



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 47 Number 10 NEWS FOR GLOBAL SCOTS April 2024

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

Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806

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

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The Banner Says...

Celebrating 'The Mother of Tartan Day'



by Sean Cairney

As many Scottish groups across North America get ready for Tartan Day this April 6th. I recently had the wonderful experience of speaking to an amazing person who not only championed this now continental celebration, but nurtured its birth. Jean MacKaracher Watson still lives in Nova Scotia, on Canada's east coast, the place where the idea of Tartan Day was born in the 1980's.

Celebration of Scottish culture

Today Tartan Day is an annual celebration of Scottish culture, heritage and recognises the incredible contributions Scottish immigrants have made to their new lands. Tartan Day events (big and small) across Canada and the US now take place and champion Scotland's rich culture and the part Scottish ex-pats have had in growing new nations.

Jean told me her and fellow Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia member Bill Crowell were talking about how to get more younger people to join the Federation and active in promoting Scottish culture in Nova Scotia (a province where Scots are the largest ethnic group with approximately 30% of residents being of Scottish descent). Jean said: "At that time everything was old school, and there was nothing for the young."



Jean MacKaracher Watson.

A small spark can ignite a large flame

Jean saw that key Scottish dates on the calendar were events such as Burns Night or St Andrew's Day, which all came from Scotland. Jean and Bill felt they needed their own dates to celebrate and reflect also more of the local Scottish community, so they decided to start a date for Tartan Day and a date for Scottish Canadians. They would choose April 6th, the date of the Scottish Declaration of Independence in 1320, also known as the Declaration of Arbroath, the historic letter to the pope, asking him to recognise Scotland's independence and Robert the Bruce as the nation's king.

Jean would go on to work on Tartan Day all by herself for the next decade to get Tartan Day off the ground, she spent many tireless hours working to get the date recognised. Jean single handedly reached out to every provincial Legislative Assembly in Canada, as well as other Scottish-cultural societies across Canada, to help get such a date established. With the US soon following and the United States Senate declaring Tartan Day to be April 6th in 1998.

Remember Jean would have done all this before we had the internet and emails, she typed every letter and put on every stamp herself. I mentioned to Jean how incredible it is that from a small meeting in Nova Scotia in the 1980's we now have a continental celebration recognised by state, provincial and national governments, Jean said "It's absolutely incredible what has happened, and it really is amazing how a small spark can ignite a large flame."

International Tartan Day

For our Australian and New Zealand readers International Tartan Day is held on July 1st. This date marks the 1782 anniversary of the repeal of the 1747 Act of Proscription that banned the wearing of tartan and the attempt to extinguish the Highland clan system. Having two Tartan Day's around the world can certainly be confusing for many and perhaps an annual global day would create more traction, I would certainly be interested in hearing people's opinion on this.

In this issue

From Scotland's woodlands to the ice of an Alaskan winter Jonny Stableford, aka Jonny Chainsaw, has literally carved out a fascinating career creating sculptures in wood and ice.

Jonny recently travelled from Falkirk to Alaska to take part in the World Ice Art Championships. Chainsaw carving is certainly an art, and we are happy to highlight this fascinating Scot's work.

The Isle of Canna is the westernmost of the Small Isles archipelago, in the Scottish Inner Hebrides. This month we feature how one man traded up his life in London to open Café Canna. Gareth Cole has had to adapt to island life, good and bad, and this month opens his doors again to what has been dubbed 'the most remote restaurant in Britain'.

The Mother of Tartan Day

This year Jean will be speaking at a Tartan Day function in Halifax, Nova Scotia and some 40 years later Jean is still promoting Tartan Day and Scottish culture. Jean has opened the door for all of us to take part and grow Tartan Day and as she told me, "There is just so much you can do with Tartan Day and that is a wonderful thing" and she is not wrong there. Jean added that it was in fact *the Scottish Banner's* Valerie Cairney that gave her the very appropriate nickname 'The Mother of Tartan Day', a term which is often still used today.

Thank you, Jean, for all you have done over several decades, especially all those hours most will never know about that you have put in and for being so selfless and determined. Jean is our feature letter in this issue, and you can read her comments on our Scotpourri page. Jean's legacy to the Scottish community is clear and we are so very happy to honour that here this month.

Are you celebrating Tartan Day? What are your thoughts on two dates being used around the globe for Tartan Day? 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: Jonny Chainsaw amongst the Scottish woodlands. Photo: Don Beavis.

Royal Research Ship Discovery undergoes critical works



Dundee Heritage Trust has received £1.4million from the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) to help save the *Royal Research Ship Discovery*. The Trust has announced that urgent conservation works began on the *Royal Research Ship* in February 2024. These urgent works come as the ship approaches its centenary of being officially designated a Royal Research Ship in 1925, and are crucial for the future of the UK's first purpose-built Antarctic research ship.

Built in Dundee in 1901, *Discovery* carries an extraordinary legacy including its famous 1901-1904 voyage to Antarctica – with Antarctic pioneers Captain Scott, Ernest Shackleton, Tom Crean and more – to oceanographic research that is now used as a benchmark for modern climate science, a history with the sea scouts in London, and its return to its home of Dundee in 1986.

Since being moored at Discovery Point, the ship has seen millions of visitors climb aboard its decks, with more than 300,000 visitors in the last five years alone.

The ship's wooden structure is beginning to decay. Undertaken by JPS Restoration, the programme of major works to *Discovery* will include vital restoration to various areas of the ship's ageing wooden structure. Initially, priority will be given to the deck and supporting the stern. Work will commence in the internal hull, bow and propeller shaft including decay in the stern timbers. Work to the portside bulwarks will be addressed in a later phase. The works are estimated to continue throughout 2024 and into 2025.

Dundee Heritage Trust was successful in acquiring two antique teak logs from Robbins Timber, enabling the best quality wood to be used for the deck of the ship.

The logs were salvaged from the *SS Pegu* and give the Trust a unique opportunity to use high quality wood without damaging the priceless resource of teak forests.

A ship of national importance in Scotland

Dundee Heritage Trust are custodians of the *Royal Research Ship Discovery*, alongside Verdant Works Museum and the associated polar and jute collections, both recognised as being of National Significance. An independent charity, the Trust generates 98% of its income through admissions, hospitality and fundraising to enable the care of its remarkable collections and to operate its two award-winning visitor attractions.

Emma Halford-Forbes, Heritage & Exhibitions Director at Dundee Heritage Trust said: "These funds from the National Heritage Memorial Fund are crucial in efforts to save the ship for future generations. The ability to bring forward these urgent works will be pivotal in securing the ship's future, while we work on plans for further conservation works in the coming years. We can't thank NHMF enough for this critical funding."

Dr Simon Thurley CBE, Chair of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, said: "We are delighted to support this essential preservation work to *RRS Discovery*, a ship of national importance in Scotland and the UK. The National Heritage Memorial Fund exists to safeguard some of our finest heritage at risk of loss, and thanks to our support of £1.4m, *RRS Discovery* will continue to be an important draw to visitors to Dundee's historic waterfront.

The ship joins the many hundreds of important and much-loved treasures that can be seen and enjoyed across the UK thanks to the National Heritage Memorial Fund."

The public can follow updates of the works and this important piece of *Discovery's* ongoing story online and on social media. The *Royal Research Ship Discovery* has been a key part of Dundee's history since its launch in 1901 and its subsequent return to the city skyline in the 1980s. It is hoped that these crucial works will ensure that this incredible ship will continue to be part of the City of *Discovery's* and the nation's legacy for many generations to come.



Images courtesy of Dundee Heritage Trust.

The Battle of Falkirk 1298 Commemoration and fundraiser



Since 2016 The Society of John De Graeme has worked in partnership with The Society Of William Wallace (so effectively it would make both Wallace and Graeme proud) to deliver The Battle of Falkirk 1298 Commemoration in Falkirk. Their aim is to bring history to life with a community-based event that retells the story of The Battle of Falkirk 1298.

The Battle of Falkirk 1298 Commemoration pays homage to those who fought and died in defence of their home. The Society's feel other than time there is no difference between honouring those at The Bulge or Dunkirk to those at Falkirk, a Scot fighting and dying to protect the freedoms of his homeland is no different and should be remembered. The events aim is also to raise awareness for the Battle which was a pivotal event in Scotland's history without Falkirk there would be no Bannockburn. Falkirk saw

the largest English (in terms of lead by) host brought to Scotland and lead by Edward I himself. Edward I would go on to assemble a large army and on 22 July 1298 defeat William Wallace's men at Falkirk. And though the Scots were defeated this event celebrates Scotland's culture and helping to educate people on Scotland's dramatic history.

The Society of John De Graeme has a crowdfunder to help with running costs of this year's event, taking place on Saturday July 20th, which remembers those who fought and died on the fields of Falkirk. The event has not been very successful with grants in previous years and has required help from the community.

If you are able to donate it will help deliver a great event: <https://gofund.melf8cc3748>. To learn more about The Society of John De Graeme see: <https://the-society-of-john-de-graeme.weebly.com>.

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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?

Celebrating Tartan Day



The Nova Scotia Tartan.
Image: The Scottish Register of Tartans.

Once again Tartan Day April 6th is upon us. This has turned into a wonderful date for all those of Scottish descent. Tartan Day started out in Nova Scotia, Canada, at a meeting of the Federation for Scottish Clans in the fall of 1985. We wanted a date that the younger people would enjoy and feel it was more their own, not one that was brought from the 'Auld Country'. When discussing dates, we realized Scotland had a Tartan Day in July on the date the English restored out tartans, the bagpipe music, and language, back to our ancestors. A Scot at our meeting stated "we will not thank the English for our rights to our culture!" and so April 6th was chosen, the date of the Declaration of Arbroath.

As a one-person committee (for ten years) to promote this date, I was delighted when on April 6, 1986 it was passed in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly and from there it spread Canada-wide with the help of Scottish organizations across Canada. Nothing could have made me happier than when I heard our cousins to the south taking up the cause of Tartan Day. And what a wonderful job the Americans do celebrating Tartan Day. I watch from afar every year the big parades and wish we could do the same.

Unfortunately, although we have dinners and such, we in Canada are still enjoying (or not) our winter and playing the pipes outside is quite difficult this time of year. We enjoy having a good dram of "the water of life" in order to keep the chill away and a hearty evening of music and song. This year we will be at the St. Margaret of Scotland church hall, Robie St., Halifax.

I hope you enjoy the date once again this year, and may we all raise a toast together on that date to our stout-hearted ancestors, who through hard work, faith in God, and determination, helped build our two wonderful countries.

Sincerely,
Jean MacKaracher Watson
President Emeritus, Federation of Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia
Bedford, Nova Scotia
Canada

Ed note: Thank you Jean for your letter and for everything you have done for the Scottish community, your legacy is extraordinary.



Jean with two of her sons Angus and Reg MacKaracher.

The Prince Albert Cairn



Did you know, Scotland is home to a few different pyramids?

The Prince Albert Cairn is nestled amidst the serene beauty of tall, whispering trees and the majestic mountains, this pyramid-shaped cairn is one of Scotland's hidden gems. But it's more than just a sight to behold, it's a piece of history.

Erected by Queen Victoria in memory of her beloved husband, Prince Albert, after his untimely death in 1861, every stone and corner of this cairn echoes the undying love and the royal legacy that is etched in history forever.

Historical significance: The Balmoral Cairns were constructed to commemorate special events and milestones in the lives of members of the Royal Family. The largest and most famous Cairn was erected by Queen Victoria in memory of Prince Albert.

Nature's embrace: Surrounded by lush greenery, this cairn stands as a testament to enduring love and enduring history. The rugged stone texture, the imposing mountains, and the whispering trees create an enchanting atmosphere that invites reflection and awe.

Thomas Lamont
The Kilted Photographer
Falkirk, Scotland

Australian Burns Night

My wife and I have recently returned from Australia after visiting our daughter and her partner in Terranora, NSW (Australia). During our visit my daughter obtained tickets for the Burns/Scottish Night held on 25 January in Pottsville Community Hall. I think we may have gate crashed this event as upon arrival we realised that the event was mainly for Abi Duncan and her friends.

Notwithstanding this, Abi graciously allowed us to stay and enjoy the evening. My wife, daughter and her partner had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. In view of this I would like to thank Abi for organising a wonderful event and I hope that it will become an annual event and my wife and I will have the opportunity to attend in the future. Once again, thank you Abi and 'long may your lum reek'!

Alan & Helen King, from a cold and frosty Hawick in the Scottish Borders
Scotland

The 75th Glengarry Highland Games



The 75th Glengarry Highland Games is sponsoring a Tune Composing Competition to celebrate the occasion. There will be two competitions: one for a song and one for a 6/8 March suitable for both bagpipes and violins.

All the details can be found on our website: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com/75th/composeatune.

Glengarry Highland Games
Maxville, Ontario
Canada

Family history-Mabey

Hello,
I have recently tried to dive into my family history and was wondering if anyone might be able to help. I live in the USA but historically my family, the Mabey's, are from Scotland. If there's any information anyone might have, I would greatly appreciate the shared knowledge!

Katie Stevens
USA
E-mail: dragonfly740@yahoo.com

Scotland's National Fare

Please find attached a poem in Scots language, *Scotland's National Fare*, which you might like to publish in *the Scottish Banner*.

A Guid New Year.
Archie Smith
Scotland

Scotland's National Fare

By: Kennedy Smith
Gaun cantily doon frae Yarrow's Yaird
Ae Friday nicht, Wee Jimmy Baird
Wi jaunty step, this gallus laird
Felt fine;
For in his pooch guid siller heard
At lousin' time.

And on his way doon Broomilaw,
Temptations many Jimmy saw;
Frae pitch-and-toss tae heid-the-ba'
Fair coaxin' Jim;
Yet, a' the time, there wis his Maw
Awaitin' him.

