



# the Scottish Banner



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*A' Bhratach Albannach*

Volume 46 Number 10 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS APRIL 2023

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The Banner Says...

# The Cloth of a Nation



by Sean Cairney

When it comes to symbols of Scotland you cannot go past the iconic 'cloth of a nation', tartan. Tartan is one of the most recognisable symbols of Scotland and is definitely something which connects people to the nation's geography, history and heritage. Like the fabric itself, tartan is woven into Scottish identity. It is something that is loved by Scots and all those that wish they were. From heritage regalia, to homewares and high end fashion it is a cloth that never has and never will go out of fashion.

According to the Scottish Register of Tartans a tartan is described as follows: 'A tartan is a design which is capable of being woven consisting of two or more alternating coloured stripes which combine vertically and horizontally to form a repeated chequered pattern.'

## Highland Dress

But just how did tartan come to be and why? Researchers and historians believe tartan, or something similar to what we know of it today, has been woven by Scots for thousands of years. The earliest recorded piece of a tartan like fabric to be found in the UK was in Falkirk, dating back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. This ancient piece of cloth, known as the Falkirk Tartan, was found in a pot and held silver coins. It is considered one of the earliest examples of tartan material in existence and is today housed in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.



Detail of 18<sup>th</sup> century tartan dress coat for the Ancient Caledonian Society coat. Photo: Bonhams/V&A Dundee.

Those early renditions of tartan would not have been linked to Clans or families but would have used the basic colours available found locally and it became especially popular in the Scottish Highlands. By the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries weaving wools and dyes was much more common and it became part of Highland dress.

On April 16<sup>th</sup> 1746 at Culloden Moor, just outside of Inverness and in less than an hour, Bonnie Prince Charlie lost the Battle of Culloden and King George II and the Hanoverian government used the opportunity to destroy the perceived military threat of the savage Jacobite Highland clans who supported the return of the Stuart dynasty. The government's intention was to eliminate the culturally separate identity of the Highland people, and their way of life. The Royal Dress Act of 1746, which was introduced several months after the Battle of Culloden, restricted the wearing of Highland dress. The law would not be repealed until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1782.

## In this issue

Tartan has now for over 200 years been woven into the fabric of Scottish culture and symbolism. The stunning V&A Dundee this month will launch the much-anticipated exhibition *Tartan* on Dundee's renewed waterfront. For *Scottish Banner* readers the great news is if you happen to be travelling to Scotland this year, or into early next year, you can take in this exhibition of one of the world's most recognisable textiles and patterns, and the first exhibition in Scotland in 30 years to focus solely on tartan.

Scotland is a great country for taking in local statues. There is always one around with a story to tell. However, we may need to remind ourselves not all statues displayed are in fact a tribute to real people. Fictional characters also get to be remembered across the country from poetry, children's books and cartoons.

Making some of these loved works and characters, adored by generations of people, quite literally set in stone.

The first time I ever flew to Scotland I landed at Glasgow Prestwick Airport. As a young child it was all so exciting to be somewhere new and coming into land over the green Ayrshire countryside. Glasgow Prestwick has a huge history with Scottish aviation and whilst the airport today is not the gateway and transatlantic hub it once was, the Scottish aviators that used Prestwick made their mark on the industry at both home and beyond.

## Tartan Day

For hundreds of years people have been able to freely wear tartan across Scotland and a tartan industry has flourished (said to be worth over £350 million a year). There are now thousands of registered tartans which cover everything from personal, company, clan, milestones and more. Tartans are available in a plethora of colours and styles from kilts to carpets. I suspect many *Scottish Banner* readers will own some tartan and likely in their family or Clan colours. Tartan is loved by both Scots and non-Scots, making it an international timeless fashion statement.

This month across North America Tartan Day will be celebrated on April 6<sup>th</sup> (in Australia and New Zealand International Tartan Day takes place on July 1<sup>st</sup>, which marks the anniversary of the repeal of the 1746 Act of Proscription that banned the wearing of tartan). The day started in Nova Scotia, Canada by a reader of *the Scottish Banner* and has grown into a huge continental celebration and is recognised by governments across Canada, the US and Scotland itself. I hope those who are attending the many events taking place have a wonderful time and proudly wear their tartan as it, like Scots themselves, will never go out of style. 🇪🇺

**Do you wear or have a favourite tartan? What does tartan mean to you? 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.**



Gracing our front cover: Cheddar Gorgeous in a suit designed by Liquorice Black, 2017 image courtesy of Cheddar Gorgeous / V&A Dundee.

# Declaration of Arbroath to go on display



The Declaration of Arbroath will be displayed at the National Museum of Scotland this summer for the first time in 18 years. The display has been organised in partnership between National Museums Scotland and National Records of Scotland, who are custodians of the document. The famous document will be on show from 3 June to 2 July 2023. The document has not been on public display for 18 years, when it was last displayed at the Scottish Parliament. The iconic and fragile 700-year-old document, which is cared for and preserved for future generations by National Records of Scotland, can only be displayed

occasionally in order to ensure its long-term preservation. The Declaration was initially due to be displayed in April 2020 to coincide with its 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but this had to be postponed due to the pandemic. The new summer date has been chosen to give as many people as possible the rare chance to see one of Scotland's most important historical documents.

The Declaration of Arbroath is a letter dated 6 April 1320, written by the barons and freeholders of Scotland, on behalf of the Kingdom of Scotland, to Pope John XXII asking him to recognise Scotland's independence and acknowledge Robert the Bruce as the country's lawful king.

The letter also asks the Pontiff to persuade King Edward II of England to end hostilities against the Scots, so that their energy may be better used to secure the frontiers of Christendom. The Declaration was probably drafted at a meeting of the King and his council at Newbattle, then written up in the scriptorium of Arbroath Abbey. Written in Latin, it was sealed by eight earls and about forty barons. It was authenticated by seals, as documents at that time were not signed. Only 19 seals now remain.

## Of great historic and cultural interest

Alice Blackwell, Senior Curator of Medieval Archaeology and History at National Museums Scotland said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to display the Declaration of Arbroath here at the National Museum of Scotland. It is a hugely significant document and a vital piece of Scotland's history. We look forward to welcoming many visitors to enjoy the rare opportunity of seeing this iconic document close up."

Culture Secretary, Angus Robertson said: "The Declaration of Arbroath is of great historic and cultural interest to Scots and people around the world of Scottish descent. The display of this iconic document will give people from across Scotland and further afield a wonderful opportunity to visit the museum and see this important piece of history for themselves."

Laura Mitchell, Deputy Keeper, National Records of Scotland, said: "The Declaration of Arbroath is a key treasure in our extensive collections and we are proud of the role we play in conserving this significant historical artefact for future generations. The display will allow Scots and visitors from further afield to see this famous document for the first time in 18 years."

The Declaration was written during the long Wars of Independence with England when, despite the Scots' success at the Battle of Bannockburn, Robert I had not been recognised as king by either Edward II or by the Pope, and had been excommunicated by the latter. At this time, the Pope desired peace between England and Scotland, so both could help in a crusade to the Holy Land. The Declaration sought to influence him by offering the possibility of support from the Scots for his long-desired crusade if they no longer had to fear English invasion. After receiving the Declaration, the Pope urged reconciliation between the warring sides and a truce was agreed in 1323. A peace treaty was signed between England and Scotland in March 1328 and the following year the Pope issued a papal bull permitting the anointing and crowning of a King of Scots. The peace was short-lived, however, as the Second War of Independence broke out in 1332 and went on for twenty-five years.

**The Declaration of Arbroath will be on display at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh Saturday June 3 to Sunday 2 July 2023. Admission Free. For details see: [www.nms.ac.uk/declaration](http://www.nms.ac.uk/declaration)**

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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?

## The Waters o' Dee

There are beautiful rivers in Britain,  
And grander by far o'er the sea,  
But my heart flies to rest like a bird to its  
nest near the beautiful waters of Dee.

It flows by the heather clad mountain,  
And gurgles its way to the sea,  
Its music so sweet  
Often lulled me to sleep  
Oh, beautiful river of Dee.

Though far from my home I may wander  
To lands that lie over the sea,  
My thoughts will return  
And my heart will still yearn  
For a sight of that river of Dee.

Oft on its banks I have wandered  
With the one who was dearest to me,  
Now she lies asleep  
While my vigil I keep  
Near my beautiful river of Dee.

Author Unknown.



I found this poem in my uncle's belongings and thought it would be appreciated by *Scottish Banner* readers.

Our family is from various parts of Aberdeenshire and the River Dee is loved by all the family. The name Dee comes from the Roman word Deva, which means goddess.

Keep up the great work of the *Scottish Banner*.

Alex Urquhart  
Houston, Texas  
USA

## Drum Castle 700th anniversary



Thank you for the lovely article in the December issue about *RRS Discovery* and Discovery Point. What makes this article about *Discovery* special is that Lieutenant William Robinson Colbeck was the grandfather of Alexander Irvine, 27<sup>th</sup> Baron of Drum, and the Patron of Clan Irwin Association. He was Second Officer and Navigator on this ship when it sailed both voyages of the BANZARE Antarctic Expedition of 1929-1931. (For more information click here: <https://www.antarctica.gov.au/about-antarctica/history/exploration-and-expeditions/banzare-1929-31/>) He was a son of famous Captain William Colbeck (1871-1930) great grandfather of Alexander Irvine, an Englishman and an Antarctic Explorer, Seaman and Ship's Captain

William Colbeck Senior served firstly in the Merchant Navy. However, in 1889 he was awarded a Navy Reserve commission and joined Norwegian Carsten Egeberg Borchgrevink on the 'Southern Cross Expedition' to the Antarctic. Next, he went south to the Antarctic in Command on

the *Morning* to resupply Captain Robert Falcon Scott's *Discovery* trapped in the ice at McMurdo Sound. In 1904 he was again the Captain on the *Morning* going south to the Antarctic with Scott still trapped in the ice. There was a fortunate result however when the ice conditions shifted and the *Discovery* was freed.

There are some artifacts that have been donated to this prominent attraction by Carolyn Colbeck Irvine, daughter of Lieutenant Colbeck and mother of Alexander Irvine, Chief of the Name and Arms of Clan Irvine and 27<sup>th</sup> Baron of Drum.

2023 marks the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Drum Castle being given to Clan Irvine by King Robert the Bruce, along with 10,000 acres of the Royal Forest. Clan Irwin Association is sponsoring a trip to Scotland to participate in the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Drum Castle. We will visit *Discovery* and Discovery Point where we will have a guided tour by Chief Alexander Irvine.

There will be some celebratory activities the first week of August in Aberdeenshire leading up to the Aboyne Highland Games on August 5. In addition, the Burnett Clan, neighbors and good friends of the Irvines, is celebrating 700 years of Crathes Castle.

Mary Erwin  
Chairman, Clan Irwin Association  
USA

**Ed note: It sounds like a fantastic trip is planned for this year Mary, and please keep us posted on how it goes.**

## A Brewing Storm: Alewives in sixteenth-century Inverness



A recording of our January Zoom Talk (with a very lively Q&A session) has now been posted on YouTube and can be accessed

here: <https://youtu.be/ofa-gIjd0gk>.

The talk, *A Brewing Storm: Alewives in sixteenth-century Inverness* by Dr. Elizabeth Ewan, looks at the lives of the brewsters and alewives as they appeared in the surviving town court records of Inverness, 1556-86, and examines what they can reveal more generally about women's contributions to urban society. It describes the colourful life of Elspeth Barnet, a domestic servant who went on to spend her adult life in the brewing trade.

From earning her living and breaking the rules while doing so, brawling with customers and other townspeople, assisting other brewsters, supporting her husband when he also got into trouble, and even being banished from the town on occasion, Elspeth Barnet demonstrates the assertiveness and agency of women in early modern Scottish towns.

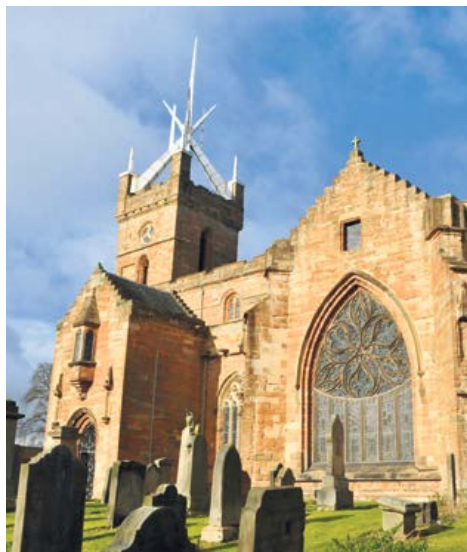
David Hunter, President  
Scottish Studies Foundation  
Ontario, Canada  
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## Caldwell House

I really enjoy reading *the Scottish Banner* each month. I have been waiting to read about places in Ayrshire likes museums, castles and places. My great-grandfather Francis Earnest Power was born November 19, 1865 at Cardwell House in Ayrshire, Scotland. He died October 24, 1944 at Fairview Mullum Road in Ringwood, Victoria. I would appreciate any information on Caldwell House.

Ivy Weston  
129 Herbert St  
Bowen, Queensland  
4805  
Australia

## St. Michaels, Linlithgow



It was with great interest that my wife and I read your article on the spire of St. Michael's Church in Linlithgow (*Crown of thorns-Saving the iconic symbol of Linlithgow, the Scottish Banner*, February, 2023). We were both christened there (unfortunately not in the same font as Mary Queen of Scots) in 1939, met again first day at high school, and have been together ever since.

We have a most beautiful tapestry of the stained glass window in St. Katherine's aisle, done by a friend from Linlithgow. Having left for Australia in 1961, we did not see the "new" spire until our first visit home....mixed feelings at first, but after several visits we have become accustomed to it.

We wish the Aspire Campaign every success, and hope that their efforts bear fruit.

Flora & Tom Blackwood  
Denmark, Western Australia

**Ed note: Thanks Flora and Tom for your letter and glad you enjoyed the article. For more information on the campaign, visit: [www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/aspirelinlithgow](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/aspirelinlithgow)**

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

### Dean Village



Dean Village, Edinburgh in the snow.  
Paul Watt Photography

### Rannoch Moor



Winter on show at Rannoch Moor.  
Mik Coia

### Monarch of the Glen



First trip of the year. Hopefully the first of many. Absolutely love this place in the snow, although the road home was quite scary as it snowed heavily, and my car struggled keeping grip. Got home safe though.  
AJ Landscape Photographer

### Linlithgow Palace



This is Linlithgow Palace, Linlithgow Loch and St. Michael's Church. The name Linlithgow means 'the loch in the damp hollow'.  
The Kilted Photographer

# Plan to save the birthplace of Auld Lang Syne



New generation of artists can draw inspiration from home built by poet Robert Burns.

Plans to save the only farm built by the poet Robert Burns have been unveiled. The “FutureVision” seeks to safeguard the 170-acre Ellisland Farm, on the banks of the River Nith, where Burns wrote *Auld Lang Syne*, *Tam o’ Shanter* and a large part of his creative output, especially in music and song.

Artistic residencies in the farm buildings and off grid will allow a new generation of artists, musicians and song-writers to be inspired by the rural landscape that Burns described as “sweet poetic ground.” The new accommodation is modelled on The

Hermitage, a tiny bothy on the neighbouring Friars Carse estate where Burns would escape to write. The plans are focussed on “Conservation through Use” meaning community, heritage and education events are subsidised by other activity such as visitor accommodation, event hire and creative retreats. The farmhouse, which he created in 1788 for his young wife Jean Armour, will become an immersive space where visitors can experience their domestic life. Workshops and performances will be held in his farm buildings which will be restored sensitively.

