreal's Independent Film Festival we hope to bring it to a much wider audience in the near future."

While *Stella* is described as an adaptation of *Cinderella*, the inspiration is from the early versions in which there

**A** new Scottish feature film about a German Jewish refugee who finds herself working in a stately home belonging to aristocratic supporters of fascist leader Oswald Mosely has won an international Best Drama award. *Stella*, inspired by *Cinderella*, took the award at the Melech Tel-Aviv International Film Festival where it had its world premiere. And it has now been nominated for the Montreal Independent Film Festival – one of the most popular events of its kind. The makers of the film, which features Gary Lewis, Susan Vidler, Richard Hansell and Rufus Wright, are also in negotiation for UK distribution.

## Beautiful period drama

Set in 1937 and filmed at Galloway House, it highlights a lesser known and dark moment in Scottish history – when Dumfries and Galloway became one of the main centres of support for Mosley and his British Union of Fascists. It is 1937 and Stella, a 20-year-old student at Oxford, has lost touch with her parents in Germany. She finds herself homeless and penniless but through the help of a school friend, lands a job as the German tutor at the House of Rig in Southwest Scotland. The Rig Family, Stella quickly learns, supports Oswald Mosley



Galloway House.



Oli Fyne and Louis Hall.

# The Land of the Gordons

By: Charlie Mill

Very highly regarded in Scotland's historical journals and extremely enchanting as a retreat in its hollow in the hills lies the picturesque town of Huntly in the Aberdeenshire countryside, the capital of the old lordship of Strathbogie and a possession of the Gordon family for nearly seven centuries. The locality undoubtedly assumed its inception from the neighbourhood of the age-old castle of Strathbogie (which would become known as Huntly Castle in 1506), was constructed during the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Primarily owned by members of the eminent Comyn family the castle, with its expansive estates, was forfeited for the part taken by the family in the Wars of Independence. The castle and its properties were wholly assigned by King Robert the Bruce to Sir Adam de Gordon for his staunch, patriotic support throughout these hostilities, whereupon the Gordons uprooted their original Scottish seat in Berwickshire and moved north to Huntly. Some years later and for continued loyalty to the State, Sir Adam's great-great-grandson was made Earl of Huntly. His son, the second Earl, wed Annabella, the daughter of King James 1, and the Gordons soon became the most powerful and influential family in the North.

## Warring factions

Two separate events which occurred at Huntly Castle present a graphic imprint of the character of those bygone days. During the many troubles with warring factions, the story arises of the Mackintosh chief who incomprehensibly burned the Gordon stronghold of Auchindown to the west of Huntly. Later, having second thoughts, and realising his clan was in serious danger of annihilation by the Gordons, Mackintosh was humbled to beg forgiveness and a hopeful truce. So, selecting an occasion when he knew the Earl wouldn't be at home, Mackintosh appeared at Huntly Castle and was met in the courtyard by the countess, whom he hoped would consider his compassionate plea which would help cushion the anger of her husband.

Included among his many apologies he mentioned the fact that he would be more than willing to even lay his own head on the block in order to save his clan. It so happened they were standing close to the block on which the cook was breaking up a carcass for the kitchen and, pointing to it, the countess said she would believe him when she saw him do it! Considering in some way to convince her and little realising she would take him at his word, Mackintosh knelt down and placed his head on the wooden block.

Immediately Lady Huntly nodded to the cook, who swiftly raised his meat cleaver and separated the luckless chief's head from his body!

## Children of the Trough

On another occasion, the Earl of Huntly was frowning greatly on the neighbouring Clan Farquharson of the Dee Valley having found himself with a large group of Farquharson orphans on his hands. The Earl took the children under his wing and looked after them well at Huntly Castle, but realised they needed individual love and homes to benefit their future lives, so he set up a little drama to persuade the visiting Laird to a gallery over the great hail, the Earl indicating a large trough below which was filled with chopped-up meat. At a pre-arranged signal, a grating was raised and in rushed the crowd of naked children, screaming and fighting for the repugnant meat as though they had been starved for days! Appalled, the Laird of



Huntly Castle. Photo: VisitScotland/Damian Shields.

Grant beseeched his host that the children should be given to him. He took them all home and apportioned them among the families of his own clansmen.

For generations afterwards their descendants were known as the "Children of the Trough". Nowadays, during the season, Huntly provides first-rate angling for the many visitors, with the Deveron,

Bogie, Isla and other streams open to the public. In fact, for river trout some of the town's stretches of the Deveron are hardly eclipsed in the whole country.

Whether it's down to clean living or the fresh Highland air, some idea of the wholesome fitness of the town may be gathered from the fact that the death rate last century was only 13 per 1000!

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# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

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

1 - Alexander Selkirk, a sailor from Lower Largo, Fife, rescued after four years on the island of Juan Fernandez, 400 miles off the coast of Chile; his story inspired Daniel Defoe to write *Robinson Crusoe*. **1708**

1 - Author Muriel Spark born. She is most well known as the author of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, written in 1961, a touching and funny portrait of an individual and eccentric Edinburgh teacher during the inter-war period, and the effect she has on her pupils. **1918**

2 - Feast and legal Quarter Day of Candlemass.

2 - James I married Lady Jane Beaufort, daughter of the Earl of Somerset, in London. **1424**

2 - Battle of Inverlochy, one of the Duke of Montrose's victories over the Covenanters, killing 1,300. **1645**

2 - Birth of James Chalmers in Arbroath - he devised the adhesive postage stamp. **1782**

2 - Novelist Alistair Maclean died. His books *The Guns of Navarone*, *Ice Station Zebra* and *Where Eagles Dare* were made into films. **1987**

3 - General Monck's regiment entered London, having marched from Coldstream in the borders. The regiment kept order during the period of the restoration of Charles II. It continued as a standing regiment of the British Army, becoming known as the Coldstream Guards. **1660**

4 - Charles II proclaimed king in Edinburgh - but not in England. **1649**

4 - Prince James Francis Stuart, the Old Pretender, left Scotland after a stay of only three weeks, effectively bringing the first Jacobite Uprising to an end. **1716**



4 - Honours of Scotland put on display in Edinburgh Castle after being rediscovered by Sir Walter Scott. The jewels consist of a sword, crown and sceptre. The three items were first used together during the coronation of Mary, Queen of Scots and last used for the coronation of Charles II in 1651. During the Second World War, they were hidden in different parts of Edinburgh Castle in case of German invasion. **1818**

5 - John Witherspoon, clergyman, writer, President of Princeton University 1768-94, signatory to American Declaration of Independence 1776, born in Gifford, East Lothian. **1723**

5 - John Boyd Dunlop, who patented the first practical pneumatic tyre, born Ayrshire. **1846**

5 - Writer and historian Thomas Carlyle died in London. **1881**

5 - *SS Politician* ran aground on Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides during gale worse winds, creating the basis for Sir Compton MacKenzie's novel *Whisky Galore*. **1941**

6 - Queen Anne, last of the Stuart monarchs, born. **1665**

6 - King Charles II, the "merry monarch" died. His last words to his brother James were "Don't let poor Nellie starve" - a reference to his favourite mistress, Nell Gwynne. **1685**

6 - Representation of the people Act received Royal assent, granting votes to women over the age of 30. **1918**

6 - King George VI dies and Queen Elizabeth II becomes monarch. **1952**

7 - Battle at Glenfruin when the MacGregors slaughtered a number of Colquhouns - the origins of the banning of the MacGregor name. **1603**

7 - The Old Pretender's Jacobite army disbanded at Aberdeen, ending the 1715 uprising. Thirty years later his son, Charles, would try again to recapture the throne for the Stuarts. **1716**

7 - 12,000 players and spectators descended on the frozen Lake of Menteith for Scotland's only outdoor curling tournament, known as the Bonspiel or the Grand Match. **1979**