Intae the pan, she tossed the meat,
Aw red and raw, no fit tae eat;
Yet licht the gas! Turn up the heat!
'Tiz sizzlin' great.
Wi' onions raw tae mak' ye greet;
A canna wait!

As mince aroma cuts the air
Frae Govan Yairds tae Jessie's Lair,
Wee Jimmy thocht, "Tis ma maw's flair,
Her Friday Mince.
Ah dinna ken to last nae mair -
A hale week since!"

They say that Scotland's National fare
Is neeps an' haggis; but beware!
A ken a dish a fancy mair,
(Just richt fur fatties)
An' on the Guid Book a wid swear
Tis Mince an' Tatties.

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Stirling Castle



Morning has broken across Stirling.
The Kilted Photographer

Rannoch Moor



Winter at Rannoch Moor.
Mik Coia

Coastal D&G



The coastal views of Dumfries and Galloway.
Colfin Captures

Corpach Shipwreck



Corpach Shipwreck, FortWilliam.
Derek A Grist

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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.



Colourful Danevale Park.

Italians

Yet move they did. Today, around two percent of our population has Italian heritage and I've just made a film about the links to Scotland. Of course, this romantic Mediterranean race was here long before that. Nearly two thousand years ago, the Romans landed; on the orders of Emperor Hadrian, building a great wall to keep the warring Scots, or Picts, as they then were, out of England. Fast forward to the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries and Italians were once again settling here; especially after the first world war, when poverty was rife, and jobs were scarce. Food was in short supply. One Scottish Italian we interviewed told us how there was always a salted cod hanging from the ceiling in the family home. The children would rub their bread on it to get a taste of fish, but they weren't allowed to eat the flesh...

Many of those who arrived in Scotland came from the town of Barga in Tuscany. In fact, so many emigrated here that today forty percent of Barga's population are said to have Scottish roots. By the 1950s and 60s Italian fish and chip shops and ice cream parlours were a common sight in Scotland. They still are. At Crollas gelaterie near us there have been four generations of Italian owners, including Jeremiah, Anthony, Lorenzo, and Martin.

All have been loyal to Scotland – but they never forget their roots. The blood is strong. And the food is fabulous. Pizza parlours, spaghetti houses – I love it all. Yes, Italian fare is a favourite. And snowdrops are a favoured bulb. These wee flowers that create great white blankets are now past, but this year has given us some of the most spectacular displays.

April may be the cruelest month, yet here in Scotland the weather is mild with daffodils and rhododendrons in full bloom.

Danevale Park

At Danevale Park near Crossmichael in Galloway, they are to be seen to be believed. Great swathes of tiny blooms braving the elements; acres of flowers the result of a life-long passion for gardening... It was more than seventy years ago that a young Australian woman began creating this white work of art... Janet Gillespie grew up on an Australian sheep farm and came to live here after

inheriting a small estate from Scottish relatives. Janet Gillespie arrived after World War Two; settling at Danevale Park, marrying - and starting work on the gardens...

She kept planting and replanting bulbs and in 1951 she began opening the garden to visitors. That first year she made the grand sum of six pounds for charity. Today an open day there can rake in a thousand pounds. Yes, over the decades, Janet created a right royal display. And talking of things regal, here in the south of Scotland, we are preparing for a visit by Princess Anne. The Princess Royal is one of the hardest-working members of the royal family. Last year she carried out more than 400 engagements up and down the country – many of them in Scotland – a country she seems to particularly love.

This time HRH will visit Lockerbie to see the work of a company that uses waste plastic to make roads. She will lay a wreath at the local cemetery, to remember the 270 people who died when a plane exploded over the town in 1988. It was Britain's worst terrorist attack. The Princess Royal will also visit a food manufacturing plant in Kelloholm, north of Dumfries. As Lord-Lieutenant, I will be there at each event - and will report back. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy your own spring flowers...

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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.

"I think my dad would be happy at this, but he never liked the limelight. It was a hobby for him, but it was something that's fascinating too. I remember him saying to me once 'maybe someday somebody will be interested in this' and I think that day is here."

Richard Ward said about a new photo exhibition featuring his late father's photography. George Ward was born in Glasgow's Maryhill district and used his cameras to document and immortalise the buildings and characters which were integral to Maryhill and Glasgow, many of which have since disappeared. 'The George Ward Collection' captures a Maryhill at a time in history, invoking nostalgia for a long-lost city landscape, along Maryhill Road and beyond, and runs until May.



"We have to look after this building into the future. It's such an important piece of architecture. Craigievar is renowned for being the pink castle. It really is the icon of the castles in Aberdeenshire, but originally it wasn't pink. It used to be an off-white

colour. It wasn't actually until the 1820s when the Forbes laird at the time had instructed repairs at the castle - it needed quite a bit of work - and Aberdeen architect John Smith instructed that the castle should be made pink to match the granite mouldings."

Annie Robertson, previously the National Trust for Scotland's Surveyor for the North East and now its Project Director for Fyvie Castle, said that progress has been made at Craigievar Castle in protecting and futureproofing the iconic pink castle in Aberdeenshire, which is said to have inspired Walt Disney's Cinderella Castle. In addition to refreshing the exterior of the seven-storey castle with a secret-recipe pink limewash, the project includes harling repairs, stone conservation, masonry restoration, and roof work, which will help to protect the castle and its interiors from the effects of rainfall ingress, climate change and time.

"Seachdain na Gàidhlig 2024 has really demonstrated the enduring vibrancy and richness of Gaelic culture, and we are immensely proud of the diverse programming and widespread participation that have made this year's event truly unforgettable. Seeing multiple generations from across the globe actively engage in events like this highlights the enduring passion, interest and support that surrounds the language. It's truly an exciting time for Gaelic culture, and each participant in this year's Seachdain

na Gàidhlig has played a vital role in preserving and celebrating the legacy and longevity of our rich heritage."

Joy Dunlop, Director of Seachdain na Gàidhlig, said as this year's Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week) drew to a close. Returning for its third edition, the global event took place from 19-25 February and showcased over 170 events across Scotland and beyond, surpassing initial expectations and solidifying its position as a premier platform for Gaelic cultural exchange. Spread across more than 100 locations worldwide, including New York, Nova Scotia and London, Seachdain na Gàidhlig 2024, fostered a palpable sense of community, uniting Gaelic speakers and enthusiasts far and wide around the theme of Do Chànan. Do Choithrom. which translates to Your Language. Your Opportunity.

"The moment we read Jonathan's pilot script, informed by Adam's meticulous research, we understood that this team had found a way into these events that is epic and intimate, local and global, personal and political. The devastation wrought on the night of 21st December 1988 continues to reverberate through the decades."

Netflix drama commissioner Mona Qureshi said Netflix and the BBC will co-produce a factual drama on the Lockerbie bombing. Pan Am Flight 103 left London's Heathrow Airport bound for New York's JFK Airport when a bomb exploded in its

hold over the small Scottish border town of Lockerbie, murdering 270 people on the ground and in the quiet town below. It was the worst terror attack ever on British soil.



"The evidence to me would suggest that if you have something big, that close, it's going to change the place. Everything we sell the Western Isles on from a tourism point of view is landscape, scenery, culture, heritage."

Surf Lewis owner Rodney Jamieson said residents on the Isle of Lewis are concerned about a wind farm proposal. Locals worry about the visual impacts and impact on tourism a proposed 66 turbine wind farm off the coast could have to the idyllic island. Northland Power wants to install the turbines which stand at 380m (1,246ft) tall, installed three to eight miles (5-13km) from the island.



Tartan Day on Ellis Island

A celebration of Scottish-American history and culture.

Hosted as part of the global celebration of Tartan Week, Tartan Day on Ellis Island is one of the United States' major annual Scottish heritage events. Each year is highlighted by an exhibit exploring a specific aspect of Scottish-American history and culture. The celebration also features performances by a host of Scottish artists, including pipers and drummers, Highland dancers, fiddlers, jugglers and harpists.

This year is a celebration of Highland Dance. The Highland Dance is one of Scotland's most iconic cultural legacies,

combining rich history with a vibrant modern presence. Come to Ellis Island to discover the centuries-old story behind the dance and witness live performances.

The event is produced by the Learned Kindred of Currie, a leading Scottish-American cultural and educational non-profit dedicated to preserving and promoting Scottish and Highland heritage and the arts through a wide variety of programs. pipers and drummers, Highland dancers, fiddlers, jugglers and harpists.

The Tartan Day on Ellis Island exhibit is hosted in the Special Exhibits area on the 3rd floor of the Ellis Island Museum.

Admission to the Museum and the Tartan Day exhibit is free; however, you will need to purchase a ferry ticket. Advance booking is highly recommended.

For full details on Tartan Day on Ellis Island see: www.tartandayonellisland.com

Highland Fling
a celebration of highland dance

MARCH 30 - APRIL 7, 2024
Ellis Island, New York

SCOTWORD

Here is a wee Scottish crossword for you to try! If you're stuck, answers can be found on page 24.

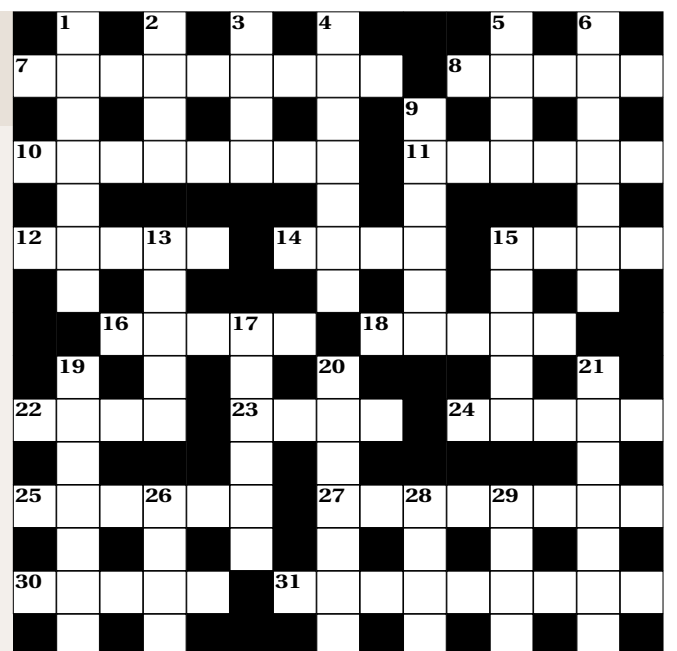
CLUES ACROSS

- 7) The home of golf (2, 7).
- 8) Cross that rallied the Jacobites (5).
- 10) Lying flat to a Scot (8).
- 11) Hills near Melrose (6).
- 12) Village north of Falkirk (5).
- 14) Scottish mountains (4).
- 15) Old Scots halfpenny (4).
- 16) Fife fishing town (5).
- 18) Town southeast of Elgin (5).
- 22) Large bay on Scotland's south coast (4).
- 23) Chimney flue (4).

- 24) A few Scots (5).
- 25) A Scots gutter (6).
- 27) Scottish family members (8).
- 30) Fife village near Cupar (5).
- 31) A capital location (9).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Village on Skye (7).
- 2) Extremely Scottish! (4).
- 3) Old drinks! (4).
- 4) Be uncertain (7).
- 5) Turn quickly in Scots (4).
- 6) Soaking wet (7).
- 9) Monster attraction (6).
- 13) Inner Hebridean island (5).
- 15) Woman's old cap (5).
- 17) Port west of Kilmarnock (6).
- 19) Village north of Poolewe (7).
- 20) Strathardle location (7).
- 21) Getting your own back (7).
- 26) The last word (4).
- 28) Female relative (4).
- 29) Scots seasoning! (4).





EST 2002

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From Falkirk to Alaska to the Isle of Gigha-Jonny Chainsaw: Wood and Ice

Images courtesy of Rachel Mirth.



By: James Bartlett

Jonny Stableford has only been back from Alaska for a few days, but he's already hard at work on the Isle of Gigha, just off the west coast of Kintyre. "Gigha was one of the first community buy out islands," he says, noting that there's a population of around 150 people there. "Pretty much everything here is owned by the island trust, and this is my third visit in 13 months."

A wood sculptor and carver, Jonny is working in the public access Achamore Gardens, which has some nationally rare and significant plants, and he and

the team are dealing with some of their high-risk trees. "The island, like the rest of Scotland, was hit hard by storms." Stableford, 41, was born and raised in Linlithgow, and moved to Falkirk four years ago. He first became interested in sculpting at Barony College in Dumfries, when he was pursuing a career in the Ranger Service.

Scottish Working Woods

"There was a two-week block in chainsaws, and one of the instructors had some of us doing exercises like making little chairs, and

it wasn't long before the dark side dragged me under!" he laughs. "When I left college, I became involved in pole climbing. With spikes on your feet and a harness, you climb up the 80 feet as fast as you can. My best time was 12.8 seconds, and between climbs, there was usually a chainsaw carver to watch, and after being given a book on how to carve, the touchpaper had really been lit."

He carved in the evenings and at weekends for nearly 20 years before looking to enter competitions and work for himself.

"I won second place at the Scottish Carving comp last year, which was pretty special on home turf, and I've just been granted use of The Scottish Working Woods label, which is a recognized seal of quality assurance." Jonny's small workshop is in the Muiravonside Country Park, and he explains that over the years he has carved everything from a Lego man, Xbox Controller, and an old-fashioned diving bell. His trip to Alaska came about because he wanted to know more about ice carving, something that he often does for corporate clients.

"I've carved the Cruachan Dam, known as 'the hole in the hill,' twice now. I really like the unusual stuff, as it gets me thinking much more. You can push and shove wood about, and it doesn't complain too much. But ice doesn't like that. You also lose perception of depth when working with ice, and getting it to look 'right' can be a huge challenge."