## Sweet poetic ground

New planting will improve bio-diversity in the woodlands and fields laid out as part of Burns’ tenancy and pathways will improve accessibility and include interpretation by artists. A new visitor centre will complement the tradition buildings. The newbuild will offer catering, audio visual experiences and an exhibition space to safely display items from Ellisland’s collection, including manuscripts and Burns’ possessions such as his flute, books and fishing rod.

Joan McAlpine, Business Development Manager of the Robert Burns Ellisland Trust, said as an independent charity the trust had pursued ‘Conservation through Use’ so that Ellisland could be financially sustainable. She said: “These proposals will bring Ellisland alive by enabling new generations to be inspired as Burns was inspired by what he called the ‘sweet poetic ground’ on the Banks of the Nith. We believe people will want to come from all over the world to immerse themselves in the landscape which inspired *Auld Lang Syne*, *Ye Banks and Braes*, *John Anderson* and many more songs. Since our charity took over the site, we have built on the “intangible cultural heritage” opportunities offered by Ellisland, with traditional youth concerts, Scottish Halloween and Hogmanay celebrations and workshops on everything from butter-making to Scots Language. To do this sustainably and to reach more people we must improve our facilities and create new income streams.”

Dr David Hopes, Acting Chair of the Robert Burns Ellisland Trust, who is a former Director of the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway and is currently Director of Leeds Museums and Galleries said: “Ellisland is the place to fall in love with Burns and see nature through the poet’s eyes. These plans mean we will preserve and enhance the landscape which inspired Burns by improving bio-diversity and enhancing accessibility. There will be opportunities to do that working with partners in the community. Ellisland’s Conservation Management Plan, funded by Historic Environment Scotland and published last year, identified the site as being of ‘exceptional significance’ but said it was at risk unless extensive repairs were carried out. These plans will save the buildings by conserving them through use, safeguard the important collection and allow many more people to enjoy the site and benefit from it.”

For more information on the Robert Burns Ellisland Museum and Farm see: [www.ellislandfarm.co.uk](http://www.ellislandfarm.co.uk)



# Celebrating Shakespeare’s First Folio across Scotland

This year is the 400<sup>th</sup> birthday of the *First Folio*, the first printed edition of William Shakespeare’s collected plays. As part of the UK and Ireland Folio400 celebrations, three copies in Scottish collections will go on public display throughout 2023.



The University of Glasgow’s First Folio. Photo: Martin Shields.

The Scottish held copies that will be accessible to the public in 2023 are at the University of Glasgow, the National Library of Scotland and Mount Stuart Trust. Only 18 of Shakespeare’s plays appeared in print during his lifetime, and some of these were in corrupt or pirated editions. *The First Folio* collection contains 36 plays, 18 of which were here published for the first time, thus saving such works as *The Tempest* and *Macbeth* from probable extinction. About 750 copies of the 1623 First Folio were printed. 235 are known to have survived with 50 copies still in the UK, 149 in USA and 36 in other corners of the world (nine of which are listed as ‘missing’).

## A monument to the enduring power of literature

Professor Adrian Streete, Head of English Literature at the University of Glasgow, said: “Today the *First Folio* is a literary and cultural monument, as several of those involved in collecting and printing Shakespeare’s plays four hundred years ago hoped it would be. Yet in 1623, the

publishing of the First Folio was an expensive and risky undertaking. Shakespeare’s popularity was not then what it would become later. The story of how Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies became the *First Folio* is a long and complicated one, bound up with shifting ideas of literary prestige, the theatre, and national identity. But the *First Folio* remains a monument to the enduring power of literature to help us make sense of ourselves and others, and to imagine new and better worlds.”

The Scottish books are three different folios, in three very different collections, with three different stories to tell. The National Library of Scotland’s Head of Rare Books, Maps and Music, Helen Vincent said: “We’ve seen everyone from school children to actors to researchers fascinated by the *First Folio* and the stories it contains, so we’re looking forward to bringing it to a wide audience in our Treasures exhibition. It will be on display for the actual birthday of the book in November – the month it was first offered for sale

in 1623. I’m sure the people who put such effort into producing this book would love to know that 400 years later, their dedication to preserving and sharing all of Shakespeare’s plays continues to have such a profound impact on culture in all its forms.”

Folio400 aims to arrange, encourage and promote an array of shows to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> birthday of the *First Folio*, the first printed edition of Shakespeare’s collected plays, in 2023. Folio Day, the 23 April 2023, Shakespeare’s birthday, will launch

the Folio Season. Institutional and Private *First Folio* owners will make their copies available to the public across the UK and Ireland including the three Scottish institutions. For more information on Folio400 see: [www.folio400.com](http://www.folio400.com)

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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.

*“These trees and woodlands have histories that stretch back hundreds or, in the case of the Black Woods of Rannoch, thousands of years. They connect us with our past and I am delighted to present the plaques on behalf of our Late Queen. Historic woodlands and trees like these, and the new trees planted across Perth and Kinross as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy, are a big part of why Perth and Kinross is such a beautiful place to live and visit.”*

Deputy Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross Alex Cairncross said the historic roots of Perth and Kinross are being celebrated as part of a network of ancient Woodlands and Trees created to mark the late Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The Ancient Canopy sees 70 ancient woodlands and 70 ancient trees dedicated to Her Majesty as part of the celebrations marking the Queen’s 70 years on the throne. Perth and Kinross, also known as Big Tree Country, has had four ancient trees or woodlands recognised as part of the nationwide programme.



*“Following a renewed drive to attract additional volunteers; trustees and members proving unsuccessful - and*

*the inflation driven increases in costs, the Board of Trustees of The Royal Burgh of Dumfries Tattoo have taken the hard decision to announce their intention to wind up the charity.”*

The Trustees of Dumfries Tattoo said that the bi-annual Tattoo will cease. Founded in 2008, the Royal Burgh of Dumfries Tattoo had grown from a small community affair - to one of the South of Scotland’s ‘Must See’ events. The last Tattoo took place in 2022.

*“Remembering those who lost their lives is an important part of showing our respect for their lives, and part of the grieving process for our communities. We recognise especially the missed opportunities for life of the children and young people. We also remember the many people who came to the rescue of the ailing vessel – the RAF aircraft, Merchant ships, and of course the local lifeboat crews.”*

Councillor Linda Dorward, Depute Convenor of Dumfries and Galloway Council said at the recent commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of MV Princess Victoria. The MV Princess Victoria was travelling from Stranraer, Scotland to Northern Ireland on January 31, 1953. The vessel sank in the North Channel with 133 people losing their lives. The loss of the MV Princess Victoria is considered to be the worst peacetime maritime disaster to occur in British coastal waters.



*“Having stated in October that the existing Caledonian Sleeper franchise would come to an end in June 2023, I want to give rail staff and passengers as much certainty as I can about the future. With the Sleeper franchise ending on 25 June 2023, we have carefully assessed the options for successor arrangements in accordance with the current legislative framework and our Franchising Policy Statement. This decision has been taken following a detailed analysis of the options available, and in accordance with the current UK legislative framework and the Scottish Ministers’ Franchising Policy Statement. Having regard to continuing uncertainty regarding market conditions, travel behaviours and ongoing UK rail reform, it was decided that a Direct Award was not viable and that Sleeper services should instead be provided by the Scottish Government in line with their Operator of Last Resort duty. That is why I have confirmed that, from the expiry of the current franchise, Caledonian Sleeper services will be provided through Scottish Rail Holdings, a company wholly-owned and controlled by the Scottish Government. This approach will provide a stable platform for Sleeper services and certainty for passengers and staff.”*

Scottish Minister for Transport Jenny Gilruth announced that from 25 June 2023, Caledonian Sleeper services will be nationalised and provided by an arm’s length company owned and controlled by the Scottish Government in line with the Government’s statutory Operator of Last Resort duty. The prestigious Caledonian Sleeper Lowland Route runs between Glasgow Central or Edinburgh Waverley and the Highlander Route departs from Aberdeen, Inverness and Fort William to London Euston.

*“It is vital that we continue to support displaced people from Ukraine for as long as they need help. While I hope those of you who want to return to Ukraine can do so safely when you can, my message to those seeking sanctuary remains clear: Scotland is your home for as long as you need it to be. Slava Ukraini.”*

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said when she issued an open letter to Ukrainians in Scotland and across the world on the one-year anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Since war broke out in Ukraine, Scotland has welcomed more than 21,000 people fleeing the conflict.



*“Stobs Camp is an outstanding monument to Scotland’s role in the two great conflicts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It gives us a unique insight into the experience of those involved in these conflicts; those that served in the British military, civilian internees and prisoners of war. Designating a site as a scheduled monument is a way through which we can recognise and celebrate what makes this heritage special, along with ensuring it’s protected for future generations. We’re keen that the people have an opportunity to have their say as a part of this process and encouraging anyone with an interest in Stobs Camp to take part in our consultation.”*

Dara Parsons, Head of Designations at Historic Environment Scotland (HES), said a historic military training camp could soon have its key features recognised as scheduled monuments as HES announced it is seeking views from the public on proposals to designate Stobs Camp in recognition of its national importance. The Stobs Estate was originally purchased by the War Office in 1902, with the aim of having a permanent training base and barracks for one of the Army Corps. Within months of its creation, nearly 20,000 troops had been through the camp and Stobs was dubbed ‘Scotland’s Aldershot’. The remains of the camp include: First World War training trenches and firing ranges, and a Second World War tracked target range for tanks that is unique to Scotland. Stobs is also home to the last surviving example of a First World War prisoner of war accommodation hut, that is still in its original location, in the UK.



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## SCOTWORD

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

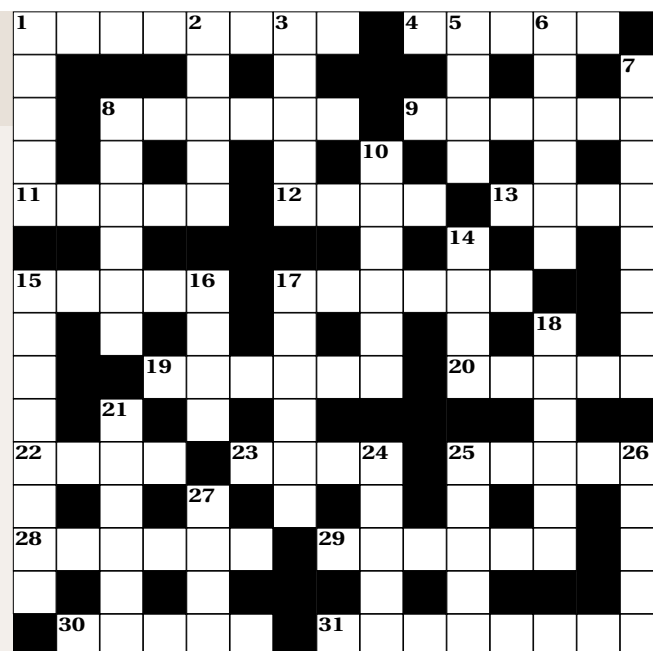
### CLUES ACROSS:

- 1 A Scots commotion (8).
- 4 Old Pict structure (5).
- 8 Scots crab (6).
- 9 Old lamplighter (6).
- 11 Narrow parts of Scots rivers (5).
- 12 Old Scots weighing machine (4).
- 13 Drams (4).
- 15 To a Scot, they're chips! (5).
- 17 A bairn's nappy (6).
- 19 Made a Scot do something (6).
- 20 Lads form the north-east (5).
- 22 Over in Scotland (4).

- 22 Large Scots box (4).
- 25 North-west sea passage (5).
- 28 A hearty Scot (6).
- 29 Forfar delicacy! (6).
- 30 By oneself in Scotland (5).
- 31 A 2 or 3 storeyed building (8).

### CLUES DOWN

- 1 A young bullock (5).
- 2 Old Scots coins (5).
- 3 Mark with a pen (5).
- 5 Scots mist! (4).
- 6 A Scots raven (6).
- 7 Scots go them for supplies (8).
- 8 Preaching place (6).
- 10 Sprung in Scotland! (6).
- 14 A Scots rattle! (4).
- 25 Ultra-chic in Scotland (8).
- 16 Party of men (4).
- 17 Hip-bone (6).
- 18 Describing Scotland (6).
- 21 Narrow lane between buildings (6).
- 24 Scots shield (5).
- 25 Highland biter! (5).
- 26 Barren piece of ground (5).
- 27 Greet in Scotland (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.*



MacMillan's Cross.



Medieval gravestones.

The other night it was minus 15 in Achnaharra in Sutherland. Mind, that is not over the top for the Highlands. The clue is in the name – high lands - and this tiny village once saw Scotland's lowest recorded temperature of minus 27.2. It is nothing compared to the world's lowest temperature of minus 89.22 - recorded in summer at Vostok, Antarctica - but for Scotland it is still frost-bitingly cold.

### Highland gem

Yet when summer and autumn come, Altnaharra is a much more welcoming spot. This small community sits on an old drovers' road. One once used by crofters to take their sheep and cattle to market. Altnaharra once boasted a drovers' inn. Today there is a smart, but traditional hotel. With trout-filled lochs all around, it is a mecca for anglers and walkers. It also has a small, unmanned weather station. Which is why temperatures are so carefully recorded. Altnaharra is on my 'must see' list. And this month the chief and I tick off another Highland gem. We drive up to the west coast. To Argyll, where the rain is relentless, and Loch Fyne is long, dark and full.

Someone once told me that Scotland is at its best seen in the rain. So, wrapped in waterproofs we set off to visit nearby Castle Sween. Built in the late twelfth century, this ruin on the edge of a sea loch is said to be Scotland's oldest standing

mainland castle. And what a lookout this menacing ancient pile must have been when trying to guard against sea invaders. The stone walls thick and towering. Water on one side, a hill on the other...

Castle Sween has links to the MacDonalds, Lords of the Isles. But it was originally a stronghold of Clan MacSween, some of whose descendants would migrate across the sea to Ireland. 'MacSween' is not a very common Scottish name, but when I hear it, I think of food. Because MacSweens are a famous Edinburgh butchers. This is a firm that started making haggis and black pudding back in the 1950s and now sell all over the world. In the past the company has hit the headlines by producing the world's most expensive haggis – a mix of Scottish wagyu beef and white French truffles. Today they make more affordable versions, including vegetarian and vegan haggis – and even gluten free haggis. You can check out their website where there are some terrific recipes.

### A treasure trove of antiquity

But I digress. Back to our Argyll trip. After the castle, it is on to tiny Killmory Knap Chapel. An ancient place of worship that houses a treasure trove of antiquity. There in the medieval church are dozens of gravestones, variously carved with knights in armour, swords, flowers, and animals. The centrepiece is

the fantastically preserved MacMillan's Cross; some eight feet high and inlaid with religious and hunting scenes. It is the work of age-old master masons. Considering the sort of tools they must have had in those days the skill is greatly to be admired. It is a culture blast from the past. And we are reminded that Argyll is serious clan territory.

Here were not just the Lords of the Isles, the mighty MacDonalds: motto 'By Sea and by Land'. Here were the all-powerful Campbells: their watchword, 'Forget Not'... With history all around we are reminded that this is Big Boy country - and a MacGregor and an Armstrong should watch their step. And we do. These days I am moving much more cautiously. Because the last time I was in the Highlands you may remember I slipped and broke my elbow. Dusk is falling. It is still raining, and we can just about look across the sea to the island of Jura. And there we are - more water. Then it is Argyll.

At least the food is fabulous. One night at the hotel, we eat venison with a blackberry sauce. The next a bowl of local langoustine come cooked in garlic and butter. Yes, you can forget your fancy French food. You can forgo the delicious Italian pasta and pizza. Or the moreish Spanish paella. Here in the Highlands, it may be wet, but it is Scotland's Larder at its best.

Greetings from Scotland where, despite a wee bit of snow, it is starting to feel like spring; climbing plants budding; daffodils about to burst into colour... Then, weather wise, we do live in one of the mildest parts of the country. We are in the Borderlands. Whereas up there in the Highlands, it can be a very different picture.