8 - A contingent of a thousand Scots, commanded by the brothers John and William Stuart, headed to the relief of the beleaguered French garrison at Orleans. The expedition ended in disaster when the force was defeated by the English at Rouvray Saint Denis and both Stuarts were killed. **1429**

8 - Mary Queen of Scots beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle after nearly 20 years of imprisonment. At the time of her death, Mary was 44 and had outlived three husbands. **1587**

9 - Gordon McQueen, 25-year-old Scotland central defender, becomes Britain's first £500,000 footballer in a transfer from Leeds United to Manchester United. **1978**

9 - John Noble, co-founder of Loch Fyne Oysters and Loch Fyne Restaurants died. It began as an umbrella and a trestle table and then transferred to a cowshed. Soon the venture became a restaurant, and then evolved into a chain of oyster bars. **2002**

10 - Robert the Bruce murdered John 'Red' Comyn in Dumfries. Bruce met Red Comyn at the old Greyfriars Church and killed him at the high altar and Bruce began his bid for the throne. **1306**

10 - Lord Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, assassinated. **1567**

10 - Death of Lord Joseph Lister, pioneer of surgery and antiseptic at the University of Glasgow and Glasgow and Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. **1912**

11 - Coldest temperature ever recorded in Scotland, -27.2 (-16.96F) at Braemar. **1895**

11 - Author and politician John Buchan died in Canada. **1940**

11 - Tolls are removed from the Erskine Bridge, the Tay Road Bridge, and the Forth Road Bridge. These bridges were the last three remaining toll bridges in Scotland. **2008**

12 - George Heriot, goldsmith to King James VI and founder of Heriot's School, died. The school was originally founded as Heriot's Hospital, Edinburgh. He is thought to be the inspiration for the character, Georgie Heriot, in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Fortunes of Nigel*. **1624**

12 - Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the world-wide savings bank movement, died near Ruthwell. **1846**

13 - Kenneth MacAlpin, King of Dalriada and the Picts, died at Forteviot. **858**

13 - Massacre of 38 of the Clan Macdonald by government order at Glencoe. **1692**



13 - Scottish Youth Hostel Association formed. **1931**

14 - Mary Queen of Scots meets Lord Darnley for the first time. They married in July 1565. **1565**

14 - Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone (Patent 174461). Two hours after it was lodged, his rival, Elisha Gray, applied for a similar patent. Bell's was granted. **1876**

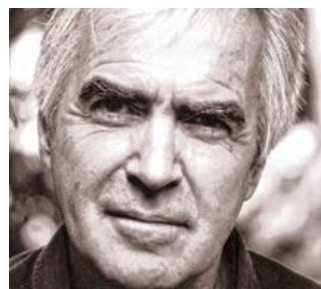


14 - Dolly the sheep died. Dolly was a female domestic sheep, and the first cloned mammal (at the Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh) ever to be created from an adult cell, her birth was of huge excitement both to the scientific world and to the public. **2003**

15 - The Caledonian Railway company opened. The Caledonian Railway ran trains from London to Glasgow and was in fierce competition with the Edinburgh based North British Railway. **1848**

15 - Decimal currency introduced, abandoning 12 pennies to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound. **1971**

16 - Government forces under Lord Loudon attempted to capture Prince Charles Edward Stewart at Moy Hall. **1746**



16 - Scottish actor, author and artist John Cairney was born in Glasgow. Best known for his one-man shows on Robert Burns, Cairney also starred in BBC's *This Man Craig* and films *A Night to Remember*, *Cleopatra* and *Jason and the Argonauts*. **1930**

16 - Scottish crime and science fiction writer Iain Banks was born in Dunfermline, Fife. He was named one of The 50 greatest British writers since 1945 and sadly Banks died from cancer on June 9, 2013. **1954**

17 - King James V passed a law which recognised Scotland's gipsies. **1540**

17 - James Renwick, last Covenanter to be executed. **1688**



18 - Glasgow's Queen Street train station opened. Originally called Glasgow Dundas Street the station was built by Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway to link the thriving city of Glasgow to the nation's capital. The station and line took four years to build. A £120m redevelopment recently took place to see the station into the future. **1842**

19 - James Douglas retook Roxburgh Castle and razed it to the ground. The Black Douglas, as he was known, and sixty men gained access to the castle by climbing the castle walls using hooked scaling ladders. **1314**

20 - King James I murdered in Perth by a group led by Sir Robert Graham. **1437**

20 - Orkney and Shetland annexed from Norway. **1472**

20 - Gordon Brown, former UK Prime Minister (2007-2010), born in Giffnock, Renfrewshire. **1951**

21 - Intercity railway between Glasgow and Edinburgh opened by Queen Victoria. **1842**

21 - Eric Liddell, *Chariots of Fire* athlete, winner of 1924 Olympics 400 metres, died in Japanese internment camp in China. **1945**

22 - David II died at Edinburgh Castle. **1371**

22 - King Robert II crowned. **1371**

23 - Battle of Roslin in which a Scots army of 8,000, led by Sir Simon Fraser, Sinclair of Rosslyn and the Red Comyn, surprised an English army of 30,000 led by Sir John Seagrave and defeated them. **1303**

23 - James Herriot (pen name of James Alfred Wight), author of *All Creatures Great and Small*, died aged 78. **1995**



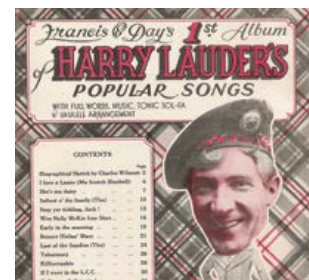
24 - Steam train, the *Flying Scotsman* went into service with London and North Eastern Railway (LNER), on the London (King's Cross) to Edinburgh route. The train was the first and the first to reach speeds of 100 mph. **1923**

24 - Footballer Denis Law who played for Manchester United and Scotland, born. **1940**

25 - Bishop Henry Wardlaw established St Andrews as a university although it was not officially inaugurated until 4 February 1414 when a Bull of Foundation was promulgated by Pope Benedict XIII. **1412**

26 - Philip van der Straten, a Fleming, was granted Scots naturalisation and set up a factory in Kelso, thus starting the Border woollen industry. **1672**

26 - Robert Watson Watt demonstrated radar for the first time. **1935**



26 - Entertainer and singer/song writer Sir Harry Lauder died. Lauder had become the highest-paid performer in the world and was the first British artist to sell a million records. **1950**

27 - Battle of Ancrum Moor in which Scottish forces, led by Earl of Douglas, defeated an English army twice their size. **1545**

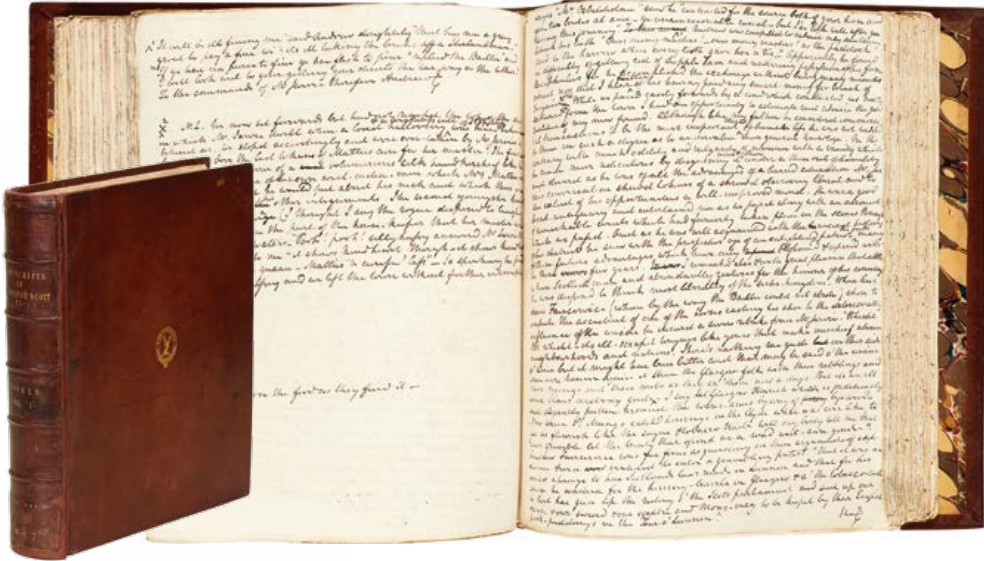
28 - Second National Covenant signed in Greyfriars Churchyard. The document was a direct response to Charles I's attempts to introduce a Book of Common Prayer across the whole of Britain, as Presbyterians were incensed that the General Assembly had not been consulted. **1638**