He carved in the evenings and at weekends for nearly 20 years before looking to enter competitions and work for himself.

A marathon journey involving 10 flights saw him arrive at the World Ice Art Championships (WIAC) in Fairbanks, Alaska, back in February – with temperatures ranging from -40 to -60 when he arrived. Jonny has volunteered for the "boot camp", which he describes as "basically on the job training, teaching everything from reading ice, construction of multi block structures and then putting as much fun and creativity into the park construction as possible." He also took part in the Ice Harvest, where hundreds of square blocks of ice are cut and lifted from local waterways in preparation for the competitions, and to create the huge children's park.

Jonny Chainsaw

"The company I work for in Edinburgh manufactures ice blocks something like 100 x 60 x 30cm, but this is on a very different scale," he says, adding that he



Jonny at the World Ice Art Championships.



showcased some of his exploits in interior Alaska on his Instagram feed, where he goes under the name Jonny Chainsaw. "The cold was a phenomenal experience which I loved," he admits. "Those temperatures slow everything down, and you have to be dressed perfectly for working. Not too hot, not too cold. Tools are much more sensitive when you use them too, and you have to be very aware of the impact on your body when you're using them."

Jonny was embraced by the international community of carvers that had assembled, and said that he was thrust into carving the first day on site. "I was quite nervous to be entrusted with other people's tools and equipment, particularly chisels and cutters that I'd never used before. I loved it though," he adds, noting that his two-week stay came at a high financial cost, even with accommodation provided and a hectic schedule. "I only had one day off, but on it we managed to go ice fishing. Kaila, a local trapper's wife and seamstress, provided us with the equipment, and later crafted me a beautiful beaver hat. Fur is a touchy subject in the UK, but the truth is it's like timber. An excellent natural and sustainable product and in this case, great for keeping out the cold."

He also managed to visit a famous local attraction and sponsor, the Chena Hot Springs, though he was never finished with his work in time to visit the local Ice Museum, which is located in an old art deco cinema. Jonny also worked on some ice sculptures of his own, and the first one was "Scotty McMoony," the first Scottish astronaut, who had a thistle insignia on his chest, carries the Scottish flag, is labelled



Alaskan nights.

Made in Scotland, and "and has a half bottle of bucky in his back pocket. I was fairly chuffed with it," he admitted.

Jonny hopes to return to the six-week long WIAC as a competitor, but right now he's back at work on the wood in Gigha, and looking to keep himself happy and fit. "Working a saw can be the cause of many problems, and so to relax I go stand-up paddle boarding as much as I can. I also do a bit of hunting, which ties in with the woodland management theme, as well as putting food in the freezer." He is also keen to get involved with visual strength grading in timber, which is becoming more in demand, and helps to promote Scottish quality timbers. "And like most carvers, I dream of a small house with a workshop in the woods. If anyone happens to know of one at a good price, I'd love to hear about it!"



Jonny Chainsaw at work. Photo: James Ross.



The Royal Mile in Edinburgh. Photo: VisitScotland.

How 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 capital of Scotland before Edinburgh?
- 2) Who came to Iona in 563 AD to found a Christian settlement?
- 3) Who is known as the father of modern television?
- 4) How many streets comprise the Royal Mile in Edinburgh?
- 5) What is the most westerly point on the Scottish/UK mainland?
- 6) Where is the setting for Burns' poem *Tam O'Shanter*?
- 7) The total length of the River Spey is 65, 88 or 110 miles?

- 8) Which town is known as the "Queen of the South"?
- 9) If your ship embarked at Port Ellen, which Scottish island would you be visiting?
- 10) In which Scottish city did the Scottish freedom fighter William Wallace gain his education?

Answers:

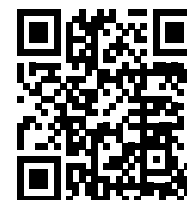
- 1) Dunfermline.
- 2) St Columba.
- 3) John Logie Baird, born Helensburgh 1888.
- 4) Four.
- 5) Ardnamurchan Point at the western end of the Ardnamurchan Peninsula in Lochaber.
- 6) Alloway in Ayrshire.
- 7) 110 miles.
- 8) Dumfries.
- 9) Islay.
- 10) Dundee.

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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Edinburgh Castle.

Boost for tourism as Scottish attractions pull in 48m visitors

Scotland's visitor attractions enjoyed a robust year with visitor numbers up 17.2% despite cost of living and inflationary pressures, according to new figures released. Attractions across the country recorded 48,685,638 visits last year, an increase of 7,133,336 on 2022, as the sector saw numbers return to pre-COVID levels. Data from the Moffat Centre at Glasgow Caledonian University and the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions (ASVA) shows free attractions racked up 30,605,269 visits, up 4,354,960 on the previous year. Edinburgh Castle remained in the top spot as Scotland's most popular paid-for attraction, with visitor numbers increasing 41.5% to 1,904,723. The National Museum of Scotland remains the number one free attraction with numbers increasing 10.8% to 2,186,841. The National Galleries of Scotland: National recorded a 43.8% increase to 1,836,057, while St Giles Cathedral, up 37.6% to 1,473,211, and Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, up 32.2% to 1,283,882, also enjoyed a busy year. The Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow, which hosted Banksy's first exhibition in 14 years, recorded a 60.4% increase in visitors to 510,936, while The Royal Yacht Britannia saw visitor numbers jump 51.1% to 361,175.

Chris Greenwood, Senior Research Fellow at The Moffat Centre, said: "Despite many headwinds experienced by businesses and consumers, visitor numbers have been robust. The overall performance is very positive. Consumer sentiment studies have shown greater price sensitivity among consumers relating to travel and tourism but a desire to travel remains. Price-sensitive visitors have a wealth of free attractions to choose from and our paid attractions continue to appeal to both international and domestic visitors alike."

The overall number of visitors to paid-for attractions increased 19.2% in 2023 to 18,080,369. Strong performers included Culzean Castle and Country Park, up 29.6% to 291,674, Glasgow Science Centre,

up 24.2% to 350,441, and Urquhart Castle and Stirling Castle, up 24% and 23.7% respectively. A total of 616 attractions across Scotland provided data for this year's Visitor Attraction Monitor report.

Community to create distillery in reputed 'birthplace of malt whisky'



A £5m community-led project to create a new distillery in an area regarded as a birthplace of Scotland's national drink has secured up to £0.5m investment from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

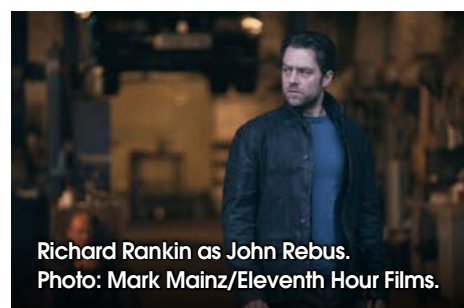
The Cabrach is the most rural area of Moray. This hauntingly beautiful area was once a self-sustaining upland settlement. Famed for its long and colourful whisky distilling history, the Cabrach was once a legendary haunt of illicit distillers and smugglers. At the turn of the 20th century the area was home to a population of over 1000, today that number is less than 100. Formed in 2013, The Cabrach Trust's vision is to regenerate the area as a thriving, sustainable community. The charity has developed a strategic masterplan to deliver significant job creation, attract new visitors, and celebrate the cultural heritage, landscape and history of the Cabrach. The HIE funding will be used to help cover the costs of construction works on the extensive refurbishment of farm steading buildings at Inverharroch Farm, which was acquired by the Trust in 2013.

The refurbished 19th century steading will become home of The Cabrach Distillery and will produce a unique heritage-led Single Malt Scotch Whisky. Within eight years it is forecast to have an annual turnover of almost £3.4m and provide employment for 12.5 full time equivalent posts, as well as 50 volunteering opportunities. Operating as a social enterprise, all surplus profits from the venture will be reinvested for the benefit of the community.

Fiona Robb, head of strengthening communities with HIE's team in Moray, said: "This project represents a significant

third sector project in Moray's most rural area, where population has declined significantly. Tapping into local heritage it seeks to use this to attract and retain new talent. In addition to production, turnover and sales, the venture will contribute to community regeneration with significant social benefits and low carbon credentials. It will support new employment, alongside a sustained commitment to providing training and education. It will also enhance the region's appeal to visitors and its reputation for quality food and drink production."

BBC to air new drama Rebus, based on the hit novels by Ian Rankin



Richard Rankin as John Rebus. Photo: Mark Mainz/Eleventh Hour Films.

The BBC has acquired crime drama *Rebus*, a new adaptation of the international best-selling *Inspector Rebus* novels by award-winning author Ian Rankin, starring Richard Rankin (*Outlander*, *The Replacement*) in the title role. Set in Edinburgh, the six-part series reimagines John Rebus as a younger Detective Sergeant drawn into a violent criminal conflict that turns personal when his brother Michael, a former soldier, crosses the line into criminality. Rebus finds himself torn between protecting his brother and enforcing the law to bring Michael to justice. This epic series explores family, morality and class through an emotionally-charged story, set against the Scottish landmarks that Rankin's readers know so well. Filming took place in Glasgow and Edinburgh last year.

Ian Rankin, creator of the Rebus novels, says: "I'm thrilled that *Rebus* is coming to the BBC. A great cast and a compelling story - I really can't wait for viewers to see it." Richard Rankin, playing the role of John Rebus, says: "I am thrilled that *Rebus* will premiere on the BBC. It's been an honour taking on the role of Ian Rankin's renowned John Rebus. A character enjoyed by so many in such a fresh and original adaptation."

New direct rail service from Stirling to London approved



The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) has given the go-ahead for Grand Union Trains, an open access operator, to start a new train service between London and the city of Stirling, from June 2025. ORR's decision will offer more choice to passengers, bring private sector investment to the railway and increase competition. Grand Union Trains will

introduce four new return services per day between London Euston and Stirling stations. These services will also call at Milton Keynes Central, Nuneaton, Crewe (subject to agreement between Grand Union Trains and Network Rail), Preston, Carlisle, Lockerbie, Motherwell, Whifflet, Greenfaulds and Larbert. Larbert, Greenfaulds and Whifflet will receive their first direct services to London. ORR found that the proposed services would increase choice for passengers, significantly increasing direct journey opportunities to and from London and central and southern Scotland, while making use of existing capacity on the network.

Stephanie Tobyn, Director, Strategy, Policy and Reform, said: "Our decision helps increase services for passengers and boost competition on Britain's railway network. By providing more trains serving new destinations, open access operators offer passengers more choice in the origin and price of their journey leading to better outcomes for rail users."

Glasgow announces twinning with Ukraine to coincide with second anniversary of invasion



Glasgow has twinned with the Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv in a show of solidarity and support. The agreement was declared on 24 February 2024, which coincided with the second anniversary of the invasion. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Lord Provost Jacqueline McLaren, the Leader of Glasgow City Council Susan Aitken and Mykolaiv's City Mayor Oleksandr Syenkevych during a virtual ceremony held on Tuesday 6 February 2024. Witnessed in Glasgow by the Ukrainian Consul General Andrii Kuslii and representatives from The Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain. Both cities share a rich industrial heritage as ship builders. Mykolaiv originally founded in 1788 as a Naval base, is nestled on the Southern Buh River close to the Black Sea. It's also a city close to the front line and adjacent to the besieged city of Kherson. Because of that proximity and its ranking as the country's second largest port city, it has endured relentless bombardment.

Glasgow's Lord Provost Jacqueline McLaren said: "This twinning agreement is a golden opportunity for Glasgow and Mykolaiv to demonstrate the true value of twinning and the benefits it can bring our cities and citizens. Glasgow enters this twinning partnership reflecting the sentiments of our city's Patron Saint, St Mungo - to allow our citizens here in Glasgow and there, in Mykolaiv to flourish. My message to Ukrainians here in Glasgow and beyond is that you can count on Glasgow as a steadfast friend. This Memorandum of Understanding a clear demonstration of our friendship and support."



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Serving up at Britain's remotest restaurant



By: Judy Vickers

Perched on the stunning Scottish island of Canna is a restaurant which has been dubbed the remotest in Britain. Gareth Cole gave up life in London to move to an island measuring just two miles across and with only eighteen permanent residents to develop Café Canna. The business opens again for the season this month and Gareth will use his many skills he has had to learn to make a remote island restaurant work, as Judy Vickers explains.

It was one chilly Sunday in early spring when Gareth Cole took a look at the restaurant on Canna with the idea of taking it over. It was pouring with rain, he had no experience as a chef or in the catering trade and the tiny island only has 18 inhabitants as potential diners so it's perhaps surprising he decided it was a viable business option. "But I'd had all sorts of really bad ideas of how to live and work on the west coast – like almost buying a dilapidated lighthouse – so this was actually quite a good idea," he says now.

Just a month later, he opened Café Canna's doors with the simplest of menus ("just fish and chips and the odd lobster"). That was six years ago – now having weathered storms which swept his picnic benches into the bay, frequent power cuts which mean he's now adept at cooking by candlelight and sometimes erratic boat deliveries, he has brought out a cookbook featuring the recipes he's created from the ingredients he can source from the island and its seas.

But perhaps more importantly, he is living the dream he had when working as a website developer in London when sailing trips up the west coast of Scotland became his passion. "I was spending more and more time here to the point of wondering if I could live on the west coast and visit London rather than the other way around," he says.

Remote island

Now his commute to work is a short stroll down a shoreside track that's virtually carless – only locals are allowed vehicles –

with sea eagles soaring overhead and seals playing in the bay to the whitewashed restaurant which looks out over the water.

Canna is a curiously remote island. The most westerly of the Small Isles – the others being Rum, Eigg and Muck – it is reached by a three-hour ferry from Mallaig, a town on the west coast located on the end of the Road to the Isles, itself around a four-hour drive from Glasgow.