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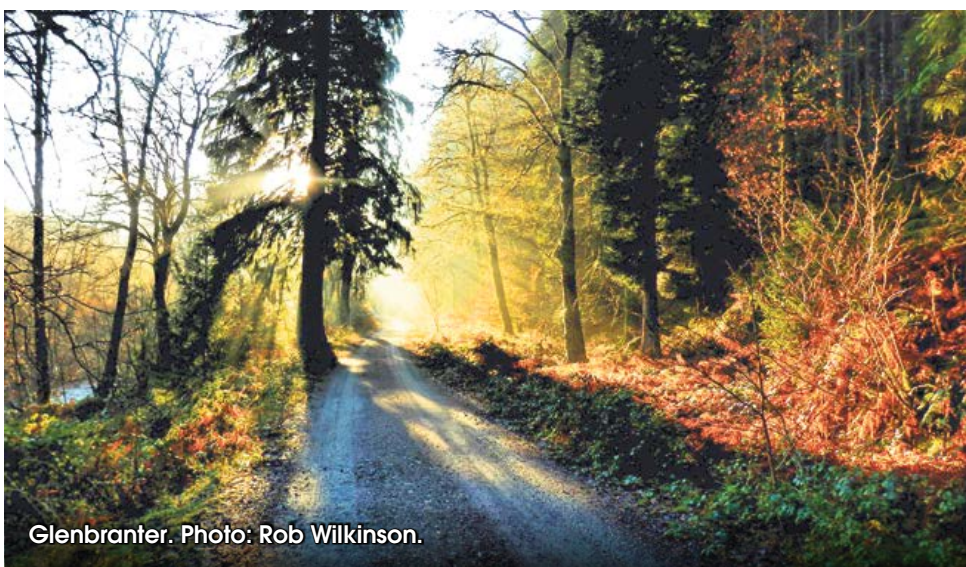
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# Echoes of the past on East Cowal's trails

Carrick Castle. Photo: Derek Prescott.



Glenbranter. Photo: Rob Wilkinson.

**P**uck, the mischievous sprite from Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, would be suitably impressed by the idyllic Argyll woodland trail that bears his name. Puck's Glen, just a five-minute drive from Dunoon with its ferry links to Greenock and Gourock, is one of a number of historical and natural landmarks that form part of the East Cowal Heritage Outdoors (ECHO) trails.

Dotted around a small peninsula that forms part of the spectacular but little known Cowal region of Argyll, the ECHO Trails represent an effective 'packaging' of an area that really could lay claim to being a geographical and geological gateway to the Scottish Highlands. The project was officially launched in July 2022 with the help of partner organisations that include the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, Forestry & Land Scotland, Historic Scotland and the Argyll & Isles Tourism Co-operative. Accessed by both foot passenger and car ferries from Greenock and Gourock respectively, as well as by car through the stunning Rest & Be Thankful mountain pass, east Cowal comprises of a number of small settlements including Kilmun, Ardentinn, Strone, Blairmore and Lochgoilhead and loops around the banks of Holy Loch and Lochs Long, Goil and Eck.

## The Kingdom of Dalriada

This is an area, originally part of the Kingdom of Dalriada, that has played a pivotal role in the moulding of Scotland through the ages with early Christian faith playing a part alongside some truly grim and gruesome clan rivalries. The gorge

that Puck's Glen meanders through was developed by the Laird of Benmore, James Duncan, in the 1870s. The 2.8km walkway, categorised as a strenuous trail, is an enchanting and mystical journey through a lush habitat that's rich in mosses and ferns and punctuated with delightful waterfall after delightful waterfall. It also showcases the finest aspects of the Argyll Forest, the UK's oldest managed forest that dates back to the 1930s.

Just down the road in Kilmun there's a clearly signposted arboretum with a number of walking trails of differing length and challenge that features trees from five different continents. It's a showroom, if you like, for the forest as a whole but one that reflects the international roots associated with Argyll and this corner of Cowal specifically.

There's Elizabeth Blackwell for starters. Starter of a revolution in the field of healthcare as well as being a social reformer and genuine changemaker. She forged a path in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as one of the first female doctors in the world, opening up opportunities for millions of women ever since and breaking



Pucks Glen. Photo: Ann Stamp.

down barriers wherever she worked in the US, France and across the UK. Elizabeth was laid to rest just a few yards beyond the arboretum at St Munns Church, now home to the Historic Kilmun community and heritage organisation. It also hosts Faith in Cowal, an organisation that's established a number of popular pilgrimage trails across the entirety of the Cowal peninsulas.

There's a wealth of local stories to be found at this church-come-museum with visitors exploring Kilmun's fascinating heritage as well as the resting place for countless Dukes of Argyll and Campbell clan chiefs.

Further on down the A880 coast road, pier pressure begins to tell with Kilmun, Strone and Blairmore's marine promontories piercing the shoreline of the Holy Loch and Loch Long. All date back to the Victorian era when this part of the world became the 'go to' place for thousands of Glaswegians. They still do but are now joined by visitors from across the UK and much further afield enticed by that mystical grip that Scotland's lochs and mountains exert on the human soul. Further on, the village of Ardentinn has a wealth of history and nature to draw the visitors in. From the beach, a wild camping magnet for responsible campervanners with a network of different walks, to the Dun Daraich stone age fort that's all but hidden from sight.

## Decidedly pucker

From here, overlooking the Coulport nuclear submarine base, there's a 5 mile shoreline walk to the 17<sup>th</sup> century Carrick Castle, now a private residence but another

site resonant in conflict as a focal point for the many grisly feuds between the Campbell and the Lamont clans. Time it right and you'll be able to get the minibus back!

Follow the road over to the Whistlefield Inn and you'll be rewarded with some truly iconic vistas over Loch Eck. It's money shot after money shot for those photographers with a fondness for exquisite natural compositions...as well as a decent pint and quality food in what is a supremely located, 17<sup>th</sup> century drover's inn! It's up there with the Clachaig in Glencoe and the Sligachan on Skye as Scotland's finest hostelries.

Turn right here onto the A815 and you'll soon be at Lauder Monument, an impressively positioned shrine to John Lauder, a victim of World War One and son of Harry Lauder who purchased the Glenbranter estate in 1916. Harry was an international superstar at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, performing all over the world and becoming the highest paid entertainer on the planet.

Glenbranter, just beyond the conclusion of Loch Eck, also offers a range of paths for all abilities that snake their way through a vibrant forestscape. Head back towards Dunoon past another exquisite, picture postcard hostelry, the Coylet Inn. You'll soon be back at Puck's Glen but not before coming across the fantastic Benmore Gardens. It's a large botanical paradise spread across the foothills of Beinn Mhòr and a heavenly haven for anyone with a passion for plants in their myriad forms.

There are 10 key locations within the ECHO Trails along with a number of places of interest as well as woodland walks, hikes and cycling trails across this small part of a small part of Argyll. There is so much to see and do in what is a microcosm of everything Scottish Highlands...but a wee bit closer. When describing the humans entering his woodland fairy realm, Puck utters one of his most famous lines "What fools these mortals be". You'll beg to differ. Spend a few days exploring this forested and loch fringed world and you'll be feeling far from foolish...and decidedly pucker!

**To learn more about the East Cowal Heritage Outdoors trails see: [www.echotrails.org](http://www.echotrails.org)**



Overlooking Loch Eck. Photo: Stephanie Darkins.



Loch Eck. Photo: Derek Prescott.



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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



## Islands Growth Deal worth £335 million signed

An agreement to invest £100 million in the future economic prosperity of Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides has been signed in Orkney by UK and Scottish Government Ministers and the Council Leaders of the three island groups. Up to 1,300 jobs and £393 million of investment is anticipated to result from the signing of the transformative Islands Growth Deal between UK Government, Scottish Government, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Shetland Islands Council, and Orkney Islands Council. Over a ten-year period, the Islands Growth Deal will invest in 16 projects and programmes that capitalise on the Islands' unique assets. These are built around three strategic themes of low carbon, supporting growth and future industries, and thriving sustainable communities, subject to approval of Full Business Cases.

Jointly funded by up to £100 million - £50 million from each of the Scottish and UK Governments - the Islands Growth Deal will attract further investment of up to £293 million in match funding. The Deal has been developed by the three island Councils, together with public, academic, business, community and third sector partners. The first year of the ten-year programme is anticipated to see investment across the islands, including in University of the Highlands and Islands campuses in Shetland and the Outer Hebrides, and the pan-island Islands Centre for Net Zero, which will be based at the Orkney Research and Innovation Campus in Stromness.

Following the signing within Orkney Islands Council's chamber, UK Government Minister for Scotland Malcolm Offord said: "This will not just boost local economies and create jobs, but also empower communities to get the most out of the many assets and attributes that make the islands such unique and special places to live. This deal is packed with a broad range of high-impact projects, whether it's leading the transition to net zero or developing 'must-visit' destinations such as the St Kilda trail. The UK Government's £50m support for the Islands deal, in addition to other levelling up investments, shows our continued commitment to the Scottish Islands."

Scottish Government Business Minister Ivan McKee said: "This Growth Deal will be a game-changing initiative for our islands - enabling sustainable economic growth and delivering new and internationally significant port infrastructure that will play an important role in achieving net

zero targets. This £50 million Scottish Government investment will support the transition to renewable energy sources - including equipping the workforce with new skills - and trial emissions reduction initiatives on islands. It will drive innovation in key space, food and drink and creative industries sectors; help develop significant tourism and cultural attractions and expand education provision. We are determined that our islands should be attractive places to live and work and are able to maximise their contribution to Scotland's sustainable economic transformation."

### National treasure HMS Unicorn reopens



National treasure *HMS Unicorn* has reopened to the public following an extensive period of closure, which has enabled the popular Dundee docked museum and visitor attraction to undergo urgent roof repairs, costing in excess of £100,000. The urgent repair work, which required a temporary steel roof to be installed on Scotland's oldest ship to ensure it is kept wind and watertight for five years until it can be treated properly.

The Unicorn Preservation Society, the charitable trust behind Scotland's oldest ship, is marking the re-opening by offering free self-guided visits for school groups over the next six months. *HMS Unicorn* offers an engaging experience for pupils, and with a school's programme designed to support Curriculum for Excellence the ship provides the opportunity for pupils to explore their heritage by immersing themselves in 200 years of history and discovering what life was like on board. The ship recently received a generous donation of £100,000 to help fund the much-needed restoration of the ship. The donation amounts to 10% of the total £1 million financial investment needed for immediate conservation repairs to *HMS Unicorn* and will go specifically towards the replacement of missing or rotten timbers and engineering works to strengthen the ship's weakest points. The work will be completed in advance of the ship being moved to dry dock,

East Graving Dock in Dundee, for major conservation works, as part of Project Safe Haven. Project Safe Haven will see *HMS Unicorn* forming the centre piece of the new Dundee Maritime Heritage Centre. Museum Director, Matthew Bellhouse Moran, said: "We're looking forward to welcoming visitors back to the ship once more, and we thank our many supporters for their patience. It's been a long period of closure - but one that was necessary for the urgent roof repairs to be completed. We are extremely grateful to Scott Steel for donating so much of their time and expertise in-kind for this crucial work to be completed. Given the current cost of living crisis, and to mark our re-opening we wanted to offer discount tickets so that as many people as possible are able to enjoy this historic ship, and also hear about our exciting plans for the future!" First launched in 1824, *HMS Unicorn* is the third oldest ship in the world and has been under the care of the Unicorn Preservation Society since 1968. Scotland's only preserved warship, the Unicorn Preservation Society is working to protect and preserve *HMS Unicorn* for future generations to enjoy. To support the preservation of *HMS Unicorn* please visit: [www.hmsunicorn.org.uk/hms-unicorn/supporting-us](http://www.hmsunicorn.org.uk/hms-unicorn/supporting-us)

### SNP to elect new Scottish First Minister

As we go to press with this issue a leadership election is being held following First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's announcement that she is standing down. The Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) will have a new Party Leader on 27 March 2023. The following candidates are nominated and will appear on the ballot paper: Finance Secretary Kate Forbes, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf and former Community Safety Minister Ash Regan who are all in the running to become Scotland's sixth First Minister. The ballot is not open to the public but rather SNP members who are eligible to vote.

The Scottish bookies are favouring Humza Yousaf to win, who is also rumoured to be Nicola Sturgeon's preference, with Kate Forbes seen as the closest rival. All three candidates have stated Scotland can be independent by 2028. The Supreme Court ruled in November 2022 that the Scottish Parliament does not have the power to hold a referendum without the agreement of the UK Government, which is unlikely to be granted. In February Nicola Sturgeon announced she would leave office, being Scotland's first woman and longest serving First Minister. In March, the Deputy First Minister John Swinney MSP also announced when a new First Minister was appointed, he too would leave Government.

### World's oldest Post Office For Sale



The world's oldest operating post office has gone on the market again in Sanquhar,

Dumfries and Galloway, in Southwest Scotland. The unique postal heritage site is on the market for £245,000 and attracts many visitors. The origins of Sanquhar Post Office date back to 1712. It is Grade II Listed and is recognised by the Universal Postal Union (the governing body for Postal Administrations around the globe) and the *Guinness Book of Records*, as the Oldest Post Office in the World. Today it offers many more services than just post and mail and is operated by the current owners who are only the 16<sup>th</sup> Postmasters in over 300 years. A spokesperson from the Royal Mail was quoted: "Sanquhar Post Office is the world's oldest working post office and we are very proud of its long heritage. There have been 16 owners since it opened in 1712. The Alam family has operated Sanquhar branch since 2015. Sanquhar Post Office is up for sale and interest has been expressed by retailers who want to run this historic branch."

### The Storr launches new visitor information website



The Storr visitor attraction has launched its dedicated and branded website, providing information that aims to enhance the visitor experience. The Old Man of Storr project is "for the community, in the community, by the community" working closely with communities and with continual local Member involvement, to celebrate Gaelic and to demonstrate engagement and partnership working.

The Old Man of Storr is an iconic and internationally acclaimed visitor attraction, with annual visitors reaching approx. 200,000 per year. On a clear day, the landmark can be seen from miles around and is a renowned symbol of Scotland. Created by an ancient landslip, the rock face and pinnacles were formed millions of years ago. Legend varies around the 'Old Man', with some locals believing that the pinnacle is the thumb of a giant who is now buried underground, whilst others declare that the face of an old man can be seen in the rock face. Isle of Skye and Raasay Area Committee Chair, Cllr John Finlayson said: "The launch of The Storr visitor information website is another progressive step, to ensure the Storr is further recognised alongside other world-renowned tourist attractions. Offering a digital and social media platform, dedicated to The Storr will enable us to showcase our unique heritage, whilst offering opportunity for local businesses, that could support economic growth in the area." The Old Man of Storr translates to 'Bodach an Stòir' in Gaelic. Gaelic language is a rich part of the local culture, and the website, which will be fully translated to Gaelic in time, has included Gaelic headings to allow visitors to take away key Gaelic words and the meaning behind them. The new Storr website can be accessed at [thestorr.com](http://thestorr.com).