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

29 - The famous Glasgow theatre, The Pavilion, celebrated its opening performance. **1904**



# Rob Roy manuscript goes on display for first time



**F**or the first time in at least a century, members of the public will get to see the manuscript of *Rob Roy*. Written in the hand of Sir Walter Scott, the manuscript will be on display at the *Treasures of the National Library of Scotland* exhibition from March 2023. The manuscript was among the many literary treasures that were held in a private collection called the Honresfield Library. Formed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by mill owner William Law, the Honresfield Library's contents were kept hidden from all but a few scholars until now. The items were due to be sold at auction in 2021.

Fearing the items would be returned to private hands and possibly overseas, the library's contents were purchased by a UK-wide consortium of organisations a year ago following an international

fundraising campaign, and renamed the Blavatnik Honresfield Library in tribute to its majority donor.

The manuscript of *Rob Roy* is one of the items that came to the National Library via this UK-wide acquisition of materials. Manuscripts Curator Ralph McLean, who worked with partners in securing this acquisition said: "William Law formed a fairly close relationship with the Scott family, and was able to buy material from them directly. This is how the manuscript *Rob Roy* came to be in his private collection. The manuscript wasn't always in the Scott family's possession however – its ownership tended to depend on how wealthy they were at any given time. When Sir Walter Scott and his business partners encountered financial difficulties after the crash of 1826 a number of his

manuscripts were later auctioned off to reduce the debt incurred. *Rob Roy* was sold, but was eventually bought back by Scott's son-in-law John Gibson Lockhart, and returned to the Scott family in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. However once again, the family fell on hard times, and it was purchased by William Law and added to his private library."

## Rob Roy MacGregor

*Rob Roy* was published in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the first run making up 10,000 copies which is a huge number for that time. Scott was still publishing anonymously, but the book was marketed as 'written by the author of the Waverley novels'. As these novels were extremely popular, *Rob Roy* sold out immediately. One of Scott's most popular novels, it has never been out of print in the 200 plus years since it was first published.

Ralph McLean adds: "What's interesting is that Rob Roy himself isn't a central character in the novel – he only appears sporadically throughout. It was actually Scott's publisher who suggested the title. The depiction of Rob Roy MacGregor as a character in the novel undoubtedly added to the myths surrounding this person, as has subsequent depictions since in various media. We expect this will be one of the star attractions at our Treasures exhibition next year."

*Treasures of the National Library of Scotland is on at George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, and open Monday to Saturday. Entry is free.*

## Europe's oldest elm falls after over 800 years in the Scottish Highlands



**A**n ancient tree in Beauly, just outside Inverness, believed to be the oldest elm in Europe has fallen on the grounds of Beauly Priory. The Beauly elm, an ancient Wych (Scots) elm and regarded as the only native elm to the UK, was more than 800 years old and considered the oldest in Europe. Recently the tree has been ravaged by Dutch elm disease, a fungal infection spread by tiny bark beetles.

The tree was the last survivor of an avenue of elms and had less than five per cent living material but remained an iconic sculptural element. The tree fell in January during a Highland cold snap.



The most northerly point on the Scottish mainland.

**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) Which is Scotland's oldest university  
a) Glasgow, b) St Andrews or c) Aberdeen?
- 2) Who wrote *The Master Of Ballantrae*?
- 3) Which battle saw the death of "Bonnie Dundee," John Graham of Claverhouse?
- 4) Where in Scotland was J. M. Barrie, the creator of *Peter Pan*, born?
- 5) What is clapshot?
- 6) In which year was the Tay Bridge Disaster with the loss of 75 lives?  
a) 1875, h) 1877 or c) 1879?
- 7) What is the most northerly point on the Scottish mainland?

- 8) Which building once stood on the site of the Heart of Midlothian?
- 9) Where does the annual Up Helly Aa ceremony take place?
- 10) On which Scottish island did Bonnie Prince Charlie land at the start of the 1745 Jacobite Uprising?

### Answers

- 1) b) St Andrews.
- 2) Robert Louis Stevenson.
- 3) The Battle of Killiecrankie, 1689.
- 4) Kirriemuir.
- 5) Mashed potato and turnip.
- 6) c) 1879.
- 7) Dunnet Head.
- 8) The Tolbooth Prison.
- 9) In the Shetland Isles.
- 10) Eriskay.

# WELCOME TO THE CLAN.

At the heart of every clan is a sense of belonging – being part of something bigger.

Deliciously smooth, rich and warm; Clan Fraser Reserve represents centuries of tradition. Made from a unique blend of the finest Scottish Single Malt and Grain Whiskies, our Scotch carries the spirit of Scottish hospitality.

Now available at [www.clanfraserreserve.com](http://www.clanfraserreserve.com) and selected fine shops in America. Imported from Scotland by Locoworks LLC, Pueblo West, CO



# WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

Enjoy North America's top Scottish event listings in the Scottish Banner. Please check direct with event contacts for the most up to date information. You can also see our latest updates (including events listed across Scotland and Australasia) or add your event at: [www.scottishbanner.com/events](http://www.scottishbanner.com/events)

## Canada

### FEBRUARY 2023

#### Mid-Winter Celtic Festival 4, Regina, SK

Includes displays and information from local Celtic groups, the Mid-Winter Ceilidh and Celtic Workshops. Info: [www.crbp.org/mwcf](http://www.crbp.org/mwcf)

#### Edmonton Caledonian's 51st Workshop & Ball 10-12, Edmonton, AB

Scottish country dance events at Chateau Lacombe Hotel. Info: [www.rscdsedmonton.com](http://www.rscdsedmonton.com)

#### Great Canadian Kilt Skate – Brampton 11, Brampton, ON

Put on some tartan and join on the ice as we celebrate Scottish culture and heritage in true Canadian fashion. Info: [www.kiltskate.com](http://www.kiltskate.com)

#### Paris Port Dover Pipe Band HaggisFest 2023 11, St George, ON

Scottish music, Haggis dinner, bar, entertainment at Memorial Hall, 34 Main St S. Info: [www.pdpb.com](http://www.pdpb.com)

#### Great Canadian Kilt Skate-Calgary 12, Calgary, AB

The Great Canadian Kilt Skate is back in Calgary. After two years of Covid cancellations, we're returning to Olympic Plaza as part of the final day celebrations of the Calgary Chinook Winter Blast festival at Olympic Plaza. Info: [www.kiltskate.com](http://www.kiltskate.com)

#### Great Canadian Kilt Skate – Québec City 19, Québec, QC

The first ever Great Canadian Kilt Skate to be held in Québec City. The Great Canadian Kilt Skate gives everyone a chance to celebrate their inner Scot. You don't need a kilt, just wear a bit of tartan and join for the fun. Info: [www.kiltskate.com](http://www.kiltskate.com)