Canna is a curiously remote island.

Yet on summer nights the restaurant is stowed out. The bay has a natural "double" harbour making it one of the most sheltered spots to drop anchor for the yachties who come from far and wide to enjoy the stunning west coast. "Canna has an amazing anchorage so it's a popular sailing spot – they radio us on VHS for a table and row ashore for their meal," says Gareth. It's not the only quirky feature of this four and a half mile long by one mile wide island. Visitors staying at the only campsite or the handful of self-catering properties can walk up Compass Hill, composed of volcanic rock with such a high iron content that passing ships' compasses point to it rather than north.



Cattle on Canna.



Seaweed foraging.

The island is renowned for its wildlife, including puffins, sea eagles, orcas, dolphins and basking sharks, the latter the second biggest fish in the world - 83 were once recorded in a single day off Canna. It is home to the Gaelic archives of John Lorne Campbell, the famous folklorist, Gaelic scholar and "people's laird", known as the man who gave away his island - gifting it to the National Trust for Scotland, which still owns it. His extraordinary collection of texts on history, linguistics and folklore are still housed at stone-built mansion Canna House. The few roads are private so locals don't pay road tax and the only shop is unmanned - there is an honesty box. Canna is linked to the neighbouring, smaller tidal island of Sanday. There's not much in the way of mobile phone reception. "And our Wi-Fi is very unstable, in order to take card payments I have to stand on a particular spot on a picnic bench," says Gareth.

The picnic benches themselves once got washed into the bay - Gareth says the job comes with "inherent calamity" - and he's become well used to power cuts, adapting his menu so that everything can be cooked on a gas hob by candlelight. "It does happen reasonably often, at least once a month," he says. "But there's always stuff going wrong, there are always deliveries that haven't come, that's part of the job, to make the best of things."

Culinary creativity

The vagaries of the ferry and deliveries have led Gareth to come up with the culinary creativity that appears in the cookbook. When supplies of beer

failed to turn up and the restaurant ran dry, Gareth decided to start brewing his own beer. There were regulatory hoops to jump through in order to get beef from the island's farm on the menu but now the meat comes from the fields that surround the restaurant. Rabbit is provided by a local and seafood, including lobster, crab and langoustine, from the seas around the island via local fisherman. The biggest "game changer" was seaweed, foraged from the shore. "I thought it might get a bit of a laugh from the dining room but I didn't expect this amount of enjoyment. It's our most popular dish. But then by the time you visit Canna, you have probably visited several places coming up from Glasgow, so you've probably got haggis bonbons coming out of your eyeballs so it's nice to try something different. And we have become a bit more resilient by using these ingredients."

The restaurant opens this month for the season until October. Winter is for "fixing things that have been broken, experimenting with new dishes and time to experience the mainland, the real world - I can't leave the island from April to October, it's a full-on season."

Winter is also a time for a few party nights with the locals, who he says have helped him so much stepping in to help with supplies or staff. "It's our community space as well as a restaurant," he says. And on such a small island it's not just the locals who might have to step up to the mark. "It's a running joke that anyone who comes to Canna will get a few nights as a dishwasher!"

Café Canna: Recipes from a Hebridean Island by Gareth Cole is out now.



Tartan of the Month

Crieff & Strathearn Museum Tartan

The Scottish Banner is pleased to be offering the Tartan of the Month series highlighting a variety of different, unique and colourful tartans from around the world which are registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans in Edinburgh. The Scottish Register of Tartans was established by an act of the Scottish Parliament in November 2008 and promotes and preserves information about historic and contemporary tartans from Scotland and throughout the world. Text and image use are courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans (SRT).

The Crieff & Stathearn Museum tartan blends notable historical elements of the town and its surroundings. Based on the Royal Stewart tartan (reputed to have been worn on social occasions by Bonnie Prince Charlie), it commemorates the Prince's

connection with Crieff - on his way to fateful Culloden, his horse was shod by a local King Street blacksmith and his war council was held uphill from the Old Drummond Arms in James Square.

The town also knew Rob Roy MacGregor, his escapades and dealings at the famous annual cattle market, the Crieff Tryst, and the design includes red and black of the Old MacGregor/Rob Roy tartan. The colours of the design also echo those of the Drovers' Tryst tartan, the browns and greens of the moors, forests and grazing's that comprised the ancient drove routes to the Crieff markets. Finally, the central blue on green is intended to represent Strathearn, the broad valley of the river Earn where the 'frontier town' of Crieff was originally established on the Knock of Crieff. This tartan (reference: 14192) was designed by Brian Wilton and registered in January, 2024.

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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

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



1 - Scottish singer Susan Boyle born. Boyle rose to fame in 2009 after appearing as a contestant on the third series of *Britain's Got Talent*, singing *I Dreamed a Dream* from *Les Misérables*. Susan has sold over 25 million albums, has had 250 million audio streams, and over 650 million YouTube hits. 1961

1 - *Reporting Scotland*, BBC Scotland's flagship national television news programme, is broadcast for the first time. The show continues today and has the largest reach of any televised news in Scotland. 1968

2 - The College of New Aberdeen was founded. The college was founded by the Earl Marischal of Scotland, George Keith of Inverugie, 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

2 - Scottish comedian Janey Godley wins the inaugural Billy Connolly Spirit of Glasgow Award at the Glasgow International Comedy Festival. Godley went viral during the pandemic with her impersonations of the then First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon. 2023

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 - 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. 1986

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. It is the sixth oldest university in the UK and some prominent alumni include Charles Darwin, Alexander Graham Bell, Sir Walter Scott, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 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. 1,500 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 1,500 Scottish fatalities. 1746



16 - *Royal Yacht Britannia* launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank. *Britannia* served the Royal Family from 1954 until 1997, and travelling more than a million nautical miles. 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 - Alexander Mackenzie, the Scottish-born Canadian statesman, died. Mackenzie was the first Liberal Prime Minister of Canada, serving from 1873-78. 1892

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

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

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

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 - 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

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

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

46th ANNUAL

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN

Scotch pies



Ingredients:

For the filling:

600g/1lb 5oz. mutton mince
 ¼ tsp ground mace
 ¼ tsp nutmeg
 5 tbsp. gravy or stock
 salt and white pepper

For the hot water crust pastry:

½ tsp salt
 120g/4¼oz. lard
 360g/12½oz. plain flour
 1 free-range egg yolk, beaten, for glaze

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6 and line a baking tray with baking parchment. Cut four strips of greaseproof paper, about 5cm/2in deep and 25cm/10in long, to wrap around the pies. You'll also need four pieces of cook's string to secure the paper. For the filling, mix all the ingredients together in a bowl and season generously with salt and white pepper.

Work the liquid into the meat, divide into four portions and mould into balls. Refrigerate while you make the pastry. To make the pastry, heat 160ml/5½fl oz. of water, salt and lard in a saucepan until just boiling. Meanwhile, put the flour in a mixing bowl. Pour the hot liquid onto the flour and mix together with a spoon. Once cool enough to handle, tip onto a floured surface and knead until you have a smooth dough. Working as quickly as you can, cut off a quarter of the pastry and set aside. Divide the remaining dough into four equally sized balls.

Roll out each ball to an 18cm/7in circle, about 5mm/¼in thick. Roll out the remaining pastry and cut out four circular lids, 10cm/4in in diameter. Place a ball of filling on each large circle of pastry. Gather the pastry around the meat and bring up the sides to form the shape of a pork pie. Keep stretching the pastry so it comes above the meat by around 2cm/1¾in. Dampen the edges of the pies with water and press the lids on top of the filling. Seal the edges together using your fingers. Wrap a strip of greaseproof paper around each pie and secure with string (to make sure the pie holds its shape when cooking). This is much easier if you have someone to help you. Put the pies on the baking tray and cut a steam hole in the centre of each. Brush with beaten egg yolk and transfer to the fridge to rest for 30 minutes. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until golden-brown. Serve hot.

Rumbledethumps



Ingredients:

600g/1lb 5oz. large potatoes, peeled and chopped into large chunks
 400g/14oz. swede (known as turnip in Scotland), peeled and chopped into large chunks
 75g/2¾oz. unsalted butter
 250g/9oz. savoy cabbage or kale, finely sliced
 salt and freshly ground black pepper
 25g/1oz. cheddar cheese, grated

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Cook the potatoes and swede in a saucepan of salted boiling water until tender. Drain well and return to the pan. Heat 50g/2oz. butter in a pan and gently cook the cabbage for a few minutes, until the cabbage is tender but retains its colour. Add the cabbage to the pan with the potatoes and swede. Add the remaining 25g/1oz butter and mash together using a potato masher. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Place the mashed vegetables into an ovenproof lidded dish and top with the cheese. Cover with a lid and bake in the oven for about 30 minutes, then remove the lid and continue to cook for a further 15 minutes, or until piping hot and golden-brown on top.

Cheese scones



Ingredients:

225g/8oz. self-raising flour
 pinch of salt
 55g/2oz. butter
 25g/1oz. mature cheddar cheese, grated
 150ml/5fl oz. milk

Method:

Heat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Lightly grease a baking sheet. Mix together the flour and salt and rub in the butter. Stir in the cheese and then the milk to get a soft dough. Turn on to a floured work surface and knead very lightly. Pat out to a round 2cm/¾in thick. Use a 5cm/2in cutter to stamp out rounds and place on the baking sheet. Lightly knead together the rest of the dough and stamp out more scones to use it all up. Brush the tops of the scones with a little milk. Bake for 12-15 minutes until well risen and golden. Cool on a wire rack.

Farthing biscuits

Ingredients:

225g/8oz. plain flour, plus extra for dusting
 225g/8oz. self-raising flour
 1 tsp. table salt
 1 tsp. caster sugar
 85g/3oz. lightly salted butter, plus extra to serve
 85g/3oz. lard

Method:

For the biscuits, preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. In a bowl, mix the dry ingredients together. Rub in butter and lard so that mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add just enough cold water to bring the mixture together to form a stiff dough (about 5-6 tablespoons). Refrigerate for 15-20 minutes. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out the dough to a thickness just less than a £1 or thick coin. Using a 9cm/3½in round cutter cut out biscuits from the dough. Prick the top of the biscuits all over to decorate, leaving a plain 5mm/¼in border around the edge. Transfer to wire racks or baking mesh. Place the racks/mesh on baking trays and bake for 14-16 minutes, or until the biscuits are dry but not browned. Set aside to cool completely. Serve the biscuits with chilled butter.

Orange cranachan

Ingredients:

4 blush or blood oranges
 orange
 50g/2 oz. pinhead oatmeal or rolled oats
 150ml/5fl oz. pot whipping cream
 2 tbsp. whisky
 whisky
 150g/5oz. tub Greek yogurt
 2 tbsp clear honey
 Honey

Method:

Slice the top and bottom off each orange and sit them on a board. Using a sharp knife, cut down between the peel and flesh until all the peel and pith have been removed. Cut between each membrane to remove all the segments. Roughly chop and set aside. Heat a non-stick frying pan over a medium heat. Dry-fry the oatmeal, stirring often, for 3-5 mins. It should start to smell nutty, but don't let it burn. Tip the oatmeal onto a plate to cool. Whisk the cream and whisky together to soft peaks. Carefully fold in the yogurt, oatmeal and honey until just combined. Spoon half the mixture into 4 serving glasses and top with half the orange. Repeat layer with the remaining ingredients and serve drizzled with extra honey, if you like.

Ginger alert

Ingredients:

40ml/1½fl oz. whisky
 2 tsp clear apple juice
 1 tsp clear pear juice
 20ml/½fl oz. fresh lemon juice
 2.5cm/1in piece fresh ginger, peeled
 ginger ale, to top up
 apple slice, to garnish

Method:

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

Hollywood movie idols influence historic Scottish baby names



Hollywood stars Marilyn Monroe and Audrey Hepburn influenced the names of Scottish babies in decades gone by, according to new analysis by National Records of Scotland. For the first time statisticians have looked back through all the names used since 1935 and charted the top 100 names in each year. NRS Statistician Maria Kaye-Bardgett said: "Over time we see an increase in the variety of names being used, with stars from the silver screen having an impact. For example, Marilyn rose to popularity in 1946 and peaked in 1953 when Monroe starred in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *How to Marry a Millionaire*. The name Audrey appeared to get a boost from Audrey Hepburn's career, rising to reach a peak of 36th in 1963 before dropping out of the top hundred in 1976. This shows pop culture was already influential 70 years ago and continues to have an impact on what parents decide to name their children today." Another key finding from this report is the relative stability among boy's names. A dozen names have stayed in the top 100 for babies born in Scotland over the last 88 years and all of them are for boys. These names are Adam, Alexander, Daniel, David, James, Joseph, Matthew, Michael, Robert, Samuel, Thomas, William.

Maria Kaye-Bardgett commented: "These twelve names are long-term favourites that have stood the test of time, interestingly none of them are for girls. The only girls name that came close to this sustained popularity was Elizabeth which was in the top 100 every year except 2018 and 2021, perhaps reflecting the long reign of Elizabeth II." Many parents seem to choose comeback names, something which was popular in decades gone by. Names like Louis, Finlay and Emily are all popular again having fallen out of the top 100 in previous decades. Maria Kaye-Bardgett added: "One name which has bounced back recently is Flora which returned to the top 100 after a 78-year absence. It was previously in the top 100 from 1935 to 1943. Its return could be a result of the renewed interest in the Jacobite era with the hugely successful *Outlander* TV series including the character Flora Macdonald, famous in history for having helped Bonnie Prince Charlie escape after defeat at Culloden." The latest statistics also found some one-offs; names that made it into the top 100 for one year only. This category included the name Jan for boys in 1946. The vast majority of baby boys called Jan had a father who was in the Polish military. Up to 200,000 Polish soldiers, sailors and airmen trained in Scotland between 1940 and 1947. Many Polish people were interned, imprisoned or conscripted during the war but thousands escaped and were sent to Scotland to train. Another one-off was Kylie in 1988, when there were 104 baby girls given the name in the year Kyle Minogue left *Neighbours* to launch her music career.