# Ellis Island Exhibition to Trace the History of Tartan Day



The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Tartan Day on Ellis Island program will celebrate “The Story of Tartan Day” In addition to the new exhibition, Ellis Island will celebrate Tartan Day with a whole host of performers. As part of National Tartan Day, an exhibition tracing the story of Tartan Day, from its inception in Nova Scotia in 1986 to Congressional proclamations, the day recognizes Scots’ manifold contributions in science, industry, sports, politics and the fine arts throughout America’s history. The event is produced by the Learned Kindred of Currie through their educational foundation, the Clan Currie Society. Research/writer for the exhibition is Matt Potter and design has been led by Melana Currie of Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada serves as the exhibition designer. To commemorate National Tartan Day in song and dance, Ellis Island will also play host to a company of pipers, drummers, Highland Dancers, storytellers and more during Tartan Day Weekend, April 5-7. Admission to the exhibit is free. Visitors will need to purchase ferry tickets to the island from [www.statuecruises.com](http://www.statuecruises.com)

## The largest Tartan Day celebration in the world

Tartan Day on Ellis Island is one of the principal Scottish heritage events in the United States. Playing host to literally thousands of domestic and international visitors each day, it is the largest Tartan Day celebration in the world. Ellis Island is a fitting place to observe Tartan Day. The island and its historic buildings represent America’s “Golden Door.” From 1892 to 1954, more than 12 million immigrants passed through Ellis Island. Although many Scots arrived during the colonial period of our history – helping to build the new nation – an additional half-million Scots came through Ellis Island. It has been estimated that 40% of

Americans today can trace at least one ancestor’s entry into the United States through Ellis Island. Describing the annual program, noted Scottish journalist and author Roddy Martine reported that of all the Tartan Day events held in the United States, the Ellis Island observance has, “stood out as a beacon of what USA Tartan Day is all about: the emigrant ancestors of ordinary Americans who over three centuries crossed the Atlantic Ocean to create the world’s greatest democracy.” Tartan Day on Ellis Island is produced by the Clan Currie Society – the non-profit wing of the Learned Kindred of Currie - one of the preeminent Scottish heritage organizations in the United States. The Society began their successful collaboration with the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in 2002 in the coordination and sponsorship of their first Tartan Day celebration. As part of the celebrations for Tartan Day 2011, the Clan Currie Society commissioned a specially designed Ellis Island Tartan© to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tartan Day on Ellis Island. Each color in the tartan reflects upon the American immigrant experience. The blue represents the ocean that had to be crossed to reach the American shores. The copper-green is the color of the Statue of Liberty. The red depicts the bricks of the Ellis Island buildings where 12 million Americans took their first steps towards freedom. The gold is the “golden door” that is the United States of America and the dawn of a new life in America.

Past programs have included “A Celebration of Tartan,” “Scots of New York,” “Captain Kidd and the Hangman’s Noose,” “Scots of the American West,” and “The Jacobites and America.”

**Tartan Day on Ellis Island takes place at the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration, April 6-24, 2023, 10:00am-4:00 pm. For details see: [www.facebook.com/TartanDayonEllisIsland](http://www.facebook.com/TartanDayonEllisIsland)**



The Ellis Island Tartan. Photo: Scottish Register of Tartans.



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# The Prestwick Pioneers



Scottish Aviation Pioneer in RAF Museum in Cosford. Xenomorph, CC BY-SA 4.0.

***Prestwick is located in South Ayrshire and is synonymous with Scottish aviation. Ninety years ago this month, on April 3 1933 David McIntyre and Sir Douglas Douglas-Hamilton were the first men to fly over the summit of Mount Everest. The aviators would go on to form Scottish Aviation Ltd at Prestwick, which was the last Scottish aircraft manufacturing company created, as Eric Bryan explains.***

The Marquess of Douglas and Clydesdale, Douglas Douglas-Hamilton, and Group Captain Duncan McIntyre were Scottish pioneers of aviation. In April 1933 the pair made the first flight over the peak of Mount Everest, a feat achieved in Westland PV6 and PV3 biplanes with open cockpits. In 1935 Hamilton and McIntyre obtained about 348 acres of land beside Orangefield Hotel (formerly Orangefield House), Monkton, by Prestwick. Pilots had used the site since around 1913, and it saw increased activity in the 1930s when Midland and Scottish airline aircraft would land in the Meadow and the flight crews patronise the Orangefield Hotel.

## The Pioneer

Hamilton and McIntyre had a modest control tower built, as well as hangars, offices and lecture halls. Establishing their enterprise as the Scottish College of Aviation Ltd, in 1936 it became simply Scottish Aviation Ltd. That year, Scottish Aviation's No 12 Elementary Flying Training School began training RAF pilots in Tiger Moth biplanes. The firm also soon founded its No 1 Air Observer Navigation School which operated twin-engine monoplane Avro Anson aircraft. In conjunction with its schools, Scottish Aviation expanded into aircraft repair and overhaul services.

The Palace of Engineering was moved from Bellahouston Park, Glasgow to the airfield to provide Scottish Aviation with the required factory space for these activities. The airfield became RAF Prestwick when the RAF took

it over with the outbreak of WWII. The site grew quickly to accommodate the heavy traffic of incoming American aircraft. Scottish Aviation serviced and maintained airplanes for the RAF, work which involved fitting American aircraft with British weapons and avionics. This included converting B-24 Liberators to be enlisted for missions over the North Atlantic by the RAF Ferry, Transport and Coastal Commands. Scottish Aviation also oversaw repairs on Hurricanes and Spitfires, and did repairs and overhauls of Sunderland flying boats. When the war ended, Scottish Aviation pilot training operations ceased and the Prestwick site was developed into a large air base to serve the USAF.

In the immediate post-war years, Scottish Aviation developed a utility transport airplane called the Pioneer. This was to be a light communication aircraft per the requirements of the Air Ministry. A high-wing monoplane, it was fitted with a 240hp engine and had its maiden flight in 1947. The Pioneer proved to be underpowered, so the RAF didn't place an order for the machine. This outcome led Scottish Aviation to focus on a civilian version of the aircraft, called the Pioneer II. Fitted with a 520hp engine, the Pioneer II took its first flight in 1950. With the new more powerful motor, the Pioneer II exhibited superb short take-off and landing (STOL) abilities. This led the RAF to order the aircraft, which was designated the Pioneer CC1. The addition of large leading edge slats and trailing edge flaps to the wings of the production

models enhanced the Pioneer's STOL characteristics: its take-off rolling distance was as little as 225 ft, and its landing run distance as paltry as 200 ft. Scottish Aviation began to deliver the Pioneer to the RAF in 1953. The RAF enlisted the Pioneer for casualty evacuation in Aden, Cyprus and the Malayan Emergency. In Malaysia and Borneo, the RAF Pioneers demonstrated their capability of flying in and out of very short airstrips (some only 480 feet long) in rough terrain and tropical temperatures. The airplane remained in RAF service until 1969. The Pioneer also served with the Royal Malayan Air Force and Royal Ceylon Air Force.

## Scottish Aviation

Scottish Aviation next developed what was considered a two-engine version of the Pioneer. The Twin Pioneer was a high-wing airplane with triple tail fins. The first prototype flew from Prestwick in 1955. In 1957 there were two fatal accidents caused by wing panel failures on the Twin Pioneer, leading to some major design changes. Scottish Aviation developed a Series 2 version of the airplane in 1958, and a Series 3 came along in 1959. Scottish Aviation produced military versions of the aircraft which could carry weaponry under its stub wings. The RAF ordered 39 Twin Pioneer aircraft, which they deployed mainly for troop and supply transport in the Far East and the Middle East. They saw action in Borneo and in the Malayan Emergency. The Twin Pioneer could operate out of airstrips of about 900 feet in length which made it ideal for missions in the Far East where short and rugged jungle landing strips were typical.

The Twin Pioneer went into commercial use as a transport aircraft in situations where rough, impromptu airfields were used. Oil exploration companies and the Austrian and Swiss governments also used the Twin Pioneer for surveying. In the 1960s, Scottish Aviation supported all aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force which were operating in Europe. In this capacity the firm carried out more than 1000 test flights of the Canadair CF-104 Starfighter from Prestwick. When Beagle Aircraft Ltd of England went bankrupt in 1969, Scottish Aviation took over production rights to its airplane called

the B125 Bulldog, as well as the Swedish Air Board's order for 78 units of the aircraft. The Bulldog was a single-engine low-wing aerobatics-capable trainer. Scottish Aviation completed 58 Bulldogs which went to the Swedish Air Force in 1971, and 20 more were delivered to the Swedish Army in 1972. The RAF ordered 130 Bulldogs in 1972, which they put into service in 1975 as the Bulldog T1. The airplane saw extensive use as a basic trainer for the RAF. Air forces in Africa, the Middle East, Malta and the Far East also enlisted the Bulldog.

In the mid-1960s Handley Page Ltd of England developed a small airliner, called the Jetstream. This was a low-wing twin turboprop aircraft intended to seat 18-20. Scottish Aviation built complete Jetstream wing structures for Handley Page. The prototype flew in 1967, and the production model, the Jetstream 1, took to the sky in 1968. Handley Page launched the Jetstream 2, which had more powerful engines than did the Jetstream 1, in 1969. But the Jetstream project had gone £10 million over the projected budget, and Handley Page went bankrupt in 1970 after completing only three Jetstream 2 examples.

Scottish Aviation and a group of investors then formed the Jetstream Aircraft consortium to produce the Jetstream. Scottish Aviation manufactured ten more Jetstream 1 aircraft, and produced the Jetstream 2 as the Jetstream 200. The RAF ordered 26 Jetstreams in 1972. Produced as the Jetstream 201, the RAF used them as trainers designated Jetstream T1. The Royal Navy acquired 14 of these which were configured as observer trainers, designated Jetstream T2. The Jetstream was employed by airlines in Argentina, Libya, Colombia, Denmark, Germany and the United States. Besides being put into service by the RAF and Royal Navy, the Jetstream was also enlisted by the Uruguayan Navy. In 1977 Scottish Aviation merged with the British Aircraft Corporation, Hawker Siddeley Aviation and Hawker Siddeley Dynamics to form British Aerospace plc. British Aerospace continued to develop and produce the Jetstream as the Jetstream 31 and 32, and Jetstream 41. The Jetstream 31 and 32 had more powerful engines than did previous models, while the Jetstream 41 was a stretched version of the 31 which could seat 29 passengers. Aircraft manufacture at Prestwick finally ended in 1997-98, but many of the British Aerospace Jetstreams are still in active service as airliners.



Scottish Aviation Twin Pioneer CC1 at the RAF Museum, Cosford. Hugh Llewelyn, CC BY-SA 2.0.



RAF Bulldog. Tony Hisgett, CC BY 2.0.



Scottish Aviation Jetstream T.1 at RAF Wyton. Colin Cooke, CC BY-SA 2.0.

The Queen of Scots poster 1948-1959 @Science Museum Group.

# A Celebration of Tartan

V&A Dundee present major exhibition solely on tartan

**T**artan (1 April 2023 – 14 January 2024) at V&A Dundee takes a radical new look at an instantly recognisable textile and pattern. Set to be a major event in 2023's cultural calendar, *Tartan* marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scotland's design museum. Celebrating tartan and its global impact, the exhibition explores how tartan has connected and divided communities worldwide, how it has embraced tradition, expressed revolt, and inspired great works of art as well as playful and provocative designs. *Tartan* at V&A Dundee brings together a dazzling selection of more than 300 objects from over 80 lenders worldwide, illustrating tartan's universal and enduring appeal through iconic and everyday examples of fashion, architecture, graphic and product design, photography, furniture, glass and ceramics, film, performance and art.

The exhibition features loans from across Scotland and around the world, including Chanel, Dior, Vivienne Westwood, Alexander McQueen, Tate, V&A, National Museums of Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, National Theatre of Scotland, The Royal Collection, Fashion Museum Bath, the Highland Folk Museum and more, many of which are being shown together in Scotland for the first time.

## Tartan's importance

Tartan's importance and enduring appeal as a textile has been utilised by designers throughout history, with some of fashion's most innovative and rebellious minds exercising their refined cutting skills on tartan as a fabric. This will be reflected with pieces by Chanel, Dior, Alexander McQueen, Vivienne Westwood and Comme des Garçons, alongside the work of contemporary designers inspired by tartan including Grace Wales Bonner, Nicholas Daley, Louise Gray, Charles Jeffrey, Owen Snaith and Olubiyi Thomas. The exhibition takes a radical new look at tartan, juxtaposing historical objects with the contemporary and is laid out in

five sections where visitors can immerse themselves in the world of *Tartan*.

*Tartan and the Grid* looks at the basic structure of tartan, introduced through textiles from around the world and positioning Tartan as a set of rules to be disrupted by designers. *Innovating Tartan* looks at how tartan has always been at the intersection of technical innovation. Tartan has been translated into a pattern manifested in an incredible variety of materials, from natural to the synthetic, and even glass. It covers every imaginable surface, securing its position at the forefront of art and design. In *Tartan and Identity*, tartan's global fascination including its importance to diasporic communities is examined. Also, the appeal tartan has always held for those who express themselves through their clothing, from the traditional to the radical.

*Tartan and Power* shows how it disrupts and conforms. A force of pride and might, used to push boundaries or maintain control in war and peacetime. *Transcendental Tartan* transports visitors to new worlds and possibilities in fashion, media, performance and popular culture.

The exhibition will look at tartan's many narratives and how it is used by designers as a medium for myth and storytelling. In addition, V&A Dundee has asked the public to contribute to the exhibition. This will be *The People's Tartan*, an eclectic selection of objects and memories that will spark recognition and nostalgia.

## Scotland's most iconic design

To commemorate this landmark exhibition, V&A Dundee has commissioned Kinloch Anderson to design a new tartan to be used as the museum's exclusive tartan and developed a range of merchandise in collaboration with designers in Scotland. The spectrum of how tartan has been worn is covered in the exhibition, from an eighteenth-century tartan dress coat for the Ancient Caledonian Society, to a significant

photograph from around 1908 of Scottish Suffragettes proudly wearing tartan sashes. From Sir Jackie Stewart's racing helmet with its distinctive Royal Stewart tartan band, through to contemporary streetwear from Japan. *Tartan* includes objects that illustrate the global translation, appropriation, reach and appeal of tartan across cultures and borders. The indigenous textiles of Indian Madras and East African Shuka cloth are explored in relation to tartan in the exhibition. Global, diasporic and even out of this world connections are represented too, with an ensemble made from Canadian Maple Leaf tartan and a fragment of MacBean tartan taken aboard Apollo 12 in November 1969 by American astronaut Alan Bean.

Paintings, including Donald Judd's minimalist grids, Christian Hook's oil painting of actor Alan Cumming and Gerard Burns' portrait of the late former Scotland International rugby star Doddie Weir OBE, sit alongside the seventeenth-century image of Lord Mungo Murray by John Michael Wright. There are items of devotion, from a fragment of tartan worn by Prince Charles Edward Stuart, now afforded relic status, to Bay City Rollers trousers, handmade by a lifelong fan. From the sublime through to the everyday - even the humble but iconic tartan shortbread tin has been considered.

Leonie Bell, V&A Dundee Director, says: "To mark our 5<sup>th</sup> birthday we are celebrating and challenging the history and contradictions within Scotland's most iconic design. Everyone knows tartan, in Scotland and across the world, and it is linked to a hugely diverse range of identities. It is at once the pattern of Highland myth and legend, forever entwined with Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite uprising, as well as being the pattern of 1970s punks and contemporary Japanese fashion influencers. Tartan lives in the worlds of high fashion and tourism souvenirs, military uniform and palaces, football stadiums and concerts. It is adored and derided, has inspired great works of art and design, and somehow can represent unity and dissent, tradition and rebellion, the past, the present and the future. *Tartan* - the instantly recognisable symbol of Scotland, a global textile of oppression, rebellion, and fashion, is major and must-see show for 2023."

Consultant curator Professor Jonathan Faiers, said: "The diversity that this exhibition encompasses is an indication of the significant position that tartan occupies as a visual representation of historical, political and economic shifts within society. Marked by wars and revolutions, modified by migrations and prohibitions, tartan is uniquely positioned to act as a reminder of the past whilst clothing the present. As tartan so richly demonstrates, textiles, from the smallest details of their pattern and construction to their global dissemination, provide rules to be disrupted with which we can understand historical transformations within society and developments in our own time. The intersections and spaces between warp and weft provide a textile template for the collisions, coincidences and ruptures that punctuate society."