#### Monthly Cèilidh – Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto 17, Virtual event

Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto is inviting you to a Zoom Cèilidh. Join us to speak and learn Gaelic, enjoy cultural fun and activities, share a story, song or dance and help grow our Gaelic community together. Info: [gaelictoronto@gmail.com](mailto:gaelictoronto@gmail.com) or [www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html](http://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html)

#### Great Canadian Kilt Skate – Ottawa 19, Ottawa, ON

Ottawa's 9th Annual Great Canadian Kilt Skate at Lansdowne Park Skating Court, near the Aberdeen Pavilion. You don't need a kilt. You don't need to be Scottish. Bring your inner Scot by wearing a bit of Canada's favourite colour: tartan! Info: [www.kiltskate.com](http://www.kiltskate.com)

#### Vancouver Ceilidh 24, Vancouver, BC

At the Scottish Cultural Centre Free lesson 7pm-7:45 Dancing 8pm to 10:30pm, Admission \$15 for adults, \$10 for students. Everyone welcome, no experience or partner required. Loads of fun and live music too with the resident Ceilidh Band Calanais. Info: [www.vancouverceilidh.org](http://www.vancouverceilidh.org)

#### Intro to Curling Social 25, Toronto, ON

If you have always wanted to try curling, this is the event for you! The session is open to the public and all experience levels are welcome. It will feature a combination of instruction and play. There will be drinks after the on-ice session to raise a glass with teammates and new friends at the High Park Club, 100 Indian Rd. Info: [www.standrewstoronto.ca](http://www.standrewstoronto.ca)

#### Ottawa Highland Dancing Association February Competition Weekend 25-26, Ottawa, ON

In the Nation's Capital Saturday February 25, 2023: Open Pre-Premier & Premier Competition. Sunday February 26, 2023: Choreography Competition. Info: [www.ohda.ca](http://www.ohda.ca)

#### Great Canadian Kilt Skate – Winnipeg 26, Winnipeg, MB

Don your full kilt and regalia, or slap on a bit of tartan, but join in celebrating Scotland's contribution to Manitoba's multicultural mosaic at The Duck Pond, Assiniboine Park. Info: [www.kiltskate.com](http://www.kiltskate.com)

#### Great Canadian Kilt Skate – Fergus 26, Fergus, ON

The Great Canadian Kilt Skate gives everyone a chance to celebrate their inner Scot. You don't need a kilt, just wear a bit of tartan and join for the fun at Centre Wellington Sportsplex. Info: [www.kiltskate.com](http://www.kiltskate.com)

### MARCH 2023

#### Monthly Cèilidh – Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto 17, Virtual event

Comunn Gàidhlig Toronto is inviting you to a Zoom Cèilidh. Join us to speak and learn Gaelic, enjoy cultural fun and activities, share a story, song or dance and help grow our Gaelic community together. Info: [gaelictoronto@gmail.com](mailto:gaelictoronto@gmail.com) or [www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html](http://www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com/friday-night-ceilidh.html)

#### West End (Toronto) SCD Workshop 25, Toronto, ON

Scottish Country Dance workshop and tea dance includes two morning classes, lunch, tea dance & light refreshments. Minimum age 14 yrs. Guest teachers from London, U.K. and Ottawa, Ontario will each teach a basic class and a challenging class with local musicians providing music at Humberwood Community Centre, 850 Humberwood Blvd. Etobicoke. Option of attending tea dance only. Pre-registration required. Visit <http://dancescottish.ca/whats-On-Near.html> for more information about class structure, teachers and fees.

#### 25th Annual Lethbridge Scottish Country Dancers Workshop & Ball 31-April 2, Lethbridge, AB

Lethbridge SCD will now celebrate their 40th anniversary and 25th workshop and ball at Lethbridge Signature Sandman Inn, 320 Scenic Dr. Info: [www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org](http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org)

## USA

### FEBRUARY 2023

#### Tenth Annual Celtic Family Jamboree 3-4, Brookesville, FL

Celtic music, workshops, Highland athletics demo, Celtic merchandise and more at the Rustic Sertoma Youth Ranch, 85 Myers Rd. Info: [www.celticheritageproductions.com/fj.htm](http://www.celticheritageproductions.com/fj.htm)

#### MacMillan Pipe Band Live 4, Germantown MD

Enjoy a 2-hour performance by the award-winning MacMillan Pipe Band at BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Dr. Info: [www.blackrockcenter.org/event-details/an-tilleadh-with-the-macmillan-pipe-band-1](http://www.blackrockcenter.org/event-details/an-tilleadh-with-the-macmillan-pipe-band-1)

#### Great Kilt Skate New Hampshire 2023 5, Concord, NH

Show your pride in Scottish culture by skating in kilts, tartans and other Scottish regalia at the skating pond at White Park. Info: [www.kiltskate.com](http://www.kiltskate.com)

#### Tallahassee Highland Games 11-12, Tallahassee, FL

Featuring multiple All American Highland Games qualifiers, All American Highland Games Caber Toss Championship, Scottish heritage activities, music, dance, food, fun for the kids and more. Info: [www.tallyhighlandgames.com](http://www.tallyhighlandgames.com)

#### Asheville Celtic Fest 18, Asheville, NC

A winter indoor Celtic Festival bringing the Celtic spirit of the Seven Nations to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, will be held inside of the Davis Center at the WNC Agricultural Center. Info: [www.ashevillecelticfest.com](http://www.ashevillecelticfest.com)

#### The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, Intercontinental Solo Drumming Championship 18, Dunedin, FL

Hosted by the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association and supported by Dunedin Scottish Arts Foundation at Dunedin Community Centre. Info: [www.dunedinscottisharts.com](http://www.dunedinscottisharts.com)

#### Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival 18-19, Mount Dora, FL

Celebrate the Scottish Culture in Mount Dora with bagpipers, Highland Athletics, Celtic music, dancing, Society and Heritage Clan Village, Shortbread Contest, and more. Info: [www.mountdorascot.com](http://www.mountdorascot.com)

#### Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival 25, Green Cove Springs, FL

Enjoy the athletics, music, food and fun of the Highland Games and a "Wee Bit o' Scotland" to the Northeast Florida area at Clay County Fairgrounds. Info: [www.neflgames.com](http://www.neflgames.com)

#### Red Hot Chili Pipers Live 25-March 11, Various venues

Bagrock with attitude in Maine, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. Info: [www.rhpc.scot](http://www.rhpc.scot)

### MARCH 2023

#### Phoenix Scottish Games 3-5, Gilbert, AZ

Scotland Returns to the Desert at Gilbert Regional Park, 3005 E. Queen Creek Rd. Info: [www.phoenixscottishgames.com](http://www.phoenixscottishgames.com)

#### South Florida Scottish Festival and Highland Games 4, Plantation, FL

Includes pipe bands, Clans, ceilidh, Celtic entertainment and more at Plantation Heritage Park. Info: [www.sassf.org](http://www.sassf.org)

#### 37th Annual Calaveras Celtic Faire 10-12, Angels Camp CA

A celebration of Celtic culture, music, events and more at Calaveras County Fairgrounds. Info: [www.calaverascelticfaire.com](http://www.calaverascelticfaire.com)

#### St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival 11-12, St Augustine FL

St. Augustine, Florida is America's oldest Celtic city, experience top international & U.S. Celtic bands, Highland games, parade, whiskey tasting, workshops, lectures, Celtic food and more at Francis Field, 29 W. Castillo Dr. Info: [www.celticstaugustine.com](http://www.celticstaugustine.com)

#### Sherman Celtic Festival and Highland Games 25-26, Sherman, TX

A family-friendly event featuring some of the best music, dance, and athletic performers at Pecan Grove West Park, 3200 Canyon Creek Dr. Info: [www.shermancelticfest.com](http://www.shermancelticfest.com)