Drumlanrig Castle-Yarnwinders and Sycamores

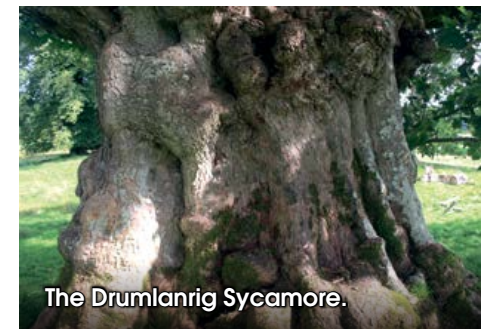


Roman remains

However, the sycamore is not the only Drumlanrig heritage tree, as you'd perhaps expect in such a wooded environment. The Drumlanrig Douglas Fir can be found in woodland to the north of the castle. It was grown from one of the original seeds sent by David Douglas (who gave his name to the species) to Scotland, and was planted in 1827. At the time, the Clerk of Works at Drumlanrig was John Douglas, David's brother.

There are three known Roman forts in the Drumlanrig area, a reminder that the invaders forged north in some numbers through what is now Dumfries and Galloway. The area is dotted with Roman remains, notably at Durisdeer just off the A702 road that threads the Dalveen Pass to Elvanfoot. The Romans actually built an early predecessor of the A702 and near Durisdeer you can visit the visible remains of one of their fortlets. This area's history did not begin with the Douglasses of Drumlanrig.

Drumlanrig is a stunning building in a green and welcoming setting. For most visitors to Scotland, it is perhaps a little of the beaten track – but that's perhaps not a bad thing.



The Drumlanrig Sycamore.

If anyone outside Scotland has heard of Drumlanrig Castle, it's likely to be in the context of the audacious art theft that took place there in 2003, when the *Madonna of the Yarnwinder*, a painting attributed to Leonardo da Vinci, was removed from the castle. It was recovered in 2007 and is now on display in the National Galleries of Scotland in Edinburgh, on loan from Drumlanrig's owner, the Duke of Buccleuch. The heist was the subject of the 2023 BBC podcast series *The Missing Madonna*.

Drumlanrig is about three miles from Thornhill in Dumfriesshire, in the valley of the Nith. A castle of some description has existed here from around the 14th century. The Douglasses owned the land, later supporters of Mary Queen of Scots. In 1575 the house was destroyed as a punishment for their support. Almost every ancient building in Scotland claims that Mary slept there, but here it's true. She overnights in old Drumlanrig in 1563.

A baronial mansion

The ruined house was restored and another monarch, James VI, slept there on his last visit to Scotland in 1617. In the second half of the 17th century the present building - a baronial mansion rather than a castle - was constructed for William Douglas, the 3rd Earl of Queensberry, incorporating some elements of its predecessor including the cellars. It was built on a grand scale, with four ranges around a courtyard and sizeable square towers at each corner. Each of the four towers is topped by four pepperpot turrets. And yet the Third Earl didn't like it, and moved back to his older home at Sanquhar Castle. It was his son James, the 2nd Duke, who eventually shifted his main residence to Drumlanrig, and Sanquhar was left to decay. The building sustained some damage in 1745 when Charles Edward Stewart stayed there during the Jacobite retreat from Derby. Some of the army sacked parts of the castle - and allegedly slashed a painting of King William of Orange!

The castle passed to the Scott's, the Dukes of Buccleuch, in 1810. It was restored and added to during the 1820s. Today, it remains the home of the Duke of Buccleuch, whose family now bears the rather complicated family name of Montagu-Douglas-Scott. The castle is open for guided tours during certain dates in the summer. The art collection in particular is

well worth the effort to see, with works by Holbein and Rembrandt. The supposed Leonardo shows the infant Christ grasping a cruciform yarnwinder, prefiguring his death on the cross. Experts disagree, but it seems probably that Leonardo didn't paint all of it. In any case, of course, it's now in Edinburgh.

Ghosts

There are three ghosts said to haunt Drumlanrig, if that's the sort of thing that appeals to you. One of them is a bit out of the ordinary; the ghost of a monkey, which appears, appropriately enough, in the Yellow Monkey Room. More traditional and even old-school is the ghost of a Lady Douglas who apparently carries her head under her arm. A third alleged ghost is of a young woman in a diaphanous dress. It doesn't sound too unpleasant to me, but it's supposed only to appear to you if you are taken ill in the castle.

The grounds around Drumlanrig Castle form a country park that's open all year. There's broadleaved woodland, pine plantations and open moorland as well as gardens closer to the castle. The woods and moors are crisscrossed by footpaths, cycle routes and mountain bike trails, all signposted from the visitors' car park. Nearby, in the castle's outbuildings, you'll find a café and shop which are open in the summer.

The castle's setting is a particular joy, and its woodlands are great natural green cathedrals of peace. Walking, cycling or riding a horse (my wife has done the last of these!) on the grand avenue leading to the castle is awe-inspiring too. Your first approach to the castle is by this long, straight, woodland-bordered drive that is impressive enough in itself, even without the view ahead to Drumlanrig's most imposing frontage. Once you've arrived, I recommend that you pop over to a viewpoint just to the east of the car park. It looks out over an open area of meadowland pasture broken by some trees.



Open spaces at Drumlanrig.

One of them, described on the information panel at the viewpoint, is the Drumlanrig Sycamore. This superstar was already one of Scotland's heritage trees. It's believed to be around 300 years old and was described in detail in a book called *Old and Remarkable Trees of Scotland* as long ago as 1887. As part of the late Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022 it was named as one element of the Queen's Green Canopy, 70 ancient trees throughout the UK recognised for their grandeur. Talking of 'canopy', the sycamore's has been measured as covering around 800 square metres! It's believed to be the largest sycamore in the United Kingdom.

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Clan Baird Commander
Richard Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood
Rickarton House, Stonehaven, Scotland.
Hereditary President of Clan Baird Society Worldwide

Debra J. Baird, Ph.D. FSA Scot, CBSW Convenor
Email: djbaird4@gmail.com
Website: clanbairdsocietyworldwide.co.uk



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PO Box 84, Longford, Tasmania, 7301

Email: kim.polley13@gmail.com

www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/AUSmembership.php



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Duncan Robertson Reid

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Email: c2100575@uon.edu.au



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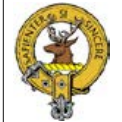
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Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balgihidder,
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Membership inquiries should be directed to:

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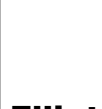
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St. Louis, MO 63131-3038

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Clan Hamilton Society

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Inquiries to be sent to:

Sheri Lambert, Treasurer

P.O. Box 5399

Vernon Hills, IL 60061

visit our website:

www.clanhamilton.org

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HEREDITARY CHIEF AND SOCIETY PATRON

Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains
Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers

Cordially invites all Carruthers and their descendants to join us in preserving our Clan and Family heritage.

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www.clancarrutherssociety.org
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Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com

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Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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Membership enquiries to Don Chitts

Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com

Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>

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482236358590288

Clan Hay

April Rich
28 Oxbow Drive
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clanhaymembership@hotmail.com

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- Foster fellowship among kith and kin
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- Promote charitable and educational activities via a scholarship fund
- Gather the Clan, as directed by our Chief, **Alistair of Fordell**

Contact: Jeff Henderson
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<https://clanmaclarenau.org/>
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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 or contact Mary Nivison Burton, Membership Secretary at: membersec@clanmacnaughton.net

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For more information please email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au, visit us at facebook.com/clanmacfieaustralia or our website: <https://clanmacfie.com.au>

Clan MacLaren

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Lawson Low[e]
Low[e]ry Law[e] Patterson
MacPatrick MacRory

Mark A. McLaren, President
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: malcolmjmcneil@outlook.com

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
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CLAN LAMONT SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

invites membership from Sept names refer to Web Site 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
mobile 0448 778 799

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Scott McInnis, Member Services: scott@macinnes.org or visit www.macinnes.org

Clan MacLellan

Kevin S Gates
Treasurer
2610 Kuykendall Dr.
Arlington, TX
76001-6726
Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail
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Contact: Secretary Mal Nicolson
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Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

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- 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

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

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

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

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

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

Europe: Bodo Bernd Schmitz
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New Zealand: Tony McPherson
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USA: Dave McPherson
UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org
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The Clan Macpherson Museum is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150 It is open from 1st April to 31st 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: clanmacraeastnz@gmail.com

NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth
email: sue.treg1@gmail.com

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Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Inc.

Contact: M Williams, Secretary

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Website: www.ClanSutherland.org



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

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Web: hvscots.org Email: hunterscots@gmail.com
P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289



Clan Maitland Society

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

North America: Rosemary Maitland Thom
rthomnvrpcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Amanda Maitland
clanmaitlandaustralia@gmail.com
12 Settlers Way, Westleigh, NSW, 2120

New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz
33 Disley Street, Highbury, Wellington 6012. NZ

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



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e-mail: apollockis@comcast.net



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Rev. Ref. Chev. Raymond L. Morehead, GOTJ, FSA Scot,

Chief Officer Elect Clan Muirhead Society

Email: raymondktj@msn.com or raymond@clanmuirhead.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

YOUNGS OF SCOTLAND



Membership inquiries:
Ms. Laura Young,
33 McKeen Street,
Jarvis, Ontario,
Canada N0A 1J0

4scottishthistles@gmail.com

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcome from all of Scottish descent.

For information please contact
members@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



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CLAN MUNRO ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND



We would be pleased to welcome as a member, anyone interested in their Clan heritage with the names; Munro, Monro, Monroe and the septs, Foulis, MacCulloch, Dingwall, MacLulich and Vass.

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For further info contact

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

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By: David C Weinczok



Vatersay: Isle of Peril and Promise



Eòrasdail abandoned settlement.

Vatersay is so often spoken of in the same breath as Barra, its larger and only recently-conjoined sibling to the north. Most visitors to the two islands make a quick foray to the famously beautiful Vatersay Bay before returning to Barra and, often, progressing north to Eriskay and the Uists along the Hebridean Way. Dwell in Vatersay a while longer, however, and you will find a community and history worth knowing in much greater depth. It is a place I have returned to five times already, and one which – despite being there just two days ago when writing this – I already yearn to see again.

The Meallaich

Everyone has their own pictorial metaphor for how Vatersay appears on a map. A quartet of peninsulas extend out on an east-west axis from its pinched middle, that glorious central strand of white sands and dunes littered with creels and cattle. I think of it as a butterfly, one wing larger than the other with a brittle middle. The *Meallaich*, the local name for the sandy tie that binds Vatersay's two hilly halves, formed 7,000 years ago when sea levels were lower.

In the grand scheme of things – and we are talking about a land where the exposed Lewisian gneiss is among the oldest rocks in the world – Vatersay's status as a single island is a relatively new phenomenon.

When the first people arrived in the Outer Hebrides they beheld two islands, not one. So, it may be again. Some estimates say that by the end of this century, Vatersay will once more be split by the sea. It has not been unknown for particularly harsh storms to wash over the *Meallaich* to temporarily strand Vatersay from itself again.

Vatersay's ancient inhabitants left quite a few traces of themselves for us to follow. The island has several brochs and dùns, Iron Age stone towers and stone-walled enclosures, respectively, which may have served as the local headquarters of elite families. Dùn Chaolais in the north and Dùn Vatersay in the south are the two best-preserved examples. There are also a handful of small standing stones located in hill passes, and the ruins of an early medieval Celtic chapel at the very tip of the beach-laden Uidh peninsula accessible only at low tide.

The personalities of the two beaches on either side of the *Meallaich* can differ wildly from each other. On a calm day Vatersay Bay (Bàgh Bhatarsaigh) is heavenly. Its broad and gentle curve, backed by dunes laden with marram grass, looks out to a sea of turquoise and silver ribbons. Even when the weather turns, which it can in an instant, there is something irrepressibly joyous and calming about it. Cross the band of dunes and make for the West Beach (Tràigh Siar), however, and a different character enters the story. Beautiful it is, certainly, yet the water here is greyer and colder in spirit. The unabated Atlantic crashes onto the sands, channelled by craggy shores to the north and south. It is fearsome where Vatersay Bay is placid, menacing where its counterpart is inviting. Though perhaps that perception has something to do with knowing what happened here.

Shipwrecks were a common feature of life in these isles, but the wreck of the *Annie Jane* during the night of September 28th – 29th, 1853, will be remembered by the people of Vatersay for many years still to come. Sailing out from Liverpool and bound for Quebec, the *Annie Jane* carried around 500 people including crew and children, many of whom were emigrants from various parts of Scotland, England, and Ireland. Damaged in a storm off St Kilda, the *Annie Jane* drifted helplessly back towards the Barra Isles and shattered upon the submerged rocks of Tràigh Siar. Only a little more than one hundred survived. The rest were buried among the dunes, and still lay somewhere within them. They are commemorated by a small monument which overlooks the scene of the tragedy. In this resting place they join many others from ages past. A dense concentration of Bronze Age funerary cairns dot the bay's northern shore at Treasabhaig, dubbed by the archaeologists who surveyed them as the 'valley of the dead'.