Kirsty Hassard, Curator at V&A Dundee, added: "Tartan has been constantly reinvented and that is incredibly important to the narrative of the exhibition. It's a pattern and textile that stretches back thousands of years, and some of the stories the exhibition tells are 300 years old or more, but *Tartan* isn't a retrospective, it is absolutely a contemporary show. Within excess of 300 objects from more than 80 lenders around the globe, *Tartan* tells the story of how this pattern has travelled and explores the connection we all have to it."

V&A Dundee is Scotland's design museum. Designed by Kengo Kuma, the museum is at the centre of Dundee's reimagined waterfront and is part of the V&A family of museums that celebrate creativity in all its forms from across centuries, for everyone.

**Entry to the exhibition is free for members and 18s and under. Tickets are now on sale at [www.vam.ac.uk/dundee/exhibitions/tartan](http://www.vam.ac.uk/dundee/exhibitions/tartan)**



Director of V&A Dundee, Leonie Bell wearing kilt by Kinloch Anderson. Photo: Julie Howden.



Farquharson Tartan Skirt and Scarf courtesy of Aberdeen City Council, Art Gallery and Museums Collections.



Doctor Marten McMartin tartan boots.



Robert MacNab (b.1822) and Donald MacNaughton (1812-69), by Kenneth Macleay (1802-78), 1868, Watercolour. Photo: Royal Collection Trust © His Majesty King Charles III 2023.

# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

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

1 - Hunt the Gowk - Scottish equivalent of April Fool's Day (gowk is a cuckoo).

1 - The birth of Sir William, Mr Justice MacPherson of Cluny, the noted Scottish jurist and the 27<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan Macpherson. Cluny passed away in February, 2021. **1926**



2 - The College of New Aberdeen was founded. The college was founded by the Earl Marischal of Scotland, George Keith of Inverurie, and became known as Marischal College. Marischal College was the second university in Aberdeen, following the foundation of King's College in 1495 by Bishop William Elphinstone. The two universities were united in 1860 as the University of Aberdeen. **1593**

2 - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island. **1992**

3 - Murder of Duke of Rothesay, heir of Robert III. **1401**

3 - King James VI travelled to London to take up the English throne. James moved his court to Whitehall Palace in London, where they settled around the palace in an area which became known as "Scotland Yard". On his way to London he knighted 300 people, and in the space of four months in England had knighted more people than Queen Elizabeth had in her entire reign. James returned to Scotland only once, in 1617, and he liked to boast that he now ruled his northern kingdom with a stroke of his pen. **1603**

4 - Parliament held by King Robert II at Scone, resolved that his son, the Earl of Carrick should succeed his father as King (as Robert III although he was baptised John). **1373**

4 - King Robert III died and James I ascended the throne (but was not crowned until 1424 as he was a prisoner of the English). **1406**

4 - John Napier, inventor of logarithms, died in Edinburgh. **1617**

5 - Birth at Lesmahagow of composer Alexander Muir, creator of Maple Leaf Forever. **1830**

5 - Disaster at an England vs. Scotland football match at Ibrox Stadium when part of the flooring collapsed, killing 25, injuring over 500. **1902**



6 - Declaration of Arbroath - "For we fight not for glory nor for riches nor for honour, but only and alone for freedom, which no good man surrenders but with his life", was drawn up by the monks of Arbroath Abbey. The Declaration of Arbroath is widely regarded as being the inspiration behind the American Declaration of Independence in 1776. **1320**



6 - Nova Scotia officially proclaims Tartan Day. Started originally as "Tartan Day in Nova Scotia," founder and *Scottish Banner* reader Jean Watson approached every provincial Legislative Assembly in Canada, as well as other Scottish-cultural societies across Canada, to help get such a date established. **1987**

6 - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. **1992**

6 - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian province of Newfoundland & Labrador. **1995**

6 - The U.S. Senate declared April 6 to be National Tartan Day to recognize the contributions made by Scottish Americans to the United States. **1998**

7 - The Scottish National Party was founded. The SNP was created out of the merger of a number of parties; the National Party of Scotland, formed in 1928 from an amalgamation of a number of small parties following the rejection of a Home Rule bill, and the Scottish Party, a breakaway section of the Cathcart Conservative Association. The party enjoyed its first success in 1945, when Robert MacIntyre was elected to represent Motherwell. **1934**

7 - Jim Clark, Duns farmer, twice World Motor Racing Champion, killed in crash, Hockenheim. The Jim Clark Motorsport Museum opened in the historic market town of Duns in the Scottish Borders in 2019. **1968**

7 - The last native person born on the island of St Kilda, Rachel Johnson, died at the age of 93 at a care home in Clydebank. **2016**

8 - Radical prisoners were taken from Paisley to Greenock jail under escort. The citizens of Greenock fought their escort, the Port Glasgow Militia, until they reached the jail. Still coming under attack, the Militia opened fire on the stone-throwing crowd. Eight were killed, including an eight year old boy, and ten wounded, before the militia retreated from Greenock. In the evening, the angry Greenockians stormed the jail and freed the prisoners. **1820**

9 - Second Treaty of Durham in which David I is recognised as King of an independent Scotland by King Stephen of England. **1139**

9 - Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the leading Scottish Jacobite rebel was beheaded on Tower Green, London. Lovat has the unwanted notoriety of being the last man to be publicly beheaded in Britain. It is said his last words said were in Latin: "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori" or "It's sweet and seemly to die for one's country". **1747**

10 - King James V born. **1512**

10 - Sandy Lyle becomes the first Scottish (and British) golfer to win the US Masters tournament. **1988**

11 - Scottish settlement in Darien, Panama, abandoned. **1700**

11 - The wedding of Scottish tennis star Andy Murray to his long-term partner Kim Sears takes place in Dunblane. **2015**



12 - Union flag adopted as the flag of England, Wales and Scotland. **1606**

12 - The SNP won their first electoral victory. Dr Robert D. MacIntyre won the Motherwell and Wishaw by-election in a straight fight with Labour by a majority of 617 votes. MacIntyre later became Provost of Stirling. **1945**

12 - The Cromarty Bridge opens. The road bridge joins a junction with the B9163 to the south in Ross and Cromarty with a junction with the A862 to the north at Ardullie Point. It became part of the A9 in 1982. **1979**

13 - The Stone of Destiny, which had been removed from underneath the Coronation Chair by Scottish nationalists on 25 December 1950, was returned to Westminster Abbey after being found at Arbroath Abbey. **1951**

13 - Scots entertainer, actor and comedian Jimmy Logan died. **2001**



14 - University of Edinburgh founded. **1582**

14 - Aberdeen Football Club was founded. **1903**

15 - Prof Joseph Black chemist, researcher, teacher, first to identify carbon dioxide, died. **1799**

15 - Infamous passenger liner the *RMS Titanic* sank in the Atlantic Ocean after hitting an iceberg. Several Scots died on the ship including musician Jock Hume who played as the ship sank, First Officer William Murdoch, and several staff members. 1500 people perished on the maiden voyage to New York. **1912**

15 - Actor and comedian Rikki Fulton born in Glasgow. He was best known for his double act with Jack Milroy as Francie and Josie and as the Rev I M Jolly in *Scotch and Wry*. **1924**



16 - The Battle of Culloden took place at Culloden Moor, where British troops defeated the Scottish Jacobite army for the final confrontation of the 1745 Jacobite Rising. It was the last ever battle to be fought on Scottish/British soil with over 1500 Scottish fatalities. **1746**

16 - *Royal Yacht Britannia* launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank. The *Britannia* opened as a visitor attraction in Edinburgh in 1998. **1953**

16 - Livingston in West Lothian is officially designated as a New Town. It was the fourth post-war new town to be built in Scotland. **1962**

17 - A British record attendance at a football match was set when 149,547 watched Scotland play England at Hampden Park, Glasgow. Until 1950, this was a world record. **1937**

17 - Alexander Mackenzie, the Scottish-born Canadian statesman, died. Mackenzie was the first Liberal Prime Minister of Canada, serving from 1873-78. **1892**

18 - Remains of David Livingstone interred in Westminster Abbey. **1874**

18 - Harbourne Stephen, the Scottish World War II fighter pilot, was born. Stephen was a Battle of Britain fighter ace who went on to forge a career for himself as a newspaper executive. On his way to a tally of 23 registered kills (though it was almost certainly higher) he shot down five enemy aircraft in a single day in August 1940. **1914**

19 - Robert II, grandson of Robert the Bruce, died at Dundonald Castle. **1390**

19 - Jim Mollison, the pioneering Scottish aviator, was born. Mollison held many individual records for distance, endurance, and speed flying, he became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from East to West. **1905**

20 - The first public meeting of the Scottish National Party was held. The meeting was held in the Central Hall, Tollcross, Edinburgh. The Scottish National Party was formed by the amalgamation of The National Party of Scotland and The Scottish Party. **1934**

21 - John Muir, the Scottish-born American naturalist, was born in Dunbar. Muir was responsible for the creation of Yosemite and Sequoia national parks in California. The 550-acre Muir Woods National Monument is named after him. **1838**

21 - Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act passed by the Scottish Parliament, the first piece of legislation in the UK to give formal recognition to the Scottish Gaelic language. It aims to secure Gaelic as an official language of Scotland,

commanding "equal respect" with English, by establishing Bòrd na Gàidhlig within the framework of the government of Scotland. **2005**

22 - Captain John Paul Jones (born and raised in Scotland), Commanding Officer of the Continental Warship *Ranger*, led a raid on the town of Whitehaven, England. The first raid on England in over a hundred years and the last time England was attacked on its own shore. No one was hurt and the damage was minimal, but the fear created in England played a huge part in the American victory. **1778**

23 - King Alexander I died at Stirling Castle, succeeded by David I. **1124**

23 - Blackout restrictions lifted as World War II heads to a conclusion. **1945**

24 - 15-year-old Mary, Queen of Scots, married French Dauphin, Francis Valois (aged 14) at Notre Dame in Paris. They had no children and Francis died in 1560, ruling France for just eighteen months. **1558**

24 - Novelist R M Ballantyne, who wrote 90 books, the best known of which was *The Coral Island*, was born in Edinburgh. **1825**

25 - Malcolm III (Canmore) crowned. **1058**



25 - The Royal Navy's last battleship, *HMS Vanguard*, was accepted for trials by the navy. The ship was built at John Brown's in Clydebank. It was originally intended to be part of the Far Eastern Fleet fighting the Japanese but was not completed until after the war, and so became the only British battleship never to fire her guns in anger. **1946**

26 - Philosopher David Hume born. **1711**

27 - The Scottish army was routed in the Battle of Dunbar by Edward I, King of England. Hostilities started when the King of the Scots, John Balliol, renounced his allegiance to the English Crown. The battle became known as the "Dunbar Drave". **1296**

27 - James Bruce, the Scottish explorer, died. Bruce became the first European to discover Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, in 1770. **1794**

27 - The population of Scotland reaches a record high, standing at 5,404,700. **2017**

28 - Henry Dundas, powerful politician, known as "Uncrowned King of Scotland", born. **1742**

28 - Glasgow Garden Festival opened by Prince Charles and the Princess of Wales on the south bank of the River Clyde. The festival would welcome 4.5 million visitors over five months. **1988**

29 - Stephen Hendry, aged 21, becomes the youngest world snooker champion by beating Jimmy White 18-12 in the final. **1990**

29 - Lonnie Donegan, the Scottish skiffle singer, composer and guitarist, was born. Considered by some to be Britain's first pop superstar, James Anthony Donegan burst onto the scene in the mid-1950s with a distinctive, lively sound called skiffle. **1931**

30 - Royal Bank invents first overdraft, William Hogg overdrafts by £1,000 (over £75,000 at today's money). **1728**

30 - David Livingstone, the renowned Scottish missionary and explorer, died. Born in Blantyre, Livingstone was famed for his exploration of central and southern Africa. He was the first European to see Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. **1873**



30 - An Comunn Gaidhealach was formally instituted as a vehicle for the preservation and development of the Gaelic language. **1891**



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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 700g/1 ½ lbs.  
 150g/5oz. dried marrowfat peas, soaked overnight, then drained  
 75g/3oz. pearl barley, soaked overnight, then drained  
 25g/1oz. parsley (including stalks)  
 200g/7oz. carrots, peeled and diced finely  
 150g/5oz. kail, washed and chopped finely  
 200g/7oz. 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.

Granite City Sausages

Ingredients:

500g/1lb. sausage meat  
 500g/1lb. steak, minced  
 125g/4oz. bacon, minced  
 250g/8oz. fresh white breadcrumbs  
 1 tablespoonful Worcestershire sauce  
 Salt and pepper, to season  
 1 egg, beaten  
 Breadcrumbs, for coating

Method:

Mix together all the ingredients, except for the last two. Bind with the beaten egg and make into a roll. Boil in a floured cloth for approximately 1 ½ hours. Roll in the breadcrumbs that have been toasted in the oven. Serve cold with a salad if wished. Serves 6.

Moray Pie

Ingredients:

500g/1lb. steak, minced  
 60g/2oz. butter  
 3 small carrots, grated  
 3 small onions, chopped  
 4 fl. oz./½ pint beef stock or water  
 Salt and freshly-ground black pepper  
 500g/1lb. potatoes

Method:

Fry the mince in the butter until brown in colour, then add the grated carrots and chopped onions, and fry gently for another 2 minutes. Add the stock and seasoning and simmer for 30 minutes. Parboil the potatoes and cut them into slices approximately ¼ inch thick. Place the meat mixture into a piedish and top with the sliced potatoes. Brush with some melted butter and brown under a grill. Serve, garnished with parsley. Serves 4.

Smoked Salmon Fish Cakes

Ingredients:

225g/8oz. smoked salmon, shredded  
 170g/6oz. mashed potatoes  
 Salt and freshly-ground black pepper  
 30g/1oz. butter, melted  
 1 tablespoonful fresh parsley, chopped  
 1 egg, beaten  
 Dried white breadcrumbs  
 5 tablespoonfuls oil, for frying

Method:

Mix together the smoked salmon and the mashed potatoes. Season well with the salt and black pepper. Add the melted butter, parsley and enough beaten egg to bind the mixture until it is soft, but not sloppy, then allow it to cool. Flour the hands and shape the mixture into 8 flat cakes approximately 1 inch thick. Brush the cakes with beaten egg and coat with the breadcrumbs. Heat the oil in a frying pan and fry until the fish cakes are brown on both sides. Serve with lemon wedges, if wished. Serves 4.

Sultana Cake



Ingredients:

175g/6oz. butter, softened  
 175g/6oz. caster sugar  
 3 medium sized eggs  
 225g/8oz. plain flour, sifted  
 225g/8 oz. sultanas  
 1 level dessert spoonful granulated sugar

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 325F/170C/Gas Mark 3. Cream together the butter and sugar until pale in colour. Beat in the eggs one at a time with one-third of the flour after each addition. Stir in the sultanas and mix well to form a fairly stiff dough. Turn the mixture into a buttered, base-lined, deep 18 cm/7 inch cake tin and bake for approximately 60 minutes or until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean. Turn off the oven and sprinkle the granulated sugar over the cake. Return the cake to the oven for 3 to 4 minutes, then place on a wire rack to cool. When cold, turn out of the tin.

Soor Mulk Scones

Ingredients:

60g/2oz. butter or margarine  
 1 egg  
 300ml/½ pint buttermilk  
 500g/1lb. self-raising flour  
 ½ teaspoonful salt  
 1 dessert spoonful sugar

Method:

Melt the butter or margarine then beat the egg, and add both to the buttermilk, mixing well together. Add the dry ingredients and mix to a soft dough. Turn out on to a floured surface and knead very lightly ---the secret of success with scones is to knead the dough as little as possible. Cut off pieces of the dough and flatten with the hand. Prick with a fork. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes in an oven at 400F, 200C, Gas Mark 6.