#### Tartan Day South 30-April 2, Cayce, SC

Honors the Celtic culture and heritage in South Carolina's Midlands region. Info: [www.tartandaysouth.com](http://www.tartandaysouth.com)

## Scotland

### FEBRUARY 2023

#### Edinburgh in the 1920s: Historical Photos 1, Edinburgh

Using archive material which documents aspects of 1920s Edinburgh, take a tour on a charabanc to look at life in the city at City Art Centre, 2 Market St. Info: [www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/venue/city-art-centre](http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/venue/city-art-centre)

#### The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra in Concert 4, Perth

The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, joined by the RAF Central Scotland Pipes & Drums are delighted to be returning to Perth Concert Hall. They have a fantastic show lined up, including some favourite sets loved by our regular patrons - traditional music at its best, played by wonderful musicians who return by popular demand to provide an evening of lively entertainment including traditional marches, strathspeys, jigs & reels, guaranteed to get your feet tapping. Info: [www.horsecross.co.uk](http://www.horsecross.co.uk)

#### Sabhal Mor Ostaig @ 50 4, Glasgow

Sabhal Mor Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, celebrates 50 Years of being at the heart of Gaelic Music and Culture. This special concert features an array of stars from across the Scottish traditional music scene at the Old Fruitmarket. Info: [www.glasgowconcert halls.com](http://www.glasgowconcert halls.com)

#### The National Piping Centre's Adult Gathering 6-19, Glasgow

The National Piping Centre's Adult Gatherings return for the first of four events across the year. You can join these schools in person or online, so you can get tuition from the world's best, wherever you are across the globe! Info: [www.thepipingcentre.co.uk](http://www.thepipingcentre.co.uk)

#### SPECTRA Festival 9-13, Aberdeen

SPECTRA, Scotland's Festival of Light returns to light up the winter nights with installations, projections and sculptures, as well as returning home to Union Terrace Gardens for the first time in five years. Info: [www.spectrafestival.co.uk](http://www.spectrafestival.co.uk)

#### The National Piping Centre's Annual Junior Piping Competition 18, Glasgow

This annual event, held at The National Piping Centre, celebrates the best in young piping, from all pipers aged Under 18. Info: [www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/play/competitions/npc-junior-competition](http://www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/play/competitions/npc-junior-competition)

#### Scottish Country Dance Winter School 2023 19-24, Pitlochry

Taking place over five days in the Scottish town of Pitlochry, Winter School attracts around 150 dancers from the UK, continental Europe, North America, and Australasia. Attendees enjoy a 4-star stay in the Atholl Palace Hotel, with a range of classes, social dances, tours and, of course, the famous ball at Blair Castle. Info: [www.rscds.org/events/winter-school-2023](http://www.rscds.org/events/winter-school-2023)

### Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
7 Captain	1 Dancers
8 Fly Leaf	2 Stun
10 Achnasheen	3 Jigsaw
11 Ness	4 Clannish
12 Broadway	5 Glen Eagles
14 Italic	6 Parsnip
15 Blair Atholl	9 New Years Day
19 Megrim	13 Auld Reekie
20 Scotsman	16 Immortal
22 Sty	17 Central
23 Reasonable	18 Sailors
25 Capital	21 Odours
26 Primary	24 Arms

## Jarlshof story translated into Shaetlan



It's a truly inclusive step to take and as a linguist engaged in documenting, describing and mapping languages of the world, I thoroughly applaud your hospitable and welcoming stance."

### Champion the use of Shaetlan

The initiative at Jarlshof developed following an informal gathering of groups and organisations interested in Shetland's heritage at the Shetland Museum and Archives which was hosted by the Shetland Amenity Trust and following this I Hear Dee began working alongside members of the site staff at Jarlshof and wider HES staff including their interpretation team, to translate the site materials. Roy Mullay, co-investigator at I Hear Dee, said of seeing the materials for the first time: "As a native Shaetlan speaker can I say just how liberating and welcoming it is to see such high-quality public information material written in my mother tongue for the first time. I hope the rest of the Shaetlan-speaking public get the same kick out of it as I am getting now – I'm sure they will!"

Corwen Broch, District Visitor and Community Manager - North Region (Orkney & Shetland) at HES, said: "We're really pleased to have partnered up with I Hear Dee to help champion the use of Shaetlan, by bringing it into one of the island's most well-known visitor attractions. Incorporating the language into our interpretation highlights the importance of our intangible heritage with our built environment, both of which are closely related, and we hope that locals and visitors alike enjoy these new materials, which tell the story of the site through the distinctive words and phrases of Shaetlan."

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) have worked together with I Hear Dee to produce material in Shaetlan for the first time, at one of Shetland's most well-known heritage attractions. Guide sheets and children's quizzes in Shaetlan are now available at Jarlshof prehistoric and Norse settlement after staff at the site, which is run by Historic Environment Scotland, worked with the organisation to translate visitor materials into the language.

Shaetlan is a highly distinct contact language that pre-dates Standard English in Shetland yet has never been officially recognized as a language. I Hear Dee aims to document, describe and promote contemporary Shaetlan, working to raise its profile as a fully viable language variety in its own right locally, nationally and internationally.

Prof. Dr. Viveka Velupillai, principle investigator at I Hear Dee and affiliate of the Department of English at the University of Giessen, said: "This is such a symbolically significant step as this is the first time ever that Shetlanders can see their own language represented as an equal among other languages on one of their own historical sites. HES has taken the first step to normalising Shaetlan in this bilingual community and give Shaetlan speakers pride of place in both its tangible and intangible heritage."



*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).*

The US Consulate General Edinburgh tartan was designed to commemorate and honour the long-established friendship between Scotland and the USA. Having first established their office in Scotland on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1798, as at 2022 they have been part of the Scottish community for over 224 years. Incorporated into the design set is the date of that first office opening and colours from the flags of both Scotland and the USA have been used to map the design also known as 'The Thistle & The Rose'.

This tartan is intended to be a symbol of unity and legacy, and the connection the US Consulate General Edinburgh office has always had with Scotland, its people and all citizens from the USA who roam Scottish soil. This tartan (SRT reference: 13740) was designed by Prickly Thistle Scotland Ltd. and registered in December 2022.

# SEE YOU IN 2023!



## St. Augustine CELTIC MUSIC & HERITAGE FESTIVAL

### March 11-12, 2023



### DON'T MISS

<p>Albannach Dragonfly Dublin City Ramblers Jamison</p>	<p>La Unica Seven Nations Steel City Rovers Syr</p>
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...AND MORE!

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# 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 clansmen members may query the Society genealogist. **For information write:**  
**Dr. Debra J. Baird, President**  
 3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565  
 Email: djbaird4@gmail.com  
**Regional Directors for Australia**  
 David and Patricia Benfell  
 Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com  
 website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



## 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.clandonaldivic@gmail.com  
 Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.  
**CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE**  
 Hon Chief: 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.*



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

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CONTACT: [MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG](mailto: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**  
 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  
 49 Greystone Lane NW  
 Cartersville, GA, 30121



## Clan Cumming Society of the United States

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



## Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

**Membership inquiries should be directed to:**  
 Donald E. Bruce Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary  
 President 5561 Earl Young Road  
 1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Bloomington, IN 47408  
 Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 [www.familyofbruceinternational.org](http://www.familyofbruceinternational.org)



## 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; McKeddie. In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson. Applications may be made online: [clandavidsonaus@gmail.com](mailto:clandavidsonaus@gmail.com) or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P.P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 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/TheClanDonnachaidhSociety)  
 Email: [ivc@donnachaidh.com](mailto:ivc@donnachaidh.com)