The Vatersay Raiders

Yet tragedy is just one part of Vatersay's story. Another is people power. In the late 19th century and early years of the last century, the absentee aristocratic landlord Lady Gordon Cathcart evicted the tenants of Vatersay's multiple settlements and ran the whole island as one large sheep farm. Several years later, some among the original tenants who had relocated to Barra sailed back to their homelands to reclaim and rebuild their crofts. These were the Vatersay Raiders, and their resistance to oppression and desolation drew national headlines. Cathcart's overseer in Vatersay rounded up the Raiders' cattle and demanded payment for the release of each one, but Duncan Campbell opened the pens and freed them. Cathcart's rebukes echo the sentiments of modern wealthy landlords, saying that MPs sympathetic to the Raiders were "hostile to business" and that the people of Barra and Vatersay should, in only slightly modified language, simply pick themselves up by their bootstraps instead of clinging to their old, outdated ways.

The Vatersay Raiders faced a trial in Edinburgh, with images of them circulated in newspapers garnering widespread public support for their cause. Ultimately they were released and crofts were re-established in Vatersay, which was bought from Cathcart by the government. The most evocative of the Raiders' reclaimed settlements is Eòrasdail, located in the southwestern extremity of Vatersay and inhabited until c.1966. There stands a single roofless house and the gable ends of several more, with traces of lazy beds for potatoes, cairns of stones cleared from the surrounding fields, and iron fittings still in place. Descendants of the Vatersay Raiders still call the island home, and speak with great pride about what they achieved against all material and political odds. I like to think that the Raiders would have stood alongside modern residents in celebrating the opening of a causeway connecting Vatersay to Barra by land for the first time ever in 1991. Prior to this it was only possible to go between the two by boat, an often perilous journey despite its shortness. Many images in the archives of Dualchas, the heritage centre in Castlebay, Barra, show cattle being precariously swum across the Sound of Vatersay led by men in small boats. Numerous records mention several extended periods where crossings were impossible due to weather. Now, in no small part due to the lifeline of the causeway, Vatersay joins Barra as the only islands in the Outer Hebrides which are not only maintaining but growing their populations.

Episodes of tragedy and promise, of upheaval and resurgence, of hardship and liberty: these are the notes in the millennia-spanning song of Vatersay. The land itself seems aware of this, with idyllic machair beaches – not just Vatersay Bay and West Beach but also the smaller but magnificent Bàgh a' Deas (South Bay) and Tràigh Bharlais in the northwest – giving way to harsh and bare uplands. If you ever get the chance to be there, do yourself a favour and don't just pop over to Vatersay Bay for a picnic and photo opp. Stay a while, and dance along the butterfly's outstretched wings.



Vatersay Bay gateway to the beach.



Uidh peninsula cottage with view to Castlebay.

The Bellingham Scottish Gathering



The Bellingham Scottish Gathering returns to the U.S. Pacific Northwest on June 1, 2024. The new venue is sure to attract Highland Games enthusiasts, golfers and tourists. Less than one minute from the Peace Arch border crossing between Washington State and British Columbia, Canada; beautiful Marine Park sits alongside the Salish Sea with amazing views and nature all around.

Bagpipe bands, Scottish athletics, and Highland dancing competitions are highlights. A featured event is the newly-sanctioned City of Bellingham Open Highland Dancing Championship. Clan booths, vendors and Scottish breed animals add to the celebration of Scottish Culture.

Semiahmoo Golf Club is a private club opening for the Scotland FOREver Day of Golf on May 30 as part of the Scottish festival.

For more information see: www.ScottishDanceSociety.org or www.Facebook.com/scottishdance.org

Calling MacLennan descendants to Strathpeffer



Chief Ruairidh on shore of Loch Duich.

The romantic Highland spa village of Strathpeffer will be the backdrop for the Clan MacLennan Gathering in July this year. Chief Ruairidh MacLennan of MacLennan says: "I hope MacLennan descendants from all parts of the world will join us at Strathpeffer for six days of fun and fellowship." The storied origins of the Clan MacLennan focus on the area around the Five Sisters of Kintail – located in the West Coast mountains inland from Skye.

The Clan became loyal supporters of the McKenzie (later "Seaforth") chiefs from the 1300s – including roles at their strategically located Donan's island (Eilean Donan), Kintail. By the 1500s, the McKenzies, with McLennans and other supporters, had acquired the main route from west to east – through Strathconon, and, by 1630, controlled Lochalsh, Lochcarron, Applecross, Gairloch, the Isle of Lewis, and parts of the Black Isle. In the 1620s, the powerful Seaforths established their principal castle at Brahan near Strathpeffer. The fort on Eilean Donan was destroyed by English forces in 1719 and would remain in ruin for over 200 years. The parts mentioned above are the main districts where MacLennans were to be found in earlier times.

A highly varied program

Neil McLennan, Chair of the Scotland committee, says: "We've developed a highly varied program to suit a range of interests and different ages." Events will run from Wednesday, July 3 to Tuesday, July 9. He notes: "Due to the success of our 2018 Gathering, this year, we have found a larger venue for the 2024 Gathering - in an attempt to accommodate greater numbers than ever." Strathpeffer is half an hour by car west of Inverness. The historic Ben Wyvis Hotel will be the venue for many of the activities. MacLennan descendants from many countries have already committed to attending the Gathering. Usually, visitors plan to stay additional days and explore places where their ancestors lived. To help identify these places, a free eBook can be easily found on the internet by searching 'A guide to some MacLennan Places across Scotland' – this resource includes map co-ordinates that enable directions straight from the book on your phone or tablet. In the past, many MacLennans lived in and around Strathpeffer and the first activity of the Gathering on Wednesday July 3 will be a guided tour to the ancient vitrified fort on Knockfarrel, above the village. From there, a Clan guide will point out places where MacLennans lived and other significant locations.

On Thursday July 4 – the focus will be on Clan Genealogy with a full day activities and a wide range of speakers, including: a Member of the Scottish Parliament, an author of a book about Auldearn, a leading DNA researcher from Strathclyde University, and much more. The Clan has developed an extensive genealogy resource which consists

of a database and books collection at www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com - to be highlighted throughout the day. Many on-line talks about districts that are important to the Clan are available from *Finding your Ancestors* videos on the Clan Genealogy webpage. The next day - Friday July 5 - will include the key event, the Clan Parliament, to be held in the spectacular Inverness Town House. In the afternoon there'll be a guided tour of MacLennan places around the village of Strathpeffer. And in the evening, a grand ceilidh will take place in the Strathpeffer Pavilion. The music to be provided by Matthew MacLennan from Edinburgh, an award-winning accordionist, with his professional Scottish Dance and Ceilidh band. The ceilidh is expected to be one of the most popular events.

The heart of the Highlands

Saturday July 6 will offer a tour of a distillery that was started in 1838 by a Donald McLennan (1806-1894). A visit to a nearby water-powered corn mill also as part of this event. Later this day, there'll be an alternative tour to Castle Leod that might suit younger attendees. In the evening, there will be a formal dinner with a special guest speaker. On Sunday July 7 a church service is available, followed in the evening by lively musical entertainment. A full day of activity on the Monday July 8 - sees an opportunity to "walk in the footsteps of our ancestors" on the "McLennan Way" as described in the free eBook *A guide to some MacLennan Places across Scotland*. This event will take us through the beautiful Strathconon glen, and finish with lunch at a baronial lodge.



Timaru House, Strathpeffer.



Clan friendship.

En route the attendees will stop at places significant to MacLennans. On the Tuesday July 9 - a "fringe" event gives Clan members a chance to enjoy a day in the famously beautiful Tomnahuirich Cemetery on the edge of Inverness.

Neil McLennan says: "We look forward to warmly welcoming MacLennan descendants from around the world to our 2024 Gathering in the heart of the Highlands."

Interested parties are advised to book early as some events have limited numbers. Bookings can be made via a link on the Clan MacLennan worldwide website: www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com.



Matthew MacLennan Scottish Dance Band.

Northumberland Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Port Hope Agricultural Park, ON

June 14 & 15, 2024

2024 is our year for change

Formerly known as the Cobourg Highland Games, we now have a new name and location.

Welcome to the Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games being held on June 14th and 15th in Port Hope, Ontario. Our Highland Games events and entertainment are just as you remember, but the big news is that admission prices are lower and there's free parking at the park!

<p>Friday, June 14th</p> <p>Bar opens at 5.30pm</p> <p>Ceilidh, featuring</p> <p>Cobourg Legion Pipe Band</p> <p>Scottish Country Dancers</p> <p>Bang on the Ear</p> <p>Madman's Window</p>	<p>Saturday, June 15th</p> <p>Highland Games Competitions</p> <p>Massed Pipe Bands</p> <p>Ceilidh, featuring</p> <p>Bang on the Ear</p> <p>Donegal Fiddlers</p> <p>Caledon County</p> <p>Madman's Window</p>	<p>At our Festival enjoy</p> <p>Solo Piping & Drumming</p> <p>Pipe Bands</p> <p>Highland Dancers</p> <p>Heavy Athletes</p> <p>Clans</p> <p>Food & Merchant Vendors</p> <p>Wee Highlanders Area</p> <p>Massed Pipe Bands</p>
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Get complete details about our Festival and purchase your online tickets at:

www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca

Scottish Comedian Bruce Fummey is taking time out from his Canadian tour to be our Honorary Chieftain.

WHAT'S ON - SCOTTISH EVENTS

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

Canada

APRIL 2024

The Scottish Club Of Windsor Ceilidh 5, Windsor, ON

A traditional evening of Scottish music, with a live band, dancing and fun at The Scottish Club of Windsor, 1340 Tecumseh Rd E. Info: Isobel at 519 971 1575 or www.facebook.com/ScottishClubWindsor

The British Isles Heritage Weekend 5-7, Vancouver, BC

Celebrate Tartan Day in Vancouver. Featuring England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man and Cornwall at Vancouver Arty Gallery North & South Plazas. Info: www.facebook.com/BritishIslesinCanada

Happy Tartan Day 6, Nationwide

Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish heritage on April 6, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. Wear some tartan with pride today!

Dressed to Kilt 6, Toronto, ON

This will be the first time that the Dressed to Kilt show, the most prestigious and largest Scottish fashion show in the world, has been held outside the United States. The theme of the Toronto fashion show will be "Dress for Adventure - From Caledonia to Canada". This is a tribute to the fashion of the of the great outdoors & held in celebration of Tartan Day. Info: www.DressedtoKilt.com

Tartan Day Pub Night 6, Toronto, ON

Tartan Day is annual celebration of Scottish culture and heritage. It is a day for Canadians to recognize the incredible contributions of Scottish immigrants and their descendants to our country. Come celebrate with the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto at The Rivoli, 332 Queen Street West. There will be food, drinks and amazing music! Kilts and tartans are encouraged but not mandatory. The Steel City Rovers and North Atlantic Drift will be playing some foot-stomping Celtic tunes all night long. Info: https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/tartan-day-pub-night

Tartan Day Reception 6, Ottawa, ON

Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa is hosting a Tartan Day Reception to support the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band's trip to Scotland. Come along for an evening of music, dance, and a free reception - all while enjoying the lovely Sacred Space at Beechwood. Tickets are on sale now for only \$20.00 plus fees at Eventbrite. Join us for this special evening. Info: www.sospb.com

Tartan Day Celebration 6, Hardisty, AB

Celebrate Tartan Day at the Elks Hall in Hardisty for an evening of entertainment with the Battle River Pipes and Drums. Info: www.flagstaffscottishclub.com

Winnipeg Scottish Festival 6, Winnipeg, MB

A day of mesmerizing solos and band performances from many of the top pipers and drummers from across the Prairies, at Canadian Mennonite University Shaftesbury Campus. Info: www.winnipegscottishfestival.com

Halifax Celtic Festival 17-21, Halifax, NS

An annual gathering to celebrate Celtic heritages through the cultural expressions of music, song, dance, languages, genealogy, arts and crafts, and histories at the Halifax Forum, 2901 Windsor St. Info: www.hfxcelticfest.ca

RSCDS Vancouver 60th Anniversary Ball 20, Vancouver, BC

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of RSCDS Vancouver with guest musicians from Scotland Marion Anderson at the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St. Info: www.rscdsvancouver.org

Tartan Day Weekend 20-21, Ottawa, ON

Music, dance, song and tradition which includes: Tartan Day Expo, Mosaic Convention Centre, 3750 N Bowesville Rd & National Tartan Day on Parliament Hill. Info: www.sospb.com/tartan-day-celebrations.html

Vancouver Ceilidh 26, Vancouver, BC

Ceilidh dance at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St, with live music by Calanais from 8 - 10:30. All dances taught, walked and called. No partner or experience necessary. Wear loose clothing (dancing is warm work) and flat, soft soled shoes. Lots of fun and refreshments. Info: www.vancouverceilidh.org

MAY 2024

The Scottish Club Of Windsor Ceilidh 10, Windsor, ON

A traditional evening of Scottish music, with a live band, dancing and fun at The Scottish Club of Windsor, 1340 Tecumseh Rd E. Info: Isobel at 519 971 1575 or www.facebook.com/ScottishClubWindsor

Saskatchewan Highland Gathering and Celtic Festival 18, Regina, SK

Saskatchewan's premier Scottish festival with pipe bands, Clans, dancing and more at Victoria Park. Info: www.saskhighland.ca

161st Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival 18-19, Victoria, BC

The longest continually running Highland Games in North America at Topaz Park. Info: www.victoriahighlandgames.com

World Whisky Day 18, Nationwide

World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Events are taking place all over the globe. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

WhiskyFête 23, Montréal, QC

An evening of unique and rare whiskies in aid of the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital at Mount Royal Club, 1175 Sherbrooke Street West. Info: www.whiskyfete.org

Okanagan Military Tattoo 25-26, Vernon, BC

Featuring internationally renowned military bands, dancers, musicians, and marching troops, this riveting and immersive show seeks to bring people together through music, dance, and the commemoration of Canadian military and monarch history. Info: www.okanagantattoo.ca

Winnipeg Police Pipe Band -Scotch Tasting & Cigars 26, Winnipeg, MB

Join the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band and celebrate their 100th anniversary at The Metropolitan Entertainment Centre, 281 Donald St. Info: www.wppb.ca or www.facebook.com/WinnipegPolicePipeBand

USA

APRIL 2024

Tartan Day Tattoo DC 2024 2, Alexandria, VA

A spectacular evening of music and dance showcasing the very best of American and Scottish cultures, presented live on stage in a public theatre for the first time in the Washington DC area, at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 Netherton Dr. Info: www.thewashingtontattoo.com

Clan MacFarlane 51st Annual World Gathering 3-7, San Antonio, TX

Join Clan MacFarlane for a rootin' tootin' good time and round up your fellow MacFarlanes and mark your calendars for this unforgettable celebration of our clan's rich heritage and cowboy spirit. Info: www.macfarlane.org

Kilts & Cowboy Boots 4-7, San Antonio, TX

The clans, Colquhoun, MacFarlane, MacEwen, Graham, Buchanan, and Hunter will be coming together in a spirit of camaraderie and friendly competition. Bringing together all six of the Loch Lomond "brother" clans for a weekend of fellowship and feasting. All six clan chiefs from Scotland plan to attend this unique event. Info: www.clancolquhoun.com/san-antonio

Tartan Day South 4-7, Cayce, SC

Honors the Celtic culture and heritage in South Carolina's Midlands region. Info: www.tartandaysouth.com

Happy Tartan Day 6, Nationwide

Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish heritage on April 6, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. Wear some tartan with pride today!