The Rob Roy

Ingredients:

50ml/2oz. Scotch whisky  
 20ml/.75oz. sweet vermouth  
 3-4 dashes Angostura bitters  
 Cocktail cherry

Method

Add all ingredients to a mixing glass with ice. Stir. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a cocktail cherry.

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# Nation celebrates 100 years of Flying Scotsman, world's most famous steam locomotive



Flying Scotsman at Kings Cross Station, London. Photo: Olgun Kordal/Science Museum Group.

Friday 24 February 2023, marked 100 years since Flying Scotsman, the world's most famous steam locomotive, set off on its first journey from the sheds at Doncaster Works. Now a national treasure, Flying Scotsman is a star attraction in the collection of the National Railway Museum (part of the Science Museum Group) in York, where it is a working museum exhibit. In a new poem released, *The Making of Flying Scotsman*, UK Poet Laureate Simon Armitage has paid homage to the celebrity engine, a feat of British design and engineering which has inspired a love of rail in generations of families and become synonymous with the golden age of rail travel. Commenting on the inspiration behind his new work, Simon Armitage said: "Flying Scotsman is a poem. I just had to write it down." *The Making of Flying Scotsman* is now on display as part of *Flying Scotsman: 100 Years, 100 Voices*, a new exhibition at the National Railway Museum, which launched in February and showcases the legacy of the locomotive through the lives it has touched.

In its latest excursion, following a new lick of paint, Flying Scotsman surprised travellers at Edinburgh Waverley station where it made a fleeting appearance. To mark the occasion, Simon Armitage read *The Making of Flying Scotsman* whilst dancers from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society performed *The Flying Scotsman*, devised by Hugh Thurston in 1966. The event was rounded off with a performance from Celtic rock band, the Red Hot Chilli Pipers. Also announced are a series of new Scottish events, including two main line excursions and a heritage railway visit.

Designed by Sir Nigel Gresley, Flying Scotsman was the first locomotive of the newly formed LNER (London and North Eastern

Railway) and originally numbered 1472. It was given its name in 1924 after the daily 10.00 London King's Cross to Edinburgh Waverley rail service. The locomotive went on to operate in service until 1963 and later in preservation, which included tours of the USA, Canada and Australia, where it captured the hearts of millions. In 2004, a campaign spearheaded by the National Railway Museum to save the locomotive for the nation amassed the support of thousands, confirming its status as a national treasure. The appeal to keep the steam icon in Britain was supported by a £1.8 million grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the generosity of the public. Its restoration was also completed with the help of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £275,000.

## The most famous steam locomotive in the world

Those unable to see the locomotive on its centenary tour have the opportunity to experience Flying Scotsman through exhibitions including *Flying Scotsman: 100 Years, 100 Voices*, *Flying Scotsman VR* and with collectible memorabilia available from the Science Museum shop. Highlights include a Flying Scotsman centenary train set, a £2 coin from The Royal Mint, featuring Flying Scotsman in vivid colour—a rarity on £2 coins, with the last coloured £2 coin released over 20 years ago and a new children's book by bestselling author Michael Morpurgo: *Flying Scotsman and the Best Birthday Ever*, which tells the story of a little girl called Iris who dreams of being a train driver when she grows up.

Judith McNicol, Director of the National Railway Museum, said: "Edinburgh Waverley is a fitting location to mark the centenary of the world's most famous express passenger locomotive. It was

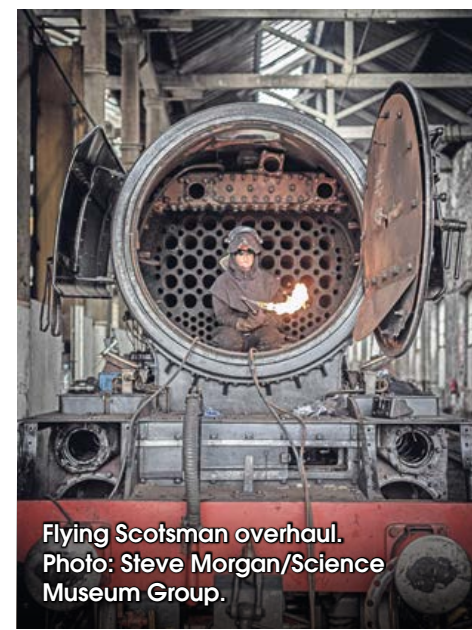
here that Flying Scotsman completed its record-breaking, non-stop journey between London and Edinburgh in 1928 and Edinburgh is also the birthplace of Sir Nigel Gresley, Flying Scotsman's designer. Today, Flying Scotsman is an undoubted star of the National Railway Museum's collection and is recognised around the world as a triumph of British ingenuity and engineering. Flying Scotsman will now spend the rest of the year travelling across the country to give people the chance to see the engine for themselves and to take part in this special anniversary, from free static displays to rail tours to the Centenary Festival at Locomotion."

Alex Hynes, Managing Director of Scotland's Railway, continued: "Edinburgh Waverley was honoured to host a visit from Flying Scotsman on such a special occasion and our team has pulled out all the stops for this special occasion. The most famous steam locomotive in the world always draws a crowd. Visitors to Princes Street Gardens, just across the road from Waverley, will see a familiar Flying Scotsman theme when the world's oldest Floral Clock blooms later this year too. Make sure to pop in to see it while on your way to the station."

Flying Scotsman was built in Doncaster in February 1923, as an A1 class locomotive for the newly formed LNER and converted to an A3 class in 1947. It was the first locomotive of the newly

formed LNER (London and North Eastern Railway). Designed by Sir Nigel Gresley and numbered 1472, the locomotive was not named Flying Scotsman until the following year when it was picked to attend the British Empire Exhibition in London and renumbered 4472. Today the locomotive is owned by the National Railway Museum in York and is operated and maintained by Riley & Son (E) Ltd, based in Heywood, Greater Manchester.

To find out more about Flying Scotsman and to hear more about centenary plans as they are announced, visit [www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/flying-scotsman](http://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/flying-scotsman).



Flying Scotsman overhaul. Photo: Steve Morgan/Science Museum Group.



Engineers from Riley & Son prepare Flying Scotsman. Photo: Steve Morgan/Science Museum Group.



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For more information, please contact:  
Australian Clan Hay convenor, Chris Hay McMor Fairbank  
PO Box 70, Darrinallum, Victoria, 3325, Australia  
E: 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.

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<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 MacNaughtan 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)

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- 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

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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)

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website: [ClanMacNeilUSA.us](http://ClanMacNeilUSA.us)  
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## 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)

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Re-established - 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC

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[info@macfarlane.org](mailto:info@macfarlane.org)

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

## Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.  
Treasurer  
383 Ash Brook Lane  
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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.

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Chief: John MacNeacail  
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Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson  
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[www.clanmacnicol.org](http://www.clanmacnicol.org)

## Clan Lachlan Association

based in Castle Lachlan, Strathlachlan, Argyll, Scotland along with its branches worldwide welcomes interested persons from MacLachlans of all spellings & septs

Canada ~ Ken Godfrey [ken.godfrey1@gmail.com](mailto:ken.godfrey1@gmail.com)  
Australia ~ Douglas McLaughlin [banddmcl@tpg.com.au](mailto:banddmcl@tpg.com.au)  
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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:**

Askie MacAndie MacClure  
Beaton MacAskill MacCorkill MacWilliam  
Bethune MacAulay MacCrimmon Norie  
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Harold MacCaig MacHaigh Tolmie  
Lewis MacCaskey MacRaid Williamson

- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
- South Australia - Alex McLeod 08 8327 0925
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334
- Email: [peter.macleod@exemail.com.au](mailto:peter.macleod@exemail.com.au)

## Clan Macpherson Association

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

**Africa:** Derek Macpherson African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +265 999 512 620  
**Canada:** Denise Lagundzin Canada.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 SandN.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7793 317 387  
**Australia:** John L Macpherson Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +61 409 122 141  
**England & Wales:** William Macpherson EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7877 363 507  
**New Zealand:** Tony McPherson NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +64 274 587 813  
**USA:** Robert T McPherson UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 360 701 8133

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



## The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

### Australian Contact:

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



## Clan Ross in Australia

for information contact Commander Des Ross  
*(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowan)*  
We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest.

Contact: Commander Des Ross at  
lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853  
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The American-Scottish Foundation

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## Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

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Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com  
[www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com](http://www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com)

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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  
rthomnvpdcan@aol.com [www.clanmaitlandna.org](http://www.clanmaitlandna.org)

**Australia:** Amanda Maitland [clanmaitland@yahoo.com.au](mailto:clanmaitland@yahoo.com.au)  
12 Settlers Way, Westleigh, NSW, 2120

**New Zealand:** Judette Maitland [judette@extra.co.nz](mailto:judette@extra.co.nz)  
33 Disley Street, Highbury, Wellington 6012. NZ

We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at:  
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## Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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



## Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

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P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289

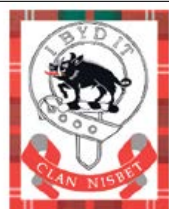
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[www.nisbet.org](http://www.nisbet.org)

[NISBET@NISBET.ORG](mailto:NISBET@NISBET.ORG)



## 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.

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

## Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

Suite 87, 139 Cardigan St  
Carlton Vic 3053

Email: [resource\\_centre@scotsforall.org.au](mailto:resource_centre@scotsforall.org.au)  
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For information please contact  
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[www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au)

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# Flock to Kingsville

*Banding together the past, present and future*



**B**anding Together. A truly symbiotic partnership has been forged between The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary and the Kingsville Highland Games, somewhat prophetic given the history of the logo designed for the Highland Games recognizing the importance of the Canada Goose to Kingsville. The Highland Games will be held on Ty Cobb Field at The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary, 332 Road 3 West, Kingsville, Ontario on Saturday, June 24, 2023. The Committee is delighted to have found a location where every exciting element of the Kingsville Highland Games can be enjoyed on one level, a truly immersive experience for all. The Kilted 5km Run/Walk will also take place on the grounds of The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary involving a mix of on and off-trail paths in Kennedy Woods.

## A fun-filled day of Scottish and Celtic experiences

A representative from The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary said: "Our executive team at The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary, along with our Board of

Directors, feel that the future of the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary has never looked brighter. We have several exciting ideas planned that we believe will help generate a new level of excitement which will help to support our future. And this is exciting. The Jack Miner Sanctuary is proud to be hosting this special one day event! Details on the event particulars will be announced in the weeks ahead, but just know that the event will continue, and everyone at the Sanctuary is excited at the prospect of it and the positive impact it can have!"

In 2019 more than 6,500 people gathered on the northern shores of Lake Erie for the return of the Highland Games to Kingsville to enjoy a fun-filled day of Scottish and Celtic experiences. After a hiatus of 2 years, the Highland Games returned in 2022 and currently the Committee is working tirelessly to stage another great event at this new location in 2023. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Flock to Jack Miner's and take a gander!

**For more information visit:**  
[www.facebook.com/kingsvillehighlandgames](https://www.facebook.com/kingsvillehighlandgames)  
 or email: [kingsvillegames@gmail.com](mailto:kingsvillegames@gmail.com).



The home to 80,000 gannets. Photo: VisitScotland.

# Ken your country

**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) What was the first tartan on the Moon?
- 2) Where is the monument commemorating the gathering of the clans for Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745?
- 3) Which symbol of Scotland is formally known as *Onopordum acanthium*?
- 4) Dundee is famous for its jute industry, Kirkcaldy for its ... ?
- 5) It lies just off the North Berwick coast and is home to 80,000 gannets what is it?
- 6) Perth author John Buchan wrote one of the first spy novels in 1915 - what was the title?

- 7) Name the two species of deer which are native to Scotland?
- 8) How many islands are there in Scotland - a) 560, b) 790, or c) 1043?
- 9) In Old Scots, what was a tanterlick?
- 10) Which brilliant idea did James Bowman Lindsay demonstrate for the first time in Dundee in 1835?

### Answers

- 1) Macbean, with astronaut Alan Bean on Apollo 12 in November 1969.
- 2) Glenfinnan, Inverness-shire.
- 3) The thistle.
- 4) Linoleum.
- 5) The Bass Rock.
- 6) The Thirty-Nine Steps.
- 7) Red deer and Roe deer.
- 8) b) 790.
- 9) A severe beating.
- 10) An electric light.

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By: David McVey

# Scotland's Fictional Statues



The Stewart Memorial Fountain.

## A fine tribute

The Stewart Memorial Fountain in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Park was completed in 1872 and commemorates the completion of the remarkable Loch Katrine aqueduct. Lord Provost Robert Stewart was one of those who campaigned for the engineering project that ensured Glasgow would have the best tap water anywhere. Appropriately, the fountain was decorated with scenes from Sir Walter Scott's narrative poem *The Lady of the Lake* which was set in and around Loch Katrine. On top of the fountain structure is a fine, curvaceous statue of Ellen Douglas, the fictional lady of the lake (or loch). The fountain was designed by James Sellars while the sculptor of the figures was John Mossman.

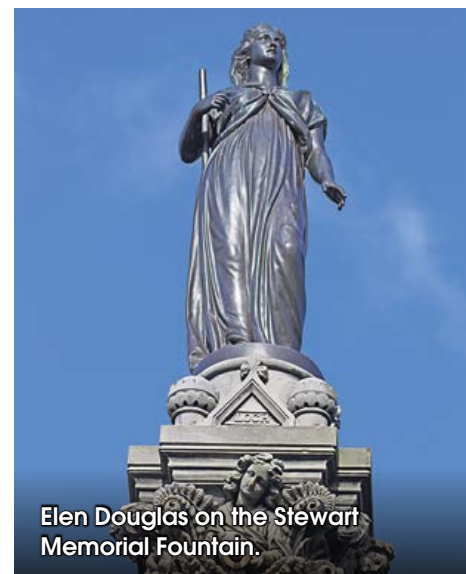
*Sherlock Holmes* is probably the most famous fictional creation by any Scot, more famous even than Peter Pan. His creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, was commemorated in his native Edinburgh by a stereotypical figure of Holmes, pipe in hand and wearing a deerstalker. It stood at the city's Picardy Place. Currently, like the Mearnskirk Peter Pan, the figure is in storage, during works for the Edinburgh Trams extension. Conan Doyle was born at 11 Picardy Place, though the actual building does not survive. The statue should return to the vicinity soon. When it does, it'll be very easy to get there because there will be a Picardy Place tram stop. What you won't see from pavement level is what Sherlock Holmes is examining with his magnifying glass. On the upper surface of the plinth there is, apparently, a pawprint. If you know your Holmes, you'll know that it's intended to be 'the footprint of an enormous hound'!

Another Edinburgh native, Robert Louis Stevenson, wrote one of the great adventure tales in 1886's *Kidnapped*. Stevenson's heroes, symbols of a divided Scotland, were David Balfour and Alan Breck. They escaped the redcoats through the Highlands towards Edinburgh, finally approaching the city over Corstorphine Hill. Nearby, on Corstorphine Road, there's an imposing 2004 Sandy Stoddart statue of David and Alan, a fine tribute to the book, to the characters and, above all, to Stevenson. The statues we've looked at so far all commemorate fictional characters, but at least they are all obviously supposed to be recognisable human beings. However, Scotland has a number of statues of fictional cartoon characters. Dundee is famously the home of DC Thomson,

publishers of *The Dandy* and *The Beano*. In the city's High Street you'll find a statue of the most famous Dandy character; Desperate Dan, the strong and mighty cowboy who loved eating cow pies. He's accompanied by his dog (unimaginatively named 'Dawg') and Minnie the Minx, another much-loved DC Thomson character. These statues appeared in 2001, sculpted by local artists Tony and Susie Morrow.