## Clan Galbraith Society

*Includes name variations such as Galbreath, Culbreath, Gilbraith etc.*  
 DNA testing project, members only databases, Biennial gatherings, blog, Quarterly journal.  
**[www.clangalbraith.org](http://www.clangalbraith.org)**



## 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](mailto: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)**



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.  
 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

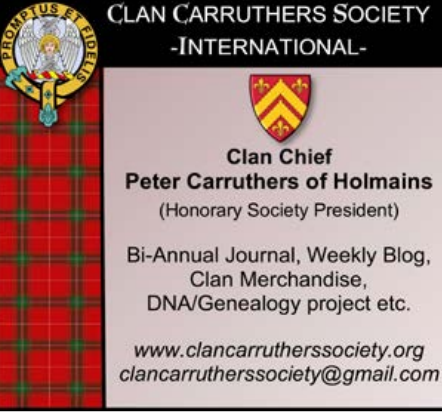
**Commissioner:** Neil Macdonald  
 Ph: 0412 090990  
 Email: [clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au](mailto:clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au)  
 Web: [www.clandonaldqld.org](http://www.clandonaldqld.org)  
**ELIGIBILITY:** Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonnell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.  
*There is no joy without Clan Donald*



**Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.**  
 Jim Dougherty - Clan President welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family.  
 Direct inquires to: Marianne Elliott, Membership Chair  
 Email: [marianne@mmelliott.com](mailto:marianne@mmelliott.com)  
**Website: [www.elliotclan-usa.com](http://www.elliotclan-usa.com)**



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: [clangregoraustralia@gmail.com](mailto:clangregoraustralia@gmail.com)**  
**Web: [www.clangregor.com](http://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.clandonaldustralia.org](http://www.clandonaldustralia.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](http://www.clanfarquharsonaus.weebly.com)**



**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](mailto: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)



## the Clan Lachlan Association

based in Castle Lachlan, Strathlachlan Strachur, Argyll, PA27 8BU, Scotland  
 along with its branches worldwide welcomes interested persons from MacLachlans of all spellings and sept  
 Canada ~ Ken Godfrey [ken.godfrey1@gmail.com](mailto:ken.godfrey1@gmail.com)  
 Australia ~ Robin McLaughlin [robinknowles@bigpond.com](mailto:robinknowles@bigpond.com)  
 Britain & Ireland ~ Tony MacEwen [macewen45@sky.com](mailto:macewen45@sky.com)  
 New Zealand ~ Helen Chegwin [kiwihc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kiwihc@xtra.co.nz)  
 USA ~ Kevin McLachlan [kevinmclachlan@gmail.com](mailto:kevinmclachlan@gmail.com)  
 Scotland ~ Todd McLaughlin [cmssecstrachur@gmail.com](mailto:cmssecstrachur@gmail.com)



## 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 MacWilliam  
 Beaton MacAskill MacCorkill  
 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 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; Hays; Hayes; Hayler; Haynes; Hays; Hayton; Hayward; Hey; Hye; Kinnoul; 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 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

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(e); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Arml; Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgaty; D' Ay(e); Dellah'a'y; 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)



## 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 Macnachtan 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 Macnachtan**  
 Paperback available through Amazon.com, Amazon.co.uk, Amazon.ca



## 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)




## 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 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.clanhope.org](http://www.clanhope.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>




## Clan MacDougall Society of North America

### MacDougalls, MacDowalls, & ALL Associated Families

YOU are invited to join CMSNA!  
 We would love to share Scottish heritage and traditions with YOU!

Learn MORE at [www.MacDougall.org](http://www.MacDougall.org)



## 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

## Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron  
 Alexander H.R. Irvine of Drum,  
 27th Baron and Laird of Drum, Chief of the Name  
 Mary Erwin, Chairman  
 155 Hattaway Road, Calhoun, LA, 71225  
[mary.erwin@clanirwin.org](mailto:mary.erwin@clanirwin.org)  
[www.clanirwin.org](http://www.clanirwin.org)  
 IRWIN • IRVINE • IRVIN • IRVING • ERWIN  
 And the many other spellings of the Name



## INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC

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

Leògh Sloy! 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 Elmhurst, CA 91740 USA  
[info@macfarlane.org](mailto:info@macfarlane.org)

Arcs of the International Clan MacFarlane Society granted by Lord Lyon, King of Arms, 15 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 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.Chairman@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  
SandNI.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/>



### 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 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)

### 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



### 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](mailto:learn@vsr.com.au)  
NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: [sue.treg1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:lonepiper.ross@gmail.com) M 0403 830 853  
Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0409 322 374



### 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@clanyoungaustralia.com.au](mailto:membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/)

### 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)

[Find us on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ScottishAustralianHeritageCouncil)

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



### Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

Email: [clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com](mailto:clanwardlaw2004@gmail.com)

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

### Còisir Ghàidhlig Bhiocòiria Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria

[www.facebook.com/ScottishGaelicChoirVictoria](http://www.facebook.com/ScottishGaelicChoirVictoria)

Do you live in Melbourne? Are you interested in Gaelic and its music, or do you simply enjoy singing? Why not join us?

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

Contact Raghnaid NicGaraidh  
[rachel.hay@inet.net.au](mailto:rachel.hay@inet.net.au)



### Clan Maitland Society

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

**North America:** Rosemary Maitland Thom  
[rthomnvpdrdcn@aol.com](mailto:rthomnvpdrdcn@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, Maitten 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)




### Scottish Associations and Societies

The American-Scottish Foundation, Inc.

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

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



### SHOULDER TO SHOULDER FOUNDED 1847

The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited  
ABN 30 093 578 860

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association  
The Secretary, P.O. Box 352, Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122  
[www.standrewsociety.com](http://www.standrewsociety.com)



### 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.

[www.ibvdeit.org](http://www.ibvdeit.org)  
[ENISBET@IBVDEIT.ORG](mailto:ENISBET@IBVDEIT.ORG)

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.




### 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: [clansincliraustralia@hotmail.com](mailto:clansincliraustralia@hotmail.com)  
[www.clansincliraustralia.com](http://www.clansincliraustralia.com)



### Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia

For further details contact John: 0427 990 754  
Email: [caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com](mailto:caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com)  
[www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com](http://www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com)