Dunedin Highland Games & Festival 6, Dunedin, FL

Celebrate the heritage and culture of Scotland with great music, dancing, athletics, good food, drink, and friends! The flags are flying, the Celts are gathering, and everyone is a Celt for the weekend at Dunedin Community Center, 1920 Pinehurst Rd. Info: www.dunedinsafoundation.com/highland-games

Pittsburgh Tartan Day 6, Bethel Park, PA

Celebrate Tartan Day with entertainment, clans, workshops and more at Bethel Presbyterian Church, 2999 Bethel Church Rd. Free event. Info: www.standrewspittsburgh.org

New York City Tartan Day Parade/Week 6, New York, NY

A celebration of Scotland in the heart of NY for Tartan Day celebration, on Tartan Day itself, with the main parade in addition to events around NY during the week. Info: www.nycTartanWeek.org

Hawaiian Scottish Festival and Highland Games 6-7, Honolulu, HI

A celebration of Scotland with pipe bands, dancing, Celtic music and more at Jefferson Elementary in Waikiki. Info: www.hawaiianscottishassociation.com

San Antonio Highland Games 6-7, Helotes, TX

A weekend of Scottish celebration. Info: www.sahga.org

A Celebration of Scotland's Treasures 11, New York, NY

The evening will include live and silent auctions with one-of-a-kind prizes, a whisky tasting, a meal among friends in The Metropolitan Club's spectacular dining room, and Scottish cèilidh to end the festivities. Info: www.ntsusa.org/about-us/celebration-gala

RedStone Highland Games & Festival 12-13, St George, UT

Highland Games in spectacular Southern Utah at Sandtown Park. Info: www.redstonehighlandgames.com

Las Vegas Highland Games 13-14, Las Vegas, NV

With music, athletics, shopping, eating, piping and more at Craig Ranch Park. Info: www.lasvegascelticsociety.org

Virginia International Tattoo 18-21, Norfolk, VA

The largest military tattoo in the United States, featuring a US and international cast at Scope Arena, 201 E Brambleton Ave. Info: www.vafest.org/tattoo

Scottish Tartan Festival 20, Minden LA

From the skirl of the bagpipes to the cheers for the Highland Games, from traditional and modern Celtic music to Scottish Highland Dance, there is something for everyone to enjoy at Miller Quarters. Info: www.scottishtartanfestival.com

Loch Norman Highland Games and Scottish Festival 20-21, Huntersville, NC

The festival celebrates Scottish heritage and culture through a variety of events, activities, and competitions at Historic Rural Hill. Info: www.lochnorman.com

Ormond Beach Celtic Festival 20-21, Ormond Beach, FL

A Florida Celtic festival that incorporates music, food, fun, family entertainment. Info: www.ormondbeachcelticfestival.com

Celtic Festival of Southern MD 27, St. Leonard MD

On the banks of the Patuxent River at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, in beautiful Southern Maryland, enjoy music, food, dance and other Celtic attractions. Info: www.cssm.org

MAY 2024

KVMR Celtic Festival 3-5, Grass Valley CA

Featuring five musical stages and six demonstration stages, the festival brings international performers to Nevada County, at Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Rd. Info: www.kvmrcelticfestival.org

Savannah Scottish Games 4, Savannah, GA

A celebration of Scottish heritage, with Celtic music, Scottish clans/societies, pipe bands, highland dancing, heavy athletic events, children's activities, sheep herding, falconry, genealogy and more held on the grounds of Historic Bethesda Academy. Info: www.savannahscottishgames.com

Great Basin Scottish Highland Games 4-5, Sparks NV

Come see Nevada Mesh with Scotland in this fun crowd pleaser. Heavy Athletics, Vendors, Food, Music, Scottish Dancers, Bag Pipes and more at Gandolpho Rodeo Arena, 2200 Loop Rd. Info: www.nntco.org

Loch Badin Celtic Festival 11, Badin NC

Heavy athletics, music, Clans and vendors on the rolling grounds of the historic 1913 Badin Inn, 107 Spruce St. Info: www.facebook.com/events/741332393784579/

World Whisky Day 18, Nationwide

World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Events are taking place all over the globe. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

Fair Hill Scottish Games 18, Elkton, MD

A day of athletics, music, dancing, food, and arts celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture. Info: www.fairhillscottishgames.org

Finger Lakes Celtic Games & Festival 18, Canandaigua NY

This event includes: Highland Heavy Games, bag pipes, dance exhibitions, demonstrations, a large gathering of Scottish Clans, historical & heritage societies, artisans, kids activities, Celtic music with the headlining band 1916, and more. Info: <https://flceltic.org/#/>

Blue River Highland Games 18, Shelbyville IN

60 athletes competing in each of the 9 Highland Games events at Shelby County Fairgrounds. Info: www.shelbyparks.com/highland-games

Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games 18-19, Townsend, TN

Pipes, drums, dancers, athletes, entertainers, and authentic food and wares. At the Townsend Visitor Center, 7906 E. Lamar Alexander Pkwy. Info: www.smokymountaingames.org

Scottish Fest 25-26, Costa Mesa, CA

Two packed days of family fun with bagpipes, drums, Highland dancing, Scottish clans and genealogy, Scottish athletics and more at the OC Fair & Event Center. Info: www.scottishfest.com

Alma Highland Festival 25-26, Alma, MI

Gather on Memorial Day Weekend to celebrate all things Scottish. Info: www.almahighlandfestival.com

Scotland

APRIL 2024

National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland End of Year Concert 14, Perth

The NYPBS round off our 2023-2024 programme with our flagship concert at Perth Concert Hall, which will feature three ensembles comprising around 135 young people for a night of incredible music. Info: www.nypbs.co.uk/eoyc2024

Mull Music Festival 26-28, Tobermory, Isle of Mull

Get ready for a weekend of soulful Scottish music, with folk-rock groups, Scottish dance bands, traditional musicians and singers, all taking place on the stunning Isle of Mull on the west coast. Info: www.facebook.com/MullMusicFestival

Paisley Food and Drink Festival 26-27, Paisley

Two days of top street food from across Scotland, fantastic local traders, live music, food workshops and more. Info: www.paisley.is

Run Balmoral 27, Ballater

North east Scotland's biggest running event, with races for all age groups held in the stunning Royal Deeside scenery, at Balmoral Castle. Info: www.balmoralcastle.com

Kelpies 10 27, Falkirk

A special one-off event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the multi-award winning visitor attraction, the Kelpies, the world's largest equine sculptures at the Helix Park in Falkirk. Info: www.thehelix.co.uk/whats-on/kelpies-10

Etape Loch Ness 28, Loch Ness

A cycle sportive taking place around iconic Loch Ness, offering the chance to cycle 66 miles around the loch on traffic free roads. Info: www.etapelochness.com

Glasgow Kilt Walk 28, Glasgow

Wear your tartan with pride and join in with your fellow walkers, as this event aims to raise money for charities. This year there are three distances to choose from; 26 miles, 13 miles or the Wee Walk of 6 miles, all of which finish at Moss O' Balloch Park. Info: www.thekiltwalk.co.uk/events/glasgow

Beltane Fire Festival 30, Edinburgh

Celebrate the start of summer at this event which combines a mix of fire, drumming, and pagan performance at Calton Hill. Info: www.beltane.org

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
7 StAndrews	1 Staffin
8 Fiery	2 Unca
10 Aflaught	3 Grog
11 Eildon	4 Swither
12 Airth	5 Birl
14 Bens	6 Drookit
15 Maik	9 Nessie
16 Crail	13 Tiree
18 Keith	15 Mutch
22 Luce	17 Irvine
23 Vent	19 Aultbea
24 Wheen	20 Enochdu
25 Strawn	21 Revenge
27 Clansmen	26 Amen
30 Ceres	28 Aunt
31 Edinburgh	29 Saut



Dunedin Highland Games & Festival

SATURDAY APRIL 6TH

HIGHLANDER PARK 8^{AM}-6^{PM}

- Highland Dancing Championships
- Piping, Drumming, and Pipe Bands
- 5K Kilted Trail Run
- Scottish Heavy Athletics
- Clan Village
- Beer Tent with Live Celtic Music
- Food & Merchandise vendors
- Massed Pipe Bands

**FRIDAY NIGHT
Pipe Band March
& Ceilidh
Main Street**


Dunedin Scottish Arts
FOUNDATION


DUNEDIN
Home of Honeymoon Island

 ST. PETE
CLEARWATER

DunedinScottishArts.com

DunedinHighlandGames.com



SCAN TO
BUY TICKETS

By: Jim Roberts

Music, might and gratitude

Bagpiper reflects on over 25 years of the Virginia International Tattoo.

I've played the bagpipes for more than 30 years. My piping has taken me all over the United States and to Canada and Scotland. My band, Tidewater Pipes & Drums, has opened for Rod Stewart—twice—and we've played on stage with the Chieftains, the Piano Guys and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. In spite of all these experiences, I can honestly say there is no feeling in the world like performing in the Virginia International Tattoo.

When I think about the Tattoo, I think of the nervous excitement I feel 10 to 15 minutes into the show—when the pipers and drummers are hiding under the elevated stage in Scope Arena, waiting in the pitch black for our dramatic entrance.

Bagpiping journey

Once our eyes adjust to the darkness, there are silent glances between musicians, fist bumps and whispered words of encouragement—maybe even an inside joke or two. Then the curtains open, we strike in the pipes and play onto the floor and into a flood of light, music and might. It's a thrill—whether it's the Wednesday night dress rehearsal, an educational performance on Thursday or Friday morning, or one of the four shows for paying customers. And when it's over on Sunday afternoon, we can't wait to do it all over again the next year.

The Tattoo also makes me think about more lasting things—like the tremendous sense of patriotism that's now synonymous with the Virginia International Tattoo brand, the strong bonds that develop between the performers every year, and the friendships I've formed with the Virginia Arts Festival staff and volunteers over the last 20 years.

My bagpiping journey started when I was 8 or 9 years old. My recollection is that I wanted to play the drums, but my mother's father was from Scotland, and my guess is that he made the decision for me. His brother, my great uncle, played the bagpipes, and I had the good fortune to inherit his instrument, which I still play. While I've also had stints with MacMillan Pipe Band, Greater Richmond Pipes & Drums and the Cameron Highlanders of San Diego, Tidewater Pipes & Drums has always been my home band. We played in the Virginia International Tattoo for the first time in 1999, and we've been in nearly every show since. Over the years, we've forged a strong partnership with the Virginia Arts Festival. We now have the honor of wearing the Virginia International Tattoo Hixon tartan and helping to promote the show throughout the year.

The overwhelming thrill of playing

Even in the years when I'm not performing in the show, "Tattoo Week" is special to me. I spend as much time as possible backstage with my bandmates and with old and new friends from around the world. On Saturday morning, I watch the Norfolk NATO Festival Parade of Nations with my kids, and that afternoon, I volunteer at the Virginia



The spectacle of the Virginia International Tattoo.



Massed bands.



Jim Roberts in 2001.



Lone piper Jim Roberts.

International Tattoo American Pipe Band Championship, a world-class competition that takes place on the Scope Plaza. It is free and open to the public. I have a tradition of taking my kids to the Tattoo's final performance on Sunday afternoon, and we always arrive early to experience the "Hullabaloo" activities on the Scope Plaza.

My kids love the Tattoo. In fact, my son, who is now realizing *my* dream of playing drums, isn't quite ready to perform in the Tattoo, but he will be in the next few years. I know he will love the nervous excitement of waiting under the stage and then the overwhelming thrill of playing for thousands of people. And when he's older and wiser, I hope he will feel the gratitude I feel now—for the many doors music has unlocked for me over the course of my life.

My Tattoo experience isn't unique. Hundreds of musicians from all over the world converge in Norfolk every spring to put on this incredible show, and they all have their own stories to share. Thanks to the Virginia Arts Festival and the Virginia International Tattoo for bringing all of us together—and all of our stories to life.

The Virginia International Tattoo will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20 and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 21 at Norfolk Scope. Ticket prices start at \$20; discounts are available for children (under 18), students (under 25), military and seniors (over 60). For tickets or more information, visit vafest.org.

Aug 31
Sept 1

Celebrating Celtic culture in the Canadian Rockies!

CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES

TASTE OF THE HIGHLANDS
SATURDAY, AUG 31, 5 - 9 PM
CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES
SUNDAY, SEPT 1, 8 AM - 5 PM
THE CANMORE CEILIDH
SUNDAY, SEPT 1, 6 - 11 PM

See all information at: canmorehighlandgames.ca



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MAY **25-26** 2024

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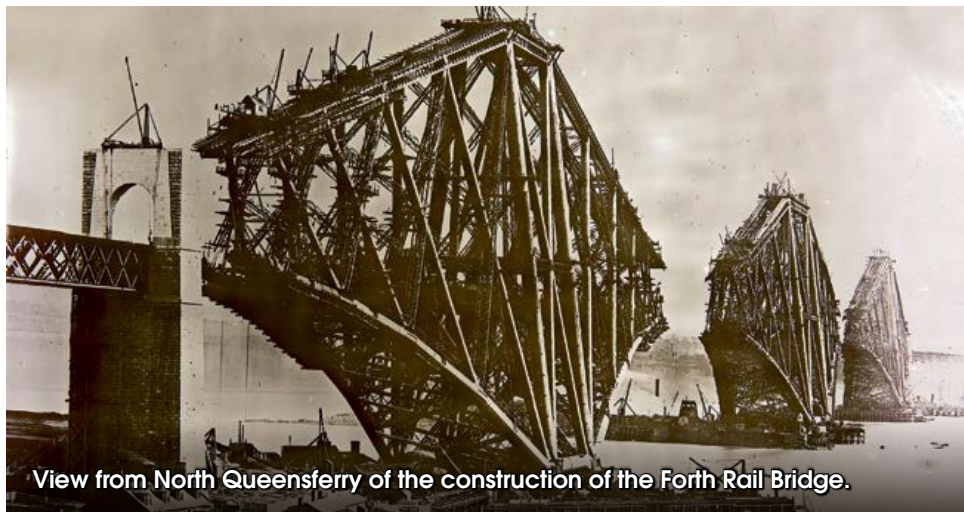
BRITISH
COLUMBIA



TOURISM
Vernon



Recent donation reveals dangers faced by Queensferry's Briggers



View from North Queensferry of the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge.

To mark last month's anniversary of the opening of the Forth Bridge on March 4 (1890), Museums & Galleries Edinburgh have published a book online listing all the accidents that took place during the early phase of construction of the Bridge in the 1880s. The book is an astonishing account not only of the lives of the men, known locally as the 'Briggers', working on the iconic bridge and the dangers they faced, but also how they were treated by the earliest ambulance services in Scotland. It records 197 accidents, including nine fatalities, over a 32-month period from 1883 to 1886.

Insight into the construction of the bridge

Collections staff at the City of Edinburgh Museums & Galleries approached a group of Queensferry local historians about the book. Since 2005 The Briggers (taking their name from the nickname of construction workers), have been collecting and researching the history of the Rail Bridge. In 2009 they compiled a list of all known deaths which took place during the bridge's construction, so it seemed fitting to let them know about the accidents book. The book was recently donated to Queensferry Museum and perfectly complements the existing collections telling the story of the three Forth bridge. The plain cover contains a catalogue of injuries ranging from mild bruising to some of the most gruesome and painful accidents imaginable. It is a unique insight into the construction of the bridge, the conditions of those working on it, and a snapshot of workplace health and safety which is a far cry from today's high standards.

Consider for instance Matthew Snowden (listed as accident 61), who was lucky enough to get away with just hurting his right hand after falling off a jetty. He was seen by the doctor and soon returned to work. Or poor William Hawkins, a foreman painter who was crushed by a barge, the Tamar, while coming ashore. His left leg

was completely smashed above the ankle and had to be amputated at the knee. He was "removed to Infirmary Edinr. by Ambulance". Hawkins survived and was paid until he was able to come back to work. Thanks to the tireless efforts of The Briggers, the book has been entirely transcribed. The full text is now available on *Capital Collections*, the collections portal for the City of Edinburgh Council Libraries, Museums & Galleries. Anyone looking at these pages will be able to search for names of relatives working on the Bridge and find out what happened to them.

The Briggers continue to analyse the book and compare it with other existing records. Already, they are aware of one death previously unrecorded and are starting to put together enough information for an emerging picture of how accidents were treated. What's more, thanks to the book, the team at The Briggers and Museums & Galleries are able to fill in gaps in what is known about the rest of the Forth Bridge collection held at Queensferry Museum. They have tracked a medal in the collection back to its original owner, Patrick Lee, who caught his sleeve on a drilling machine on the February 5, 1886. Thankfully he only sustained a bruised wrist.

Iconic

Alongside the details of accidents, the book also gives information on sick leave, compensation, and any resulting sick pay. It lists the various doctors who attended the injured; among them a certain Dr. Hunter who was one of the Forth Bridge doctors and also the South Queensferry GP.

Many of the injuries listed in this early stage of construction were sustained during the complex operation to build, move and sink the massive caissons in place. These were wrought iron cases lowered into the Forth to give workers access to the seabed to lay the foundations. The caissons were assembled on land and towed by boat to their final positions in the Forth. 2024 is the 140th anniversary of when the six enormous caissons were first launched.



Forth Rail Bridge from north, under construction.



Forth Rail Bridge from south, under construction.

Culture & Communities Convener, Councillor Val Walker said: "The Forth Rail Bridge is iconic and recognised around the world. Research has only just started but already the book is unveiling stories of incredible endurance, hardship and resilience, and allowing us to make links with other objects across our collections. Edinburgh has many local communities, each with their own unique history, and it is through partnerships such as the work with The Briggers that the collections really start to reveal their secrets. Publishing the book online is a great way to share the collections and open up the stories for the world to read. We hope this resource will help anyone interested in finding out more about the bridge, or perhaps those doing family history to discover they have relatives who once worked on the bridge. Museums & Galleries Edinburgh have some astounding collections, and it is wonderful to see they continue to grow with such items as this book."

Revealing important new bridge information

Frank Hay of The Briggers and Queensferry Heritage Trust said: "*The Forth Bridge Accidents Book* is an important addition to the collections at Museums & Galleries Edinburgh. It is one of the few (or possibly the only) day-to-day working documents to have survived from the construction period. After a talk at the Queensferry Heritage Trust by Nico Tyack, Collections Information Officer at Museums & Galleries Edinburgh, we volunteered to transcribe and research the accidents

book - revealing important new bridge information on, for example, industrial insurance and how the Forth Bridge was on the leading edge of the Scottish first aid and ambulance movement of the 1880s."

The Forth Bridge was officially opened on 4th March 1890 after an 18-year construction. Various earlier plans were superseded following the catastrophic Tay Bridge Disaster of 1879. The new bridge had to withstand the strong currents of the narrows of the Forth between North and South Queensferry. When completed, the Forth Bridge was the longest bridge of its type, a single cantilever, in the world.

The foundations of the bridge lie on the bed of the Firth of Forth and island of Inchgarvie. One of the earliest stages of construction was to create huge steel blocks, known as caissons, into position to effectively hold back the water and allow the Briggers to the bed to lay the foundations. The six caissons were assembled on land and towed out by barges to be sunk into place. Many of the accidents in the book were sustained in this exceptionally dangerous phase. Caissons were known to burst, flooding the space inside.



Forth Bridge Accident Book exhibition cover.

Hebridean Baker's sell-out North American book tour brings date with Outlander author



Coinneach MacLeod and Diana Gabaldon.

Coinneach MacLeod is celebrating his sell-out third North American book tour with the announcement that he has become Scotland's bestselling cookbook author in the USA. Talking on return from his thirteen city book tour, Coinneach said "I have loved my tour across North America. I've been so proud to share the recipes, culture, history and stories of the Outer

Hebrides and Scotland, and delighted they have resonated with so many folk across the Atlantic."

Coinneach's sixteen-night sell-out tour took him to Vancouver, Calgary, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Asheville, Dallas, Houston, Scottsdale, Jacksonville, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Toronto, which finished with an appearance on primetime Canadian TV show *The Social*, where he shared his recipes and stories with the celebrity guests and presenters.

The highlight of the tour was hosting a sell-out Hebridean Baker x *Outlander* event with international bestselling author Diana Gabaldon. Gabaldon, who has sold over 55 million copies of her *Outlander* series, took to the stage with Coinneach to share stories and their shared love of Scotland. "I've signed over 3,500 copies of my cookbook and have loved meeting many folk with Hebridean and Scottish connections across the country" said Coinneach. "I'm already looking forward to returning to the US in July for Grandfather Mountain Highland Games."

Coinneach MacLeod, from the Isle of Lewis, the most northerly of the Outer Hebrides recently celebrated the news that he was officially Scotland's best-selling cookbook author for the past three years.

The Kelpies celebrate 10th anniversary



One of Scotland's top visitor attractions, The Helix, Home of The Kelpies, together with Falkirk Council and Scottish Canals, has announced plans for a special one-of-a-kind event to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the iconic sculptures, Kelpies 10, which will take place on Saturday 27 April 2024. The world-renowned equine structures, which stand at 100ft tall and weigh more than 300 tonnes each and are situated between Falkirk and Grangemouth, were unveiled in 2014 at The Helix Park.

The Kelpies 10 anniversary event is set to be an incredible celebration of Falkirk's heritage, with the involvement of many Clydesdale horses from across the country, to mark the breed's significant contribution to Scotland's agricultural and industrial heritage and the inspiration behind sculptor Andy Scott's creation. Scottish Canals commissioned Andy Scott to create The Kelpies, where they now stand in the Helix Park, on the canal link between the Forth & Clyde Canal and the River Carron. Since their launch, Helix Park has welcomed over seven million visitors from all over the world; The Kelpies play a huge role in contributing to a £85 million tourism spend in the Falkirk region annually.

Majestic sculptures

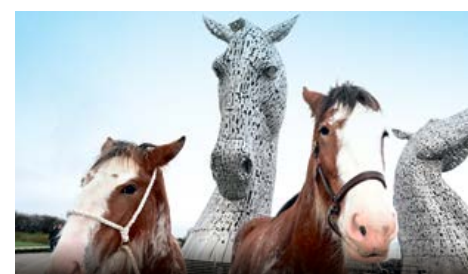
The Kelpies 10 celebrations will begin at 10am with a host of free events suitable for all the family to enjoy and will be followed by the very first evening concert to take place on the site, headlined by up-and-coming Scottish singer-songwriter Callum Beattie and the world's most famous bagpipe band, the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, who will be performing a set of their groundbreaking 'Bagrock', a fusion of traditional Scottish music and rock/pop anthems. Throughout the day, visitors can expect street theatre, circus performers, artists, face painting, community stalls, a local producers' market, Folk tales and songs from renowned Scottish storyteller James MacDonald Reid, a Clydesdale demo ring where the horses will demonstrate traditional skills, and a Unicorn Dance Party.

Local community groups, such as Sing Forth Choir and pipe bands, will provide additional entertainment and the day will culminate in a huge family ceilidh under The Kelpies, with chart-topping ceilidh band, Whisky Kiss, complete with Oscar winning piper. Gates open at 5pm for the evening event, which will be ticketed. After a screening of Walid Salhab's 'The Kelpies' and a short anniversary film, the live music will kick off from 7pm, featuring award winning Scottish artists, a set from the Red Hot Chilli Pipers and a fire show from Pyroceltica, inspired by Falkirk's industrial past. The evening will culminate in a 60-minute set from the fast-rising Scottish star, Callum Beattie.

Falkirk Council Leader Cecil Meiklejohn said: "No one could have predicted the impact these majestic sculptures would have attracting almost seven million visitors to the Helix Park since 2014. The Kelpies continue to attract visitors from all corners of the globe who come to marvel at and stand in the shadow of the largest equine sculptures in the world. It also brings a real sense of pride with our communities and the wider Helix Park provides an outstanding local place for our people to enjoy. I'm sure many more will come to take part in and celebrate the 10th anniversary of these iconic landmarks with a programme of events that will have something for everyone to enjoy with activities for all the family culminating in the first live music concert to be held at the Helix Park."

Global waterways icons

Scottish Canals' Chief Executive Officer John Paterson said: "Scottish Canals had a vision to create a piece of art at the eastern gateway to Scotland's historic Forth & Clyde Canal. The Kelpies pay homage to the working horses of Scotland which used to pull barges along Scotland's canals and worked in fields in the area where they now stand. Now almost a decade on and these magnificent works of art are global waterways icons attracting thousands of visitors to Scotland each year. We look forward to celebrating 10 years of The Kelpies, a true celebration of collaborative working. Our magnificent Kelpies will be the big attraction on Saturday, 27 April, with events going on throughout the



day for all ages to enjoy. Please join us in celebrating our remarkable structures as we look forward to the next 10 years as we continue to make better lives by water."

Andy Scott, who is originally from Glasgow but now based in Los Angeles, America, said: "The Kelpies stand testament to the incredible skills of a whole team of expert engineers, fabricators, lighting designers, landscape architects and many other disciplines from across the UK who were involved in the full-scale artworks' creation. I feel immensely proud of what we achieved with The Kelpies - how they've been taken to heart by the local people and how they've become cultural landmarks for Scotland."

The Helix, originally created as a space for the communities in the Falkirk area to come together, was awarded five-star visitor attraction status by Visit Scotland and won the 'Best Visitor Attraction Experience' at the 2023 Visit Scotland National Thistle Awards. Helix Park, which has a Green Tourism Gold award, is free for visitors, and offers significant amounts of green space and a wealth of things to do, including 27km of traffic free, wheelchair friendly, paths for walking, running, or cycling, an adventure zone playpark, splash play area and sensory play area.


To find out more about the Kelpies 10 event and to book tickets for the evening event, please visit: www.thehelix.co.uk.

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