## Something genuine and lasting

My favourite cartoon statues, though, are in Glasgow. In the 1940s and 50s, the legendary Glasgow cartoonist Bud Neill contributed the cartoon strip Lobey Dosser to the *Evening Times*. The stories were set in Calton Creek, a Wild West town populated entirely by Glaswegian emigrants. The humour was a glorious mix of Glasgow wit, sly satire and Pythonesque surrealism. Lobey Dosser himself was the Sheriff of Calton Creek and his faithful steed was El Fielido (or 'Elfie' for short). Elfie only had two legs; Neill claimed this was because he struggled to draw horses with four legs. As such, the statue of Lobey Dosser and his arch-enemy Rank Bajin astride Elfie, which has stood in the city's Woodlands Road since 1992, is said to be the world's only two-legged equestrian statue. I suppose it must be. It was sculpted by Nick Gillan and, again, Tony Morrow. The original suggestion for the statue came from the diarist of the then



Elen Douglas on the Stewart Memorial Fountain.

*Glasgow Herald*, Tom Shields. Sadly, Tony Morrow passed away in 2021. Another Lobey Dosser character was the unnamed GI Bride. She would pop up occasionally in the strip carrying her infant child, seeking a lift back to Partick. It's highly appropriate, then, that her statue now stands on the main concourse at Partick Station in the west of the city. Ranald McColl was the sculptor; it was unveiled in 2011.

Writers are often self-effacing, and many would prefer to be commemorated by statues that depict their creations rather than themselves. And if their characters have earned a statue, they must have created something genuine and lasting. Some of Scotland's authors certainly have.

Statues, and the people they commemorate, have become a hot topic in recent years, but there are some types of statues that are usually uncontroversial. In particular, fictional statues, statues of fictional characters, tend to be much-loved. One of the most statted fictional characters is *Peter Pan*; the creation of Scottish writer JM Barrie is famously commemorated in Kensington Gardens in London (where some of Peter's adventures happened) by Sir George Frampton 1912 statue. Castings of the same statue can be found all over the world, for example, in Liverpool, Brussels, Perth WA, St Johns in Newfoundland, Toronto and New Jersey.

There's a more recent Peter Pan statue, by Alistair Smart, in Kirriemuir, Barrie's home town. It dates from 1994 and replaces an older one. Another in Newton Mearns near Glasgow was raised in 1949 to commemorate Dr John A Wilson, former superintendent at the nearby Mearnskirk Hospital. The statue was sculpted by Alexander Proudfoot and its plinth held four panels showing scenes from *Peter Pan*, featuring characters such as Captain Hook and the crocodile. Sadly, these four panels have disappeared over the years. The statue is currently in storage. The hospital has been closed and demolished and Peter Pan will be given a suitable new home when a new housing estate is complete. *Peter Pan* was born, you might say, in Dumfries. Barrie claimed that the garden of Moat Brae House, where he lived from the age of 13, was where he first had the idea for the tales. A wooden figure of Peter at a road junction now confidently proclaims Dumfries as 'Birthplace of Peter Pan' while Moat Brae, now reinvented as the National Centre for Storytelling and Children's Literature, has another *Peter Pan* statue in the garden where the boy who never grew up was born.



Sherlock Holmes, Edinburgh



Desperate Dan, Dundee.



The Stewart Memorial Fountain.

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# Scotland is calling for your family holiday



Old Leckie Farm, Stirling, Stirlingshire. Photo: VisitScotland/Luigi Di.

**A** trend which is increasingly emerging in global travel is for families taking multi-generational breaks. Although this was the case before the Coronavirus pandemic, that unprecedented global event seems to have encouraged and inspired families to get together and enjoy a family holiday across the generations. Whatever the shape of your family – from toddlers to teenagers; the young to the young-at-heart – Scotland offers a wealth of experiences for all ages to enjoy. Here's our pick of ideas to inspire your multi-generational family break!

## Page and Screen

Literature, films, and TV shows which tell stories of Scotland, or shows which have been filmed there, often inspire those wishing to explore the places they've seen on screen or read about. Great options for family breaks would be:

- Locations associated with film versions of JK Rowling's *Harry Potter* books, such as the Glenfinnan Viaduct which the Jacobite Steam Train crosses (journey to Hogwarts) and Glen Coe (the fictional site of Hagrid's Hut).
- Moat Brae in Dumfries (incorporating the National Centre for Children's Literature and Storytelling), said to have inspired the enchanted lands described in JM Barrie's *Peter Pan*.
- The Beatrix Potter Garden in Dunkeld, Perthshire, which captures the *Peter Rabbit* characters and the magical summers the author spent here.
- Real life places which feature in the *Outlander* books by Diana Gabaldon and the related hit TV series such as Culloden Battlefield near Inverness, and places used as set locations, including Doune Castle near Stirling, the conservation towns of Falkland and Culross in Fife, and Linlithgow Palace in West Lothian.
- Edinburgh, UNESCO's first ever City of Literature, is home to the Writers Museum showcasing the stories of three of Scotland's best loved writers (Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson and Robert Burns), as well as the Scottish Storytelling Centre on the famous Royal Mile - hub of the Scottish International Storytelling Festival which takes place each October.

## Family Friendly Holiday Hotels

For an easy to plan multi-generational break, what better than a stay in a great hotel in a stunning location with a range of activities for all generations of the family on offer?

- In Perthshire, the world famous Gleneagles, Dunkeld House Hotel on the banks of the River Tay, and Crieff Hydro Hotel with its programme of over 60 activities, offer all manner of outdoor pursuits, all against the backdrop of this beautiful part of Scotland.
- Cameron House on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond offers loch cruises, Segway safaris, horse riding and more.
- Auchrannie Resort on the Isle of Arran has an array of activities to be enjoyed on this wonderful island known as Scotland in miniature.
- At the heart of Cairngorms National Park, Macdonald Aviemore Highland Resort has a tremendous range of activities amid some of Scotland's most dramatic landscapes.

## Family Friendly Castle Stays

Who wouldn't relish the change to enjoy a stay in a Scottish castle, irrespective of age? Definitely something to tell the folks back home about! Excellent options for multi-generational family breaks include:

- Dalhousie Castle in Midlothian which boasts a 700-year history as well as extensive grounds and its own Falconry offering hands-in experiences with 30 beautiful birds.
- The magnificent Thirlestane Castle in the Scottish Borders offering a range of exciting pre-bookable activities from tomahawk throwing to survival skills.
- Muckrach Castle in Morayshire, which can be hired out in its entirety for a self-catering break, allowing you to be king and queens of your very own castle!
- From Lodges to Lighthouses
- There's something about staying in a holiday lodge that brings back memories of family holidays in years gone by, and these days there are so many different quirky holiday options on offer in Scotland that will be sure to inspire a similar sense of wonder for younger family members. Options include:
- Argyll Holidays - a range of holiday park locations in picturesque waterfront settings across Argyll, from luxury hot tub lodges to static caravans and glamping.
- St Andrews Forest Lodges - a wonderful selection of log cabins, each with its own private hot tub – ideal for relaxing after a day exploring St Andrews or cycling the Fife Coastal Path.
- Cairngorm Lodges - forest retreats in Aboyne at the heart of Royal Deeside, with lodges and cabins charmingly named after local wildlife species.

- Staying in a lighthouse, such as Rua Reidh Lighthouse in Gairloch, Eshaness Lighthouse in Shetland and Mull of Galloway Lighthouse Holiday Cottages near Stranraer.

## Fun-packed Farm Stays

Agritourism has become increasingly popular, and the whole family can learn about sustainable farming methods, get to know some of the animals and enjoy the freshest of local produce. The Go Rural agritourism partnership offers a wealth of options such as:

- Newton Farm Holidays near Forfar in Angus where you can meet iconic Highland cattle, feed the lambs, or take an alpaca for a stroll.
- Lennox of Lomond, where you can experience all the fun of the farm on the hills overlooking the bonnie banks.
- Old Leckie Farm, Gargunnoch near Stirling, situated on land once owned by Robert the Bruce.

## Days Out With A Difference

Wherever you choose to visit in Scotland, you're guaranteed to enjoy fantastic days out which every generation of the family can enjoy. Here are just some of the experiences you can choose from:

- Join Highland Safaris for a Land Rover safari in the hills above Aberfeldy, or a sailing safari on Loch Tay, keeping an eye out for local wildlife as you go.
- Visit fascinating museums such as Riverside Museum of Transport in Glasgow, V&A Museum of Design in Dundee, Aberdeen Maritime Museum, Auchindrain Historic Township near Inveraray, Skye Museum of Island Life and the National Museum of Flight in East Lothian.
- Attend a traditional Scottish Highland Games, taking place in locations across Scotland from May to September.
- Take a boat trip from the Scottish Seabird Centre in North Berwick, East Lothian to the iconic Bass Rock to spot the area's abundant wildlife, including the world's largest colony of Northern Gannets.
- Visit Scotland's most colourful castle - Kelburn Castle and Country Centre near Largs, Ayrshire.
- Go stargazing at Galloway International Dark Sky Park at the heart of Dumfries and Galloway – one of only four in the world.
- Don those dancing shoes to take part in a Scottish ceilidh evening at Ghillie Dhu in Edinburgh or Skipinnish Ceilidh House in Oban.

## Island Life

An island holiday is a truly special experience to be shared with multiple generations of your family. In Scotland we're lucky enough to have something few other countries can offer – an abundance of stunning islands, each with its own unique history, culture, and atmosphere. Which will you choose?



Jacobite steam train, Glenfinnan Viaduct. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

- The Isle of Mull with its wealth of wildlife tour options including boat trips to neighbouring islands, and its picture-postcard capital, Tobermory.
- The Isle of Islay, home to unique nature reserves and a rich whisky producing heritage.
- Orkney, famed for its natural beauty, archaeological sites and First and Second World War heritage.
- Shetland with its dramatic Viking past, equally dramatic coastlines and seascapes, prehistoric sites, abundant wild and bird life, and of course delightful Shetland ponies.
- The Isle of Bute, home to Mount Stuart, unquestionably one of Scotland's most stunning and unusual stately homes.
- The Outer Hebrides where you'll experience rich Gaelic island culture, Harris Tweed making traditions, incredible coastlines, and the finest produce the Atlantic larder can offer.

## Get Active

For families who like nothing better than to get active together, Scotland offers experiences to suit all tastes and abilities.

- Join Perthshire-based Nae Limits on one of their exhilarating activities, from white water rafting and river tubing to gorge walking and canyoning.
- Get a bird's eye view of Scotland's amazing forests at one of Go Ape's zip wire centres across Scotland.
- Go land yachting along the beach at St Andrews with Blown Away.
- 'Bag a Munro' - a Scottish mountain with an elevation of more than 3,000 feet (914 metres). There are nearly 300 to choose from, each with stunning views as your reward for reaching the summit!
- Play a round in the undisputed Home of Golf – there are 550+ to choose from!
- Enjoy the unique experience of exploring Scotland on two feet or two wheels. From long-distance walking and cycling trails to forest paths, coastal walks, and purpose-built trails at no less than 25 world-class mountain biking centres, you're sure to find options to suit your family's needs.
- If you'd rather spectate, the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships – the biggest cycling event ever – takes place in Glasgow and across Scotland on 3-13 August 2023.

The suggestions here are just a small taster of the regions, attractions and businesses that can help ensure you and your family have a truly memorable time in Scotland, whatever the make-up, age range and abilities of your group.

**For more information and a wealth of ideas to inspire you in planning your trip see: [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)**



Callanish Standing Stones, Callanish, Isle Of Lewis. Photo: VisitScotland/Paul Tomkins.



# Neolithic Orkney Ness dig to come to a completion



from the environmental samples, will help unpick the story of the people who built, used and ultimately abandoned the site in the centuries around 2500BC. Excavation is the most visible aspect of archaeology and is perhaps seen as the most exciting. But the process of post-excitation is just as vital. It often leads to new and exciting revelations when science and expert know-how come to the fore to help to understand the life of a place. As to the site itself, it will be covered and returned to being a green field after the conclusion of the 2024 season.

It will be left for future generations of archaeologists to continue the work with even better scientific techniques to bring to bear on the archaeology. Although the excavation site will no longer be open to the public, the Ness team are looking to set up virtual tours via [www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk](http://www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk) and groups wishing to visit after excavation finishes can do still do so by prior arrangement, guided by one of the Ness team. The website will also continue to be the source of updates and news.

In addition, the new project phase includes major plans for online content covering even more about the Ness and what we are discovering during post-excitation. If you want to see the historic site while excavation is in progress, there are just two more seasons to visit. This year the Ness of Brodgar is open from July 5 to August 16, 2023, and next year from July 3 until the end of August 2024, funding permitting.

**W**ith some reluctance, it has been decided that there will be only two further seasons of excavation at the Ness of Brodgar – this summer and in the summer of 2024. Although fieldwork could continue for decades, the Ness of Brodgar project have reached the logical place to pause, as work on the major structures uncovered so far will be completed.

However, while on-site excavation will end, the Ness of Brodgar research project continues. It is simply moving into a new and exciting phase of intensive work, with the focus on scientific analysis of all the recovered material – pottery, stone tools, bone and much more – found on site. This must be fully catalogued and examined by specialists. The results, along with those



*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).*

**T**he colours chosen are intended to represent primarily the gold colour of the dog and its purpose of retrieving game from varied landscapes and water, hence the green, blue and heather. These colours reflect the landscape of its origin and its Scottish heritage and produce a design that is intended to be used to enhance the Club's worldwide standing. This tartan (SRT reference: 13815) was designed by Lochcarron of Scotland and registered in February, 2023.

# GREATER MONCTON HIGHLAND GAMES & SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

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# The 45<sup>th</sup> annual Savannah Scottish Games



arts and skills — calligraphy, cooking, armoring, metalworking, carpentry, and needlework. The SCA will host interactive demonstrations and displays of various medieval European activities throughout the day, including armored combat, dance, juggling, and other arts activities.

## Clans and Genealogy

One of the most exciting aspects of this event is the opportunity to gather clues along the day of your Scottish ancestors and then search for their records. Marshall points out, “The key to your family history is knowing how to find information about your name, immigrant ancestor, Scotland geography and history, available records, and where to find more information. We have plenty of maps and reading materials about researching Scottish, Irish, and more Celtic ancestors if you want to come into the genealogy tent.” They will also be joined this year by various local genealogical and historical organizations familiar with researching family trees of ancestors born in America.

## Border Collie Sheep Herding

The sheep herding is often hailed as one of the Games most beloved events. Windy Knolls Farm is home to Bill Coburn, his Border Collies, and a herd of Katahdin-Dorper sheep, and they will all be on-site to demonstrate their impressive sheep, geese, and duck herding skills. If you’ve yet to witness the talented canines, the Savannah Scottish Games is a perfect time.

## And More

The Marketplace of the Savannah Scottish Games is centralized within the festival and provides the opportunity to purchase Scottish goods, cuisine and refreshments, and baked goods. “This year is expected to be our largest yet, even though it will be hard to beat last year,” adds Marshall. “The music, comradery, and commemoration of our Scottish heritage is celebrated through this historic event, and it’s something my family and so many others look forward to year after year.”

**For additional information about the Savannah Scottish Games or to purchase your tickets, go to: [www.savannahscottishgames.com](http://www.savannahscottishgames.com)**



The great modern pipes were developed in the Scottish Highlands. In addition to the Pipes and Drums, there will be live Celtic music on the entertainment stage from Lachlann and North of Argyll. The full schedule can be found on the Savannah Scottish Games website.

## Athletic Competition

The Scottish Games is historically a worldwide celebration of the legendary strength and endurance of the Highlander. Scottish heavy athletics owe their roots to the Highland warriors who would keep in shape between battles by competing using everyday implements. A stone, a blacksmith’s hammer, and a tree trunk, known as a caber, all became tools for building strength for battle. Athletic events are hosted throughout the day and provide visitors with close access to witness these kilted athletes compete in events such as the caber toss, sheaf toss, open stone put, Scottish hammer throw, and more.