### Scots of Victoria Co-ordinating Group

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

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Carlton Vic 3053

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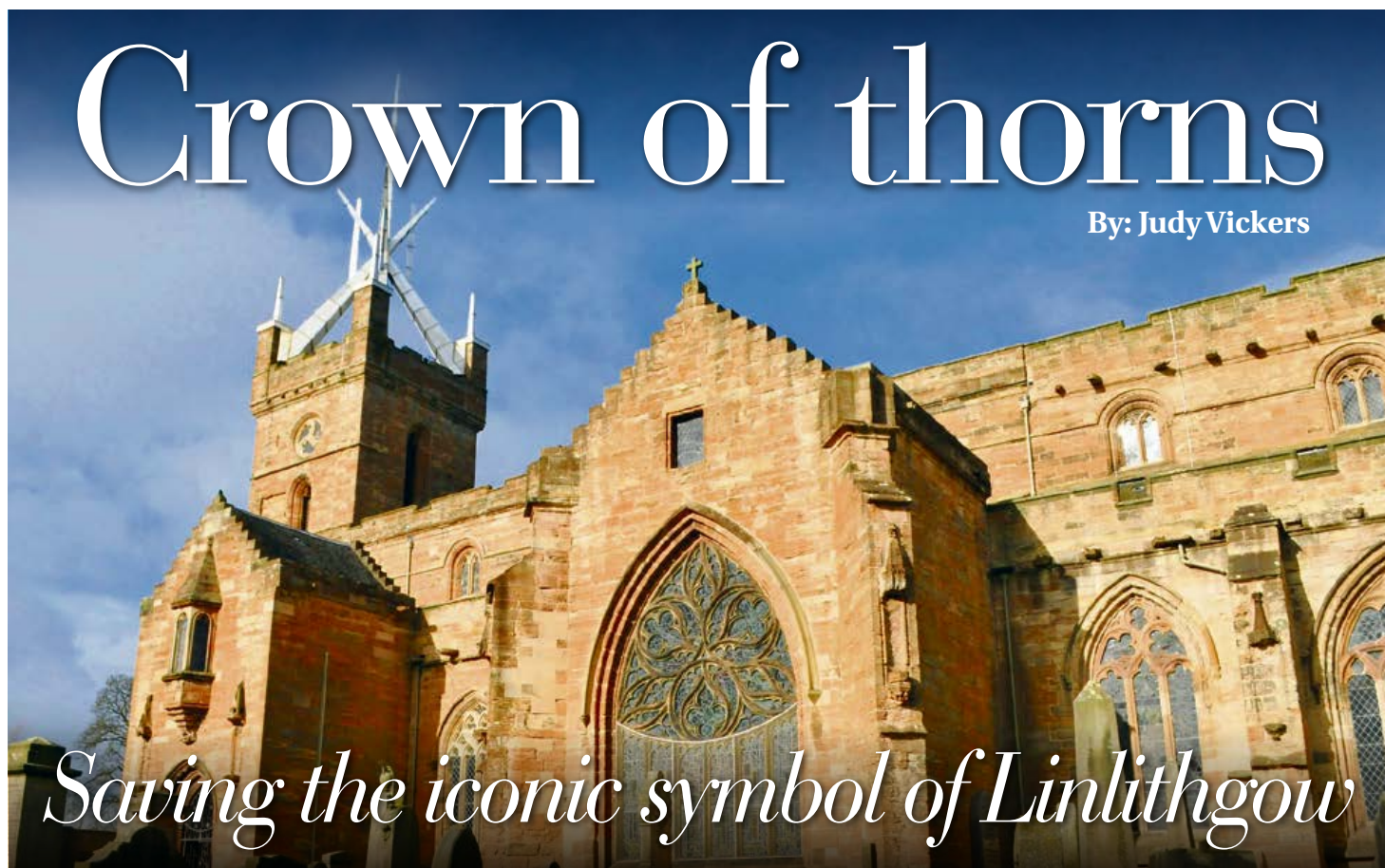
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# Crown of thorns

By: Judy Vickers

## *Saving the iconic symbol of Linlithgow*



**W**hen the spire on Linlithgow's parish church was first erected in 1964, its modern shiny look, contrasting so sharply with the weathered stone of the ancient building, sparked a fierce reaction. Some said it looked like a rocket waiting to take off, others compared it to a wigwam. Certainly many felt the contemporary aluminium "crown of thorns" did not belong on a medieval church just a stone's throw from the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots.

But it was the vision of the then minister, the Very Rev Dr David Steel, father of the politician Lord Steel, to create something bold and iconic. "And the way people have reacted over the years, I think he really achieved that," says Alan Miller, an elder at the church, St Michael's.

### Emblem for the town

Because the spire, representing the crown of thorns forced on Christ's head before he was crucified, with 12 smaller spikes for the 12 apostles, has become a real emblem for the town, appearing on many local businesses and organisations' logos, and on images of the former Royal Burgh. As it approaches its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, however, the spire is in difficulties - the campaign Alan is referring to, *Aspire Linlithgow*, is aiming to raise £300,000 to save the crown.

The timber structure under the aluminium cladding is badly rotted and needs urgent work if it is to remain in place. If the fundraising campaign is successful, the restoration will see the spire re-clad in a bronze alloy, giving it a pale gold look instead of its current silver - which will actually be a return to its original tone. "The pale gold basically weathered away after a few years. The new cladding will be a bronze alloy and it will stay pale gold.

It will look magnificent," says Alan, who is head of the fundraising campaign.

It will be the latest chapter for the church which has seen centuries of Scottish history, much at first hand. St Michael's has stood witness to the ravages of the Scottish Wars of Independence and Oliver Cromwell's invasion, hosted royalty, to the violence of 16<sup>th</sup> century protestant reforms, provided a refuge from the plague in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and withstood the body-snatchers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its first appearance in history books is in 1138 when it was described as "the great church of Linlithgow" in a charter of King David I, gifting it to the Cathedral of St Andrews, although historians believe it dates back to well before that. Edward I, the King of England and so-called Hammer of the Scots, requisitioned the church as a storehouse in 1301 as the First Scottish War of Independence raged with the English monarch attempted to control his northern neighbour.

Bannockburn brought peace and the chance to repair the church after the destruction of the war, but in 1424 a massive fire badly damaged both the church and the adjacent royal palace. Rebuilding work took 115 years, with money coming from the Stewart kings and fines for chimney fires - Linlithgow Palace was also rebuilt during this period, becoming a holiday retreat for the Stewart kings, who used the church to worship in between jaunts out hunting in the surrounding pleasure park.

In 1513, King James IV was one of those monarchs but when he stepped inside St

Michael's he was confronted by a spirit, an old man in a cloak, who warned him not to go to war with the English - he ignored the spirit's words of caution and died at the Battle of Flodden. By the 1540s, St Michael's was restored to glory, with 20 stone carved saints in niches around the outside of the church and a stone "crown", similar to the one which still stands at Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, topping the square tower. It was ready in time for the baptism of Mary, Queen of Scots, who was born at the palace in December 1542. But Mary's reign was marked by bitter battles between those of her religion, Roman Catholicism, and the growing Protestantism and St Michael's did not escape. In 1559, the font used to baptise Mary, along with statues and altars deemed to be too "popish" for the new religion were smashed.

### Golden glory

The 17<sup>th</sup> century was no kinder - it was briefly used by the University of Edinburgh in 1645 when plague in Edinburgh saw scholars flee the city, then shortly after came perhaps its darkest moment when Oliver Cromwell, the leader of the republican regime in Britain, requisitioned the church and used it to stable his horses and to billet his troops. Another restoration to repair Cromwell's damage followed but by the 19<sup>th</sup> century the church was in a poor state, with whitewashed walls, and the 16<sup>th</sup> century ceiling replaced with a plaster one. A watchman's hut was erected outside with three men keeping guard at

night to prevent body-snatchers digging up and selling recent corpses to the medical schools in Edinburgh - grieving families could also hire a metal cage to be fixed over newly-dug graves. And in 1821, the stone crown was removed after it was discovered it was too heavy for the tower and was in danger of collapse. The tower stayed bare until the 1960s. "I suppose the only option in the 1820s would have been some other stone structure and that wasn't possible as the tower was in a poor state and had to be stabilised."

With conflicts on home soil, plague and graverobbers consigned to history, from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards the church saw happier times, with a major restoration in the 1890s reviving much of its ancient glory. Churches are almost always in need of repair, though, and it was due to a fundraising campaign for essential maintenance in the 1960s that the idea of the spire came about. "David Steel always had the idea that if there was money left he would like to create something on the top of the tower," says Alan. "Geoffrey Clarke came up and looked at the church, three months later he sent a box containing a small model of the spire. One local architect who saw it said: 'That's genius!'" Today as well as welcoming many tourists, St Michael's is still a vibrant place of worship and continues to evolve - one of its more recent innovations came in 1992 with the installation of a new stained glass window in the St Katherine's aisle, around the theme of Pentecost, which dapples the church floor with multi-coloured light.

And now the next stage of the church's evolution is in motion. The *Aspire* campaign has already had £120,000 pledged and Alan hopes it won't be long before work can begin on restoring the spire to its golden glory. "The fact that so many people have donated to our campaign shows it is a unique and iconic piece of work that people are proud of," he says.

**For more information on the campaign, visit:**  
[www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/aspirelinlithgow](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/aspirelinlithgow)



St Michael's interior.



Winter sunset. Photo: Martin Brown.



IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



## Scotch Broth

### Ingredients:

A piece of boiling beef (runner, thin rib or flank, or neck of mutton or shoulder of lamb), weighing about 700 g/1 ½ lb/150 g/5 oz. dried marrowfat peas, soaked overnight, then drained 75 g/3 oz. pearl barley, soaked overnight, then drained 25 g/1 oz. parsley (including stalks) 200 g/7 oz. carrots, peeled and diced finely 150 g/5 oz. kail, washed and chopped finely 200 g/7 oz. turnip, peeled and diced finely 1 large onion, peeled and chopped finely Salt and freshly-ground black pepper, to taste

### Method:

Place the meat in a large pan with the soaked peas, barley and parsley stalks.

Cover with cold water, about 2.2 litres/4 pints and bring slowly to the boil. Skim off any scum and reduce the heat to a simmer. Cover and cook for at least 1 hour or until the peas are tender. Remove the parsley stalks if possible (no need to worry if some remain) and add all the vegetables. Bring to the boil again and cook for about 20 minutes, until the vegetables are tender. Chop the parsley and add most of it to the soup with salt and pepper to taste. To serve, remove the meat from the pan and cut it into pieces. Add these to the soup and serve, sprinkled with the remaining parsley. You could, if you wish, serve the vegetable broth first, then the beef as a main course, in which case add a few tiny whole vegetables with diced ones to serve with the meat. Serves 6.

## Braised Lamb Shanks with Mash and Malt Whisky Gravy

### Ingredients:

2 shanks of Scotch lamb (ask your butcher to cut bone neatly across lower end) 1 carrot, peeled and chopped 1 onion, chopped leek, chopped 2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped 300 ml/10 fl. oz. lamb stock 60 ml/2 fl. oz. 4 tablespoonfuls malt whisky 450 g/1 lb. potatoes, cooked and mashed Vegetable oil Salt and freshly-ground black pepper, to taste

### Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 325F, 170C, Gas Mark 3. Heat the oil in a heavy-based saucepan or casserole dish. Season the lamb shanks and brown on all sides. Add the chopped vegetables, garlic and stock and bring to a simmer. Place in the oven and cook for about 2 hours, turning the shanks once or twice during the cooking. The meat should just be falling off the bone when cooked. Strain the cooking juices into a saucepan, add the whisky and reduce by one-third (to thicken the sauce a little, mash in some of the cooking vegetables) and check the seasoning. Place the mashed potato in the centre of a large plate. Put the lamb shank on top with the shank pointing up and spoon the sauce around. Serves 2.

## Scotch Eggs



### Ingredients:

250g/9 oz. sausage meat 1 small onion, grated 2 tablespoonfuls plus ½ a cupful of dried breadcrumbs 1 egg, separated 1 tablespoonful fresh parsley, chopped Salt and freshly-ground black pepper, to taste 4 hard-boiled eggs, shelled oil, to fry

### Method:

Place the sausage meat, onion, 2 tablespoonfuls of dried breadcrumbs, yolk, parsley and seasoning into a bowl. Stir thoroughly to combine and divide the mixture into four equal portions. Put one portion of sausage meat on to a sheet of clingfilm, and cover with another sheet of clingfilm. Beat with the palm of the hand to flatten. Remove the top layer of clingfilm and place an egg in the middle of the sausage meat and surround the egg with the sausage meat. Remove the clingfilm and repeat this process with the remaining mixture and the eggs. Coat the Scotch Eggs in lightly-beaten egg white and dip in the breadcrumbs. Repeat the coating process if a crisper finish is required. Heat the oil in a heavy-based saucepan. Lower the Scotch Eggs carefully into the pan and fry over a medium heat for 6 to 8 minutes until golden in colour. Remove from the oil and drain on kitchen paper. Makes 4.

## Smoked Salmon Delight

### Ingredients:

Scottish smoked salmon 2 eggs 5 ml/1 tablespoonful milk Salt and freshly-ground black pepper Knob of butter 2 slices of bread

### Method:

Break the eggs into a bowl, and add the milk and seasoning, then whisk until the yolk and white are thoroughly mixed. Melt the knob of butter in a frying-pan, then reduce the heat and pour in the egg mixture. Cook for several minutes, stirring all the time with a wooden spoon or spatula. Meanwhile make toast with the bread. When the eggs are thoroughly cooked, butter the toast (this is optional) and lay the slices of Scottish smoked salmon on top. Pile on the scrambled egg and serve immediately. Serves 1.

## Cranachan

### Ingredients:

125 g/4½ oz. jumbo oats (large rolled/ porridge oats) 75 g/3 oz. light muscovado sugar 250 g/9 oz. mascarpone cheese 3-4 tablespoonfuls malt whisky, plus extra to serve 300ml/10 fl. oz. double cream, lightly whipped 250g/9 oz. raspberries Runny heather honey, optional

### Method:

Put oats and sugar on a large sheet of foil and place under a hot grill for 3-4 minutes, stirring every 30 seconds or so. They burn quickly so watch carefully. Remove and leave to cool. Put the mascarpone in a bowl, add the whisky to taste, and beat until smooth. Fold this into the whipped cream with the cooled oat mixture. Once thoroughly combined, gently fold in the raspberries, taking care not to break them up. Tip into a glass bowl and cover and serve at once, or chill for no more than an hour. Offer an optional drizzle of whisky — and heather honey, if desired. Serves 6.

## Classic Hot Toddy



Photo: Patrick Truby/  
Wikimedia Commons.

### Ingredients:

50ml/2 fl. oz. whisky 3 tsp. honey 1 cinnamon stick, snapped in half 1 lemon, half juiced and half sliced 2 cloves

### Method:

Whisk the whisky and honey together and split between 2 heatproof glasses. Add half of the cinnamon stick to each, then top up with 200ml/6.5 fl. oz. boiling water. Add a splash of lemon juice to each, then taste and add more to your preference. Finish each with a slice of lemon, studded with a clove, and serve immediately.

# The St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival



The St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival is held in America's Oldest Celtic City with multi-award-winning cultural events to be held on Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12. Top international and U.S. Celtic bands, Highland Games, workshops, lectures, Celtic food and artisan crafts, and a St. Patrick Day parade will be featured, plus a special whiskey tasting event on Friday, March 10. The Celtic Music & Heritage Festival and activities will be held at Francis Field, 29 W. Castillo Dr. in historic downtown St. Augustine, Fla. The events are produced by Romanza-St. Augustine, Inc.

Tickets for the festival on March 11 and March 12 may be purchased online at [www.celticstaugustine.com/tickets](http://www.celticstaugustine.com/tickets) or at Ann O'Malley's Irish Pub, 23 Orange Street in St. Augustine, and during the Festival at the gate. The Whiskey Tasting begins at 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. with a variety of offerings and acoustic music by The Steel

City Rovers. Whiskey Tasting limited-seating tickets are available online only.

The St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival begins at 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Sunday. Top touring bands from Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and the U.S. will play traditional songs and Celtic rock throughout the two-day festival. An extensive music lineup includes Albannach, Dublin City Ramblers, Seven Nations, Steel City Rovers, La Unica, Syr, Jamison, and Dragonfly. Chad Light is the main stage host and emcee. Additional entertainment, lectures and workshops will be on the second stage with host Robert Burns.

Tickets include a variety of entertainment options for both days. Vendors will offer Celtic cuisine along with a variety of food and beverage, as well as handmade and imported Celtic crafts.

**For more information about the Festival and St. Patrick Parade, visit the website at [www.celticstaugustine.com](http://www.celticstaugustine.com).**



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