Fancy yourself a Highlander? Take your turn at the competition while you’re there. They encourage all beginners (novices) who want to learn “to throw” to be on the field at 7:30 a.m. on game day for a one-hour clinic. Don’t worry, no kilts are required.

## Children Activities

There are dozens of athletic activities for children to enjoy throughout the day, including tug-of-war, sheaf toss, caber toss, haggis hurl, stone throw, welly toss, and sack race. Grab a seat, hear the greatest of Scotland’s stories from Celtic storyteller Linda Bandilier, and dance and play games with the mythical fairy, Zephyr. Face painting, coloring crafts, and other arts activities will also be available.

## Medieval European Activities

The Savannah branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) is a practical history society, recreating the arts and skills of pre-17<sup>th</sup> century Europe. They dressed in the Middle Ages and Renaissance clothing and allowed visitors to witness tournaments, royal courts, feasts, and dancing. There’ll also be opportunities to learn and practice ancient



Images courtesy of Howard Hackney.



The Savannah Scottish Games will return at historic Bethesda Academy on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Savannah and the surrounding area are home to a sizeable Celtic population and each year they look forward to the annual event. This year they will welcome back athletes, pipe bands, highland dancers, border collies, historic reenactors, Scottish vendors, Celtic musicians and more to the annual gathering. The Savannah Scottish Games are a grand celebration of Highland heritage right here in the Southeast.

With more than 3,000 people participating in the event each year, Savannah’s Scottish Games is both one of the largest and is the fourth oldest Games in the area as well. “My family and I have been a part of the Savannah Scottish Games since my grown sons were little,” said Murray Marshall, Chair of this year’s Games. “To see how much this particular event has grown and is now considered a tradition for so many others in the area is something we are all really proud of. We also have a large attendance from people outside of the area that come to spend this one day every year. And to top it off and be on the historic grounds of Bethesda, you can’t get any better than that.” Murray adds, “Outside of the dancing, athletics, and comradery, people get the chance to learn more about the different Highland clans, their own heritage, and possibly find their own roots.” The Games include something for the entire family to enjoy!

## Highland Dancers

Highland dancing was originally an all-male event until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when women started competing in Highland Dance. Savannah is proud to host the ScotDance Southeast Regional

Championships, one of six regional competitions held throughout the United States each spring. Ambitious new dancers called Pre-Premiers, develop self-discipline and confidence as they learn to tackle the physical demands of the dance. The tremendous strength, stamina, and technical precision accomplished dancers exhibit on stage are fascinating. The highest level, the Premier dancers, dances earlier in the morning, so come early to see these impressive dancers compete for a spot at the national competition at the 2023 ScotDance National Championships in Portland, Oregon.

## Pipes and Drums

Whether this is your first time at the Games or you’re a seasoned Scotsman, the glorious sounds of the pipes and drums are an inspiration to behold. Stewart Marshall, Murray’s son, has been involved with the Games since childhood. He remembers many years of participating in the Games with his family and has been involved on the committee in some aspect for over ten years. Stewart is tasked with organizing Pipe and Drums at this year’s event. He states, “I encourage everyone to come and listen to the sounds of Scotland -- the thrill in the bourdon of the bagpipes and the cadence of the drums from the talented pipers and drummers is something that sticks with you. Music has a way of taking you somewhere new and on this day it will take us to the highlands.”

Some historians believed that bagpipes (often, just “the pipes”) were played in Scotland as early as 100 AD. By the year 1000, bagpipes were popular throughout Scotland. By 1500 AD, every clan chieftain worthy of the name had a piper in his retinue, the group of noblemen that typically accompanied a leader or King.

By: Jessica Rose

# MAGGIE – A new musical set in post-war Scotland to premiere in Canada this month



Dharma Bizier as Maggie.

*MAGGIE's* world premiere will open at Theatre Aquarius in Hamilton, Ontario, on April 19, running until May 6, 2023, before travelling to Prince Edward Island to headline the acclaimed Charlottetown Festival from June 21 to September 2. The show will then head to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia for a limited run at The Savoy Theatre from September 28 to October 8.

*Join the celebration of music, laughter, and love at [maggiethemusical.com](http://maggiethemusical.com) and hear the music of MAGGIE now on all digital platforms.*

**Y**ou might not know the tough-as-nails protagonist of *MAGGIE*, the much-anticipated new musical premiering on stages in three Canadian provinces this year. However, you'll undoubtedly know women just like her. A fiery, Scottish matriarch, she's forced to rely on her strength, sense of humour, and grit to raise three boys in the wake of unthinkable loss.

Set between 1954 and 1976, *MAGGIE* is a true story that opens on a row of tenement houses in the mining town of Lanark. Featuring music by award-winning Scottish Canadian recording artist Johnny Reid, with Matt Murray and Bob Foster, it's directed by fellow Scot Mary Francis Moore - the artistic director of Theatre Aquarius in Hamilton, Ontario where the musical will premiere this month. A working-class mother, the real-life Maggie was Johnny Reid's granny, but his tribute to her represents so much more. Maggie is an entire generation - not just women, and not just in Scotland - who learned that the promise of opportunity often went hand in hand with saying goodbye.

At the time, when thousands of young people were leaving Scotland to find work in Canada, Australia and beyond, Maggie refused to leave her homeland. "Ach, someone needs tae be here tae put the kettle on," her character says in the show. "*MAGGIE* celebrates not only my Gran and her life but also an entire generation of women who fought through

some tough times by keeping faith, hope, love, family, friendship and humour close to heart," says Reid, who was born and raised in Lanark, before immigrating to Canada at the age of 17.

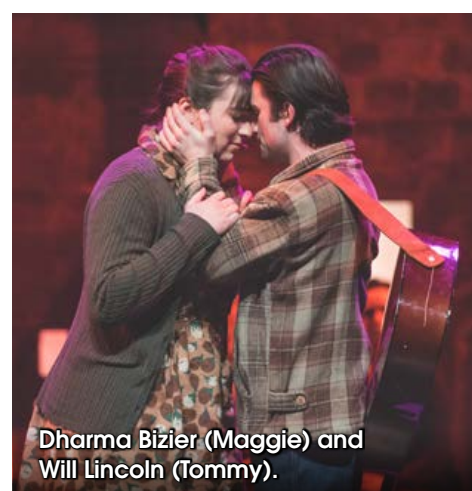
### A celebration of friendship, community and the human spirit

*MAGGIE* is produced in association with Michael Rubinoff, the originating producer of the smash Broadway hit *Come from Away*. First workshopped as part of Sheridan College's Canadian Music Theatre Project, which also incubated *Come from Away*, it has been a six-year labour of love for all involved.

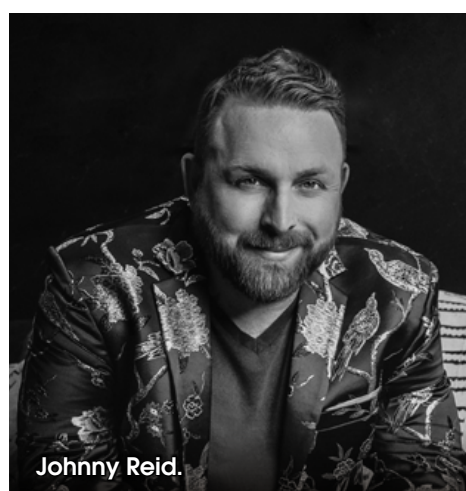
**Set between 1954 and 1976, MAGGIE is a true story that opens on a row of tenement houses in the mining town of Lanark.**

The show features an 18-member cast including Scottish Canadians Sweeney MacArthur, Adam Stevenson and Jay Davis and British expats Lawrence Libor, Nicola Dawn Brook and Jeremy Legat. Dharma Bizier, who plays the lead role of Maggie, recently opened Johnny Reid's cross-

Canada tour performing selections from the musical for fans across the country. Above all, *MAGGIE* is a celebration of friendship, community and the human spirit set against a powerful, rousing score. It pays tribute to generations of unsung women who made sacrifices to ensure a better future for their own. You can't help but see your own mam or gran in Maggie's story of resilience.




Dharma Bizier (Maggie) and Will Lincoln (Tommy).




Johnny Reid.

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# Judy Murray to be honoured as 2023 Great Scot at New York Gala



Judy Murray OBE.

International tennis player and coach Judy Murray OBE will be recognized for her extraordinary contributions to Scottish sports and philanthropy at The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA's annual fundraising gala on April 20. "We are delighted to announce Judy Murray as the recipient of the 2023 Great Scot Award," said Helen E.R. Sayles CBE, chair of The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA. "As the National Trust for Scotland looks forward to its centennial in 2031, it is thinking about the stories it has collected and shared over the past century – and considering what stories will be important to collect and share for future generations. Judy Murray's career and advocacy exemplify the best of contemporary Scottish heritage."

## The mother of Grand Slam champions

"It's a huge honour for me to receive the Great Scot award from The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA," Murray said. "I'm so proud of my country's heritage, its assets, and its people, and I've long been a supporter of the National Trust for Scotland, who

do such a wonderful job in preserving, showcasing, and sharing Scotland's national treasures and hidden gems."

Known by many as the mother of Grand Slam champions Sir Andy Murray and Jamie Murray, Judy Murray was an accomplished competitor in her own right, winning more than 60 national tennis titles before becoming Scottish National Coach in 1995. In 2011, Murray was appointed Captain of the British Federation Cup Team and used this role to grow the profile, numbers, and standard of female players, coaches, and sports scientists across Great Britain. Over the course of her career, Murray has become an advocate for improving opportunities for tennis across Scotland, fostering inclusivity and community engagement. Through the Judy Murray Foundation, she provided equipment and fun, doable workshops for teachers, students, parents, volunteers, and club members to ensure affordable, accessible tennis activity in some of the most deprived areas of Scotland. She also developed a comprehensive online resource for Education Scotland to show teachers and sports leaders how to deliver quality sessions for big numbers in school spaces.

Murray, a long-time member of the National Trust for Scotland, also has become a much-loved television personality, known for her appearances on *Strictly Come Dancing* and *Celebrity Masterchef* and as the presenter of the ITV series *Driving Force*, which showcases the lives of Britain's most successful sportswomen. The author

of the memoir *Knowing the Score: My Family and Our Tennis Story* and an in-demand motivational speaker, Murray's first work of fiction, *The Wild Card*, will be published later this year.

Her final project is The Murray Tennis and Golf Centre near Dunblane, a family-focused community venue run by the Murray Play Foundation which will provide Scotland with a facility of national significance to showcase and grow both sports.

## Scotland's largest conservation charity

"One of the National Trust for Scotland's most beloved properties is Falkland Palace, with its royal tennis court built in 1538 by James V of Scotland," said Kirstin Bridier, executive director of The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA. "It is remarkably special that nearly 500 years later we are able to recognize Judy Murray for her contributions to the contemporary game of tennis and at the same time support the conservation of irreplaceable heritage properties like Falkland."

The presentation of the Great Scot Award is at the heart of a black-tie event that raises American funds to support Scotland's largest conservation charity. Past Great Scot recipients include documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, comedian Sir Billy Connolly, award-winning actors Alan Cumming and Brian Cox, endurance athlete and world-record breaking cyclist Mark Beaumont, sculptor Andy Scott, and authors Diana Gabaldon and Alexander McCall Smith.

A Celebration of Scotland's Treasures is a festive evening that features a whisky tasting by The Macallan; the recitation of Burns' *Ode to a Haggis* by Alasdair Nichol, Chairman of Freeman's auction house and a frequent appraiser on PBS's *Antiques Roadshow*; Scottish country dancing; and live and silent auctions. Before heading home, guests form a circle, clasp hands, and sing *Auld Lang Syne*.

The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA (NTSUSA) exists to support the work of Scotland's largest conservation charity, protecting Scotland's heritage and natural beauty now and for generations to come. Since 2000, NTSUSA has committed more than \$11 million in funding for the National Trust for Scotland's most urgent conservation priorities.

**To learn more about NTSUSA or to become a member, visit: [www.ntsusa.org](http://www.ntsusa.org). To learn more about the A Celebration of Scotland's Treasures gala, visit: [www.ntsusa.org/aboutus/celebration-gala/](http://www.ntsusa.org/aboutus/celebration-gala/).**



Historical reenactors play tennis at Falkland Palace.

# New York City to showcase first ever Gaelic song contest with Tartan Week Mòd



Mòd choir event.

NYC Tartan Week Mòd will take place for the first time this spring as NYC Tartan Week, the largest annual Scottish cultural gathering in NYC, hosts its first ever Scottish Gaelic song contest in celebration of NYC Tartan Week's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Tartan Day. The two-day event will be held in association with An Comunn Gàidhealach, who are responsible for the annual Royal National Mòd, and hosted by Mòd Gold Medallist and BBC Alba's *SpeakGaelic* presenter, Joy Dunlop. It marks the first time a Mòd has taken place in New York City.

## A beautiful way to celebrate our community and our history

Singers from across North America, Scotland, and beyond are being invited to compete in the historic event which will take place at The Tailor Public House

on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April. The competition will see singers ages 16+ perform one of six prescribed Gaelic songs, or their own selected Gaelic song, before a panel of judges. The winner will be crowned NYC Tartan Week Mòd Champion 2023 with a cash prize sponsored by the New York Caledonian Club, and the winner will be invited to perform at the New York Caledonian Club NYC Tartan Week Pre-Parade Ceilidh. Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April will see the event kick off with a series of workshops in Gaelic language and culture including song, instrumental music, step dancing, and ceilidh dancing. The festivities will be captured by Mac TV for a documentary that will be aired later this year. It will follow Joy as she travels across the Atlantic to share the spirit, excitement and camaraderie of the Mòd and speak to Americans with ties to Scotland

about the importance of celebrating the Gaelic language and their heritage.

The Royal National Mòd, which takes place annually in different Scottish locations each October, is the highlight of the Gaelic community calendar and the annual festival is the largest gathering of Scottish Gaelic song, music, and culture in the world. Choirs, groups, quartets, duets, soloists, thespians, and musicians compete at this week-long gathering, with winners of its singing and musical competitions going on to delight audiences around the world. Joy Dunlop said: "The tradition of the Mòd is one we've enjoyed in Scotland for over 100 years, and we are so proud to bring this event to NYC for the first time. It's a beautiful way to celebrate our community and our history and keep this important part of our culture thriving on both sides of the Atlantic."

## A gathering of people

James Graham, Chief Executive Officer of An Comunn Gàidhealach, said: "The Royal National Mòd is the biggest celebration of Gaelic language so it felt only fitting that we partnered up with North America's largest annual Scottish cultural gathering. It's wonderful to see NYC Tartan Week bring its own mòd to life across the Atlantic for what will be a fantastic opportunity for Gaelic speakers across the pond to take part in a Gaelic singing competition.

This pilot project has so much potential, and we look forward to continue growing this friendship in years to come."

The Royal National Mòd is organised by An Comunn Gàidhealach (The Highland Association) which was founded in Oban in 1891 and had HM The Queen as its Patron. The Gaelic word "mòd" means "a gathering of people" and this festival was first held in Oban in 1892, and it has grown to become Scotland's premier Gaelic festival famous for celebrating our Gaelic linguistic and cultural heritage. Following Royal assent and now known as The Royal National Mòd, it provides opportunities for people of all ages to perform across a range of competitive disciplines including Gaelic music and song, highland dancing, instrumental, drama, sport and literature.

**For more, visit [www.nyctartanweek.org/mod](http://www.nyctartanweek.org/mod).**

**This year's Royal National Mòd will take place in Paisley from 13<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> October 2023. Entries are open now at [www.ancomunn.co.uk](http://www.ancomunn.co.uk).**



Joy Dunlop.

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